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Worcester Incorporated Zymurgists Advancing Real Draughts



**Homebrew Club
Worcester, MA**

Sponsored By



Highlights from the year that was 2018

Mini-Comp 2018

This year we had four mini-comps, each starting with a style presentation and ending with the Wizards/M4 Inter-club competition. Styles and winners for the year were:

Style	Winning WIZARD	Inter-club Winner
1 California Common	Eli Lloyd	Eli Lloyd: Wizards
2 Schwarzbier	Duane Jenness	Duane Jenness: Wizards
3 Gose	Craig Tamble	Craig Tamble: Wizards
4 Belgian Blonde	Brian Girard	Brian Girard: Wizards

Congrats to this year's winners and a solid year for the WIZARDS!

February Club Meeting

Seven entries arrived for the California Common mini-comp for a one-two finish by Eli and Duane. Eli also took the inter-club competition with M4. And then just to make it interesting, the runner-up from M4 won the Gold in the National Home Brew Competition out of 230 entries!

WIZARDs 2018 Year in Review



[March Club Meeting](#)



Duane gave a Swartzbier presentation for upcoming mini-comp.

[April Club Meeting](#)

Rob gave a show and tell presentation on Spunding Valves – “all you ever wanted to know, but were afraid to ask.” Who knew Spunding valves could be so much fun! What are they good for? Well, sterile transfers, self-carbonization, and lagering at higher temperatures...to name a few! There was lots of show and tell and playing with the spunding valve. A shame if you missed it.

Need more info on what they do, how they work or want to build one yourself? Visit this link - <http://www.homebrewfinds.com/2011/02/build-spunding-valve.html>.

WIZARDS 2018 Year in Review



[Spring Pub Crawl](#)

The WIZARDS annual pub crawl highlighted the breweries of three past club members! At least 12 (kind of lost count) turned up at one time or another. We started at Wormtown, stopped at 3-Cross and finished up at Medusa.

Bottom line – same as always – a good time had by all.

[May Club Meeting](#)

May was the Schwarzbier mini-comp with honors going to Duane, Brian Welch and Brian Girard.

[June Club Meeting](#)

Do you ever use homebrew or commercial beer in cooking? What have you done with it?

- Use leftover grains in pretzels or steam brats with beer
- Use beer with mussels or brats
- Chili
- Poaching shrimp, Belgian braised beef
- I want to drink it – not cook with it
- Bread
- Stews; darker beer with onion ring batter
- dark chocolate cake with Russian Imperial Stout
- steamers

Annual elections were held this month, Craig is our new President (Hail to the King!). Thanks, Brian, for putting up with us for the last two years. We all appreciate the effort you put in – and we'll let you sit on the bench for a while. Bill remains our illustrious Treasurer. And Miriam, well, she agreed to continue the Secretarial duties of the meeting Minutes.

Zak gave the Gose presentation for the upcoming mini-comp.

WIZARDS 2018 Year in Review

Warped Pours Beer Festival, June 2019

The WIZARDS participated in The Warped Pours Home brew festival put on by The Metro South Homebrew League (aka the MASH HOLES) at the KOA Campground in Plymouth, MA. The festival featured clubs from around New England delivering their best homemade brews straight to your thirsty faces. All proceeds from this festival benefited Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation (www.homebase.org), and the Law Enforcement Officer Support Foundation (www.facebook.com/saveleos/).

Out of 12- 15 clubs participating, the Wizards beer was voted 2nd best – NOT BAD! We had 5 taps and 6 beers on the list. It was a good event and a great crowd. Rain held off – almost.



Summer Swill-Off, July 2018 – "Premium" Beers *Courtesy of Pat..*

This year's theme swill-off theme was "premium" beers. Any beer with a superlative in its name or description could be entered as long as the superlative was the label. For example, the king of beers, the champagne of beers, a fine pilsner beer, Milwaukee's Best, etc.

WIZARDS 2018 Year in Review



Hello my fellow Wizards,

It is that special time of year again. Time for vacations. Time for cook-outs. Time for Seemingly endless humidity. Time for the Swill Off!!!!

That's right, it's that magical time of year when the quest for knowledge, comradery and our sense of craft-beer superiority collide in the most wonderful of vin diagrams. In the middle of which lies the Wizard's annual Swill Off. Each year the theme changes, each year we pretty much have the same results. There were many members that I'm sure were on vacation. Some may not have had the gumption to show. But for those brave few that came out on that July night we thank you. If not for them, we wouldn't have the in-depth analysis that you're all about to enjoy. When you see these brave souls out in public, please don't point them out or draw attention to their accomplishments. What they do they do not for glory or fame or money but for the betterment of the craft beer world. Simply nod your head, wipe away a tear and move on knowing you were in the presence of greatness.

