

12TH ANNUAL AUSTIN ZEALOTS HOMEBREW INQUISITION

Sanctioned by....the Lone Star Circuit!

The Austin ZEALOTS (Zymurgic Enthusiasts of Austin Loosely Organized Through Suds) Homebrewers present the 12th Annual Austin ZEALOTS Homebrew Inquisition, certified by *no one....errrr...The Lone Star Circuit!!* The Inquisition (contest) consists of 11 categories as described below, none of which are BJCP, AHA, or CIA certified. However, points earned in the Inquisition will count toward the Lone Star Circuit. The judging of the beers, meads & ciders will be on a 100 point scale. Strict style guidelines will not be used; just enter your beer in the category that best fits its flavor. For once, let's forget about guidelines & score the beer on how good it tastes and not downgrade a great beer because the color is a bit dark! Actually, we just want to drink your beer! Entry requirements are two bottles, 11 oz. or greater, and the fee is \$7 per entry (cash or Paypal). You must brew the beers on a homebrew system. Register & pay for your entries between June 13 & 28 at <http://inquisition.brewcomp.com/>. Enter special ingredients or descriptions for categories 7-11. Bring or mail entries to Austin Homebrew Supply, 9129 Metric, Austin, TX, 78758 or SoCo Homebrew, 4930 S. Congress Ave., Suite 307, Austin, TX, 78745. Entries must be received between June 13 & 28. Please remove labels and blackout lettering on caps. Print bottle labels from the Inquisition site & rubber band a bottle label on each entry. Relax, have a homebrew!

ZEALOTS Inquisition Beer Categories (www.austinzealots.com)

- 1.) **Malty or Sweet Beers** - Beers for which a malty or sweet flavor is the dominant or co-dominant flavor. Beers in this category are judged on overall presentation (appearance, aroma and flavor), with special consideration paid to the quality of the malty or sweet character of the beer within the context of the beer's overall sensory profile. Beers are not judged according to their level of maltiness or sweetness. In other words, the maltiest or sweetest beer will not necessarily be the winner. (Scottish ales, milk stouts, beers with lots of crystal malt)
- 2.) **Bitter or Hoppy Beers** 2A.) **Hoppy Beers** - Beers for which hop bitterness, flavor or aroma is the dominant or co-dominant characteristic. Beers in this category are judged on their overall presentation (appearance, aroma and flavor), with special consideration paid to the quality of the hop character of the beer within the context of the beer's overall sensory profile. The impression of the hop character is more important than the IBU rating of the beer, but we expect most beers in this category to rate between 35 and 60 IBUs. (American pale ales, IPAs)
2B.) **Hop Monsters** - Bitter or hoppy beers brewed such that only a hop head could love them. Beers in this category will be judged primarily on the quality of the hop characteristics in the beer as other aspects of the beer may be partially or totally obscured. Although the impression of hop character is more important than the IBU rating of the beer, beers should probably have over 60 IBUs to be entered in this category. Beers are not judged according to their level of bitterness, hop flavor or aroma. The bitterest beer will not necessarily be the winner. (double IPAs)
- 3.) **Balanced Beers** 3A.) **Session Beers** - Beers that exhibit a pleasing balance of beer flavors and aromas and are refreshing and "drinkable." There is no gravity restriction on this category, but be aware that there is a strong beer category and that alcohol is a characteristic that needs to be in balance. Session beers — "beers to have when you're having more than one" — belong in the category. (any good, drinkable style of beer)
3B.) **Lawnmower beers** - There are session beers and then there are "it's 100 °F in the shade and I've been mowing the lawn and want something refreshing"-type session beers. Got real thirst-quencher? Enter it in this category.
- 4.) **Strong Beers** 4A.) **Strong Beers** - Beers for which alcoholic strength is the dominant or co-dominant characteristic. Beers within the category are judged on overall presentation (appearance, aroma and flavor), not by alcoholic content. In other words, the strongest beer will not necessarily be the winner. The strong beer category is for beers around 6–8% ABV. (wee heavies, doppelbock, IPA)
4B.) **Big and Boozy** - Beers that are not just strong, but positively boozy (at least 8% ABV). As in the strong beer category, the strongest beer will not necessarily be the winner. (barleywines, imperial stouts)
- 5.) **Dark Beers** 5A.) **Dark-colored beers** - Beers for which dark malt characteristics are the dominant or co-dominant characteristic. (Examples of dark malts include dark crystal malts, chocolate malts, roasted barley, black patent malts.) Beers in this category are judged on overall presentation (appearance, aroma and flavor), with special consideration paid to the quality of the dark grain character of the beer within the context of the beer's overall sensory profile. Beers are not judged according to their depth of color. In other words, the darkest beer will not necessarily be the winner. Category 5A is for dark colored beers with a small to moderate dark grain character, but without a lot of roast or burnt malt character. (brown ales, bocks, brown porters)
5B.) **Roasty Beers** - Dark beers brewed with sufficient amounts of very dark malts (roasted barley, black patent malt) to give a roasty (or perhaps even burnt) edge to them. (robust porters, stouts)
- 6.) **Yeasty/Belgian Beers** - Beers for which fermentation characteristics, other than the usual characteristics of ale and lager yeasts, are a major contributor to the beer's character — i.e. the "funky" beers. These include beers with a banana, clove or bubblegum elements, such as Bavarian Weissbiers, and Belgian-style ales with phenolic or other characteristics derived from the use of "special" yeast strains. This category also includes beers in which flavors derived from yeast in suspension contribute to the character of the beer. Beers in this category are judged on overall presentation (appearance, aroma and flavor), with special consideration paid to the quality of the yeast-derived characteristics within the context of the beer's overall sensory profile. Beers are not judged according to their overall yeastiness — i.e. the beer with the "biggest banana" will not necessarily win. (Weissbiers, wits, many Belgian styles)
- 7.) **Lagers** - Beers brewed with lager yeast. (Lager beers may be entered in other categories, as appropriate.) Please describe your beer online as a Helles, Doppelbock, etc.
- 8.) **Flavored Beers** - Beers for which a flavor not listed above is a dominant or co-dominant characteristic. Beers in this category are judged on overall presentation (appearance, aroma and flavor), with special consideration paid to the "other" flavor within the context of the beer's overall sensory profile. Subcategories are: 8A.) **Sour Beers** 8B.) **Smoky Beers** 8C.) **Fruit Beers** 8D.) **Spiced Beers** 8E.) **Other Beers** (please specify what other flavor your beer exhibits)
- 9.) **Meads & Ciders** 9A.) **Meads** - Please note whether you used anything else besides honey (i.e. spices, fruit, etc.).
9B.) **Ciders** - Please note whether you used anything else besides apple juice (i.e. spices, fruit, etc.).
- 10.) **Open Category** - A free-for-all. A popularity contest. A chance to show your beer can take on all comers. Any beer can be entered in this category for any reason. Although we have made an effort to define broad, inclusive categories, we realize that there are some beers that may fall outside the boundaries of the listed categories. Additionally, some brewers may feel their beer — even if it fits well in another category — is blessed and need fear no other beer. Beers in this category will be judged solely on how well the judges like them. Include a description.
- 11.) **The Crusade** - Our categories go to eleven. This category will be a special, ZEALOTS-mandated mission to any homebrewers who choose to accept. Winners in this category are granted admission to homebrew heaven. NONE MORE BLACK! From *This is Spinal Tap* when Nigel says: "It's like, how much more black could this be? and the answer is none. None more black." Brew a beer celebrating Spinal Tap's simple album cover for our 12th Anniversary. The beers will be judged 60 points for "blackness", and 40 points for overall flavor. Yes the style is a bit vague but this is the ZEALOTS competition so go figure. We go to 11!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

