

1ST ANNUAL WESTERN CANADA PILE OF BONES BBQ COMPETITION

VAL BRADSHAW

Saturday & Sunday, September 13 & 14th, 2008, Regina, Saskatchewan. Pile of Bones BBQ was a huge success in Regina, with many people acknowledging that a BBQ competition in this province was long overdue.

The event was hosted by the Regina Hotel Association. People of all ages were able to combine a visit to the BBQ competition with a Saturday evening viewing of a mid-season CFL football game between the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the BC Lions, shown on the Jumbo-tron at Taylor Field next door to the Pile of Bones BBQ competition.

The competition ran over 2 days with 13 teams competing for top prizes. Six teams were from Saskatchewan and the remainder came from Alberta and Manitoba.

The competitors were categorized into Amateur, Chef's Challenge and Professional divisions. The Amateur Division was the only category that was allowed to use a gas grill. The Amateur Teams could present

the finished sirloin steaks in whatever format they preferred. It was a great day for these first time competitors!

The Chef's Challenge teams were given 2 racks of New Zealand Lamb. The finished presentations were visually spectacular and, according to the judges, very tasty!

The smokers for the Professional competition were lit at 1pm on Saturday afternoon and the teams worked round the clock until the last turn-in on Sunday afternoon. Final results were:

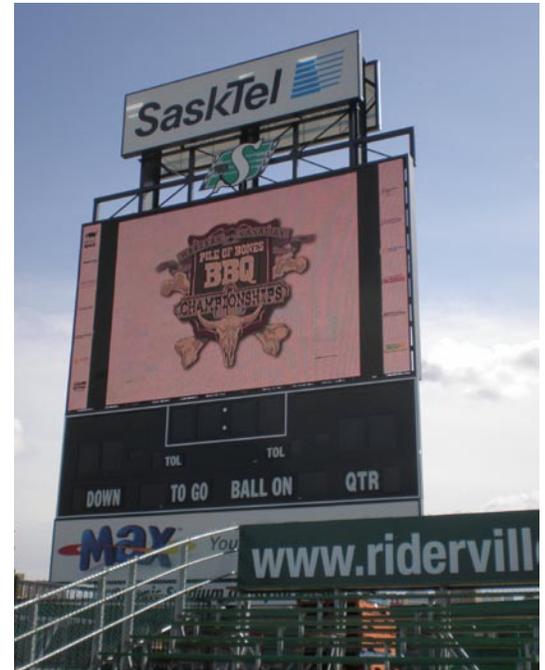
Grand Champion: **Pigasus**

Reserve Champion: **Smokin' Box**

People's Choice: **Pigsicle**



Grand Champions: Pigasus!



It's not the size of the Jumbotron, but how you use it!



Pile of Bones Competitors



Hard working Judges of Pile of Bones

DRIPPINGS FROM THE PIT

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BARBECUE ASSOCIATION

WINTER 09



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TOM WALLIN

The 2009 Barbecue Season starts officially in less than a month. That date (April 4th & 5th) is marked by the first competition of the year, which is again the annual Pike Place Market Cook-off. Although a year ago we were told that there would not be a Pike Place competition in 2009 due to a major renovation project that was planned for the Market, the construction schedule slid a month or two, which allowed the PNWBA one last opportunity to smoke up the streets of downtown Seattle.

To say that interest in Barbecue and the PNWBA has been increasing in the Northwest is an understatement. At the Annual Meeting in November I discussed that we had put on approximately 29 events (competitions & classes) during 2008, an increase over the previous years. However, I speculated that, given the state of the economy, there may be some events in 2009 cancelled due lack of sponsorship money. However, we have not seen that happen yet. In fact, there are 36 events currently on the tentative schedule, with several more possibilities.

In total last year, there were 180 different BBQ Teams that competed in our events. Many of these teams only competed in one or two events. However, there were 49 teams that competed in 3 or more events, and 25 teams that competed in 5 or more events. Almost all of our events had a higher turnout of teams in 2008 than the previous year. What has yet to be seen is what impact the economy will have on the team turnout in 2009.

Last year the events in Canada continued to grow. The competitions in British Columbia banded together and created The BC Cup. It was a Team of the Year award for teams that were willing to compete in all the BC events. In addition to the annual BBQ on the Bow in Calgary, AB, we also sanctioned a competition in Regina, SK, called Pile of Bones Cookoff. This was a first for the PNWBA. This year we are pleased that there will be a second event in Alberta. This will be the Smokin' Bull BBQ Cookoff in Strathmore, AB, which is held in conjunction with a large rodeo. We will also be sanctioning the Manitoba Open BBQ Championship, which is held in Morden, Manitoba.

As we continue to grow, so will our need for judges and Head Judges. In 2008, we were able to certify Mark Majhor, Brian Maloney, and Angie Quaale as new Head Judges. We were also pleased to have Jenny Springer return to Head Judging. Our goal for 2009 will be to certify several more Head Judges in order to keep up with the demand for new competitions.



The financial side to having more Head Judges and more competitions is the need to invest in more equipment, such as computers, printers, and bar code scanners. It takes equipment to run the events. Fortunately, in 2008 we were able to increase our cash reserve, which will allow us to make such investments, and it also makes it easier to donate and help the charities we work with. Last year we helped raise over \$15,000 for various charities.

