

Northern Californians take beer pong event at the CasaBlanca

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The Sacramento, Calif. team of "Larger Than Life" of Michael "Sonomajoe" Sieber, left, and Jarrod "Tiny" Birmingham captured first-place money of \$2,000 while the runner ups were awarded \$1,500

In what might be considered a true extreme level of both entertainment and competition, The Return to Mesquite: A \$10,000 World Series of Beer Pong VII Mega Satellite Event rocked the house here in the CasaBlanca Event Center over last weekend.

More than 60 two-man teams entered the event won by the Sacramento, Calif., team called Larger Than Life which defeated world champions Standing Ovation of St. Louis.

The winning team of Michael "Sonomajoe" Siebert and Jarrod "Tiny" Birmingham of Sacramento, Calif. captured first-place money of \$2,000 while the runner ups were awarded \$1,500.

The winners will now advance to the World Series of Beer Pong at the Flamingo in Las Vegas scheduled for Jan. 1-5. The event on the Las Vegas Strip offers \$65,000 in prize money.

Finishing runner up in a wild and exciting final round were the reigning World Series of Beer Pong VI champions Dan Range and Nick Syrigos from St. Louis, Mo. Known as "Standing Ovation," the second-place finishers took home \$1,500 at the CasaBlanca Event Center.

The two final teams split the first two games before "Larger Than Life" won the final.

Birmingham, 24, and Seivert, 27, were ranked in 7th place going into the finals after a 7-1 pool play record, losing only to Las Vegas-based team "Boom Goes the Dynamite."

"It really feels good," said Seivert. "This has been a crazy, but a tough tournament. We had a good time here. It's a big win because they came in last year and won the biggest tournament in the world last year in the World Series of Beer Pong."

Birmingham said winning the tournament required strong concentration.

"You have to stay focused," Birmingham said. "You can't let the pressure get to you."

Sixteen teams finished in the prize pool, which paid a total of \$10,000. Los Angeles resident Katie Harris and Jennifer

Conant from Oceanside, Calif., of the all-female team “Candy is Dandy But Liquor is Quicker,” finished in 46th place.

Laura Olson and Nolan Mead from Orange County, Calif.-based, co-ed team “Nolan and Some Girl” finished 25th. The top female and co-ed team won bids to the WSOBP VII. No female has ever won the World Series of Beer Pong, which is the largest and longest running beer pong tournament in the world.

“The first and second annual World Series of Beer Pong tournaments were held in Mesquite before the event outgrew the facility and was relocated to the Las Vegas strip,” said Billy Gaines, co-founder of the World Series of Beer Pong. “Many of the players who came out to Mesquite this weekend described feelings of excitement and nostalgia upon returning to where it all began. There was much support from teams that didn’t make the finals to root for their favorites, alongside casino guests who checked out the action and first-time tournament players.”

The BPONG Return to Mesquite tournament drew 66 teams from 13 states, including as far away as Michigan and Minnesota. The event used World Series of Beer Pong tournament rules in which two teams stand at opposite ends of an 8-foot-long table, where ten 16-ounce cups, filled with roughly 2 ounces of beer or another liquid, are placed in bowling-pin formation. Each team takes turns tossing beer pong balls (similar to table tennis balls) at their opponent’s cup formation. If a ball goes into a cup, the cup is removed from the game. The first team to eliminate all of its opponent’s cups wins.

There are two ways to gain entrance into the World Series of Beer Pong. The first is to purchase entry online at www.bpong.com/wsobp. Package prices start at \$450 per person and include a 4-night stay at The Flamingo Hotel and Casino, as well as entrance into WSOBP VII. The second way to gain a spot in the WSOBP is to win a bid via a Satellite™ Tournament.

Ben “Skinny” Sonick, partner with www.bpong.com, said the sport has become serious and fun at the same time.

“We thought it would be really cool to run a tournament here in the middle of the year,” said Sonick. “This is absolutely a sport. Anything that is taken seriously to the point where the people train for it is definitely a sport.

“This is such a misunderstood contest because so many people think it’s simply a beer chugging contest. This is far more serious than a dozen other sports that are on ESPN. It’s one of those things that everyone can enjoy this and have fun.”

Founded in 2001, BPONG.COM is the premier source of beer pong information on the Internet, providing a collaboration and discussion about the sport of beer pong. The company hosts The World Series of Beer Pong®, the largest and longest running beer pong tournament in the world, with the next event set for Jan. 1-5, 2012, in Las Vegas. For more information about the company, its events and products, or the WSOBP, visit www.bpong.com.