



THE FOAM RANGERS Newsletter Urquell

Taxes Are Done, Let's Drink!

April 2006 - Volume 26 Pints - Issue 4

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April

Meeting:

Friday,

April 21st

8:00 p.m.

at DeFalco's

Secondary Shotgun Boo-Boo Blamed on Bigfoot (or Bigfoot!)

By "Titanic" Bob Daugherty

An accidental shooting by a Foam Ranger club officer of another club member marred the First Annual Backwoods Campout and Beer Festival. News of the shooting was kept secret until revealed to sober club members via e-mail. An investigation is underway.

Though numerous activities such as karaoke, a salsa contest and raffle were planned by campout organizers George and Sandy West, a shooting was not supposed to be one of them. The incident occurred early Saturday morning after what some called an "orgy of all night drinking" the previous night. Secondary Fermenter (or Vice President) "Titanic Bob" Daugherty came to believe he had seen the fabled



The Sasquatch and barleywine were both sighted near the homebrewers camp.

Sasquatch or Bigfoot in the woods near his tent. Daugherty continues his story, "I had done my research and had read

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Out (of) The Wazoo

By Rob Kolacny, Grand Wazoo



Foam Rangers Win!!
 Foam Rangers WIN!!

The Houston Foam Rangers have once again won the Bluebonnet Cup! That's 3 out of the last 4 years running! Not only did we bring back home the Bluebonnet Cup

and the title of Homebrew Club of the Year that goes with it, but we also snagged the award for Best of Show beer and 40 points in medals! Yes, the Karma Monkey was very good to us! The Bluebonnet Brewoff accepted 1187 entries this year, of which 202 were ours! That's more than any other club and that means the Foam Rangers continue to be serious brewers and a force

to be reckoned with! Congrats to all the Rangers who won and thanks to all who entered! This win puts us out front in the new Lone Star Circuit and that's exactly how we wanted to start the new competition season and the new competition circuit. Keep up the great work! We will need it to stay in the lead! Next Lone Star event is The Celtic Brew-Off.

With the Bluebonnet out of the way, we set aside our competitive nature for a while and took in some R & R. It was time to relax a bit before we started brewing our big beers for Dixie Cup. It was time for the Campout! On the last day of March (and the first two of April) the Foam Rangers went camping and invited the whole state! The 1st Annual Texas Beer in the Backwoods Homebrew Festival was a smashing success! Thanks George and Sandy West for pulling off an awesome event! If you were there, you know what I am talking about. If you missed it, I hope you can make it next year. We had a (Continued on Page 9)

The Brewsletter Urquell

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First, thanks for all of you who voted for me in the AHA Board of Governors election. I am alternately humbled and elated to have been elected over such homebrewing icons as Randy Mosher, Alberta Rager and Dave Dixon. Whether you're an AHA member or not, I will do my utmost to serve the interests of homebrewing and homebrew clubs.

Second, it's embarrassing to know what happened fifteen years ago but not have a word about the last meeting... Ah the joys of technology! That'll teach you, Sean! Oh well, I hope everyone at least enjoys the extra pictures! I'll be sad to miss the April meeting, but will be happier for it as I start pedaling my way to Austin Saturday morning with my fellow Rangers!

Tales of the Backwoods Beerfest



Not by
Sean Lamb,
Techno-Klutz

(Really by
Rob Kolacny)

Most of us arrived at the Bluff Creek Ranch in Warda, TX on Friday afternoon. By the time I got there, George & Sandy West, Joe Lindsey, and Andrew Sheridan had already setup the base camp and the other campers had already pitched tents. I brought along my Daughter, Grace (9), and twin sons Kyle & Grant (6 & 6 plus about 2 mins. more). When Stephanie and I discussed the idea of the kids going on a homebrew campout, we were a little concerned. But George and Sandy put on such a nice, well thought out family friendly party, I never had to worry and am glad I brought them.

