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**Homebrew Club
Worcester, MA**

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Highlights from the year that was 2020

2020 will be the year to remember, or forget, depending on how you look at it. The pandemic brought about a new way and a new normal for most of the world, including the WIZARDS!

We missed out on many of our usual activities in 2020 – seeing each other in person, meeting up at Deja Brew, the pub crawl, the mini-comp, the New England Home Brew Jamboree, our December pub night and the holiday party. But we also kept a lot going – monthly meetings by Zoom, the summer swill-off, the annual Oktoberfest tasting and the telephone beer and barrel projects. And we started some new things– weekly club get togethers by Zoom, new tasting glasses, parking lot beer swaps and socially distant brewing at Deja Brew. All in all, the new normal has turned out to be a very good year for the Wizards.

The Pandemic of 2020, Zoom and Speedies

A constant theme on Zoom has been speedies. I'm not 100% sure but it's probably a case of extreme jealousy over what the folks in the Southern Tier of New York get to have every day. In case, you're wondering they look like this and if you want to make your own you can buy a bottle of the stuff on the right.



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All New WIZARDS Tasting Glasses



One small benefit of the pandemic, and the seemingly endless Zoom meetings that came with it, is that the club had the time to come up with an all-new tasting glass logo. That was the hard part, buying a boat load of them was the easy part. Any member in good standing (ie, dues paying) gets two for free and additional glasses can be bought at the bargain rate of 2 for \$5.

Holiday Party 2020

We started the year off with the 2019 holiday party at Bill's. No known pictures exist but rest assured, a good time was had by all!

April Club Meeting

Brian shared his presentation on the Beers of Franconia, complete with highlights of his recent trip to the region. Originally prepared and submitted for the Providence NHC, it was their loss not getting to see it. And as an added bonus, we all learned about the Bamberg onion. You can too by visiting <https://www.schlenkerla.de/schlenkerla/karte/rezeptee.html>.

Home Brew Swap 1 – June 2020

Not having in-person club meetings is one thing, not having the chance to try each other's home brew is another. The club met in the Bed, Bath & Beyond parking lot for our first socially distanced beer swap. It was like Halloween, walking between cars to pick up a treat. Imagine what the other people in the plaza must have thought? If only someone had remembered to take a picture.



The swap list included a Belgian Dubbel with pomegranate molasses, a Belgian Tripel, two Brown Ales, Kellerbier, Mango Kettle Sour, Scottish Export, Dusseldorf Alt, Cream Ale, Pale Ale and a New England IPA.

And once everyone was safely back home? We spent the next month drinking them "together" on the Zoom call.

October Club Meeting

Craig talked about water chemistry, the effect it can have on your brew and how some relatively minor water adjustments can make a profound improvement in in the finished product.

The Wizards Telephone Beer - Update

First, a little refresher on what the telephone beer is all about (copied directly from last year's year in review):

The telephone beer based on the old childhood game of telephone where kid 1 tells kid 2 who tells kid 3 who tells kid 4 and by the time the game is done, the final message is nothing like the first. Our game plan? Start with a simple beer and then club members get to take turns making just one change with the expectation of ending up with a stellar club beer.

Rob started the telephone brew with 10 pounds of Marris Otter, an ounce of Comet hops for the boil, another ounce of Comet for the dry hop and Safale S-04. Overall impressions were clean and drinkable but lacking in pretty much everything else.

Jay took round 2 and substituted Galaxy for the dry hop for a small improvement.

Bill felt it lacked malt character and body so he substituted 1 pound of carapils for 1 pound of the Marris Otter. It didn't make much difference. The beer was drinkable but unrememberable.

Then came Pat. He changed the yeast to Omega yeast 030 "Wit" and since he couldn't find comet hops so he substituted Willamette for them (without prior club authorization). The result – a definite improvement with at least some character. After tasting we agreed to permanently change the boiling hop to Willamette.

