

Brewsletter Urquell

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HOUSTON FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW CLUB VOL. 22 - ISSUE 12



Out Of The Wazoo

By Jimmy Paige,
Grand Wazoo



It has been an honor and privilege to have served as Wazoo. This past year was challenging but it was made easier by the tremendous

effort put forth by all members of the club. Together we accomplished many "firsts" including the Bluebonnet trophy, Gulf Coast Homebrew Team trophy, and even hosting, of all things, an AHA regional contest in our own backyard.

I learned a great deal this past year from new and veteran members alike. I learned many things about people that I did not know before, and learned on more than one occasion, never assume. It will come back to bite you in the ass. Never forget you can al-

ways learn something from homebrewers, no matter what their experience level. And if you think you learned everything about this crazy hobby of ours, you are mistaken and either are not reading enough or brewing with other people enough.

More than words can say, we have all appreciated the outgoing officers' sacrifices and contributions this past year to make this club better than it was. We sampled the beers compiled by our Secondary, and new Waz, Kuyler and welcomed his steering of that little project that grew and grew called the Dixie Cup. We laughed heartily at Sean and Steve's newsletters. We slept easy knowing Ron Solis had the treasury in perfect order. We read with amazement the minutes recorded by Eric Wooten and also wondered, was I at that meeting too or was Eric getting into the lab chemicals (more of that goat gland extract) before writing his

Meeting Minutes



By Eric Wooten,
Scrivener

**Editor's note—
The only way
you're going to
figure out who
was elected to
club offices for
2003 is to read this column!**

Ladies and Gentlemen, this Scrivener's long reign of terror is finally over! Well, almost over anyway. I'd say at least 739 words are left, some of which will be only moderately frightening at best.

After a number of impeachments and scandals that appeared to reach all the way to the Fez itself, the Paige regime was finally tumbled in a series of carefully orchestrated "elections" over which both the Carter Center and representatives of Sudan have issued

formal protests. Irregularities include the nomination procedures, the armed "vote assurance" officers, and most of all, the disappearance of several club members who asked to fill out their own ballots. Further investigations imply that the ballot, which contained only one nominee for many posts, confused most Foam Rangers. Also under review is the uncanny appearance of a ballot box from district 13 containing exactly the number of votes necessary for **new Secondary Fermenter Mike Heniff** to defeat "this space intentionally left blank" and a surprisingly strong third place challenge from write-in contender "Seymour Butts."

Former Secondary Kuyler Doyle wrested control away from the Blackwood Faction and its puppet Waz Jimmy Paige...or did he? One way or another Kuyler now wears the Fez,

a decision he will no doubt regret for at least 365 days. As the most powerful man in homebrewing, he will be in sole

articles? We responded to the competition drum being pounded by Bev and said to ourselves, I am glad he is cracking the whip. Bev's persistence paid off with great dividends. We felt secure knowing Dave Cato was keeping our web site in check, and when we did not feel so sure, we leaned on Scott Birdwell for advice. We dined on all sorts of muchies brought each and every month by the Widgers and sometimes Mr. Muckleroy. Most of all, we were a team, and a damn good one.

It is with great pleasure that I turn over the fez to Kuyler Doyle. I will look forward to the new regime and wish all the new officers best wishes for continued Ranger success. We all must continue to pursue this hobby with the same vigor as in the past. However, I will now welcome my role of being less of an administrator, or cat herder as Bev is fond of saying, and being more of a homebrewer. If you want to get together and brew, just let me know. It is going to be a great 2003 brew year. Cheers!, Jimmy.

control of the extensive and deadly surveillance technologies that are all the only things standing between order and chaos each and every third Friday.

Ron Solis, having distinguished himself as the only person yet to serve a year as treasurer without criminal indictment, has been allowed to discontinue that post, making way for Bill Wigger to step in. Ron tells me there's more to the job than taking long baths in all the money (which surprisingly few Foam Rangers realize is kept inside 12 Brim coffee cans stored at an undisclosed location). As the long forgotten Latin motto of the Foam Rangers (Adnumerare istic concubere portorium) wisely states: "Pay Your Fucking Dues"...or else Bill will send a few of his goons around to "loosen up the old purse strings." And kick your ass.

Bozo Head of Special Events has once again been foisted on Scott Birdwell, a man clearly far too old to hold any job.

