

2010 NHC Wrap-Up

Written by Mark Emiley

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The 2010 NHC is in the books, and as always, was a great event. This year's conference featured about 1300 guests with close to 600 kegs of homebrew (and countless bottles). The pre-conference events kicked off with a pub crawl, baseball game, and the monster Brewing Network anniversary party held at Northern Brewer.

The opening toast beer this year was crafted at the Surly AHA Rally held several months back (largest one in history). The keynote address was given by Mark Stutrud of Summit brewing who delivered a motivational speech and highlighted the need to keep true to our brewing passions and ideals. Seminars kicked off with topics ranging from pairing food with beer to "stone brewing." Washington's Mark Tanner lead a talk on crafting award winning extract beers and I participated on a tasting panel of Tripels to see the influence different sugars had on the beers.

Apart from the great seminar topics (you will be able to download the presentations soon [here](#)) , the hospitality suite was a great place to mingle with your fellow conference attendees, sample some homebrew supplied by local clubs, and meet homebrewing vendors from around the country. Blichmann engineering showcased some new products including their new hop stopping device for use in the kettle that can hold back up to 95% of pellet hops. White Labs kicked off their new homebrew targeted enzyme line with samples of Clarity Ferm (rumored to also help reduce proteins that affect people with Celiac's disease). Northern Brewer and MoreBeer showed up with a healthy selection of great products.

The Pro-Brewer's night this year had at least 40 breweries from the Midwest but also as far away as California. There was a healthy supply of lagers present at the event which seemed indicative of the effort to wean the local populace off of macros with gateway beers. White Winter Meadery showed up with a nice array of flavored meads. Most of the "exotic" beers came from out of the region.

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