



SAAZ BREWZletter

January 2019

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Words from the Prez

Hi everyone! It is a real honor to have been elected as president of this great craft brewing organization. We look forward to building on the amazing year we had under the previous board. They deserve a big THANK YOU!

This year we have a goal of "Elevating the Craft" regarding our abilities in brewing. Watch for educational events ranging from just for fun to advanced, so members at any level of brewing can hopefully, at the end of the year, be able to say they have increased their knowledge.

We're considering a few special brewing projects for this year. One possibility is "The Yeast of Brevard County," a project in which everyone can participate. A barrel project is another possibility, and we'll definitely plan some group brew days where we can experiment and learn together.

This year is also the 25th Annual Commander SAAZ Interplanetary Homebrew Blastoff and we want to make this a very special event. We will need a lot of help from you all and will be starting the planning early so the event runs smoothly. Last year's event was amazing, and we want to improve each year if we can. Please be open to joining the planning committee, and plan to volunteer for the events and activities during and leading up to the big weekend.

Won't make this too long... just know that your officers are really excited and enthusiastic to make this year a really great one!

Cheers,

Bob Bridges, President
President@saaz.org

Next Intra-Club "Smackdown"

Irish & Scottish Beers – Tasting/Judging at Spring Party in March



We're branching out a bit for this year's first "smackdown" and including Scottish beers along with the usual Irish favorites. A smackdown's pretty much a competition, but with a little friendly smack-talking. *"Hey, Chris... that Irish Red looks infected!" "Ha! Your Wee Heavy smells like my pool when I haven't cleaned it for a month."* Of course, we may want to be a bit more supportive if it's a new brewer. 😊 Watch for some relevant style information on Facebook and the website, then start planning and brewing your favorite BJCP Category 14 or 15 beer and we'll see how it stacks up against your fellow members' beers. **Other 2019 SAAZ smackdowns will be announced next month.**

Next General Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 20 @ 2PM



- **EDUCATIONAL SESSION: Mash Temperature**
Please be courteous to our presenters and to those who want to listen and learn. Socialize and share homebrew before and after the meeting presentations (not during). Thanks in advance!
- **SPECIAL PRIZE DRAWING** for everyone with 2019 dues paid
- **GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES** – Bring cash!
- **2018 SAAZ Brewer of the Year announced**
- **MEET & GREET 2:00-2:30 MEETING BEGINS @ 2:30**
- **BRING YOUR HOMEBREW** and solicit feedback from other brewers to help you improve. PLEASE NOTE: Not a commercial beer share

Coasters Pub & Biergarten

971 E Eau Gallie Blvd A, Melbourne, FL 32937, USA

Next Event

“Brew/Education Day”

Saturday, February 16 – 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Group brew day! All levels of brewing experience welcome, from newbie to master, as well as those who haven't yet done their first brew.

SAAZ Member Aaron Pitts has offered up his residence for this group brew day. His address is posted on the Facebook [event page](#) (off the private [SAAZ Members](#) page). We don't post residential addresses in the newsletter, so if you can't get to the Facebook page, email Aaron at education@saaz.org.

There's room for eight brew setups, so be among the first eight to RSVP as brewing (either on the Facebook event page or by emailing Aaron, then plan your recipe for whatever style you'd like, and pack up your brew equipment and supplies. We'd love to have a variety of setups and brewing methods going... three vessel systems, brew-in-a-bag, Grainfather/Braumeister, etc. Aaron says he can handle a max of three electric systems, and he also has a natural gas hookup.

Don't currently have a working brew setup? Come out and help someone else brew, or just watch and learn how it's done on a setup you've never used before. (There's also a pool if you want to take a dip!)

And finally, what would a SAAZ event be without food and drink? We'll be having a **potluck lunch**, so bring food to share (see what that new Instant Pot you got for Christmas can do). You're welcome to **bottle share** and bring your home brewed beer, cider and/or mead to share as well. Ball lock setup available so if you want to bring a keg, the keg is all you'll need to bring.



