



THE FOAM RANGERS Newsletter Urquell

All The Brews That's Print To Fit!

Febrewary 2005 - Volume 25 Pints - Issue 2

In this Issue:

- The Minutes! 2
- BREW WARS:** 3
- Episode XIV
- Competition 4
- Corner
- This Month in 5
- Foam Ranger History
- The Bald Truth 6-7
- About Ranger Meetings!
- Foam Rangers 9
- Having Fun!
- An Uplifting 10
- New Product!
- Pay Your Dues! 12

Febrewary

Meeting:

Friday,

Febrewary 18

8:00 p.m.

at DeFalco's

Foam Rangers To Host Brew-A-Thon To Raise Funds

Purser O' the Week Kimi Cook announced that the Foam Rangers will be hosting its first annual Brew-A-Thon to raise desperately needed funds for the brewing club. The event, modeled after comedian Jerry Lewis' long running Labor Day Telethon for muscular dystrophy, will feature priceless "edutainment" such as homebrewing demonstrations, presentations by internationally recognized brewers and even music by beer inspired rappers. Cook explained the necessity of the Brew-A-Thon, "First of all...everything (except the value of the US dollar) is going up. The Dixie Cup hotel ballroom has gone up, the beers of the month are going up. I mean, we don't get those great English, German and especially Belgian beers for free! The (Continued on Page 8)



Rangers man the phones to raise cash and club awareness during the Brew-a-Thon

Out (of) the Wazoo



By Ed Moore, Grand Wazoo

What a meeting!!! (At least what I remember of it.) Rob the secondary did a fantastic job finding and supplying outstanding examples of the stout and porter categories. In addition, several members brought

samples of out of town beers and some even brought their own homebrews to quench our thirst for beer. Jimmy Paige, Joe Lindsey, Jeff Reilly, Mike Heniff, Colby Sheridan, Kehn Bacon, B J Clear Lake, and the Waz. In addition, Bev and the Waz brought home brews in kegs for your enjoyment. [Although Bev's suffered from

hop overload and wouldn't pour properly as a result. -Ed.] We had a many renewals and we had new members join our club. They are Mark Mollere, Scott Goedde & Family, Kirk Shaunfield, Clint Barbee, and David Applegate. Welcome and be sure to let us sample your beer. Please let me know if I missed anybody in the credits.

The evil empire (not that one, the other one) will have a contest in which they hope to take back their phallic symbol. So, bring your entries in and we can get them off to the Bluebonnet. Be sure to have your paperwork ready before the meeting Febrewary 18th or if you are uncertain, bring a sample by DeFalco's on Febrewary 17th and see what category would be best for your entry. Mike will be trucking our entries up to the very edge of Texas. We plan to have enough room in our car to bring back the Bluebonnet stein and Foam Ranger awards. We do not want to sell out to the devil but this is the first leg in the Gulf (Continued on Page 8)

The Brewsletter Urquell
 Official Organ of the
 Foam Rangers Homebrew Club.

Grand Wazoo:
 Ed "Five Cats" Moore
 wazoo@foamrangers.com

Secondary Fermenter:
 Rob "Skywalker" Kolacny
 secondary@foamrangers.com

Funnier Than Steve:
 Bob Daugherty
 scrivener@foamrangers.com

Purser of the Month:
 Stephanie Kolacny
 purser@foamrangers.com

Competition Demon:
 Michael Heniff
 competitions@foamrangers.com

Bozo Head of Special Events:
 Scott Birdwell
 stupidtoad@foamrangers.com

Was Waz:
 Michael "Two Jobs" Heniff
 waswaz@foamrangers.com

**Brewsletter Staff and
 Other Slaves:**

Supreme Editor for Life:
 Bev "Fuzzy" Blackwood
 editor@foamrangers.com

Webmaster:
 Beto Zuniga
 webmaster@foamrangers.com

Mail Guru and Unix Geek:
 David Cato
 dcato@crunchyfrog.net

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 out permission, provided proper
 credit is given to both the author
 and the Foam Rangers and a case
 of really good homebrew is sent
 in tribute.

This month's two "Photoshop
 Moments" aren't hard to spot, but
 they were a son-of-a-gun to do!
 You try sticking eleven different
 Foam Ranger heads onto pre-
 existing bodies! (and that ignores
 adding the Gott cooler, carboys,
 Foam Ranger banner, logos, and
 removing all trace of the MDA logo
 so that we don't get our asses
 sued!) Still, it's a labor of love to
 an extent, I think that shows in
 Bob's humor, Rob's creative bent
 on the Beer of the Month, Mike's
 extensive Competition column
 and Sean's willingness to take the
 time to dig up our old news. You
 may not think much about it, but
 these folks do a lot of work to give
 you an interesting and entertain-
 ing Brewsletter. Be sure to thank
 them when you get a chance!

Port-her? (I hardly know her!) and Stout January Meeting Wrap Up



By
**Bob "Titanic-Bob"
 Daugherty**

This was the first meeting where I actually had to do my Scribbling job officially. Yeah, I had all these grand plans of keeping track of all the beers we drank, who donated what, getting the names and stories of new members and even visitors. Well, that lasted about five minutes. It's hard holding a beer glass and writing at the same time. It's even harder remembering where you put those notes! As a result, this what I REMEMBER...