Brian G made the first update in 2020. Although the club tasting was slowed due to the pandemic, we did get our hands on it at the December beer swap. For his change, Brian swapped the 60 minute hop from Comet to Saaz. And since he couldn't find the Omega Yeast OYL030 Wit anywhere, president Craig sanctioned the use of Safale WB06 as an equivalent. The resulting beer was described as tasting like "beer." It was good and drinkable but without a defining character to call its own.

As a result of the one ounce for one ounce Saaz substitution and the effect it had on bitterness, we added a new rule – if you change the bittering hop, keep it at the same IBU level not necessarily the weight.

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Bill M took the second and final shot of 2020 taking the beer in a farmhouse direction. It's ready and waiting for us to pick it up at the February beer swap.

[The Barrel Project – September 2020 Update](#)



A sunny fall day started off with brewing another sixty gallons (four kettles) of the Golden Sour at Deja Brew and ended with each of the barrel project participants taking home 3 gallons of the initial brew.

In between, the brew was transported to Zak's house, kegs were filled, the Octoberfest beer swap was held and a few beers were sampled. And after everyone left, Zak cleaned up the mess and topped up the barrel with the new brew from earlier in the day.

Once at home, everyone started the secondary treatment of their beers, mostly with fruits but there are also rumors of coffee and chili peppers. The first tasting / exchange is planned for the February beer swap.

[Home Brew Swap 2 – December 2020](#)

Following the success of homebrew swap 1 and the Octoberfest, we went for a second home brew swap for the holidays. Once again, we met up in the Bed, Bath & Beyond parking lot (which now appears to be closed). The weather was a little colder so the swap went a little quicker, but we still ended up with a good stash for the next few meetings.

Selections this time included a Kolsch, Rhubarb Saison, Bathams Best Bitter clone, Czech Dark Lager, Goosehead Tripel, Vienna Lager and/or Pumpkin Spiced Vienna Lager with Coffee, Session IPA, Belgian Pale Ale, Brown Ale Two porters, Mulled Cider and the next iteration of the Telephone Beer.

White Labs Survey and SWAG



In exchange for offering our opinions to a White Labs survey, we were rewarded with a 10 pack of White Labs yeast and a whole box of White Labs SWAG. The yeast has all been taken but we do have plenty of the SWAG left if you haven't gotten yours.

Summer Swill-Off, July 2020 – The Big Boys

Courtesy of Pat..

My fellow Americans,

As I make this broadcast from the depths of my bunker, I regret to inform you that life as you knew it has come to a screaming halt. What a year. What a year. Just think about what we have already been through:

- *Australia caught fire. The Koala bears all burned their little feet.*
- *We nearly started World War III with Iran*
- *The Philadelphia Flyers mascot started beating up children.*
- *Prince Harry and Princess Meghan stepped down from their duties in the British royal family*
- *Locust swarms*
- *MURDER HORNETS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- *An impeached president, social unrest, a stock market in flux..*
- *And some kind of global hoax, or pandemic depending on where you get your news from.*

There is more but I think you get the point that 2020 has been a little on the rough side. So here we now sit. Alone in our bunkers waiting for some good news; and that good news is there if you know where to look:

- *People started knitting booties for the Koala's. Others still sold nude photos of themselves to help fight the fires.*
- *The U.S.A and Iran both saw something shiny and forgot about killing each other for a while.*
- *People remembered Philadelphia is full of deranged lunatics*
- *We're Americans, we don't care about the royal family*
- *We bought bug spray*
- *We started taking Malaria Medication to fight the pandemic! (Please do not do this)*

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- *But most importantly we looked to our traditions for a sense of normalcy*



Which brings us to right now. Folks, who needs social contact, a stable government, steady employment or freedom from terror insects when you have events like the one we just experienced: The Swill Off! It would take more than a few wars, pandemics or raging mascots to keep us from drinking marginal beer in a judgmental way with people we can tolerate in short increments.

It was a night to remember. 11 of us came together to use the internet for it's original purpose of being able to communicate during the end times. Somewhere Al Gore was smiling. Due to timing and travel constraints we kept it simple this year. We only judged 3 standard American lagers: Budweiser, Coors, Miller highlife and one wild card beer of the taster's choosing.

