**The Missouri Winemaking Society Newsletter for November, 2016**
Next Meeting:        Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Place:    St Gerard Majella Church,1971 Dougherty FerryRd, St Louis, MO 63122
MWS Website:    www.mowinemakers.org
Submitted by:        Steve Kintz,

 I hope you didn’t miss last month’s meeting.  There were several nice wines - and the best Crimson Cabernet I think I’ve ever had (thank you David Wert!).  Plus, everyone brought in lots of cool winemaking toys - I mean tools.  Winemaking TOOLS.  Yes, they were all practical, absolutely essential tools that are completely necessary for winemaking.  I personally saw lots of things that I need to bring into my life.  Now I just have to figure out how to afford those I don’t have…

Ok, all kidding aside, there were actually lots of cool items people brought in that make winemaking easier and better.  I was really impressed by all the inventive homemade items that people brought in.  They included wedges that tilt a carboy for more efficient racking (David Anderson), a pump that transfers wine rapidly (Mark Brenner), a beautiful and efficiently designed cherry punch down tool (Tony Turek), and many, many more items.  Thank you all for bringing in your tools of the trade.  Speaking just for myself, you’ve given me lots of great ideas and tips – as always.

**Business:**
 New officers have been nominated, and a formal vote will take place next month.  The current nominations follow.
President                 Steve Brunkhorst
Vice President        Phil Rahn
Secretary                Lisa Nordmann
Treasurer                David Wert
Cellar Master        John Merkle

If you are also interested in taking on one of these roles, there is still time to let David Wert or John Merkle know.  Again, the vote will take place in the November meeting.

**Program:**   So here we are, it’s November, and we have now arrived at the first of its kind - the gala MWS Redhead Beauty Contest.  The red carpet is being rolled out (particularly appropriate in this situation I think), the paparazzi have it marked on their calendars, and all the famous and glamorous people will all be there, wearing their finest gowns and tuxes – each seeking to make just the right fashion statement.  See, the excitement and anticipation is already building to a palpable level you can feel (and yes, you’re right; that is redundant).

Hopefully you’ve been sorting through all those redheaded beauties in your home, and have now settled on your favorite.  (I should mention that it might be best not to say which is your favorite while still in your wine cellar – there is no telling what kind of mischief they might get into when you’re not there if you do.  Some people think that seemingly inanimate objects don’t animate when we aren’t around, but they do.  I’ve seen movies about this.  And that stuff you’ve always heard about fiery redheads is true.  So just play it safe, and don’t take any chances.  While still in your cellar, just say that you like them all the best.  And the beauty is, the one you select won’t be back to tell the others the truth.)  So now, once you’ve chosen your favorite red beauty – remember, only one entry allowed per member (that’s a secret clue for those that attended the October meeting – and let this be a lesson to those that didn’t – because you don’t know what that means), you’re set to finish your final grooming leading up to the competition.  Ok, fine.   I’ll tell those that didn’t attend, but this is the last time; no more “grace period” – you need to attend the meetings if you want to be “in the know”.  This stipulation does allow couples that are both members to bring two entries (yet another reason for both spouses to be members).

Just to remind everyone, it’s a “just for fun” competition, and is open to all Society Members (i.e., paid-up members) – though all are welcome to attend, taste, enjoy, and vote.

This is just like the Favorite White Wine Competition, but we have some new members, so it might be helpful to review what this competition is all about.  There are also quite a few of you long-standing members that tune out every time I say something, so it wouldn’t hurt for you to pay attention to be sure you understand this as well, but they probably stopped reading after they checked the date of the next meeting and what the topic was.  I suppose I should give them credit for bearing patiently with all this drivel from me until the end of this year, and that’s good, I suppose, but I have been mightily tempted to volunteer them for something unpleasant just out of spite.  But it’s probably more difficult putting up with this than I realize, and I should always look for opportunities to extend grace.  Hmm.  Ok, fine.  I can be mature for another two months.  Or at least I’ll try.  I think…

Anyway, it might be helpful to think of this as less like a wine fair, and more like a beauty contest – but only for redheads (red wines, remember?).  You are welcome to bring any red wine you wish – but only one, so pick your favorite (see warning above), but please bring two bottles so that there is enough for all to sample.  Everyone present will taste all the wines and vote for their favorite.  Just to be clear, it won’t be a favorite Norton, or a favorite Chambourcin, and a favorite Cabernet Sauvignon, etc.; it will just be the favorite wine of all the wines entered.  This is therefore an excellent opportunity to bring out a nice red blend if it happens to be your favorite.  This really is a popularity contest, and you simply vote for what you like.  No entry fee, no formal rating, just fun – and the bragging rights that go with winning.  Still no word on whether they have secured a tiara and sash for the winner.

For all those entering a wine; please be prepared to discuss how you made it after the judging so the rest of us can pick up pointers to improve the overall quality of our wine.

 **Future Meetings:**  Next month is one of my personal favorite events of the year.   It’s time for the eagerly anticipated MWS Christmas Party.  This year David and Barbara Anderson will be hosting it, and they live close enough to the church where we regularly hold our meetings that you could walk there from the church parking lot.  Keep in mind, I’m saying that figuratively.  Some of us really shouldn’t be considering that unless we get in a little exercise between now and then (which I’m not planning to do) – and even then, it’s probably not advisable to walk on roads at night.  But the point is, it’s close - and so is the party!

It’s not too early to be thinking about what kind of wine you will be bringing to share – only one bottle is “required”, but I’m recommending two bottles (and just in case you were wondering, I’m partial to a nice…).  You should also be planning what kind of delicious snacks and appetizers you’ll be bringing to share.

And since I have plans to enjoy this event thoroughly, I should also mention that it’s also not too early to start planning your festive Christmas attire.   Things are always more fun when the attire is consistent with mood of the event.

As I mentioned, this is my favorite time of the year and anything you can do to enhance my enjoyment of it will be eternally appreciated.  I’ll do my best to enhance yours as well (even if it means staying away from those of you I mentioned earlier).   There will be more details in next month’s newsletter.

 **Society Dues:**
 BREAKING NEWS:  This just in from the Channel 7 KMWS News Team – Against the current flow of the falling value of the US Dollar, and the subsequent ever-rising prices of just about everything, it has been decided that the society dues will remain the same for 2017.  YEA!!!