

Central Coast Home Vintners' Association

April 2018



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ah, Spring has Sprung!

We've had our Miracle March and continue to get April Showers. All this is VERY good for our grapes. The moisture content in our ground is higher this year than it was last when the rains came mostly in November, December and January. So even though our net rainfall is less and budbreak is about 2 weeks later, the moisture is there RIGHT NOW when the vines can use it most. For this reason, winemakers love April showers, but only if they come before May flowers. After the flowers begin to bloom (typically in early May), rain will increase shatter and lessen the crop.

So, what's going on with the CCHVA? This is the time of year we pivot our focus to wine judging and social events. You can read more about entering your homemade wines in the local county fairs and how you can help with the judging later in this newsletter. You can also think about your RSVP for our Spring Picnic at Jerry and Claire Shoemaker's home which is one of our best social events of the year. And don't forget the fourth Thursday of the month is an excellent chance to "sharpen your pallet" and practice your wine evaluation skills.

Finally, I want to take a minute to give some recognition to one of my Board Members. Although all your CCHVA Board members do an outstanding job, our Treasurer Paul Klock needs some special recognition this month.

Besides serving as our Treasurer, Paul is also on the Board of Directors of Coast Hills Federal Credit Union, Luis Oasis Senior Center, and trains and monitors all the referees for the local soccer league. The reason Paul is getting a special shout out this month is that Paul has decided to exercise his creative side by accepting a role in one of our local community theaters. From their website:

"Mama Won't Fly," Orcutt Community Theater's second production, directed by David Campbell, is a hilarious comedy by the prolific writing team of Jones, Hope and Wooten. Join Mama, her stressed-out daughter Savannah and her son's fiancée Hayley, as they try to drive to California in four days from Birmingham, Alabama in order to arrive for the wedding on time. Along the way there are plenty of crazy mishaps and zany characters (some of them relatives), leaving the audience laughing all the way home! Tickets are \$15 General Admission or \$10 for Students and Military and are available through www.MamaWontFly.brownpapertickets.com or at the door. Performance times are:

April 13, 14, 20, 21 Evening Shows 7PM
April 15 & 22 Matinee 2PM
Righetti High School Drama Room Theatre #403 941 E.
Foster Rd. Orcutt, CA

I'm going to make an executive decision and encourage everyone to come Saturday April 21st at 7 PM. We can call it the first ever CCHVA "Play Day". They typically have wine for sale at intermission and while I won't say too much about Paul's role, I promise it won't be too much of a "drag" ☺☺☺. We can hit Rooney's or Naughty Oak afterward to toast Paul's commitment to our club and his artistic side.

Cheers,
Fred Carbone,
CCHVA Prez
DrFredCarbone@msn.com

2018 HOMEMADE WINE COMPETITIONS

On the Central Coast

Now is the time to Enter... your exceptional wines in one of our two local homemade wine competitions. You learn a lot and have a little fun entering you wine into competition. The feedback from judges is informative, and you see what others in our region are doing. On the Central Coast we have two major opportunities for that experience. Both of these competitions are for homemade wines – that is, made by non-professionals, in a home (i.e. not a winery). Here are our two local competitions:

California Mid-State Fair, in Paso Robles

- ENTRY DEADLINE: Friday, April 20, 2018. Payment may be made on-line.
- WINE ENTRIES RECEIVED: Monday, April 23, - Friday, April 27, 2018
- All Wines Must be Received No Later than 4:00pm, April 27, 2018
- ENTRY FEE: \$7.00 per entry (can be made on-line).

Review the Home Winemaking 2018 Entry Handbook for entry categories and other details. Links to the Handbook and to the Entry Form for the California Mid-State Fair are found at:

<https://www.midstatefair.com/fair/exhibit-details.php?id=14>



Santa Barbara County Fair, in Santa Maria



- ENTRY DEADLINE is: May 11th, 2018. (11:59. P.m.). You must enter on-line, but you cannot pay on-line.
- Payment must be mailed or physically delivered to the Fair Administration Building by 4:00 pm May 14th, 2018. Post marked payment received after that date will not be accepted.
- Wine entries will be received Saturday May 12th, and Monday May 14th – Thursday May 17th, 2018, 8 am - 5 pm Fair Administration Building
- ENTRY FEE: \$5.00/entry

Review the 2018 Santa Barbara County Fair Exhibitor Handbook for details. Find the Handbook AND to the Entry form for the Santa Barbara County Fair at:

<http://www.santamariafairpark.com/p/getinvolved/339>

2017 Best of Show Winners
Ron Redman (Red) Victoria Adam (white)

Calling all Judges – and Other Volunteers

Santa Barbara County Fair – Homemade Wine Competition for 2018

Mark your calendar now. DATE: Saturday, June 9, 2018
TIME: Setup: 9:00 a.m. (set up) – 2:00 p.m. (finish clean up)

CCHVA has served as the coordinator for this event at the Santa Maria Fair Park for over 15 years. Our members have risen to the annual call and poured, judged, and washed (and washed, and washed) to make this a successful part of our County Fair.

