

by Amahl Turczyn Scheppach

Southern California Regional Homebrew Competition



The Southern California Regional Homebrew Competition has been hosted by the Inland Empire Brewers homebrew club for the last 25 years, according to organizer and club vice president Erin Westvig. For 2012, the event was held at the Main Street Brewery in Corona, Calif., and attracted 272 entries from all over California as well as Nevada, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Missouri.

As an added perk, Westvig said, the event's Best of Show winner is given the opportunity to brew a scaled-up version of the winning recipe on Main Street's brew system with owner and brewmaster Bob Kluver. Then, as with the annual Pro-

Am competition, the Best of Show beer is put on tap at the brewery for the public to enjoy. "There are even a few beers that have won in the past that Bob will keep around," Westvig explained. "Their flagship IPA, Hop Daddy, is a former BOS winner from our competition."

This year's winner of that honor is Aaron Luelling from Las Vegas, Nev. One of the first and greatest influences on Luelling's brewing career came from one of the greatest beer cultures in the world: in the Army, he was stationed in Germany. There, Luelling was able to visit and experience some of the great breweries in the world. "Learning their culture, particularly as it relates to their beer, was a game changer," he remembers. "When I returned to the States, I had a devil of a time trying to find a good hefeweizen. So I thought, why not just brew one?"

However, even though German brewers make it look easy, that classic Bavarian style can be a challenge for novice homebrewers. "It was not pretty," he joked. As it turned out, this was a positive step in eventually realizing his brewing goals. When asked what it takes to be a good brewer, he cited patience, perseverance, and fearlessness. "You learn by failing," he said. Time passed before he had the opportunity to give it another go, but fortunately that opportunity did eventually arrive. Thirteen years later, after marriage, college, a CPA, and kids, Luelling found he needed a hobby—as he put it, "something to charge my own batteries"—and the time was ripe to dive back into homebrewing.

He brewed his first batch in 1998, but it wasn't until October 2011 when he

Foreign Extra Stout BEST OF SHOW BEER, 2012 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL HOMEBREW COMPETITION

Recipe by Aaron Luelling, Las Vegas, Nev.

INGREDIENTS

for 5 U.S. gallons (19 liters)

- 10.0 lb** (4.54 kg) American two-row pale malt
 - 1.0 lb** (0.45 kg) Weyermann Carafoam® malt
 - 1.0 lb** (0.45 kg) black patent malt
 - 1.0 lb** (0.45 kg) chocolate malt
 - 1.0 lb** (0.45 kg) 80° L crystal malt
 - 6.0 oz** (170 g) roasted barley
 - 1.0 oz** (28 g) Centennial hops (60 min)
 - 1.0 oz** (28 g) Centennial hops (30 min)
 - 1.0 oz** (28 g) Willamette hops (10 min)
 - 1 tablet** Whirfloc
- White Labs WLP004 Irish ale yeast

Boil time: 60 minutes
Original Gravity: 1.070
Final Gravity: 1.025
IBU: 63
SRM: 60
ABV: 6.3%

DIRECTIONS

Conduct a step mash with rests for 20 minutes at 122° F (50° C), 45 minutes at 152° F (67° C), and 10 minutes at 168° F (76° C).

EXTRACT RECIPE

Substitute 7.25 lb light malt extract syrup for the pale malt. Steep specialty malts in 160° F (71° C) water for 30 minutes. Drain, rinse, dissolve extract completely, and proceed with boil.



