



THE FOAM RANGERS Newsletter Urquell

All The Brews That's Print To Fit!

April 2005 - Volume 25 Pints - Issue 4

Foam Rangers Fighting To Keep Sean Lamb on "Beer Support"

By Steve "Death Before De-beering"
Moore

Elise Lamb has obtained a court order from the Harris County Municipal Court to remove the "beering tube" from her husband, long-time Foam Ranger, Sean Lamb. The Foam Rangers have vowed to "fight to the Supreme Court, if necessary" to keep Sean in a persistent inebriated state. Elise's consulting physician, Dr. Howard F. Howard justified the decision saying, "Alcohol, while essentially a depressant, is known to lessen one's inhibitions. We believe that consumption of alcohol, in the form of beer is responsible for certain behaviors exhibited by Sean including, but not limited to, wrestling with Mike "Beeriac" Heniff at the (Continued on Page 5)



Debate centers on Lamb's
state (or lack) of awareness.

Out (of) The Wazoo

By Ed
Moore,
Grand Wazoo



Bluebonnet is done and we kept it from the dark side. The Foam Ranger forces were too strong for the evil empire to regain the sacred phallic symbol. There were thirteen different brewers that medaled for the Rangers.

The Foam Rangers had a total of 50 points and finished 23 points ahead of the 2nd place club. Many thanks to the Foamies who entered into the competition. The only bad news is that there were close to 1200 entries in the Bluebonnet competition. That means all Foam Rangers had better heat up their brew kettles or the Bluebonnet will

remain the largest single site homebrew competition!

The Sunshine Challenge is the next leg of the Gulf Coast Circuit. So, please continue to brew for the Florida competition. It stacks up to be a monumental challenge to wrestle the cup from the Florida club, but we will do it anyway. Entries will be due for Pack and Ship on April 21st with the competition starting May 22nd. I promise that I will shave my head if the Foam Rangers control all three cups for the 2005 competitions! I know that is not a big step with my hair but it is the best I can do for now and when we do win, I will shave my own head. I do not need a bunch of drunken home brewers scalping me!

The AHA South Regional is coming up in April. Entries are due at the April 15th meeting. Only one bottle is needed for this first stage of the competition. If you have an entry that goes to the next round, you will need more bottles for the National (Continued on Page 10)

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**April
Meeting:**

Friday,
April 15
8:00 p.m.
at DeFalco's

The Brewletter Urquell
Official Organ of the
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I'm late, I'm late... No surprise there. It's been a busy month and it's just getting busier! I apologize to all of you who've had delivery issues the past few months. We're trying to resolve who paid what and when. In the meantime, please just let me know if I screw up. Please go easy on Stephanie, she's having to make do with incomplete records.

Once again thanks to my prolific writers, most notoriously T-Bob who puts more into one Scrivener column than most writers do into a full-fledged feature. Also Secondary Rob, who is working hard to give us a saga worthy of Dixie Cup XXII! See you Friday!

Dozens Lose Eyes Due To Flying Corks From Belgian Bottles!



By
Bob "Titanic-Bob"
Daugherty

Not really but corks were aflyin' as Grand Cru bottle after Grand Cru bottle was opened! Now, I know many religions have their own view of what heaven must be like, but for many

homebrewers I think it must be very much like the little country of Belgium. Imagine a different beer for day of year! At our Belgian meeting the club was able, through generous donations and efforts by many members to offer one of the largest Belgian tastings in club history. This is what my almost illegible notes recall of that night...

Wits, Pale Ales, and Saisons, Oh My!

Was Waz Mike Heniff and I were lucky enough to ride with our fellow Pearlenders Stuart and Gina Strack to the meeting. Knowing in advance that sixty plus Belgian beers were to be on hand, Gina made the ultimate sacrifice by volunteering to be the designated driver for the three of us. It was a wise decision on our part!

Secondary Rob started us off with Belgian White beers. Classic versions by Hoegaarden's and Celis White (available once again but brewed in Michigan rather than Austin) were sampled as well as one of my faves, Avery's White Rascal. Celis does not taste as good as it used to (but then again what ever does?) but is still damn good. Up north they get the Celis Grand Cru and Celis Raspberry. When are those coming to back to Texas? Quebec's wonderful Unibroue Blanche de Chambly as well as Sterkens and Allagash Wits that were shared. The only one missing that I would have liked to see (I had it in Florida) is St. (we used to make the beer for Westvleteren) Bernadus' White beer.

