

FOAM BLOWERS OF INDIANA

Fueling Beer Investigation

WINTER 2021



CALENDAR

February

- 3 Monthly Meeting-Pale American Ales
- 6 Virtual Town Hall to discuss changes to the 2021 NHC
- 27 Heavy Hydrometer

March

- 3 Monthly Meeting-Small Stouts
- 10 CIA meeting- John Allison
- 13 Volksmarch on the Monon

April

- 7 Monthly Meeting-California Common and American Ambers

May

- 5 Monthly Meeting-
- TBA AHA Big Brew Day

June

- 2 Monthly Meeting-Helles and Helles Bock

DIRECTORS TAP

Welcome to the 2021 Edition of the FBI quarterly newsletter. If you are not aware, it is customary to get a beer before you read another word. Salute! I am drinking a Sierra Nevada Pale Ale which is one of my go to beers; I find it to be a sessionable beer, meaning I can drink more than 2 which may be a sign of high tolerance, but hey for the record, we are in the middle of a pandemic!

“At various times, the FBI has had a newsletter. It used to be called the Hop Vine. Over time, we moved to a more modern communication mode called email. This changed the Editor to a Communication Director and very long emails with no color and no pictures. Then we created a Yahoo account, then Facebook. Everybody was telling everyone about everything...but no one was keeping track of anything. No one was maintaining the history of the FBI. So, what was old, is new again!”

These are the words of our past Director in the 2017 Winter Newsletter. I have to say, the more things change the more they stay the same in that we continue to be caught-up in a swirl of information, especially now under the current circumstances. The Foamblowers.com website, the Facebook group, and YouTube channels are public so we can share our activities to a broad audience and attract new members. The Goggle Calendar and Group email is how we communicate internal club information not meant to be public. Some of this may sound redundant but thinking about it, I use all these channels when I’m looking for information about other groups. The point is, all this communication and updating content takes a considerable amount of time and effort from volunteers. Do we need a newsletter? Probably not but I hope we can use this newsletter platform to share and highlight the accomplishments of our group if for no other reason but to preserve our rich FBI history.

“For over 30 years, the FBI has fostered and encouraged homebrewers to reach the pinnacle of local, state, and national recognition.” As you should all know this club was built by members that volunteer their time and energy. I want to thank all the members on the Board that have stepped up to commit their time to shape the future of the FBI. I also want to thank our other members that volunteer in an unofficial capacity.

Danna Korak, Director

MONTHLY MEETINGS

FBI's regular monthly meeting is held at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Under normal circumstances we would meet at the historic Liederkranz but as you know, due to COVID restrictions we are meetings on Zoom.

Over the last year we have been successful at migrating the Monthly Meetings to Zoom except the bottle share and homebrew evaluations is virtually impossible, which throws a wrench into our regular meeting format. Understandably we all miss that but thank you to those who have stayed with us during this time. It's always good to see your faces and have a spirited conversation.

At our January 6th meeting Martin teamed up with Ron Smith to compare and discuss the Pilsner style and America's interpretation of it. The meeting was structured to enable you to participate in tasting and discussion. Attendees were encouraged to obtain samples of Pilsner Urquell and Miller Lite and those beers were compared and discussed as examples of their respective styles. Ron covered the history and genealogy of the Pilsner style, and Martin presented the technical data.

We plan to continue our monthly Gift Card Drawing and encourage you to invite a guest to join us. Watch for reminders and links to the meeting wherever you get your social media. Congrats! to Kent Brown, winner of the \$15 Gift Card in our Jan. drawing.

Martin Brungard, Meeting Coordinator



Historically (since 1872) the Liederkranz has primarily been an organization to preserve German culture through song. In the latter part of the 19th century, a group of German immigrants in Indianapolis decided that they could best preserve the connection to their home country through the organization of a men's choir. Thus, the Liederkranz was born. That singing tradition has carried on successfully for 145 years and counting.



