



The Grapevine Newsletter

February 2020



2020 SHW Calendar of Events

Executive Board Meetings:

Generally held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7PM; locations vary. Contact President Robert Wharton at Robert.wharton@hpe.com for details.

General Meetings:

Held on 3rd Wednesday of month unless otherwise noted, starting at 7 PM upstairs at the Turn Verein meeting hall located at 3349 J Street, Sacramento.

Wednesday, February 19, 2020
White and Rose Evaluation
General Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2020
General Meeting, Topic TBD

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2020
Finishing with Acid, Scott Harvey

Monthly Meeting– February 19, 2020 White and Rose Evaluation

Come join your fellow winemakers at this month's meeting which is devoted to the evaluation of club members White and Rose' Wines. Our presenter is Craig Haarmeyer, winemaker with St. Rey Vineyard and owner of Haarmeyer Wine Cellars in Sacramento. Craig is a repeat guest speaker and long time supporter of SHW.

Please bring two - 750ml bottles and check your wines in with cellar master, Joe Morgan prior to the start of the meeting. Be sure you include your completed evaluation form with the bottle and hold on to one evaluation form for yourself. Your wine will be poured for all members in attendance and presented to Craig Haarmeyer. This is an amazing opportunity to learn how you can improve or fix faulted wine or even better, find out what a great wine you have created. Please note: only paid members can have their wines evaluated.

Look forward to seeing everyone.

Fayne Boyd
SHW Vice President

Cheers!

Please consume responsibly.



the President's message

Hello Everyone,

We're only a month-plus into the new calendar year and things have already been busy. Just recently several club members along with myself were able to attend the 2020 Unified Wine Symposium. I felt like I was at a home and garden show but for winemakers. There was anything/everything wine-related...from crop insurance to facility drainage systems, bare root nurseries to bottle manufacturers and everything in between. I would recommend attending at least once just to get a glimpse into the world of commercial winemakers.

We're working to bring you quality speakers and evaluators. This month's membership meeting will feature Craig Haarmeyer of Haarmeyer Wine Cellars who will be our guest evaluator for white and rose wines. We also have Scott Harvey scheduled to discuss adjusting acid prior to bottling. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Soon we'll start talking about volunteering for the 2020 CA State Fair. As with past years, this will consist of two phases. First are all the activities associated with preparing the home winemaker entries and assisting with the day of judging. The second phase is staffing a booth at the State Fair. Last year we came up a bit short staffing the booth. If all members take just one shift during the run of the fair, we should be able to staff all available time slots. More to come at upcoming membership meetings.

Finally, plans are already in the works for the 2020 SHW club jubilee. While the weekend will be structured similar to past recent jubilees, one addition this year will be the judging of home winemaker bottle labels. Judy Pinegar is taking the lead on the label judging activities (rules, judges, awards, etc.)...thanks, Judy!

Cheers,

Robert Wharton

Competition Corner

Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt



Now is the time to decide which wines you will enter in competition. Is the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon finally ready? Are the tannins tame in your 2017 Tempranillo? Maybe you should bottle some of your 2018 white wines? Time to schedule a blending party in time to select your final blend on that Rhone?

The home wine competition season is underway. Bear in mind that if you wish to enter the Sacramento Home Winemakers Rex Johnston Winemaker of the Year Competition for 2020, you must have entered at least two separate and distinct wines in both the 2020 Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition and the 2020 California State Fair, and in one other recognized 2020 home wine competition. The deadline for entering the WOY competition is November 30, 2020.

On another note, the evaluations of your 2019 white and rose wines will be happening at the February 19 2020 regular SHW meeting. Because you will probably be making finishing decisions and even bottling soon after February, bring 2 bottles of your wine to the February meeting and receive important feedback prior to bottling. Please do not sulfate your wine samples just prior to the evaluation.

Upcoming Competitions

Bottleshock Open Home Winemaking Competition

The last day for accepting entries to the Bottleshock competition is Friday, February 14th. Judging will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Entries are limited to 400 this year. Ship to or drop off entries at this address: Bottleshock Open c/o Woodbridge Winery, Att. Stephanie, at 5950 East Woodbridge Road, Acampo, CA 95220. The office is open 7 days a week from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm (209)369-5861. For more information, contact Aaron Kidder at (209) 969-9296 or go to www.BottleShockOpen.com for entry forms and rules.

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Competition Corner

Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt

Continued

2020 Winemaker Magazine International Amateur Wine Competition

Enter your best homemade wines, ciders, and meads in the world's largest competition for hobby winemakers! Entry deadline is March 17th. You can enter online at:

www.winemakercompetition.com

The Winemaker Competition Awards Dinner will be on May 30th, 2020 in San Luis Obispo, California at the annual Conference, May 28-31 at the Embassy Suites. Sounds like a road trip to me! (Oooops, but I will be judging wines at the State Fair...)