We weren't allowed to enter Defalco's until 8 PM so the drinking had to start outside with Sierra Nevada CELL-uh-bra-tion, (Come on!) Once we did go in, Secondary Fermenter Rob Kolacny got us off to drinking pretty quickly! (Careful Rob you might be re-elected next year!) Rob also provided us with a list of beers for the night and BJCP guidelines. We started off with Dry Stouts such as Beamish in a can and of course Guinness (which, though watered down, is still a great beer but I wish they'd change their lame ass Terry Gilliam rip-off commercial). Joe Lindsey brought his Dry Stout. Joe also contributed a sweet stout and a robust porter—all outstanding! Finally the actual "bidness" of the club began. Grand Wazoo E-Mo announced that membership dues would be increasing by \$5 at all levels at the end of January due to increased costs for Dixie Cup as well as increasing cost for the Beers of Month. Many of last year's members have not paid up. (As the official badge maker for Dixie Cup I can say, if you want a badge with your name on it this year, pay your f---ing dues.) However, there is hope! Treasurer O' the Week, Kimi Cook, unveiled a new plan for ending the club's financial woes—the Brew-a-thon (for details, see page 1 of this Brewsletter!)

Also to save money, the club will no be longer paying for packing and shipping to beer competitions such as those in Burkina Faso or even its neighbours (that

spelling's for you English Dave!) The club will only subsidize the following: Reggale and Dredhop (in Denver in March) the Sunshine Challenge (May in Florida), the AHA Nationals in June in Baltimore (April's Regionals are here!), and the Spirit of Free Beer. For those wishing to enter March's Bluebonnet Brewoff (the second largest homebrew competition... IN THE WORLD) Was Waz and now Competition Coordinator Mike Heniff will personally take our entries to the very edge of Texas! Bring them to the February 18 meeting along with your paperwork and checks for entries. If you aren't sure what categories to enter, bring some extra bottles and experienced judges will help ensure they are entered in the right categories. It should be noted that Mike will give up full enjoyment of barleywine night to be able to drive these entries up to Dallas the next morning! Mike also reminded us about the phallic nature of the Bluebonnet trophy and thus the necessity of winning it again so it can be displayed proudly in DeFalco's front window yet another year. The club will continue to host pack and ships for other competitions but members will have to cover the postage. Damn, and I was thinking about entering Antarctica's Ice Bock Competition this year! Other announcements included (many of which will have taken place before you get this issue):

The club wants you to take a **TABC certification class**, which allows you to be a volunteer at St. Arnold's Saturday tours. St. Arnold's has always been very good to our club and we're hoping to make the second Saturday of every month a "club day" where we can man the taps and promote the club. Two Rows has brewed and is the KGB's John Donaldson's 2004 Dixie Cup Best of Show "Glasnost Gold" American Light Lager. If you get a chance, go by and get you some. If it goes quickly maybe Ian (the Two Rows brewer) will again brew this year's Dixie Cup BOS beer! Remember it could be **your** beer this year!

Grand Wazoo Ed Moore hosted a **Super Bowl party** at his home. Plenty of great beer was available and no unintentional wardrobe malfunctions took place! Houston's Flying Saucer hosted a beer tasting with snacks with Adam Avery on
(Continued on Page 11)

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...

BREW WARS

-REDD KNECK VERSION

By Rob Kolacny, Secondary Fermenter

Episode XIV: BIGFOOT EATS IRVING

THE
FOAM RANGERS
WERE DOING WELL IN
COMPETITIONS ALL ACROSS
THE GALAXY, BUT THE FUTURE OF
THE GULF COAST COMPETITIONS WAS
UP FOR GRABS AND THE EMPEROR HAD
HIS MIND SET ON WINNING THEM ALL. WITH THE
CANCELLATION OF THE CRESCENT CITY COMPETITION,
BLUEBONNET WAS MORE IMPORTANT THEN EVER.
BUT TO TAKE THE BLUEBONNET CUP AGAIN
WOULD BE DIFFICULT. THE NORTH TEXAS HOME
BREW FEDERATION WOULD FIGHT TOOTH
AND NAIL FOR IT THIS YEAR. THE FOAM
RANGERS WOULD HAVE TO BREW A LOT
MORE, AND OFTEN...

Redd Kneck Skywalker was brewing a batch of barleywine in front of Birdwell's homebrew shop in the DeFalco's system. Floby Solo and the brew droids stand ready to help. "3PYO," commands RK, "go inside and have this recipe for 'Littlefoot' filled:

14# Maris Otter pale 2# light Munich
1# biscuit ½ # domestic wheat
¾ # light crystal"

"Master RK," liits the skirted droid, "your efficiency has been so high lately, surely this barleywine will be off the scale. After a 90 minute boil, your gravity will be at the extreme limits of the style's original gravity of 1.080 - 1.120+!"

"Just fill the order 3PYO," says RK.