2019 Club Dues – Pay Now and Get a Chance to Win!

Please pay your 2019 club dues by the January meeting, either online or in person. There will be a special drawing for a nice prize at January meeting for everyone who has paid up for the year. This drawing will include our lifetime members. The Family Lifetime Membership option is new. Current Lifetime Members can upgrade to a Family Lifetime Membership for \$100.

- Single Annual Membership - \$20
- Family Annual Membership - \$30
(two adults, same household, non-transferable)
- Single Lifetime Membership - \$150
- Family Lifetime Membership - \$250
(two adults, same household, non-transferable)



Officer Meeting Highlights

- Transition Tasks - Exchange of information regarding status of upcoming events and continued projects and activities, review of officer duties, social media privilege adjustments, email forwarding changes, password updates, plans for ongoing communication, bank signature updates, etc.
- Wording adjustment/polishing for by-law changes announced in December and to be voted upon at the January member meeting.
- January meeting planning – Confirm with Coasters, plan education topic, announce 2018 SAAZ Brewer of the year, raffle, special drawing for members with 2019 dues paid.
- Finalize “2018 SAAZ Brewer of the Year” and define conditions more clearly for future (wins from Florida Circuit competitions only since intra-club competitions already rewarded with a prize).
- Need to investigate “Lifetime Membership” mug options – several members still owed these.
- Goals for 2019 – Renew focus on brewing education and improvement, change up the intra-club competitions to encourage brewing some different styles, make 2019 CSAAZ event worthy of “25th Annual” (2018 was already excellent, but would like to expand club member participation in the event weekend and encourage attendance from more of the Florida homebrew clubs).
- Upcoming events/parties – Continue to investigate new locations for Summer Party due to rental price doubling, match indoor air-conditioned meeting venues with hotter months and outdoor locations with cooler months, review suitability of previously used and new locations based upon privacy/noise/parking/etc., plan “Pack the Pub” social events for sponsor venues that aren’t as suitable for meetings.
- Expansion of education efforts – Design more interactive experiences, bring back group brew days, create database/spreadsheet of knowledge within the club and draw upon it, match new brewers who want to learn with a willing (and local, if possible) experienced brewer, plan stewarding and judging classes, look into collaboration with professional breweries/brewers.
- Commander SAAZ – Start planning and begin creation of timeline, tasks, schedule, deadlines now, and continue to flesh out more detail as the year goes on. Use lessons learned from 2018, both what worked well and what can be improved. Create a Commander SAAZ planning committee that meets regularly, separate from officer meeting and general membership meeting. Break out the general event coordinator duties from the competition coordinator duties to improve efficiency.

Upcoming SAAZ Events



- **January 20** – SAAZ Meeting @ Coasters Pub & Biergarten (Melbourne)
- **February 8** – Beach Bonfire (in the process of being scheduled... final details regarding location & time will be emailed separately and posted at SAAZ.org)
- **February 16** – Brew/Education Day at Aaron Pitts' home
- **February 17** – SAAZ Meeting @ Dirty Oar, back outdoor area (Cocoa Village)

Do you or your family already have your own Google calendar? If you'd like to add the SAAZ Google calendar to your calendar view, email your request to editor@saaz.org from your Gmail account. We'll send you an invitation to enable viewing of the SAAZ calendar along with yours.

Text Alert System: Sign up for text messages in case of last minute SAAZ event cancellations or emergency change of venue by texting **SAAZ** to **24587**.

Upcoming Competitions

Visit the websites for full details

[National Homebrew Competition](#) – Hosted by AHA. Registration Jan 22 (10AM MST) to 29 (3PM MST).

[21st Domras Cup Mead Competition](#) – Hosted by Savannah Brewers League (not local, but a very established competition). Entry registration open until January 19, but limited to 200 entries. They have 182 entries as of this newsletter mailing. *(Not a Florida Circuit competition)*

[2019 Coconut Cup](#) – Hosted by Miami Area Society of Homebrewers (MASH). Entry Window Jan 7–31. s = Up to 6 entries per Brewer, 400 entry total cap. Competition Dates Mar 1-2. *(Florida Circuit)*

Reimbursement reminder: If you are a SAAZ member and would like reimbursement for your first two competition entries in a Florida Circuit competition or one NHC entry (you must be a paid member, SAAZ must be listed as your homebrew club for your entries, and reimbursement must be requested within 90 days), contact SAAZ Treasurer Anne Gregg (Treasurer@saaz.org).