Pale Ales from De Koninck, Ommegang, and a very nice homebrewed pale ale from our secondary Rob Kolachny were the next beers served. Saisons followed including a multi-award winning one from Scott DeWalt. Belgian Specialty Ales including Orval (gotta make a clone sometime), Kwak, "Good and

Careless" Noel [*Gouden Carolus Noel- ed.*] De Ranke, Caracole and again wonderful Unibrou's Maudite.

Meetin' Stuff

Our Grand Wazoo E Mo then began his announcements. Many are covered in other parts of this Brewletter. Most have also happened already so I thought they were in the future when initially mentioned, I now have the luxury of discussing them in the past tense kind of like that First Edition TV show. Anyway...

The First Sunday was at the Flying Saucer on April 3. Texas beers were only \$2.50 a pint and that included Sisyphus barleywine! Our KGB friends also attended and we worked on more Dixie Cup planning. The next First Sunday is actually the Second Sunday (so as to not conflict with AHA South Regional Judging) on May 8th at . Dixie Cup planning meeting will, as always be held, at 3 PM (an hour before the pub visit begins on the same day) Colby Sheridan did the March Brew-in and made what looks (and currently tastes) like an excellent Texas Brown. Scott ("His Saison Kicks Ass!") DeWalt has volunteered to do the April brew-in. We are still seeking volunteers for May. Remember the club and DeFalco's pick up the ingredients' costs. All that is asked is that you eventually bring a good portion of it to a club meeting (I did a Forbidden Fruit clone two months back the Brew-In and DO plan to bring it after some of the overgenerous Orange Curacao I added fades)

Last month's Brewletter was a whopping 16 pages. If you like what you see and read let us know, if not write something yourself and get it to our suffering editor Bev Blackwood. E Mo then introduced new members! Be sure to make these new folks feel welcome and encourage them to brew!

The AHA South Regionals are returning. Entry deadline is April 15th. To enter you must be an AHA (Hum the "Evil Empire March," Steve!) member and you only have to enter one bottle (unless of course you advance to second round!) Judges are needed for the event which will take place on Saturday April 30th and Sunday May 1st at St. Arnolds. Florida's Sunshine Challenge is coming up in May. The Pack & Ship is on April 21st. The club will pay to mail your
(Continued on Page 8)

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

BREW WARS

-REDD KNECK VERSION

By Rob Kolacny, Secondary Fermenter

Episode XV: VICTORY IN N. TEXAS

THE FOAM RANGERS HAVE LEARNED OF THE NEW ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE NORTH TEXAS HOMEBREW FEDERATION AND THE EVIL EMPIRE OF AB. THE NORTH

TEXAS HOMEBREW FEDERATION HAS USED THIS ADVANTAGE TO NOT ONLY TRUMP THE DIXIE CUP AND MAKE THE BLUEBONNET THE LARGEST SINGLE SITE HOMEBREW COMPETITION IN THE UNIVERSE, BUT ALSO TO STACK THE ODDS IN THEIR FAVOR TO WIN BACK THE BLUEBONNET CUP. THE FOAM RANGERS HAVE A PLAN TO DESTROY THE 'DEATH TUN.' HOWEVER, ITS DESTRUCTION WILL NOT GUARANTEE A FOAM RANGER VICTORY AT THIS BLUEBONNET. IT WILL ONLY LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR NEXT YEAR. THE FORCE IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN HELP THE FOAM RANGERS NOW...

Red Kneck Skywalker, Floby Solo and Lando Cal-DeWalt had just finished the flight of beer they were judging when Obi-Wan Stairway appears and motions them over.

"We have our pilot," whispers Stairway. "Soon, it will be on, but I need you to accompany me on a backup mission, on the inside."

The group makes their way to the Foam Ranger room crawl room and joins the planning meeting, already in progress. RK is surprised to find the whole Foam Rangers Homebrew Club there, including Master Birdwell.

"Ahhh, retrieved them all you have," said Birdwell. "Then ready we are. General Lindsey, start this briefing you will."

