

JUNE 2005

The Grapevine

a newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers

www.sachomewine.com

The Next Meeting and President's Message

Two months ago I wrote about our years of organizing the home winemaking competition for the California State Fair. It is unfortunate that—in spite of major concessions on the club's part—the Fair did not accept our offer to organize the competition this year. The Fair's representatives also made it clear that next year and in the future they would expect to share the net profits with the club on a 60% Club/40% Fair basis rather than having the Club retain the first \$3,000 of net profit, that has for years been the arrangement—and which has been our second-largest source of revenue after our dues. Because of this, your Board does not expect the club to organize this event in the future.

Now we need to consider what future competitions or other activities we might want to organize. For starters, we moved the May Jubilee to July, and decided to accept entries from non-SHW members for a small fee. At the May Board meeting we discussed ideas ranging from gradually expanding the Jubilee to organizing a West Coast amateur winemaking competition. One ambitious member even suggested a national competition!

What we all agreed on was that it was important to continue providing opportunities for home winemakers to show their stuff and to glean what they can from judge's comments. We also agreed that this was a good time to revisit our objectives and develop a strategic plan for our future. A Draft Strategic Plan is included in this newsletter and discussion of this subject will be the main program at the June 15 membership meeting.

To put that discussion in context, we also include in this newsletter the report from this year's Budget Committee (Carl Brust, Treasurer; Linda Page, immediate past Treasurer; and John Benbow, long-time member). From their report we can glean that we needn't panic over the loss of the \$3,000 to \$4,000 we have generated from the work we put in to the State Fair competition. Within two or three years, however, we do need to find replacement revenue or cut back on expenses.

I hope you will come to the June 15 meeting, 7:00 PM at the Turn Verin ready to roll up your sleeves and help plan the future of our club. We need your thoughts and ideas. Wine to share will be fine!

Thanks for your support.

Ken Hough, SHW President

Next Newsletter Deadlines: This is Your Newsletter

Have articles, jokes, want ads or other tidbits to Judy Pinegar by **4 P.M. on Friday 1, 2005** for the next edition (earlier is preferred to allow time for formatting).

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and Committee Chairs

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Sacramento Home Winemakers Board Meeting on July 6, 2005

The next SHW Board meeting (**we invite ALL interested members to come**) is at the home of President Ken Hough.

The address is 2733 Donner Way, which is 5 ho9ses west of Franklin Blvd. Donner is about half way between Sutterville and Broadway.

The date is July 6, 2005. Snacks start at 6:00, the meeting at 6:45 PROMPTLY. If you are lost call Ken at 456-7911.

Please bring eats and wine to share.

Information on Small Oak Barrels for Home Winemakers



Dear Winemaker: I work for a company called ReCoop located in Sonoma County California. We refurbish neutral wine barrels for the wine industry, offering to double the useful life of a barrel while providing the same outstanding quality the barrel first possessed at a very attractive price.

As of last year we started making small barrels for the home winemaker with great success. I came across your group on the internet and thought you may have some interest in our process and products. I would love to send you some information if possible, and you can check us out at <http://www.recoop.net> OR www.recoop.net.

TAKING ORDERS NOW – CORKS... (for your bottles).

We are taking orders NOW for a bulk purchase from La Fitte, Cork and Capsule Company in Napa.
We are sharing the discount with members.)

There are 2 types: "solid cork" @ 22 cents/each and "dual disk" at 14 cents/each.

Chris Hoadley will be taking over the task of collecting names and cork requests and making a new order for this year. Please call or write!!

**You can reach Chris at: hoadridg@sbcglobal.net
A cell phone number for a message is: 707- 495- 5127**

Strategic Plan - Draft June 1, 2005

Club Purpose ***Have fun learning and teaching the art and science of winemaking***

Proposed Objectives

- § Educate both beginning and experienced home winemakers
- § Mentor through experience
- § Evaluate wines through tastings and competitions
- § Create social activities centered around home winemaking
- § Invite persons interested in making wine to join Club
- § Ensure availability of funds to support Club objectives

Club Purpose General: *(Club Constitution and by-laws, April 21, 1982)*
 The organization shall be a non-profit, informational, educational organization; the purpose of which shall be to promote interest in the art of winemaking by the amateur

Specific and Primary: Organize, conduct and/or attend discussions, lectures, field trips, experiments and competitions

Relationship of Activities to Objectives:

Activities	Main Objectives				
	Education and Mentorship	Evaluation/Competition	Social Activity	Membership development	Revenue Impact
Technical Sessions at club meetings	x			x	negative
Club Project	x	x			negative
Jubilee	x	x	x	x	negative
Passport Weekends	x		x		negative
Field Trips	x		x		neutral
Holiday Dinner			x	x	positive
Winemakers' Dinner			x		neutral
Tasting & Evaluations	x	x			neutral
Publicize club meetings & events				x	depends
Making available grape resources	x				positive
State Fair-defunct 05	x	x	x	x	positive
Off-Site Training	x				neutral?

Activity Descriptions

- **Technical Sessions** - Monthly (generally) opportunities to learn components of the art of winemaking from guest speakers and experienced club members. Typical topics include vineyard management, yeasts, corks, grapes, winemaking basics, and philosophies.

Strategic Plan continued...