As soon as we made our way onto the base camp scene, Scott Birdwell's son, Sam met my kids with lantern in hand and off they went! Only stopping to pee and roast more than their share of June Bugs. Scott had to work Saturday, so when he and Sam left the next day, they were quickly replaced by the Reilly girls, Kevin Brock's daughter and a couple of fishing poles. The fun never stopped until we all had to leave!

The Friday night meal was a buffet of pot luck dishes. There were too many to list and we had more than we could ever eat in one night. 10 or so kegs of homebrew and even one from Two Rows took their turn running the Foam Ranger tap table gauntlet. And if that wasn't enough of an all you could eat and drink affair, a couple dozen Belgians came to join in the fun! It seems, after the fog of the March Belgian meeting lifted, T-Bob discovered that these beers had survived the melee, so he offered them up to the Campout.

We enjoyed the Belgians while standing around the Breiss Bar, an exclusive, secret watering hole we found nestled deep in the mountain bike trails... ..Ok, ok, it was just a board between two trees right outside of T-Bob's tent site that had the Breiss Malt banner stretched above, and daylight did reveal about 10 other such bars (minus banner) strewn about the tent camping area, but it sure did feel special that night!

There were MULTIPLE Bigfoot sightings as well...

Before Saturday morning could rear its ugly head, I seem to recall beer and a karaoke machine i.e. Beeraoke! All I remember from that mess was everyone trying to sing a few songs, and all of us sounding like hell. Then everyone would hush as Sandy wooed us with her golden voice. Well, at least until one of the drunks was moved enough to join in and drown her out and once again monopolize (or Fredopolize???) the mike. This ugly cycle went round and round; just like the base camp seemed to before I went to bed. The campground owner told us the next day that he would prefer we not play that evil game again... Sounds like a success to me!

So anyway, Saturday morning came and the kids and I had to bug-out for a few hours to take care of some family stuff. But while I was gone, T-Bob and Nannette, Steve Moore, Ed Moore (no relation) and Scott Weitzenhoffer made a trip into La Grange (...they gotta lotta nice girls...) to tour their most interesting of all historical sites: The Monument Hill-Kreische Brewery State Historic Site. They told the tour guide they were homebrewers and it sounds like that worked because they got a good, in-depth tour. Which, from what I have heard, is not necessarily the norm there. T-Bob, ever the historian, says that Monument Hill holds the bones of 17 members of the ill fated Mier Expedition. After being captured during their invasion into Mexico, 170 escaped. After their recapture Santa Anna chose to execute 10% of them (decimation) All had to draw from a pot of beans. 17 beans were black the rest white. Those who drew the black beans were given food, a chance to write a letter home and then sloppily executed. Their bones were returned after the Mexican War to LaGrange's Monument Hill. The Kreische Family settled the area which includes the Hill and later built the Brewery. It was quite successful up until the death of the Kreische Family patriarch when it fell into disrepair and eventually the ruins of today. T-Bob will honor this visit and the memory of the men by brewing a batch of Mexican Lager and a 10% Doppelbock named 'Decimator'. It will be interesting. The boys and I returned to the campground later that afternoon and got some fishing in. They and the Reilly girls, caught lots of bream, a bass, and a turtle! We grilled some

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A Malty Time Is Guaranteed For All!



By
"Titanic Bob"
Daugherty
Secondary Fermenter

Ok ...I HAD planned to brew some English Brown and Milds and maybe some Scottish ales for our meeting. I swear! But it just did NOT happen. Call me lazy, call me busy, whatever... I did finally

brew the Browns and Milds, but only last week. I'll bring them to the bock meeting (Not that any of y'all will be holding your breath anyway! Like Blanche Dubois, I will have to depend on the kindness of strangers (or rather Rangers) for us to have the kind of sampling of these styles (as well as Old Ales) that you have probably come to expect...

