



CAROLINA BrewMasters

The Carolina BrewMasters is a non-profit club whose members enjoy making, tasting, and sharing beer, mead, and cider.

Our 200-plus members live in or around the Charlotte, NC metropolitan area and range in experience level from beginner to expert at making great home brews. The club meets at 6:30pm the first Wednesday of each month at Dilworth Neighborhood Grille where we discuss club activities, hold educational presentations and enjoy a sampling of home-brewed beer.

We also hold monthly brew sessions at a member's house, which presents opportunities to learn about different methods, systems and gadgets that other home brewers use. CBM members also regularly enter homebrew competitions, including our own US Open held each May in Charlotte.

In addition to these regular monthly activities, the club is the organizer and driving force behind the annual Charlotte Oktoberfest beer festival held each fall. Oktoberfest is one of the largest festivals in the country and donates most of its proceeds to needy charities and nonprofits that devote their energies to helping others. The growth of the festival over the years led to the formation of the CBM Board of Directors which consists of the current President, the past two Presidents, Treasurer, and the longest active member. The Board provides guidance and support to the Oktoberfest Committee and manages the CBM budget and finances.

Visitors and those curious about home brewing are always welcome and annual membership dues are only \$25 for one person and a discounted \$40 for a couple. The membership fee quickly pays for itself in discounts at Alternative Beverage, our local brewing supply store and other subsidized events including pint nights, local sporting events (and tailgating), brewery tours and more.

Club information and Meetings

The Carolina BrewMasters brew club was formed in 1983, before many of our members were born, let



alone drinking age. While the club has aged and members have come and gone, one thing has united us throughout our 30 years of existence; a passion for creating our own beer, cider and meads. We meet monthly at the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, near Uptown Charlotte, our home for the past 4 years. We have been fortunate enough to have a location for the 70 to 80+ members who show up monthly to learn more about homebrewing, participate in club competitions, listen to speakers and share their homebrew with others.

We frequently bring in representatives from local breweries to talk about brewing processes, barrel aging, sour beers, have special tastings and more. Recently we've had Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, NoDa Brewing, Shmaltz Brewing, RJ Rockers, Lone Rider and as a special treat, Lauren Salazar from New Belgium Brewery to talk about creating sour beers.

For our 30th anniversary in 2013, the club officers and other members brewed a Russian Imperial Stout that was aged for 6 months in a Maker's Mark bourbon barrel. The beer was then kegged and two kegs were served at Charlotte Oktoberfest, while 3 kegs were bottled and handed out to club members as presents to commemorate our 30th anniversary. From this, the Carolina BrewMasters Barrel Brigade was born. We now have 4 barrels which we are using to create oak aged beers to share at club events and to provide educational opportunities on barrel aging, barrel care and barrel aged sour beers.

During our monthly meetings, we often have the opportunity to provide educational sessions on everything from water chemistry to grain, hop selection to yeast culturing and more. The presentations are made available on the website for anyone who could not make the meeting. We also try to keep education light, with beer and chocolate pairings, growing hops, building brew gadgets and hosting flawed beer tastings. Our Girl Scout cookie pairings are a popular yearly event and show club members how to pair their beers with different flavors, not to mention delicious cookies.

Approximately six times a year we hold club competitions - much like the former AHA club competitions - to pit members against each other and give new brewers a chance to learn about competitions and get valuable feedback on their beers. A blue ribbon is awarded to the winner along with a \$25 gift certificate to our local homebrew store, Alternative Beverage.

For those not inclined to compete, but who desire feedback on their homebrews, we offer a "Help Desk" staffed by BJCP judges to give feedback and advice on how to improve their homebrews.

CBM also hosts club pint nights, tailgating and subsidized tickets for Checkers hockey games, Charlotte Hounds lacrosse and Knights baseball games. We organize Brewery tours to regional cities like Asheville, NC (four time Beer City USA) and to Raleigh area breweries as well as to breweries in our home town of Charlotte.

We hold monthly brew sessions at different members homes which provides educational opportunities for decoction mashes, tubid mashes, electric brew systems and all kinds of other different systems, different methods of brewing and gadgets that make brew days easier.

We strongly encourage participation in club activities and competitions so we've created a points system where club members gain points for coming to meetings and sharing homebrew, volunteering for club functions, entering competitions, winning ribbons, donating homebrew to club events, giving educational seminars, judging at competitions hosting brew sessions, and general "club karma" points. All points are tallied and at the end of the year, we host an Awards Ceremony and raffle. Club members get raffle tickets equal to the number of points they earned and the top three brewers get gift certificates to Alternative Beverage. The top points earner wins the CBM Brewer of Year award.



