



# Swig\* Times



## Valley of the Moon Dilettante Enological Society Newsletter JUNE, 2005

President: Michael Cooper, 939-9848

Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Ghiselin, 996-8967

Vice President & Winemaster: Jack Bertram, 938-2310

### **DUES WERE DUE IN MARCH**

### **HAVE YOU PAID?**

**\$36 ANNUALLY**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VOMDES**

**MAIL TO**

**300 MOON MOUNTAIN ROAD  
SONOMA, CA. 95476**

#### **Meeting of June 9, 2005**

President Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. 20+ members were present.

#### **Old Business:**

- 1.. The annual picnic was discussed. See separate article for particulars.
2. Discussions pertaining to patron's night were continued pending further discussions with the ABC.
3. Discussions regarding establishment of an event similar to the Home Winemakers Classic were continued pending further discussions with the Fire Chief. Bobbie Collins (Chair), Jack Bertram, Bruce Stephens, Doug Ghiselin, Mike Muscardini and Rich Brooks are the committee that will finalize this issue.
4. The presentation of a token of our appreciation to Mr. Schug is pending.

#### **New Business**

- 1 No new business was brought to the table.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Ghiselin was absent.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

Our guest speaker, Mr. Ned Hill, discussed the problems that vineyard owners are facing this year due to the excessive rains. Botrytis being the main problem in Chardonnay and Pinot because the clusters are more formed and canopies are full. He said it was the first time they have used helicopters to dry fields. Another problem is the weed growth as the ground has been so wet making it almost impossible to use equipment. The philosophy has been to let the weeds grow, as they will help absorb the ground water. Ned also discussed the controversy between growers and wineries as to the demand for longer hang times and the problems that creates for growers. At the least, it creates extra labor and continued vineyard issues and risks. It also dilutes profits as volume (tonnage) is reduced and the winemakers are immediately rehydrating. It was a very interactive discussion with Ned responding to many specific questions from the floor.

## VOMDES Calendar

All meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Vintage House.

- July. Annual picnic
- Aug. Business meeting. Appoint Holiday Party Committee.
- Sept. Business meeting.
- Oct. Business meeting.
- Nov. Business meeting.
- Dec. Holiday Party

Note: We will attempt to have a guest speaker at each business meeting.

### PICNIC

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VOMDES's Picnic will be on July 16th at Hanzell Winery, a 200-acre private estate. Hanzell is a historic winery with 50 year old Pinot vines and a spectacular view. We will have a tour of the facility that will start promptly at 12 noon (and yes, they will be prepared for technical questions). Plan on getting there at 11:30! Following the tour will be a tasting of Hanzell Chardonnay and Pinot. A potluck picnic on the Hanzell grounds will complete our day. Members should bring their favorite dish and homemade wine to share with fellow members. **NO COMMERCIAL WINE!!** Also, members should bring a table and chairs as the picnic will be around the pool. To reserve your place, please call or email Bobbie Collins by July 2 at 939-0464 or bbleistift@aol.com. Space is limited and we must provide Hanzell the number of people attending two weeks prior to the event, so please make your plans now. The tasting and picnic will take place by the pool, so bring your swimsuit, change in the pool house and go for a swim. A map and directions will be sent to attendees prior to the event. Parking is somewhat limited, so carpooling will be a necessity.

### FOR SALE

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1. Members Bertram, 938-2310, and Ghiselin, 996-8967 have new wine bottles for sale. Call either to determine cost and type and quantity available.
2. Member Ghiselin has several 5 gallon glass carboys available at \$10 each. Call him at 996-8967.