



BREWSLETTER URQUELL

July 1999

The brewsletter of Houston's Foam Rangers

Volume: 25 pints

Out of the WAZOO

by Wayne Smith, Grand Wazoo



Dixie Cup Progress Report - I hope you all had a great Fourth of July Holiday and got to brew lotsa beer to drink and enter in the upcoming competitions. The fourth marks the passing of half of this year and signals how quickly we are approaching the Dixie Cup competition in October. Its time to roll up our sleeves and seriously get to work on the preparation for this year's event. For that reason I am calling together another planning meeting at the Timberwolf Pub on July 17th, Saturday, at 5:30 PM. A number of people have already volunteered their services. John Donaldson has agreed to be Judge Coordinator again this year after the great job he did last year. Steve Moore has agreed to be Steward Coordinator. Joe Lindsey will be handling the Pub Crawl arrangements. I have asked Bev Blackwood to handle public relations, i.e. spreading the word. I still need someone with computer skills, and preferably who has a lap top computer - although that's not an absolute necessity, to handle recording and logging in entries. Someone is needed to make arrangements for and handle the logistic of the refrigerated beer trailer or trailers. Last year's Waz, Steve Capo, set up the arrangements for the hotel, Courtyard by Marriott - same as last year, and locked in a room rate that is also the same as last year, \$55 per night. The dates for this year's event are October 22th and 23rd. I hope to see all of you at the T-Wolf on the 17th.

St. Arnold Keg - As I mentioned in last month's Waz column the Foam Rangers won a keg of Saint Arnold's beer at the KGB's Big Batch Brew Bash for the club having the most entries going on to second round judging. I was thinking the keg may be a bit much to try and finish off at one of our meetings, what with all the other beer we usually have, and that maybe we could have

some type of outing on a weekend with food and such and invite the other local home-brew clubs. Scott Birdwell suggested a beach party and possibly renting a beach house for the weekend. Things are still in the preliminary planing phase but if anyone has, or knows someone who has, a beach house or a lake house that could be rented for a weekend let Scott know about it. I'll keep you filled in as thing develop.

Phoenix Rising - The word on the street is that the Orchid Lounge is changing its motif back to the former Village Brewery. I personally am looking forward to having the Village Brewery back again,

Lunar Rendezbrew VI - The next local competition coming up is the Bay Area Mastronauts Lunar Rendezbrew on the August 8th in Seabrook. Entry deadline is the July 31st. Check the Brothers Slamen column in this issue for further details. Don't miss this event. I've been to the last two competitions and they were a lot of fun.

Judging of the Kegs - At this month's meeting five, or possibly six, team brewed kegs will be judged to see which one will go on to the Lunar Rendezbrew as the Foam Ranger's club entry.

BT Magazine - The Foam Rangers have an arrangement with Brewing Techniques Magazine. In return for running an ad in our Brewsletter the Club will have a link from the BT web home page to the Foam Ranger home page and each FR member is entitled to receive discounted subscription rates to BT Magazine. I have discount offer post cards or call their office at 1-800-427-2993 or e-mail them at circulation@brewtech.com. The discounted rate is \$26 a year - a \$7 discount off their regular subscription rate or a \$13 savings off the newsstand rate. (Get two years for \$48). Their ad will appear in next months Brewsletter.

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Quote of the Month

**"Abstainer: a
weak person who
yields to the
temptation of
denying himself
a pleasure"**

- Ambrose Bierce

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June Meeting Minutes

by James Paige, Scrivener

The Grand Waz called the herd together at 8:33 pm. We learned that the illustrious Phil Endacott had somehow managed to rope Karel C. into renewing his membership for another fun year. Whether or not Phil used his Rocky Balboa tactics to strong arm Karel is unknown.

Club t-shirts were discussed and are supposed to be on their way. See Bev Blackwood.

The Foam Ranger Membership card, don't leave home without it. Anyone who still may have problems with your membership card please see the Waz. If you would just take a brief moment to read the damn thing we would not have to keep making this announcement. For some reason the Waz thinks Foamers may have card problems. However, that is after many beers into the meeting. Hmm... What's up with that Mr. Smith?

Foam Rangers managed to steal the show at the recent KGB Big Batch Brewoff. Mention the chance to win free kegs of St. Arnold's and the Rangers really perform. We had a total of 16 entries as a club and 11 of those were pushed to the second round. Moreover, Dave Cato stole the Best of Show for his Weizenbock and Kehn Bacon took 3rd place for a Dunkel. Great job guys and thanks for helping bring home a free keg of St. Arnold Amber Ale.