"But Master RK," cries BDB-3PYO "at that gravity, will you be able to rack over in time?" "Just like makin' IPA's back home" replied RK. "What's your hop schedule?" asks Floby. "I'll use 1 oz. Nugget hops for 60 min., ¾ oz. Chinook for 30 min., ½ oz. Centennial for 20 min., 1 oz. Willamette for 15 min., and 1 oz. of Cascade at the end of the boil. I will also dry hop it with 1 oz. Cascade," answers RK. "Mmmm, hoppy!" exclaims Floby, joined by an enthusiastic Carboy-D-2. The fermenter droid rocks in place, making a series of whistles, beeps, and spurts.

Dark Brew arrives on the scene. "So, I suppose you will pitch Wyeast 1056, or White Labs California yeast" the Waz opines, "the Emperor loves a good American Barleywine". RK replies: "Barleywines are a culmination or pinnacle of the brewery's talents, usually the

strongest and most costly beers, and for some, the most flavorful and satisfying, well worth the wait each year."

"Ahh," exclaims

Dark Brew, "Obi-Wan has taught you well!" "Yes", says RK. "He also taught me that when making a barleywine it is strongly recommended that one use a very large yeast starter for optimum results. The slurry from a previous batch will work fine too. Some yeast may not be alcohol tolerant, so one may need to use champagne yeast to complete the fermentation."

"People, I sense something", mutters Dark Brew, "a presence I have not felt since..." Just then, Obi-Wan Stairway drives up in an old blue speeder with "Save the Ales" displayed on the back, to join the brew. "Hey guys," says Stairway. "What's up?" "We are brewing an American Barleywine, Master" says RK. "Ah, barleywine," proclaims Stairway "nectar of the Gods. Did you get the barleywine article I emailed you from when I was secondary?"

"What do you know of barleywine?" challenged Dark Brew. "It has been too many years since you have brewed." "Barleywines were traditionally the strongest beers offered by a brewery, the top shelf of beers, beers that truly go to *eleven*," states Stairway "The term "barleywine" was used in the 17th and 18th centuries but it was Bass who first put it on their label. "No. 1 Barleywine" named for brewhouse No. 1 where it was produced. The English versions are fruitier, and less hoppy than American styles. These usually employ English grains, hops, and yeasts. Common examples are Fuller's Golden Pride, Young's Old Nick, Thomas Hardy's Ale, and Anchor Old Foghorn. The English varieties were once of higher gravity but have diminished (blame the taxman) being eclipsed by the American varieties which are typically bigger in all facets,

(Continued on Page 9)



Beer of the Month Calendar



January 20th, 2006

Porter & Stout



Febrewary 18th

Barleywine & Holiday



March 18th

Belgian & Fruit Beers



April 15th

Brown, Old & Scotch



May 20th

Bock



June 17th

Wheat Beers



July 15th

Pilsner & Kolsch



August 19th

Pale Ale & Bitter



September 16th

Oktoberfest / Marzen



October 20th - 22nd

Dixie Cup XXII



November 18th

India Pale Ale



December 11th

Homebrewer's Xmas Party

Foam Ranger Events**February****February 17**

Pack & Ship (Club Paid)
Reggale & Dredhop
Pack & Ship (Unpaid)
Drunk Monk
DeFalco's

February 18

February Meeting
DeFalco's

February 18

Entry Collection for
Bluebonnet Brew-off
DeFalco's

February 20

DC/Officer's Mtg (3:00)
First Sunday (4:00)
BJ's Northwest

February 27

AHA Membership Drive
Saint Arnold

March**March 6**

DC/Officer's Mtg (3:00)
First Sunday (4:00)
Onion Creek

March 10

Pack & Ship (Unpaid)
World Cup of Beer
DeFalco's

March 11

March Meeting
DeFalco's

March 12

Brew-in
by Colby Sheridan
DeFalco's

March 18 - 19

Bluebonnet Brew-off
Irving, Texas



By **Mike Heniff**,
**Competition
Coordinator**

Competition Results

The results are in for the Upper Mississippi Mashout in St. Paul, Minnesota!

Congrats to the following winners:

Rob Kolacny

1st Place ESB
3rd Place German Pilsner

Ed Moore

2nd Place Weizenbock

Upcoming CompetitionsCompetition

Pack and Ship Date Club Paid Shipping

Reggale and Dredhop

2/17/05 Yes
<http://hopbarley.org/dredhop/> (MCAB QE)

Drunk Monk Challenge

2/17/05 No
<http://www.knaves.org/dmc/> (MCAB QE)

Bluebonnet Brew Off

2/18/05 Yes
<http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com/>
(MCAB Qualifier and Gulf Coast)

World Cup of Beer

3/10/05 No
<http://www.bayareamashers.org/worldcup/>
(MCAB QE)

AHA South Regional (Houston)

4/15/05 Drop off at DeFalco's
<http://www.beertown.org/events/nhc/index.html>

Sunshine Challenge

Late April Yes
<http://www.cfhb.org/> (MCAB QE, Gulf Coast)

Gulf Coast Circuit

The early entry deadline for the Bluebonnet Brew Off is February 18th, 2005. Entries will be collected for delivery at the February meeting! Have your paperwork ready. **You will NOT be allowed to use DeFalco's computers!** This competition is very important; we have won it twice in the last

Competition Corner

few years. The first place stein is one to put on the mantle, it is a very nice piece! Even if you have missed the deadline, plan on making the drive up to Dallas, the few days of the convention is always a good time (the Foam Rangers will be sponsoring a room along with the KGB with MANY beers on tap).

