



2013 Master Steinologist Awardee - Jim Sauer



Al Hoch 1929 - 2013

by Pat Jahn



We are saddened to report that our very dear friend and fellow stein collector, Al Hoch, has passed away. Al was not only our friend but the friend to many stein collectors as well as collectors around the globe. He was noted for his craftsmanship in taking our broken steins and collectibles and making them look new again. He collected other items, but his first love was beer steins, and his beer stein comrades.

Al was a member of SCI for over 40 years and he served as President. He often gave talks at conventions and local chapter meetings sharing his knowledge of steins as well as the German legends, lore and humor. For his efforts, SCI presented Al the Master Steinologist award. He was a long-time member of Meister Steiners and as such helped to host three SCI conventions.

These are just a few of the things that made him a stein collector, but what is extraordinary about Al is that he collected friends. Friendships that lasted a lifetime. Attending Al's memorial service was an awakening to the depth of the man. Martin and I thought we knew him well, but we were wrong. He was a giant of a person. Listening to the eulogies was like finding a myriad of images we never saw. Al was so many things to so many people. He touched so many lives and made their lives better for knowing him. His wife Barbara and his five children will miss his wisdom, integrity, kindness, and generosity -- so will we.



2013 Jack Heimann Service Awardee - Phil Masenheimer



2013 Jack Lowenstein Editors Awardee - John Strassberger





Early Risers

Photos by Martin Estep