



2004 Mountain Brewer Open Wrap-up



Thank you for participating in this years competition. After a couple of last minute drop outs we ended up with 141 entries, covering all 26 BJCP categories. Entries were submitted from 13 states (WV, OH, KY, TN, GA, LA, CT, NC, FL, PA, KS, IL and TX).

Judges:

A total of 41 judges participated (15 BJCP judges), 37 judges in the first session and 31 in the second session.

Sponsors/Prizes:

Many thanks go out to our sponsors. Their donotations allowed us to offer great prize packages this year. Please help support those that contribute to our homebrewing hobby. Category winners received AHA medallions along with an assortment of prizes including glasses, hats, t-shirts, books, malt extract, hops and a quick carbonator. The Big Brew category winner received ingredients for 5 gallons of Beatty's Award Winning Stout (all grain) donated by From Grain to Glass. Best-of-Show winner received a trophy, free entry into next years AHA National Homebrew Competition, and a 50 lb bag of malt from Cargill Malt.

Sponsor	Web Site
Huntington Museum of Art	www.hmoa.org
The American Homebrewers Associaton	www.beertown.org
Greater Huntington Homebrewers Association	www.fromgraintoglass.com/ghha/
From Grain to Glass	www.fromgraintoglass.com/
Puterbaugh Farms	www.hopsdirect.com
Northwestern Extract	www.nwextract.com
Cargill Malt	www.specialtymalts.com
The Brewing Station	

Big Brew Category:

This years contest featured a special Big Brew Category. Only beers brewed on National Homebrew Day (May 1, 2004) were accepted in this category. The category attracted 10 entries from four states (WV, KY, OH, and GA). The category was a mini best-of-show with six beers styles being entered. The following styles were entered Baltic Porter (5 beers), Brown Ale (2 beers), Irish Red (1 beer), Imperial IPA (1 beer) and an Oktoberfest (1 beer). First place went to Phil Ferrell (Cumming, GA) for his Oktoberfest. Phil will receive ingredients for 5 gallons of Beatty's Award Winning Stout (all grain) donated by From Grain to Glass.

Best-Of-Show:

This years BOS went to Bernie Kessel (Weaverville, NC) for his Northern German Pilsner. Bernie set the pace in this years contest winning six medals. He took 1st in three categories, placed 2nd twice and had one 3rd place beer. Congratulations for some excellent brewing. For the winning entry Bernie received the following: BOS trophy, free entry into next years AHA National Homebrew Competition, along with a 50 lb bag of malt from Cargill Malt.

Our four-time defending champion Gordon Strong (Beavercreek, OH) ended his winning streak. However, it was not for the lack of trying. Gordon kept pace with Bernie, winning six medals (one 1st, three 2nd's and two 3rd's). In addition, Gordon received an honorable mention. Hats off to some excellent brewing.

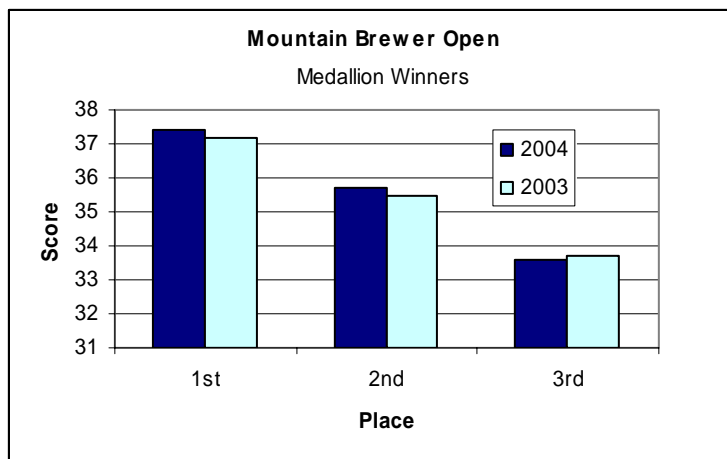
Runner up in this years best of show judging went to Mike Busby (Pace, FL) for an outstanding Orange Blossom Mead. This entry scored the highest average point total (43.8) for the contest. Third place in BOS went to Jay Wince (Zanesville, OH) for his Russian Imperial Stout and 4th place went to Dave Zalewski (Proctorville, OH) for a Dopplebock.

Competition Statistics:

Beers entered in this contest received an average score of 29.6. The highest first round score (43.8) went to Mike Busby (FL) for an orange blossom mead. The average score for first place beers was 37.4, while 2nd and 3rd place beers averaged 35.7 and 33.6 points, respectively.

Results were very similar to last years scores (see chart). Less than 2% of entries were deemed problematic, while 87% were rated good or better.

Comparison of winning scores from 2003 and 2004.



2004 Mountain Brewer Open Scores

Ranking	Score	# of beers	%
Excellent	38-44	17	12.1
Very Good	30-37	54	38.3
Good	21-29	51	36.2
Fair	14-20	17	12.1
Problematic	0-13	2	1.4

Microbreweries:

In addition to the homebrew competition, eight microbreweries competed in three categories.

Light Beers		
1 st	Watson Brothers	Over the Rhine Raz
2 nd	Lexington Brewing Co.	Kentucky Ale
3 rd	WV Brewing Company	Cheat Mountain Gold

Amber Beers		
1 st	North End Tavern	Roedy's Red
2 nd	WV Brewing Company	Old Engine 86
3 rd	Browning	ESB

Dark Beers		
1 st	O'Hooleys Brew Pub	Oatmeal Stout
2 nd	WV Brewing Company	Motown Rye Brown
3 rd	Marietta	Wheat Stout

Congratulations to O'Hooley's for winning Best-of-Show with their Oatmeal Stout. In very close voting, Alltech's Lexington Brewing Company won the People's Choice Award. Just two votes separated them from the rest of the pack. Your vote may have put them over the top. If you did not get a chance to try these beers Saturday stop by the breweries and tell them we sent you.

Pictures:

Results and pictures will be posted on our web site. <http://www.fromgraintoglass.com/ghha>

Hope to see you at next years event.

David J. Zalewski
MBO Coordinator