



BREWSLETTER URQUELL

September 1999

The brewsletter of Houston's Foam Rangers

Volume: 27 pints

Out of the WAZOO

by Wayne Smith, Grand Wazoo



The Continuing Dixie Cup Progress Report - The planning and work on Dixie Cup progresses. You should have all received your announcements of the event and have your hotel reserva-

tions made by now. If you don't have your reservations yet you only have until October 2nd to get the reduced Dixie Cup rate. "Why should I stay at the hotel when I live in Houston" you may ask. For several reasons: 1) the blood/alcohol level for DWI went down to 0.08 the 1st of September, 2) After a night of consuming copious amounts of free beer it's much easier to find the elevator to your room than your way home, 3) you can get a little more sleep on Saturday morning before the Milli-Conference 4) the hotel serves a pretty good buffet breakfast and 5) probably the most important reason- if we don't have enough people staying at the hotel the ballroom rental can cost us \$450 to \$850 of the proceeds from registration. As a matter of fact if we don't get enough room rentals we may look to taking a collection among those who didn't stay at the hotel to cover the cost of the ballroom rental.

We are going to need EVERYONE'S help to make this year's event a success. We will need people to help with check-in at St. Arnold's on the 9th of October and then again on the 16th. We will need judges, stewards, and helpers at St. Arnold's on the 20th of October beginning at 6:00 PM to start first round judging. The welcome reception at DeFalco's in the village at 7:00 PM on the 21st. Then things kick into high gear with the continuation of first round judging at the hotel (Courtyard by Marriott) starting at noon on Friday, the 22nd of October. Up early (9:00 AM) after a night of Pot Luck and Fred Tasting for the Saturday morning Milli-Conference with a great lineup of speakers: Randy Mosher, author of "the Brewer's

Companion"; Greg Smith, author of "Beer in America" and "The Beer Enthusiast's Guide"; and Peter Takacs, Quality Assurance Manager for the Spoetzel Brewing Company (AKA Shiners.) After the conference there will be second round judging and then the infamous Dixie Cup Pub Crawl. The culmination of the weekends events will be with the world famous (?) Raffle and Awards Ceremony. With ALL of your help we can make this the best Dixie Cup ever; but ONLY with the help of ALL of you.

There are many things to be done even before we get into October. If we can count on you to help with the preparation that goes on before such an event contact Dave Cato, Scott Birdwell (or any of the people at DeFalco's) or me and tell us that you would like to help.

Email and Street Addresses - In the never ending attempt to keep the Foam Ranger data base up to date I need the following:

Email addresses for: Thomas Bates, Randy Brown, Benny Dacres, John De-greene, Bruce Federici, Fred Gibson, David Lupin, Robert Summers, Terry Wilson, Sam Zabbia. I know some of you didn't have email but I am asking again in case you have gotten it in the meantime.

Street addresses for: David Lupin, Puma Murthy, Jeff Reilly, Bruce Reistle, Buck Wyckoff. Our lack of a street address may explain why the people above haven't received newsletters.

If you are any of these people, above, or have the information for these people please contact me at was@rice.edu or 713-723-6586.

Brewing Techniques Magazine - I heard recently that Brewing Techniques magazine has suspended publication. Word is that the future of the magazine is uncertain. I would hold off on any new subscriptions or renewals until the issue is resolved.

In this Issue

Out of the Wazoo
Page 1

July Minutes
Page 2

Beer of the Month
Page 3

Competition Corner
Page 4

Watch This Space
Page 5

Quote of the Month

"The Brewsletter Urquell is late."

- Larry Mayhew

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August Meeting Minutes

by James Paige, Scrivener

For those club members who did not realize there would be no BJCP pre-meeting, the monthly meeting got warmed up at the Bank Draft. Several Rangers quaffed numerous pints and listened to the story of how Troy (the bicycle police officer) hurt his back in a mountain bike challenge course. Best of luck in your recovery Troy. I guess the brewing will be on hold as heavy lifting was forbidden.