"Thank you, Master Birdwell," replied Lindsey. "Drew Solo and Chew Bennie, you will lead the primary attack in your ship, the 'Y2K Chicken' and be designated 'Blue Leader'. Your mission will be to strike the 'Death Tun' at the old construction shafts. They were once a very important part of the 'Death Tun', but are now completely abandoned and should be unprotected. Our ships have been fitted with a weapon that fires a stream of wheat and rye mash. 'Red Leader' must fly along this section here," he says as he points to the model of the 'Death Tun' before him. "And fire the beams

directly into the shafts and fill them with gluten. Foam Ranger Intelligence has determined that the shafts lead directly to the main mash, deep in the heart of the 'Death Tun'. This addition of wheat and rye will cause a chain reaction that will gum up the works and hopefully cause a STUCK MASH!"

"What about us?" asked Qui-Todd Meier as he pointed to the rest of the Foam Ranger brewers.

"Qui-Todd Meier, you will be 'Red Leader'. You will fly your pickup and try to draw fire away from 'Blue Leader,' replied Lindsey. "We had a faster, Corillian Corvette for you to pilot, but SOME ONE wrecked it on the way home from a party, so you are stuck with a pickup!"

"Boba Putz, you and your wingman, T-Bob-Fet, will be 'Green Leader' and will fly our new, smaller and more fun-to-drive 'Miata-wing Fighters', they have Zoom, Zoom," said Lindsey. "Your job will be to confuse the 'Death Tun' defenders and keep them away from 'Blue Leader'."

"We will need every last Foam Ranger to help make this mission a success, so we will use the brew droids too," said Lindsey. "BDB-3PYO, you will be 'Skirt Leader'. You and Carboy-D-2 (the little droid responds with beeps, burps and whistles when his name is mentioned) will lead the brew droids that just arrived in the 'Tye-Dye Fighters' on loan from the St. Arnold's system. We will need your ships to act as communication platforms. As our ships attack, those on the far side of the 'Death Tun' will not be able to communicate with our base. Half of your squadron will orbit the 'Death Tun' in such a pattern as to insure communications. The 'Death Tun' will try to jam our radios, use your remaining ships to take out their jamming stations. Don't oversleep and miss it."

"With most of our power

(Continued on Page 9)



Beer of the Month Calendar

★
January 20th, 2006

Porter & Stout

★
Febrewary 17th, 2006

Barleywine & Holiday

★
March 10th, 2006

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



April

April 15
April Meeting
DeFalco's

April 15
Entry Collection for
AHA South Regional
DeFalco's

April 21
Pack & Ship (Paid)
Sunshine Challenge
Spirit of Free Beer
Lots of Others (Unpaid)
DeFalco's

April 30
AHA Regional Judging
Saint Arnold

May

May 1
AHA Regional Judging
Saint Arnold

May 7
National Homebrew Day
Saint Arnold

May 8
DC/Officer's Mtg (3:00)
First Sunday (4:00)
Two Rows

May 14
Work Saint Arnold Tour
KGB Steak-Out
Pam Wall's House
Golden Triangle Mtg.
Beaumont
Texas Brewers Festival
Austin

May 20
May Meeting
DeFalco's

May 20 - 22
Sunshine Challenge
Orlando



Competition Corner

*By Mike Heniff,
Competition
Coordinator*

Competitions:

The results are in for the Bluebonnet Brew-off. We won the Bluebonnet Cup once again AND we smoked the

competition! We had the highest number of entries at 189! Great job by all that entered! We won a ton of medals (28 medals by 11 brewers) including first time Bluebonnet medal winners of Bob Daugherty, Elvin Steinwald, David Applegate, Colby Sheridan, Rob Kolacny, Scott Dewalt, and Susan Reilly. Rob Kolacny, Susan Reilly, and Scott Dewalt were first time Bluebonnet stein winners as well. Congrats and great job!

Bluebonnet Brew-Off

B. Blackwood	3rd	Belgian Specialty
B. Blackwood	3rd	English IPA
B. Blackwood	3rd	Scottish
B. Daugherty	2nd	Spice/Herb/Vege
C. Sheridan	2nd	American
Barleywine		
E. Moore	2nd	Imperial Stout
E. Moore	2nd	Mead
E. Moore	2nd	Smoke Beer
E. Moore	2nd	Vienna
E. Moore	3rd	Mead
E. Moore	3rd	Melomel
E. Steinwald/D. Applegate		
	3rd	English Brown
J. Lindsey	1st	Specialty Beer
Paige/Reilly	2nd	Bock
Paige/Reilly	3rd	Bock
Paige/Reilly	3rd	Dry Stout
M. Heniff	1st	Am. Barleywine
M. Heniff	1st	Imperial Stout
M. Heniff	2nd	Belgian St. Golden
M. Heniff	3rd	APA
M. Heniff	3rd	Belgian St. Dark
M. Heniff	3rd	Foreign Stout
R. Kolacny	1st	Amber
R. Kolacny	2nd	APA
R. Kolacny	2nd	Pils
R. Kolacny	3rd	ESB
S. Dewalt	1st	Belgian Specialty
S. Reilly	1st	Lambic