And we had rules! Rules that help give our society structure and ourselves the false sense of security we desperately need. Rules like the following:

- *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 will also give you the beer's score, average and at the end I will give you the Overall winner.*
- *Unfortunately, in these hard times not all participants were able procure the needed resources to complete this tasting. So, in these instances I assigned a number to these individuals based on the way I thought they would score the beer.*
- *Other adjustments to scores can be given out as needed.*

That is enough of a lead in; we don't have the time for any more words before the next calamity hits. So, without anything further to say I give you the 2020 Wizards Swill off.

1. Budweiser – We began the night with the king of beers. Beechwood aroma (sarcasm, I think. (Fun fact about beechwood, it adds no flavor or aroma to the actual beer. Its only purpose is to help quicken the lager process)). There was a

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big freshness date discussion and how that could possibly affect the flavor. Old fish aroma (probably an older freshness date?). I can't imagine why people drink this. Smells ok, tastes eh. Now I smell fish. Bill pan fries his fish tacos. Corn or flower tortilla? Very thin watery mouthfeel. Once you get past the aquarium smell there aren't any off flavors. Does this deserve a glass? Great clarity. If you're isn't this color or lighter, you're not hydrating enough. Very little aroma. Very patriotic can. Dull bland and old. (check your date!) It can come in a high tech can!

18 pts = 1.8

2. Miller High Life- Kind of like the miller got more flavor, but not a good flavor. Still not that good. Very clear. Similar color to bud. Strange after taste but at least there is flavor. There was a big debate about gargling with hydrogen peroxide. We found out it is ok to gargle with, but don't swallow. This is better from the bottle "It's all about the delivery". Colby and two others could not participate in this tasting because they couldn't find the high life in time. I remember the look on poor Colby's face as he could only look upon the rest of us enjoying ourselves and the way he punished himself by drinking seltzer. In order to keep the scoring clean I added a correction to the scoring as I thought these three would vote.

17pts + 1.75 * 3 for a correction coefficient of 5.25, brings the total to 22.25 = 2.25

3. Coors (and Coors light) apparently finding Coors singles is harder than previously thought as about half of the participants had the light beer equivalent. First time I had this since high school. People used to drive to Idaho to get this. Now that is watery. Solid 4(?). Hard to rate for no aroma or no flavor and some sweetness. "Colorado cool aid". The beer of smokey and the bandit. Not bad. I'm drinking it! Not good out of the glass, Keep it in the can. Lightly carbonated. "Both suck but in different ways". There were two people missing this beer but based on their expressions I don't think they were missing it too much.

20pts+ 1.25*2 for a correction coefficient of 2.5 = 22.5 = 2.5

4. Wild card- This has never been done before in Swill Off history. Everyone brought their own crap. The excitement was so great that Bill forgot about his manners and started getting pissy with everyone (You almost made it to the end buddy). I'll just list the beers, how many drank them, a few quick comments and what the score was.

A. Steel reserve- There's a solventy flavor aroma that isn't pleasant. Can't get the flavor out of my mouth. -- 3 people had it with 3 pts for an average of 1.

B. PBR- Very fragrant and has a blude ribbon. Nice aroma, terrible taste. -- 2 people 6 points average = 3, +.1 for having a blue ribbon on the can = 3.1

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- C. Gansett- *Awful good head, lot of caramel isn't good, better out of the can -- 1 person at 3 points*
- D. Castle Island- *not pleasant. (That is all) -- 1 person, 2 points*
- E. Shiner bock- *tastes like I can drink it all! -- 1 person, 2 points.*
- F. Seltzer- *no comment, just a sad face. -- 1 person, 4 points *.37 for healthy lifestyle bias for a total of 1.48 (I'm sorry, but I'm not letting seltzer rule the day. That's not what we signed up for!)*

For those of you keeping score at home this year's swill off winner is- PBR! This was a no brainer because the can already had an award on it and I think we could all use a little more simplicity in our lives! We also learned that if you keep the meeting virtual Rob will not kick us out a 9:45 so there's another positive from this night!

