



# NEWS YOU CAN USE!

*Monthly Newsletter for the Red Earth Brewers*

## BYLAW CHANGE APPROVED WITH STRONG TURNOUT IN FIRST ELECTIONBUDDY VOTE

Red Earth Brewers recently held our first official vote using ElectionBuddy to approve a proposed bylaw change—and it was a resounding success. Out of 115 paid members, 76 participated in the vote, representing a strong turnout of over 66%. **The proposed change—to move club officer elections from September to July—passed unanimously, with 76 votes in favor and none opposed.** A quorum of 75 paid members was required and successfully met.

This bylaw update better aligns our leadership transitions with club planning cycles and ensures a smooth start to each new brewing year.

Members overwhelmingly shared positive feedback about the new voting platform, praising ElectionBuddy for its ease of use and convenience. Many were able to cast their vote quickly, even from their phones or during short breaks throughout the day.

There were a few hiccups, however. Some paid members did not receive their ballots due to outdated or incorrect email addresses on file. If you didn't receive a ballot, please take a moment to update your contact information to ensure your participation in future votes.

Looking ahead to our newly scheduled July Officer Elections, we'll be using ElectionBuddy again and offering a slightly longer voting window to make it even easier for all eligible members to take part.


**Just a reminder: only paid members are eligible to vote in club elections.** If you haven't renewed your membership yet, there's still time! Dues remain just \$35 per year—a small investment that supports our events, competitions, and valuable resources for homebrewers of all levels.


**Renew your membership today at:**


[www.redearthbrewers.com/existingmember](http://www.redearthbrewers.com/existingmember)

Have questions about your membership status or need to update your email address? Reach out to us at [redearthbrewers@gmail.com](mailto:redearthbrewers@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

 **Club Meeting:**  
Tuesday, May 20  
7–9 PM at  
Coop Ale Works  
(Homebrew Only)

 **Club Meeting:**  
Tuesday, June 17  
7–9 PM at  
Legally Brewed  
(Homebrew Only)

 **Happy Hour:**  
Thursday, June 5  
6:30–9 PM at  
The Big Friendly



## ARE YOU THE NEXT REB LEADER? CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

As Red Earth Brewers looks ahead to another strong year, it's time to begin the process of electing our next group of club leaders. **Officer elections will be held in July**, and we encourage all interested members to consider running for a position. We've currently got two members nominated for the open positions.

### Open Positions:

**President** - Nick Hartley nominated

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Events Coordinator** - Rachel Silver nominated

**Member At Large**

**Nominations will be accepted through the monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 17.** This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the direction and success of the club. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate a fellow member, please email us at [RedEarthBrewers@gmail.com](mailto:RedEarthBrewers@gmail.com).



**Reminder:** Bring your member badge to scan in at each meeting—no more paper check-ins! Need a new badge? Contact Sean McCanne. Thanks for keeping check-ins smooth!



# The President's Brew

by Nick Hartley

May 2025



**SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**—and with it comes backyard hangouts, beer festivals, late-night brew sessions, and coolers packed for lake days. It's one of the best seasons to enjoy the fruits of our labor and share the joy of homebrew with friends and family.

That said, let's also remember to enjoy responsibly. As temperatures rise, so can the effects of a strong pint. Hydrate, pace yourself, and always look out for your fellow brewers and beer drinkers. Great beer is about enjoyment, not excess—and nothing pairs better with sunshine than good judgment.

This is also the perfect time of year to explore a new style or two. Maybe it's finally time to brew that saison you've been thinking about, or try your hand at a smoked beer, a fruit-forward sour, or even a light lager. Our palates grow just like our brewhouses—with experimentation and a little curiosity.

Whether you're bottling a summer ale, chilling a mead, or just cruising your local taproom, take a moment to appreciate how far you've come as a brewer. And maybe raise a toast to the next brew, the next lesson, and the next shared pour.

Cheers to a summer of good beer, great people, and curious minds. Stay safe—and keep brewing!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BREWERS HEADING TO NHC FINALS!