(Continued on page 2)



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December Meeting Sunday, the 15th 11 A.M. St. Arnold Brewery

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Foam Rangers
Homebrew
Club

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Special Foam Ranger Club Polls

We here at the 2002 *Brewsletter Urquell* try to not trouble ourselves with such mundane things as customer satisfaction, but the events of the past year have driven us to conduct polls on two subject vital to our faithful readership—the members of the Houston Foam Rangers Homebrew Club.

The first matter at hand is clarifying club support of the American Homebrewers Association "Wear A Mash Tun On Your Head Month". It has come to our attention that club membership is divided in its support for this initiative. In order to better ascertain members feelings, an official poll is being taken on continued club support for this program.

The second matter is related to increasing the quality of the delivery of The Brewsletter to our readers (and reducing the pain in the

keester it is for the editors to get this rag out every month). The subject of this second poll is the delivery of *The Brewsletter* to your last known address every month. Traditionally this has been done by printing our words and images onto paper and mailing that paper to you. We would like to know if you are interested in receiving your copy of *The Brewsletter* in a fashion more compatible with the 21st Century—via the Internet. The advantages of internet delivery will be reduced cost to the club, less frustration for *Brewsletter* editors, and getting all of those crazy pictures in full color. The web version of each monthly *Brewsletter* is currently made available in an Adobe Acrobat file that is approximately 1.2 megabytes in size. While this may take a little while to download for those who have slower dial-up connections, we have feel that

Minutes (or something liken to them) (Continued from page 1)

We can only hope the secret combination of bailing wire and high hopes that have worked to date will keep him together for another year or two.

Newsletter editing remains the voluntary purview of one Steve Moore, while longtime favorite newsletter contributor Bev Blackwood will now take up some of the duties formerly provided by Sean Lamb, whose partially decomposed body was recently found in an oil drum in the Blackwood garage. Bev promises he doesn't know what that was still doing there, and that's good enough for us.

Joe Lindsey has taken on the thankless task of Competition Coordinator (thanks for all your hard work last year, Bev!), but, let's face it, there's no way he could do worse, as the club now holds only The Dixie Cup, The Bluebonnet Cup, and the cryptically named Gulf Coast Homebrew Club of the Year. With a string of embarrassments such as these, Joe will

merely need to sweep the Gulf Circuit to erase the misdeeds of past administrations from the minds of Rangers enraged by a mostly full trophy shelf. If you know what's good for you, you'll start brewing now, because Joe *will* come over to your house.

Finally, the most important position in the club, Scrivener, will pass to the aptly nicknamed English Dave, who takes charge of a Scrivening operation in sad disrepair by narrowly defeating Kevin Phillips Bong of the Slightly Silly Party. Reportedly, bureaucracy has stifled the Ministry of Scriven such that many words lay dormant in a large warehouse outside of Houston, whilst other words are used with painful regularity. Bizarre and outdated regulations further require the Scrivener to don demeaning costumes and perform acts best suited to barnyard animals, or at least drunken Shriners. Lastly, punctuation cutbacks are projected to result in an article that is merely a 750-word sentence by Q3-2004. Welcome aboard, Dave! I look forward to a new colour and texture to take hold of this endeavour. Also some

it is still a manageable wait in order to get all of the homebrewy goodness that is *The Brewsletter Urquell*.

We are asking that all dues paid members of the Foam Rangers respond to this poll in either one of two ways—fill out the "form" on the back cover of this issue of *The Brewsletter* and give it to either Sean Lamb or Bev Blackwood, or respond to the email that you will receive on December 13. The email version of the poll will be sent everyone who is subscribed to the club email list. If you aren't subscribed and would like to be, please follow the instructions on the **Club Info & Events** page on the Foam Rangers web site : (<http://www.foamrangers.com/clubinfo.html>)

Your participation in these polls is vital to the future of the Foam Rangers!

mentions of aluminium, neeps and tatties, squishy peas, and the bathroom habits of Her Britannic Majesty. There's only your meager honorarium of \$17,276.29 per article to look forward to. The cement mixing equipment they promised you and all the other potential officers access to broke down a long time ago.

ERRATUM-

The November Brewsletter incorrectly reported that Foam Ranger Karel Chaloupka was making plans to tie a tree branch onto the head of a dog named Max, harness him to a giant sleigh, and descend from his mountain hideaway to steal all of the presents from all of the Whos in Whoville. The editors regret the error.

The Brewsletter Urquell is published monthly by the Houston Foam Rangers Homebrew Club, 8715 Stella Link, Houston, TX 77025.

