

## **You know you're a homebrewer if . . .**

- If** you visit old monasteries while on vacation in Europe and badger the tour guides with questions about yeast strains and the exact temperature of the cellar.
- If** you go appliance shopping and take carboys along for sizing.
- If** "coming out of the closet" means that the next batch is getting bottled.
- If** you incorporate a 3 tier system into the design of your new deck.
- If** you can't make tea without thinking about sparging grain.
- If** you find hop leaves in your dryer lint.
- If** you have 3 new coolers in the brewery, but 1 crappy old one for picnics.
- If** you have more types of beer glasses than you have plates and bowls.
- If** you perform a 'mash-out' in the shower to halt enzyme action.
- If** all your tupperware smells like grains and hops.
- If** people ask if what is in your glass is beer or wine.
- If** you watch your primary fermenter with the same intensity that a cat watches an aquarium.
- If** the only time you clean your kitchen is just before brewing a new batch.
- If** your bridal registry is at a home brew supply store.
- If** you've ever taken your dog to the vet to treat a burnt tongue because she lapped up a boil over.
- If** it started out as a hobby then ended up as a habit.
- If** you and your beer buddies dream that your wives are beer nymphs dancing naked around a boiling kettle singing praises to the beer gods.
- If** Tastybrew.com has a short cut on your desktop.
- If** you've ever made your own beer.
- If** you've ever packed empty beer bottles home from camping.
- If** you wonder what random things would taste like mashed, boiled and fermented.
- If** you know the cheapest place in town to refill propane and CO2 tanks.
- If** you are producing beer faster then you can drink it.
- If** you hear the song "Monster Mash" and think it is about a beer made for Halloween.
- If** you can tell if a bottle on the side of the highway is recappable at 65 MPH and turn around to get it.
- If** you are happier watching your air lock than TV.
- If** you're a guy and you go to the bar to meet guys to talk homebrew with.
- If** your tankless water heater has two settings: mash and sparge.
- If** you have had a serious conversation about whether or not bottles will explode at altitude.
- If** when someone asks who your favorite author is, you say "Papazian".
- If** you rush to your closet if you hear the sound of glass breaking.
- If** you're completely unaware that there's a Michael Jackson other than the beer writer.
- If** you have returned beer to the grocery store because it was a bad batch.
- If** you have plans to turn a large portion of your basement into a refrigerator for long term lagering.
- If** you have all the local homebrew stores on speed dial.
- If** you are the designated driver because you prefer not to drink mass produced beer.
- If** you've added iodine to a sample of your morning oatmeal to test for adequate starch conversion.
- If** you have ever found yourself rinsing out empty beer bottles at someone else's party.
- If** you've installed a quick disconnect on your sink so you can hook up your wort chiller more easily.
- If** you correct the tour guide on brewery tours.
- If** you buy beer according to ease of label removal or the type of bottle it comes in.
- If** you wonder about the absorption rate of your breakfast cereal while you pour the milk.
- If** you have a picture of a carboy on your desk instead of your family.
- If** when you ask for a sample at the local brewery, you mean yeast slurry, not beer.
- If** you know 6 different ways to start a siphon.
- If** you've ever had a party where more beer was brewed than was consumed.
- If** you've planned the landscaping at your new house around the location of your Cascade Hop trellis!
- If** the workers at the hardware store ask how the latest homebrew is coming along.
- If** your 4 year old asks Santa for a refractometer for you.
- If** you find that the "Homebrew" budget is larger than your "Grocery" budget in Quicken.
- If** you do a protein rest when cooking spaghetti.
- If** the local brew supply store knows who you are by voice alone.
- If** the majority of your shirts are brewing or beer related.
- If** you've ever taken a final gravity reading of a commercial beer.

**If** you have ever stared glare-eyed in the bulk spice section of the grocery store dreaming of Belgian beers with Orange peel and coriander or spiced Christmas ales.

**If** you have ever hugged your primary fermenter.

**If** you spend more time thinking about beer than drinking beer.

**If** you have ever had an intense argument about corn.

**If** you sparge your tea bags with 170 degree water to prevent astringency.

**If** you wish you could buy your significant other a perfume with a malty aroma and hints of toffee underneath a nice bouquet of citrus and pine fragrances.

**If** a slinky reminds you of a wort chiller.

**If** you actually look for cruddy sediment in the bottom of a beer, before you buy it.

**If** you've ever received a shipping quote from a malt distributor.

**If** everytime you are in the grocery store you look at the beer selection even though you have 10 gallons of beer ready to drink at home.

**If** you take a personal day off from work to brew on a Wednesday to have an adequate yeast starter for the 1.100 Specific Gravity Belgian being brewed on Saturday.

**If** you refuse to pay \$8.00 for a beer in a restaurant because you can make 5 gallons for that much.

**If** you scan the Belgian Ales at checkout yourself so the clerk won't disturb the yeast sediment.

**If** you live in a small one bedroom apartment, and you have two refrigerators.

**If** you wonder what everything would taste like if mashed, boiled and fermented.

**If** your computer passwords are all related to beer.

**If** you make hummingbird food by boiling the sugar water for 1 hour and then sanitize the feeder with iodophor.

**If** your house doesn't have air conditioning, but your beer room does.

**If** your pet rabbit will only eat crushed German pilsner malt.

**If** "pick up CO2" is on your shopping list.

**If** you see the acronym R.D.W.H.A.H.B. and know what it means.

**If** you get all your exercise from moving carboys.

**If** you take your wife out to garage sales in hopes of finding brew gear.

**If** you hate to wash the family dishes, but think nothing about standing over a sink for hours cleaning empty bottles.