Upcoming Competitions:

Competition
Pack and Ship Date Club Paid Shipping

AHA South Regional (Houston)

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

Sunshine Challenge

4/21/05 Yes
<http://www.cfhb.org/> (MCAB QE, Gulf Coast)

Heart of the Valley (Portland)

4/21/05 No
<http://www.hotv.org/> (MCAB Qualifier)

Spirit of Free Beer (Washington DC)

4/21/05 Yes
<http://www.burp.org/> (MCAB Qualifier)

Austin Zealots Homebrew Inquisition

4/21/05 No
<http://www.austinzealots.com/>
(Unique Styles!)

BUZZ-Off (Pennsylvania)

5/5/05 (Tentative) No
<http://hbd.org/buzz> (MCAB Qualifier)

Celtic Brewoff (Arlington, TX)

5/5/05 (Tentative) No
<http://hbd.org/kobb/> (Texas event)

AHA National Homebrewing Competition:

The Foam Rangers will be hosting the South regional for the AHA Homebrewing Competition. The dates set aside for judging at Saint Arnold Brewing are Saturday, April 30 (9AM -noon and 5 PM to 10 PM) and Sunday, May 1 (10 AM to in the evening) at Saint Arnold. Be sure to come on out to judge or steward, people of all judging and stewarding experience levels are needed (you can even learn how if you have never judged or stewarded before)! Qualifying from our region will entitle the qualifying brewers to compete in the 2nd round held in Baltimore. In addition to the competition, the conference in Baltimore is pretty cool with a number of lecture sessions and plenty of great beer events and beer tastings. A few of us will venture northeast this year, so be sure to put it on your drunk schedule and hurry; the event is filling up quick! <http://www.beertown.org/events/nhc/>

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[index.html](#)

Gulf Coast Circuit:

The next Gulf Coast Competition (and the last until the Dixie Cup in October) is the Sunshine Challenge in Orlando. The pack and ship will be on April 21st. The Foam Rangers will pay for the shipping to Orlando. This is also a MCAB qualifier. A number of us are planning on going to this one for the first time in years so make your travel plans soon.

MCAB (aka Master 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!

BJCP Basics:

The Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) is a non-profit organization that is run by volunteers to provide a judging system and guidelines homebrewing beer competitions. Most competitions use the BJCP rules and almost every competition uses their set of guidelines. Checkout www.bjcp.org for the competition rules and guidelines <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/>. I would suggest for everyone to download and keep a set of style guidelines; even if you aren't into competitions, they are an invaluable resource for traditional styles (not to mention the guidelines are free). To steward (serve beer and maintain records) or judge (evaluate beer and fill out score sheets), no "official" qualifications are required for most competitions. But, if you want to have more freedom to pick the category that you judge and to feel more confident in your judging ability, you should join the BJCP program.

The first step in joining the BJCP program is to take the test. The test is rather thorough; it entails 11 handwritten questions on brewing, styles, off-flavors, beer history, and even the BJCP program itself. Additionally, 4 beers will be judged with score sheets completed and compared to calibration judges. A study guide is available at the BJCP website (<http://www.bjcp.org/study.html>). The Foam Rangers often offer a combination classroom and self-study class during July-September with the exam in October. There is a small fee for the class to cover copy and beer expenses and is usually held on Thursday evenings (5-7 sessions). If you are interested, please let either me or the Grand Wazoo know and we'll get you signed up.

(Continued from Page 1)

Bluebonnet Brew-Off, regularly wearing a giant yellow foam rubber hat in public and organizing a S&M themed Dixie Cup homebrew contest.

"The Foam Rangers are outraged and have agreed to oppose the removal of Sean's Beering tube by any means available." Foam Rangers Grand Wazoo Ed Moore declared. "The club has dedicated it's financial and moral resources to righting this grave injustice." At the behest of the Grand Wazoo, the United States House of Representatives and Senate are now debating "Sean's Law" which would mandate restoring Mr. Lamb's beering tube and would also provide for the yearly purchase of a quantity of Sierra Nevada Bigfoot Barleywine-Style ale, a top quality American Strong ale, in sufficient quantities to provide for his needs in perpetuity. The bill appears to have gained little traction in either house. President George W. Bush has cut short his spring vacation and returned to Washington D.C. so that he will be available to decline signing the bill into law.

