

## HOMEBREW: Festival is planned as annual event

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executive director. “We live in an area with a ton of homebrews, and no event like this currently exists. Most homebrew festivals include the brewer just submitting a small sample of beer to a panel of judges. This event is all about homebrewers being able to share their craft with the masses, exchange ideas and just generally enjoy this great hobby.”

Many local businesses sponsored the event, and all the proceeds from the event go to SPRD and Sisters Kiwanis.

Sisters Kiwanis member Jan Failing looked on as hundreds of patrons waited to enter outside the big tent.

“This is the first time we’ve paired with SPRD, and it’s very exciting being a new event. We have about 15 to 20 volunteers from Kiwanis helping with the festival,” Failing said.

Sisters Meat and Smokehouse served up a variety of bratwurst and other smoked meats all day, with

unlimited refills for attendees.

Country & Western music provided by Dry Canyon Stampede kept the folks hoppin’.

Homebrewer Matt Kirchoff, physical therapist and clinical director for Therapeutic Associates Physical Therapy at Sisters Athletic Club, homebrews his beer and hard apple cider in his garage in Bend.

“During graduate school when I was in physical therapy school I had a classmate who asked me if I wanted to get into home brewing and split the cost of the kit with me and we did,” Kirchoff told *The Nugget*. “But I was so busy in graduate school, and then my wife and I moved to Bend in 2007. But in 2009 I began brewing again on my own in my garage.”

For Kirchoff, the spirit of home brewing is to make it to share.

“This is the first time I’ve ever entered my beer in a competition. I think the best part of this for me is to be able to share it with others, including other brewers.

“I’ve been brewing Cowgirl Imperial, my hard apple cider for my wife for years,” Kirchoff added.

For many homebrewers, brewing quickly morphs from hobby to a way of life, as each brewer seeks to build the perfect recipe and successfully brew and share it.

Steve Brainerd from Redmond has a strong passion and enthusiasm for home brewing. He brought 40 years of home brewing experience to the festival.

“Home brewing had just got real popular way back then and the only reason I did it is because I’m an engineer and I knew how everything worked,” he said. “Brewing became a hobby in my garage. And now my garage is just like a brewery with two half-barrel systems that I designed.”

Brainerd teaches a home brewing class at COCC. He is a certified beer judge through the Beer Judge Certification Program and is active in three home brew clubs.

Patty and Steve Janego were all smiles while waiting in line. Steve is a former board member for SPRD and



PHOTO BY JERRY BALDOCK

The Sisters Homebrew Festival was a hit with patrons in its first year.

helped set up the tent for the event.

“We are hoping this first-time event will become an annual fundraiser,” he said.

Sisters Homebrew Fest was more than sampling award-winning brews; it was also a competition with cash prizes for the winners.

The “People’s Choice” award was given to the best homebrew that accumulated the highest number of votes from Sisters Homebrew Festival Attendees. First place

people’s choice awards went to Nancy Noll for her bold brew, Nasty Woman IPA.

Matt Kirchoff tied in second place for his homebrew, Topsy Outlaw IPA, which was bulk aged for two weeks in an oak barrel, along with three other homebrewers: Shoulda Pulled Out, a double IPA brewed by Zachary Semerikov; Naked Groundhog Dunkelweizen, a dark wheat beer by Sean Barter; and Raiderette Wit, a light beer by Jeff Papke.



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