If I can find any we will start our meeting off with **Milds**. Milds are among the most endangered of ales and are very hard to find these days. That's kind of ironic because they once were the most popular of ales. Working men loved them but that very association with "the working masses" has made them much less popular with upwardly mobile Brits today. The name probably originally meant low in hops (compared to pale ales) or young in age. Usually they can be dark but there are some very sweet pale versions. Once they were much stronger, but today they are quite weak in alcohol (around 3.5% ABV.) A good mild will however, make up for lack of alcohol with a great deal of malt character. Often the taste is caramelly, toffee, roasty, dried fruity or even licorice-like in flavor and/or aroma. Hops are low to none in aroma with just enough in bitterness to balance the malt. It is usually served young and on cask. I don't know many folks that actually use "mild malt" to brew them. Writers suggest that mild ale was basically made for the American market. When brewing a mild, add some wheat for head retention. Beers this low in OG can have a difficult time keeping a head up (even with Beeragra). Frequently sugars are added to increase alcohol content. I used brown sugar in mine after running off a Texas Brown and a Northern English Brown. Unless someone (anyone... please?) has some commercial or homebrewed mild we are not likely to have any milds at this meeting.

Some see **Southern English or London Browns** as the missing link between sweet

stouts and dark milds. These are more likely to be bottled than milds but are also very hard to find here in the States. Perhaps because the combination of sweetness and low alcohol makes Americans unwilling to brew or buy them. These are also session beers. (You know, beers that you can drink all night and spend a lot of money on but not get a buzz and not be sick the next day.) Sweetness characterizes these beers with a caramel, toffee-like flavor/aroma and some dark fruit qualities. Low to no hops. If you have brewed one, please bring us a couple of bottles!

Northern English Browns are lighter in color, drier, hoppier, and usually stronger than Southern English examples. The malt and caramel character will be lower but still very evident along with some nuttiness. Newcastle Brown Ale is the most famous example with Samuel Smith's Nut Brown coming in second. We will have both and I hope we'll also have some homebrewed examples.

Most of you will be suffering from hop and alcohol withdrawal by this point in the meeting so I am including **American or Texas Brown** even though the BJCP groups the style with American Amber. As most of you know the style is believed to have originated at our very own Dixie Cup. Like English Browns, it is malty, caramelly nutty, toasty etc... but with much more hop aroma, flavor and bitterness and more dark malt. These hops tend to be American varieties such as Cascades, Centennial, etc... We will have Avery Ellie's Brown Ale, Big Sky Moose Drool Brown Ale and Dogfish Head's India Brown Ale among others.

Mild	Southern Eng. Brown
N. E. Brown	Am. Brown
OG	
1.030-1.038	1.035-1.042
1.040-1.052	1.045-1.060
FG	
1.008-1.013	1.011-1.014
1.008-1.013	1.010-1.016
IBU's	
10-25	12-20
20-30	20-40+
SRM	
12-25	19-35
12-22	18-35
ABV	
2.8-4.5%	2.8-4.2%

(Continued on page 8)

Beer of the Month

Calendar



January 19th, 2007

Porter & Stout



February 16th, 2007

Barleywine & Holiday Beer



March 9th, 2007

Belgian Ales & Lambics



April 21st

Brown, Old, Scotch & Irish



May 19th

Bocks, Dark Lagers, Dunkel



June 16th

Wheat, Wit, Fruit & Rye



July 21st

Light Lagers & Ales



August 18th

Pale Ale, Bitter & Steam



September 15th

Oktoberfest & Smoked



October 19th - 21st

Dixie Cup XXIII



November 17th

I.P.A. & Ambers



December 10th

Homebrewer's Xmas Party

Foam Ranger Events



April

April 21
April Meeting
DeFalco's

April 22-23
AHA Southern Regional
Saint Arnold

April 27
Pack & Ship (Paid)
Homebrew Inquisition
DeFalco's

May

May 4
Pack & Ship (Paid)
Celtic Brew-Off
DeFalco's

May 6
National Homebrew Day
Saint Arnold

May 7
DC/Officer's Mtg (3:00)
First Sunday (4:00)
Stag's Head

May 13
Brew-in by Steve Moore
DeFalco's

May 13 (p.m.)
Hell freezes over
DeFalco's

May 19
May Meeting
DeFalco's

May 26
Big Batch Entries Due
DeFalco's

June

June 3
Celtic Brew Off Awards
Arlington, TX



Competition Corner

By **Scott DeWalt**,
Competition
Coordinator

What a month for the Foam Rangers! The results are in and the club has done very well in several competitions. Take for example, the