The Rangers are maintaining a round-the-clock vigil at the Lambs' suburban Houston home. Some have duct taped beer bottles to their mouths in protest or perhaps just for some refreshment. Yesterday, long-time Ranger Tom "Beerbo the Beer Hobbit" Witanek broke through the barricades surrounding the Lamb home and attempted to pour barleywine down Sean's throat before being subdued by security forces.

Foam Rangers medical consultant Wes Long spoke for the club, "This is inhumane in the extreme. Deprived of drink, Sean's blood alcohol level will decline precipitously in the hours immediately following removal of his beering tube. It is likely that within 24 hours, he will arrive at complete sobriety". Foam Rangers' Head Bozo of Special Events and homebrew shop proprietor, Scott Birdwell, struck a more moderate note saying, "I oppose attempts by any branch of government to restrict citizens' enjoyment of ale and lager. However, I've known Sean for a long time and if you remove his beering tube, I'm pretty sure he's just going to head over to BJ's Brewpub and start manually beering himself... He's Irish... What else would you expect him to do?"

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

Ed displays his manly vigor while preparing the Bluebonnet Cup for its SHORT trip home.



It's okay T-Bob, you can keep the labels, but I have to have your car keys.

FOAM RANGER

"Please, make the voices in my head STOP!"



No, I am NOT working for tips.



Mr. Excitement gets an exciting phone call...



Okay kid, You've had enough... You're cut off!

Honey, aren't I more interesting than those smelly old Belgian beers? Honey???



Belgians: Some people love 'em, some people don't



Sandy is dismayed that Emil would question her standing as a Goddess.

FOTO PAGES

Sean always enjoys the old "Pull my finger" gag. Others aren't as fortunate



"I make stouts when I brew, they go better with mommy's cookies."

T-Bob:
Fashion Trendsetter



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entries for this competition so please enter. The Sunshine Challenge counts as part of the Gulf Coast Homebrew Club of the year Award given at the Dixie Cup so please enter!

The Bluebonnet Brewoff was held the week of March 19-20. Quite a few Rangers attended and I think nearly every one of us walked away with a medal or two, or three or four... The competition ran flawlessly. Richard Dobson and crew did a great job and we had a great time. The Awards ceremony (only slightly longer than the Academy Awards) featured music for each of the winning brewers, usually keyed to the club's character or location. Our own Bev "Skirtboy" Blackwood, however, got his own song. It was... "A Boy Named Sue." Though we eventually won by a considerable sum, initially it was close. Was Waz Mike "Beeriac" Heniff and Secondary Rob Kolacny came through with their beers and E Mo's meads cinched it. We nearly swept the barleywine category thanks to Was Waz and Colby Flobeywine. Our Room Crawl was shared with the KGB and featured a Star Wars theme to publicize this year's Dixie Cup. Two club members (whom I won't name) even went so far as to costume themselves as "Barleywine Kenobi" and "Face Drunku"—Fredi Knights. I'm sure pictures will reveal their true identities. Our room featured something like 13 different beers on tap at one time or another including Mike's wonderful IPA and Ed "Czar of the KGB" Condon's Fan-FRIGGIN-tastic Porter.

The Bluebonnet entries broke our 1100 plus entries at last year's Dixie Cup. As a club, we are going to need to brew, brew, brew to ensure that the cup remains in Houston!

We are also trying to get another BJCP class going. The class usually meets every other week, costs a few dollars to pay for beers and beats the Hell out of studying on your own! We have many experienced and excellent judges but could use more certified ones! If interested see E Mo for more info.

We will be having a joint (no, not that kind of joint "Osama" Ben Dacres!) meeting with the KGB when they do a

Steak Out. The date is May 14th and the location is at member Pam Wall's house. Simply bring an uncooked steak and they grill it for you. Not to mention there will be plenty of excellent beer.

Ed Condon of the KGB was on hand and announced the 10th Annual Big Batch Brew Off. It will be held June 5. The category this year is Porters. There is no fee, so enter!

Deja Brew held a golf tournament April 15th, hopefully a few of you attended!