Rangers converged on Defalco's for the regular meeting which finally kicked off at 8:45 p.m. Several thirsty Rangers were in a very festive mood coming off a good showing at the recent Lunar Rendezbrew, held August 8th. The Waz announced a "six-pack" of winners including those Sly Bastards, Dave Cato, Joe Lindsey, Jim Youngmeyer, Ray Philbrook, and myself. Our club keg entry, a robust Porter, was denied the top title due to the Mastronauts "applauding" their pre-prohibition lager to victory only on the basis of decibels. Too bad they did not elect to put the keg beers before a judging panel.

The Waz touched upon the recent July 31st Bank Draft HOPFEST. Other new business included the fancy club t-shirts which were reported being almost ready for their debut. Bev Blackwood was squaring away the final vendor details.

A DIXIE CUP planning meeting was scheduled for August 21, 1999. It would again be held at the Timberwolf Pub. Further D-cup planning details were discussed at the

general meeting. Please volunteer to assist as much as you can during the contest. We still need help with members bringing side items to the potluck dinner Friday night as well as help stewarding and cleaning up after events. When sign up sheets begin floating around, don't be shy, VOLUNTEER. This is "your" contest. We need to really shine and set an example for other homebrew clubs.

Special VIP's, tabled for the D-cup, will include Mr. Dixie Cup himself, Fred Eckhardt; author of many articles and *The Essentials of Beer Style*; Randy Mosher, author of *The Brewer's Companion*; Gregg Smith, author of *Beer in America: The Early Years*; and Pete Takacs, head of Quality Assurance at the Spoetzel Brewery. Hopefully, Mr. Mosher will include my favorite topic, home grain roasting, in his discussions.

We still have several members who have not picked up their membership cards. Please see the WAZ for further details, especially if you have not been to a meeting in quite some time.

The WAZ closed the meeting by reminding everyone to make final DIXIE CUP beer entry preparations. Brew and enter as many beers as you can. We need to retain our D-cup trophy. The title will be strongly challenged by the Florida homebrewers as it has been in the past. Remember the Alamo. For newer members, try your beers at competition level because you cannot win if you don't play. Good luck!

Beer of the Month

by Charles Vallhonrat, Secondary Frementer



A month or two ago, Sue and I decided we were going to sell the house and move closer to work so that I could reduce my commute time. Of course, as a result of this wise decision, we've spent most week-

ends since then cleaning the house and getting things ready so we can put the shack on the market. Then, in the course of cleaning the house over the Labor Day weekend I made the most amazing discovery while rummaging through a downstairs closet. It seems we had a time machine stored away behind some old brewing materials that I hadn't used in some time. Clearly I was stunned by the discovery and took some time deciding whether I should go back in time and play the stock market and bet on a few football games and horse races, or if I should go forward in time to see how my life turned out in my twilight years. After careful consideration, I decided to go forward in time by 100 years to see how the computer world was preparing for the Y2.1K bug. I was amazed by my discovery.

I discovered that technology is of no concern to the citizens of planet Earth in the year 2099. In fact, I discovered a utopia unlike any I have ever read about in any literature or seen in any movie. I used the term "citizen of planet Earth" quite intentionally earlier because in 2099 there are no cities, counties, states, or countries - and, thank God, no French Canadian provinces - just one global community where all citizens are united around one common goal, the production and consumption of high quality beer. This theme unites an entire planet, with the notable exception of the small militant faction of people who believe the world should be united by lesbians - but even this group enjoys a tasty beverage now and then.

It is a world without strife, a world without prejudice, a world without war, and, I'm pretty sure the Playboy channel is part of basic cable in 2099 so you don't have to pay extra. I was truly happy and found myself not wanting to leave. In fact, I had found a place to live in the town called Stout and was ready to settle down when I learned how this utopia

came to be. I met a strange and mythical old man named Collin Birdwell who was designated Keeper of History by the democratically elected, yet completely powerless governing body of planet Earth. After spending many days with the 100-plus-year-old gentleman I discovered it was up to me to return to the year 1999 and see to it that this utopia could come into existence. It seems this Shangri-La traces its beginnings back to late October of 1999. In fact, the origin of this never-never-land can be traced back to one critical event that changed the shape of history for all eternity - the 16th annual Dixie Cup Homebrew Competition. Yep, that's right, this year's Dixie Cup would become the pivotal moment in the events that would shape the world in the 21st century.