2009 brings a change in Webmasters for the PNWBA website. Anthony James has been the Webmaster from early 2004 through 2008. After 5 years, he decided it was time to pass the job on. Our thanks go out to him for the thousands of hours he has donated to developing and maintaining this vital asset. Fortunately, Ryan Ositis has stepped up to the challenge. Ryan and the Board of Directors hope to further develop the website by adding new features and capabilities during the next year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Officers and Board of Directors for their hard work this past year. It was a great group of individuals (leaders) that brought a wealth of talent and ideas to the organization. I was personally pleased to see that all of the Officers and Board Members whose terms were expiring at the end of 2008 were willing to run again. The only exception was Christene James, who after spending 5 years on the Board (three as President) decided to take some well-deserved time off (which is not really the case since she will still be active as a Head Judge and organizing several events). Joining us as a new member of the Board of Directors is Gregg Fujino from Portland. We look forward to working with him.

Volunteers run this association. Without them, we would not be able to have a successful organization. I would encourage all of you to please volunteer to help run one of our events. Your help is needed!

I hope to see you on the BBQ trail.

Tom Wallin

President

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NEW! JUDGES CORNER

JOHN WILLINGHAM BBQ MASTERS CLASS

2008 ELECTION RESULTS

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BBQ BOB & THE EH TEAM COMPETE AT THE ROYAL

BY ROBERT HASELBACH

For the second time in our BBQ life, we were able to accept our invitation to American Royal BBQ Invitational & make the trip down to Kansas City. Unlike in 2006, we only brought 2 bullets, instead of 4. We also packed them in garbage cans to take on the plane with us. This ended up being a bad idea as it cost a lot more in oversized fees & they kept the cans in Kansas City! In 2006 we just put them in garbage bags & threw them on the conveyer belts as luggage (much more inexpensive, but you will have to rebuild them!).



From L to R: Meredith, Friend, BBQ Bob



The team was also different. Meredith Bodell (AKA: “The Team”) & Karen Roland (The Boss) replaced Mark Smith. I am pretty sure the girls were blown away at the enormity of it all. They had both seen BBQ Competitions before, but not like this.

We scrambled to get set-up, complete our shopping, and got to it. Our neighbors were awesome (Early Bird BBQ), and after getting our meats on, we had some drinks. I went to bed, and the girls went to the “darkside”! They saw even more crazy stuff, some “huge parties”, and then came back to camp.

In the Invitational, we were very happy with all 4 turn-ins and almost got a ribbon in chicken (18th place). Overall we finished 58th out of 100 teams with a score of 639.something. We were really happy with everything we cooked for the Open Competition as well, but did not receive as good results. We finished 329th out of 475 teams with a score of 581.14. Easily some of the best food I have ever cooked, but the worst scores the team has gotten since the 1st season. It was similar for some of the teams that won stuff in the Invitational; they were saying there were a lot of rookie judges.

As far as I know, we were the only Canadian Team, so I had been just telling everyone we were the top Canadian Team! We had a blast the entire time, met tons of new (and old) BBQ Kin & will try to go back next year! Next year will be the 30th Anniversary & will be the biggest ever!

PNWBA EVENT CALENDAR 2009

EVENTS AS OF MARCH 8, 2009. SOME DATES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. EVENTS MAY BE ADDED OR CANCELLED.

APRIL		
April 4-5	Pike Place Market Competition Pike Place Market	Seattle, WA
April 26	Paul Kirk BBQ Pit Master Cooking Class	Portland, OR
April 26	Oregon BBQ Judging Class	Portland, OR
MAY		
May 2	Smokin' on the Columbia	Astoria, OR
May TBD	Washington Spring Training	Seattle, WA
May 9-10	John Willingham BBQ Masters Competition Cooking Class	Aloha, OR
May 15-16	Smokin' BBQ Cookoff	Trail, BC
May 30	Washington BBQ Judging and Cooking Class	Seattle, WA
JUNE		
June 6-7	Thriftway Classic	Aloha, OR
June 12-13	McKinley Springs Cookoff	Prosser, WA
June 20-21	Smoke On The Water	Kelowna, BC
June 20-21	Tigard Balloon Festival	Tigard, OR
June 27	Bothell Country Village Cookoff	Bothell, WA
JULY		
July 4-5	Eastern Oregon Barbecue Championships	Condon, OR
July 4-5	The 2009 Pile Of Bones–Western Canadian BBQ Championships	Regina, SK
July 11	Black Diamond Miner's Days	Black Diamond, WA
July 11-12	Smokin' at the Ocean	Lincoln City, OR
July 18-19	The Markets Championship	Birch Bay, WA
July 25	Gold Dust Days	Gold Bar, WA
July 25-26	BC's Best Rack	Squamish, BC
AUGUST		
August 1-2	Canadian National Barbecue Championship	Whistler, BC
August 2-3	Smokin' Bull BBQ Cookoff	Strathmore, AB
August 7-8	Smokin' in the Root	Stevensville, MT
August 8-9	Cascade Country Cookoff	Chehalis, WA
August 15-16	The Markets Cookoff II	Sedro Woolley, WA
August 21-22	Manitoba Open Barbecue Championship	Morden, MB
August 28-30	Oregon State Fair	Salem, OR
SEPTEMBER		
September 5-6	BBQ on the Bow	Calgary, AB
September 12-13	BBQ on the By-Pass	Langley, BC
September 19-20	Evergreen State Barbecue Championship, Alki Beach	Seattle, WA