Due to our large size and geographic area that we cover, the Carolina BrewMasters have inspired spin off clubs in surrounding areas and towns. Cabarrus Brewers (CABREW), Salisbury Homebrewer's Club, Iredell Brewer's Union (IBU) and even a local podcast, Cheers Charlotte, were all started by members of CBM, who continue to participate in CBM activities as well. We also have former members running their own breweries. Suzie and Todd Ford, owners of NoDa Brewing in Charlotte as well as Chad Henderson their Head Brewer are all former (and current) members of the Carolina BrewMasters.

In conjunction with Alternative Beverage we host Big Brew on the banks of the Catawba River. There is always plenty of space and we even pump the water from the Catawba River to chill our beer.



We are also able use the same location for Mead Day which was so popular that Alternative Beverage decided to host a yearly Cider Day as well. Cider Day occurs on the first Saturday of November and we bring in local apples which are crushed on site and the juice distributed to CBM members.

Charlotte US Open

Started in 1991 the Charlotte US Open is our annual homebrew competition and hosts two ProAm competitions. The Rein Stein Cup is sponsored by Olde Mecklenburg Brewery (our host site) and features German styles that are served in the Olde Meck taproom as well as entered in the GABF Pro Am. The Gambrinus Cup is sponsored by The Carolina Renaissance Festival and the winning entry is brewed by Foothills Brewing Company (March 2014 AHA Rally) and served at the Carolina Renaissance Festival.

We are also host to one of the six competitions in the Carolina Brewer of the Year circuit, which consists of North and South Carolina brew clubs, and we administer the CBoY organization and website. We are the defending CBoY Club of the Year (2013) and have won 6 times in the 13 years it has existed; including the past three years straight.

NHC in Philadelphia

In 2013 the Carolina BrewMasters made the trip up to Philadelphia, en masse, where we served our beers at the Liberty Well Social Club and participated in Club Night where our bar was as big of a hit as our beers!

We also had the distinction of having our then VP of Education, Shawn McBride, present his seminar: **Yeast Culturing 101**. We are making our plans for 2014 to put on a show in Grand Rapids in June!



Charlotte Oktoberfest

The Carolina BrewMasters have always been dedicated to helping our local community and the Charlotte Oktoberfest provides a great opportunity to make an impact. During the 15 years of hosting our festival, the Carolina BrewMasters have donated close to \$500,000 to local charities. The charities from 2013 were [Second Harvest Metrolina](#), [Classroom Central](#), and [Project Halo](#). Each charity received \$25,000 for a grand total of \$75,000 donated!

Thanks to the generous participation of our sponsors, brewers and patrons, the Carolina BrewMasters were able to donate \$70,000 to three local charities in 2012: [The Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina](#), [Crisis Assistance Ministry](#), and [Matthews Free Medical Clinic](#).

While the Carolina BrewMasters would certainly exist without Charlotte Oktoberfest, it would be a much different organization. The festival provides a large portion of our operating capital and gives us a well known “face” in the community. We are able to provide the services we do and donate so much money to local charities all because of our wonderful volunteers, generous sponsors, and our love of sharing craft beer. Many of our vendors and sponsors cannot believe we are a 100% volunteer organization and often state that this is the best run beer festival they have attended.