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If you are desperate enough to want to see your words printed in this rag, articles should be submitted in plain-text format to one or all of the Brewsletter Staff at the email addresses on this page. Hardcopy submissions can be sent to 8715 Stella Link, Houston, TX 77025

Visit the Club Web Site—It's Fun And Educational!

www.foamrangers.com

Beer Of The Month



By Kuyler Doyle,

Secondary Fermenter

Ho! Ho! Ho! With Santa running around calling everyone a bunch of ho's, that can only mean one thing -

it must be holiday time! Therefore, this month we will be celebrating the holidays with all of the Houston area homebrewers. It will certainly be a festive event at St. Arnold Brewing Company as usual. Since there will not be a club sponsored beer of the month, that means ANYTHING GOES! Be sure to bring out your own homebrew to share "the spirit of the holidays." There will be plenty of St. Arnold's beers flowing as well.

It's been a great beer year for the club. We tasted over 235 "official" commercial beers over the year plus we had even more brought it last minute that didn't make it on the list but were passed out. 93 of those beer are not available in Houston. We had at least 20 commercial beers per meeting all

arranged by style so you could figure out what you like and make sure you get can tell the differences in styles. I had a few headaches after meetings, did you? Thanks to Lee Janson's talk at the Dixie Cup, I plan to pre-medicate from now on to lessen the pain! Huge thanks go out to those people who brought back beer from out of town to help in the monthly tastings: Cliff and Marilyn Peery, George and Sandy West, Titanic Bob and Nanette, Wazoo Jimmy Paige, Steve Moore, Sean Lamb, Terry Schultz, Colby Sheridan, Mike Heniff, and Kari Doyle.

We also had a great amount of homebrew at the meetings! There was always at least one keg on hand to sample someone's hard work when I wasn't yet serving the commercial beer. Thanks to all those who brought kegs! Keep it up for next year!

Speaking of homebrew, it was clear that the Foam Rangers and other homebrewers were definitely busy brewing this year by the number of entries at the Dixie Cup. "The Night of the Living Fred" will go down as another incredible Dixie Cup with 967 entries. Huge thanks go out to all of you who entered your beers and helped keep the Dixie Cup at DeFalco's for another year! The Dixie Cup is a huge undertaking and the

whole club pitched in to make sure the event was pulled off. I'm very thankful for everyone's help.

I have carried the weight of the Chain of Command all year long to fulfill my duties as Secondary. As the year has progressed, it has become more and more of a burden. That's right, people keep adding to the damn thing! We picked up 15 new bottle openers this year (we started out at 60). That's a healthy 25% increase! The new openers are: Statue of Liberty; Brown bottle; Premium Grain Belt; thenew93q.com; Pike Brewing Seattle; Kirin Brewing; The Reno Homebrewer; Homebrew Shop; The Three Stooges (woo, woo woo!); Full Sail Brewing; Texas shape/flag; Bottleworks; Franziskaner; Birra Moretti; Dixie Cup 2002 spinner. Thanks to all those who contributed! And since I will no longer be carrying the Chain, I encourage you to keep 'em coming!

I have enjoyed being Secondary this year, but will be passing the Chain on to Mike Heniff at the Holiday party. Make sure you welcome Mike to his new role and help him out by bringing lots of beer and bottle openers from your out of town travels. Just ask him what he might need prior to your departure! See you all at the Holiday party! Cheers!!

WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

By Steve "Scoop" Moore and Sean "Two Scoops with Whip Cream and Sprinkles" Lamb - 2002 Brewsletter Urquell Editors

Deciding to get while the gettin's good we are ending our tenure as the editing team of the *Brewsletter*. It has been fun thinking up goofy crap over a few beers and then subjecting you all to it. We appreciate all of the nice comments that we have been given by our loyal readers. While we thought we were "upping the funny quotient" of this historic publication, the biggest surprise of the year has been those columns by Scrivener Wooten. Eric's version of strange weirdness has been better than we even imagined! Our thanks go out to everyone who has contributed articles and photos this past year. Prost! Slainte! and Cheers to you all!

Our next team effort will be writing a tell-all book about the tumultuous year that 2002 was for the Houston homebrew retailing scene—it's working title is *DeFalco's Exposed—the Kovar Weeks*.



