

Brews & News

A PUBLICATION OF THE MALTOSE FALCONS HOMEBREWING SOCIETY

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Happy Holidays!



Last Call for 2019

Celebrating a Great Year of Homebrewing

Brews & News

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All material submitted for possible publication should be sent to: Ian Carroll at newsletter@maltosefalcons.com. Materials may be edited for length.

Deadline for next issue: January 1

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Editor's Note

2019 has been an amazing year for the Maltose Falcons. We have so much to celebrate - especially our 45th anniversary - but most of all, we celebrate you, the awesome members!

It's been an honor to serve as your editor this past year, and I look forward to continuing on in the next year.

Happy holidays!
Ian



Bonjour Mes Amis!

By Bernard Lebel, President



Greetings fellow Falcons! I'm writing this on the day following Thanksgiving, so I have a lot of time on my hands while I'm still digesting turkey, stuffing, and pie. I apologize in advance for the long column!

Looking Back At The 45th Anniversary Party

The 45th anniversary party is just behind us and wow, what a party it was! The party took place at the beautiful Valley Relics Museum, in Van Nuys. This museum showcases all kinds of vintage objects: pinball machines, clothing, trophies, flags, even cars, and much more. It was amazing to party surrounded by such history. Thank you Valley Relics Museum for letting us party at your venue!

We had all the collaboration beers on tap, they were all excellent. Plus many, many kegs of home brew as well as bottles of mead and cider. There was no shortage of beer!

Also we were graced with the presence of esteemed guests: Steve Grossman (co-founder of Sierra Nevada) and Denny Conn (co-host Experimental Brewing podcast and member of the AHA Governing Committee).

For my part I was incredibly impressed with the club that day. We were not allowed before 4pm, and then we had basically two hours to set up and start checking in guests. That put quite a time constraint on the organizers. To that end we reached out on social media to ask for volunteers to help set up, and boy did the Falcons answer! About half of the guests showed up sharp at 4. It was like watching an extremely well rounded army setting up camp. It was like everybody knew what they had to do, and did it with little supervision and so much efficiency. It was so impressive that my heart swelled with pride at being part of this organization. Tearing down was also just as efficient. Well done everyone!

Thank you everyone for coming to the party, I hope you had a good time! Finally, we couldn't thank Tiffany Ashrafi enough for putting this party together. Now that it's over, you're free to enjoy motherhood Tiffany!

About Your New President

All right, let's talk about the new president for a second. First off, thank you for supporting me as your new president! I wanted to tell you a bit about what it means to be your president (if you were at the party you've heard this already).

I'm an immigrant from Montreal, Canada. Yes, French is my first language! I moved to California 11.5 years ago for work. I didn't know anybody at the time, but I liked beer, so I joined a beer appreciation club called the Los Angeles Ale Club. Through that group I met Falcons like Tom Morris and of course, Ed. When they mentioned homebrewing to me it felt like this esoteric thing that I was too special for me to get into.

Fast forward a couple of years, a colleague of mine brought me a home brewed maple porter at

Bonjour Mes Amis!

By Bernard Lebel, President

work that turned out to be delicious. When I asked about how he did it, it was a revelation! I got into home brewing. My first several batches were from bad to just ok, so I was frustrated. My friends from the Los Angeles Ale Club suggested I join the Falcons to get feedback. I remember being amazed that there was such a thing as a homebrew club. So I joined, and received useful feedback. My beer got better!

For the first couple of years, being in the club was all about the beer. That's all I cared for. It was a great time because the meetings had 70+ attendees and easily over 30 home brews on the board. I remember driving home incredibly inspired.

Eventually I made friends with some of my fellow members. This is when the shift started happening. Gradually I found something more valuable and important than good beer: I found friendship, brotherhood, support. The Falcons became a bit of a second family. At some point I realized I was completely accepted in the club, I belonged. These days most of my closest American friends are home brewers.

So thank you accepting me in this family of crazy motherfuckers. I hope we can work together to make a positive impact on the club!

My Goals For This Term

I wanted to tell you about my goals for this term as your president.

First off, I want to get closer to some of our neighbor clubs: Ventura Independent Beer Enthusiasts (aka VIBE), Thousand Oaked Homebrewers (aka TOaked), and Yeastside Brewers. A lot of us know a lot of them at a personal level, but I'd like for us to get to know them at a club level. How? Collaborations. I will personally begin discussions with these clubs about collaborations with our club.