California State Fair Home Wine Competition

The California State Fair has announced that the 2020 Home Wine Competition will be judged on May 30, 2020. Entries open on line on March 30, 2020. Online entry registration closes on May 6th. Window for dropping off bottle entries is the same. The awards ceremony is planned for Saturday, June 20th. As SHW will be gathering all entries at designated drop off sites, we will most probably accept properly registered and paid for State Fair entries at the April 15th monthly meeting. For more information email homewine@calexpo.com

Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition

Our very own club-only home wine competition will be held on Saturday, June 13th with the picnic and presentation of awards the next day, Sunday, June 14th. Properly labeled entries will be accepted at the May 20th monthly meeting. Look for further announcements in this column and via email blasts.

If you know of any upcoming homewine competitions, please let Donna know at don-nab1045@gmail.com so we can add them to this monthly column.

Have Your Red Wines Finished ML?

Bring your wine samples to the February 19 SHW meeting to have them tested for ML completion, pH, TA, freeSO₂, and alcohol by volume (abv). Please use the form on the SHW website and bring your samples to Bruce at the end of the meeting with your payment and they will get tested and results returned to you by email. I'll see you at the meeting!





THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Your Club appreciates your extra efforts to help keep meeting and activities running smoothly. Thanks to:

Chik Brenneman for being the Club's January meeting's guest speaker and bringing a couple of Baker Family wines for tasting;
Darcy Wharton, Maryann Skeels, Mike Skeels, Beth Carducci, Lyle Peddicord, Esther Pock, David Keis, and Judy Pinegar coordinating hospitality at the January meeting and the Club members who helped set-up and clean-up; and
Judy Pinegar for hosting February's Executive Board meeting.



Club Membership - Renew or Join by March 1 2020 for WineMaker Magazine Subscription

If you've renewed your 2020 membership dues, we thank you! Your dues help cover the Club's expenses including meeting room rent, monthly meeting hospitality, insurance, admin costs and other operating expenses.

The annual dues are again held at \$50 per household and \$10 for UC Davis Viticulture and Enology students. If renewing by March 1, 2020, your membership entitles you to a 1-year 6-issue print subscription to WineMaker magazine and a 50% discount on a year's digital subscription (see Gin for digital subscription deets). See Sacramento Home Winemakers' web site Membership page at www.sachomewine.com for other membership perks.

You'll find the membership form in this newsletter and also on the website. Thanks for your support!

Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) – 2020 Membership Form

Your Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City & Zip _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Email Address(es) _____

(SHW communicates primarily through SHW website blog posts and emails. If you also prefer the newsletter by USPS, check here: ___)

Do Not share my street address with SHW members.

New Membership - \$50 per household (Jan 2020 – Dec 2020). Join by March 1, 2020 to receive a 1-year print subscription to WineMaker Magazine via USPS. Opt out of WineMaker magazine subscription

Renew Membership - \$50 per household (January 2020 – December 2020). 2019 members who **renew by March 1, 2020** will receive a one-year extension to their existing WineMaker print magazine subscription. *Subscription is not extended if renewing after March 1, 2020.* Opt out of WineMaker magazine subscription

Student Membership (UC Davis Viticulture & Enology student) – \$10 per student annual membership entitles members to the benefits of a non-student membership but does not receive Winemaker magazine subscription.

Tell us about you:

I'm interested in learning to make wine.

I have been a SHW member since _____

I have been making wine since _____.

I belong to another home winemaking club. Which one?

Thanks for supporting SHW. Choose the 3 volunteer activities where you can best help:

Leadership: President Vice President – Programs Treasurer Secretary Membership Chair Cellar Master/Assistant Cellar Master Web Site Manager Newsletter Editor Chief Judge/Assistant Chief Judge

Competition Coordinator Education Committee Other (please specify): _____

Host a board meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. Which month is best? _____

Monthly Hospitality: meeting snacks, set up & clean up:

Coordinate Bring Snack

Fundraising: Coordinate Committee member

Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic: Judging

Obtain donations Other _____

Cellar Help Clerk Chef Logistics

Club Equipment Manager/Storage:

Harvest Dinner: Coordinate Find corkage-free restaurant

Home Winery Tours: Coordinate Destination

Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser: Coordinate

Logistics Secure Items Donate Items

Commercial Winery Tours: Coordinate Destination

Mentor: new winemakers home viticulture

Grape Sourcing/Group Buys: Procure Manage

wines/styles (reds, ports, etc) _____

Varietals: _____

Program/meeting topics you're interested in / why you joined SHW / how did you learn about SHW? _____

As a condition for membership, I/we agree:

1) to comply with SHW's by-laws and rules; 2) to promptly pay or reimburse SHW for any fees or other expenses incurred, e.g., bank returned checks; 3) if I or my guests consume alcoholic beverages at a SHW meeting or event, that we will do so responsibly (SHW is not responsible for transportation but may assist in obtaining a ride as a courtesy);

4) if I or my guests bring wine or other alcoholic beverages to a SHW meeting or event, the item must contain only ingredients commonly found in wines or other alcoholic beverages, and does not contain illegal substances, hallucinogens, psychoactives, medicinal substances or herbs; and 5) consent to having photos of me/us on the SHW website and communications including social media.

Signature of Person Applying for Club Membership

Date Signed

Please make check payable to "Sacramento Home Winemakers" and mail with membership form to:

Wreatha Duverney, SHW Treasurer | 10725 Sunrise Ridge Cir | Auburn CA 95603-6041

Membership questions? Contact Gin Yang at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com | 916 217-0294