The Sly Bastards were at it again this time winning a second place for their Imperial Stout at the Oregon Homebrew Festival. They continued their rampage by conquering the 5th Buzz Boneyard Brew-off with 1st places for Brown Ale and India Pale Ale. This earned the Bastards a chance to enter their beers in the 2nd annual MCAB. Other Buzz winners included Joe Lindsey for 2nd place European Dark (Munich Dunked) and 3rd Light Ale category (Kolsch). Your Scrivener took 3rd place in the Pale Ale division. See web site www.uiuc.edu/ro/BUZZ/contest5.html for more details.

The **Lunar Rendezbrew** is just around the corner; entry deadline is July 31st. See www.mashtronauts.org for entry info. Start setting your entries aside and brew up a few more lighter gravity batches that will be ready to go to the show in Clear Lake. All you keg competitors, you should know who your teammates are, and you should have already brewed, the kegs will be presented and judged at the July meeting.

The **1999 Dixie Cup** will be held October 22-23, 1999. We are still in need of VIP speak-

ers and volunteers. See the Waz if you can give just an ounce of assistance. John Donaldson (KGB) has already taken over as Judge Coordinator. Joe Lindsey will head up the Pub Crawl program if he survives the crawl route selection process. Joe says he will conduct quality control checks of all the pubs that will be on the tour. Bev Blackwood, Mr. Malt Show, will be the information control officer as PR Coordinator.

The Foam Rangers have now secured a link to **Brewing Techniques** magazine. Our club will be linked to their web site and vice versa. In return we receive six bucks off subscriptions. Their magazine will be highlighted in our club newsletter with an advertisement. Call 1-800-427-2993 or e-mail circulation@brewtech.com to set up a subscription.

The Austin Pub Crawl was planned for the July 17th. Do to low interest in the trip, the bus tour was canceled. There may be some club members out there who may want to carpool and share designated driving. Probably a good idea now that George Jr. signed the bill to lower the intoxication level to 0.08 BAC. Be careful Rangers.

A discussion was held about where and when to quaff the keg of St. Arnold's. Some suggested a beach party along the Gulf of Mexico. Others recommended a party at Steve Moore's house. More details to follow at the July meeting.

Bev Blackwood ran down the details of the upcoming Texas Craft Brewers Festival for the July 10th. Tickets were \$25 at the door, or \$20 in advance from St. Arnold's. The event would be held in the Heights.

Hear ye, hear ye, the AHA has finally succumbed to intelligence and has adopted the BJCP style/judging guidelines. Now maybe we can have some sense of order and consistency with these renegade homebrew contests. Points for AHA contest judging will reportedly be credited to BJCP.

Randy Veazey shared the remains of his yeast experiment with us. Was this a kind act on Randy's part or just a ploy to clear out a shelf in his beer refrigerator? Thanks for the homebrew Randy.

June saw a new member introduced, Dr. Rick Lloyd. Rick was from Oklahoma, the land of the 3.2% and "strong" beer. Ask him at the next meeting if you are curious about Oklahoma beer politics. Maybe that's why he moved to Texas.

Beer of the Month

by Charles Vallhonrat, Secondary Frementer



I had the occasion to travel to California last week for work (drawn by the two evil empires of Microsoft and Intel - what a bunch of chumps).

And, while I was there I snuck into the South Park movie. I

say snuck because when we got to the theatre, the movie had sold out, so my colleague and I bought tickets for Wild Wild West. Once inside the theatre, the South Park crowd, which had been queued up outside of the building, was just coming in and was creating a tremendous amount of chaos. So, taking advantage of the confusion, and since I didn't really want to see Will Smith fight a poorly rendered and conceived mechanical spider, my friend and I joined the sea of humanity and effortlessly floated in to see South Park.

What a happy, joyous story, where in the end everyone gets along - even with Canadians. I believe homebrewers and beer lovers in general can learn a lot from this. Remember my "case of passion fruit" statement back when Belgian beers were the beer of the month? Something about how I was as likely to order a Lambic as I was to request a case of passion fruit be placed strategically in a part of my anatomy usually reserved for eliminating waste. Well, I know many of you feel the same way about wheat beers. There is typically no ambivalence about wheat beers - you either love them or you hate them. But, if the film taught me anything, it was to cuss like a son-of-a-bitch, and to except other even if we don't understand them.