KUDOS—BEST OF SHOW

AHA/BJCP Sanctioned Competition Program

May 2012

2012 Maui Homebrew Off, 56 entries—*Bob Culnan, Hilo, HI.*

California State Fair 2012 Commercial Craft Brewing Competition, 456 entries—*Lightning Brewing Old Ale, Poway, CA.*

June 2012

Barley's 16th Annual Homebrew Competition, 64 entries—*Richard Sheppard, Columbus, OH.*

Inland Empire Brewing Company's Pro Am Competition, 41 entries—*Israel Arrieta, Pasadena, CA.*

California State Fair 2012 Home Brewing Competition, 384 entries—*Virg Redman.*

The Empire Cup, 37 entries—*Ben Maeso, Rochester, NY.*

Maineiac Homebrew Competition, 36 entries—*Brian Hall, Portland, ME.*

Longshot American Homebrew Contest (West), 152 entries—*Kenneth Reister, Olympia, WA.*

McHale's Quarterly Mashout - 2nd Quarter 2012, 25 entries—*Dave Stahl, Fort Wayne, IN.*

Longshot American Homebrew Competition (Northeast), 353 entries—*Rob North, Manchester, NH.*

All Idaho Hausbrau Challenge, 65 entries—*Ryan Collings, Boise, ID.*

July 2012

Keep Austin Beered ProAm, 21 entries—*Dan & Joelle Dewberry, Austin, TX.*

2012 WanCup2, 170 entries—*Motoyasu Nakazawa, Shizuoka.*

Indiana State Fair Brewers' Cup Competition, 1,124 entries—*Shawn Kaus, Noblesville, IN.*

Bethel Homebrew Festival and Brewers Challenge, 30 entries—*Scott Bales, Merrimac, NH.*

Ohio State Fair Homebrew Competition, 485 entries—*Chris Schaeffer, Lakewood, OH.*

ESB 2012 The Good the Bad and the Ugly, 90 entries—*Matt Cawley, Ballina, NSW, AUS.*

Mile and a Quarter Beer Fest, 28 entries—*John Chase, Flagstaff, AZ.*

2012 Buffalo County Fair Beer/Mead/Wine Competition, 86 entries—

Mark Wethington, Kearney, NE.

Amador County Fair Homebrew Competition, 97 entries—*Ryan Truax & Constance Marshall, Los Angeles, CA.*

Brewster's Cup 2012 July Open, 80 entries—*Darren Link, Dayton, OH.*

El Paso County Fair Homebrew Competition (Limited Styles), 35 entries—*Mike Bordick, Colorado Springs, CO.*

IAMNSOB Homebrewing Competition, 49 entries—*Dale Galligan, Mason City, IA.*

2012 GCHC - Anything Goes, 132 entries—*Brad Clifford, Toronto, CAN.*

2012 Battle of the Brews, 300 entries—*Phil Bayle & Jamie Klarman, Fallston, MD.*

Cowlitz County Fair 2012, 47 entries—*Bill Brawand, Kelso, WA.*

Elevator's Procrastinator Gluten Free Beer Homebrew Competition, 10 entries—*Ryan Bell, Columbus, OH.*

First Coast Cup, 598 entries—*Gary Yetter.*

Summer Beer Dabbler Showcase 2012, 66 entries—*Jeff Swanson, Andover, MN.*

All American Brew Off, 69 entries—*Jed Reinhard, Fort Smith, AR.*

The Bubbly Creek Barrel Brawl, 23 entries—*Nathan Barth, Chicago, IL.*

16th Annual NJ State Fair/SCF&HS Homebrew Competition, 191 entries—*Thomas Eagan, Lambertville, NJ.*

2012 German Fest Stein Challenge, 242 entries—*Randy Simmons, Springboro, OH.*

Iowa State Fair, 306 entries—*Tim Mason, Pleasant Hill, IA.*

Best of the Bay, 178 entries—*Jeremy Allison, Oak Harbor, WA.*

Dancing Bear Pub's Homebrew Competition, 9 entries—*Mark Laack, Harker Heights, TX.*

Brisbane Amateur Beer Brewers (BABBS) Annual Club Competition 2012, 67 entries—*Kristian Domagala, Brisbane, AUS.*

Gnarley Barley Brewfest, 427 entries—*William Beeson, Castle Rock, CO.*

Nevada County Fair, 50 entries—*Mystery Lofgren, Nevada City, CA.*

Ventura County Fair Amateur Beer Contest, 106 entries—*Jeff Ham, Ventura, CA.*

ASH Homebrewer of the Year Round 6, 4 entries—*Sam Patterson.*

August 2012

25th Annual Southern California Homebrew Championship, 272 entries—*Aaron Luelling, Las Vegas, NV.*

