

# Hangtown Brew Noose



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www.hazeclub.org

## Editor's Message

Later in this issue you'll read a hypothesis on the role beer played in the establishment of the first villages of civilization. But the loss this summer of people I knew or people I met have caused me to reflect on how beer and the culture of beer nurtures the social being in us. The unfortunate and untimely loss of Monty several months back defined in some respects a community. For those of us who frequent the WineSmith (affectionately referred to as the "Smith") to spend times with friends, and of course, with Kay, Monty's message to all of us was "Take pictures of friends and family. Take lots and take them often."

In August, Steve Harrison, Head Brewer of Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, was found dead in the Sacramento River, probably a suicide. How sad. I never knew or met this person, but he was part of Sierra Nevada, which is part of beer, which is part of me. It's all connected.

Finally, the Beer Hunter, Michael Jackson, left us after a lengthy, courageous and generally silent struggle with Parkinsons. I'm not alone in feeling just a little bit guilty at laughing at what appeared to be Michael's apparent drunkenness as he described a delicious beer (he might have been drunk – I still feel guilty!). In some ways Michael has inspired me, to go to pubs, try beers, write and share the journey, and just to enjoy. I'm no Beer Hunter, for sure, but the spirit is there.



Dave Brattstrom and Michael Frenn with Michael Jackson and some unknown Chic at Toronado.

Michael I did get to meet, once. It was at the Toronado as part of a promotion of his new Michael Jackson Beer Club program. I remember him talking about a beer and then suddenly diverting to another topic after which he said, "Diversions are life's great little journeys on side roads." Beer and brewing are side roads of life. I did remember impressing him that I had found copies of all three of his Beer Hunter videos. He even autographed the case of one of them for me.

But equally important to me, and the reason for this column, is that it was the company of friends, in this case Dave Brattstrom and Craig Zangari, that made the whole evening great, that created the opportunity to meet Michael in the first place. So to them, and

to all of the great people I have met in this crazy hobby (that began when I decided to brew Coors Light!) I say, "Thank you!"

So here's to you, Michael Jackson, people of HAZE, Kay, and everyone – Prost!

- Editor

PS On September 30, 2007, there was an honorary toast to Michael. I would encourage HAZE to make the last Sunday in September "Remember Michael Jackson Day". We should brew, or at least toast, in honor of the Beer Hunter.



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## Special to the Noose

### The History of Beer and the Wheel

History began some 12,000 years ago. Humans existed as members of small bands of nomadic hunter/gatherers. They lived on deer in the mountains during the winter and would go to the coast to live on fish and lobster in the summer.

The two most important events in all of history were the invention of beer and the invention of the wheel. The massive comet collision and explosion of Mount Pinotubo are of secondary significance. Once beer was discovered, it required grain, and that was the beginning of agriculture. Neither the glass bottle nor aluminum can were invented yet, so while our early human ancestors were sitting around waiting for them to be invented, they just stayed close to the brewery. That's how villages were formed.

Some men spent their days tracking and killing animals to B-B-Q at night while they were drinking beer. This was the beginning of what is known as "the Conservative movement."

Other men who were weaker and less skilled at hunting, learned to live off the conservatives by showing up for the nightly B-B-Q's and doing the sewing, fetching and hair dressing. This was the beginning of the liberal movement. Some of these liberal men eventually evolved into women. The rest became known as 'girleymen.' Another interesting revolutionary side note: most of their women have higher testosterone levels than their men.

Some noteworthy liberal achievements include the domestication of cats, the invention of group therapy and group hugs, and the concept of democratic voting to decide how to divide the meat and beer that conservatives provided.

Conservatives drink craft brew. They eat red meat and still provide for their women. Conservatives are big-game hunters, rodeo cowboys, lumberjacks, construction workers, firemen, medical doctors, police officers, corporate executives, soldiers, athletes, and generally, anyone who works productively outside government.

Modern liberals like imported beer (with lime added), but most prefer white wine or imported bottled water. They eat raw fish but like their beef well done. Sushi, tofu, and French food are standard liberal fare.

Over the years, conservatives came to be symbolized by the largest, most powerful land animal on earth, the elephant. Liberals are symbolized by the jackass.

Most social workers, personal injury attorneys, journalists, dreamers in Hollywood and group therapists, are liberals. Liberals invented the designated hitter rule because it wasn't "fair" to make the pitcher also bat.

Conservatives who own companies hire other conservatives who want to work for a living.

Liberals produce little or nothing. They like to "govern" the producers and decide what to do with the production. Liberals believe Europeans are more enlightened than Americans. That is why most of the liberals remained in Europe when conservatives were coming to America. They crept in after the Wild West was tame and created a business of trying to get MORE for nothing.

Here ends today's lesson in world history.