Now before we get to the judging there are a couple of orders of business to attend to. First, I know I didn't get this done Tuesday night after the meeting. I'm sorry but the idea of sleeping when I got home seemed so much more enjoyable than doing the write up right then and there. I then forgot about it for a few weeks. Luckily, I take notes to safeguard against these sorts of misshapes. Second, the theme: "Premium Beers". Basically, any beer that has a superlative in its name such as "The greatest beer in all the world". Mass-produced beers can be so modest. Third, scoring was done by the Wizard's never-fail finger system (1 finger=horrible 5 fingers =sublime (and if you're paying attention yes, I did cut and paste this sentence from last year's write-up)). I will list the beers as we had them to give you the chronological flow of the evening. I'll also give you the beer's score, average and at the end I will give you the top three beers.

Finally, there is one last matter of business we need to discuss. I'll be honest this was one of the most disturbing meetings I've ever been to. We live in politically turbulent times. As a whole we've grown accustomed to trying to push are own

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views onto others by any means necessary. I thought that we were insulated from such pettiness in our meetings. Unfortunately, I was wrong. For the first time ever in a swill off we had to deal with deceit, treachery and collusion. This was very unnerving.

Don't worry my fellow wizards. While there were those who tried to sway the votes for their own personal agendas. These actions were identified and dealt with harshly. Foreign entities may have hijacked our last Presidential election, but they were not allowed to sway the vote of our most sacred institution. The Swill Off proved to be and remains one of the last great bastions of hope, democracy and America.

Without further ado, I give you the 2018 Swill Off.

1. Corona "Premium" (with lime)- For our first beer of the evening we went with the unofficial beer of summer. "The lime does mask the Corona." "Apple Flavor, very watery." Bill doesn't give 1's. "Give them credit for brewing what they wanted." "The lime really helps." "It didn't take me to the beach." While not great, Corona did score better than some would with a score of 17 for a 1.89 average.

2. Peroni "Birra Superiore" (#1 premium Italian Beer) Italy is known for making many wonderful things: sports cars, violins, the mafia. This beer isn't one of them. As with many beers that have to make the journey from overseas this beer seemed to not handle the trip well at all with strong off-aromas. "Smell the skunk, it's legal in Mass now." "It's good if you can get past the smell." "May comes before July!" (Potential quote of the night nominee) "Better than corona." - You may think so, but the fingers told a different story. 14 for an average of 1.56

3. Tiger "World Acclaimed"- I'm pretty sure this beer spent the past year in Joey's basement fridge, see last year's right up of Asian beer to compare what we thought. "Little sweetness, little skunky." "Some malty flavor, this is not good." "It aged well." "I've had this I think- Joey." "Good clarity. 18 for an average of 2

4. Zima "Limited"- Boy I thought I was teleported back to the mid 90's with this little nostalgia bomb! However, I do remember it being much more refined. "Good clarity." "Really sweet. Needs more ice, and lemons and a shot of gin." "Like diet fresca" "tastes like high school". "My high school was Bartles & Jaymes." "I think it's refreshing, just for the memories." What the hell did we do in high school? !? 16 for an average 1.78

I've never done this before but with the new President's permission (thanks Craig!) I was able to correct this seemingly low score and raise Zima up a bit if only for the memories. 7 points for a nostalgia adjustment to increase the score to 23 at 2.56- winning!

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5. Miller High Life “The Champagne of Beers”- “They pre-skunk these with UV lights” “There’s some bite from the carbonation”. There was lots of quiet contemplation with this beer. “Where’s the high life???” At the end people seemed to prefer this beer more than those previously sampled. “Pretty drinkable.” “A good macro lager, clean”. 24 for 2.67 and the new lead

6. Narragansett “Made with honor, sold on Merit”- This is Craig’s go to dive bar/shitty town bar beer. So if you want to score points with the new president you know what to get him for his birthday. The beer also got the best quote of the night: “The best beer in all of Uxbridge!” “Certainly not a 4.”

It was at this time that trachery was spotted in our midst. Bill, of course it had to be Bill, was seen influencing peoples votes so his favorites would come out on top. In case your wondering the internet defines collusion as: secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy, especially in order to cheat or deceive others. This is where we can see the importance in the difference between and, and or. It wasn’t secret, but it was deemed to be illegal. No sir, not in my America will this happen. We had to act quick to discourage this sort of behavior there for the first ever penalty was given to a beer’s score that night. Overall Gansett scored 28 for 3.1. But there were six points deducted for the collusion penalty to end with a 2.4 average.

7. Milwaukee’s “Best”- If this is indeed the best Milwaukee has to offer than that doesn’t bode well for that city. There were serious off flavors in this beer. Maybe it had sat too long, or maybe there was some kind of contamination but this beer was not enjoyable at all. “It’s not. It can’t be like this.” “That is terrible: there’s something bad in there.” “Very can-like flavor. It’s a great value beer.” “Vegetal/slick aftertaste.” “This is bad.” “It made tiger look good.” 12 for 1.3

8. Founders “Solid Gold” “Premium Lager”- This was kind of cheater, founders makes some pretty decent stuff, but it does have that superlative so it was allowed (new president flexing his muscles again here). “Did they use hops? Yes!” “This bee has malt in it!” “Well-balanced.” Not bad crosses the border into pretty good.” “Doesn’t taste like memories like Zima did.” Oh, so few things do.

