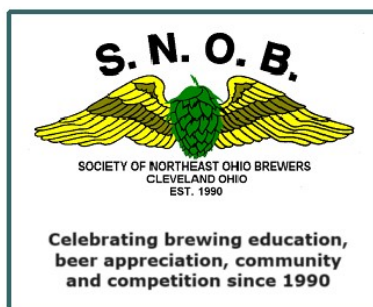


January, 2024

Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers



Our Next Meeting

Monday, January 8th,
7:30 p.m.

Sachsenheim Hall
7001 Denison Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Upcoming Events

January Meeting

Monday, January 8th,
7:30 p.m.

Sachsenheim Hall

January Night Out

Monday, January 16th,
6:00 p.m.

Butcher and the Brewer
2043 E. 4th St.

February Meeting

Monday, February 5th,
7:30 p.m.

Sachsenheim Hall

*See more details on
these and other events
inside this newsletter.*

President's Krausening

- Mike Ontolchik

Hello, fellow SNOBs. It has definitely been some time since I was SNOB President. Eleven years, actually. Even though I haven't been president, I have stayed active as a member and officer since I joined our club in 2008. I believe that I will be the second person to be club president for a fourth year. King SNOB John Majetic was the first to be club president for four years. I want to thank all of the club members that have taken the reins as President in between my stints. We have truly been lucky as a club for their leadership and stewardship. Speaking of 2024, I expect our club will have some challenges attracting new members and growing our finances while hopefully learning about our hobby and having a good time.



For those of you that may only know me as someone that usually doesn't lead our meetings, I'd like to reintroduce myself. I have been a SNOB since January 2008 after making my first batch of homebrew on December 23rd, 2007. I tried to make a Baltic Porter from a Northern Brewer kit and it was a beer that I wouldn't drink if I tried it today. I used hose water and didn't have temperature control. Tim McDonnell tried it at a club meeting after I had fermented it and bottled it. He caught the issues right away and I had my first lesson on brewing water. If you know Tim, you would also know that I was berated for the mistakes I unknowingly made. That may have also been the club meeting where a discussion on decoction mashing over Paul Shick's Classic American Cream Ale that was on tap for the meeting. I had a laugh, I learned to be a better brewer and I was exposed to advanced brewing techniques that were possible.

With The Holidays here in December, I have not put much effort into planning our meetings just yet. I am going to try to have club members and local craft brewers give presentations at most meetings. What I would like to do for January is have members bring in their brewing gadgets and hacks that may not necessarily be brewing equipment. For example, I use a household water filter with an active carbon filter in between a couple of potable water hoses made for campers to produce my Cleveland brewing water. So, if you have something you use on brew day or elsewhere in your brewing process that you repurposed or built yourself, please bring it to Sachsenheim Hall for our January 8th meeting. We'll do a Show and Tell style discussion and show off our Brewing Hack Gadgets.

Cheers for 2024,
Mike Ontolchik

Christmas Party –2023

Many thanks to Grumpy and his team for the fine buffet they put out for us once again. Thanks to the brewers who brought a nice selection of kegs for us all to enjoy and to everyone who brought their finest bottles to share. Once again, a good time was had by all as you can see from the photos below.







Club News

Officer Elections

2024 Officer Elections were held at the December meeting and your club officers for the coming year will be Mike Ontolchik, President; Katie Melnik, Vice President; Jessica Ihms, Treasurer and Jay O'Neill, Secretary.

January Meeting Business

Jessica reports that club finances will be up for discussion at the January meeting. We need to consider and vote on raising dues for 2024 and/or other options to balance the budget. Membership has dipped below 100 and expenses keep rising putting a strain on the checkbook. Your dues go to fund the Christmas party as well as meeting costs and supplies. Other major costs include SNOBtoberfest—\$884, Club liability insurance—\$530 and Web hosting—\$216. We are considering raising dues to \$40 single and \$60 dual for next year.

January Meeting Program

for our January 8th meeting. We'll do a Show and Tell style discussion and show off our Brewing Hack Gadgets. What I would like to do for January is have members bring in their brewing gadgets and hacks that may not necessarily be brewing equipment. What I would like to do for January is have members bring in their brewing gadgets and hacks that may not necessarily be brewing equipment.