TREASURY NOTE

Due to the 2020 Covid19 Pandemic and the inability to host Club activities our expenses were lower than budgeted amount. In consideration of this the 2020 Annual Meeting the Board voted to waive the 2021 Membership Dues for all members who paid their dues during 2020. All new members or anyone that did not pay dues in 2020 must pay the amount shown.

Membership dues are \$30 for a Single member or \$40 for Family membership. Family membership includes 1 additional person of age 21+ Membership dues provide club insurance that gives limited legal protection to the club and its members. Your dues also pay for attendance at beer festivals, expense reimbursement for meeting hosts, special events, website hosting, etc. The membership application and instructions are available to download from Foamblowers.com website.

It is time for all members to update your Foam Blowers of Indiana application form. To help us keep our records up to date please complete and return your signed application to Eric.

Eric Wiens, Treasurer/ New Member Coordinator

WHO ARE THE FOAM BLOWERS?

The Foam Blowers of Indiana, Inc (FBI) is a diverse group of homebrewers located in Indianapolis metro and the surrounding areas. Our club provides fun and educational activities for the enjoyment of brewing and drinking fermented beverages. We are an American Homebrewer Association (AHA) sanctioned homebrew club, and we welcome brewers of any skill level.

The FBI provides a variety of Social Gatherings and Educational Meetings with an emphasis on fun!

- Monthly Meetings are an educational focused meeting where we examine a select group of BJCP recognized beer styles. At each meeting Members sample commercial examples and learn about the beer style.
- Pub Nights are club outings, breweries tours and other venues, or just an informal social gathering at a local establishment.
- Weekend Meetings and Club Parties are gatherings hosted once a month by a club member for special holidays and beer related celebrations.
- Competitions- Compete in Local, Regional, and Friendly Club Competitions
- FBI Special Events are meant to showcase our club camaraderie and serve homebrewed beer at several public events -Big Brew Day -History On Tap – Indiana Homebrewpalooza –Learn To Brew Day -Homebrew Cons



PUB NIGHTS

Unfortunately, we had to suspend most of our activities due the COVID-19 restrictions, however, scouring our Facebook group for signs of Pub Night, it looks like we managed to meet a couple times in 2020.

January Pub Nite @ Primeval Brewing
February Pub Night @ Daredevil Hall
We were all hopeful that after the initial wave of the virus passed, we would be able to resume our activity but in December our Bring Back the Sun pub night at Broad Ripple Brew Pub came and went without any fan fair.

We urge you to stay vigilant in your safety practices, stay well and we hope to resume pub night sometime in 2021.

Jake Keefer, Pub Night Coordinator



FOR THE RECORD

On March 16, 2020, Gov. Eric Holcomb halted dine-in service to control the coronavirus' spread so many business owners had to quickly shift to takeout and delivery. It was reported by the InRLA that the Indiana's restaurant industry overall lost an estimated \$433 million in sales and more than 53,000 jobs during the first 22 days of March. Social media lit up with customer calls to “support our local everything” and organizations created hashtags like #drinkindianacheers.

On March 20, members of the Indianapolis craft beer industry came together to form the Indy Independent Relief Fund (IIRF), a registered non-profit organization designed to generate and disperse funds and food to needy members of the food and alcohol service industry. Present conditions have led to the layoff of thousands of restaurant/bar and brewery employees that depend on both hourly wages/salary and tips so local companies combined forces to produce several beers, from which 100% of the sales was used by the IIRF to provide services and funds to industry workers.

As a result of their efforts, we enjoyed several collaboration brews such as Stimulus IPA, Shutdown Schwarzbier, Phase Four NEIPA, Back On Track DIPA, Empty Stage Hoppy Blond, Essential Pilsner, and Social Distance Pale Ale



WEEKEND MEETINGS

Weekend Meetings and Club Parties are casual social gatherings, usually hosted once a month by a club member for special holidays and beer-centric celebrations. Dare I say, we are living in unusual times so our organized weekend meetings have become socially distanced out-doors activities. Watch Facebook for spontaneous outings, weather permitting.