Drunk Monk Challenge:

Rob "Waz" Kolacny:

2nd Pilsner
2nd American Pale Ale

Bev "Skirt Boy" Blackwood II:

3rd European Amber and Dark Lager
3rd Amber Hybrid

Scott "He Only Brews One Beer" DeWalt:

3rd Belgian/French Ale

If that's not enough for you, check out Reggale and Dredhop:

Rob "Waz" Kolacny:

2nd Light Lager
1st American Ale

Bev "Skirt Boy" Blackwood:

2nd Stout
2nd IPA

But the crowning achievement this month is the return of the Bluebonnet Stein to Houston – the Foam Rangers are once again the Homebrew Club of the Year for the Bluebonnet Brewoff.

Rob "Waz is DA MAN!" Kolacny:

2nd Light Lager
1st Pilsner
3rd English IPA
1st Fruit Beer

Best of Show 3rd place: Pilsner

Best of Show 1st place: Fruit Beer

Bob "T-Bob" Daugherty:

2nd English IPA

Join the Foam Ranger E-mail Lists!

By **Dave Cato**,
List owner

In the example that follows, LISTNAME should be one of these mailing list names: **foam-rangers**, **foam-rangers-announce**, or **houston-homebrewers**. Replace LISTNAME with the *actual name* of the list when subscribing!

To subscribe to one (or more) of these lists, send the single line:

subscribe LISTNAME

in the body of an e-mail message, in *plain*

1st Spice/Herb/Vegetable
Jimmy "J" Paige, Jeff "J" Reilly,
AKA: The J & J Brew Crew:

1st European Amber Lager
3rd Bock
3rd Light Hybrid Beer
1st Extra Special / Strong Bitter
2nd Extra Special / String Bitter
2nd Strong Scotch Ale

1st English IPA
3rd Belgian and French Ale
2nd Smoke Flavored & Wood Aged
3rd Smoke Flavored & Wood Aged
Jeff "J" Reilly & Colby "Who?" Sheridan:

3rd American Strong Stout
Mike "Beeriac" Heniff:
2nd American Barleywine
3rd American Barleywine

Ed "Dry County" Moore:

3rd German Wheat and Rye
2nd Traditional Mead

And finally, Allen Landon:

3rd New Entrants

So, you might ask, where does that put us in the Lone Star Circuit? Well, if you're Jimmy and Jeff, you're at 19 points for the team competition with your closest competitor at 3. If you're the Waz, you are leading the club in individual points at 9 with the leader, Richard Dobson (Red River Brewers) at 15. And if you're a Foam Ranger, you're in the lead of the club competition at 40 points with The Cap and The Hare Homebrew Club close at 33. See <http://lonestarcircuit.com> for the official standings.

Upcoming events: We'll conduct a pack and ship during the April meeting for the Spirit of Free Beer. On April 26th, from 6 – 8, we'll be packing for the Austin Zealot's Homebrew Inquisition and we'll send beers off to the Lone Star Circuit's Celtic Brew-off May 4th.

text (make sure the message is not sent in HTML or RTF format) to:

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This Month in Foam Ranger History

By Sean Lamb, Club
Historian (Sorta)

15 Years Ago:

In the Brewsletter:

Grand Wazoo Lou Carrannante declares "Last month's meeting was a blast... A number of our newer members also brought some interesting new beers (nothing under 1.052) to the meeting and I enjoyed it all immensely." J. D. Gonzales enlightens the readership on the finer qualities of pale ale, covering the history of the beverage and its modern incarnation. Ed Busch contributes an article on the "Ye Olde Yard of Ale Drinking Glass", published by the Dickens Inn "owned by the great Grandson of Charles Dickens" in Philadelphia. Sean Markham continues his "Galloping SudsSucker" column by describing the Brewery Tap bar and giving a recipe for "Grandma's Breakfast Bread" and "Ken Rich Lasagna". David Power is profiled by J. D. Gonzales.

