

America's Finest City Homebrew Competition



LIVESTREAM

2026 Awards Ceremony



AFC 2026: Thank You Sponsors!

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- **Lallmand:** Table Prizes
- **Five Star:** Table Prizes
- **Hops Direct:** Table Prizes
- **Tilt:** Table Prizes



AFC 2026: Thank You Volunteers!

- Competition Admin: Ben Frymark
- Medals & Sponsors: Jeff Case
- Cellar Master: John Stumph
- Head Steward: Dan Kutcher
- Stewards: THANK YOU ALL!
- Judges: We had 55 Participating Judges This Year!

Grand Master (2); Master (1); National (6);
Certified (33); Recognized (8); Provisional (4);
Non-BJCP (1)



AFC is not possible without you!

AFC 2026: By The Numbers

619

Entries Registered

598

Entries Delivered & Judged

126

Unique Competitors

25

States Represented [26 including Baja California]

2

Countries Represented [US & Mexico]

87

Entries Scoring 40+ Points [consensus score]

45

Top Consensus Score

33.86

Average Consensus Score

AFC2026

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Table 1: Standard American Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D

Judged Entries: 29



Matthew Young MHP
Fountain Valley, CA
1A – American Light Lager
The One Night Stand



Jamie Crawford MHP
Toluca Lake, CA
1B – American Lager
Dolla Dolla Bill Y'All



Jeff Zwetsch MHP
Anaheim, CA
1C – Cream Ale
Le Crema



Table 2: International Lager

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 2A & 2B

Judged Entries: 13



Dan Baker

San Diego, CA

2A – International Pale Lager

The Great Cornholio



Eli Palma MHP

San Diego, CA

2A – International Pale Lager

Cuello Azul



John Bell

San Diego, CA

2B – International Amber Lager

Category Roulette for \$1000



Table 3: Czech Lager

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D

Judged Entries: 18



Ross Stuart **MHP**
Scottsdale, AZ
3D – Czech Dark Lager
Czech Dark Lager



William Vigil **MHP**
Huntington Beach, CA
3D – Czech Dark Lager
Czechmate



Todd Slater **MHP**
w/ Matt Castellino
Corona, CA
3D – Czech Dark Lager
The Most Gluggable



Table 4: Pale Malty European Lager

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 4A, 4B & 4C

Judged Entries: 7



Mike Neice MHP

Anaheim, CA
4B – Festbier
Feisty one



Benjamin Frymark MHP

San Diego, CA
4C – Helles Bock
The Human Fund



Pete Graham MHP

Fishers, IN
4A – Munich Helles
Heaven Beside You...



Table 5: Pale Bitter European Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 5A, 5B, 5C & 5D

Judged Entries: 17



Rick Chainani

MHP

Houston, TX

5C – German Helles Exportbier
Export Helles



Richard Bagnell

San Diego, CA

5D – German Pils
Pils from the Doctor



Mike Page

w/ Michael Lakis

San Diego, CA

5D – German Pils
It's A Pilsner



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Table 6: Amber European Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 6A, 6B & 6C

Judged Entries: 10



John Bell
San Diego, CA
6A - Marzen
Lost Marzen



Trevor McGuire **MHP**
Concord, CA
6B - Rauchbier
An Ode to Roy Mustang



Jennifer Vonderwell **MHP**
Ft Myers, FL
6C – Dunkels Bock
Made in America



Table 7: Amber Bitter European Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 7A & 7B

Judged Entries: 11



Ross Stuart MHP
Scottsdale, AZ
7A – Vienna Lager
Vienna Lager



David Gulotta MHP
Anaheim, CA
7A – Vienna Lager
Goalgetter



Kim Hynek MHP
Choctaw, OK
7B - Altbier
Boneshaker



Table 8: Dark European Lager

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 8A & 8B

Judged Entries: 9



Benjamin Frymark MHP

San Diego, CA
8B – Schwarzbier
Man Hands



Eli Palma MHP

San Diego, CA
8A – Munich Dunkel
Night Harvest



Juan Pablo Salcedo

Tijuana, BC
8A – Munich Dunkel
A Bavarian Thing



Table 9: Strong European Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 9A, 9B & 9C

