



# OHIO VALLEY HOMEBREWERS ASSOCIATION

# TAP

www.ovha.net

December 2012

Vol. 16, No. 12

## 2012

### Upcoming Events

#### DECEMBER

**Wed, Dec 12 @ 6:30 p.m.:** Elections; Holiday Party, Bring a covered dish, club will provide meat. **Big Turkey Winner Announced!**

**NOTE: Early date and start time for Dec!**

## President's Message

I hope the Mayan's are wrong, but in any event here's my final Salute!

It's been a party all year like the world is ending! It seems that there is barley (spelling intended) any time to regroup between club events, but that is what is helping our club to grow to nearly 100 members strong. We all have a love for hand crafted beer, and we use that lovely beer to help charities; by donating our beer. After all...if we only brewed when we needed more beer, we wouldn't be brewing as much (maybe). We've shared our knowledge of the grain to those showing interest in our "hobby." Some have even crossed over to join our ranks and are enjoying their newest addiction. We share beer with each other, and help each other to improve the brew if needed. The power of beer....bringing people together!

I'd like to thank all those that have helped to make this year a year of OVHA. I won't name names so I don't forget anyone (and because I'm about 3 beers deep into my word smithing for this article). I'd also like to congratulate our newest Big Turkey...whoever you are, and to our old Big Turkey (Don Heisler) in his presidential role. I look forward to working with our Big Turkeys; brewing with one at Carson's Brewery, and being lead by one...El Presidente Heisler.

Salute,

Mills



**President John Mills**



## 6th Annual Big Turkey Brewing Contest Winners announced at the Dec. 12 Party

What a year for the Big Turkey! We had a record 34 entries and record prizes to go along with them for the 6th annual contest. The truly amazing top prize is to be pro-brewer for a day at Carson's Brewery, but we also have gift certificates for those that made it to the Best of Show round and other great swag for the rest of the entries. The swag will be a random draw at the party.

Twenty three brewers (plus a couple of co-brewers) turned in 9 Dry Stouts, 7 Sweet Stouts, 5 Oat Stouts, 7 Foreign Extra Stouts, 3 American Stouts, and 3 Russian Imperial Stouts. Good luck to all of you. Be aware that we did have a few gushers in the bunch so watch that finishing gravity before you bottle, don't double dose the priming sugar, and be ever vigilant on sanitation.

Thanks to our judges: Jack Frey, Turoni's Main Street Brewery; Paul Ankenbrand, Gerst Haus; John Mills, Carson's Brewery; Cesar Gonzalez, OVHA; Skip Seaman, Liquor Locker; Sean O'Rear, Tin Man Brewing Company; Jason Watson, Liquor Locker; Nathaniel Cruse, Carson's Brewery; and Mark Nance, Evansville Beer Tracker. Most of the first-time judges agreed it was much tougher than they had thought it was going to be.

Extra thanks to our stewards: Don Heisler, Michael Erwin, and Danny French who did a very professional job, just ignore some of the beer stained score sheets. They can fit right in at Brewer's Cup with the best of them.

A special thanks to our sponsors, Carson's Brewery, Superior Ag Co-Op, Northern Brewer, Weber Equipment, and Midwest Supplies. They all donated generously to the contest this year. Please visit them and let them know you appreciate the support.

And finally, thanks to Wesselman Woods Nature Center and Dr. John Scott Foster for hosting the judging. They went out of their way to accommodate us, including shutting down the center to the public during the judging.

After the initial judging from the three panels of judges, five beers were pushed through to the Best of Show round. Those brewers will be recognized and then we will award 3rd, 2nd, and 1st place. You can pick up your score sheets afterwards.



The bear likes beer. Who knew?





Beer judging is serious business.



Best of Show judging with the head judge from each panel.