The 2002 Brewsletter Urquell editors ride off into the sunset

BOTM Calendar

January

~~Porter and Stout~~

February

~~Barley wine and Holiday Beer~~

March

~~Belgian and Fruit Beer~~

April

~~Brown, Old and Scotch Ale~~

May

~~Bock~~

June

~~Wheat Beer~~

July

~~Pilsner and Kolsch~~

August

~~Pale Ale and Bitter~~

September

~~Oktoberfest~~

October

~~Dixie Cup~~

November

~~Amber Ale and IPA~~

December

~~Homebrewers'~~

~~X-mas Party~~

Foam Ranger Picture Page



I'll be so glad when I don't have to wear this sweaty thing!



Any of you foxy ladies want to hit the dance floor with "Disco Skirt Boy" ?



Kari is startled—Is her "cover" "blown"? Do they now know that she really doesn't care about beer?



Steve once again tries to convince someone that "Heh heh — this stuff is really funny, Right?"



But now the days are short - I'm in the autumn of my term - and now I think of my term as vintage brew from fine old kegs - From the brim to the dregs - It poured hoppy and clear - It was a very good year....

Photos on Pages 4-5 courtesy of Bev Blackwoods's camera

Foam Ranger Picture Page



The Wiggers just seconds before a bright light fills the room and they inexplicably vanish (or not)



Meeting newbies quickly learn where the "Poll Position" is for the Beer of the Month



My name is Mark and I'll be your carver tonight..



Kuyler drinks it all in — anticipating his ascension to the position of "Most Powerful Man In Homebrewing" - when his reverie is broken by the maniacal chuckle from the man to his right



It took until the "wee hours" of the morning for Andrew to get the courage to ask Ron if he thought that his black turtle neck made him look "chubby"

Foam Rangers Calendar

December

1 1st Sunday Pub Visit
 15 Club Meeting/ Hombrew Club Christmas Party
 St. Arnold Brewery

January

5 1st Sunday Pub Visit
 11 Brew-in 10AM DeFalco's
 16 MCAB Pack and Ship 6PM DeFalco's
 17 Club Meeting 8PM DeFalco's

February

2 1st Sunday Pub Visit
 7-8 MCAB V Washington DC
 8 Brew-in 10AM DeFalco's
 13 Bluebonnet Pack and Ship 6PM DeFalco's
 21 Club Meeting 8PM DeFalco's
 21 Bluebonnet Early Entry Deadline

Please send items that you want listed on the Foam Rangers calendar to:

editor@foamrangers.com

Or the brewsletter office address!

Competition Corner



By Bev Blackwood

"I love winning! It's like, you know... better than losing."
 Ebby Calvin "Nuke" LaLoosh, (In the movie *Bull Durham*)

So we compete. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, sometimes it rains...

Thing is, competing is never cute, it doesn't lend itself to anything other than a bit of Klingon bombast, maybe the occasional Lord of the Rings questing with Beerbo. It contains occasional rumors of X-Files conspiracy or Napoleonic stratagems. However, nearly everyone who competes takes their beers very seriously, so they have no sense of humor when the Klingons insult their beer, the Hobbits accidentally drink them and they end up claiming secret machinations and grandiose plans to deny them the recognition they so clearly deserved. It only makes it worse when they have paid money for the privilege of being a victim.

I sincerely hope that the Foam Rangers will always enter their beers in the spirit that we compete to win, but also in the

spirit of competing to tangibly demonstrate our support to the clubs that support us in turn.

Of course, we've seldom been as successful as we were this year. One thing that was different this year was a stated goal, something we hoped to accomplish. That something was to win the Bluebonnet Brew-off. As much as I'd like to take credit for that, I can't. I organized and executed, but the person who believed we could do it was

Phil Endacott. His 15 gallon kettle of Whoop-ass helped us succeed beyond all our previous efforts. As they say, nothing succeeds like success and our subsequent efforts built upon the fast start we made in Irving. The end result was an excellent chance to win both the Dixie Cup and the Gulf Coast Homebrew Club of the Year in October, which we did.

Competitively, we choose to support our fellow clubs on the Gulf Coast Circuit. This means Bluebonnet, Crescent City and Sunshine. We support other MCAB contests, where the best of the best compete. We support the MCAB, which has its origins within the Foam Rangers. We support our fellow Houston clubs, the KGB and the Mashtronauts whose competitions compliment our own. Lastly we support the AHA, in recognition of the efforts they have made to correct the past issues that separated us.

Competition for competition's sake is not our goal. Sure we like to win, but we compete to further the reputation of the Foam Rangers and our own event, the Dixie Cup. Our efforts were rewarded this year with record numbers of entries, visitors from across the country and still more visibility. Nothing succeeds like success, indeed!

