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REVIEW of the FEBRUARY MEETING

---by Chad Alexander---

In keeping with the age-old Foam Ranger tradition espousing a monthly "theme" beer (not to be confused with the Montrose-ian pronunciation for "steam" beer), February's predilection was for beverages of a Canadian persuasion. The fourteen judges were merciless, but surprisingly uniform in their appraisals. Unfortunately, only five labels were available for sampling (it should be noted, however, that these labels were possibly more interesting than some of the beers themselves).

"The decisions, please!"...

Beer	Average	High	Low
Molson Ale	13.00	17.25	6.5
Molson Brador	11.90	16.50	7.0
Moosehead	10.20	15.25	7.0
Grizzly	9.12	16.00	5.0
Trapper	9.11	14.25	6.0

Note that Molson Ale and Molson Brador are technically beers, but an ale and a malt liquor, respectively.

Several topics of great import (pun intended, but miserably failed) were discussed in the course of the meeting. Briefly, they included:

- 1) Jockey
- 2) Hanes
- 3) BVD's
- 4) Soliciting judges for the March competition.
- 5) Responsibility for bringing munchies to future meetings, which was graciously accepted by Tom and Tina Carsten. Let's all remember folks - KEEP THAT KITTY FULL!!
- 6) The April meeting will be devoted to English ales and stouts (Nirvana - I have found you!).
- 7) The next occasional, quasi-bi-annual Foam Ranger Pub Crawl will take place on Saturday, May 19.

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PREVIEW of the MARCH MEETING

Beware the Ides of March!

Personally, I am more wary of the ides of April, but that is another story in the altogether. On a more pleasant note, the March 15 meeting of the (now notorious) Foam Rangers will feature a home brewing competition. There are no entry fees (other than three very clean bottles filled with your very best beer); the awards for the winners reflect this outrageous amount, in that no cheap, crumby ribbons of any kind will be given! Since the point of this competition is to select the club entries for the national event to occur in Michigan, a first place beer maker is awarded the prize that he or she gets to part with a few MORE bottles to be entered into that competition. The club will pay the shipping fees for these entries.

There are seven categories for this competition, and you are invited to enter your beers into each and every one (this way, the judges will have plenty to keep them occupied):

- (1) North American Light Lager
- (2) Continental Light Lager
- (3) Pale Ales, which is to include Amber beers, "theme" beers (I'm thorry), and Oktoberfest beers
- (4) Dark beers, (brown ales and dark lagers)
- (5) Stouts and Porters
- (6) Strong beers (minimum of 96 octane)
- (7) Novelty brews (you name it; anyone have a good "avocado ale"?)

Several individuals were volunteered to be judges at the February meeting. If you are included in the list below, come prepared:

J. Adams	C. Alexander
T. Bakewell	M. Bartol
D. Bensey	S. Birdwell
L. Bristol	G. Clarkson
J. Stone	B. Watts

During the judging, we will need several individuals to serve as "stewards", which means they get the cream of the crop! Volunteer volunteers

will be appreciated. Otherwise, volunteers will be drafted.

This is likely to be one of the most interesting meetings of the Foam Rangers during the month of March, so do not miss out. There is certain to be a good supply of the best home brew made in Houston; after all, there are not THAT many judges, and everyone has their breaking point!

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SNEAK PREVIEW of the APRIL MEETING

As you must surely know by now, the "steam" beer for the April 19 meeting of the (you guessed it) Foam Rangers will be English ales and stouts. In February, several individuals offered to bring a sample of various British Brews. We have your names and the name of the beer you promised to bring, so do not worry - you will be reminded. Actually you have a choice; you may deliver upon your word, or you get the privilege of being the next editor of this publication (Hey Scott! Notice how I subtly convinced everyone to bring enough beer to close down Parliament?)

A perfectly wonderful idea has been suggested for the April meeting, which is to make a "club brew" during that evening. This could be used as a demonstration of the art of home brewing. Even more important, this beer could be used to fill the void (so to speak) between stops during the pub crawl in May. We need comments and suggestions.

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**ADULTS ONLY SUPER SNEAK PREVIEW
of the MAY MEETING**

You are hereby forewarned that the May 17 meeting of the Foam Rangers will feature German Light Lagers, of which there are numerous labels available. It should be extremely interesting to compare the merits of such beers as Becks, St. Pauli Girl, Dortmunder, DAB, Spaten, and so on.

Of a more foreboding note, this meeting is only two days before the PUB CRAWL. This will be your LAST CHANCE to get into shape for this gruelling ordeal!