Well my friends that is all I got. It was another successful event and was good to see your faces again. Be safe, be well. I'll see you in August.

-Pat

[New England Homebrew Jamboree, Tamworth Camping Area, Tamworth, NH](#)



Cancelled due to COVID-19. Looking forward to seeing old friends again in 2021!

[September Club Meeting – Octoberfest](#)

September brings Octoberfest and another round in the club's annual tradition. To make it happen during the pandemic, we all met up at Zack's for the barrel project transfer day and swapped beers for the Octoberfest at the same time. Simple concept - bring a twelve pack of one beer and leave with 12 different beers. Then it was back to Zoom (really the next three Zooms) for tasting and Pat's irreverent take on the night's events.

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Guten Tag Wizards!

Welcome to Oktoberfest: Quarantine Edition! That's right, we are still in this mess. At least someone put the fires out in Australia. I thought we were going to be getting better by this point. Then somebody decided to have a gender-reveal party and burned down the west coast. It's a boy! Yay, lets burn down Oregon! To top it all off Munich has cancelled Oktoberfest. Munich has cancelled Oktoberfest!?!? Man, this is getting rough. Maybe we should just give up. Why go on? I'm just going to lie on the floor and wait for the end.

****three hours later****

My wife made me get up. I told her what I was doing, and she said not until the mortgage is paid off. Well, if we are going to do this at least we still have beer. We also have our ability to pass judgement on said beer. Those two things always make me feel better. We have got each other to do these things with too! I can get behind this! Yes, these things can be the spark that puts the fire back into life.... WAIT, NO! No more fires! Didn't you read the first paragraph? Just do some sit-ups move on with your life.

Maybe all I need is to shake things up a bit. Like this write up. If we can split up the Oktoberfest tasting (because no one thought it was a good idea to pound 11 full beers on a school night) I can do the same thing with this write up. It can be like a series, a mini-series, a limited mini-series. Oh, I like how that sounds. Let's try this again.

Guten Tag Wizards!

Welcome to **Oktoberfest: The Limited Mini-Series!**

Yes! There's my flame-retardant zest for life. I'm pumped. Let's do this! Let's keep the ground rules the same. No need for anarchy, yet. We should all have the same 11 beers to drink, all some variant of an Oktoberfest-style beer. As usual the scoring was done by the Wizard's time-honored tradition of finger

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rating (1 being awful 5 being sublime). I'm just going to rank them in order we had them and not by score. We had a lot of time in between the different beers this time due to having to drink approximately 12 oz's instead of 2 so there were more comments than a usual event. Also due to the craziness of our world and not all of us being able to be there for all meetings I am going to allow for mail-in voting. That's right, if you miss a night you can still send me your scores and I will add them to the tally. So, you won't really know who is winning until the end of the mini-series. I cannot wait for the finale; my ratings are going to rock! Ok, that's enough lead in let's get into the night, the first night. Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the Wizard's 2020 Oktoberfest, Volume I

1. Weinenstephaner- 11.2oz's –Sweet malt, slight banana bread flavor. The comments started off completely beer-centric but then started to get more pointed toward one another. Surprisingly, it wasn't Bill. Well, yes Bill did have some complaints, but he was not the driver. Your very own president, Craig came in hot and angry looking for some confrontation. No cardboard flavor in it(shocked) from Craig. Was it bottled here? Craig again- I usually don't like German beers (in a direct attack on Brian and Duane). Bill, feeding off Craigs energy joined the testosterone fest and started complaining about how miserable life can be for a retired man still in his 50's and no mortgage payments. We also found out that the male nipple can indeed produce milk if it properly coerced; and that Zack may be breastfeeding his child! Such a true act of paternal child raising. Also, Roombas do count as drinking buddies! I don't think it would be a Wizard's event without a discussion on that most favorite Binghamton delicacy, Spiedies. Once again, we talked about types of meet and sauce to use and even came up with a vegan spiedie, a veeedie, which would be lettuce in a hot dog bun. Maybe this was why Craig was so angry? Overall, this beer performed well!
34 pts.= 3.4 fingers

