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The
Brews
Telegraph
President's Message

long beach



homebrewers

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 9
at 7 pm. **NOT** at

Stein Fillers

4160 Norse Way
Long Beach 90808
562-425-0588

brew@steinfillers.com
<http://www.longbeachhomebrewers.com>

Greetings Fellow Homebrewers!

I hope everyone and their family has been safe and healthy over the past month. Restaurants and some other non-essential businesses are starting to open for business. I'm happy to see that the caseloads have begun to level out and are allowing some people to start getting their lives back on track. Hopefully we don't see a spike in the coming weeks so we can continue to open our economy and lives safely. My primary concern as president is to make sure the club isn't putting anyone in a dangerous position as we navigate through this situation.

Additionally, the civil unrest we've been experiencing over the past week has impacted all of us. What George Floyd experienced at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department was an inexcusable horror that underscores systemic racism that has gone on in our society for far too long. Hopefully we will see some positive systemic change when the dust settles. I don't want to get too deep into this, but I want to make it clear that The Long Beach Homebrewers, and homebrewing in general, is for everyone with a love of beer... period.

On a lighter note... let's talk beer! In the May meeting, I did a presentation on Helles, which was the style for that month. June is "Anything But Beer", and due to popular demand I'll be doing a presentation on mead and meadmaking at the **virtual club meeting**.

The response to the presentations has been overwhelmingly positive, so the board has approved the purchase of a projector and screen so that we can continue to have presentations when we resume in-person meetings.

Since we were unable to meet in person in time to judge the Helles as a club, Ray Grace put together a panel of judges to taste the beers and discuss them on a Zoom call. This was completed the other day and I'm looking forward to hearing about it from Ray at the meeting on Tuesday.

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Between our virtual monthly meetings, Michelle Buck has arranged some more online Happy Hours with breweries. The first one last month was Levi from Long Beach Beer Lab and we just had one last Saturday with Chris from Timeless Pints.

The board has made the decision to officially cancel the Red, White & Brews competition for 2020. The current environment doesn't lend itself to fundraising nor holding a safe judging environment, and we don't anticipate it will any time this year. We are planning to resume the annual veteran's charity competition in 2021, though, so don't despair... it'll be back and better than ever next year.

The response for contactless beer exchange and beer evaluation sign-up have been amazing. Over 80 beers have been exchanged between brewers so far, with another 70 in the pipeline. I have enjoyed a number of great beers from fellow club members, and I'm looking forward to a few non-beers that I'm planning to open during the June meeting, so a huge thanks to everyone for making this happen and keeping it alive over the past month.

I look forward to talking to those of you who are able to attend the **virtual meeting** on Tuesday. As usual, the particulars for the Zoom meeting will be sent out on the email membership list a half an hour before the meeting starts.

Until then, stay safe and Happy Brewing!

Jon Silvertooth

Styles for 2020:

Month	Style or theme	HBOY Month
January	Kviek	
February	ESB (English Style)	HBOY 1
March	Session Beers (Beers under 4% ABV)	
April	SCHF Bragging Rights Style (Kolsch)	
May	Munich Helles (German Style)	HBOY 2
June	Mead, wine, or other fermentable	
July	Anything American	
August	Belgian Tripel (Belgian Style)	HBOY 3
September	Wild Beers	
October	English Beers	
November	IIPA (American Style)	HBOY4
December	Winter Warmers or other seasonal beers	

Zoom Etiquette

By George Eldridge

Since we have all been forced to use Zoom meetings instead of in-person meetings, I thought it would be good to go over some of the Zoom etiquette and best practices so that we can all be on the same page.

Security: You have probably heard about “Zoombombing” where a malicious person attempts to hijack a meeting by sharing inappropriate content or otherwise disrupting the Zoom meeting. There are several things being done with the club Zoom meetings to avoid these problems. First, the meeting ID and password are not published until a half hour before the meeting. Second, there is a waiting room for the meeting. When you join the meeting you are entered in a waiting room and need to be admitted to the meeting by the host. Likewise anyone creating a problem in the meeting can be returned to the waiting room by the host. We are an open club so feel free to invite your friends to the meeting. A note to the meeting host with the names of your friends is nice, but is not a requirement.

Audio Quality: Your virtual presence in the meeting is dependent on your audio quality. The best audio quality comes with a headset that includes a microphone. The next best is to use ear buds along with the microphone in the computer/laptop. The least ideal is the microphone in the computer/laptop along with the computer/laptop speakers.

Video Quality: The other part of your virtual presence is your headshot. The ideal case is to have a diffused light source in front of you so that there are no shadows on your face and your face is evenly illuminated.

Muting: It is always best to mute your audio when you are not talking. Zoom has a feature where the audio can be unmuted by pressing on the space bar. This provides a push-to-talk feature like walkie-talkies. Usually the host will mute all participants during the presentation portion of the meeting. After the presentation the host will unmute everyone for the question and answer portion of the presentation. Please note that sometimes the “unmute all” function does not unmute everyone. The best way to handle this is to post a chat message to the host indicating that you are stuck in the dreaded mute land.

Background Noise: Also be aware of the background noise at your location. Wind blowing across a microphone creates an annoying sound as does typing or shuffling papers. Pets often don’t cooperate either. Even the dishwasher running in the background can generate a distracting sound. Again, it is best to mute your audio feed unless you are actively addressing the Zoom meeting.

Sharing Content: The sharing of content should be limited to the host and other designated presenters. If some side-channel comments are required then use the Chat feature of Zoom.

Thanks for reviewing these Zoom best practices. I look forward to seeing you at the Zoom meeting on Tuesday!