You learn more about wine, it is fun – and this is the **only CCHVA event for the month of June**. We expect from 90 to 100 wine entries, and will need about 20 judges and 15 other workers. If you have judged in the past, or have the experience and skill to help, we hope to see you this year.

There is a lot of action and we have a short period of time to complete the judging. So: This event is **NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC**. If you are there, you are a volunteer!



Not interested in judging? Then please consider volunteering as:

- Apprentice Judge – someone who has taken our seminars and wants to test and improve their skills this year before becoming official next year.
- Steward – pour wine and bring to judges
- Table Secretary – record and tabulate scores
- Set up/clean up helper – need we say more?

For all volunteers, lunch will be provided – and you will have the opportunity to polish off the best wines!.

If you can volunteer in any capacity, or if you have any questions please contact:

John Larson

e-mail: chemdem@sbcglobal.net

Cell phone: 805-235-8106

And – Thanks to our 2017 Crew!



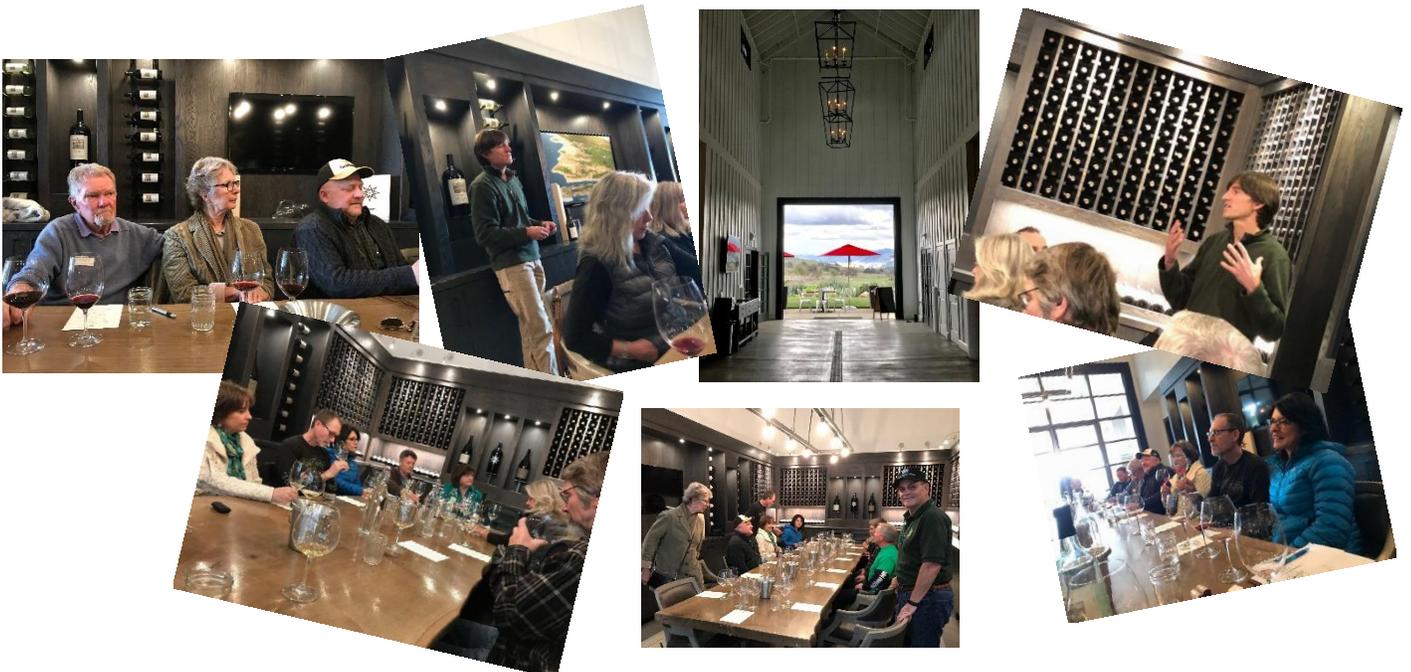
TIPS FROM THE PROS RECAPS!

March and April brought opportunities for members to visit wineries and hear from their winemakers! Dierberg Star Lane and Fiddlehead Cellars

(Article from Penelope Semrau) On Saturday morning March 17th (St. Patrick's Day!) fifteen of us ventured out to Santa Rita Hills to enjoy a morning of wine tasting at **Dierberg Star Lane** wine tasting room. The Dierbergs own three vineyards – the Dierberg and Drum Canyon vineyards are about thirteen miles from the Pacific Ocean in a cool growing climate where excellent Burgundy-style vines grow. Their other vineyard Star Lane is in the warm-hot climate of Happy Canyon producing superb Bordeaux-style wines.