2. Henhaus Brauerei: Festbier - This beer was made by one of our own, Brian W! We all found this to be a very enjoyable take on a Festbier and the comments largely reflected that. What yeast was used? Dried, doughy flavor. Needs a little more bitterness. More gypsum (Craig). Brian used water to make this beer! Added Calcium Chloride. Nice Recipe. Slight caramel aroma. Could make a nice helles recipe with a few tweaks. Needs more gypsum (Craig again). Touch more gypsum (Jesus Craig, enough). After letting us know how much he loves gypsum our president decided to start sprinkling in a few f-bombs because Brian could not remember every aspect of his recipe on que.
37pts. 3.7 fingers. Well done, Brian!

3. Cooper Legend- Bill has a meltdown strait away because he forgot how keyboards work. Print screen man, print screen! Brian W took this time to calm down after Craig's abuse and ate a bag of gourmet pretzels. Brian G took this time to try and become president again. Do not miss a meeting! True to style Craig started spitting more venom pretty much begging anyone to fight him– "I

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can taste the cardboard in this one!” He then started cheering for the heat over the celts in a direct attempt to draw Rob and Bill G into the arena. Besides this the beer had some interesting inconsistencies. The clarity of the beers ranged from clear to semi-translucent. Were they in different tanks? We may never know
22. pts= 2.2 fingers

It was at this time one Wizard feeling the spirit of Oktoberfest and came up with the phrase “Ghost Dick”. I forget who this was; Brian G or Craig (because why not at this point)? This led to a “spirited” discussion about this particular spectral appendage all the potential uses it could have. Something tells me we have not heard the last of Ghost Dick.

4. Goose Head Lager- Another tasty product from Duane’s World Brewing!
Before we started discussing this beer, we found out that Brian G has dirty tap lines and Bill N hates video games. There was then a lengthy discussion on tap-line maintenance that put Rob to sleep. On to the comments!
Darker than normal. I taste dark fruits- raisin, plume. Neither a martzen nor a festbier. It’s a good beer. With a Belgian yeast this would be very nice. A little too distracting for a festbier. It’s a Dubel turned up to four. Not an Oktoberfest, but very good.

If Jesus played football, he’d be a place kicker.

25 pts. 2.5 fingers

We may have a new unit of measurement as well: Liter per hour- a new way to measure beer intake??? More to come? We’ll have to see!

It was at this time that something interesting happened. Craig joined my side in the fight against Bill N. I sat back and watched them as they exchange jabs. Is the enemy of my enemy my friend? Has he just been misunderstood this whole time? A flawed hero? A dark knight?

What can this mean? Who knows? You’ll have to turn in next week for the next installment of:

Oktoberfest: The Limited Mini- Series! - Volume II

Guten Tag (again) Wizards!

Welcome to another installment of: **Oktoberfest: The Limited Mini-Series!**

Previously you will recall we began our socially distanced tasting with two commercial and two home-brewed versions of fest beer. Our own Brian W’s Henhaus Festbier took the night with a very solid score of 3.7. Besides drinking beer we invented new phrases, and units of measurement. We also watched our president go on the offensive, imposing his will in an alpha-male display that one could only assume was a plea for a lifetime appointment to the office. However, as the night went on, he did rally to my side and helped in the eternal struggle against Bill N.

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Alas, for reasons still unknown our President could not be there for the next chapter or Oktoberfest. I am sure he was off somewhere trying to reconcile his rage. The turnout overall was smaller than that of Tuesday's meeting so the points overall were smaller so the averages will be what's to focus on. We've also had some mail-in voting being done. Duane's beer had four additional fingers added to his total. Bringing his numbers up to 29 pts for an average of 2.64! Remember that the ballots are still open so if you have missed a meeting there's still time for your voice to be heard!