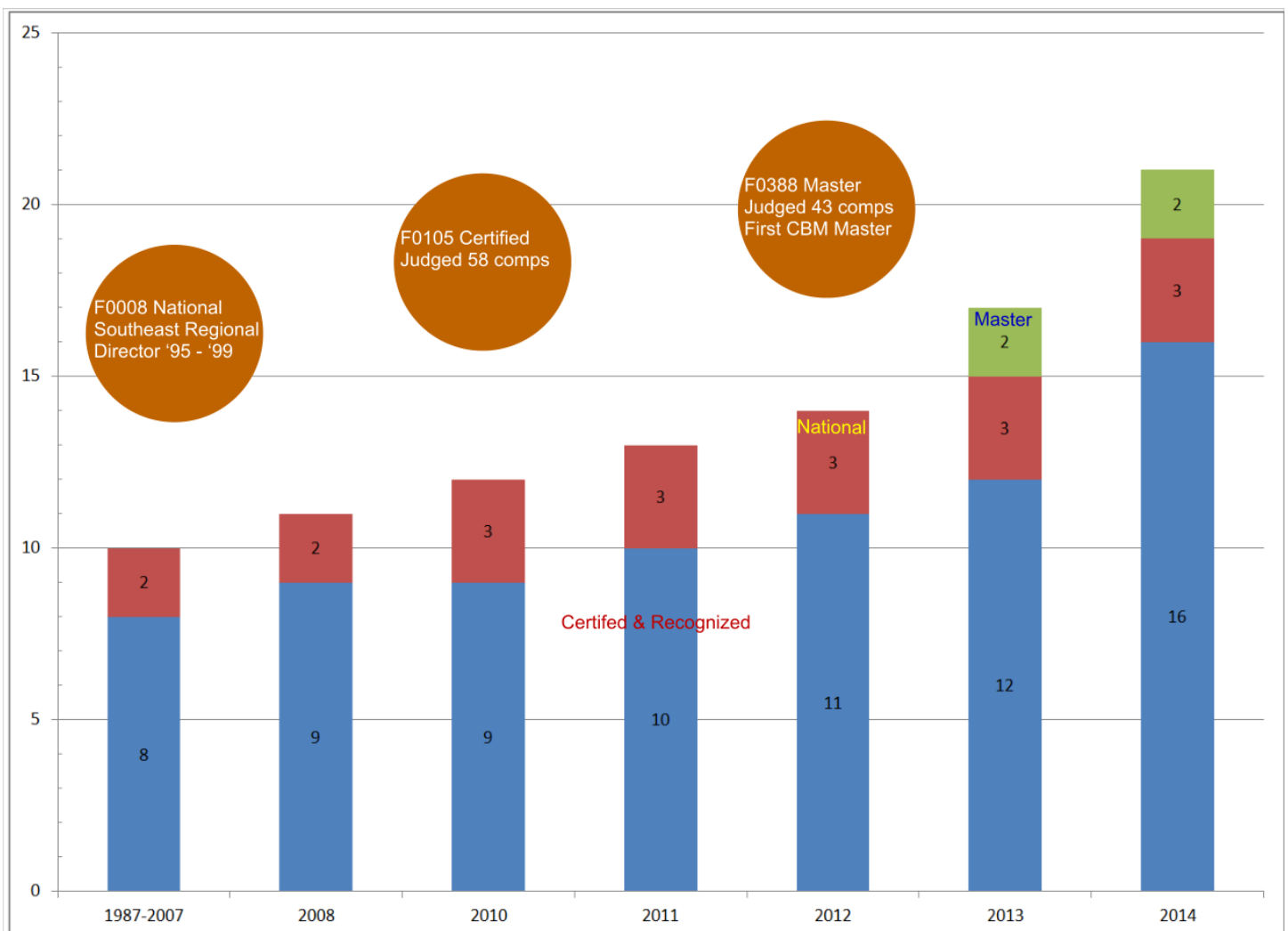
Charlotte Oktoberfest is a massive undertaking and without the help of our many generous sponsors, vendors and club members it would not be possible.

BJCP Participation

The Carolina BrewMasters (CBM) have supported and pursued BJCP training since the very beginning of the program. CBM member Roman Davis served as the first Southeast Regional Director from 1995 to 1999, and earned National rank in 1992. Since then our number of BJCP judges has grown gradually, and Roman and another member Bruno Wichnoski held regular training sessions and administered numerous exams, and recently Richard Lane has hosted five exams in Charlotte since 2010 and proctored three more in Raleigh, Greensboro and Asheville. Roman and Richard have also graded over 15 exam sets between them.

CBM hosted the AHA South Regional in Charlotte in 2008, and the AHA Club-Only competition for American Ales in 2010. Two CBM members judged at last year's AHA NHC in Philadelphia. The most recent Charlotte exam in January is expected to add four more Certified judges to CBM's roster, and very likely will result in two CBM members' promotion to National rank. One of the two CBM Master judges will likely accumulate enough GMSR points in 2014 to advance to GrandMaster, a first for CBM and for North Carolina and South Carolina.

CBM's central location in the Carolinas makes our judge pool a vital resource for the Carolina Brewer of the Year (CBoY) club circuit of six clubs, plus CBM members have been instrumental in organizing and judging other local competitions including several GABF Pro-Am qualifiers for Olde Mecklenburg Brewery, NoDa Brewing (AHA Rally site for June 2014), Olde Hickory Brewing and Foothills Brewing (AHA rally site for March 2014).



On the whole, the Carolina BrewMasters have had their best year yet in 2013 and with the continued dedication of our fantastic membership we will continue to evolve and grow to promote craft beer and homebrewing for another 30 years and beyond.

By The Numbers - 2013

Year Founded	1983 (30th anniversary)
Paid Club Members	242
BrewNet Members (Yahoo Group)	367
Facebook Group members	475
Twitter Followers	572
Number of BJCP Judges	21
Group Brew Sessions per year	15 (Home brewers, Big Brew, Mead Day & Cider Day)
Carolinas Brew Club of the Year 2013	6 of 13 years - last 3 years in a row
US Open Entries	520 (Avg. over past 2 years)
ProAm Competitions hosted	2
Charlotte Oktoberfest Attendance	6,000
Charitable Donations for 2013	\$77,500

Club resources:

- Website (<http://www.carolinabrewmasters.com>)
- BrewNet (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/brewnet/info>)
- Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/40298276552/>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CarolinaBrewMas>)
- Charlotte Oktoberfest (<http://www.charlotteoktoberfest.com>)
- Carolina Brewer of the Year (<http://www.cboysite.com>)
- Charlotte US Open (<http://www.charlotteusopen.com/>)
- Cheers Charlotte (<http://www.cheerscharlotte.com>)