I will keep you posted on progress about this. From my experience, it's pretty difficult to organize projects like this due to scheduling, so please be patient with me. Once there are more details available,

if you're interested in participating, let me know! (president@maltosefalcons.com) Remember though that spots will be limited. Anybody will also be welcome to show up on activities, like on brew days. I promise you that the club will advertise those activities so you won't miss them.

Secondly, competitions. I'm very passionate about judging so competitions are dear to my heart. Nearly every competition is struggling with finding judges, resulting in way too many prelims and postlims. This is very straining for judges, I know of one who judged something like 7 or 8 sessions at one competition this year! This is a bit disheartening, as according to our Vice-President Ed, there are over 150 judges in a 50 miles radius around Woodland Hills!

I'm hoping that we can train new judges in 2020. We are talking about having classes and BJCP exams. This would hopefully relieve some pressure. In addition, I want to find ways to increase judges attendance at competitions. I don't know how yet, but I will try. **If you have any ideas on that, please reach out to me (president@maltosefalcons.com).**

Lastly, I don't know if you noticed, but how we handle competitions has gotten better. It's still not perfect, and I will continue working with our Vice-Presidents to make it even better. Some of you have had issues in the past with getting score sheets back or awards sent to you. I want to remind you that organizing these competitions is a ton of work, all done on a volunteer basis, and therefore I ask that you be patient with us. If you are missing anything, keep letting us know and we'll fix it.

Finally, club meetings are very important to me. This is how it all started for me. I'm a bit nostalgic of the meetings from 6 years ago, where there was a ton of home brew. Let's be honest though, these days are behind us. Homebrewing as a hobby has declined significantly around the country over the last several years, and so has meeting attendance.

That said, I think we can do better. I'd like

Bonjour Mes Amis!

By Bernard Lebel, President

attendance to go up, but more importantly, I'd like the home brew presence to go up several notches. I have several ideas brewing in my mind that I will discuss more at length at our December club meeting. But a super high level overview includes running surveys, making small changes to the meeting format, improvements on respect, and more. Again I want your feedback, **do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have thoughts or ideas!** (president@maltosefalcons.com).

All right, that's it folks! I'm impressed you've read that far! Enjoy the upcoming Holidays and I will see you soon!

Merci et à bientôt!
Bernard



Board Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2019

Finance

Kent will share spreadsheet on 45th Anniversary party expenses/earnings. We actually made a profit!

Activities

Mike will announce on Facebook that we'll be reaching out to those who didn't pick up their 45th anniversary hoodies yet.

We need to promote the Stuffed Sandwich tasting, emphasis on the low availability of tickets.

Competitions

Competition committee meetings will be held like regular board meetings from now on.

Doug King be held on 1/26/20 at MacLeod's. It's a Sunday. Website is already live.

Mayfaire will be held on 4/25/20 at Five Threads.

Grand Hydro

Bernard has some new ideas for the January meeting. Will talk to Drew about them.

Drew wants to add an off-flavor test to a few sessions. Other educational bits beyond just tasting beer.

Webmaster

Lots of work done on the competition websites, they are in pretty good shape. Dana had to update the code because of API breaking changes.

Membership

Need to get list of lapsed member and reach out to them.

Publicity

Determine shop brew date, find brew lead, advertise shop brew. Ed wants to lead the January shop brew. Mike to deliver the toys to the fire station.

Need to determine date for Lady Falcons Brew. Find at least one female pro brewer to attend.

Newsletter

Send pics and write-ups to Ian for the next newsletter.

Burgermeister

Next meeting is potluck!

Secretary

Nothing new.

Clubhouse Renovations

Most expenses paid. Upcoming expenses in the couple hundreds, to be shared with the Cellarmaster club. Mostly for cabinets.

Cullen would like to see shelves expanded outside.

In December, walls will be done. Floors not so sure.

Mike will ask for volunteers to help with reflooring clubhouse.

Other Business

We need another pitcher for beer tasting. Buy one for next meeting, send bill to Treasurer.

New board members need access to social media accounts, website, etc.

Monthly shop brew participants will be required to bring the finished beer to a meeting. Announce this change at the next club meeting.

Will be discussing increasing attendance, bringing more homebrew, and respect at the next meeting.

Also, it would be better if people presented more homebrew during the open sharing session, and less at Troubleshooter's Corner (TSC), where fewer people can offer feedback and be exposed to learning opportunities.

Run anonymous surveys, it'd be good for us to hear the good, the bad, and the ugly. That will also be mentioned at the next meeting.