So, if you dislike wheat beers, try to put your anger behind you. Go out and try a

hefe-weizen and savor the banana and clove aroma. Try a Berliner Weiss, and if you have the urge to add woodruff to it, we can also arrange for you to receive your own personal case of passion fruit. And, if these beers don't float your boat, try an Aventinus weizen-bock. If you don't like that, then there's just something wrong with you.

I personally love wheat beers. In fact, I was looking forward to writing this article because I was going to wax nostalgic (no Karel, that doesn't mean beat off) about the first time I tried a wheat beer. I was in Germany for work in 1992 and I was staying at a Sheraton near our office in Munich. Since I was there for nearly two weeks, I had worn out the hospitality of the locals in the office and had started to develop a habit of eating at a small restaurant in the basement of the Sheraton. On one of the first nights in the "sandwich bar" when I was ordering dinner, I looked at the beer list and chose the beer that said .5L after it. It was the biggest number so I thought that maybe it was the strongest. I now know it was referring to the size of the beer (half a liter). Anyway, when the beer came I was really caught off guard by the taste. Not have a discerning palette at the time, I mistook the banana and cloves for bubble gum. But, I loved the beer. By the last few nights of the trip, as soon as I sat down in the restaurant to order dinner, the waitress would just automatically bring me a glass of wheat beer. Certainly, one of the defining moments on my beer sojourns.

So, I appreciate the chance to reminisce, and I was going to do a lot of it in this article. But my wife figured out I was going to reminisce about lesbians and put a stop to it.

Beer of the Month

January
Barley Wine

February
Pilsner

March
Belgium
and Fruit

April
Amber Ale
and IPA

May
Bock

June
Pale Ale

July
Wheat Beer

August
Brown Ale
and Old Ale

September
Oktoberfest

October
Dixie Cup

November
Porter
and Stout

December
Holiday
Beers

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**Brewsletter
Articles for the
August issue due
by August 6th**

Competition Corner

by The Brothers Slamen

The Lunar Rendezbrew VI deadline is Saturday, July 31st. Entries can be dropped of at DeFalco's Central.

Lunar Rendezbrew VI general info:

Date: Sunday, August 8th

Time: noon-6pm

Location: Seabrook Community Center at 1210 Anders (1 block East of NASA Rd 1 and Hwy 146), in Seabrook, Clear Lake.

Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at the door.

More Info: www.mashtronauts.org

Remember Brew Early Brew Often.

Foam Ranger Targeted

Event/Date	Website	Style Guidelines	Entry Deadline	Pack & Ship Deadline
Lunar Rendezbrew August 8th	www.ghgcorp.com/rlivingston	AHA	7/31	N/A
Dixie Cup October 22 - 23	www.foamrangers.com	BJCP, MCAB, QE		
Novembeerfest November	www.brewsbrothers.org	BJCP, MCAB, QE		
Canadian Masters November	Richard.oluszak@sympatico.ca	BJCP, MCAB, QE		

Watch This Space

by Bev Blackwood

Congratulations to everyone involved with the Texas Craft Brewers Association summer beer tasting! The event was both well attended AND a blast! All the local breweries send their thanks to all of you who attended. Your participation enables our local brewers to have a voice in Austin.

Unlike homebrewers, our local micros have to fight regulations, legislation and competition that are backed by corporate dollars. In these anti-alcohol times, if we are to keep our brewpubs then we have to be prepared to show our support for them. Ask any brewer in town and they will tell you that it may be legal to microbrew, but it isn't a guaranteed road to riches. We exist in a symbiotic relationship with the local microbreweries; they rise from our ranks and with our support, but cannot survive without our patronage. We enjoy the benefits of their experience, friendship and generosity when we hold our homebrewing events. Expect our local brewers to have more events like this one, for both fundraising and to raise awareness of Houston's local brewers. With your help, this will be the first of many successful tastings in the months and years ahead.

The Malt Show, my program on Access Houston, has moved its website. The old address just got too complicated to remember. Look for the site at: <http://www.maltshow.com>.

Just a reminder, The Lunar Rendezbrew competition is coming up August 8th and the deadline for entries is at month-end. Fire up those kettles, you're running out of time!

