



PCCA Pete McLaughlin Cupping Competition Review



Doug Welsh
Peeet's coffee & Tea

The 4th Annual PCCA Cupping Competition was, as always, both a memorial to Pete McLaughlin, and a memorable event. Appropriately, for the association's upcoming conference in Hawaii, the coffees were 16 beautifully prepared samples from Kona, accompanied by a superb slide show on the origin, presented by the Steve McLaughlins (Sr. and Jr.). Hugo de la Roca of the Annex, two-time winner of the award for best cupper, was kicked upstairs to the judges panel, which took on the task of narrowing these samples to ten finalists.

Scores from the competition itself determine the "PCCA Coffee of the Year," but in both the pre-judging and the final the result was near unanimous. Baba's Beans 100% Kona was the winner by clear consensus, and the PCCA's congratulations go out to Cathy Artukovich and Koa Coffee Plantation. This was a truly outstanding coffee.

There was also little doubt as to the winner of the cupper's award, which goes to the taster whose scores most closely match those of the judges. The identity of the "PCCA Cupper of the Year" will remain a mystery until the convention, where the winner will be announced at the final banquet, September 18th at the Hapuna Beach Prince Resort. Just in case anyone needs another reason to attend the conference.

We would like to extend our special thanks to the Annex for hosting the event once again, and to a few PCCA members who volunteered their time to make it work. Thank you Andrew Vournas for taking the lead in organizing the event, and first-time attendee Mike Vournas for pitching in. Tom Kilty roasted all the samples with precision, and Dave Weber did just about everything else, supplying the water heating and serving equipment, and taking at least two full days out of his schedule. Thanks to Phil Maloney for assistance with the tabulation, to Lisa as always, and once again to all the staff at the Annex for pitching in with enthusiasm. This has become a great annual event, both casual and informative, and an efficient way to survey quality in a single origin. We look forward to seeing everyone there next year.