By winning the 16th annual Dixie Cup, the Foam Rangers would unite all Houston homebrew clubs into a unified entity that was more powerful than anything the homebrewing community had seen before. It wasn't long before the power of the all-Houston homebrew club would spread across the entire state of Texas, having a major influence on the near presidential election of Texas governor George W. Bush. Though Bush was narrowly defeated in his run for the White House by the surprising ticket of Warren Beatty and George Clooney, the momentum of the Texas homebrewing unification could not be stopped. It began to spread across the gulf coast initially hitting Louisiana and Florida (Mississippi and Alabama were skipped and eventually all residents were eventually banished from Earth), and then sweeping across the country. Within three short years, the Foam Rangers ruled the world, setting the path for the utopia that would grip the planet in 2099.

However, I discovered that it was incumbent upon me to return from 2099 to enlighten all Foam Rangers about what was to come. You see, Collin the Great told me of the tremendous uncertainty that surrounded Dixie Cup 1999. Apparently, not all Foam Rangers were ready to participate, so Collin sent me back to unleash the rallying cry and guarantee the future of the beer-nexus.

Continued on page 4

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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1 Issue \$35
3 Issues \$70
1 Year \$150

1/2 Page
1 Issue \$50
3 Issues \$100
1 Year \$200

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1 Issue \$75
3 Issues \$150
1 Year \$300

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

Competition Corner

by The Brothers Slamen

The Dixie Cup is around the corner.
Remember Brew Early Brew Often.

Foam Ranger Targeted Events

Event/Date	Website	Style Guidelines	Entry Deadline	Pack & Ship Deadline
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		

Beer of the Month, continued

Therefore, I returned in order to spread the word about the importance of winning the 16th annual Dixie Cup.

Of course, upon returning, I thought of venturing back in time to visit the marriage of the Bavarian Prince Ludwig whose wedding celebration brought about the recognition of this month's malty beer of the month selection - Oktoberfests. But, first I thought I'd show my wife the time machine. I ran up-

stairs and urgently brought her downstairs while rambling on about the utopia I discovered and the importance of Dixie Cup 16. I raced to the closet and pulled out the time machine expecting an expression of awe on her face. But, she just stood there looking at me like I was nuts. After what seemed like an eternity to me she headed back up stairs saying "that's no time machine, it just a half empty case of Bigfoot - you drunk bastard!"

Watch This Space

by Bev Blackwood

The first note of fall has finally penetrated summer's blanket of heat and many of Houston's homebrew clubs are focused on the upcoming Dixie Cup competition. One of the best things the Foam Rangers ever did was to ask that all the Houston clubs work together to make the Dixie Cup a premiere event. That cooperation has brought the Houston brewing community together, while each club still retains their unique character and strength. As always, The Central Florida Homebrewers will be attempting to win back the Dixie Cup. They enter in force, with quality beers every year. They have the distinct advantage of being the "only game in town" for Orlando, thus there is very little "splitting" of the CFHB entry. That's not the case when Houston's clubs enter the Sunshine Challenge or the Bluebonnet, as every club ends up sending smaller groups of entries, diluting our strength. I've often considered that an umbrella organization would help to make a larger impact when we enter out of state and possibly even give us a chance to snatch the Sunshine Bowl someday. Houston's clubs have taken the first step, cooperating on competitions, keeping each other informed and coordinating their schedules, so nobody's "turf" gets stepped on. Almost every club has a strong annual competition, where members from all over town come together to judge and socialize. If every club was to subsidize an umbrella organization with a dollar or two from each membership, then every Houston homebrewer could be a member and compete under a common banner yet still be able to proudly be a Foam Ranger or a KGB'er. I think the Greater Houston Homebrewers has a nice ring to it, don't you?

