



Vol III No.3

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March 1985

REVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Foam Rangers took place on Thursday, Feb. 21 at the usual place, DeFalco's. As has been the case in recent months, we had a nice turnout of about 25-30 F/Rs. The BOM (Beer of the Month) was Sneak Previews of the annual club competition entries. (In other words, bring what you got!). The main topics for discussion were the upcoming local and national competitions. Judges and stewards were drafted . . . uh, recruited (volunteered!). Poor Bill Watts barely (barley?) remembered volunteering at a previous F/R function to hold a homebrew party at his house (now in pieces all over West University Place). He was reminded, of course! Ed "Accidental" Watts (no relation, we understand) has reputedly made two consecutive batches without mishap. Or so the rumor goes. . . J.R. Wasson has volunteered to help organize a Foam Ranger softball team (Ummmm! Sounds dangerous!) Interested parties (that's the ideal!) should contact J.R. at 462-8773.

In *lite* of the fact that there were no commercial beers present for appraisal, and nobody was interested, anyway, we did not reach a consensus as to what was good, bad, or indifferent. In other words, it was the usual mayhem and chaos. That's O.K., these brews were going to be judged indifferent on the following Sunday, anyway. Oh, what fun!

PREVIEW OF THE MARCH MEETING (Thursday March 21st)

March should be a *red banner (my God, communist)* month. The BOM for this month is . . . **no, dummy, not stout, we did that in November . . .** Bock! After all, the first day of spring is the traditional day for release of these 'bannered' brews. A few commercial (and therefore, inherently inferior) specimens of this style are:

Shiner Bock

Augsburger Bock

Schoenling Bock

Paulaner Urbock (Good, but too pale)

Spaten Franziskus (Heller Bock, same story)

Schlosspils Urbock (from Austria)

In addition, we still have scoresheets and ribbons from the local competition to return to entrants.

One of the more or less exciting aspects of the March meeting will be the private viewing of the **Mackenzie Bros.** (You know, Bob & Doug . . .) fabulous feature length motion picture **STRANGE BREW** (you, hoser. Take off, eh?).

SNEAK PREVIEW OF APRIL MEETING (Thursday April 18th)

In April come showers, fools, income tax, and Alfred E. Newman's birthday. But by far the worst, is the introduction of a new category of homebrew: ~~Basement Black Bitter~~ (better known as BBB), and just for S & G's, the Foam Rangers have selected this thing as the BOM. For a detailed description (cough!) of this style refer to the February issue of The Foam Rangers Newsletter (Library of Congress Reference ISBN 0-666-7734-1).

RESULTS OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW COMPETITION

The Fifth Annual Foam Rangers Homebrew Competition was held at Munchies Classic Cafe on Sunday *Febrew* ary 24th. We had a record 82 entries from the local yokels. After getting off to a quiet start, the competition really got rolling about 3:30. Lots of homebrewers and a couple of kegs of brew (Randy Brown's Wheat Beer and RB's Moral Majority Pale Ale *It's Righteous!*) helped lubricate the wheels of progress. After a surprise visit from Ronnie & Nancy, we got down to some serious judging and drinking. (At least what was left after Ronnie killed off the Righteous Pale Ale). And now here are the ball scores: 7-3, 4-5, and 2-1.

TOTAL ENTRIES - 82

AMERICAN LIGHT(4 Entries)		
	ENTRY #	
1st	Steve Daniel	#63
2nd	John Adams	#35
3rd	John Adams	#34

CONTINENTAL LIGHT (8 Entries)		
1st	Chris Black	#56
2nd	Randy Brown	#20
3rd	Ellis Stewart	#2

PALE ALES (20 Entries)		
1st	Andy Bradley	#41
2nd	Cary Jensen	#51
3rd	Keith Laird	#57
HM	Randy Brown	#21

STEAM BEERS (7 Entries)		
1st	Linda Livesay	#71
2nd	Andy Bradley	#43
3rd	Conway/Satterfield	#62

OCTOBERFEST/VIENNA (7 Entries)		
1st	Randy Brown	#22
2nd	Keith Laird	#28
3rd	Ralph Unger	#53

BROWN ALES/CONTINENTAL DARKS (7 Entries)		
1st	Cary Jensen(B/A)	#48
2nd	Neil Sargent(C/D)	#27
3rd	Ellis Stewart(C/D)	#3

PORTERS (7 Entries)		
1st	Mike Bartol	#79
2nd	Brad Kraus	#10
3rd	Cary Jensen	#46

DRY STOUTS (11 Entries)		
1st *	Cary Jensen	#49
2nd	Hart Brupbacher	#14
3rd	Randy Brown	#19

