



This year, his *Alt* was awarded the top prize in the German Style Brown Ale/ Dusseldorf Style category, besting 31 other entries. Stop by the smoke free Herkimer and sample David's award winning beers.

Surly stays awake for Gold: *Surly Coffee Bender* garnered the Gold in the Coffee Flavored Beer category, out roasting the 35 other entries. This was Surly's first trip to the big party.

Summit is back on top. **Summit Brewing Co.** returned to the Great American Beer Festival this year. Minnesota's favorite craft beer, *Summit Extra Pale Ale*, was awarded the Bronze medal in the Classic English Style Pale Ale category (32 entries.) *Summit Winter Ale*, their very first seasonal, is back and better than ever. No, really! This smooth brown ale goes well with all your holiday fare.

Three In a Row for **Pig's Eye**. *Pig's Eye Pilsner* earned the bronze medal in the International-Style Pilsener Category (10 entries). Congratulations to Phil Gagne and his crew. Hey Phil, you better add another label to the line up so you can get another medal!

The Perfect Craft Beer Holiday Gift: While those four were making craft beer history in Denver, Doug Hoverson has been writing it down. Doug's *Land of Amber Waters, The History Of Brewing in*



Dave Berg releasing the 2007 Schell's Snowstorm, a Belgian Style Dubbel, at the MN Autumn Brew Review

A T T P R O D U C T I O N S A W C S A

Minnesota, is now available. This handsome, hardbound book features over 340 color photos. It chronicles Minnesota beer from our first brewery in 1849 to the



brew pubs and new brands of the present day. University Press released the book to a full house at Summit Brewing Company.

Doug's presentation and the fine Summit brews were well received. A big thanks to

Summit and August Schell Brewing for funding this fine research.

Speaking of history, did you know the Minnesota Chapter of the **Master Brewer's Association** is 100 years young? They celebrated in high style with a banquet in the Wabasha Street Caves. Doug Hoverson presented the graduate version of Minnesota Beer history – no need to explain the brewing process to these folks.

In other beer history, the 7th Annual **Autumn Brew Review** was a sellout. The last of the 1800 tickets were sold the week of the event. Suddenly the phones were ringing off the hook. We'd been a bit spoiled with our ABR. The weather had been fantastic and plenty of tickets were available at the gate for all six prior years. This year's ABR was held on the grounds of the Grain Belt Brewery—fitting and hallowed ground. Noontime showers gave

way to a sunny afternoon. Parking was plentiful and free thanks to North East good citizen **Graco**. The brewer's rolled out a variety of special brews including casks from Summit and August Schell. Congratulations to Flings and the Craft Brewers Guild on another great event. Don't be left out next year. Buy those tickets early!

Speaking of tough tickets, the **Seventh Annual Winterfest** celebration of warming Winter Ales and cool Jazz will be on Saturday 8 February at the Landmark Center, near **Great Waters** Brewpub. The new, larger venue allows for more tickets, but this event sells out fast. Don't delay.

Winter's waiting in the wings but the winter warmers are back on the shelves. It's been a busy couple of months. Let's get to it. We'll examine the latest craft beer news, outline some possible gift ideas and highlight the latest offerings.

Biggest news bites in Minnesota craft brewing are the four medals earned at the Great American Beer Festival by Minnesota Beers.

Herkimer Pub and Brewery's kicks it "*Alt School*" at the GABF. David Hartman made it two gold medals in a row.