❑ **I didn't expect the ZEALOTS to launch some sort of Inquisition.**

NOBODY EXPECTED THE ZEALOTS HOMEBREW INQUISITION!

❑ **What is the purpose of the Homebrew Inquisition?**

We, the Austin ZEALOTS, have set out three main goals for our Homebrew Inquisition. 1.) To drink your beer. 2.) To get you to pay us to drink your beer. 3.) To provide a well-judged homebrew contest based only on a homebrewer's ability to produce quality beer. (All other homebrew competitions that we know of judge brewers on their ability to emulate a classic beer style.)

❑ **If beers aren't judged to style, what criteria are the beers judged on?**

There are many possible factors distinguishing good beers from bad beers. These include presence or absence of recognized beer faults; flavor, aroma and mouthfeel qualities associated with malt, specialty malt, hops, yeast and other beer ingredients; freshness of ingredients, balance (or appropriate lack thereof), appropriate carbonation and aging, clarity, head retention and many other "intangibles." We believe experienced homebrewers, beer drinkers and homebrew judges can tell good beer from bad.

❑ **Don't some beer styles (and commercial beers) have "beer faults" that are intentional? What if my beer does?**

Sure, some beers are meant to have characteristics that would be considered beer faults in our beers. To pick a few examples, German wheat beers are cloudy, lambics are sour and some commercial beers — such as Redhook ESB — exhibit noticeable amounts of diacetyl. If your beer has an "intentional fault," let us know on your entry form. The judges will be made aware of this. If your beer is a classic beer style with a "beer fault," just specify your beer style. We know beer styles, even though they don't factor into our Inquisition. However, the entrant can only identify beer faults in your beer — it's up to the judges to "forgive" them.

❑ **What if I like brewing classic beer styles? Can I enter?**

Yes, there is no penalty (or bonus) for brewing a classic beer style.

❑ **Isn't it possible that some beers may fit into more than one category? What then?**

Yes. Entrants can enter their beers in more than one category by sending bottles for each category.

❑ **Have any of these questions actually been asked frequently (or ever), or are you just relying on the mentally lazy writing technique of responding to potential questions in a "FAQ" file? Silence!**

❑ **I realize that beers are not judged to style, but can judges declare a beer "not to category?"**

Yes, if your beer doesn't meet the category requirements — for example, if you submit a traditional Pilsner-style beer to our dark beer category — your beer will be disqualified from winning a prize in that category. We'll still evaluate your beer and give you feedback, though.

❑ **It's 2015 now, aren't Monty Python and Spinal Tap references dated and sad? Well, excuuuuuuuuuse meeeeeeee!**

Summary:

Awards: Medals for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place will be given in each category. Best of show, Runner-Up, & 2nd Runner-Up medals will also be awarded. If we are able to secure other prizes (if people give us free stuff!), those will be awarded as well! The winners will be announced at the Austin ZEALOTS Monthly Homebrew Meeting and Picnic at Emma Long Park on August 8 in Austin at 2 p.m. The points earned in this contest will apply to the Lone Star Circuit.

Judging: Beers will be judged on a 100-point scale. Judges will allot 15 points for appearance, 30 points for aroma, 45 points for flavor and 10 points for overall presentation (except for category 11). In addition to the score, judges will supply comments on all aspects of the beer, including suggestions for improvement when they can. The judges' decisions are final.

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