45th Party Thank You's!

By Tiffany Ashrafi

Our 45th Anniversary event was a party/gala/celebration of distinguished guests, fine food, awesome jams by the Maltose Falcons Blues Band, and some of the best beers, meads, ciders, and beverages we've had, maybe ever. I volunteered to head the party planning committee back in November of 2018 knowing full well that it would be a lot of hours, work and little details organizing to pull off a kick-ass event for our members. And it was. But it was the most fun year I've had with our club, MF board members & party planning committee.



First, I would like to extend a huge thank you to each brewery who hosted a collaboration brewday with our club to make our event even more exciting! In chronological order, a big cheers goes out to: Trademark Brewing, MacLeod Ale Brewing Co., LA Aleworks, Transplants Brewing, Golden Road Brew Co., and Eagle Rock Brewery. Thank you for your hospitality & helping us create beers that are destined to be recreated by our members for years to come.

And now I would like to give a huge shout out to all the Maltose Falcons members who helped get this event off the ground and into the history books as a highly successful & memorable evening.



What would we do/drink without our very selfless & knowledgeable "Bar Master", Kevin Baranowski? We had less than 2 hours to set up 2 bars which would serve almost 50 kegs. With the help of many members who arrived early to lend a hand, Kevin set up each keg that was brought to him & had them pouring perfectly.

Thank you to Craig Wickham & Matt Myerhoff for all your efforts in scoring multiple sponsorships which helped make our party that much more fun & interactive with more than a dozen silent auction items, 2 large raffle prizes, sponsorship of centerpieces, life sized beer bottle to selfie with, Steve Grossman of Sierra Nevada as our special guest speaker, fun swag bag donations, and much much more! These sponsors include: Sierra Nevada, Three Weavers Brewery, Lucky Luke Brewing, 8one8 Brewing, White Labs, The Twist-

45th Party Thank You's!

By Tiffany Ashrafi

ed Oak, Yakima Chief Hops, Hand Brewed Beer, Country Malt, Smog City Brewing, San Fernando Brewing, Broxton Brewery & Public House, 6th & La Brea Brewery & Restaurant, Bluebird Brasserie, and Gigi Jewelry by Jeanne. A big thank you to Bob & Karen Dexter for organizing and setting up the silent auction & raffle! Thank you to Rick & Cassie Morales for assembling & procuring our epic swag bags!



Check-in this year went flawlessly! Thank you to Jenna, Eric & Jeff Bonney, Brent Yarkin, Mick Deering, Matt Myerhoff for getting all our party guests inside to imbibe as fast as possible and enjoy the evening. The biggest thank you to Drew Beechum for all his posts, emails & flogging members to buy their tickets to our grand event! It is our nature to procrastinate & commit at the last moment possible, but Drew really came through in the clutch to get our ticket sales sold to the max!

A special thank you to my best friend & mother, Kathy Fairbrother, for volunteering to make 10+ batches of handmade beer soap. You spent tireless hours learning to make the bars & now you have perfected the art. Our extra soft skin thanks you for creating such yummy smelling & moisturizing exfoliating soap!



And who better to keep the party going than our very own and uber talented Maltose Falcons Brews Band? Thank you all so much for one of your best sets yet and adding extra zest to our celebration!

Looking forward to our biggest celebration yet in 5 years for our 50th Anniversary Party! Cheers!



Doug King Memorial Competition 2020



AMERICA'S OLDEST
Maltose Falcons
45TH ANNIVERSARY
HOMEBREW CLUB
PRESENTS

THE
DOUG KING

★ MEMORIAL ★
HOMEBREW COMPETITION

mf45
1974 - 2019

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENTRIES DUE: FRIDAY, JAN 17, 2020 MAIN ROUND JUDGING: SUNDAY, JAN 26, 2020 ENTRY FEE: ONLY \$10 | LOCATION OF MAIN EVENT: MACLEOD ALE BREWING CO 14741 CALVERT ST VAN NUYS, CA 91411 FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: WWW.MALTOSEFALCONS.COM |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

★ YOU CAN BE A WINNER! ★

It's that time of year again when we fondly remember our compadre Doug King. Doug was a brewer's brewer - always there to lend a hand to the club or another brewer. He was also fond of experimentation and was well known for his crazy experiments (loafs of rye bread, potatoes, tortillas - all in the mash) and his love of lagers. He won the 1996 California State Fair for his Dougweiser.

The deadline for entry dropoffs is Friday January 17, 2020.

