

Wow, where to start we've had so much excitement since the last newsletter!

First –a huge THANK YOU to Chris Baugh of Sierra Nevada and Nick Campbell of Blue Frog. Our field trip in March was a grand success.

We started at Blue Frog in Fairfield where Nick and the staff were very gracious. I think we were all impressed with how organized Nick has to be to put out so much incredible beer in such a small space. Lunch was great, and while the food was delicious I think we all agree the best part was having Nick join us. I think we could have easily spent the entire day at the Frog chatting about beer. It was refreshing to speak to a brewer who is passionate about what he does.

And speaking of passionate about work –our very own Zymurgeek has his dream job at Sierra Nevada! Chris took us on a special behind the scenes tour of the brewery where we sampled from the tanks and frolicked in the hop room. What a difference between a microbrewery/pub and the 7<sup>th</sup> largest brewery in the United States. Following our exclusive tour Chris joined us for an evening of merry-making in the restaurant. A good time was had by all. The next morning we made one more stop –over to Chris's home where he was homebrewing and teaching a couple friends about it. Congratulations Chris –you deserve your success!

And congratulations also going out to **Mark Crain** who won Best of Show in Seabright Brewery's first homebrew to Probrew contest. Mark's winning beer was a Kolsch which we hope he brings to the next meeting for everyone to sample. The other winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> place –Dave Bossie, American IPA

2<sup>nd</sup> place –Brad Carson, Pumpkin Ale

3<sup>rd</sup> place –Steve Rannals, English Pale Ale

I was very pleased to see the number of entries exceeded our estimates.

Our April meeting was held at Larry's where everyone concurred the sunshine on the deck was far superior to the chill of further down the hill. Dave did a presentation on fest beers in preparation for our club brew of Maifest. The recipe should be ready shortly. We then enjoyed the sunshine, the food and everyone's beers. Thank you Larry for a wonderful meeting.

Big Brew is coming up this Saturday. Participants need to be at Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing set up and ready to brew at 9AM. We will have the national toast at 10AM. Remember to tell family and friends to come check it out. See you all on Saturday!

Cheers,

Mia