The second Gulf Coast Competition (and the last until October) is the Sunshine Challenge in Orlando. Start setting your entries aside and planning your brewing sessions; the pack and ship will likely be shipped the last week in April. A number of us are planning on going to this one for the first time in years so make your travel plans soon.

MCAB - Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing

For those that have qualified during last year, MCAB has been delayed until the late summer or fall. Although, this is all subject to change; I will keep you all posted. Keep on entering those MCAB qualifying competitions this year to qualify for the Master Championships of Amateur Brewing next year! Good Luck!

AHA National Homebrewing Competition

The Foam Rangers are scheduled to host the South regional for the AHA Homebrewing Competition. The dates set aside for judging at Saint Arnold Brewing are in late April (watch here for more info).

Competition Basics

Competitions are run for a number of reasons: it generates money and publicity for the hosting club, it offers a fun activity for many of the members, it gives many brewers good feedback on how their beers fit a certain style, and it gives beer judges and stewards experience on judging beers. In order to judge beer, we must first have a judging basis. Almost all competitions use the BJCP style guidelines and their 50 point scoring system to evaluate homebrew (www.bjcp.org). The guidelines are split into 28 categories (including meads and ciders) and are sometimes split out to even more categories depending on the competition (I highly recommend that you print the 2004 guidelines and add them to your brewing literature collection). Each beer is judged against the guideline that you specify on your entry form on a 50 point scoring system
(Continued on Page 10)



This Month in Foam Ranger History

By Sean Lamb, Club Historian (Sorta)

20 Years Ago:

In the Brewsletter: No record available.

At the Meeting: Held at DeFalco's on Morningside. 25-30 people attended, and Beer of the Month was "Sneak Previews of the annual club competition entries". J. R. Wasson "was volunteered" to start a softball team.

Other Events: Lost in the mists of time...

15 Years Ago:

In the Brewsletter: Editor Tom Cooper's great tome is missing from our archives.

At the Meeting: Held at Harold and Judy Doty's house. The Grand Wazoo, Chris Todd, makes the following proposals: the club start a yeast bank, that a pub crawl (Fez vs. Fudd) be decreed for May, that the club make an exodus to Lake Sommerville again, and no pooftas. Beer of the Month was Scottish Ales and Porters (???), including McEwan's, Belhaven, Sam Smith's Taddy Porter, Young's Porter, Sierra Nevada Porter and Anchor Porter.

Other Events: To our mutual regret, none noted or remembered.

10 Years Ago:

In the Brewsletter: Grand Wazoo Autumn Woods -Moore shills for the Bluebonnet Brew-off and the Crescent City Competition. Secondary Leroy Gibbins begs for beer for the Beer of the Month but doesn't write anything about Stouts. New editor Brewsletter Editor Bonnie Roberts gets the Timberwolf Pub

to buy a full page ad. An article by Dr. George Fix on all-grain yield is included for the education of the membership.

At the Meeting: The meeting was held at the Oddfellows lodge in the Heights. Steve Roberts gave a presentation on wort aeration. Beer of the Month was Stout - Oatmeal and Imperials from Samuel Smith, Sierra Nevada, Young's Oatmeal, Sheaf's, Royal Extra, Dragon and Mackeson XXX were all served. Stout Chocula from the Moore & Moore Brewing Co. and an Oatmeal Stout by Wes Woods were served. J. D. Gonzales brought a Cherry Amaretto mead, and a mix of Stout Chocula and Celis Raspberry beer was noted as being extra yummy.

Other Events: A "4th Wednesday" Happy Hour was held at the Rock Bottom Brewery on Richmond.

5 Years Ago:

In the Brewsletter: Grand Wazoo David Cato asks "Have you gotten your Bigfoot yet?" has problems with the letter "C" and shills for the Bluebonnet Brew-off. Secondary Fermenter Bev Blackwood takes 7 pages to extol the virtues of strong ale. To quote: "I love these big-assed beers. These babies got some serious back!" The Bros. Slamen crank out the competition calendar and Bev takes another 11 pages with his "Watch This Space" column covering the homebrew scene. A "Beer Knowledge" cross word puzzle is included for readers' amusement.

At the Meeting: Held at DeFalco's on Robinhood. Scrivener Kehn Bacon was too lame to list the beers served for Beer of the Month, although BOM was Barley-wine & Holiday beers (sound familiar?) A vertical tasting of 1998, 1999 and 2000 Bigfoot is part of the proceedings. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Donna Smith, was-Waz Wayne's wife.

Other events: The First 1st Sunday get-together was held at Bradley's brewpub (now BJ's South) to check up on new brewer Phil "Redneck" Endacott's beers. 43 entries were sent to the Bluebonnet at the pack and ship.