- **Club Project** – participants all start out with the same grapes/juice, apply their winemaking expertise and the results are evaluated at a general membership meeting
- **Jubilee** – formal competition/evaluation.
- **Passport Weekends** – learn from experienced club members by visiting their home winemaking operations and cellars
- **Field Trips** – organized trips to wineries. Some trips provide an insider's view and may be hosted by the winemaker, learn/observe winery techniques.
- **Holiday Dinner** – the winter social honoring the Winemaker of the Year. Bring your wines to share and enjoy a catered dinner, raffles, dancing, and great company.
- **Winemakers' Dinner** – dining on fine restaurant food, drinking wine made by club members, enjoying members' company
- **Evaluations/Tastings** – wines evaluated by a panel of experts. Members' wines, with technical notes, are critiqued by those in the know. The venue is a great opportunity to help make a good wine better, ask any questions about wine or help make that ultimate decision. New white wines are generally tasted in February, new reds in March, and port and fruit, sparkling and dessert wines of any vintage in September.
- **Publicize club meetings & events** – getting the word out to wine making supply businesses, neighboring home winemaking clubs and the local press.
- **Making available winemaking resources** – providing certain wine making supplies at a quantity discount, sharing of equipment, offering discounts at participating businesses
- **State Fair (defunct)** – annual wine evaluation event organized and conducted by Club

Current Issues

1. Is club purpose being met?
Are objectives being met?
Where is the club going or have we arrived?
2. Finances – budget committee
 - Income
club dues, fundraisers, other activities
 - expenses
rent – meeting space
club project - grapes
meeting hospitality
guest speakers' hospitality
awards/ribbons
club equipment
public relations – newsletters, postage, web site
3. State Fair competition replacement/ July Jubilee
State Fair provided venue for recognizing achievement in spirit of friendly competition
What is purpose and desired outcome of the State Fair replacement?
Does the club wish to attract the same breadth of interest as the State Fair, make it regional (eg., Sacramento-Placer-Amador-El Dorado-Lodi), or expand the breadth of interest (eg., West Coast or national)?
4. Fundraising: purpose; how much is enough?
5. Participation: 20% do 99% of the work; is this OK? If not, how to change?

ANNOUNCING: JULY 16, 2005 – THE JULY JUBILEE

What: The **JULY Jubilee** – A day of judging wines, a picnic, and tasting wines!

Wine Entries: See information on next page

NOTE: The Board is opening this competition to non-club members

“Anyone who makes home wine, follows the rules, and has \$5.00!!”

Tell your friends! Entry is still free to members. We are working on ribbons!

When: Saturday, July 16, 2005 (Times will be announced next newsletter)

Where: Dave & Helen Dart’s Home (and NOW Commercial Winery) in Lodi, CA.
Map and directions will be in the next newsletter

Costs/Picnic: \$ 5:00 per person for members and \$ 10.00 for non-club members
WE NEED RSVP’s to get enough meat to BBQ... send in your money (below)

We need someone to chair the Banquet Coordination. Please contact Lili Brust, (916) 652-9001 if you would like to do this. It is just a coordination job – this picnic is also potluck. HELP?

Volunteers can sign up at the June club meeting or call Lili Brust, (916)-652-9001 or e-mail to lcbrust@garlic.com. We need: clerks, BBQ help, cellar rats, set up and take down crew.

July Jubilee Chairs:

Jubilee Coordinator	Lili Brust	652-9001
Chief Judge	Layne Montgomery	
Cellar Master	Ken Hough	456-7911
Banquet Coordinator	(your name here!)	_____

To Be Provided: Wine!! (after the judging, complete with the award designation), Water, Steak, Chicken, Hot Dogs and homemade beans will be provided at the BBQ.
Potluck assignments will be in the next newsletter.

NOTE: At the July Regular Meeting we will have an expert on Yeast and Malolactic Fermentations. Mark your calendar!

The meeting will be July 20, 7:00 PM the usual place. The speaker will be [Sigrid Gertsen-Briand](#), who graduated from McGill University (Montreal, Canada) with a degree in Microbiology, and has worked in the industry at both the amateur and commercial winery level since 1995, before joining Lallemand four years ago as a technical representative.

To get a idea of the things she might teach us at the meeting, check out the web pages for Lallemand at: <http://www.lallemandwine.us/home.php>

RSVP For July
Jubilee

I want to come to the picnic:

___ **Members X \$5.00=** _____

___ **Non Members
X \$10.00=** _____

Total Enclosed:

Check made to: SHW

Sacramento Home Winemakers -- Schedule for 2005
Monthly Meetings, 3rd Wednesday of Month, 7:00 PM,
Sacramento Turn Verein Hall - 2nd Floor, 3349 J Street, Sacramento
Board Meetings 1st Wednesday of Month, 6:00 PM

JUNE 2005

- June 15, 2005 Regular SHW Meeting – **Future of Our Club Strategic Planning and Budget Discussion**



JULY 2005

- July 6, 2005, 6:00 p.m., SHW Board meeting
Home of Ken Hough, President

- **July 17, 2007 the SHW (July) Jubilee**

At the Estate and Winery of Dave Dart and Helen Rommel

- July 20, 2005 Regular SHW Meeting - **Yeast and Malolactic Fermentation - Lallemant's Cellars**

AUGUST 2005

- August 17, 2005 Regular SHW Meeting - TBA

OCTOBER POST HARVEST TOUR (see inside)

All Day Bus Tour/Sonoma Valley – Saturday October 22

Sacramento Home Winemakers

c/o Judy Pinegar
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