September 16 - 18, 1999 - Fort Lauderdale American Brewoff, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Entries due by Sept. 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>

September 17, 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/>

September 18, 1999 - KGB monthly meeting. Contact John Donaldson for information. E-mail: jdonal1013@worldnet.att.net Website: <http://www.thekgb.org/>

September 25, 1999 - 2nd Annual Cactus Challenge, Lubbock, TX. Entries due by Sept. 13, 1999. Entry fee \$7.00 per entry. Contact: Mike Sawyer (806)797-5163 or Lubbock Homebrew Supply (800)742-BREW E-mail: msawyer@door.net or lubbockhomebrew@door.net

September 25, 1999 - 4th Annual Music City Brew-Off, Nashville, TN. Entries due by Sept. 6 - 18, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 for 1st entry and \$4.00 for each additional entry. Contact: Steve Johnson (615)327-4100 E-mail: MusicCityBrewers@yahoo.com WEBSITE: <http://www.ThePorch.com/~homebrew>

September 25, 1999 - Northern New England Regional Homebrew Competition, Rockport, ME. Entries due by Sept. 22, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 per entry or \$4.00 per entry for 5 or more. Contact: Thomas J. O'Connor, (207)236-3527 (h) or (207)596-8900 (w) E-mail: toconnor@nehealth.org

September 25, 1999 - Pacific Brewers Cup 99, Los Angeles, CA. Entries due by Sept. 1 - 17, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 per entry. Awards Ceremony will take place on Oct. 2, 1999. Contact: Craig Corley (310)397-3453 or (310)452-0310 (h) E-mail: brewmaster@pacificgravity.com WEBSITE: <http://www.pacificgravity.com/pacbrewcup99>

October 4 - 16, 1999 - The Derby Brew Club 6th Annual Homebrew Competition, Derby, KS. Entries due by Sept. 20 - Oct. 1, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 per entry. Awards Ceremony is on Oct. 16, 1999. Contact: Kip Innes (316)788-4787 (h) or (316)523-6894 (w) E-mail: kbinnes@aol.com WEBSITE: <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/derbyksderbybrewclub>

October 7, 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/>

October 9, 1999 - M*A*S*H* - Mobile Ale Society of Houston monthly meeting, 23211 West Hardy Rd., 7:00 p.m. Contact: (281)353-2776 Website: <http://members>.

Watch This Space, continued

xoom.com/_XOOM/MASHBEERCLUB/index.html

October 9, 1999 – **Moctoberfest contest**, Single style (Octoberfest) competition popular vote judging. Entries due by Oct. 9, 1999. Entry fee \$4.00 per entry (6 bottle entry). Contact: 281-353-2776 Website: http://members.xoom.com/_XOOM/MASHBEERCLUB/index.html

October 15 - 16, 1999 – **Bidal Society of Kenosha Homebrew Competition**, Kenosha, WI. Entries due by Oct. 2, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 per entry. Contact: Arthur Steinhoff (414)539-2004

October 16, 1999 – **2nd Annual Barley Literate Octoberfest**, San Marcos, CA. Entries due by Sept. 24 - Oct. 8, 1999. Entry Fee \$5.00 per entry. Contact: Don Bennett (619) 233-4755 E-mail: dbennett@utm.net

October 16, 1999 – **Oktobersbest, Zinzin-nati**, Cincinnati, OH. Entries due by Sept. 24 - Oct. 8, 1999. Entry fee \$5.00 for 1st entry and \$3.00 per entry for additional entries. Contact: Jeff Seeley (513)231-6062 E-mail: Infuser@aol.com WEBSITE: <http://home.fuse.net/cincinnati/maltinfusers>

October 17, 1999 – **Kansas City Renaissance Festival Homebrew Competition**, Bonner Springs, KS. No entry fee. Contact: Melissa Vancrum (800)373-0357 Email: renfest@kcrenfest.com Website: <http://kcrenfest.com>

October 20, 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://USERS.computron.net/keithzim/>

October 22 - 23, 1999 – **The Sixteenth Annual Dixie Cup - The Fred Files, Houston, TX. MCAB Qualifying event. Entries due by Oct. 9, late entries accepted until Oct. 15, 1999. Entry fee \$6.00 per entry, late entry fee \$10.00 per entry. Contact: Wayne Smith (713)723-6586 E-mail: was@rice.edu or David Cato E-mail: dcat@neosoft.com WEBSITE: <http://www.foamrangers.com/>**