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**Grandmother Steinberg's Genuine
Kosher Secret Recipe for Beer Bread**

3 cups flour
2 tablespoons sugar
12 ounces beer (must have active yeast)

Combine all ingredients, let rise at room temperature for 30 minutes to an hour. Flop the gooey mess into a greasy bread pan and bake in a 300°F oven until crust is appropriately brown (45 minutes to an hour).

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Charlie Papazian to visit Foam Rangers

Charlie Papazian of "Zymurgy" fame will be coming to Houston to make a presentation to the Foam Rangers. The subject of his lecture and slide presentation is "Beer Tasting and Home Brewing", which will be followed by a tasting demonstration of both home and commercially brewed beers.

The event is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Sunday, April 1, at Mr. Dunderbak's Old World Deli and Cafe in Greenspoint Mall. Tickets for this event are available at DeFalco's for \$5.00, or may be obtained at the door for \$6.00.

This event is a "must" for every home brewer! You should make plans to attend and learn more about the art of beer making.

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The Defenestration of Noggins II

Guess what! The hottest event of 1983 is going to be repeated in 1984! Mark this date on your calendar (May 19), and get yourself ready to celebrate the second Foam Rangers' Pub Crawl! This will be unquestionably the event of the season; last year's Pub Crawl was so (how do we phrase this) "noteworthy" that a complete review including (groan) photographs appears in the March 1983 issue of "All About Beer". I understand that the negatives are available to the highest bidder.

This Pub Crawl promises to be even more exciting. Several suggestions have been made as to our potential stops, including the always enjoyable "Munchies", the fascinating "Ale House", the new Irish pub "Kenneally's", "Mr. Dunderbak's", "Elephant and Castle", and more! And do not forget that we are likely to have a club brew available during the long bus rides, if we get busy and make one.

I understand that we will attempt to use the London bus service again. Even if the unthinkable should happen again, the substitute bus was plenty good. I reminded some of us of days long gone (some longer than others). However, it has been suggested that defenestration be kept to a minimum.

Watch for further developments, and keep your calendar in shape. The Second Foam Ranger's Pub Crawl is not to be missed!

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HOT FLASH!!

Keep your eyes open for the summer issue of "Zymurgy". According to reliable rumors, a literary masterpiece which first appeared within these humble pages (cough) is to be reprinted in that publication. And which of the great works has been selected? Would you believe "Up Your BBQ"? Autographed copies and photographs of the author will be available for a modest fee!

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Scouting Report

--- submitted anonymously---

According to advertisements seen in local area newspapers, the Alief area of Houston could boast the establishment of a new authentic British pub, operated under the name "Wheat Sheaf" on Synott Road. Not too far from my house, this was an invitation that could not be refused!

So that you won't make the same mistake, this is definitely a pub(?) to be laid down and avoided. The authentic British decor consisted of English versions of PAC-MAN and other video games, a pool table, two (count them) dart boards, and a prominently displayed Union Jack to make all we Brits feel right at home.

The beers available consisted of Newcastle Ale (British!), Grolsch (eastern England?), St. Pauli Girl (far east?), Molson Ale (far west?), and an assortment (5) of beers imported all the way from the colonies. At least I think they were available; I did not stick around long enough to order.

Perhaps the owner(s) meant well and tried to make a true British pub, but they failed badly. It might be a decent American bar - I wouldn't know.

(Ed. note - The last few pub reviews have all been goodie, goodie. I could not resist the temptation to print this.)

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New Newsletter Editor

It should be clear by now that something has changed between the previous newsletter and this one. This phenomenon is quite easily explained. George Clarkson, the former editor (publisher, printer, distributor, and so forth) for this publication has been released on parole for good behavior; even though the crimes to which I have been charged are still under appeal, I have begun to serve my sentence as editor (etc.).

I want to express my own appreciation, and what I am sure is the general appreciation of the entire club, to George for the fine job he did with the not too trivial task of bringing this news to you. I hope to continue in this fine example.

There will be, of course, a few changes, not the least of which is the physical printing style which you see before you. The equipment used to print this newsletter is substantially different. In addition, I have no intention of taking on this task single handedly. George would ask politely for contributions to the newsletter, and then write most of the material himself.

I plan to be a lot more demanding. This is, after all, a club newsletter; all of us have good ideas that are worth sharing among the club, and the newsletter is a perfect vehicle for this purpose. Do not be surprised if you are asked to write an article. This is merely the highest expression of respect that one can receive - to be asked to put one's thoughts into printed words. Incidentally, anyone who refuses automatically becomes the next publisher of the newsletter! (Is that a loaded gun, or what?)

Actually, putting this issue together has been quite enjoyable, and I expect it to be a lot easier next month. I will need your support.