

# Amateur Winemakers of Nebraska first annual Christmas Party

December 16, 2010

With the hard work of crushing season over and our wines racked and set to age over the winter what better than to get together and reflect, celebrate, and share some traditional and nontraditional winter wines that are sure to brighten anyone's holiday spirit. Traditional recipes like Glogg, Gluhwein, and various takes on British Mulled Wines were a great way to enjoy the history and culture of wines from around the world without ever leaving Lincoln Nebraska. At the same time the nontraditional wines like Christmas Port, Reindeer Fuel, and Spiced Apple Wine showed how the boundaries of traditional wine making could be pushed to make unique and enjoyable wines.

This year was a fantastic first step for the Nebraska Amateur Winemaking Club. At year end we have 32 dues paying members and have been averaging 2-3 new members per meeting. As our meeting progressed many people spoke up with many great ideas for next year's meetings. The echoing themes were learning through doing, and perfecting the basics of the winemaking processes. A joint winemaking project was suggested where we as a club would create a wine from start to finish, with some of our monthly meetings centered on the current stage of our wine, from initial fermentation all the way to bottling. These meetings would not only give us a chance to talk about the equipment, additives, and processes involved in winemaking; but it'd also give everyone a chance to interact with those tools in an educational environment. Other great ideas included a fund raising venture, continued trips to talk with winemakers throughout the Midwest, possibly visiting a cooperage, and a chattered trip to some of the local wineries for tasting and appreciation.

Once again I would like to thank Rhonda and Chuck Berens for hosting December's meeting and to remind everyone that the next Amateur Winemakers Club meeting will be in February. As the weather outside has turned frightful, I hope this entry finds everyone happy, warm, and enjoying a nice glass of their favorite homemade wine.

Cheers

Anthony Ferrara

Secretary