That's enough from me. Let's get back into the meeting as relive the excitement! Without any further delay I give you **Oktoberfest: Volume II**

5. Paulaner Marzen- To start the night we had a lot of talk about Marzen, fest, Oktoberfest beers and what makes them different. After the discussion was people began to voice their overall displeasure with the beer. Warm it up and it's better. Sweet, is it supposed to be this sweet? Hint of Apple. Some sort of fruit. Beer the other night was better.

The conversation then switched back to much more important issues. Does Jack's Abby roll their barrel beers around the brewery? What fun that would be. When is the Celtic beer coming out??

Colby then told us tales of Arizona and something call "happy hour". What is that? (confused looks). Yuengling is also coming to Arizona. Yay? Arizona sounds crazy

We also discussed the possible Death of the West-Coast IPA and how the tide is turning to the East! The Universe is righting itself.

22pts = 2.4 Average

6. Hacker Pshorr- Marzen- This beer for some reason made us delve into the mysteries of the human body. We learned that in the direst of circumstances, and with the proper tools Zack can reboot humans. I now know what we're going to do at the Christmas party! While Zack was busy reanimating people Jon shared how he needs more yoga in his life. It was clear that Jon needed some kind of an outlet as he soon afterwards started a fight Bill. Then everyone fought Bill. It was then decided that Bill was being boring (he was mad and wanted us all to know). After we explored both mind and body we then talked about the beer.

This is a lot older. More cardboard flavor, needs a touch more character. Both are very old. Both imported by the same place! Lots of talk about the dating on the bottles Bottled date? Brew date? Best by?? Duane then let us know that back in the day people would sub-let their beer caves from bears for cocaine! Those days were lit. Nice talk of Simpson's quotes. Smooth, drinkable. A little nice Home brew taste.

27 pts 9ppl +.5 because Jon can't make up his mind.= 3.05

7. Von Trapp Oktoberfest- It seemed with this beer that there was no time for small talk and people went right ahead with ripping it apart. This beer is not my favorite. Weird Bitterness. Very bitter. It tastes like nothing. Like it's not done yet.

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It's very Slooshable(?). I have no idea if I'm close to spelling this word correctly, or if it's an actual word. That being said, it was spoken with such confidence it must mean something!

After being disappointed by Von Trapp we descended further down the rabbit hole, or should I say the squirrel hole! The strongest beer is 67% alcohol. It was/is made by the Brew Dogs and they would take the bottles of said beer and ram them up squirrel butts. No word on if the squirrels were still alive, or if they could be rebooted. I think by that time death was preferable.

13pts 9 ppl +3 from Brendan = 1.6 average

After this the night descended into chaos the likes of which can not be spoken of here. Some things are best kept out of the historic documents and allowed to fade away.

Well my friends that's all I have for this installment. I'm please to seem some late votes still coming in which will make into our next session write up. Will the numbers change drastically? Can Brian W continue to hold the top spot? You'll have to tune in next week for the dramatic conclusion to:

Oktoberfest: The Limited Mini-Series! - Volume III

Guten Tag (again) Wizards!

Welcome to the final installment of: **Oktoberfest: The Limited Mini-Series!** Here we are back one more time to conclude the epic three-night Oktoberfest tasting. In case you missed the first two episodes Here's a brief recap for you:

- We drank Beer.
- We then judged said beer.
- Craig fought everyone.
- Ghost Dick!
- We opened the poles to mail in voted.
- Craig Left.
- Bill Complained.
- Brian W's beer is still the highest rated one we've tasted. Can he hold on for the win?

Is everyone caught up? Good! We also had some mail in votes that have been added to some of final groupings scores. So, I guess now all the poles are closed. If you haven't gotten me the votes by now you've missed your chance to be heard. Don't despair though you still have the pleasure of reading about how the night went and that's just as good.

This was also one of the more expletive-laden write ups I've ever done. You guys really brought your potty-mouths for the final tasting. If anyone under the age of

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17 is reading this, I'm going to have to ask you to stop at this point or bring me your parents written consent. For the rest of you, you've been warned.