SWEET STOUTS (No Entries, again)

STRONG BREWS (4 Entries)

1st	Bill Watts	#59
2nd	Steve Roberts	#65
3rd	Ellis Stewart	#5

SPECIALTY BEERS(3 NOVELTY,1 ALE MEAD,2 WHEAT BEERS, 1 FRUIT BEER)

1st	Mike Bartol(W/B)	#82
2nd	Bob Capshew(F/B)	#61
3rd	Brad Kraus(N/B)	#9

* BEST OF SHOW

SIXTH ANNUAL HWBTA INTERNATIONAL HOMEBREW COMPETITION

The Sixth Annual HWBTA International Homebrew Competition was held March 8 & 9 at the Olde English Inn (the "castle" off the Southwest Freeway). Many F/R's were again conscripted to help judge, steward, and generally run this contest. A total of 140 entries from all over the country were received. This number was a bit disappointing, but, unfortunately, many homebrew shops did not receive their entry packages until well into February. This was too bad, but the wheels of the HWBTA bureaucracy move at their own rate. Nevertheless, many F/R's were seen to be consuming conspicuously. Nasty work, but . . . Many thanks to the Malthoppers from Bryan for their help (especially Jana Cezeaux). Also thanks to Bill Pfeiffer for flying down from Wyandotte, Michigan and Pat Baker (author of The New Brewer's Handbook) who came in from Connecticut. In addition, Jim Scisson drove in from San Antonio to help out with judging. Thanks, Jim!

As is always the case with these competitions, nothing would come off without the able assistance of Dorothy Bartol. She is the unsung hero (heroine?) of these fiascos. Extra special *THANKS* goes out to Dorothy, your patience with the 18th Century elevator was commendable.

As official results of the Nationals cannot be released until the HWBTA convention in April, we cannot print the results until the next issue of this publication (Choke!). Unofficially, we can tell you that the F/R's did very well at the competition (nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more, say no more).

BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE PUB CRAWL (CHAPTER III)

One of the more pressing topics for discussion at the March meeting is the necessity for setting times, dates, places, themes, etc. for the upcoming Third Annual Foam Rangers Pub Crawl. So far, the consensus is to crawl sometime in late May, but we need to nail the particulars down this Thursday. Be there or be sober!

RANTINGS AND RAVINGS

- 1) We will sponsor a shipment of entries to send to the "other" nationals in Denver which will take place May 28 & 29. The entries must arrive no later than May 10, so we need to get on the stick on this. The entry fees will be \$5 for AHA members and \$7.50 for non-members. The categories will be almost the same as for the Dixie Cup and our locals. (Shucks, what can I say, I'm flattered.). More details at the F/R meetings this month and in April.
- 2) In a moment of mass insanity at the last meeting, members voted over-whelmingly to use club funds to buy a dart board and darts to install at the shop for 'funsies'. Maybe we should give this idea some thought while we're still in semi-control of our senses. What do you think?? Total expenditure should be about \$70-\$80.
- 3) To encourage greater participation in the creation of this (gag, again!) periodical, we are going to try to set up the N/L meeting in advance. Please show up and help us *draught* this thing. It's your newsletter, too, you know! Next meeting: Monday, April 8th at 7:30 at Kenneally's. If you can't make the session, please submit something (anything!). Direct your articles to DeFalco's, and we'll make sure the N/L editor (Whoever that is . . .) gets it. This brings up another point . . .
- 4) We need someone to come forward and volunteer their services for the next year and be our beloved N/L Editor. Here's your chance to get on your homebrew soapbox and rant and rave. Think of the power, think of the glamour, think of the great pay (Oh, well, two out of three ain't bad!). Thus far, the best we've come up with is two or three "maybe's" from folks that have said they might come up with a page or so each per month. Could this be the beginning of a triumvirate or something? HELP!!!
- 5) Wedding bells have caused a postponement in Scott's party celebrating the final payment for DeFalco's. Look for this party to re-surface sometime in June. Standby to party-hardy! There'll be a virtual ocean of homebrew!
- 6) We are still looking for an alternative meeting place for our monthly get-togethers. The store is getting awfully crowded during these sessions and we could definitely use the extra seating capacity.
- 7) Due to increasing publishing and postage costs, it's about time we considered bumping up our N/L fee from \$5 to \$7 or \$8. Who knows, maybe even more if we agreed to use the funds for something other than simply putting out this thing! What do you think???