



Brewins club members: John, Lee, Troy, Joel, Martin, and Henry.

Forging Friendships over Crafted Brews

THE BREWINS' STORY OF GIVING BACK

BY: TROY VETSCH, PRESIDENT OF BREWINS HOMEBREW CLUB
PHOTOS: ANDI KING PHOTOGRAPHY AND CONTRIBUTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

Did you know that in Ripon, we have a community of beer enthusiasts who have been fermenting a unique blend of camaraderie and charity? Known as the Brewins, this homebrew club brings together people, each with a passion for brewing beer and an eagerness to impact our community positively.

In 2016, a group of friends in Ripon discovered a common interest that would lead to the birth of the Brewins Homebrew Club. Starting with just five original members, the club has flourished and now boasts a close-knit community of around 25 brewing enthusiasts. Members hail not only from Ripon but also from the neighboring San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties.

What sets the Brewins apart is the diversity of its members and the broad spectrum of brewing-related subjects. With backgrounds in chemistry

and engineering, teachers, and law enforcement, the club benefits from various perspectives. These diverse viewpoints contribute to insightful discussions about beer styles, yeast biology, water chemistry, equipment, and other intricacies of the brewing process. The Brewins are expanding into other areas of the fermentation hobby, including cider, mead, kombucha, wine, fermented vegetables, and hot sauce.

At the core of the Brewins' identity is a deep commitment to giving back to the community. The club was founded with a noble goal - to support charitable organizations. Over the years, the Brewins have donated their crafted beers at numerous local and regional charity events, playing a pivotal role in helping the community raise tens of thousands of dollars. Their involvement in local charitable events has raised

awareness and transformed the perception of home brewing in Ripon.

Field trips for the Brewins are not just outings; they are educational adventures that enrich the club's collective knowledge. Collaborations with local breweries, guided tours by world-class brewmasters, and visits to hop farms are just some of the memorable experiences that have broadened the Brewins understanding of the brewing process.

Collaboration is the Brewins' secret ingredient. Members come together not only for significant group events like charities but also for ambitious brewing projects. Whether it's barrel-aging beers like wine barrel sour, whiskey-aged stout, or barley wine, the Brewins' collaborative spirit is evident. The recent completion of their third version of a sour beer, aged for

At the core of the Brewins' identity is a deep commitment to giving back to the community. The club was founded with a noble goal - to support charitable organizations. Over the years, the Brewins have donated their crafted beers at numerous local and regional charity events, playing a pivotal role in helping the community raise tens of thousands of dollars.



Club photo at 2nd Annual Brewins Poker Tournament.

club members: Troy Vetsch and Henry VanderWeide



almost two years in a red wine barrel (from Delicato Winery), is a testament to their dedication and teamwork.

The monthly meetings and field trips have become the heartbeat of the Brewins' sense of community. Beyond discussing brewing techniques, these gatherings foster camaraderie and provide a platform for members to share their passion for brewing. The exchange of ideas and experiences creates a supportive environment that encourages both novices and seasoned brewers alike.

Always open to welcoming new members, the Brewins encourage anyone with a passion for brewing or curiosity about the craft to connect with them. Monthly meetings, held on the third Friday of each month at the American Legion Hall in Ripon, offer a warm invitation to prospective members.

Entry into the hobby is inexpensive and easy. Members brew their beer in their garage or house. Most members start with basic household equipment and bottles, and as they progress more into the hobby, many opt to upgrade to electric kettle systems and kegging.

Brewing is a simple process involving only four basic ingredients: grain, hops, yeast, and water. As members refine their craft, the nuances in their process and ingredient choices further improve their beer quality. Many of our members make high-quality beers that have earned gold medals in nationwide competitions.

Homebrewing became legal in 1978, but it is important to note that homebrewed beer cannot be sold. However, it can be donated and served at qualified charity events.



Emptying a barrel-aged beer that's been aging for 20 months.



Pouring at Central Valley Brewfest for our friends at Five Eye Brewing.

Since 1989, **Cal Freight** has provided customized transportation solutions for all industries. Our involvement in brokerage, port drayage, food grade tankers, and warehousing keeps us in the forefront of our industry.




SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE, LARGE ENOUGH TO SCALE

What are your transportation needs?
Email us at info@calfreight.com

CALIFORNIA FREIGHT

www.calfreight.com

24-Hour Customer Service 

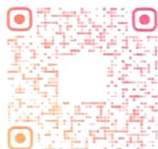


Brewins club members volunteering at RHS Sober Grad event.



Try their beer at their next charity event, Ripon Brewfest, on April 6. The event benefits the Ripon American Legion and our local veterans. Tickets can be purchased at www.americanlegionriponca.com.

For more information about the Brewins meetings and contact details, visit their website at www.the-brewins.com or on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. The Brewins are eager to connect with fellow fermentation enthusiasts and continue building a vibrant brewing community in Ripon and beyond.



APRIL 6, 2024 1PM-5PM
RIPON COMMUNITY CENTER

RIPON BREWFEST

Tickets: \$35 & \$10 For DD

21 and over
Tickets Limited

30+ Beers, Ciders
and Seltzers

Food Trucks
Door Prizes



www.AmericanLegionRiponCA.com



Ripon Brewfest

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY: POST #190
1ST VICE COMMANDER, TROY VETSCH

The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Join us on April 6, 2024, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Ripon Community Center for Ripon Brewfest, hosted by American Legion Post #190. This annual event raises funds for our Veteran Emergency Assistance Program (VEAP), local youth scholarships, and community initiatives.

Limited tickets are available at www.americanlegionriponca.com or in person at the Ripon Chamber of Commerce. Your support ensures a great time and contributes to the well-being of veterans, empowers local youth, and strengthens our community. Don't miss out on this impactful and enjoyable day!

All net proceeds go directly to qualified 501(c) and 501 (c) (19) Veterans Services Organizations. We humbly invite you to become an integral participant in our drive to attend to the increasing needs and challenges facing our nation's veterans. With your generous participation, we can do so much more for our veterans, their families, and our greater community. Our goal is to raise funds to expand our direct support to more veterans and their families than ever before.




Honoring our
Hometown Heroes

By proudly giving
back to our Heroes
through the Hometown
Heroes Program.



Scan for more
information

SONYA HANKER
REALTOR® DRE 02088356
RE/MAX EXECUTIVE
442 W Main St. Ripon, CA 95366
Call or text: (209)345-1998

WWW.SONYAHANKER.COM

Proud Sponsor of the Meet Our
Veterans & First Responders Page

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE!**