Judging will be held at:

Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at 08:30AM
MacLeod Brewing Company
14741 Calvert St
Van Nuys, CA 91411

Find competition rules, and enter vor sign up for Judging or Stewarding the 2020 competition at:
<http://competitions.maltosefalcons.com/2020DKM>

Thanks for helping make this a fun competition!

Meet the 2019-2020 Board

Elections for the 2019-2020 Board of Directors were held during the October 2019 meeting. No positions were contested, but some of the 2018-2019 directors had chosen to step down, leading to new people being elected to the roles of Publicity Director and Activities Director.

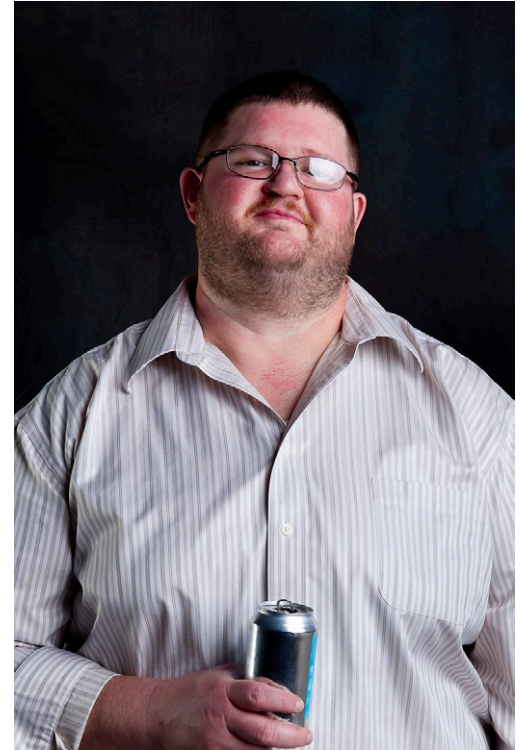
Thank you to all who stepped up to support the club in these essential roles, and thank you very much to our outgoing board members, Tiffany Ashrafi and Matt Myerhoff, for your time, dedication, and service.



Bernard Lebel
President



Ed Kochanowski
Vice President



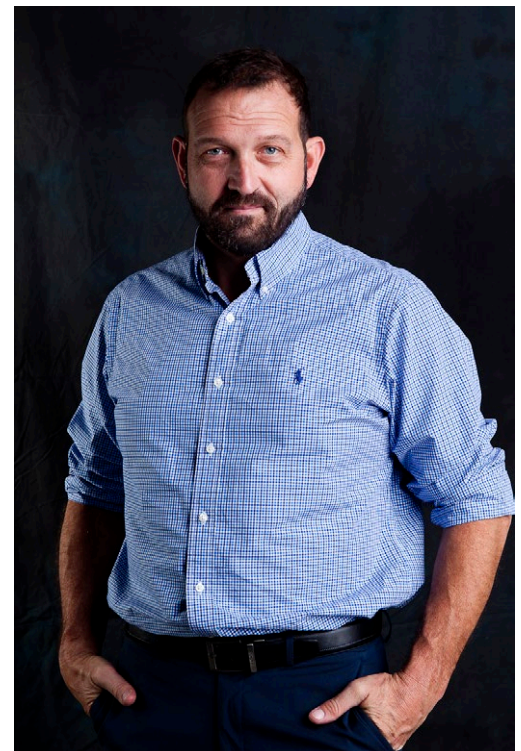
Eric Bonney
Vice President



Brent Yarkin
Secretary



Kent Fletcher
Treasurer



Mike Resar
Publicity

Meet the 2019-2020 Board



Jeff Bonney
Activities Director



Robert Dexter
Activities Director



Rick Morales
Membership Director



Drew Beechum
Grand Hydrometer
Webmeister



Jenna Bonney
Burgermeister



Ian Carroll
Newsletter Editor
Webmeister

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*Check the Web site for the latest beer-related
events and brewing goodies. Everything for the
dedicated brewer, wine- or cheesemaker!*

Calendar of Events

Stuffed Sandwich Holiday Tasting

Sat, 12/14/2019

Mead Judging Classes

Wed, 1/8/2019

Wed, 1/15/2019

Wed, 1/22/2019

Doug King Memorial Homebrew Competition

Sun, 1/26/2020

BJCP Mead Class

Sat, 2/1/2020

Mayfaire Homebrew Competition

Sat, 4/25/2020

Check out www.maltosefalcons.com for more
information on these events and lots of other cool
stuff!

