

May 27th Amateur Wine Club Meeting Prairie View Vineyard

At 6:30 p.m. Bart started giving tours of his vineyard to those who wanted to see grapevines up close and to ask question or share information. By 7 we moved into the basement to discuss old and new business. Most members had found Bart's wine stash and were helping relieve his storage problem.

We welcomed each member and did a round of introductions since there were some new attendees. Next our focus turned to several items from our previous meeting. Club membership dues were decided to be \$10 lasting for one year, June 2010 to June 2011. After several votes on membership card choices, we selected a style to print which can be presented at Kirk's Brew for a 10% discount. There was a discussion on the web updates and forum for members to use. More content is to be added and members are encouraged to send their input to Bart. The forum is open to anyone to use. Ideas are being developed for a 6 to 9 month framework of topics in the coming months. These include things like "Blending Wines" and "Wine Tasting" using people in the Wine industry. A crush party is another event when grape harvest begins. Some positions will need to be filled and voted on at the June meeting.

The second part of our meeting covered using wine equipment with demonstration. We looked at a refractometer, triple scale hydrometer, pH meters and solutions for calibrating, pipettes, flask, test jars, acid testing kits, carboys, stainless steel containers and items not to use for fermenting. Bart demonstrated doing a titration for TA (titratable acid). It was clear that one night doesn't do justice on this topic with so much information to cover. We will add similar topics for discussion at a future meeting. Wine kits and fruit wines brought a number of questions and ideas up as well.

After two hours Nancy invited us up for snacks and more of Bart's wine. We announced the next meeting was at WunderRosa Winery, June 24th, to look at wine faults and smells followed by a tour and tasting. Members were encouraged to bring a wine they wanted checked for faults to this meeting.