

## Green Mountain Mashers Meeting – January 2010 minutes

New President Andy Ferko opened the meeting at 8:30 at the home of Anne & Matt Whyte in Essex jct.

It was noted that Jerry Gormley was not in attendance as he is currently in New Zealand...with the money for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary glasses.

The February meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at The Bobcat in Bristol on either Monday Feb. 1 or Monday Feb. 7. Ruth Miller will finalize the date with The Bobcat's staff and let us know which.

It was proposed to move the monthly meetings to the second Monday of each month to see if that can boost attendance. For now, we will go with the second Monday, except for the April Hoops n' Hops meeting on the first Monday and for the May meeting which will follow the competition and be held on May 10. The proposal was adopted.

Lew Greitzer is maintaining the club website. Check the site ([www.mashers.org](http://www.mashers.org)) for important dates and event updates as there is no more monthly newsletter – Tim Cropley, former editor, never got any submissions. Henceforth, these minutes will be posted only on the website.

It was then proposed that the club should have a presence on Facebook. This was met with mixed response and no real enthusiasm, and the idea went no further.

Competition: The club competition has officially been renamed The Greg Noonan Memorial Homebrew Competition. It will take place on Saturday, May 1, at the Knights of Columbus hall in South Burlington. The Outer Space Café will once again cater lunch. It was noted that May 1 is also National Homebrewers Day. Signs advertising the event will be posted at Vermont Homebrewers Supply, in the *Yankee Brew News* and *Ale Street News*, and hopefully in *Xymurgy* as well. Dan Hament spoke with Steve at the VT P&B and confirmed that they will still host The Brewmaster's Cup and will still provide the calibration beer and annual competition glasses. Dan will speak again with Steve about putting some sort of memorial to Greg on this year's glass.

There will be a club brew at Monk's once the weather gets nice and people can make it up his driveway.

The possibility of having the Masher Challenge become an official AHA competition, but it was noted that these are generally style specific competitions and that having each year's winner choose the next year's style might not work.

This year's Masher Challenge will be judged at the April hoops n' Hops meeting at Dan Hament's house in Richmond. This year's style is schwarz beer.

Trub Trek: There were lots of "YEAHs" to the idea, but as we all know from past experience.... A trek to Montreal was proposed, as we have not done that route in many years. It was noted that all trekkers would need a passport or enhanced drivers license if it goes to Canada. Saturday, March 13 was proposed as a date, as there seemed to be more people who could go then as opposed to the usual early February date. A bus holds 47 people, and it would require a minimum of 30 to break even at the

usual cost. Dan Hament agreed to set up the schedule with the breweries, but declined to handle bus arrangements or reservations/money. Anne Whyte volunteered to assume that job. This will be a BYOB trip, as the club will not provide an on-bus keg.

Andy Ferko proposed that the club might build a brew trailer – a mobile brewery that could go to events like the Brewer’s Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades, fairs, pumpkin chucking competitions, etc. – even though it would not be built as a parade float. It was proposed to be constructed from little bitty pieces parts (used) donated by club members – everybody need to donate at least one part.

Dues are due. \$15.

At previous meetings, the idea had been discussed of using excess club funds to establish a Greg Noonan Memorial fund of some type that could be used to aide breweries in trouble, send an aspiring brewer to brewing school, etc. The Vermont Brewers Association has stated that they would match any club donation to such a cause. The logistics, legal requirements, IRS considerations, etc. might make this an overwhelming chore. It was then suggested that a better use might be to purchase brewing books (Greg’s in specific) and brewing magazine subscriptions for local libraries.

Dan Hament has a connection in Amsterdam (Netherlands – not NY) who holds an importers license and would be willing to ship us a supply of fresh European beers for a big bash. This will be investigated further as will the possibility of the club underwriting the costs.

Andy Ferko proposed that the club should undertake a Masher’s Pride effort – maybe t-shirts or sweatshirts bearing the club logo. Monk preferred leather chaps.

Lastly, Andy Ferko announced that construction of the luge run will begin shortly and solicited volunteers to help out.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.