Judged Entries: 11



Ernest Hedberg

Hampden, ME

9B - Eisbock

Ice water



Benjamin Frymark MHP

San Diego, CA

9A - Doppelbock

The sea was angry that day, my friends



Matthew Semaan

Duluth, MN

9A – Doppelbock

Doofenshirmztinator



Table 10: German Wheat Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 10A, 10B & 10C

Judged Entries: 13



Kim Hynek MHP
Choctaw, OK
10A - Weissbier
Hefeweizen



Gregory Roskopf MHP
Brownsburg, IN
10A - Weissbier
Seid freundlich!



Benjamin Frymark MHP
San Diego, CA
10A - Weizenbock
The summer of George



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Table 11: British Bitter

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 11A, 11B & 11C

Judged Entries: 7



John Bates MHP
Burleson, TX
11A – Ordinary Bitter
*Ordinarily Bitter and
Extraordinarily Grumpy*



Stephen Schmitt MHP
Evanston, IL
11C – Strong Bitter
Goodison Park



James Faircloth MHP
Chicago, IL
11C – Strong Bitter
Wise Owl



Table 12: Pale Commonwealth Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 12A, 12B & 12C

Judged Entries: 10



Nick & Heather Hartley MHP

Edmonton, OK

12B – Australian Sparkling Ale
Kwikee down Under



John Bell

San Diego, CA

12A – British Golden Ale
Dog's Bollocks



James Faircloth MHP

Chicago, IL

12C – English IPA
Bengal Tiger



Table 13: Brown British Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 13A, 13B & 13C

Judged Entries: 11



Benjamin Frymark MHP
San Diego, CA
13A – Dark Mild
*How can the same street
intersect with itself?*



Michael Rensing MHP
Cincinnati, OH
13C – English Porter
Stearman's Sahti

Cider Homebrew and
Mead [CHAMPS]

Zachary Belzer MHP
Downers Grove, IL
13A – Dark Mild
Backary's mild Mild



Table 14: Scottish Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 14A, 14B & 14C

Judged Entries: 6

Dave Breyer **MHP**

Garnerville, NV

14B – Scottish Heavy

Johnny McBoy's Tasty Brew

395 Brewers

Paul Domich **MHP**

Pinole, CA

14C – Scottish Export

Kilted Emigrant

Dirk Montgomery **MHP**

Elk City, OK

14C – Scottish Export

Left Ya Kelt!



Table 15: Irish Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 15A, 15B & 15C

Judged Entries: 17



Brent Krohn
San Diego, CA
15A – Irish Red Ale
Lemmiwinks



Gerad Miller **MHP**
Centerville, OH
15B – Irish Stout
It's only forever, not long at all



Brian Trout
w/ Calvin Hall
San Diego, CA
15B – Irish Stout
Irish Stout



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Table 16: Dark British Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 16A, 16B, 16C & 16D

Judged Entries: 9



Jeff Case **MHP**

San Diego, CA

16B – Oatmeal Stout

Keep Pounding (Verdant)



Allan Polk **MHP**

w/ Erick Polk

San Diego, CA

16D – Foreign Extra Stout

Experimental Stout



Logan Strickland

Peralta, AZ

16A – Sweet Stout

Silk Scarf Stout



Table 17: Strong British Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 17A, 17B, 17C & 17D

Judged Entries: 10



Kyle Ernsberger **MHP**
Fremont, OH
17C – Wee Heavy
Weeeee

Cider Homebrew and
Mead [CHAMPS]



Logan Strickland
Peralta, AZ
17C – Wee Heavy
A wee bit too heavy



Tom Leonard **MHP**
w/ Ross Stewart
Chandler, AZ
17D – English Barleywine
Monarch EBW



Table 18: Pale American Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 18A, 18B & X5

