From The Chair

Welcome aboard to Jay Hersh! Jay, who has served the BJCP well for many years, both as an exam grader and with continuous input, has been elected as Co-Exam Director. We now have two exam directors: Scott Bickham, who recently moved west (and had a future beer judge), was finding it difficult to manage all the duties. Jay will control exams east of the Mississippi, while Scott will continue in the west.

With Jay’s moving to Co-Director, that left an opening for an Associate. Dave Sapsis has now been elevated to Associate Exam Director, filling Jay’s old shoes.

Committees

Currently the Beer Style and Beer Scoresheet committees are hashing out final details. The Scoresheet committee has almost finished, so look for a new score sheet in 1998. With a tip of the old judge wig to Amahl Turczyn of the AHA, we’re also proud to announce that the AHA is adopting our new scoresheet as well. A few changes have already been made to the 1998 beer style guidelines. The committee is trying to refine both the wording and the substance. This is no easy task, and I would like to personally extend my appreciation to those on the committee that have taken on this task. Once the rewording is done then they can move onto the real nitty-gritty of truly analyzing the styles, and having them reflect the true characters of the beers.

The Competition Committee, in its continuing effort to develop a new and independent competition packet and program, recommended that the BJCP adopt as a starting point the New England Homebrew Competition Guidelines. These guidelines were originally developed by Steve Stroud and others, and are available in their most current form at:

http://www.bjcp.org/style-guide.html

Steve has given his enthusiastic consent to the proposed adoption.

Apprentice and Novice ranks

The Board formally approved the definition of the Apprentice rank: One who has taken, but not yet passed the BJCP exam, and is making an effort to improve his or her judging skills. Those who have taken the exam are accorded full membership privileges and may retake the exam at a reduced rate.

Continued on page 2
How to become a candidate (continued from Page 1)

If you know the current whereabouts of any of these beer judges, please let us know how to reach them. Contact the Program Administrator (Russ).

- Dwight Beebe, Montreal, PQ
- Trent Berg, Edmonton, AB
- David Bryant, Houston, TX
- David Buffam, Calgary, AB
- James Burrus, Boulder, CO
- Jami Chism, Santa Rosa, CA
- Perry Geib, Moravia, NY
- Marty Johnson, Baltimore, MD
- Brian Lewis, Calgary, AB
- Rick Lloyd, Edmond, OK
- James Macnaughton, North York, ON
- John Mason, Oneonta, NY
- Kevin Mayes, Evanston, IL
- Jason Meyer, Edmonton, AB
- Eric Moreland, Middelton, WI
- Richard Nilles, Fargo, ND
- Calvin Perilloux, Bondi Junction, NSW
- Steven Peterson, Janesville, WI
- Gerald Pinard, Surrey, BC
- Ward Pond, Pine Mountain Club, CA
- Erik John Rasmussen, Mesa, AZ
- Ken Rich, Houston, TX
- David Jolyon Ringwood, Canoga Park, CA
- B. Scott Robertson, Regina, SK
- Jeb Sturmer, ?, ?
- Todd Thorsen, San Diego, CA
- Doug Warren, Toronto, ON
- Alan Lee Williamson, Lynchburg, VA

Missing, Presumed Lost

If you know the current whereabouts of any of these beer judges, please let us know how to reach them. Contact the Program Administrator (Russ).

From the Chair (continued from Page 1)

Novice is defined as: Any individual who has not taken the BJCP exam and who judges beer in preparation of taking the exam.

Trademark

You’ll start seeing the TM symbol appearing next to BJCP from now on. The Board decided that it’s in our best interests to trademark the name in order to protect it.

How Many Points Do You Have?

If you’re a fairly active judge, you may not know exactly where you stand in terms of experience points. Competition organizers don’t always get the points recorded in the most expeditious manner, so please be on the watch for your annual point report. It should be mailed by April, and you should receive it by the end of that month. The report will contain instructions for how to report errors in your record, so you’ll be able to match your own records with your “official” report.

JudgeNet

What’s being discussed on JudgeNet? Anything and everything related to beer judging. A few of the topics discussed recently include:

- Three bottles or two?
- Large categories and “mini-BOS” rounds
- Flavor description words on scoresheets
- Returning score sheets and prizes
- Quality of judging comments on scoresheets
- Master Championship of Amateur Brewing (MCAB)

Any thoughts on these? Any other topics you’d like to discuss with other judges around the world?