Red Earth Brewers is proud to announce that several of our members have advanced to the Final Round of the 2025 National Homebrew Competition. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding brewers for their incredible performances in the First Round. Their achievements represent the talent and dedication that make our club one of the best in the country.

We will be coordinating final round entry transportation to Kansas City the first weekend of June, as the official drop-off window runs June 2–11. More details on logistics and packaging reminders will be shared soon.

Best of luck to all our finalists as they prepare for the final round. We'll be cheering you on every step of the way!

### Advancing to the Final Round:

Kim Hynek

Gold – Category 22:

Strong British Ale

Silver – Category 15:

Irish & British Stout

Ken Morris

Silver – Category 16:

American Porter & Stout

Dirk Montgomery

Bronze – Category 23:

Imperial Porter & Stout

Emersen Heron

Silver – Category 40:

Specialty Cider & Perry

Nick & Heather Hartley

Gold – Category 8:

American Wheat & Blonde

Garrett Freeman

Gold – Category 38:

Specialty Mead

Silver – Category 37:

Spice Mead



Join the AHA Today!

Lots of good perks.

[homebrewersassociation.org](http://homebrewersassociation.org)



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since 2010

## 15TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

We're excited to announce the team leading the charge for REB's 15th Anniversary

Celebration: Gail Shore, Bobbi Gabler, Julie Bennett, Brandon Jones, Chris Hurt, Kim Hynek, and Rachel Silver will head up the planning efforts.

The committee's first meeting is set for end of May to begin brainstorming ideas for a fall celebration at Skydance Brewing, tentatively planned for September or October.

Stay tuned for updates—and get ready to raise a glass to 15 years of brewing excellence.



May 2025



## THANK YOU FOR A FANTASTIC SPRING BREW OFF AND TASTING EXAM!

On behalf of Red Earth Brewers, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this year's Spring Brew Off such a success. From checking in entries and judging to stewarding, prepping food, setting up, and tearing down—your time, energy, and enthusiasm made all the difference.

**A special thank you goes to Brandon Jones for hosting the BJCP Tasting Exam following the competition.** This was the first locally hosted BJCP exam in years, and thanks to Brandon's leadership, eight participants took the exam for the first time and four retesting to improve their rank. It marks an exciting step forward in growing and strengthening our local judging pool, and we're hopeful it becomes a regular part of REB's educational efforts.

**Volunteers are the heart of REB.** Your willingness to show up and support what we all love—great beer—makes everything we do possible and fun.

These gatherings celebrate the talents of our brewers and help build a strong, connected club. We're already looking forward to next year's Spring Brew Off—until then, thank you again for your support and for making REB something truly special.

### *membership reminder*

If you're a member of the club member Facebook page but haven't yet paid your 2025 membership dues, keep an eye on your inbox—we'll be sending reminder emails in May.

*Please note: Members who do not renew by July will be removed from the group page.*

Annual membership is just \$35 and helps support club events, competitions, and educational resources. Stay connected and keep enjoying everything REB has to offer.

Questions about your membership status? Email us at

[redearthbrewers@gmail.com](mailto:redearthbrewers@gmail.com).



### ABLE LICENSE CHECK-IN: HELP US GET EVENT-READY

If you hold an ABLE Homebrew License, please email a copy to [redearthbrewers@gmail.com](mailto:redearthbrewers@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Make sure your license is current and renew if needed.

Up-to-date licenses keep us event-ready and organized—thanks for your help!







## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: TWO BIG HIGH PLAINS COMPETITIONS AHEAD

Looking ahead, two key High Plains competitions will be opening this summer. Sowers Cup in Lincoln, Nebraska is a long-running and highly regarded event, with judging taking place in August before Labor Day weekend.

Also on the radar is Dogg Dayzz, with the ZZ Hops crew. Judging follows Labor Day weekend in September. This is another High Plains event, and REB will be organizing a group beer drop in August for anyone wanting to participate. So if you're concerned about shipping, we've got you covered—just focus on getting your entries ready to go.

