



The Grapevine

April 2014

**SHW MONTHLY MEETINGS
ARE HELD ON THE THIRD
WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH STARTING AT
7PM, UPSTAIRS AT THE
TURN VEREIN LOCATED AT
3349 J STREET IN
MIDTOWN, SACRAMENTO.
FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON SHW MEMBERSHIP,
MEETINGS AND
ACTIVITIES, VISIT: [WWW.
SACHOMEWINE.ORG](http://WWW.SACHOMEWINE.ORG)**

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April 2014 Program

SHW's April program will consist of non-Bordeaux red wine evaluations. All members who made non-Bordeaux red wines in 2013, with the exception of the 2013 beginning Primitivo group, and would like them evaluated are asked to bring two bottles of each wine to the meeting. SHW has arranged for two terrific professional winemakers from the Lodi appellation to join us as evaluators for the evening; Joel Omhart from St. Amant winery and Layne Montgomery from m2 winery.

Joel is currently the Assistant Winemaker for St. Amant and has worked in this capacity for the previous 5 ½ years. A graduate of UC Davis with a passion for learning, Joel has furthered his knowledge and understanding of winemaking by completing numerous courses in winemaking. Joel's family has close ties to agriculture and also to the Lodi Wine Grape Commission for over 15 years. He also has a unique familiarity with The Lodi Rules for Sustainable Wine Grape Growing and many other practices pertaining to viticulture.

Layne is a mostly self-taught winemaker and former member of SHW who took his passion for winemaking professional in 2004 when he started m2. Layne sharpened his winemaking skills over the years by hands on experience, through consultation with professional winemakers, and through courses at UC Davis. He continues to focus on crafting artisan style wines from exquisite vineyards in Lodi, Napa, and the Sierra Foothills. His passion for crafting great wines has resulted in success and growth for m2 which just recently opened their doors for the gorgeous new winery and tasting room on Peltier Road in Lodi.

A Message from Our President:

Once again, our thoughts turn to the harvest. Whether you have been a home winemaker for 50 years, or you are one of the Primo's, your heart is racing, and visions of grapes are dancing in your head. Don't wait too long to contract for your grapes; sign up for a varietal focus group now, or join in for a group buy, or go off on your own and contact growers directly. For veteran winemakers, why not put your educator hat on and lead a focus group?

More important, stretch yourself. Commit to making a new varietal of wine this harvest, or make a white wine if you never have before. Make a fruit wine or make a dessert wine. As Bob Dylan, troubadour of my generation said- "He not busy being born is busy dying."

See you all at the April 16th SHW program, and be sure to bring your entries for both the AWA challenge and the State Fair. Save the date for the June Jubilee Picnic - June 29th at Judy's barn in Loomis.



SHW 2014 Elected Officers

President:

Donna Bettencourt

Vice Presidents:

**Sonia Baron
JD Phelps**

Secretaries:

**Joe and Lynn
Mc Gillivray**

Treasurer:

Steve Barrett

Amador Wine Association – Sacramento Home Winemakers Shoot-Out

The Amador Wine Association (AWA) has invited SHW to a friendly competition and BBQ. Judging is planned for May 21 and the BBQ on May 31. Wine entries will be accepted at SHW's April 16 meeting or by dropping the entries at John Avila's home before May 15. John's contact info is mail@john-avila.com and 916 997-7554.

Entry forms will be posted soon the SHW website and available at the SHW April 16 meeting.
Here's the rules:

- * One entry per membership.

- * 50 entries maximum per club.

- * \$5 fee per entry; cash or check.



- * Entry is one 750ml bottle. Put entrant's name, varietal and club name on bottle.

- * Entry must be delivered by 5/15/14.

- * Judging to be based on 20 point scale.

- * Ribbons and medals are provided by Amador wine club.

- * Wines from grapes only, any appellation.

- * 5 wines of a variety define a class. There will be best of class winners.

- * BBQ/awards presentation to be Saturday, May 31. \$15 per person. Bring a side dish that feeds 8 people.

- * BBQ is from 5pm – 10pm at:

- * Andis Winery, 11000 Shenandoah Rd, Plymouth, CA 95669

Wine Competition Entries Accepted at

April 16 SHW Meeting

Entries for the California State Fair Home Wine Competition will be accepted by Tom and Rebecca Ramme at this month's meeting. Please bring wine entries (two 750ml bottles for each entry) with the associated paperwork and fees. See the State Fair's website for detailed info:

<http://www.bigfun.org/participate-in-the-fair/compete-at-the-fair/winebeer/>.

Also accepted at the meeting are wine entries for the Amador Winemakers Association-SHW Shoot-Out. Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

For a list of current home wine and label contests in northern California, go to the SHW website:
<http://www.sachomewine.com/winemaking-competitions/>.

CLUB EQUIPMENT:

Destemmer/Crusher: Andy Walter, (916) 955-6373
andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net

Basket Press: Jacque and Craig Brown
jbrown6766@gmail.com

Filter: Donna Bettencourt, (916) 454-5487
Bettencourt1045@softcom.net

There is a 10\$ fee for use of each item.

Save the Date: June Jubilee Judging and Picnic

This year we will be trying a new format for the judging portion of this event. As our club is growing and we may need to add a fifth judging table we are moving the judging away from Judy's Barn. The judging will be done on Saturday June 28, 2014 at the offices of InAlliance in Sacramento.

Entries will be due on the June SHW meeting (Wednesday June 18, 2014), or before that date, more information to follow on how to enter.

The Jubilee Picnic, and announcing of the winners, as well as tasting (and drinking) of all wines will be held in Judy Pinegar's Backyard and Barn on Sunday, June 29, 2014. This is the day following the judging event, and the wines will all be gassed, and corked to maintain the best conditions for the Picnic.

More info on the picnic and what to bring will also follow! But save the date!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS;

Mike Touchette—Past
President

Fred Milar—Past
President

Lynn Keay—Past
President

Gary Young—Past
President

MEMBER RESOURCES

Wine Making and Vineyard
Mentors, and Oak cubes:

bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net

Call Bill at (916) 216-1753

SHW Logo Wear: Polo shirts
and caps:

Fredmillar1@gmail.com

Call Fred at (915) 576-9596

**COMING SOON....
MAY 21, 2014**

**FOR THE MAY MEETING
SHW MEMBERS WILL BE
ASKED TO BRING THEIR
2013 BORDEAUX
VARIETALS FOR
EVALUATION.
EVALUATIONS ARE OPEN
TO ALL 2013 BORDEAUX
VARIETALS.**



Wine is one of the most civilized things in the world and one of the most natural things of the world that has been brought to the greatest perfection, and it offers a greater range for enjoyment and appreciation than, possibly, any other purely sensory thing.”

— Ernest Hemingway