Stephen Banach, Weekend Coordinator

BIKES AND BREWS ON THE MONON OCT 2020



FBI WINTER VOLKSMARCH (GROUP WALK) JAN 2021

It was a crisp (cold, 32 F), beautiful, sunny day so met at Grand Junction Brewery in Westfield, IN and took 2-mile stroll winding our way thru Asa Bales Park to 1205 Distillery North where we stopped for a short intermission and then headed back thru the park. Sarah Hutchinson brought to our attention that Asa Bales pioneering efforts helped settle Westfield and he and other settlers in the area offered a haven for the slaves that were en-route to Canada on the Underground Railroad. Thanks to Ron Smith for mapping out our walk. Ron also noted that 1205 is a historic date for Prohibition's repeal, and Grand Junction's ESB is named after the Underground Railroad! "Cool stuff! We didn't realize it was going to turn into a history class as well, what a great surprise!"

Thanks to everyone that came out for the First Annual FBI Winter Volksmarch! My apologies to those that did not get the notice for this meeting, it evolved somewhat spontaneously. Planning is already under way for another outing on Sat. March 13th weather permitting. Watch for more details as the date gets closer.



HEAVY HYDROMETER COMPETITION FEB 2020



The 2020 Heavy Hydrometer Competition and Social Gathering was hosted by the Daniels family where Tom Walbank was announced as the winner.

For new members unfamiliar with the Heavy Hydrometer, it is an annual, club-only competition and social event focused on high alcohol beers, 1.070 OG and above. The winner of the competition has bragging rights for the year, their name on our traveling plaque, along with the opportunity to host the next year's event.

The 2021 version of this annual event will be much different than the past. The Social Gathering is cancelled but planning is currently underway to judge your beers on Sat. Feb. 27th. Watch your emails and Facebook for more specific information about the competition.

CIA ACTIVITY

“When I walk from an empty room into a room hosting a CIA meeting, I simultaneously lower the average IQ of both rooms.” —Andrew Korty

One of the primary strengths of the FBI is its technical bent, and the CIA meetings aim to maintain that prowess by offering four presentations throughout the year that will expand your mind, improve your brewing, and in many cases, sharpen your tasting skills.

We have a few presentations lined up for 2021, but we need more, and that's where you come in. Now, if you're not one to give a lot of presentations, I'll let you in on a little secret. You don't wait until you become an expert to start giving presentations in a subject. Giving presentations is how you become an expert. So, if there's an aspect of brewing or judging you've always wanted to know more about, volunteer to present on that topic. It's the quickest and most effective approach to teaching yourself a new skill or subject.

Our next CIA meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, at 7 pm EST, and will feature John Allison. John has procured a coolship—a wide, shallow, open vessel for cooling wort—and has used it to make beer. We'll hear about his technique for using the coolship, the results so far, and what he has learned

Andrew Korty, CIA Director

Bru'n Water Presentation- Nov 2020

Thank you to Martin Brungard for his Bru'n Water presentation on zoom. Water is the most basic building block in brewing and the source of water has a direct effect on its suitability for brewing. During this presentation, Martin shared advise on how to accurately assess and modify your brewing water. You can watch his presentation on the [FoamBlowersHomebrewClub -YouTube Channel](#)

COMPETITION SCENE

The Competition Chair on the FBI Board is currently open and it's not too late to volunteer for this position. We are looking for someone to help organize socially distanced club competitions and report on local and national competitions.