October 21 - 23, 1999 – **Flavor of the North Homebrew Competition**, Duluth, MN. Entries due by Oct. 1 - 9, 1999. Entry fee \$6.50 per entry, \$5.00 per entry if entering four or more beers. Awards Ceremony Oct. 23, 1999

Contact: Bill Clark 218-720-3491 E-mail: lssbrews@cpinternet.com Website: <http://www.cpinternet.com/~lssbrews/flavor.htm>

October 30, 1999 – **Hoppy Halloween Challenge**, Fargo, ND. Entries due by Sept. 27 - Oct. 15, 1999. Entry fee \$7.00 per entry for the first 4 entries, \$5.00 each for additional entries. Contact: Susan Ruud (701) 282-8830 (h) or (701) 231-8445 (w) E-mail: sruud@badlands.nodak.edu Website: <http://www.linkup.net/users/dtrautmann/phc1.html>

October 23, 1999 – **Henry Ortlieb's Happy Halloween Hop Festival**, Philadelphia, PA. Entry fee: \$10 first entry, \$5 each additional entry, includes festival ticket. Contact: Steve DeSantis (215) 413-3500 E-mail: SDesan@aol.com Website: <http://poorhenrys.com>

October 30, 1999 – **5th Annual Great Northeast International Beer Festival**, Providence, RI. Entries due by: Oct. 12, 1999. Entry fee \$8.00 per entry, \$7.00 per entry if entering five or more beers. Contact: Maury Ryan (407) 274-3234 E-mail: storylin@sprynet.com Website: <http://www.lovecraft.com>

November 4, 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/>

November 9, 1999 – **Bay Area Mashtronauts monthly meeting**, Bradley's, 6:30 p.m. Contact: Rich Sommer E-mail: rsommer@iservco.com Website: <http://www.mashtronauts.org/>

November 13, 1999 – **M*A*S*H*- Mobile Ale Society of Houston monthly meeting**, 23211 West Hardy Rd., 7:00 p.m. Contact: 281-353-2776 Website: http://members.xoom.com/_XOOM/MASHBEERCLUB/index.html

November 17, 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://USERS.computron.net/keithzim/>

November 19, 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/>



Amber Ale
Kristall Weizen
Brown Ale

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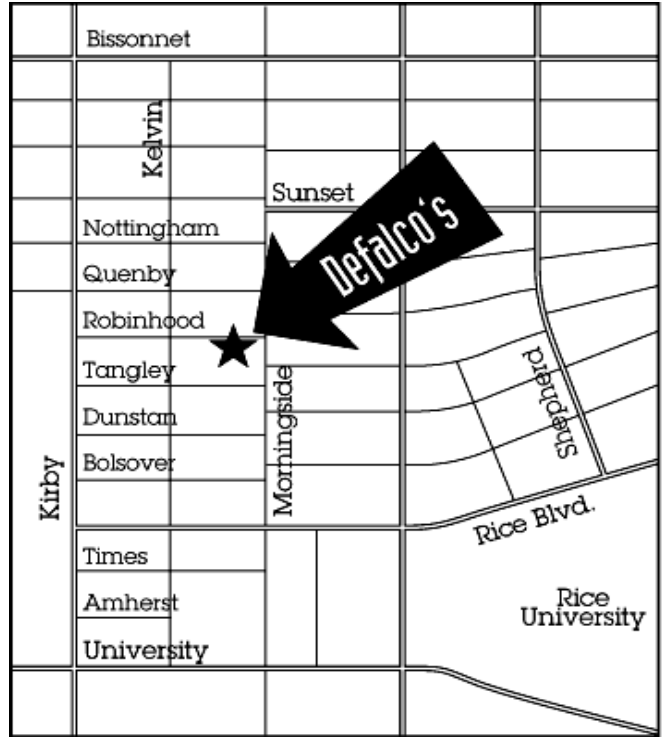
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