At the Meeting:

Held at the house of Stacie Watson. John Donaldson made a presentation on brewing in 5 gallon soda cans. "John demonstrated the ease and flexibility of brewing with these canisters"

Other Events:

The 6th annual Texas Homebrewers Campout is held April 27-28 at Lake Summerville State Park. John Donaldson, Tim Case, Jerry Rogen and Ron Kline / Lou Carannante win at the HWBTA National competition in Reno, NV. Darts Night was held at Cecil's on Gray: "We had a turnout of 10 players...I think someone won but I was paying too much attention to the lovely Urban Animals"

10 Years Ago:

In the Brewsletter:

Grand Wazoo Wes Woods thanks the Bank Draft for getting a "bigass mug for the Foam Rangers Waz...What a swell guy. Makes you want to run for office doesn't it?" He also marvels over Larry Mayhew's "worlds most advanced brewing setup" and encourages everyone to come to the meeting at the Mayhew's place to see it. Editor Beto Zuniga

describes his brewpubbing trip to California, Oregon and Washington State. A couple of those stupid Dixie Cup post cards from Florida are reprinted. One shows the Dixie Cup in a NASCAR car, another in the jaws of an alligator. Ha ha.

At the Meeting:

Held at the Mayhew's house near Memorial park. Grand Wazoo preached to his faithful from the balcony. Larry demoed his brewing rig. Beer of the month was Pale Ales and IPAs. Karel was too lame to print a list of the beers, so we don't know what was served.

Other Events:

None Noted.

5 Years Ago:

In the Brewsletter:

Grand Wazoo Bev Blackwood reminisces about the recent Bluebonnet Brewoff "Several of our members recently represented the club at the Bluebonnet Brew-off and I have to say they put on one heck of a show—the Bluebonnet folks, not our members—we were just loud and obnoxious." [Some things never change... -Ed.] "Titanic" Bob Daugherty presents the first part of his two article series on Beer Heaven: Belgium in Two Unforgettable Days. A few images from the Bluebonnet foreshadow the Foam Ranger Picture Page. In his Odds & Sods section, Editor David Cato covers Turning Garages into Breweries In Sydney, Australia, and Genetic Engineering for Beer in Norway.

At the Meeting:

Held at DeFalcos on Stella Link. Drunk Ra ate the minutes. Beers of the Month were Saint Arnold Brown, Newcastle Brown, Samuel Smith's Nut Brown, Pete's Wicked Ale. Scottish Ale Belhaven Scottish Ale (in can) English and Scottish Strong Ales Fuller's Vintage Ale 2000, Fuller's 1845 Celebration Ale, Theakston's Old Peculier, Belhaven Wee Heavy, McEwan's Scotch Ale, Gale's Prize Old Ale 1995, Gale's Millennium Ale, Traquair House Ale, Thomas Hardy's Ale 1994, Hair of The Dog Adam Beer, Orkney Brewery's Skullsplitter (Secondary Jimmy Paige's favorite) and other non-style of the month "surprise" smoky beers that were found between a "rauch" and a hard place.

Other Events

The First Sunday pub visit was on April 1, the club met at the Texas Brewers Festival at the Garden in the Heights.

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)
281.723.6357 (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



**Sandy doesn't want to get into your pants...
She wants to get into your SHIRT!**



Homebrew Hula!