It was then time for the RRRRRRAAAFFLLLEEE! Kehn (It's a Real Ranger Tattoo Damnit") Bacon attended and contributed his usual fun prizes including a fart bag, a fart whistle (won by Sandy West—whose husband "Storage" immediately began to use it—at least we hope it was the whistle!), and two pills that make "fake" beer. Mike Heniff won the Belgian playing cards that he donated. The new Budweiser caffeine B beer was won by by Jim "Mr. Excitement" Youngmeyer. He shared the beverage which us and at least to me it tasted "less bad" than I was expecting but of course I was expecting it to taste pretty bad! We also raffled off a hummingbird feeder made by Kehn from a beer bottle! I want one of those! Make more! I had to be content with Bob Klein's "Beer-A-Day" calendar. It'll make humorous reading at work! There were also some lovely glassware and two Belgian Ale kits given away.

These Beers Are Sour

Next we had the Flanders Red. Unfortunately few are available these days but we had some wonderful Duchesse de Bourgogne thanks to Scott DeWalt as well as some of the classic Rodenbach donated by the Was Waz, Mike Heniff. Ah, if only we could get Rodenbach Alexander again! Lambics were next, including some very rare ones in these parts. We tried some Cantillon (takes the enamel right off your teeth) Straight (as opposed to gay I guess?) Lambic, and a Boone Gueze! Lindeman's sweet fruit lambics (available once again in Texas—but for how long—see next issue!) were shared. Our own Grand Wazoo E Mo's blackberry and raspberry lambics were also much enjoyed as well as a very interesting

Verhaeghe Echt Kreikenbier provided by Colby. "Storage" West brought some Chapeau (if it's a fruit we'll make a lambic out of it—even if we shouldn't) Banana Lambic. It was an experience...

What's The Lambinator Hawking Outside?

At this point Sean "the Lambinator" Lamb (still hooked to his Bigfoot beering tube—see lead story) began peddling New Glarus Cherry and Raspberry from the back of his PT Cruiser. Sean had just gotten back from his annual visit to Wisconsin and returned with a carload (literally!) We had some at the meeting and it still ranks as one of my all time "take to a desert island" beers! Jimmy "Stairway" Paige went so far as to call it "Jesus Juice" but fortunately there were few small boys (save for the wonerfully behaved Strack boys!) around to ply with it!

These Beers Are Strong(er)

At this point it gets fuzzy, real fuzzy because we next imbibed Belgian Blondes, Dubbels, Tripels, Strong Goldens and Strong Darks. Around midnight or so I began wearing various Belgian beer labels for some reason or another. I donated another of my favorites, Scaldis, (once called Bush in Belgium but now changing to Scaldis even there because some morons might get this fantastic barleywine confused with the American swill that goes by a similar name!). Colby and I also gave bottles of Rocheforte 8, 9, and 10 for sort of "diagonal" tasting. The blue cap (10) is still the best in my opinion.

Stumble Home

It was at least 1:30 AM by this time and Gina Strack kindly drove Stuart, Mike and me home. It was an excellent meeting for all who attended. Once again thanks to everyone who donated beers. This meeting could easily have bankrupted the club but we were able to pull it off at about half the price it should have been due to so many donations! Keep it up and bring beer to our next meeting which will be...

April 15th (at DeFalco's) and will feature Browns, Old Ales (and probably some English barleywines) as well as Scotch Ales. See ya there!

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brewers out on this mission, won't the Federation get suspicious when they are not there for the awards ceremony?" asked RK.

"That is where The Mighty Dave Power Ranger, and Larry Bristol Sinis (one of the original Foam Rangers and first Jedi Brewers) come in." answered Lindsey. "They will have to cover for the rest of you and collect your steins. I will also keep a presence there to avoid suspicion."

"I have a distraction that might work," interrupted Commander Lamb. "Who wants to challenge me to some bare-chested wrestling?"

"I'll take that challenge," answered Admiral Heniff. "I've taken you before and I'll do it again..."

"Ok, ok, you boys take that outside," refereed Lindsey. "Now does everyone know what to do?"

Everyone shook their heads in agreement and left the room to prepare their ships. The main attack on the 'Death Tun' would soon begin.

"Master," said RK. "You mentioned a backup mission, on the inside."

"Yes," replied Stairway. "Quickly, you guys don your hoods and come with me. We mustn't be noticed."