Brewers Assistance Program

Need help brewing?

Contact one of the following Foam Ranger members:

Bev Blackwood
713.432.1248 (H)
713.927.4832 (C)
Before 11:00 p.m.

Mike Heniff
281.204.4617 (W)
281.630.6711 (C)
Before 9:00 p.m.

Rob Kolacny
979.532.8056 (H)
979.532.1932 (W)
979.533.1173 (C)
Before 10:00 p.m.

Joe Lindsey
409.925.4664 (H)
409.763.2366 (W)
Joe Never Sleeps

Jimmy Paige
281.894.0307 (H)
832.576.6191 (C)
Before 10:00 p.m.

Ron Solis
281.799.8427 (C)
Before 9:30 p.m.

Please respect their stated time preferences when calling!

DeFalco's
713.668.9440
Business Hours only



Funny, he doesn't LOOK Jewish!



Now that he's not Waz, Mike's answers aren't so polite anymore, but at least he still brings us good things to drink!



Foamer Chrome Domers!



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I

How well do you know your Foam Ranger Chrome Domes?

- _____ Bev Blackwood
- _____ Steve Moore
- _____ Robert Orahood
- _____ Larry Long
- _____ Fred Eckhardt

- _____ Sean Lamb
 - _____ Wayne Smith
 - _____ Ed Moore
 - _____ Joe Lindsey
- (Answers on page 8)

FOAM RANGER

Clubs may come and go, but beer geeks are eternal.



“Not much, hanging out with a bunch of drunks... How about you?”



Joe “fixes” Sandy’s \$40.00 pedicure and a few other people’s toes while he’s at it...

Sullen loner Steve endures being befriended by cheery, drunk, bald people and prays for a swift and painless death.



FOTO PAGES

“I never knew Zymurgy had a centerfold!”



Dude! People who do this don’t get any more beer.

“Rob, you’re going to give me some of that New Glarus Imperial Stout NOW or I’ll cut you!”



(Continued from Page 1)

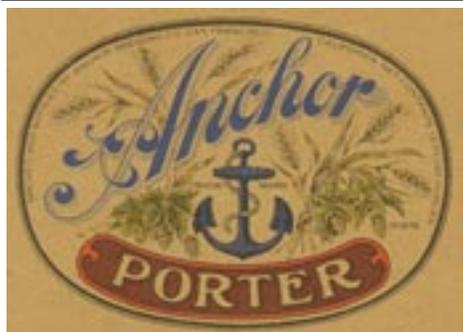
Coast circuit and with Bluebonnet's expanded categories, you have a better chance to win something than in past Bluebonnet competitions. So bring in your entries and let's keep the stein.

Dues are now due so do not go south of the border to escape them. Go ahead and pay them as soon as you can. You do not have to go to Vegas to win your dues. Where else can you have so much fun and enjoy good beer than at the Foam Ranger's meetings? Food, friends, fellow home brewers, and there is some damn good beer around here too. So do not be an alien, be someone, become a Foam Ranger. You cannot have this much fun in Hawaii.

With deep regrets, I have accepted the resignation of Kimi Cook as purser. She has some great ideas that will be implemented and she will be missed as an officer of the club. However, the club officers have appointed a very capable replacement in Stephanie Kolacny to take Kimi's place. I am sure our new purser will do a fantastic job of keeping track of our finances.

Foamer Chrome Domer Answers!

- A - Bev Blackwood, B - Fred Eckhardt,
- C - Larry Long, D - Ed Moore,
- E - Wayne Smith, F - Joe Lindsey,
- G - Robert Orahoad, H - Sean Lamb,
- I - Steve Moore



(Continued from Page 1)

dollar doesn't buy many Euros or Pounds anymore. And of course there is high cost in maintaining the Grand Wazoo in the style to which he has become accustomed. Just the daily cleaning and securing of the Fez runs into the hundreds of dollars each month!

"The Brew-A-Thon will be open to anyone over the age of twenty-one for a small admission fee of \$25. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get any networks or local TV stations to carry it. Even the Mexican stations turned us down despite promises to feature several Mexican lagers as well as distribute copies of a guide giving tips to keep 'undocumented workers' from getting deported. Interested members who cannot attend our twenty-four hour event can still contribute by calling in donations at NEED-DOE-NOW (633-336-3669). Please, please help!" Rappers scheduled to appear (if not gunned down beforehand) include Two Live Brew, The Yeasty Boys, Run DMS, Six Pac, BWH (Brewers With Hops) and the legendary Ice Bock. Though club members will happily accept donations of ANY kind, the Purser O' the Week provided a list of premiums to solicit donations. It is reproduced in full below:

Premium List:

- \$1.00**
A romantic dinner for two with Kar-el.
- \$25.00**
A Foam Ranger Badge (chicks dig 'em and they even fool the cops!)
- \$50.00**
Dating tips by Steve "the Putz" Moore
- \$100.00**
A positive article written about you in the Brewsletter Urquell.

\$500.00

A written guarantee from Brewsletter editor Bev Blackwood that no embarrassing pics of you will appear in our periodical ever, ever again.

