

The Grapevine



Message from the President

Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month starting at 7 PM, upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. For more information on SHW membership, meetings and activities, visit:

Dear Fellow Members:

First, I want to congratulate the White Wine Makers who participated in the February Club evaluations. Your white wines demonstrated the ever increasing competency of your efforts; as well as exhibiting a surprisingly diverse variety of white wine types. (We had 66+ attendees and sampled in excess of 20 white wines. Good Show !!)

I want to particularly thank our visiting evaluators, Peter Marks, owner/winemaker of Six Hands Winery, and, Craig Unverferth, winemaker for Charles Mitchell Wineries. I thought they offered first rate critiques of the wines, while also offering solid, practical tips and solutions for dealing with our wine issues. The Club is indebted to Peter and Craig for their contributions to our wine education efforts.

It is important to remember that many people contribute to the success of this Club, and that many more are always needed to insure the ongoing success of the SHW Club. Our monthly Executive Board meetings are held the First Wednesday of the month at various member's homes and businesses. I want to extend a special thank-you to Past President Donna Bettencourt for hosting our February meeting at her In Alliance offices. .Please remember that the Board Meetings are open to all members. We do encourage you to attend.

The April 3rd Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm at the my home. (Please call 916/451.3893 for information and directions.). I look forward to seeing you all next Wednesday!



Cheers!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

President's Message	1
March Program	1
Program Calendar	2
Winemaker Magazine	2
Varietal Focus Groups	2
June Jubilee Competition	3
Club Leadership	3
Upcoming Competitions	4
40th Anniversary Celebration	4
Member Resources	5

MARCH PROGRAM

SHW is featuring John Troiano a long time former member as well as Past President of the SHW Club on the topic of understanding how your wines are judged in competition. John will be bringing wines and taking members through the process of evaluating/judging wines, with and without faults, with the judging form used in our June Jubilee Wine Competition. John is among an illustrious group of former SHW members who have gone "Commercial".



Please bring 4 wine glasses and just as it is in an actual wine judging, please do not wear cologne or perfume.

2013 program calendar

April 17—SHW 40th Anniversary Party	October 16 –John Hyde—Making the transition from home wine-making to the commercial market, AND
May 15—TBA	Barbara Bentley on designing and printing wine labels for home wine
June 1—June Jubilee Competition/Picnic	November—Harvest Dinner
June 19—Non-Bordeaux wine evaluations	November 13th—Annual Meeting, travelogue, and dessert/sparkling and fruit wine evaluations
July 17—Bordeaux varietal evaluations	December—Holiday Party
August 3—Winemaking 101 Class	
August 21—TBA	
September 18—TBA	

Winemaker Magazine's International Amateur Wine Competition



In 2012, Sacramento Home Winemakers proudly won Winemaker Magazine's International Amateur Wine Competition "Club of the Year" award. In last year's contest, over 4,300 wines from all 50 states and several countries were judged. Winners are announced at the magazine's home winemaking conference in the spring. This year, the

conference is in mid-May in Monterey and SHW has been asked again to pour their wines at the conference.

We plan to take 3 cases of wines made by SHW members for the pouring. Please consider donating a bottle or two of your good stuff - after all, we've got to show them the quality of wines we make! Co-VP Sonia Baron and

Membership Co-Chair Fred Millar will be collecting the wines at the March and April SHW meetings and will also be sharing the responsibilities of pouring SHW wines at the conference. For more details, please contact Fred at fred-millar1@gmail.com or 916 576-9596.

**"I cook with wine, sometimes I even add it to the food."
W.C. Fields**

2013 VARIETAL FOCUS GROUPS

Harvest is only 6 months away! Time to think about what wines you'd like to make this upcoming fall and start scouting for grapes.

Volunteer to coordinate a varietal focus group. Maybe you'd like to try your hand at making a new varietal or apply a different style to a wine you've been making for years. Maybe you would like access to a grower who requires a minimum purchase amount. Varietal focus groups are a cohesive way allowing several people to make wine from the grapes they want and learn from one another. What an opportune way to make your wines better. A couple of members have already volunteered to lead an albarino and chardonnay groups. How about you? If you'd like to coordinate a varietal focus group or participate in one, please contact Gin at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com or 916 217-0294.

June Jubilee competition June 1, 2013

From the Chief Judge—DD Smith

One of the joys of winemaking is to catch the reactions of friends or fellow winemakers as they sample your latest creation. If they're thoughtful enough, or QUALIFIED enough, an honest opinion of the flavor nuances and technical stature of your wines is even better. Easier said than done, right?

Why not consider entering your wines in the club June Jubilee competition? There, for a very nominal fee, your wine will receive the rapt attention of a carefully selected panel of judges who will taste, debate and finally, grade your wine. As your Chief Judge, I try to balance each three-person panel with a commercial winemaker, a very seasoned wine judge and, perhaps, a flier of sorts. All are very knowledgeable and are eager to look at YOUR wine and give it a fair shake. We don't permit members of this club to act as judges, and the tasting is blind so friendships and political influence are removed from the competition. The best part is that the Jubilee and the afternoon picnic is FUN – and it's always more fun when you have a dog in the race! I can't guarantee that your wine will win a medal, but I can guarantee that it will be carefully and individually JUDGED.

