



Swig* Times



Valley of the Moon Dilettante Enological Society Newsletter August, 2004

President: Michael Cooper, 939-9848

Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Ghiselin, 996-8967

Vice President & Winemaker: Jack Bertram, 938-2310

Meeting of August 12, 2004

President Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Old Business:

1. President Cooper discussed his efforts to date with respect to our participation in the amateur wine judging and Patron's night. Pres. Cooper reported that his discussions with Chip Allen, a new member of the Vintage Festival Board, revealed an interest on Mr. Allen's part to work with us and come up with a mutually acceptable solution to the ongoing dialogue. Motion carried that we would provide assistance with the preparations for the amateur wine judging.

2. Member Mark Hermsen reported on progress towards development of our web site. The site development is nearly complete and should be posted on the web this month.

3. President Cooper noted that efforts towards pursuing relationships with other amateur wine clubs were held in abeyance because of the upcoming crush. We will pursue this effort at a later time

4. The club will again have a table in the plaza during Farmer's Market Night on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Purpose is to promote club membership. Next event will be August 24th. Members are encouraged to come down and help promote the club.

New Business:

1. President Cooper reported that Vice Pres. Scharnikow had to resign because of new employment requirements. Member Bertram was elected to fill the position.

2. President Cooper reported that he has experimented with the addition of various types of oak to both Pinot and Chardonnay. The results will be brought to the September meeting for evaluation. Be sure to be there!

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Ghiselin reported we have a balance of \$1517.08 and 53 members.

HOME WINEMAKING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR SALE

Manually driven crusher/destemmer. Can be converted to power driven. Call Chuck at 996-3571

New wine bottles. Contact Doug at 996-8967 for price, quantity, style, etc.

Manual corker. \$50. Contact Doug at 996-8967

FREE! FREE! 700 Plastic Grow sleeves. Call Bob Smith 415.519.3088 **FREE!! FREE!!**

Guest Speaker:

Our guest speaker was Aaron Finnegan from Agro Tech. Aaron is a licensed Pest Control Adviser and vineyard maintenance consultant. He holds a degree in Viticulture and Enology from U.C. Davis. Aaron's primary discussion pertained to mildew control. He noted that mildew control starts just after pruning while the vine is dormant and continues until the berry reaches approximately 14 degrees Brix. One should apply a lime sulfur after pruning. Once we have bud break, sulfur applications should be every 14 days with the last application being at least 45 days before harvest. He noted that there are many alternatives for mildew removal should the control efforts not be successful. As for the overall health of our vineyards, Aaron will conduct a tissue (leaf) analysis for \$50 if you bring the sample to him or \$75 if you have him come to your vineyard and take the sample. A recommendation, have him take the sample and when he is in your vineyard, ask him a question or two! If you have too many questions, he charges \$75 an hour for consultations. Aaron can be reached at 939-1820, or his cell is 249-8977.