\$750.00

Get a haircut cut like the Putz, the Laminator and now Skirt Boy sport.

\$1000.00

Drink from Andrew Sheridan's big ass glass he brings to meetings.

\$5,000.00

An exclusive dinner with the Foam Rangers officers and the Purser O' the Week (Of course, donor must pick up the tab.)

\$10,000.00

Joe Lindsey will share with you his secret recipe to his award winning Oobie Doobie barleywine.

\$50,000.00

A shirt from each of the 21 Dixie Cups (except for the sucky ones of course)

\$100,000.00

Brewing lessons from Mike Heniff. (Hell, HE'LL brew the beer for you!)

\$500,000.00

Guaranteed first place in any Dixie Cup category you choose.

\$1,000,000.00

We will arrange for you to win as many medals as it takes to win the Templeton Award at the Dixie Cup. Afterwards, the award will also be renamed after you!

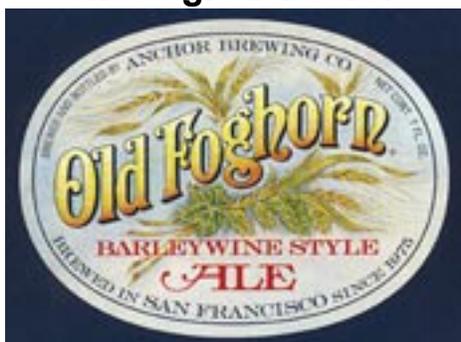
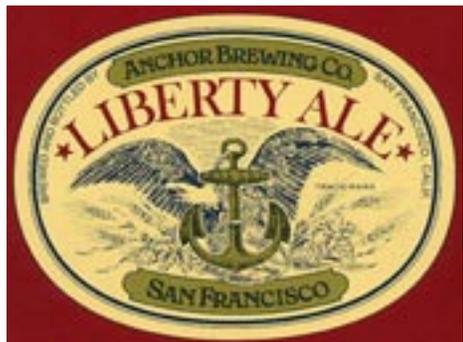
\$10,000,000.00

You'll be named Gulf Coast Homebrewer of the Year (We will bribe judges at the other competition to make sure you beat either Mike Heniff or Richard Dobson!)

\$7,000,000,000,000.00

We will rename the Dixie Cup in your honor, provide you with your own "love ewe," and pay off the national debt with what's left!

Thank you C.R. Goodman for supporting the Foam Rangers & for distributing these great beers!



(Continued from Page 3)

alcohol and hops. Examples are Rogue Old Crustacean, Victory Old Horizontal, Brooklyn's Monster and Sierra Nevada's Bigfoot. Barleywines will usually have OG's 1080-1120, IBU's 50-100, and have 8-14% abv." The argument is interrupted when Floby Solo's brother, a beer smuggling scoundrel, named Drew Solo shows up with his sidekick, Chew Bennie. "What you got goin' on here bitches?" asks Drew. Everyone turns to see who it is, then back to the brew debate in progress. "Any of you guys know how to translate mash language?" asks Drew. "The lauter tun on my ship's not talking to my HLT." "3PYO here can translate it" replies RK. BDB-3PYO steps up to greet Drew. "I am BDB-3PYO, homebrew-cyborg relations protocol android. I am a BJCP Certified judge and am fluent in all 28 styles of..." Drew stops him in mid sentence.

"My lauter tun quit talking to my HLT," states Drew "Any ideas why?" "Well, it could be broken," answers BDB-3PYO. "Shhhocker!" spouts Drew. "Chewey, take the professor here to the rig and plug him into the HLT..." "Sometimes, I just don't understand human behavior," ponders BDB-3PYO as he walks away. Drew ignores him and starts in on another of his stories. "So anyway, back in Guatemala..." At that moment, a woman drives up. Drew recognizes the woman and goes after her.

"Hey, baby," he says. "Looking for something?" "I need a mash paddle" replied the woman, as she pretended not to know him. "I got your mash paddle right here" he says while making a crude gesture. The woman gets disgusted and tries to leave. "Don't leave, baby" Drew tries again. "You were just starting to like me." "I don't know where you get your delusions, Tannin brain." scowls the woman. Chew Bennie laughs so hard, he drops his pipe. "Laugh it up, Fuzzball." glares Drew. All the brewers are laughing now, so Drew tries to save face by saying to the club: "She was too caustic anyway, I can do much better." The woman overhears Drew and shouts: "Why you stuck up, half-witted, scruffy looking, Dolly the Sheep

lover..."

"Well, I gotta go." announces Stairway. "I've got a million other things I need to do." "Don't go, Master" cries RK. "I need you to help me with this brew. I can't brew it without you." "The destiny of this brew lies on a different path than mine" replies Stairway. "I will see you at the Bluebonnet."

The farewell is interrupted by the excited sounds of Carboy-D-2. The wort in the kettle has boiled over and RK must run over and turn down the heat. "I lost so many hops with that boil over," pouts RK, "I will never be able to calculate my IBU's now." Just then, Sean Lamb emerges from the shop to see what all the commotion is. "Stay on target!" "Stay on target" he says as he pours himself a beer. RK finishes the brew, racks it over to Carboy-D-2, and goes home to place him in the fermentation cooler. "Another one down," he thinks. "It won't be ready for this Bluebonnet, but it will be for next, and maybe for Dixie Cup..."