Judged Entries: 15



Chris Erdos MHP
Escondido, CA
18B – American Pale Ale
Munich Moses



Tom Leonard MHP
Chandler, AZ
18B – American Pale Ale
Creek Run



Curtis Ritter MHP
Irvine, CA
18A – Blonde Ale
Charlotte



Table 19: Amber & Brown American Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 19A, 19B & 19C

Judged Entries: 15



Phillip Saurer MHP

Poulslo, WA
19C – American Brown Ale
Cowbell Brown Ale



Brian Trout

San Diego, CA
19C – American Brown Ale
Downtown Julie Brown



Curtis Ritter MHP

Irvine, CA
19A – American Amber Ale
Cascade Centennial Accord



Table 20: American Porter & Stout

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 20A, 20B & 20C

Judged Entries: 15



Dave Breyer **MHP**

Gardnerville, NV
20A – American Porter
P's Porter

395 Brewers

John Bell

w/ Melissa Greenfield
San Diego, CA
20C – Imperial Stout
Monster of the Sea



Betty Dehoney

San Diego, CA
20C – Imperial Stout
Flight to Russia



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Table 21: IPA

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 21A

Judged Entries: 17



Jason Justeson **MHP**
w/ Ralph Gabe & Erick Dennis
La Mesa, CA
21A – American IPA
FKI



Ross Stuart **MHP**
Scottsdale, AZ
21A – American IPA
American IPA



Ben Wilson
Lakewood, CA
21A – American IPA
Grump IPA



Table 22: 21B – Specialty IPA

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 21B

Judged Entries: 15



Taylor Shastid MHP

Walnut Creek, CA
21B2 – Black IPA
RiPcOrD



Beau Floch MHP

w/ Jason Bonnell
Rancho Cucamonga, CA
21B3 – Brown IPA
Brown IPA



Stephen Schmitt MHP

Evanson, IL
21B2 – Black IPA
Vader



Table 23: 21C – Hazy IPA

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 21C

Judged Entries: 15



Ross Stuart MHP
Scottsdale, AZ
21C – Hazy IPA
Hazy IPA



Colby Reineke MHP
Minneapolis, MN
21C – Hazy IPA
Exit Planet Sludge



Nikolas Isely
Ladera Ranch, CA
21C – Hazy IPA
Aurora Australis



Table 24: Strong American Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 22A, 22B, 22C & 22D

Judged Entries: 13

Deborah & Marc Parichard **MHP**

Edmond, OK
22D – Wheatwine
She Licked Me



Nic Templeton **MHP**

Snohomish, WA
22B – American Strong Ale
Snow Goose



Benjamin Frymark **MHP**

San Diego, CA
22C – American Barleywine
A George divided against itself...



Table 25: European Sour Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D, 23E, 23F & 23G

Judged Entries: 15



Travis Johnson **MHP**

Vista, CA

23F – Fruit Lambic

Cool as a Cucumber... & Strawberry



Stephen Schmitt **MHP**

Evanston, IL

23C – Oud Bruin

Oud Bruin



Jeff Case **MHP**

San Diego, CA

23B – Flanders Red Ale

The Leforium



Table 26: Belgian Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 24A, 24B & 24C

Judged Entries: 6



Michael Rensing MHP

Cincinnati, OH

24B – Belgian Pale Ale

Stearman's Czech Dark Lager

Cider Homebrew and
Mead [CHAMPS]



Scott Rauvola

San Diego, CA

24B – Belgian Pale Ale

Belgian Pale Ale



Curtis Ritter MHP

Irvine, CA

24B – Belgian Pale Ale

Yeast Mode



Table 27: Strong Belgian Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 25A, 25B & 25C

Judged Entries: 13



Scott Rauvola
San Diego, CA
25C – Belgian Golden Strong
Duvel Clone



Travis Johnson **MHP**
Vista, CA
25C – Belgian Golden Strong
Golden Goddess



Josh Reid
Parkville, MO
25B – Saison
Selinene Saison



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Table 28: Monastic Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 26A, 26B, 26C & 26D

Judged Entries: 13



John Bell

w/ Chris Van Hammersveld
San Diego, CA
26C – Belgian Tripel
Bell Hammer Miraglia Tripel



