



The Shipyard Brewing Company

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OLD THUMPER EXTRA SPECIAL ALE WINS SILVER AWARD AT REAL ALE FESTIVAL IN CHICAGO

PORTLAND, MAINE (March 17, 2003) -- The Shipyard Brewing Company's Old Thumper Extra Special Ale came home with a silver award in the Best Bitter category at the 7th annual Real Ale Festival in Chicago.

Old Thumper Extra Special Ale received this same award at the 2nd annual festival in 1997. Old Thumper Extra Special Ale was created in 1979 by veteran British brewer, Peter Austin, founder of the Ringwood Brewery in Hampshire, England and mentor to The Shipyard Brewing Company's Master Brewer, Alan Pugsley. Austin is regarded as the father of the craft brew movement. He has directly set up over 120 breweries worldwide and his work has been the inspiration for many more.

After 15 years of being brewed exclusively by Ringwood, on November 3, 1994, Old Thumper made history when Old Thumper Extra Special Ale was brewed at The Shipyard Brewing Company and introduced in America via a 35 New England bar simultap. Following this massive event, Shipyard began bottling Old Thumper to satisfy consumer demand for this original ale.

A British Grand Champion beer, Old Thumper is a non-traditional English bitter, brewed in the United States solely by Kennebunkport Brewing Company and The Shipyard Brewing Company. 5.8% alcohol by volume.

The record-setting 7th annual Real Ale Festival was held February 27 through March 1. 3,000 ale enthusiasts from 33 states and at least six different countries attended to sample more than 220 brands of cask-conditioned beer and 73 different bottle-conditioned entries -- topping previous attendance at the festival by nearly 20 percent.

For more information about Ringwood Brewery visit
<http://www.ringwoodbrewery.co.uk>

The Real Ale Festival was launched in 1996 by Ray Daniels and Steve Hamburg. For more information about the festival visit
<http://www.realalefestival.com>

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