**"I'm telling you Alison,
Scott would never expect
YOU to rob the store..."**



**You're telling me you
can actually make
BEER with this crap?**

FOAM RANGER



**"I just love beer...
and I think, in all honesty,
it loves ME!"**



**Bring out a camera,
watch the reactions...**



Here, kitty, kitty, kitty...



**Steve discovers one of
Belgian night's dangers...**



Owie!



“How do you do it Sean?
I keep trying, but this
tray won't break!”



Old School Foamies...
Word...



Sean Wars:
The Nametag
Strikes Back!



This new kind of beer
bottle sucks...



Over 30 Foam Rangers
got “Kinky” at
the March meeting!

FOTO PAGES



Somehow Andrew's
“injury” isn't as painful.



Donald falls for
the Wazoo's old
“tassel in the beer” trick



(Continued from page 3)

4.2-5.4% 4.3-6.2%

Scottish Ales are also characterized by maltiness. Hops were relatively expensive in Scotland so they were seldom used. In addition, lower fermentation temperatures led to lower attenuation. Frequently a peaty smoke flavor and aroma are detectable in these beers. Some say this is due to the yeast, while others insist the flavor is achieved through the use of peat malt. A high (155-158 degree) mash temperature adds to the sweetness. The lower fermentation temperatures also require longer fermentation periods. Roasted malt is used and can contribute a dry finish. In addition these beers are boiled vigorously for long periods, caramelizing the wort. Scottish ales are grouped today according to their original tax rate per barrel in the now defunct British unit of shillings. [A shilling was worth 1/20th of pound or 12d (old pence). There were once 240 old pence in a pound. (Confused? You should be! You can see why we went with the dollar!) Today, as then, it reflects their increasing alcoholic strength.

Irish Red Ales (Lagers) are not as malty as their Scottish relatives but share some of their caramelly qualities. Many people dis these beers as relatively unexciting. A buttery, toasted quality can be common. As in Scottish ales, roasted barley can add a dry finish. Hop bitterness, attenuation, and alcohol strength are greater than in most Scottish ales. Many of these "ales" are actually lagered and quite smooth.

60/- (Light)	70/- (Heavy)
80/- (Export)	Irish Red
OG	
1.030-1.035	1.035-1.040
1.040-1.054	1.044-1.060
FG	
1.010-1.013	1.010-1.015
1.010-1.016	1.010-1.014
IBU's	
10-20	10-25
15-30	17-28
SRM	
9-17	9-17
9-17	9-18
ABV	
2.5-3.2%	3.2-3.9%
3.9-5.0%	4.0-6.0%

Next we move to my favorite of this month's styles: **Scotch Ales** or **Wee Heavies**.

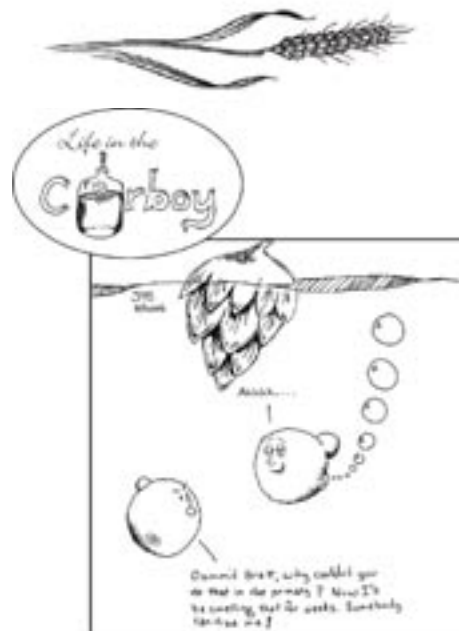
These are even maltier than their weaker brothers. Carmelization is more apparent and dried fruit flavors and aromas can be common. Hops are kept low. These are chewy, strong brews. We will be sampling Alesmith's Wee Heavy, Pike Place's Kilt Lifter (in honor of new AHA Board member Bev Blackwood), the newly arrived Traquair House, Belhaven's Wee heavy and