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## Queen of Beer – aka QOB

Coming up fast on us, October 27th, 2007, Morning Glory Fermentation. We need judges, stewards and entries! Follow the link to register on Hords of Fun:

<http://www.HordsOfFun.Com/hbc.rw/judgewiz.aspx?w=081D120F2F>

Final judging will be at Morning Glory Fermentations on Saturday, October 27 starting at 10:00 am. Please plan to arrive by 9:30 so we can start on time! There may be a few parties scheduled that Saturday, so we'll try to finish in plenty of time for folks to don the ghouls and goblin garb. Craig Z will be preparing some great food for lunch before everyone takes off.

We need your help! See you on the 27th if not before!

## Beware of Attractive Men Drinking in Bars

A lady walks into a bar and sees a really good-looking guy sitting at the bar by himself. She goes over and asks him what he is drinking.

“Magic Beer,” he says.

She thinks he's a little crazy, so she walks around the bar, but after realizing that there is no one else worth talking to, goes back to the man sitting at the bar and says, “That isn't really Magic Beer, is it?”

“Yes, I'll show you.”

He takes a drink of the beer, jumps out the window, flies around the building three times and comes back in the window.

The lady can't believe it: “I bet you can't do that again.

He takes another drink of beer, jumps out the window, flies around the building three times, and comes back in the window.

She is so amazed that she says she wants a Magic Beer, so the guy says to the bartender, “Give her one of what I'm having.”

She gets her drink, takes a gulp of the beer, jumps out the window, plummets 30 stories, breaks every bone in her body, and dies.

The bartender looks up at the guy and says, “You know, Superman, you're a real asshole when you're drunk.”



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## The Secret of Placerville Brewing Company's Pale Ale (or, Care for Some Buttered Popcorn With Your Beer?!)



It seems I can always make it to every brewpub except the one at home. But recently, on the tail of a 13 pub trip, I had the opportunity to pop in to Placerville Brewing Company (PBC) and so I took it. In my usual fashion I ordered the sampler. I had worked through several of the beers when a gentleman behind the bar asked me how I liked them. I replied that some were better than others, some pretty good, some not. I then went on to say that the pale ale would probably be a very good beer if it didn't have so much diacetyl, that "battered popcorn" flavor. Well this must have touched a nerve because he bristled with annoyance. "It's appropriate to the style," he said. (A brief glimmer of hope!). "Oh," I responded sincerely, "Then you are striving for perhaps an English pale?" "No." he

replied, clearly even more annoyed. "Well, I don't think American Pale Ales are supposed to have diacetyl." I replied, still sincerely, but also clearly factually. "They do and that's why my mine does." was the equally definitive response.

Well fortunately this moment of slight discomfort gave way to a discussion of some of the other beers, in particular the bourbon barrel stout, which was quite nice. We also discussed the upcoming release of a barleywine and a pumpkin ale (can't wait!). But perhaps the most interesting thing I learned was that PBC uses the same yeast for all of their beer styles: WY 1056! If that's the case, then the guy was right, he's purposefully producing a diacetyl pale ale. So we can finally put all of the speculation to rest – it's brewer's prerogative!

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## Competiton Corner

Congratulations to several HAZE members for placing in the recent Tulare County Fair. This was an interesting competition at several levels. It was an American Homebrewer Association (AHA) sanctioned event. It was free. And because of a certain traveling lunatic, there were no shipping costs! Also, there were only 9 possible awards, plus Best of Show: 1st, 2nd and 3rd for all light lagers and light ales, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for all dark/strong lagers and ales, and 1st 2nd and 3rd for Meads, Ciders and Pyments.

Results:

Light Lagers/Ales: 3rd Place, Michael Frenn, California Common  
Dark Lagers/Ales: 1st Place, Steve Seeley, Russian Imperial Stout  
Meads/Ciders/Pyments: 2nd Place, Jeff Bunch,

The next big competiton is the California State Homebrewer's Competition at Stern Grove. Entry's will be accepted at NCHF. See the website at

Award of Brewing (AoB):

Remember the AoB program sponsored by HAZE. Entrees accepted at regular meetings and Steering meetings, subject to judge availability. The AoB has four levels and more information is available on the HAZE website.

To date:

Level I: Michael Frenn  
Level II:  
Level III:  
Level IV:

## H.A.Z.E. CLUB OFFICERS for 2007

President	Dave Pratt
Vice Pres.	Stan Backlund
Secretary	Beth Zangari
Treasurer	Glen Franke
Activities	Alfred E. Newman

**BRING RAFFLE FODDER  
TO THE MEETING!!**

**H.A.Z.E. is dedicated to fostering social and educational  
opportunities for homebrewers in the foothills.**

## Election Time Draws Near!!

Our club is great because of the people who make it up. Our club is excellent because of the people who volunteer to help out as Officers. Being an Officer is fun and a little work (don't be a girleyman!). Contact John Pyle, Bill Kenny or Stan Backlund and volunteer today!