As we head into homebrew competition season, Competition Managers are going through great lengths to organize and keep these events safe. As a result, many are limiting the number of entries allowed and they are filling up fast. You can find the AHA/BJCP Sanctioned Competitions on the BJCP website at the link shown below.

http://www.bjcp.org/apps/comp_schedule/competition_schedule.php

2021 NHC UPDATE NATIONAL HOMEBREWING COMPETITION

Greetings fellow brewers! We are inviting you to an open Town Hall to discuss changes to the National Homebrewing Competition 2021, and how you can partner with your club to help mitigate shipping costs. Please join us on zoom on Saturday February 6 (1 ET / noon central)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://strivr.zoom.us/j/91231476685...>

John & Joshua NHC Assistant Competition Manager



2021 DER HOOSIER BRAUMEISTER COMPETITION

Der Hoosier Braumeister is a unique, new competition celebrating Indiana's German Heritage and Brewing Expertise!

It is a series of 5 competitions open to both Home and Pro brewers in Indiana. Points are awarded in each comp and added up to determine the Grand Champion... DER HOOSIER BRAUMEISTER.

- IMPORTANT NOTES-

- The 2021 version of the competition will go on, but with the pandemic situation still creating uncertainty, some of the exact dates may change, especially later in the year as the Liederkrantz and the German American Klub hopefully get to confirm dates and get back to their events.
- Beer Entries must register in advance (preferably by a week before each comp, see link below), then be delivered to Ron Smith's home (3793 Castle Rock Drive, Zionsville, IN, 46077) in the week before the judging. See the exact details that will be posted for each competition. Also, these plans may change as well as we hopefully get back to the real events.
- Open to both Pro and Home Brewers. Head-to-head competition. All entries info will be kept confidential (except for the winners). Judging feedback will be provided.
- Judging is closed to the public. Winners will be announced as soon as possible (that night or the next day), or if at the real events, usually about an hour into the events. Most events are free to attend.
- Follow the Facebook group for updates. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HoosierBraumeister>

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Joe is working to keep our branding and messaging consistent across our online platforms. He has made vast improvements to the website and as I said earlier, collecting and updating content takes a considerable amount of time and effort. Here is how you can help our club:

- Submit pictures and stories about the FBI club for our History page. Your words are the only way to preserve the memories that slowly fade as the years pass.
- Share recipes, brewing tips & tricks, gadgets or other musings for the What's Brewing page.
- Send your contributions to Joe Werner <jwerner.9963@gmail.com>

Joe Werner announced that Johnathon Swain has joined the Communications Committee and together they have established an FBI YouTube Channel for edited versions of our virtual meetings and special presentations.

[FoamBlowersHomebrewClub-YouTube](#)

Joe Werner, Communications Chair

MEMBER RECIPE

Here is an award-winning Trappist Single recipe from Tom Wallbank and Tim Palmer for you to try. This is a reprint of a recipe from the Winter Newsletter- 2017.

Style: **Trappist Single**

Batch Size: 11 gal Boil

Time: 90 mins

Grains:

17 lbs -Belgian Pils

1.5 lbs - Corn Sugar

Hops:

2.3 oz EKG (5.7%) - 60 mins

2.3 oz Saaz (2.0%) - 60 mins

Misc. Additions:

- 2 tsp Irish Moss - 15 mins
- 1 tsp Yeast Nutrient – 10 mins
- Water: 80% RO/20% filtered tap Salts
- Mash-1 tsp CaCl₂, 3.5 mL of Phos Acid (75%)
- Kettle 1.5 tsp CaCl₂
- Acidify sparge water to below pH of 6.



2021 Board Members

➤ Director	Danna Korak
➤ Deputy Director	Charlie Wood
➤ Treasurer/ New Member Coordinator	Eric Wiens
➤ Secretary	Lee Daniels
➤ Director Emeritus	Martin Brungard
➤ Weekend Meeting Chairperson	Steven Banach
➤ Monthly Meeting Chairperson	Martin Brungard
➤ Events Chairperson	Jeff Jennings
➤ Club Competitions Chairperson	-open
➤ Communications Chairperson	Joe Werner
➤ Pub Night Chairperson	Jake Keefer
➤ Central Indiana Alliance (CIA) of Beer Judges Chairperson	Andrew Korty

Contact the Board via email at foamblowerofficers@googlegroups.com