July 16, 1999 – **Foam Rangers monthly meeting**, DeFalco's Central, 8:00 p.m. Contact Wayne Smith for information. E-mail: was@rice.edu. Website: <http://www.foamrangers.com/>

July 17, 1999 – **5th Annual Commander Saaz Interplanetary Homebrew Blastoff**, Cape Canaveral, FL. Entries due June 10 - July 10, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 per entry. Contact: Lynn Seelos 407-633-6605 (h) 407-861-0656 (w) E-mail: lrseelos@aol.com

July 18, 1999 – **KGB monthly meeting**, The Hops House, 1 p.m. Contact John Donald-

son for information. E-mail: JDonal1013@aol.com Website: <http://www.thekgb.org/>

July 21, 1999 – **Brew Bayou monthly meeting**, Smithhart's Country Grill, Clute, 7:00 p.m. Contact Keith Zimmerman for information. E-mail: keithzim@computron.net Website: <http://www.computron.net/users/keithzim/>

July 24 - 25, 1999 – **12th Annual Southern California Homebrew Championship**, Corona, CA. Hosted by the Inland Empire Brewers. Entries due July 17 - 22, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 per entry. Contact: Christy Elshof 909-798-0860 (h) 909-388-0961 (w) E-mail: BrewChick@aol.com Website: <http://hopheads.com>

August 2, 1999 – **Majestic Brewing Cup Series 1999 - Irish Dry Stout**, Louisville, CO. AHA Category 11a only. Entries due July 26 - 30, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 per entry. Contact: Chris Munzer, Brewmaster 303-666-5914

August 5, 1999 – **Deja Brew monthly meeting**, The Beer Essentials, 7:00 p.m. Contact Glenn Granata for information. E-mail: ggranata@pluspetrol.com.ar Website: <http://hal-pc.org/~paulw/dejabrew/>

August 6 - 7, 1999 – **WILD BREW '99: Homebrew Competition**, Tulsa, OK. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and hosted by FOAM. Entries due by July 30, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 per entry. Awards are August 28, 1999 concluding benefit. Contact: Ruth Richards 918-585-1117 (day) or Jeff Swearengin 918-250-2661 (eve) E-mail: tswearengin@taascforce.com

August 7 - 8, 1999 – **Buckeye Brewer of The Year**, Willoughby, OH. Entries due by July 19 - 26, 1999. Entry fee \$13.00 for up to 4 entries. Contact: Dave Martin or Chip Snow 440-563-3029 (Dave) or 440-275-1278 (Chip)

August 8, 1999 – **Lunar Rendezbrew VI**, Seabrook, TX. Entries due by July 30, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 per entry. Contact: Rich Sommer E-mail: rsommer@iservco.com Website: <http://www.mashtronauts.org/>

Watch This Space, continued

August 8 - 9, 1999 – **Oenology Competition/Iowa State Fair**, Des Moines, IA. Entries due by July 15, 1999. Entry fee \$3.50 per entry. Contact: Greg Helton 515-279-1016 (h) or 515-274-1561 (w) E-mail: dowinpit@netzero.net

August 14, 1999 – **M*A*S*H*- Mobile Ale Society of Houston monthly meeting**, 23211 West Hardy Rd., 7:00 p.m. Meetings are open to all that have an interest in and enjoy homebrewing. Members of other brew clubs are welcome. Contact: 281-353-2776 Website: <http://members.xoom.com/MASHBEERCLUB/>

August 14, 1999 – **4th Annual Montgomery County Fair Homebrew Competition**, Gaithersburg, MD. Entries due by August 7, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 per entry. Contact: Bill Lawrence 301-963-9314 E-mail: BILLYL@erols.com Website: http://members.tripod.com/~G_A_B_S

August 14, 1999 – **Beer and Sweat HBC**, Cincinnati, OH. Entries due by August 7, 1999. Contact: Fred Pinkerton 513-251-9754 E-mail: robertp@cinti.net

August 15, 1999 – **Kentucky State Fair**, Louisville, KY. Entries due by July 1, 1999 with no entry fee. Contact: Bob Reed 502-222-7439 (h) or 502-222-0090 (w) E-mail: tobias@iglou.com Website: <http://members.aol.com/lagersclub/index.html>

August 18, 1999 – **Brew Bayou monthly meeting**, Smithhart's Country Grill, Clute, 7:00 p.m. Contact Keith Zimmerman for information. E-mail: keithzim@computron.net Website: <http://www.computron.net/users/keithzim/>