They follow Stairway as he makes his way to the shuttle bay where pub crawl shuttles are about to depart. They load onto the 'Red Shuttle' (Red Shuttle Rules!) and find seats in the back. Stairway tells them of his plan: "One of the stops on the pub crawl is the Rahr & Sons Brewery. There we will make contact with one of our spies, Captain James T. Hudec. Trained in German breweries, he knows how to brew with wheat and rye and will advise you on how to cause the worst STUCK MASH possible. After Rahr, the 'Red Shuttle' is bound for the 'Death Tun'. Once there, we will sneak away from the group and perform our mission of sabotage."

"Yes, Master," said RK.

The 'Red Shuttle' soon reaches the Rahr & Sons Brewery where the Rangers make contact with Captain Hudec. Captain Hudec advises the Rangers to walk with him on the brewery tour, as to not cause suspicion because Imperial & Federation spies are everywhere. He

tells the tour about the virtues of the brewery's franchise beers: 'Blonde Lager', 'Rahr's Red', and 'Ugly Pug' (rumored to be the same as 'Brenham Black Lager').

"Do you think you will ever make any ales here at the Rahr & Sons Brewery?" asked Floby.

"I don't know, I only brew lagers, but I have a few favorites that I might try," replied Hudec. "My top three ales that I eventually want to brew here are: Brown Ales and English and Scottish strong ales. Does anyone here know anything about these styles?"

"These styles have evolved together in Britain and Scotland for many hundreds of years," answered Stairway. "Raw materials in those early days produced harsher, smokier, roasted malts and brown beers due to use of wood and straw kilning fires. Often, three or more successive worts were drawn from a single mash that produced weaker and weaker worts. These first worts yielded old or stock ale, with lesser gravity brews like milds being made with the third or 4th wort. The old ale was stored away to age and mellow. The weaker beers were meant to be consumed early or were blended later on with old ale. With new malting methods the three wort system was replaced with single wort milds and porters. Brown ales were originally known in the 1750's as any beer with darker color to distinguish from the pale beers becoming more popular at that time.

Today's brown ales are classified by the (BJCP) into Mild ales (OG 1030-1038 ibu 10-20), Southern (1040-1050, ibu 15-24) and Northern (OG 1040-1050, ibu 15-30) English browns, with the aggressive American Brown ale (1040-1060, ibu 25-60) grouped with American Pale Ale and Amber. The milds may be light brown with most being darker. Milds today refer to the lack of hop bitterness, earlier it may have been the lack of sourness they possessed due to being young, unlike the wood cask conditioned "old" ales. The Northern brown ales are lighter in color, more hoppy and drier than their dark Southern brown counterparts. The American Brown ales stand out from their English cousins being bigger in gravity and

bitterness.

Old Ales are very malty, with fruity esters and red-amber color, with OG's around 1060-1090. Some may have aged characteristics like a port wine. These beers are more malty and less hoppy than barleywines. The Wee Heavy is malty with a caramel aspect. Some possess a roasted malt or smoky aroma. Color is usually dark amber to dark brown. Alcohol warmth should be noticeable.

Scottish ales and Scotch ales may have been around since 6500 B.C. when the Picts were making their secret and hallucinogenic heather ale. The Scottish ales were always maltier due to cooler and less attenuative fermentations and lower hop usage. Hops were expensive and had to be imported from Britain as they were not grown in Scotland. Today, Scottish and Scotch ales are graduated in Shilling scales, from 60 light ales (1030-1034, ibu 9-15), 70 shilling heavy (1034-1040, ibu 10-25), 80 export (1040-1050, ibu 15-36) and the 90 Wee Heavy (Strong Scotch Ale, OG 1072-1088+, ibu 20-40). The Scottish beers possess a clean maltiness and may have a slight smokiness aroma from the use of peat smoked malt and roasted barley. The most well known producers are Belhaven, Caledonian and Maclay."

Hudec & Stairway's plan worked perfectly because the history lesson bored the tourists and cleared the place, leaving the Foam Rangers alone with their agent. Hudec explained that he had spent the year infiltrating the 'Death Tun' with his own network of spies and agents and formulated his own plan to bring down the 'Death Tun'. All the Rangers would have to do is make contact with his agents and put his plan into motion. The brewery tour ended and the Rangers were off to visit the 'Death Tun'.

