

Three Rivers Alliance of Serious Homebrewers, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Almost twenty years ago several homebrewers from the Pittsburgh area had found each other at Chiodo's, the only local bar serving a good selection of imported beers. They decided to meet on a semi-regular basis and called themselves the Turtle Creek Homebrew club. This name seemed logical since the meetings took place at the founding father and President for Life", Tom O'Donnell's house in Turtle Creek.

The group numbered around a dozen and several of those original members are still active in the club. The members had read of a homebrewer from Jeannette, PA who won the HWBTA National homebrew competition and decided to do some recruiting. That led to the joining of Rob Enrico, later becoming the first formally elected club President and a current member for life. The clubs name was changed again to reflect the fact that the members were from areas outside of Turtle Creek. The Western Pennsylvania Homebrewers Organization was born and registered as a club with the AHA. Soon, the membership began to grow. The year was 1987 and homebrewing was enjoying a surge of growth as a hobby in the area. As a few new members joined and the meetings became regular, it was decided that another name change was needed. The floor opened for suggestions and discussions began.

Some of the suggested names produced acronyms that were less than desirable for a serious group of homebrewers. One popular suggestion was "Pittsburgh International Suds Suckers. This was a fairly accurate description of the club but the acronym wasn't something you'd want your kid to wear on a t-shirt. Then a female member, Cathy Benson, made the ultimate suggestion. She thought deeply about the macho attitudes of the mostly male group and changed the word association to alliance to suit the outlaw mood of the guys. A majority vote confirmed it and the Three Rivers Alliance of Serious Homebrewers, aka T.R.A.S.H., was born!

The club meets once a month at member's homes and local establishments. At our meetings you can sample beers brewed by our members ranging from simple ales and lagers to exotic spiced seasonal brews, and beers made with fruit, wheat, oats, or smoked grains. We also have an annual homebrew competition, a summer picnic (for members and their family and guests), a holiday party and several other group events. Meeting fees are \$10 per member/guest. Club dues are \$15 per year per member/\$20 per couple. The club maintains a website (www.trashhomebrewers.org) and publishes a newsletter (*The TRASH Can*) on a regular basis. The newsletter is emailed and posted on our website. To join TRASH, simply follow the instructions below. We need a signed form since we're dealing with alcohol. Thanks for understanding.

1. Fill out this form.
2. Sign and date the form (unsigned applications will NOT be accepted) .
3. Enclose a check for \$15.00 for a single member or \$20.00 per couple payable to John Rozborski, Treasurer.
4. Mail the check and your completed application to:

TRASH c/o John Rozborski
8490 Remington Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

"I certify that I am over 21 years of age. I understand that I am responsible for my consumption of alcoholic beverages and I agree to drink responsibly at club-sponsored meetings and events, and to secure safe transportation to and from club meetings and events. I understand that other club members, club officers and/or meeting hosts are not liable in any way for incidents resulting from my behavior or my consumption of alcoholic beverages at club-sponsored meetings and events." All members MUST read and sign this statement.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____