☹️ 36 for 4

9. Coor’s “The Banquet Beer”- “Nice clarity”. “I get banana, wheat.” “I thought it was like fresh water.” “Like high life.” “Like a filtered blue moon.” Once again we had people trying to influence the votes of others. Once the fingers are in the air that’s it people. If you disagree you judge them fiercely but silently in your mind the same way I have for years. But that’s it. I wish I could only take off six points again, but the penalties must become more strict with each passing infraction. I will save our democracy by any means at my disposal! 23 for 2.56 – 8 points for collusion penalty for 1.67 average.

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10. Heineken "Premium Quality"- "Absolutely perfect (I believe this was sarcasm)." "There's that skunk again." "Not as skunky as the bottle (this was in a can)." We heard a story from Bill about how he went to Amsterdam and only drank this and it was better there, it was inoffensive. "I wouldn't drink this on a boat!" "This was in fact Brian G's go to boat beer.

Good lord. I just penalized people for influencing and colluding with other's on the last beer but here we were again. People trying to get others to vote differently. It's my will verse yours and you will lose. 24 for 2.67 – 24 point collusion penalty (allowed by Craig). Not in my country.

11. Warsteiner "Premium German Pilsner"- We ended the night without any more "incidents" and just decided to drink beer instead. Just like the good old days. I just wish this beer was a little bit better to finish off with. "Starts off good, then it was not." These beers are gassy." "Why does this not have ounces on the can???(it's from Germany (where they have the metric system))." "I don't like this at all. " "Kind of Grainy." It was at this point the meeting started to break down. It was decided to mix all of the remaining swill into one cocktail. Gross? Yes. Illegal? No. 13 for 1.44

So after all the dust settled and the scores were counted and the penalties where subtracted and the bonus points were added we had the top three beers come out to be:

1. Founders
2. Miller High Life
3. Zima!

Ahh, seeing Zima there makes me smile. I can hear the Bel Biv DeVoe playing in the background right now. I think I'm going to put on my Skidz and go watch Wayne's World.

Anyway, it was a good night we had fun, drank some questionable beers and defended democracy. Not bad for a Tuesday night! Hope you guys enjoyed this and I'll see you for the Octoberfest meeting!

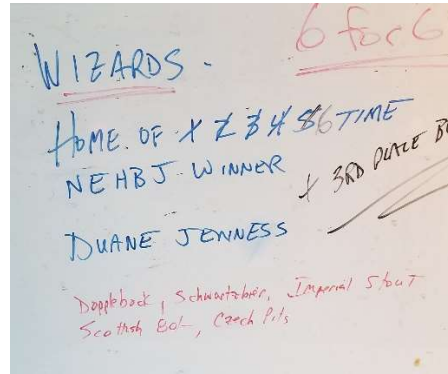
-Pat

[August Club Meeting](#)

Congrats to Craig for winning the Gose mini-comp this month! Duane and Zack came in 2nd and 3rd in what was a really close battle. The competitors agree that a blend of all 3 was actually the best Gose.

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New England Homebrew Jamboree, Tamworth Camping Area, Tamworth, NH



The Wizards made another strong showing at the New England Homebrew Jamboree in Tamworth, NH. We weren't quite side by side with FOAM this year but were close in spirits just like always. This time our tent was next to the Ketel corn guys where we did too much trading beer for popcorn and the stuff was everywhere. And in our tent was the debut of the new WIZARDS cauldron tap which was really something to see when the dry ice is bubbling away. This year Duane won 6 medals and 3rd place in the BOS in the home brew competition. He always makes us look so good. All in all, a good time with FOAM and the other clubs and a decent sum of money raised for Make-A-Wish.

Just so you know what you missed, here's who put up the 290 beers, wine and whatever else came up on tap. There was probably a lot more once you count what was coming and going on tap all day. And I pretty much ignored the (what seemed like) hundreds of bottles!

- WIZARDS 11
- M4 1
- FOAM 16
- Mash Note 5
- WABC 8
- Concord Area Homebrew 10
- BFD 9
- New Vinland 8
- MVHBC 8
- Chew Brew Crew 15
- Sothern Maine 13
- Southshore 42
- Mash Holes 19
- IBU 32
- RIBS 24
- Knights of the Mashing Fork 11
- Northshore 25
- A&G Homebrew 2
- Seacoast 31

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Our Tent



And our new tap system!

[September Club Meeting – Octoberfest](#)

September brings Octoberfest and another round in the club's annual tradition. Pat did his usual moderating and scoring of the event but regrettably we no longer have his usual insight full and humorous write-up from it. We do know the winner was Wormtown Octoberfest and there was a multi-way tie for second.



[November Club Meeting](#)

Brian Girard took the top honors in the Belgian Blonde Mini-Comp.

[Holiday Party 2018](#)

This year we started something new for the holiday party – instead of having a party in December that people struggle to make and seems to get snowed-out more often than not, we decided the annual party would be held in January. I guess you'll have to wait till next year's update to hear about it.

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December Club Meeting

Keeping with the tradition of an off-site meeting for the December holiday, we met up at the Dive Bar in Worcester. Sadly, the Dive Bar disappeared in early 2020 so it's good we went when we did!

Till next year, see you at the monthly club meeting, always held on the third Tuesday of the month.