We're encouraging all members to think about participating in these competitions. Whether you've never entered before or you're chasing another medal for your wall, now is the perfect time to brew something new, refine a favorite recipe, and get involved. High Plains events are known for great organization, thoughtful feedback, and the kind of camaraderie we love in this hobby. And whether you're entering or not, consider volunteering to judge or steward—it's a fun way to support the comps and grow as a brewer.

### Club Standings

Iowa Brewers Union	106
Kansas City Bier Meisters	92
Red Earth Brewers	87
ZZHops Homebrewing Club	34
Johnson County Brewing Society	29

### Brewer Standings

24	Kevin Olson	ZZHops
17	Mike & Stephanie Butler	KCBM
17	Alex & Patrick Williams	KCBM
15	Nick Merfeld	IBU
15	Jamye & Cody Naramore	KCBM
14	Garrett Freeman	REB
14	Chad Medford	REB
13	Steve Powell	Big Sioux Brewing Society
13	Randy Daniels & KC McKinney	IBU
12	Eric Martin	KCBM

## COMPETITIONS REMINDERS:

### Competitions Opening in May:

**Alabama Brewer's Cup**—Beer, Cider, Mead   
opens Saturday, May 10

**Indiana Brewers Cup**—Beer, Cider, Mead   
opens Thursday, May 15

### Shipping Due in May:

**Spirit of '76**—Beer (*American styles only*)  
entries due Friday, May 9

### Competition Results Announcing in May:

**St. Louis Microfest Homebrew Comp**—Beer   
ceremony Saturday, May 10

**BOSS Challenge**—Beer, Cider, Mead   
ceremony Saturday, May 10

**GLINTCAP**—Cider: ceremony Thursday, May 15

*High Plains*   *Midwest Homebrew*   *Circuit of America*

## RECENT COMPETITION WINNERS

### Great Northern Brew Ha Ha

Best of Show: Mead/Cider – Garrett Freeman – M2B: Pymment  
Gold – Louis Ruscetta & Laura Toth – Altbier  
Gold – Nick & Heather Hartley – Blonde Ale  
Gold – Dirk Montgomery – Schwarzbier  
Gold – Garrett Freeman – Pymment

### 2025 ASH Cactus Classic

Gold – Garrett Freeman – Pymment  
Gold – Emersen Heron – New World Perry  
Silver – Dirk Montgomery – Imperial Stout  
Bronze – Dirk Montgomery – Irish Extra Stout  
Bronze – Kenneth James & Kelly Cobble – Dunkles Bock

### 2025 Red Earth Brewers Spring Brew Off

Best of Show: Beer – Louis Ruscetta & Laura Toth – Specialty Smoked Beer  
Best of Show: Mead/Cider – Garrett Freeman – Melomel  
Gold – Chad Medford – Rauchbier  
Gold – Keith Wright – Int'l Pale Lager  
Gold – Nick & Heather Hartley – Australian Sparkling Ale  
Gold – Emersen Heron – Oatmeal Stout  
Gold – Andrew Wiles – Imperial Stout  
Gold – Louis Ruscetta & Laura Toth – Specialty Smoked Beer  
Gold – Garrett Freeman – Melomel & Historical Mead  
Silver – Andrew Wiles – American Strong Ale  
Silver – Ken Morris – American Stout  
Silver – Kim Hynek – California Common  
Silver – Garrett Freeman – Fruit and Spice Mead  
Bronze – Chad Medford – German Helles Exportbier, Altbier, Baltic Porter  
Bronze – Louis Ruscetta & Laura Toth – Weizenbock  
Bronze – Nicholas Hodge & Lindsay Wheat – Scottish Heavy  
Bronze – Nicholas Hodge – Tropical Stout  
Bronze – Keith Wright – American Brown Ale  
Bronze – Emersen Heron – Cider with Herbs/Spices  
Bronze – Garrett Freeman – Pymment  
Honorable Mention – Michael Estrada – American Pale Ale  
Honorable Mention – Andrew Wiles – Specialty Cider/Perry  
Honorable Mention – Caleb Lee – Stone Fruit Mead