That's enough lead in. Let's get into it! Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the final chapter of: **Oktoberfest: The Limited Mini-Series!**

8. Left hand- We all thought this beer performed about as poorly as it usually does the, however conversation was sparkling! Roasty taste. Color and clarity were nice if the flavor wasn't very festy. Duane said he could taste the nuts. What you want in a fest beer. It's actually best in your right hand. Tastes like Duane's Beer. I don't like this. We also learned Jon won't drink pumpkin beer. No trick or treat in Worcester this year, or trunk or treat (bummer). There was a rumor of drunk or Treat at Eli's? Doubtful. Also, we learned that Halloween, a full moon and the clocks get turned back all in the same weekend. Hopefully, it will be enough to reset 2020. Color and clarity were nice if the flavor wasn't very festy. It was after this that Brian dropped these sage words for us to digest - "Masturbating with your left hand is like having sex with a clumsy stranger." Something to ponder while we sit at home this autumn.
10pts. 7 ppl +1 mail in point for a total of 11 pts and 8 ppl 1.38 average

It was right after this that Bill N zoomed into the call. He came to us from the woods of Cooperstown, NY walking around in a dark parking lot. Dressed in a hoodie and donning a backpack, his mood oscillated between anger and bliss. None of us were sure what he was on, but it seemed to be more than Oktoberfest.

9. Bell's- While we watched Bill wander around from parking lot to the woods, we decided that it was a good time for another beer. Overall, this beer was the rebound we needed from left hand. Being much more pleasant on the pallet. Bill G- had a great idea to give the homeless blue tooth to "help them fit in." And then someone else had the great idea of handing out Ice cream with ether. We also learned to be careful when you move your mash tuns or 5 gallons of barley wine can change to 2.5 in an instant.

Brian G- denied coming up with the ghost dick reference, so the credit for that shifts solely to Craig for the time being. It was after all this conversation that Duane decided to be a party pooper and bring the conversation back to beer. Good clarity. No nuttiness- Duane. Much better than left hand. Smooth drinking. Not very malt forward. Crisp. Hint of soapiness. As it warms up it gets better. After this talk shifted to more enlightened topics like peeing at the tables in Oktoberfest, while you are in your lederhosen, but not in your lederhosen, but at the table. What a time to be alive.
22pts. 7ppl 3.14 average

10. Shiner Oktoberfest- While not as well-liked as Bell's, Shiner was still better than left hand. A little nutty. (Duane) What kind of nuts?(Brian G) Duane – I'm not

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sure. Brian G- Deez Nuts! +10 experience points for Brian G for dropping the knowledge hammer on poor Duane who was unceremoniously schooled in early 90's hip hop culture. For those of us from that time you could see it being set up from across the room. In a way Duane was asking for it all night long with his nut comments.

After congratulating Brian on his win, we talked a little bit about the beer. It's ok I guess. No, it's not. Weird astringency. Not as good as Bells. Has a Budweiser quality. Too much carbonation.

13pts. 7 ppl 1.86 average

11. Sierra Nevada- This beer was probably the biggest disappointment of the night and quite possibly the entire Oktoberfest tasting. I think we all had high hopes for this beer and felt let down by its miss on the festbier style. Very clean. Pretty fruity. You can make 200 gallons a year per household. Nice but not an Oktoberfest. Are Oktoberfest's supposed to taste like peaches? Peach schnapps aroma. Very fruity. Very sweet. Very clear, very light. Foxes will steal your cell phone.

12pts 6 ppl +1,1 for 13 7 ppl 1.86

So, that's it for the beers we've tasted. As I stated earlier, I'm going to consider the poles officially closed. Based on highest average and points total the winner of this year's tasting goes to our own Brian W! Way to go Brian, make sure you make yourself a Bamberg Onion and grab one of your Festbier's and celebrate properly.

It's now time to close the books on another successful Wizard's Oktoberfest. What an event we had. Our very first miniseries! I can't wait to see it on Netflix. Just look at all the beer we had and topics we discussed. I'm sure somewhere in there is the next great idea to revolutionize our society. Maybe even bring us out of quarantine? Good luck figuring out which one! So long from: **Oktoberfest: The Limited Mini-Series!**

Till next time.

-Pat

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