Recent Events and Activities – “Christmas Party & Meading”



Meet Your 2019 Officers

Bob Bridges, President



Bob began brewing a year or so after "Hops" brewpub opened in Clearwater, FL back around 1991-1992. He found the ability to create beer intriguing, and with the help of the Hops brewmaster found a new hobby.

Bob has brewed hundreds of batches of beer. He started in the old days with extract, moving to partial extract and then quickly moving to all grain. He has also delved into yeast management and self-studied many areas of the brewing craft.

One of his favorite moments has been brewing one of his IPA recipes at the Dunedin Brewery after winning their Pro-Am and getting to serve that beer at the Great American Beer Festival in Denver. He also brewed one of his DIPAs at Cigar City Brewing in Tampa, where it sold out in just a few days after going on tap.

A number of years ago, Bob set a goal to become a BJCP judge and within a year had reached the certified level. He continues to judge beer in the Florida circuit, National Homebrew Competition (NHC) South Region and the BFB Pro Competition when possible.

The Bridges moved from Palm Harbor, FL, near Clearwater, to Titusville in 2017, but came over to Brevard to help judge and steward Commander SAAZ for several years prior to moving here and enjoyed the camaraderie with the members of SAAZ. While in the Tampa area for 20+ years Bob was an early member of PUBGuild and a founding member of the Suncoast Barley Mashers Guild, serving as Education Chair and Membership Chair.

Bob looks forward to working with this year's great slate of officers as they focus on and help elevate the craft of brewing for all members.

Sean McCoy, Vice President/Competitions Coordinator



I have been brewing for roughly 2 years. I like making beer almost as much as I like drinking it.

I've been with the club a year and a half. I am looking forward to my new role as club VP and am excited to see us grow together as zymurgists.

Marie-Anne Barcomb, Events Coordinator



I was born and raised in the islands of the Florida Keys. I ended up on the space Coast after Hurricane Irma.

I'm new-ish to the club. I'm not a brewer, but I appreciate beer and I enjoy planning parties. I inherited my mother's "hostess" genetics and I think I put them to good use.

You can find me on Facebook under "Gracie Loo."

Billy Dawson, Secretary/Membership



Billy received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from UCF and is working as a safety engineer for NASA. He lives in Port St John with his wife Nicky, their daughter and two Boxers, and they have a son away in college. Aside from working, family duties, and beer-related activities, they all volunteer time with Coastal Boxer Rescue and occasionally foster rescue dogs.

Billy started brewing in early 2015, initially extract and partial mash, using a starter kit and small kettle purchased from Brock's. About a year after starting, and getting tired of bottling, he began kegging. About six months later he made the jump to all-grain brewing, putting together a three-vessel propane system. He rarely brews the same recipe twice, except hefeweizen which is required to keep his wife happy.

Billy joined SAAZ in October 2016, then served as an officer in 2017, stepping away in 2018 due to family obligations. He is looking forward to what 2019 brings for SAAZ.

Anne Gregg, Treasurer



I was born in Illinois but I lived in Florida most of my life. Married to Sean who is also a SAAZ member. I work as a Physician Assistant to an orthopedic spine surgeon.

Huge gator fan! I love hard rock music and going to concerts and music festivals. I enjoy craft beer, especially IPAs and Imperial Stout. I attend several beer festivals every year, and my favorite is Hunahpu's Day.

My first brew was a kit I won in the SAAZ raffle. I had great beginner's luck and won several medals, including high score east of the Mississippi in the organic homebrew competition! My next batch or two wasn't as good. I really need to get back to brewing and will make that happen in 2019!