Scott Rauvola

San Diego, CA
26C – Belgian Tripel
Properly Carbonated American Tripel



Brent Krohn

San Diego, CA
26D – Belgian Dark Strong Ale
Teddy Bear Pimp



Table 29: Historical Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 27A1-27A7

Judged Entries: 26



Colby Reineke MHP
Minneapolis, MN
27A1 – Kellerbier
Cultivate



Luke Osborne MHP
Conway, AR
27A3 – Lichtenhainer
RIP to your palette



Eli Palma MHP
San Diego, CA
27A2 – Kentucky Common
Woodford



Table 30: American Wild Ale

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 28A, 28B, 28C & 28D

Judged Entries: 11



Kyle Hufford

Santa Barbara, CA

28B – Mixed Fermentation Sour

Crystal Flowers

Benjamin Frymark MHP

San Diego, CA

28B – Mixed Fermentation Sour

If she can't find me, she can't...



Kyle Hufford

Santa Barbara, CA

28A – Brett Beer

Long Time Coming



Table 31: Fruit Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 29A, 29B, 29C, 29D & X4

Judged Entries: 13



Patrick Leon MHP
San Diego, CA
29B – Fruit & Spice Beer
One Night Stout



Brian McCrickard MHP
Concord, CA
LSX4 – Catharina Sour
Copacabana Crusher



Brian McCrickard MHP
Concord, CA
LSX4 – Catharina Sour
Copacabana Crusher



Table 32: Spiced Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 30A, 30B, 30C & 30D

Judged Entries: 20



Andy Scherzinger MHP

w/ Fernando Puga
Bethoud, CO
30C – Winter Seasonal Beer
Krampus



Joel Hill
Menifee, CA
30A – SHV Beer
Mount Andes Stout

Mash Masters

Tommy John MHP

Bethel, CT
30A – SHV Beer
Black Diamond



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Table 33: Alternative Fermentables Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 31A & 31B

Judged Entries: 7



Trevor McGuire MHP
Concord, CA
31A – Alternative Grain Beer
Killer Bee



Jeff Case MHP
San Diego, CA
31A – Alternative Grain Beer
Rye Don't Care



Brian Miller MHP
Laguna Hill, CA
31A – Alternative Grain Beer
GF French Rice Saison



Table 34: Smoked Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 32A & 32B

Judged Entries: 7



Richard Bagnell

San Diego, CA

32B – Specialty Smoked Beer

A Fireplace In Vienna



Kevin Estrada

Tijuana, BC

32A – Classic Style Smoked Beer

Smokey Smokerson



Benjamin Frymark MHP

w/ Jeff Case

San Diego, CA

32A – Classic Style Smoked Beer

Smokey The Beer



Table 35: Wood Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 33A & 33B

Judged Entries: 10



Shaun Huggins MHP

Universal City, TX
33A – Wood-Aged Beer
*Boil Em, Mash Em,
Stick Em In a Beer!*



Wesley Kulcak MHP

w/ Megan Kulcak
El Campo, TX
33B – Specialty Wood-Aged Beer
Krampus



Phillip Saurer MHP

Poulsbo, WA
33B – Specialty Wood-Aged Beer
BBA 13 Day Imperial Stout



Table 36: Specialty Beer

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: 34A, 34B & 34C

Judged Entries: 8



Benjamin Frymark **MHP**

San Diego, CA

34C – Experimental Beer

It's not a lie if you believe it!



Michael Rensing **MHP**

Cincinnati, OH

34A – Commercial Specialty Beer

Stearman's Imperial Stout

**Cider Homebrew and
Mead [CHAMPS]**



Matt Castellino **MHP**

w/ Todd Slater & Courtney

Thousand Oaks, CA

34C – Experimental Beer

Hyzer Hops



Table 37: C1 – Standard Cider & Perry

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: C1

Judged Entries: 15



Pete Graham MHP
Fishers, IN
C1B – Heirloom Cider
Husted's Cider



Christopher Mazurk MHP
Costa Mesa, CA
C1A – Common Cider
Apple



Doug Brown MHP
San Diego, CA
C1E – Spanish Cider
Stupid Wild



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Table 38: C2 – Strong Cider

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: C2

Judged Entries: 8



Alan Turken

San Diego, CA
C2D – Ice Cider
Good-N-Sweet



Pete Graham MHP
Fishers, IN
C2B – Appleswine
Is It Bedtime Yet?