Entry information will be published in the next month or so ... get those wines ready!



S H W C L U B L E A D E R S H I P

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President—Gary Young, gycats@earthlink.net

Co-Vice Presidents—Sonia Baron, soniabarons@hotmail.com, and John Avila, mail@john-avila.com

Secretary—JD Phelps, jd.phelps@gmail.com

Treasurer—Mike Touchette, pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

Past President—Donna Bettencourt, bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Membership Co-Chairs—Gin Yang-Staehlin, ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com, and Fred Millar, fred.millar1@gmail.com

BOARD APPOINTEES

Chief Judge—DD Smith, ddanjo@sbcglobal.net

Cellarmaster—Henry Wilkinson, hbwilkinson@jps.net

Hospitality—Holly Heggli, galstealth@hotmail.com

Judy Pinegar, Club Competition Coordinator, Webmaster, jpinegar@calwisp.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mikc Touchette, Chair

Fred Millar

Lynn Keay

Donna Bettencourt

Gary Young



SHW Membership Rosters Available

Current Club membership rosters are available upon request. The electronic version of the membership information contains names, cities, phone numbers, and email addresses. No street addresses will be shared. Also not shared are those members who indicated "do not share" on their membership forms

These lists are for personal use only. Thanks for keeping them private and not using the information for commercial purposes.

Please contact Membership Co-Chair Gin Yang at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com to request the latest membership roster.

Upcoming home wine competitions and events



March 17-18- International Winemaking Magazine Home Wine Competition and Conference

Entry deadline March 15, 2013 www.winemakermag.com/competition

March 23-24—Lodi Grape Festival Contact Aaron Kidder, aaronkidder@gmail.com

June 1—Sacramento Home Winemakers June Jubilee

June 22—ART AND WINE IN THE PARK. Arts and craft vendors, food, live music and a silent auction. Library Park in Lakeport, 1-5pm. Contact Ed Bublitz, edandcharb1@att.net

SHW 40th Anniversary celebration

Remember our April 17th meeting will be devoted to the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Sacramento Home Winemakers Club. A "People's Choice" Judging will be held [Prize(s) to be awarded] for the Best Old (6 years or older) Red and White wines.

In addition, an award will be given for the "Oldest (drinkable) Wine" submitted. Keep searching for those "old" wines you have secreted away; they will be an important, informative and fun part of our evening. Please send a photo of you, whether a member then or not of SHW, from the 1970's to Sonia Baron sonia-baron@hotmail.com. For some of you, that will surely be a baby picture, but for most of us, it will look

Something like this →

Please plan on attending this special celebration, and extending an invitation to any former member with whom you have contact.



MEMBER RESOURCES

Winemaking and Vineyard Mentors	Contact Mentor Coordinator Bill Staehlin and he'll match you up with a mentor. bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net; 916 216-1753
Club Equipment Rental	See list on right for information to borrow the Club's destemmer-crusher, press, and filter.
Oak Cubes for Aging	Contact Bill Staehlin; contact info above.
SHW Logo Wine Glasses	Contact Sue Summersett to purchase SHW logo wine glasses. sbsummer2002@yahoo.com; 916 354-2050
SHW LogoWear Polo Shirts & Caps	Contact Fred Millar for more information. Fredmillar1@gmail.com; 915 576-9596
Club's Web Site	www.SacHomeWine.org

CLUB EQUIPMENT

Club equipment can be borrowed by SHW members. Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis with a signed "Release Agreement" on file.

Destemmer-Crusher

Contact:
Andy Walter, 916 955-6373
andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net

Basket Press

Contact:
Lynn Keay, 916 969-4924
lynn.keay@gmail

Filter

Contact:
Donna Bettencourt, 916 454-5487, betten-
court1045@softcom.net
betten-
court1045@softcom.net

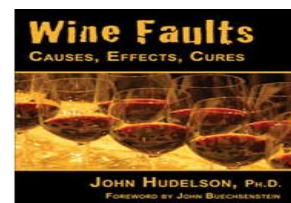
Please note that there is a \$5 per use fee for the filter, and a \$10 fee for the crusher-destemmer. The press is free for member use.

Wine Publication

Wine Faults: Causes, Effects, Cures

By John Hudelson, PhD

A precise and comprehensive description of the problems encountered at times by all winemakers and wine judges, *Wine Faults* covers the differences between flaws and faults, how flavors develop, how taste works and how it differs from smell in the evaluation of wine. From there it tackles the increasing problems resulting from high alcohol wines as well as volatile acidity found in high pH wines common in some warm grape-growing regions. It also deals with the vegetal qualities of cool viticultural regions usually caused by methoxypyrazines and the occasional lady beetle. Every microbial infection found in today's wineries is fully described and arrayed in full color slides. Dense as the material may seem, the book is written in a manner that the layperson, or even the quality control professional who forgot that he ever took Organic Chemistry, can understand.



Available through the Wine Appreciation Guild, Bryan@wineappreciation.com



PO Box 894

Rancho Cordova, CA 95741