I have been a SAAZ officer for many years (maybe 6-7). Honestly, I've lost count but I have been Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster. I conceptualized and brought SAAZ's Bottoms Up Beer Run (BUBR) to reality six years ago, and serve as the event's organizer each year. SAAZ has contributed \$25,000 to St. Baldrick's Foundation for pediatric cancer research through this event.

Laurie Bridges, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster



Laurie works as a full-time telecommuter "doing computer stuff" for a large aerospace/defense company. "Mom" to grown kids and "Nana" to several perfect grandchildren, this diehard UCF fan lives in Titusville with husband Bob and a very spoiled blue-point Balinese cat.

Laurie has been brewing for about five years, starting with all-grain on Bob's three vessel set, and won a bronze medal with her first beer. She gave brew-in-a-bag a whirl (decided it's not for her), did one award winning extract brew, and finally ended up with a Grainfather (which she loves!). She's also made mead, wine, and rice wine, but doesn't seem to be able to brew a good cider to save her life (maybe some talented SAAZers can help with this?).

While living in Pinellas County, she was a member of the PUBGuild homebrew club for a several years, then became one of the founding members of the Suncoast Barley Mashers homebrew guild, serving as Communications Chair and President.

This is Laurie's second year serving as a SAAZ officer working the newsletter, website and social media. She is really looking forward to helping with the 25th Annual Commander SAAZ weekend!

Aaron D. Pitts, Education Coordinator/Historian



Aaron served on active duty for ten years in the US Navy. He has traveled to many different countries, following the passion to drink great beer.

Aaron started brewing seven years ago with extract kits on San Nicholas Island Navy base. Since then he has tried a few different methods and currently uses an all grain Robobrew setup. He also makes wine from kits and just started into the cheese realm. His favorite styles of beer are Belgian and IPA. He does not really like sours, but will give them a try.

Aaron has lived in Florida with Kristen Wolf for two years and has an eight year old daughter. He is currently a full-time student at EFSC, completing his degree in 2020. Aaron is a part time employee of Grainger and has a strong background in sales and customer service. This is Aaron's second year with SAAZ and hopes to expand the education aspect of the club.

By-Laws Change Notice

As announced in the December newsletter, the following changes have been proposed for the SAAZ by-laws. All current paid members present at the January general members meeting can vote on these changes at the meeting.

Creating an officer position for Sponsorship and Swag referred to as SAAZ Ambassador/CSAAZ Competition Organizer. Duties include:

- Maintaining club sponsorship records and requests
- Communicating with event and club sponsors
- Coordinating sponsors for club swag/raffles
- Coordinating with officer board for event sponsorship and raffles
- Primary coordinator for the Commander SAAZ competition based upon BJCP guidelines

Changing the name of the office of “Webmaster” to “Communications Director” to encompass all social media and communication related activities including:

- Maintaining Club web pages and social media accounts
- Creating and posting/distributing monthly newsletters
- Utilizing other communications tools as appropriate

Officially changing the name of the “Librarian” to “Education Coordinator/Historian.” Duties Include:

- Education coordinator or presenter at club meetings
 - Keeping and maintaining periodicals and books hereby known as the “library”
 - Maintaining club records and archives from past events (photos, articles, past years’ information)
 - Maintaining an inventory of club equipment and goods (storage unit)
 - Coordinator for club documentation of events (photographers etc.)
-

Feedback/Contact Us

President: Bob Bridges – president@saaz.org
Vice President: Sean McCoy – vp@saaz.org
Event Planner: Marie-Anne Barcomb – events@saaz.org
Secretary/Membership: Billy Dawson – secretary@saaz.org
Treasurer: Anne Gregg – treasurer@saaz.org
Newsletter/Webmaster: Laurie Bridges – editor@saaz.org
Education Coord/Historian: Aaron Pitts – education@saaz.org

Join in the conversation
on Facebook!

[SAAZ Homebrew Club Public Page](#)

[SAAZ Members Page](#)



Follow us on Twitter!



@SAAZ_HomeBrew

Note that some of the club email addresses have changed, effective January 2019

Happy New Year
2019

A toast to all our members...

May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more.

And nothing but happiness come through your door.

Oh, and beer... can't forget the beer!