Benjamin Frymark MHP
San Diego, CA
C2C – Ice Cider
Serenity now!



Table 39: C3 – Specialty Cider

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: C3

Judged Entries: 24



Jonathon Schubert

San Diego, CA

C3C – Experimental Cider

Wild Grape Cider



William Vigil

MHP

Huntington Beach, CA

C3A – Fruit Cider

A Jenn Pore



Brian Trout

San Diego, CA

C3B – Spiced Cider

*SD Craft Cider 2019 – Apple
Pie Ala Mode*



Table 40: C4 – Perry

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: C4

Judged Entries: 6



Brian Biggs **MHP**

Shreveport, LA
C4C – Ice Perry
Platypus in Swinter



Benjamin Frymark **MHP**

San Diego, CA
C4D – Experimental Perry
The bottle deposit



Bill Boyer **MHP**

Kennesaw, GA
C4D – Experimental Perry
A Pearilous Journey 2023



Table 41: M1 – Traditional Mead

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: M1A, M1B & M1C

Judged Entries: 20



Ryan Vigne **MHP**

Ellwood City, PA
M1C – Sweet Mead

The Sweet One – Kukui Blossom

Pittsburgh Mead Makers
and Homebrewers

John Bell

w/ Jack Bell
San Diego, CA
M1B – Semi-Sweet Mead

Oregon Goodness



Shaun Huggins **MHP**

Universal City, TX
M1A – Dry Mead

I call it luck!



Table 42: M2 – Fruit Mead w/o Melomel

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: M2A, M2B, M2C, M2D

Judged Entries: 19



Alexandria Perry MHP

San Diego, CA

M2B – Pymnt

Leg of Spider, Eye of Newt



Bill Boyer MHP

Kennesaw, GA

M2B - Pymnt

*Que Shiraz Shiraz, Whatever Will Be
Will Be 2024*



Doug Brown MHP

San Diego, CA

M2B – Pymnt

Beginner's Luck



Table 43: M2E –Melomel

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: M2E

Judged Entries: 14



Melissa Greenfield **MHP**

San Diego, CA
M2E – Melomel
Raspberry nebbiolo



Karl Kahleck
San Diego, CA
M2E - Melomel

Move Aside and Let the Mango Through



Doug Brown **MHP**

w/ Jeff Case & Eli Palma
San Diego, CA
M2E – Melomel
Mass Appeal



Table 44: M3 – Spiced Mead

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: M3A & M3B

Judged Entries: 18



Doug Brown MHP

w/ Jenny Brown

San Diego, CA

M3A – Fruit and Spice Mead

Five Star Chick a la Mode



Karl Kahleck

San Diego, CA

M3B – SHV Mead

Ah Squite Squite



Cody Lester MHP

w/ Diana Lester

Hot Springs, AR

M3A – Fruit and Spice Mead

Big ol' touch of Vanilla & Blueberry



Table 45: M4 – Specialty Mead

AFC2026

BJCP Categories: M4A, M4B & M4C

Judged Entries: 17



Doug Brown **MHP**
w/ Alexandria Perry
San Diego, CA
M4A – Braggot
The B.O.S.S. Braggot



Bill Boyer **MHP**
Kennesaw, GA
M4B – Historical Mead
*Trojniak vs Montmorency Cherry
vs Matthew Mead 2024*