January Night Out

SNOB Night Out will be **Tuesday, January 16th** at The Butcher & Brewer at 2043 east 4th Street at 6pm. Chris Lieb has been a great supporter of the club so hopefully we get a good turn out. Katie asked me to mention that everyone will need to order via a QR code to have individual tabs.



"Charlie won't be here. He's drinking from home today."



"Aggressively bitter and unpleasant—the perfect IPA!"

Other News

Competitions

There are currently four Ohio competitions listed on the BJCP website:

CMI All American Homebrew Competition. Cincinnati, OH. Entry Deadline is Jan. 27th [Competition Profile – Beer Judge Certification Program \(bjcp.org\)](#)

Bockfest. Hamilton, OH. Entry Deadline is Feb 17th

[Competition Profile – Beer Judge Certification Program \(bjcp.org\)](#)

Ohio 4 O.Z. Cleveland, OH. Entry Deadline is Mar 28th

[Competition Profile – Beer Judge Certification Program \(bjcp.org\)](#)

British Beerfest. Lewis Center, OH (Columbus). Entry Deadline is Apr 25th

[Competition Profile – Beer Judge Certification Program \(bjcp.org\)](#)



Local Upcoming Festivals

There are several area beer fests coming up. They are each good opportunities to get out and mingle with fellow SNOBs and beer lovers.

Cleveland Beer Fest. February 9th & 10th at Huntington Convention Center. Sample more than 150 local and craft brews, as well as new craft wineries and distilleries! Check with Blake Beharry regarding volunteer opportunities (blakedar@sbcglobal.net).

[Cleveland Beerfest – February 9-10, 2024 @ Huntington Convention Center](#)



Stout It Out Loud. Over 20 of your favorite local brewers are bringing their best stouts to be paired with fresh-shucked oysters. Butcher & The Brewer February 17th.

[Stout It Out Loud 2024 Tickets, Sat, Feb 17, 2024 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Winter Warmer. The Ohio Craft Brewers Association presents the 17th annual Winter Warmer Fest, returning to Windows on the River on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 2-5 p.m. 55+ Ohio breweries will showcase their winter, seasonal, limited edition and high-gravity beers. [Winter Warmer Fest | Ohio Craft Brewers Association \(ohiocraftbeer.org\)](#)



2024 Meeting Dates

January 8th, Monthly Meeting
 February 5th, Monthly Meeting
 March 4th, Monthly Meeting
 April 1st, , Monthly Meeting
 May 6th, Monthly Meeting
 June 3rd, Monthly Meeting

June 28th, Big Brew Cookout
 August 5th, Monthly Meeting
 August 26th, September Meeting
 October 7th, Monthly Meeting
 November 4th, Monthly Meeting
 December 6th, Christmas Party

Request for Homebrew

Please consider bringing a keg or growler of your homebrew to share at monthly meetings. Let Mike know in advance, he can add it to the meeting slides. Bringing your beer is a good way to get constructive feedback from the members and judges in attendance. Also as Mr. Rogers liked to say "It's nice to share".



Collaboration Opportunities

Would you like to be part of a SNOB collaboration team and help brew at a local craft brewery? Join a SNOB Collab. People interested should let Mike Ontolchik know of your interest. president@beersnobs.org



Newsletter

Have any ideas for the newsletter? Is there anything you'd like to see here occasionally or on a regular basis. Don't hesitate to share your ideas. Let me know! Cheers, Jay

SNOBwear T-Shirts

We still have a good selection of sizes of the SNOB T-Shirts available. \$10 for sizes S—XL, \$15 for larger sizes. Contact Jay if you want one — secretary@beersnobs.org



Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers

SNOB is one of Ohio's oldest clubs for homebrewers. Founded in 1990 and recognized as AHA's national club of the year in 2020, the club meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at [Sachsenheim Hall](#) on Cleveland's West Side. In addition to monthly meetings, the club also hosts special evenings at local brewpubs and restaurants, homebrew competitions, a spring bus trip, a summer camping event, our annual Oktoberfest weekend festival and an extravagant Christmas party. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, where they will find lively presentations on beer and brewing, great conversation, and answers to any brewing questions they might have. Website at:

[SNOBS | Society of Northeast Ohio Brewers Cleveland, Ohio \(beersnobs.org\)](#)

