



March 2003

# Home Imburement

The Official Newsletter of the Hampton Roads Brewing and Tasting Society

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Newsletter Editor: Pat Dabbs <mailto:dabbsp@cox.net>

## The President's Corner – *Mike Pensinger*

Well everyone, I started a new diet. I am doing well on it but for now I cant drink real beer. I worry though because apparently there is an old saying that says something about "**Never trust a skinny brewer**". Oh well, we shall see. I think I should be able to start squeezing a pint in here or there in a week or two.

I did some rebuilding of my brewing setup over the last month. It has been mounted on a more permanent rack and the HERMS has gone by the wayside in favor of a new invention I call EHRIMS. It stands for Externally Heated Recirculating Infusion Mash System. A dry run showed me that he heater pad will produce enough heat to melt the insulation I used but thankfully no fires ensued! A little more work and it will be set.

It is Brown Ale month. A club favorite so I hope to see a great turn out at the meeting this month. We have some more grat beers coming up and the National Homebrew Championships are coming up so now is the time to get ready for them. The club will be picking up the shipping bill and Tom Byrnes will be coordinating collection of beers to ship.

Happy Brewing!

Mike Pensinger

## The Meeting Place - *Diane Catanzaro*

The March 5 meeting of the HRB&TS will be at St. George Brewing Company in Hampton! The meeting begins at 7:30. Brewmaster Andy Rathmann will give a brief talk on "a topic of interest" and provide a tour of the brewery. This should be an exciting meeting. Most members are no doubt familiar with the excellent IPA, Porter, and Golden Ale produced by St.George Brewing. Their IPA won first place in the Best International IPA in London's "Best of Hops" competition and is a wonderful beer. Some of you may remember owners Ron and Carolyn Walkup's brew-on-premises venture in Virginia Beach going back a few years...these folks have been contributing to Hampton Roads beer culture for quite a few years and it is abut time that the HRB&TS and St. George get to know each other better! They are, after all, our hometown brewery! It is fine to bring your homebrew to this meeting (of course). I suggest wearing a sweater or something warm, as breweries are often on the cool side. St. George Brewing's website is [www.stgeorgebrewingco.com](http://www.stgeorgebrewingco.com). This will be a great meeting; hope to see you there!

Directions: from South Hampton Roads: (cross Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel if needed or get thee to Hampton through a route of your choosing) and take I-64 North to exit 262 B, Magruder Boulevard, East toward NASA/Poquoson.

Turn right onto Semple Farm Rd, go to the next light.

Turn left onto Wythe Creek Road, and go about 1-2 miles.

Turn left onto Voyager Drive. The brewery is on your immediate left on the corner of Voyager Drive and Challenger Way.

From Richmond and other points NORTH of Hampton:

Follow Interstate 64 south to exit 256B,

Victory Blvd east towards Poquoson.

Merge onto Victory Blvd.

Turn right onto VA-134S.

Turn left onto Semple Farm Rd, go the next light.

Turn left onto Wythe Creek Rd., go approx.1-2 miles.

Turn left onto Voyager Drive, the brewery is on your immediate left on the corner of Voyager Drive and Challenger Way.



## Competition Connection - *Tom Byrnes*

### Competition Connection

Our competition schedule roars on and we still find ourselves tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the national homebrew club of the year standings despite our showing in the last club only contest. This month we held one of our club's favorite contests, Brown Ale. Our judges sorted through 4 entries representing all styles. It was interesting to note that we snuck in a commercial brown ale (Pete's Wicked Ale), which finished, last in our competition. Sorry Pete.

The winners are listed below:

### BROWN ALES

**First Place:** Victor Perrotti, American Brown Ale, Score 38

**Second Place:** Rich Sens, Southern English Brown Ale, Score 29.3

**Third Place.** Doug Boyd, Northern Brown, Score 25.3

Thanks to all members who entered this contest. Victor's entry will represent our club in the Club Only contest next month.

Remember any member is welcome to come to the judging's. This is a way to learn about the styles and help your brewing. Besides you get to drink good homebrew two days per month. We do, however, ask members to be sure their entries conform to the BCJP guidelines. These can be accessed at [www.beertown.org](http://www.beertown.org). If you would like to hold a judging meeting at your house, please let me know.

Here are the current Briess Cup points.