**If** you have used a bottle opener on a twist-off cap.

**If** your wife starts buying two of every kitchen utensil so she doesn't have to search the brewery when it's time to cook.

**If** you ask the guy at the hardware store if something is "food grade".

**If** you've ever spent the afternoon in a hardware store staring in to space, trying to improve your wort chiller/fluid transfer.

**If** you pre-heat your thermos cup to have a thermal mass of zero.

**If** a "beer run" is now classified as a 3 hour escapade at the local homebrew shop.

**If** you have ever parked your car in the rain to keep your beer out of it.

**If** you have never taken a microbiology course but you know all about *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*.

**If** you measure purchases with how many batches of homebrew you could have brewed.

**If** your children believe that Santa Claus would rather have a glass of homebrew than milk.

**If** you worry about channeling when you "sparge" your coffee.

**If** your asked your phone company if they have a phone number ending in 1056.

**If** you can estimate hair color in degrees Lovibond.

**If** you have a separate email folder for homebrew.

**If** you can name at least 10 different varieties of hops, but can't name 10 congressmen.

**If** you understand how water chemistry and pH affect the mash, but barely passed high school chemistry.

**If** your wife left you for someone who doesn't brew.

**If** you have your local homebrew supply shop on speed-dial right above 911.

**If** you own a stock-pot big enough to bathe in.

**If** you have more varieties of beer on tap than your local bar does.

**If** you take two fermentors with you shopping for refrigerators.

**If** a smelly, moldy, disgusting college-dorm fridge is a gift from the gods.

**If** you tackle your wife in the kitchen before she sneezes.

**If** you have moved clothes out of your closet to make room for more fermenters.

**If** your child's science project is on fermentation.

**If** you've ever got up to check an airlock in the middle of the night.

**If** you have more refrigerators for beer than you do for food.

**If** going to a brewfest is part of your honeymoon.

**If** you plan your family vacations by which breweries you can visit.

**If** you and the local bottle-grannies have come to an accord over collection zoning.

**If** you have more airlocks than the international space station.

**If** you've tasted the finest commercial beer and said, "I can do better."

**If** you have more kegs than your average fraternity.

**If** staring at a bubbling airlock is more exciting than the super bowl.

**If** you pour your coffee carefully to avoid hot side aeration.

**If** you bring a 3-gallon corny to a cook-out with its own neoprene jacket.

**If** you've kept a log of the temperature in your basement for the past 5 years.

**If** the presence of a basement was a major factor in the selection of your new home.

**If** you have room in your fridge for 7 different types of beer, 6 packages of hops, 4 vials of yeast, and two cans of rice syrup, but no room for milk for the kids.

**If** you schedule your lunch break around trips to the homebrew store.

**If** you start asking questions about other people's worts.

**If** your 5 acre yard is completely mulched with spent grains.

**If** you have multiple propane tanks but only use charcoal grills.

**If** you own more stainless steel than your local hospital.

**If** you get up in the middle of the night to dry hop.

**If** you plan your days off around when the homebrew supply store is open.

**If** you have 45 gallons of bottled beer in the basement and wonder if you should double the batch you are brewing on Saturday.

**If** your basement looks like the set of a 1930's horror movie.

**If** your 5 gallon propane bottle has never been connected to a barbecue.

**If** you don't brew much until your wife leaves town for the weekend, then you brew 30 gallons.

**If** you have more than two refrigerators.

**If** you have bottles of bleach and no white clothes.

**If** you hear someone say "sock hop" and you think they're dyslexic.

**If** your neighbors think you started a bottle recycling center.

**If** you use old, leftover hops as potpourri.

**If** you've got more cooking utensils and gadgets than your spouse does.

**If** you return from New Year's Eve parties with a trunk full of empty champagne bottles.

**If** you always make sure to take the truck, rather than the car, to the brew supply store.

**If** you name your new puppy "Fuggles" or "Growler".

**If** you send a holiday card to the owner of your brew supply store.

**If** your house smells like a brewery.

**If** you buy more pantyhose than your wife (...for hops!)

**If** you kidnap the family thermometer to test the temperature of the wort.

**If** you hear the term 'malted milk' you think they are talking about a stout.

**If** you've ever bought a case of beer saying, "I paid for the bottles, the beer comes with them for free."

**If** you've ever had 6 or more cases of EMPTY beer bottles in your house before you had a party, not after.

**If** you've raided the boy scout bottle collection/recycling for old bottles.

**If** you've ever left your local soda bottling company with your trunk and back seat full of 5 gallon cornelius kegs.

**If** you give clothes to Goodwill just to get more room in your closet for beer and equipment.

**If** someone says they've had a yeast infection and you ask what they were brewing at the time.

**If** you get crown seals and hop bags for christmas presents.

**If** you've ever bought returnable beer bottles with no intention of EVER returning them.

**If** you're surfing the net at 3:40 am looking for homebrew websites or recipies.

**If** you cancel a date because your wort hasn't reached pitching temperature yet.

**If** you can't remember that last time you popped open a flip-top beer can.

**If** you think the term pitch has nothing to do with baseball.

**If** your cupboards have more brewing items and bottles than they do food and plates.

**If** you don't think that 10 gallons of beer is a lot.

**If** you've ever cut a hole in a refrigerator.

**If** walking across the kitchen floor sounds like velcro.

**If** you've ever asked the question, "by weight or volume?"

**If** you've ever used a mop on a ceiling.

**If** you own a sterile trash can.

**If** you've ever tried to improve a Budweiser by stirring in a hop pellet.