Once they arrived at the 'Death Tun' and ditched the tour group, they made contact with Hudec's Lieutenant and started the plan. Since the theme for Bluebonnet was 'Red Neck', the Federation used the 'Death Tun' to make a sour mash for a rye whiskey to be sold at the

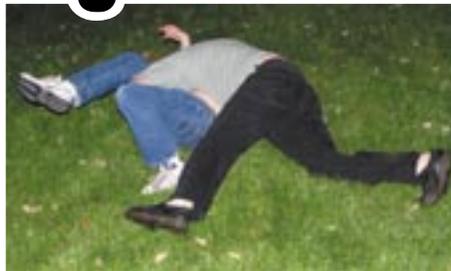
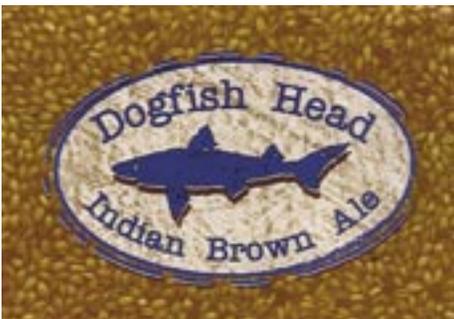
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The Foam Rangers: Kickin' Butt &



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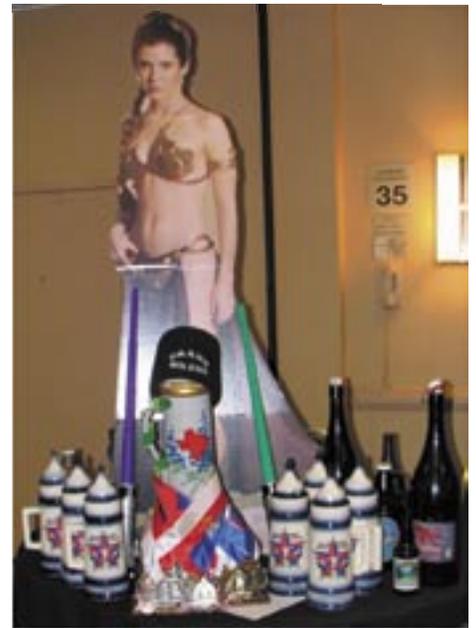


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awards ceremony. This meant that there was an ample supply of surplus rye already on board. Hudec's people re-routed the flow of the ingredients causing total chaos and confusion. It was enough of a distraction to allow the rest of the "team" to replace the barley in the silos with the rye. When the chaos was over, the 'Death Tun' went back on line, and started to self destruct.

While Stairway and his team successfully infiltrated the 'Death Tun' and started its destruction from within, Drew Solo and his team completed their mission without losing a single ship. Solo flew the 'Y2K Chicken' like he drives in Houston traffic, no one could touch him. He even did it with Commander Lamb on the radio the whole time shouting "Stay on target! Stay on target" – except for when he was wrestling the Admiral, that is.

With the mission complete and the 'Death Tun' destroyed, the Foam Rangers joined their brothers at the awards ceremony. They were amazed to find the Ranger table filled with steins and medals. Yes, the Force was truly with them as they won the Bluebonnet Brewoff by a landslide.



(Continued from Page 1)

competition in Baltimore, Maryland. Judging will be on April 30th and May 1st at Saint Arnold. So, come on by and judge and/or steward. It is a great way to sample different styles of beer and an excellent way to see how to properly judge and appreciate a well crafted beer.

Dixie Cup is starting to roll and we have an exciting agenda for this year's Dixie Cup. Sparge Wars Episode XXII: Return of the Fredi is the title, with a (you guessed it) heavy Star Wars theme. We have the noted author John Palmer and Sam Calagione, the brewer and founder for Dogfish Head Brewery lined up to speak at the Dixie Cup

Be sure to get with Colby Sheridan and see what you can do to help make this the best Dixie Cup ever!!!!

Please remember to pay your dues. The Brewsletter will not be sent to non dues paying members. The great selection of beer (Thanks Rob and assorted brewers) and food (Thanks Milton) are there for your enjoyment. The beer and food are complementary, so be sure to pay your dues and for the many that have paid, thank you for supporting your club.



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Partying at the Bluebonnet Brewoff!



“Colby, don’t make me get all Jedi on your ass...”

Whoa! Natasha!
We’re trying to run a
“family” room here!



Somehow it just wasn’t right
enjoying this without Charles
and Steve... Naaaaaah!



Big beer, big bottles...



“He wins a few
medals and sud-
denly he thinks
can kick every-
one’s ass.”

As usual, Steve
tries to impress
the ladies with
the size of his
lightsaber...



Redneck Lightsaber Practice



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