Tyler Thomas, Dierberg's Winemaker since 2013, walked us through seven tastings including Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc. We enjoyed the flavors, textures, and complexities of each wine. Tyler said that he is working to create great wines that are "distinct and estate driven" -- distinctive of the varietal and distinctive of the place. Tyler, who had prior winemaking experience in Napa/Sonoma, contrasted his Cabernet Sauvignon earning 95 points from Vinous to those in Napa saying that his is an unmanipulated Cab that is spicy, a little fresher, and a little lighter than those found in Napa. He gave us an introduction to the wines he makes, his winemaking process, and answered lots of questions. It was a good day all around – good wine and good conversation.



(From Jim Ford) On April 7th, nineteen CCHVA members and guests enjoyed a great day at **Fiddlehead Cellars** with winemaker Kathy Joseph. It is not often that we get to have discussion with a winemaker and vineyard owner who has thirty years' experience growing grapes and making wine from the same vineyard. Kathy concentrates her winemaking experience on Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc from her vineyards in Santa Rita Hills and Santa Inez Valley. As an owner/winemaker she is very hands on with the process from the vineyard to the glass. She is very proud that Fiddlehead Cellars is a SIP Certified Vineyard/Winery. She spent two hours with us explaining her wine making style and history and answering our questions while we tasted several of her wines. It was two hours well spent and a great learning experience. This was definitely worth a trip to Lompoc!



Spring Picnic is Coming!

Check your calendar for May 19 at noon for the Spring Picnic and Wine Tasting! Jerry and Claire Shoemaker will again be our hosts this year at their home at 1721 Sky Drive in Santa Ynez. The guest winemaker, Andrew Murray, will join us to talk about his wines. You will bring a pot luck dish and wine to share! This is a very popular event, so you'll want to RSVP soon to Claire at decshoe1@gmail.com.

CCHVA 2018 Events Calendar

Get out your calendars and mark em' up!

Updated 4-10-18

April 20	Deadline to Enter Wine in the Mid State Fair, Deliver entry to them by 4/27
April 26 th , 7PM	Wine Evaluation Seminar @ Lake Marie Clubhouse: Rhone Valley Wines
May 11 th	Deadline to Enter Wine in Santa Barbara County Fair – Guidebook on Santa Maria Fairpark website.
May 19 th , Noon	Spring Picnic and Wine Tasting at the Shoemaker's with winemaker Andrew Murray. RSVP to Claire Shoemaker by May 14 at decshoe1@gmail.com
May 24 th , 7PM	Wine Evaluation Seminar @ Lake Marie Clubhouse: Rhone Valley Varietals
June 9 th , 10AM	Wine Judging for Fair @ Fairpark in Santa Maria
July	Beginning Wine Making Seminar at SM Library
August 11 th , Noon	Summer picnic at Orcutt Hill
September 1 st	All Grape Co-op orders must be turned in and paid
September 8 th	Beginnings of CCHVA to today @ Jim Allen's
October 20 th	Pizza Dinner and Wine Sharing @ the Bentivegna's.
November	Tour of Hancock College Winery and Tasting.
December	Nothing. Way to busy drinking our wine for holidays.
January 2019, Noon	Annual Members Meeting @ San Luis Yacht Club, Avila Beach

Support a local college wine program!

Alan Hancock College is hosting an open hours at their winery on Sunday April 29 from 1-4pm. There will be food and, of course, wine. Wine is available for sale to the public. The winery is located at:

Alan Hancock College Winery
800 S College Dr, Bldg O, Room 211, Santa Maria, 93454

Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held the first week of the month on either a Wednesday or Thursday at a board members home. Meetings are open to the membership. If you would like to come at any time simply contact a board member for the date and location of the upcoming meeting.

Your Club Board and Committee Chair persons for 2018!

Contacts

* = Board Member

(Save this information as it will not be posted on the website)

President	Fred Carbone*	drfredcarbone@msn.com
Vice President	Kathy Sullivan *	Ksulli2026@aol.com
Secretary	Cathy DelRe *	cidelre@mac.com
Treasurer	Paul Klock*	tictocfive@gmail.com
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Equipment	Jim Ford*	pjford412@verizon.net
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Website	Linda Rickett *	ltis17@msn.com
Grape Co-op	Jim Ford	pjford412@verizon.net
Board Member	Gary Stanley *	Gary.Stanley.bear@gmail.com
Seminars	Hank Rickett	rickett.hank@gmail.com
Fairpark/Judging Coordinator	John Larson *	chemdem@sbcglobal.net
New Members	Jeff Mathieu *	Jeff.mathieu@tetrattech.com
Events/Picnics	Claire Shoemaker *	decshoe1@gmail.com
Board Member	Steve Rau*	fourbrotherswine@verizon.net

Other important info!

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(#CCHVA1 or hashtag any CCHVA)

Have an article you think might be appropriate for this newsletter? Send it to cchva2014@gmail.com