The entry deadline for the Bluebonnet Brew-off, comes and goes and the brewers depart for the North Texas System. RK worries about his entries. They have done well so far this year, but how will they fair in the Gulf Coast Competitions? He also worries about the kegs he is bringing for the room crawl. "Master," says RK "I am concerned about those kegs. We just carbonated them. Will they be ready?" "Remember," answers Stairway, "a Jedibrewer can feel the force carbonation flow through him. He will know if the beer is carbonated" "But Master," interrupts RK "are you sure?"

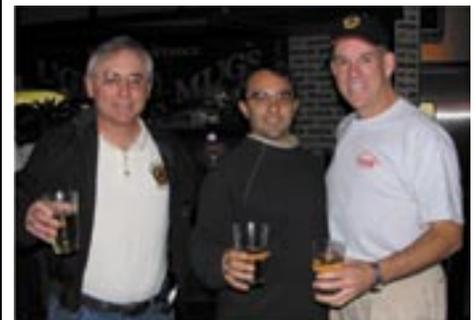
"Don't underestimate the Force Carbonation." answers Stairway "That keg will be ready in time." Arriving at the North Texas System, the Foam Rangers park the S.U.B. and enter the Holiday Inn Select. "The Bluebonnet Brew-off", states Stairway "You will never find a more wretched hive of scum & villainy. We must be cautious." They enter and proceed to the registration table. "Watch yourself," warns Stairway "This place can be a little rough."

"I am ready for anything" says RK, gazing confidently at the motley crowd of homebrewers.

RANGERS AROUND TOWN



Superbowl Sunday at Grand Wazoo Ed's House



K.G.B. Brewers John Donaldson, Tim White & Two Rows Brewer Ian Larsen celebrate the tapping of the Dixie Cup Best of Show beer, Glasnost Gold.



John Donaldson in his younger days (and his Foam Ranger days) brewing with J.D. Gonzales and David Power. (circa 1990- Photo from Sarah Gonzales)

(Continued from Page 4)

that weights the aroma (12 points), appearance (3), flavor (20), mouthfeel (5), and overall aspects (10) of each beer.

There are normally 2 or 3 judges that judge a flight of 6-12 beers of the same or similar style. There is normally at least one judge on each panel that is in the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP). Judges become qualified in the program by passing a lengthy written test administered by the program. Non-BJCP judges are allowed to judge at competitions but are usually paired with BJCP judges.

When entering beer, each competition sets the requirements for deadlines, paperwork, entry fees, and other requirements. Usually, entries are collected two to three weeks before the competition to allow for sorting and flighting. Each entry is judged among similar beers, usually in the same category. Medals are awarded for each major category and may be in the form of ribbons, medals, glassware and just about anything for the major awards such as Best of Show. Sometimes competitions send commercial glassware, t-shirts, gift certificates, homebrew equipment, etc as awards for placing.

Here are the most general requirements for entering homebrew competitions:

3 bottles (occasionally only 2 are necessary), 12 ounce plain long neck with no commercial markings, commercial labels removed, plain cap (or blacked out by marker), with a label from the competition rubber-banded around the bottle.

An entry form from the competition with brewer name, address, email address, club, and BJCP style information.

Occasionally, a recipe form for each beer, anything from basic to very detailed, depending on the competition.

The Foam Rangers sponsor many pack and ships. What we do at a pack and ship is help you pack your entries properly (providing the packing material and even sometimes the shipping cost) and get them shipped timely to the best competitions. If you need help with paperwork, picking the right category, or anything else, a number of experienced Foam Rangers will be there to assist. Best of luck!



Competition Flashback!

March 20th, 2004

The Foam Rangers celebrate the winning of the Bluebonnet Brewoff. Mike Heniff also took Homebrewer of the Year, and Best of Show Beer with his American Barleywine. Sadly, Mike was in Belgium that evening, anxiously awaiting news of the contest. It's time to **keep** that big 'ol Bluebonnet stein!

Exciting New Brewing Aid Raises More Than Expectations!

By Bob "Big-Boy" Daugherty

Pharmaceutical manufacturer Eli Lilly and Dogfish Head Brewing have pooled their resources to offer a new product for "big beer lovers." The product, Beeragra®, will, according to company publicists, guarantee to "get yo' beer up (to 1100 original gravity that is.)" It is expected to reach Houston area homebrew shops by Valentine's Day and has already been field tested by some members of the Houston area homebrewing club—the Foam Rangers.

Beeragra® has been in development for eight years at a cost of \$10.5 million. The major designer of the beer enhancement product, Harvey Wallbanger, announced, "I have listened with deep sorrow in my heart, sad tales of homebrewers who, despite using numerous pounds of pale malt or even expensive extract, could not get their beers up to 11! Being able to brew big ass beers should not be the province of the few with giant mashtuns like Jeff Reilly, but should be available to the many. We have done that very thing! 11 will be reachable by all!"