Bill Boyer **MHP**
Kennesaw, GA
M4B – Historical Mead
Agrestniak 2024



AFC2026

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BRAGGING RIGHTS

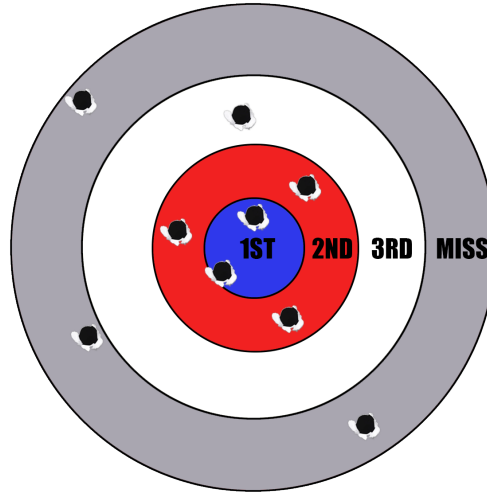
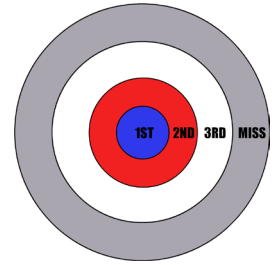
- Top Club: 51 Participating Clubs



Place	Club	1st	2nd	3rd	HM	Score
🏆 1st	QUAFF	19	18	15	8	216.1904500
🏆 2nd	Ace Brewing Society	2	4	4	0	36.0204300
🏆 3rd	Arizona Society of Homebrewers	3	3	2	1	34.0304200
🏆 4th	Cider, Homebrew, And Mead Production Specialists (CHAMPS)	2	2	0	0	20.0204200
🏆 HM	Diablo Order of Zymiracle Enthusiasts (DOZE)	2	2	0	1	20.0203700

BRAGGING RIGHTS

- **Sniper** [highest % medals - minimum 5 entries]
 - 3rd: 50.00% Ross Stuart [4 Medals on 8 entries]
 - 2nd: 66.67% Scott Rauvola [4 Medals on 6 entries]
 - **1st: 66.67% John Bell [6 Medals on 9 entries]**



BREW MACHINE

The title of "Brew Machine" is awarded to the brewer who earns the most points in the AFC competition (3 points for Gold, 2 points for Silver, and 1 point for Bronze) with Tie Breaker for the number of Gold medals earned followed by highest scoresheet. The winner of Brew Machine receives a commemorative plaque. This year, we also have a prize donated by one of our sponsors.

2026 AFC Brew Machine Sponsored By:



5th: with 3 medals [1 Gold, 2 Silver]... **Michael Rensing**

4th: with 5 medals [2 Gold, 3 Bronze]... **Doug Brown**

3rd: with 4 medals [3 Gold, 1 Silver]... **Ross Stuart**

2nd: with 6 medals [2 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze]... **John Bell**

2026 AFC BREW MACHINE... with 11 medals [3 Gold, 4 Silver, 4 Bronze]...

Ben Frymark!

BEST OF SHOW: MEAD & CIDER [141 Entries]

Every year, QUAFF recognizes the best meads & ciders entered in AFC with a plaque. This year, we have prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd BOS from.

Mead/Cider Best of Show Prizes:  **INKBIRD**
FOR SMART HOME LIVING

3rd: *The Sweet One M1C Sweet Mead...* **Ryan Vigne**

2nd: *The B.O.S.S. Braggot M4A Braggot...* **Doug Brown & Alexandria Perry**

1st: *Leg of Spider, Eye of Newt M2B Pyment...*

Alexandria Perry!



JIM HOWARD MEMORIAL BEST OF SHOW BEER [457 Entries]

Every year, QUAFF recognizes the best beers entered in AFC with a plaque. This year, we also have prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd BOS from INKBIRD.

Beer Best of Show Prizes: 

3rd: *Stearman's Czech Dark Lager 24B* – Belgian Pale Ale... **Michael Rensing**

2nd: *Bell Hammer Miraglia Tripel 26C* – Belgian Tripel... **John Bell & Chris Van Hammersveld**

1st: *Lemmiwinks 15A* – Irish Red Ale...

Brent Krohn!

America's Finest City Homebrew Competition



THE END

2026 Awards Ceremony