17th Annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Homebrew Competition, 175 entries—*Walter McGrath & Penny Peanut, Silver Spring, MD.*

Lunar Rendezbrew XIX, 603 entries—*David Rogers, Cypress, TX.*

Brew Haven, 97 entries—*Paul Till, Fort Wayne, IN.*

Los Angeles County Fair Homebrew Competition, 280 entries—*Ward Walkup IV, Pasadena, CA.*

Tillamook County Fair Homebrew Competition 2012, 13 entries—*David Swisher, Jefferson, OR.*

Denver County Fair - Craft Brew, 124 entries—*Kyle Campbell, Westminster, CO.*

National Capital Homebrewing Competition, 225 entries—*Joey Kilbride, Ottawa, ON.*

Mystery Brewing Style Competition, 36 entries—*Matthew Mathias, Durham, NC.*

Stapleton Beer Festival Homebrew Competition, 34 entries—

Scott Kendall, Aurora, CO.

Deer River Bar-b-que and Brew Fest, 31 entries—*Bud Cone, Grand Rapids, MN.*

19th Annual Dominion Cup, 518 entries—*Brian Berquist, Scott Berquist, & Rod Berquist, Mineral, VA.*

Josephine Co. Homebrew Competition, 27 entries—*David Hunt, Grants Pass, OR.*

Blues and Brews Homebrew Competition, 227 entries—*Michael Switzer, Newburyport, MA.*

Evergreen State Fair 2012, 185 entries—*Nate McLaughlin, Everett, WA.*

Kentucky State Fair Homebrew Competition, 467 entries—*Nathan Vogelpohl, Louisville, KY.*

Western Idaho Fair, 57 entries—*Ryan Collings, Boise, ID.*

Nebraska State Fair Beer & Wine Competitions, 112 entries—*Leo Vitt, Sidney, NE.*

Bristol IPA Showdown, 64 entries—*Mark Grundy.*

Benton Franklin Fair Homebrew Competition, 31 entries—*Darin Curtis, Pasco, WA.*

Beer & Sweat, 261 entries—*Brian Jackson, Cincinnati, OH.*

AHA Club-Only Competition, Porter, 92 entries—*Rob Bernard, Keene, NH.*

5th Festival Internacional de la Cerveza Artesanal Buenos Aires 2012, 136 entries—*Paez Emiliano, Buenos Aires, ARG.*

Timbers Army Homebrew Competition, 30 entries—*Jeremie Landers & Jenn McPoland, Portland, OR.*

The Anchor Town Invitational, 51 entries—*Tim & Jen Bisson, Anchorage, AK.*

4th Annual Beehive Brew-Off, 595 entries—*Brad Cooley, Salt Lake City, UT.*

Grant County Fair Homebrew Championship, 6 entries—*Jeremy Adair, John Day, OR.*

Kitsap County Fair Homebrew Competition, 78 entries—*Ron Gresley, Bremerton, WA.*

Colorado State Fair Homebrew Competition, 675 entries—*Scott Jackson, Brighton, CO.*

2012 ACO Brewfest, 30 entries—*Todd Esslinger, Longmont, CO.*

Crystal Coast Brew Off, 61 entries—*Terry Laurie, Newport, NC.*

2012 RBT American Ales Brewing Competition, 42 entries—*Scott Eckford, Townsville, AUS.*

Malt Madness VI, 585 entries—*John Wible, Philadelphia, PA.*

KC Irish Fest Scottish or Irish Ale Brewing Contest, 32 entries—*Michael Fagan, Edwards, MO.*

St. Mary of the Rockies Harvest Festival, 35 entries—*Mark Vakos, Evergreen, CO.*

September 2012

Heart River Home Brewers Members Only, 7 entries—*Ryan Jilek, Dickinson, ND.*

Consumer's Beverages 1st Annual Homebrew Competition, 52 entries—*Terry Ostrander, Orchard Park, NY.*

The Great Frederick Fair, 125 entries—*Calvin Perilloux, Middletown, MD.*

started brewing regularly. Since then, it's become a weekly ritual. "My short-term goal is to brew every Saturday, five gallons at a time," he said. And professional aspirations are definitely on his mind: "Longer-term goals are in the works."