Membership Dues

As always, non-members are welcome at meetings, but some activities (parties, bus trip, collaboration brews) are members only. Please consider joining today! Single member dues are \$30. Couples (living in same household) are \$50. Dues can be paid to the treasurer at the meetings, by contacting treasurer@beersnobs.org or using the paypal link found on our website, <https://www.beersnobs.org/>

Your membership dues are used to pay for club activities throughout the year like the annual Christmas Party and rental at The Brooklyn Exchange Cabin where we hold the annual SNOB-Oktoberfest. They pay for club insurance, food, supplies and prizes for SNOB-Oktoberfest, Chili Cook-off, Big Brew etc.

Plus, use your SNOB membership to gain discounts on all things brewing and beer-related at:

Cleveland Brew Shop - 10% off on all brewing supplies. Use the code SNOBs10 when filling out the online order form. <https://www.clevelandbrewshop.com>

Grape & Granery - 5% off on all brewing supplies. Use the code SAAZ1819 when filling out the online order form or show your card at checkout. <https://www.grapeandgranery.com>

2024 Officers



Mike Ontolchik—President, president@beersnobs.org



Katie Melnick—Vice President, vicepresident@beersnobs.org



Jessica Ihms—Treasurer, treasurer@beersnobs.org



Jay O'Neill—Secretary, secretary@beersnobs.org

Extra, Extra -

Government Takes Step Toward Mandating Alcohol Test Systems In New Cars

Shamelessly borrowed from Forbes online magazine

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on December 12th took the first step toward a regulation that could make alcohol breath tests the standard for new passenger vehicles, requiring drivers to prove they're not too impaired to drive safely before the vehicle shifts into gear.

The [proposal](#) explains the agency is involved in "cutting-edge" research with 16 automakers meant to develop a technology that could detect a driver's blood alcohol content without forcing him or her to actually blow into a sensor, which is how vehicle breath tests work now.



The NHTSA said progress has been made on systems that would detect alcohol content via breath or touch-based sensors: the touch sensor measures the BAC in the capillary blood in the dermis layer of the skin and the breath sensor would measure the concentrations of alcohol and carbon dioxide in a driver's exhale.

The rulemaking [document](#) also says the agency is interested in learning more about technology to help detect two additional impairment states: drowsy driving and distracted driving—drugged driving is not within the scope of Tuesday's announcement because the technology and testing capabilities are "are not mature enough" to consider.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has been working on addressing alcohol-impaired driving since the 1970s, about when states began to pass modern-day drunk driving laws. Driving under the influence of alcohol was first made illegal more than a century ago in New York state, but it wasn't until the 70s that laws indicated the state didn't need to prove that alcohol affected a driver's ability to operate a car—it [only had to prove](#) his or her blood alcohol content was above the legal limit. It was around the same time the legal drinking age was raised from 18 to 21. The legal limit for a driver's blood alcohol content has been .08% since the early 2000s, when [a law](#) under President Bill Clinton required states to standardize the limit or risk losing federal highway construction funds. For most drinkers, two to four drinks in one hour will equate to a .08 blood alcohol concentration, [according to](#) the University of Arizona

13,384. That's how many people were killed in drunk driving crashes in 2021, [according to](#) the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The most common driver alcohol detection system in use today is called an ignition interlock device, which was first developed in 1969 but was not regularly used by courts to enforce drunk driving penalties [until](#) the 1980s. More than [30 states](#) have laws in place that require convicted drunk driving offenders to install such devices in their cars, requiring drivers to blow into a tube to prove they are not intoxicated before their car will start. Ignition interlocks reduce repeat drunk driving offenses by about 70% while they are installed, [according to](#) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The NHTSA [says](#) public acceptance of driver alcohol detection systems is a major consideration when implementing such a policy. The agency said it has received correspondence from the public that indicates "some genuinely believe they have a right to drive drunk." Driving is a privilege, not a right, the agency says, but added that some believe alcohol detection policies "might unduly infringe upon their rights." A [recent study](#) from Johns Hopkins University, however, showed 63.4% of respondents supported the congressional mandate on vehicle impairment detection technology and 64.9% either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "All new cars should have an automatic sensor to prevent the car from being driven by someone who is over the legal alcohol limit."

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