Several Houston Foam Rangers were selected as test subjects and the majority offered enthusiastic endorsements of Beeragra®. Grand Wazoo Ed Moore said, "You know

I never have had trouble getting my beer up. Just ask my wife... and friends. Beeragra® just makes it so easy though. Hell, you got to be careful though. I accidentally left our sample package of it next to a Berliner Weisse I was fermenting overnight. Damn, if by the next day it hadn't turned into what I can only call an Imperial Weizen Doppelbock!"
Dixie Cup coordinator Colby

(Continued on Next Page)



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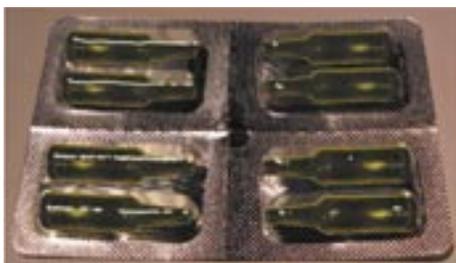
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Sheridan concluded, "It's just a shame Beeragra© was not around when we had the 'make it Imperial category' for Dixie Cup a couple of years ago. Imagine the ease with which we could have made an Imperial barleywine, or even an Imperial imperial stout!" However, not all Foam Rangers were as exuberant about Beeragra©. Jimmy Paige voiced his misgivings, "I don't know if it is for everyone. Right now the price [\$10 per pill] is a bit prohibitive. But what's going to happen in a couple of years with the generic form Ci-ALE-is© arrives? Everyone will be able to afford it! Big Ass beers aren't for the unwashed masses! I don't care what those bleeding heart liberal New England brewers say!" Rob Kolachny waxed more philosophically, "Eleven was once the goal reached by only the few. The 'Shangri-la' of brewing if you will. If something is easily reachable, the pilgrimage, once a challenge, loses all meaning. We will all have to shoot for 1200 original gravity, then 1300. The cycle will never end. The yeast won't be able to handle it. Mankind will not be able to handle it. The genie is out the bottle and the capper is nowhere to be found. My brewing friends, the end days have begun."

The Food and Drug Administration gave approval of Beeragra© last year but with a few warnings. One notes that "If your beer's head persists for more than six hours, you should consult a professional brewer immediately." They also warn that dark beers usually don't need Beeragra© since they are already bigger and more robust than their pale, less endowed counterparts.



Beeragra's© distinctive yellow beer-bottle shaped pills will soon be available at local shops

(Continued from Page 2)

Tuesday Febrewary 8th. Can you say Hog Heaven, Ten, Eleven, the Reverend, the Czar and, yes, even the Beast? Look for what details I can remember in the next issue!

Volunteers for the **Febrewary 12th Brew-in** were unsuccessfully sought. So I volunteered. Nannette and I will be brewing a FRUIT DEFENDU (Forbidden Fruit) type beer. It'll be called FORT DEFENDU (Forbidden Fort) It'll be strong, around 1090) but not very hoppy. We were going to celebrate Valentine's Day, but sometimes you just gotta think of the club first...

The **First Sunday pub visit** is actually on the THIRD Sunday this month. (That's next week!) The club will journey to BJ's Northside at 4 PM February 20. We always discuss Dixie Cup an hour before these pub visits. If you can help, please attend. In March, the First Sunday will be really be the first Sunday March 6, and will be at the Onion Creek Coffee House in the Heights at 4 PM.

More drinking ensued while raffle tickets were sold. We went on to enjoy Mackeson's Stout and St. Arnold's Winter Stout, Young's Oatmeal Stout and Two Rows' Stout. Secondary Rob is trying to get more contributions from local brew pubs like the Tatonka Stout and Baltic Porter from BJs.

Throughout the evening, Scott's lovely wife Rebecca played the role of beer goddess (literally wearing a tee shirt with the words emblazoned on it) and delivered beer to those too proud, lazy, uninterested or engrossed in conversation, to come to the counter. We enjoyed porters such as Sam Smith's Taddy Porter, Fuller's London Porter and off course Anchor's and Sierra Nevada's Porter. We even had three different chocolate stouts including one

from Rob Kolacny.

After the Porters and Stouts had driven off more timid livers, we hit Baltic Porters and Imperial Stouts including my two favorites Old Rasputin and Brooklyn's Black Chocolate Stout. Avery's Czar and Great Divide's recent Yeti were also shared. Jeff Reilly contributed his excellent Imperial Stout (one aged with bourbon beer chips and another fermented with sour cherries) We had Mike's fan-friggin-tastic Dixie Cup winning Baltic Porter and I donated some Baltika and some Victory Storm King Imperial Stout.

By midnight or so there were just a few of us left. As usual, my memory at the point largely failed me, but I do remember someone opening up New Glarus Imperial Stout. It was less imperial than we would have wished but was nevertheless pretty cool to try. It was time to put another porter/stout meeting behind us. It was great to see so many homebrew offerings as well as porters and stouts from Houston's brewpubs. I hope the tradition continues. We look forward to the barleywines, barleywines, and more barleywines (oh and holiday beers) meeting at DeFalco's on March 11. See ya there!

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