Luelling brews on a single tier, three-burner system. "I designed it, and my father-in-law and I built it. It's almost all stainless." He also built a cold storage walk-in, which he uses for cold storage and lager fermentation. Lagers, particularly dunkels, are his favorite beers to brew, but he also has a passion for stouts, so it comes as no surprise that his Best of Show at the Southern California Regional Homebrew Competition was a Foreign Extra Stout.

Amahl Turczyn Scheppach is the associate editor for *Zymurgy*. He lives and brews in Lafayette, Colo.



AHA SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit the Events section of HomebrewersAssociation.org for more information.

November 3
AHA Learn To Homebrew Day

February 2013
AHA National Homebrewers Conference: Attendee Registration Opens

February 2013
AHA National Homebrew Competition: Entry Registration Opens

May 4, 2013
AHA Big Brew: A Celebration of National Homebrew Day

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Private Collection

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AHA/BJCP SANCTIONED COMPETITION PROGRAM CALENDAR

For complete calendar, competition and judging information go to www.HomebrewersAssociation.org/pages/competitions



November 10

Knickerbocker Battle of the Brews
Albany, NY. Entry Deadline: 11/10/2012.
thoroughbrews.com

November 10

Land of the Muddy Waters
Rock Island, IL. Entry Deadline: 11/2/2012.
mugzhomebrew.org

November 10

SCH*ABC V
Collegeville, PA. Entry Deadline: 11/1/2012.
schomebrewers.com

November 10

Butler Brewfest/Homebrewers Competition
Butler, PA. Entry Deadline: 11/9/2012.
p.bricker.3bsbrew@zoominternet.net

November 10

Beer for Boobs
Zanesville, OH. Entry Deadline: 10/26/2012.
beerforboobs.sodz.org

November 10

Monster Mash
Brandon, MS. Entry Deadline: 10/26/2012.
hbamm.org/brewcomp

November 11

London and South East Craft Brewing Competition
London, Merton, UK. Entry Deadline: 11/5/2012.
londonandsoutheast.brewcompetition.com

November 16

II Concurso Estadual Acerva Gaúcha
Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. acervagaucha.com.br

November 17

Sunshine Challenge
Winter Springs, FL. Entry Deadline: 11/4/2012.
cfhb.org/sunshine-challenge

November 17

AHA Club-Only Competition, Ant Hayes Memorial Burton (Old) Ale
Plymouth, MI. Entry Deadline: 11/10/2012.
homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/club-only-competitions

November 17

FOAM Cup
Tulsa, OK. Entry Deadline: 11/10/2012.
FOAMCup.us

November 18

Malt's Annual Turkey Shoot
Baltimore, MD. Entry Deadline: 11/11/2012.
maltclub.org/MALT/Home.html

December 1

6th Annual Virginia Beer Blitz
Hampton, VA. Entry Deadline: 11/20/2012.
colonialalesmiths.org/BeerBlitz

December 1

Monk Melee II
Hulmeville, PA. Entry Deadline: 11/29/2012.
aleiens.com/page/monk-melee-ii

December 8

Biere de Rock
Parker, CO. Entry Deadline: 11/24/2012.
bierederock.rockhoppersbrewclub.com

December 8

Fugetaboutit 2012
Chattanooga, TN. Entry Deadline: 11/24/2012.
fugetaboutit.org

December 8

1o. Concurso Estadual de Cervejas Caseiras da ACerva Catarinense
Blumenau, Santa Catarina, Brazil.
Entry Deadline: 11/3/2012. acervacatarinense.com.br/i-concurso-estadual

January 11

Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Homebrew Competition
Vail, CO. Entry Deadline: 12/15/2012.
bigbeersfestival.com

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