August 20, 1999 – **Foam Rangers monthly meeting**, DeFalco's Central, 8:00 p.m. Contact Wayne Smith for information. E-mail: was@rice.edu. Website: <http://www.foamrangers.com/>

August 20 - 22, 1999 – **1999 New Mexico State Fair PRO-AM**, Albuquerque, NM. Entries due by August 1 - 7, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 for 1st entry and \$4.00 for each additional entry. Awards ceremony is on September 4, 1999. Contact: Bill Aimonetti 505-286-2746 (h) or 505-822-7103 (w) E-mail: Bill.Aimonetti@abq.sc.philips.com Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/nm/DukesofAle>

August 21, 1999 – **KGB monthly meeting & Annual Salsa competition**, Tom Bickell's House, 7:00 p.m. Contact John Donaldson for information. E-mail: JDonal1013@aol.com Website: <http://www.thekgb.org/>

August 21, 1999 – **Nebraska State Fair Amateur Beer Competition**, Omaha, NE. Entries due by August 5, 1999. Contact: Frank Sobetski 402-345-6740

August 22, 1999 – **Alaska State Fair HBC**, Palmer, AK. Entries due by August 21, 1999. Contact: Michael Kiker 907-258-7122 E-mail: ksa@alaska.net

August 28, 1999 – **Michigan State Fair Homebrew Competition**, Detroit, MI. Entries due July 19 - August 1, 1999. Entry fee \$12.00 per entry. Judging is August 8 - 21, 1999. Contact: Bill Holmes 734-761-5315 (h) or 734-647-0459 (w) E-mail: bholmes@umich.edu Website: <http://hbd.org/michigan/>

August 28, 1999 – **Mt. Brewer Open '99**, Huntington, WV. Entries due August 1 - 13, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 for 1st entry and \$3.00 for each additional entry. Contact: Jeff Boggess 304-757-0337 (h) or 304-744-7535 (w) E-mail: Brudr@aol.com

August 29, 1999 – **Western Washington Amateur Beer Competition**, Puyallup, WA. Sponsored by the Western Washington Fair. Entries due by August 21, 1999. Entry fee \$4.00 per entry. Contact: Grace Nilsson 253-845-9791 Website: <http://www.thefair.com>

September 6, 1999 – **Majestic Brewing Cup Series 1999**, Louisville, CO. English Strong/Old Ale AHA Category 10a only. Entries due August 30 - September 3, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 per entry. Contact: Chris Munzer, Brewmaster 303-666-5914

September 16 - 18, 1999 – **Fort Lauderdale American Brewoff**, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Entries due by September 11, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 per entry. Contact: David M. Fisher 954-570-8737 (h) or 954-698-0828 (w) E-mail: davef@mediaone.net Website: <http://www.pompano.net/~davef/flab/competition.htm>



Amber Ale
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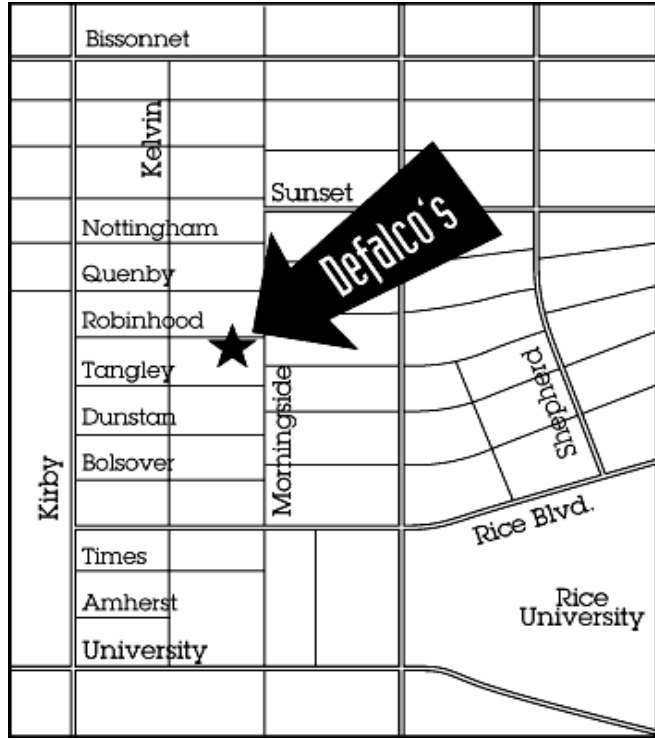
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