**. BRIESS CUP 2003 STANDINGS**

<b>BREWER</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE POINTS</b>
Rich Sens	14
Victor Perrotti	11
Doug Boyd	9
CJ/Diane	5
Tom Byrnes	4
Mike Pensinger	2
<b>YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE</b>	<b>START BREWING FOR CONTESTS</b>

Our Club contest schedule is listed below along with the AHA Club Only Dates and Club Judging Dates:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Beer of the Month</b>	<b>BCJP Category</b>	<b>Club Only Contest</b>	<b>HRBTS Judging</b>
April	Porter	15		March 19
May	English and Scottish Strong Ales	11	May	April 23
June	Wheat	3B-19-17B		May 21
July	Mead/ Cider	25, 26		June 18
August	European Pale Lager	2	August	July 23
September	Specialty, Experimental Historical	24	Sept/Oct	August 20
October	October fest	9A		Sept, 17
November	Kolsch and Altbier	8	Nov/Dec	Oct 22
December	Barley Wine	12	January 04	November 19
January	Holiday Beers			December 24 <i>This Date will change</i>

I received an email from Joel Tronjar, James River Home Brewers asking for judges and Stewards for their Dominion Cup Contest. Any member wanting to travel to Richmond and help out can email him directly, [joel@trojnar.com](mailto:joel@trojnar.com). I think this would be a fun activity and a good way to encourage regionalism among our beer clubs. I'm planning to volunteer if any member wants to carpool. The date is April 5<sup>th</sup> at Legend brewing. I am planning on staying overnight since they are having a pub-crawl after the event. There are some really good brewpubs in the area. I am personally fond of the Main Street Brewing Company.

Our president has asked our club to participate in the AHA National contest. He has also asked that the club fund the shipping cost for this providing you get your entries to me for a group ship. The brewer is still responsible for the entry fee (\$8 for AHA members, \$12 for nonmembers).

What a deal, all you do is brew, I pack and ship and the club pays shipping!!!! Round 1 will require shipping 1 bottle to OHIO. Cider entries require all three bottles to be shipped in round 1 to a different location. **You can only have 1 entry per subcategory.** Please consult [www.beertown.org](http://www.beertown.org) for rules, bottle requirements and entry forms. Entries are due by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

See you at the next meeting.

Tom



Visit our website, [www.briess.com](http://www.briess.com), to see our new, fresh look

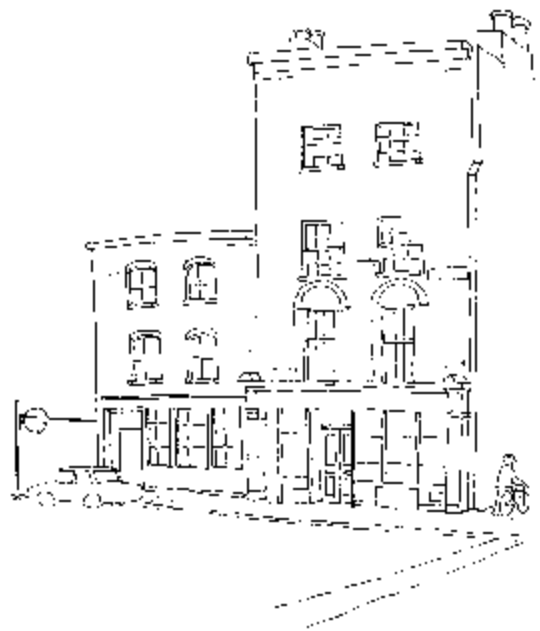
For the first time since its launch in 1997, our website will be sporting an entirely new look. The updated website is scheduled to launch in May and we invite you to visit . While its appearance will change, the content will remain essentially the same—lots of it! All of the previous issues of 'Brewing' With Briess will remain on the site; product information will be available for every product in a printable pdf format; and fun features like our photo gallery remain intact.

## Editor's Notes – Pat Dabbs

Well here I am in jolly olde England again, where the beer is semi cold very plentiful and someone else is paying for it. Sucks to be me!

We welcome all news items, original articles, business notices, and letters to the editor. Submittals for publication in the Home Imbrewment must be send to us as an e-mail or an e-mail attachment in any version of MS-Word or WordPerfect. Mail to [dabbsp@cox.net](mailto:dabbsp@cox.net).

**Deadline for March's Newsletter is Monday  
March 24<sup>th</sup>**



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## **About the HRB&TS**

The Hampton Roads Brewing and Tasting Society is dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of homebrewing. The annual dues are \$15 per individual and \$20 per family. Members are encouraged to support the responsible enjoyment of beer and observe the beverage laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Persons attending HRB&TS meetings and events are solely liable for actions attendant to their participation. HRB&TS Maintains a NO SMOKING policy at all meetings so that members may better enjoy fine beers. Smoking is permitted during restaurant meetings in designated smoking areas.

Visit the HRB&TS on-line at: <http://www.hrbts.org>