Do we have to be the biggest? No. Do we have to win all the time? No. It's almost heresy to say it... but losing the Dixie Cup is a good thing. Clubs that lose their icons are forced to fight to get them back, it inspires people to compete more vigorously. We get a lot of competition because other clubs know they can win. (Not to say we're a pushover, we're not...)

There's one last event I'm technically responsible for, but by the time you have read this, the event will have taken place. Joe Lindsey will be marshalling our forces this year, but look for more of my deathly dull prose to compliment his list of upcoming competitions. If you've taken a first place at an MCAB qualifier, be aware that the event is held February 7-8, 2003 in the Washington D.C. area. Hopefully they will let us know when the deadlines are!

I've enjoyed leading you in battle this year. Keep up the great work.

Victory to the Foam Rangers!

Competition Calendar

Event	Entry Deadline	Pack 'n' Ship Date	Info
MCAB	Feb. 1, 2003	Jan 16, 2003	http://burp.org/mcab5/
Bluebonnet Brew-ff	Feb. 21, 2003	Feb 13, 2003 (???)	www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com

This Month In Foam Ranger History



By Sean Lamb

15 Years Ago...

In **The Brewsletter**—Dixie Cup follow-up stuff takes up much of the issue. Dr. Strangebrew

covers hop varieties.

The Club Meeting—Held Friday December 18th at The Shiner of Houston warehouse. The hosts were generous with their wares allowing a keg of Fuller's ESB to be drained and other goodies to be pilfered (Janet B. got a case of Sierra Nevada Pale Ale—the Celebration was gone) Lots of good food was on hand and a good time was had by all.

Other Events— The holidays overtake other fun.

10 Years Ago...

In **The Brewsletter**— Grand Wazoo Lou announces his candidacy for a 2nd term. Mike Seidensticker (ex 2ndary) writes with his complaints about the Dixie Cup—Bill Metzger writes announcing his start of the "Southwestern Brewing News" and "Todd" submits a short article about the Boston Brewpub scene.

The Club Meeting—The meeting was held at the Boat Yard Bar 3939 Morningside entertainment provided by "People With Hands" band. Lots of good food, brew and mead were had.

Other Events— Grand Wazoo Lou Carrannante injures his back, possibly ending a successful homebrewing career at an early stage.

5 Years Ago...

In **The Brewsletter**— Grand Wazoo Steve Moore dazzles the club with his humorous homebrew twist on "It's A Wonderful Life" in his column. A detailed announcement of the new MCAB competition is given by Louis Bonham.

The Club Meeting—Held at St. Arnold Brewery—Homebrewer's Christmas Party!

Other Events— Jim Johnson made a member of the Compaq Homebrewer's club—brining his total membership list to 5 or 6.

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- | | |
|--|---|
| Kehn Bacon 281.420.5096 Before 11:00 PM | Bev Blackwood 713.432.1248 (H) 713.972-4832 (M) Before 11:00PM |
| Joe Lindsey 409.925.4664 (H) 409.763.2386 (W) | Steve Moore 713.923.2412 Before 11:00 PM |
| Ron Solis 281-324-7157 Before 9:30 PM | Jim Youngmeyer 713.667.0455 (H) 713.267.5108 (W) Before 9:30 PM |
| Jimmy Paige Phone 281-894-0307, cell phone 832-576-6191, call before taps (10pm) | DeFalco's 713.668.9440 During business hours |

THE HOUSTON FOAM RANGERS H O M E B R E W C L U B

Brewsletter Office
8715 Stella Link Rd.
Houston, TX 77025-3401



Welcome New Members!

Andrew Sheridan

Jeremy Strauch

Sherri Solis



**2002 Homebrewer's Christmas party
and Foam Rangers December meeting**

Sunday December 15

11AM-4PM

St. Arnold Brewery

2522 Fairway Park Drive

Bring Side a Side Dish or Dessert

and lots of Home Brew!

SPECIAL BREWSLETTER POLLS (see page 2)

Member Name _____

YES! I think "Wear A Mash Tun On You Head" month is cool!

NO, I don't think "Wear A Mash Tun On You Head" month is a good idea

PLEASE CHECK ONE

I'd like to receive a paper Brewsletter IN THE MAIL

I'd like to get a glorious full-color Brewsletter ONLINE

PLEASE CHECK ONE

Please fill this out, tear it off and give it to either Sean Lamb or Bev Blackwood!