If you have Internet e-mail access, you should subscribe to JudgeNet Digest. Send an e-mail message to judge-request@synchro.com. You’ll automatically receive a help message with details about subscribing.
Who’s Who in the BJCP:

Chairman & Midwest: ............................... Dennis Davison
4025 S. 65th #14 ................................... Greenfield WI 53220
E-mail: ................................................ ddavison@execpc.com

Secretary: ................................................ Darryl Richman
15600 NE 8th #B1-327 ........................... Bellevue WA 9808
E-mail: ................................................ darrylri@microsoft.com

Western: ................................. Martin Lodahl
4966 Bell Road .................................. Auburn CA 95602
E-mail: ............................................ lodahl@foothill.net

Mid-Atlantic: ................................. Greg Walz
3327 Allendorf St. ............................... Pittsburgh PA 15204
E-mail: .............................................. walzenbrew@aol.com

Southeast: ................................. Roman Davis
6234 Caslon Ct. ............................... Charlotte NC 28270
E-mail: ................................................ xzymurgist@aol.com

Gulf Coast: ......................................... Steve Daniel
902 Delore Lane ............................... League City TX 77573
E-mail: ................................................ steve@cent.com

Northeast: ....................................... Bob Gorman
1A Dexter Ave .................................. Waltham MA 02154
E-mail: ................................................ ne_rep@bjcp.org

Program Administrator: ............................ Russ Wigglesworth
c/o Celebrator, PO Box 375 ............... Hayward CA 94543
E-mail: ............................................. rad_equipment@rad-mac1.ucsdf.edu

Exam Co-Directors:
West: ................................................ Scott Bickham
837 Rio Vista St. .............................. Santa Fe NM 87501
E-mail: ................................................ bickham@trail.com

East: .................................................... Jay Hersh
4 White St. ...................................... Arlington MA 02174
E-mail: ................................................ drbeer@doctorbeer.com

Competition Director: .......................... Tom Fitzpatrick
581 Skyline Dr. ................................. Batavia IL 60510
E-mail: ................................................ fitz@fnal.gov

BJCP voice mail: 414-299-9145

To reach the entire board at once:
E-mail: .............................................. board@bjcp.org

BJCP Reporter  editor: .......................... Ed Westemeier
P.O. Box 258 ................................. New Richmond OH 45157-0258
E-mail: ................................................ hopfen@malz.com

Upcoming Exams

The current exam schedule is listed below. There are several exams in the works, but the dates have not been firmly set. If you have any questions, please get in touch with either Scott Bickham (western U.S.), Jay Hersh (eastern U.S.), or the contact person listed.

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Please pass the information in this newsletter on to your friends, fellow club members, local suppliers, and anyone else you think might be interested in taking the exam. Consider making a photocopy or two for your club’s competition organizer, and another to pass around.

The BJCP web page (http://www.bjcp.org/) has competition information, and is linked to the most current exam schedule on Scott Bickham’s web page (http://www.trail.com/~bickham/).
Exam Directors

The BJCP Board appointed Jay Hersh as exam director of the Eastern portion of the US and Canada. Scott Bickham will continue as exam director of the western portion of North America. The primary reason for this split is the tremendous growth in the number of exams, from less than 200 per year prior to 1996, nearly 300 in 1996 and over 400 in 1997. This is way too many for a single person to handle, but the workload should be manageable for both directors. The same set of exams, graders and associate directors will be used on a rotating basis, so there will be no regional biases that were a problem when there were two exam directors in the past.

There will be one contact e-mail address that will be aliased to both addresses. All mail sent to:

exam_director@bjcp.org

will be automatically sent to both Scott and Jay. Voicemail will be forwarded to both as well.

Exam Graders Needed

We make a continuous effort to increase the number of exam scorers, and we had a very nice response to a call for new graders last year. We would like to extend another invitation to those who have scored above 80 on the exam, particularly those who are already National level or higher.

Brewing Techniques will also be devoting a page to the BJCP in each issue, so the current exam and competition schedules can also be found there.

For information about the exam, please send e-mail to exam_director@bjcp.org. This ensures that both Scott and Jay receive the message.

In early 1998, look for the new study guide, examples of scoresheets and the outline of the exam study class that recently appeared in Brewing Techniques on Scott’s web page.