Old Ales are often compared to English barleywines but are usually not quite as strong or as hoppy. As the name suggests, they were once aged for six months or more in wooden barrels. Oftentimes wild yeasts in these barrels contributed to a slightly sour taste. Today they tend to be malty sweet with dried fruit esters. They often can have sherry or port-like qualities. Most are also quite chewy. Molasses, treacle or invert sugar are often added. High mash temperatures add to the sweetness. Many are called winter warmers in Great Britain. We will be sampling Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild (not too mild at over 6%!) Fuller's 1845, Theakston's Old Peculier, Young's Winter Warmer, Samuel Smith's Winter Welcome, Great Divide Hibernation and North Coast Old Stock.

Scotch (Wee Heavies) Old Ales:

OG	
1.070-1.130	1.060-1.090+
FG	
1.018 -1.030+	1.015-1.022+
IBU's	
17-35	30-60+
SRM	
14-25	10-22+
ABV	
6.5-10%	6-9+%

I have only touched on the complexity of these great malty ales. Bring your homebrewed examples to share! Come join us and celebrate San Jacinto Day in a way that would make Sam Houston proud (and envious)!



SAINT ARNOLD

BREWING COMPANY

Thanks to all the Foam Rangers for your support!

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&
Winter Stout, Spring Bock, Summer Pils,
Oktoberfest, Christmas Ale

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HOUSTON'S FIRST MICROBREWERY

lot of fun!

While the majority of the campers at the 1st Annual Texas Beer in the Backwoods Homebrew Festival were Foam Rangers, I must stress: The Campout is **not** a Foam Ranger only event. The Campout is a Texas homebrewers' event. Hopefully, we can spread the word and attract more clubs and more sponsors in the years to come and even pass the stewardship of the event around to the other clubs too. I think that's the direction George is hoping it takes. So that's what we have been up to lately, but let's talk about what's coming up next! I hope to see you all at the next meeting. It will be Friday, April 21, at 8 P.M. at DeFalco's. The Style of the Month will be Brown, Old, and Scottish Ales. Come out and see what beers T-Bob has gathered for us. And of course, come out and say 'Hi' to what has become an old friend ours: the Bluebonnet Cup! If you haven't yet picked up your Bluebonnet scoresheets, you can find them in the Foam Ranger bin at the meeting. By the time you read this, the final day to turn in your entries for the AHA South Regionals will have passed. That means it's time to judge them! Judging begins on Saturday, April 22, at St. Arnold at 9 A.M. I know, I know, that's the day after the April meeting. It's also the same day as the MS150 and we have several Foam Rangers (Bev Blackwood, Sean Lamb, Terry Schultz, Leroy and Nancy Gibbons, Rebecca Weitzenhoffer and Tom Witanek) riding in the event. It seems there are always conflicts, but the MS150 is very important, so let's all show them our support by making donations if we can.

Back to the AHA judging... Like I said, judging begins at 9 AM on Saturday. I think the best way we can help E-Mo get all those flights judged is to sign up ahead of time for those we want. That way he can do his best to schedule some of the flights, especially the larger ones. This is a one bottle competition, but did you know that some of the flights may have 40+ entries? One bottle means all 40 have to be

judged in one flight, across 4 sets of judges. Having run the Regionals last year, I am here to tell you that it is no easy task to orchestrate! Please plan on judging and let E-Mo know. Please come out to St. Arnold's Saturday morning and help our brother, E-Mo knock some flights out. There will be plenty for everyone and judges and stewards of all levels are welcome and needed!

Most of you are familiar with the Saturday brewery tour at St. Arnold's. Well, the tour stops for no one. Not even the AHA. Because of this, we will take a break from the judging and pile on a bus for a little pubcrawl! We'll hit a some hot spots for a few calibration beers and much needed food. The AHA is paying for the bus ride, so let's all take advantage of their gift. After the brewery tour is over, the bus will drop us back so the judging may continue.

Before we meet again, National Homebrew Day (May 6th) will have come and gone. Get your brew pots ready and join all the fun in the St. Arnold parking lot. It's on a Saturday and St. Arnold will provide hot liquor for your mash in the morning and then later, cold water for chilling your wort. (It's their fancy RO water too, so bring your brewing minerals to build your perfect brewing water!) Once you've chilled, St. Arnold's will provide you with yeast to pitch. This will be my first National Homebrew Day brew-in at the Brewery, so I am excited! By the way, bring your friends too (especially if they are interested in getting into homebrewing)! Did I mention? It's a party!

And the fun just rolls on... The next day, Sunday, March 7th is the May

First Sunday Pub Visit at the Stag's Head! The officers will start our meeting at 3 PM, but will be through by 4 PM, to join the rest of you for a pint or two. We will be planning the next Dixie Cup at the officers' meeting, so anyone interested in getting involved is more than welcome to join us!

A few days later, on Wednesday, May 10th, is Fred Eckhardt's 80th birthday! Happy Birthday Fred! The officers decided the Foam Rangers would say it with a birthday card that will be passed around the April meeting for everyone to sign. Make sure your name makes it on the card and I'll see that Fred gets it!

Those who attended the April Foam Ranger brew-in now know what a TexanBrew is (thanks Scott!), but what the hell is a 'Brew Monkey'? Want to find out? Steve Moore has un-mothballed his 'Brew Monkey' (I know there's a joke here somewhere...) and will host the May brew-in! That's right! You don't want to miss this one! Steve hasn't brewed in forever, but has been itching to start the old girl up again and brew a batch. Be there in front of DeFalco's at 10 AM, on Saturday, May 13th to see if he can still do it. Why has he decided to come out of retirement, now? I don't know, but the nearest I can figure is: it's because his drinking over the last few years has surpassed the number of gallons he brewed back in the day, so it's time to even up the score...

That's all I've got to say about that. Keep on brewing. If you haven't started those big beers for Dixie Cup, now's the time, so you'd better get to it!



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(Continued from Page 3)

of the fish, but I wasn't gonna mess with that fracking turtle! That thing was catch-and-release only! As campers made their way off the bike trails and up to the base camp on Saturday afternoon, I began to notice that some new faces had joined the Rangers and the lone KGB'er, Phil Kaufman. Several more Rangers and even some guys from the Red River Brewers made the late arrival and were just in time for the salsa competition. I think #5 won... As night crept in, we started cooking and feasting again. There was no official pot luck dinner Saturday night, but you wouldn't have known from the amount of food prepared. No one went hungry! And, as you might expect, it didn't take much to make the beer flow. We had a pretty good raffle later that evening, too. Storge did a great job procuring raffle donations from the sponsors. I say he'd make a wonderful asset to the Dixie Cup with that talent! He raffled off two BJ's gift certificates, lots of White Labs yeast vouchers, at least a dozen carboy hoods, some nice hard bound two volume homebrew books & some glasses from the Seibel Institute, 4 cans of Breiss Malting's liquid malt extract and several inflatable barley corns, a Zios Italian Kitchen gift certificate, a Dixie Cup T-shirt, a nice golf polo and other misc. stuff. I even won a Viagra clock??? That was a lot of stuff for the moderate sized crowd that we had. The night was rounded off with more fellowship and drinking. George even wore one of those 'Rocket Man' backpacks that Scott sells at Defalco's and went around dispensing fine ales. Because



Backwoods Brewin'

of my over indulgence the night before and an early rise that morning, I had to skip out and miss the Meeting of the Dead Palate Society. I think they drank some real bad, funky beer, so I don't think I missed much...

Sunday morning was awesome! I slept late and so did everyone else, it seems. The kids and I stumbled out of the RV, wiped the sleep out of our eyes, and followed the smell of breakfast down the hill to find Chef Emil halfway through a batch of pancakes, sausages and coffee! Mmmmm pancakes...and coffeeyyyy. T-Bob and Nannette were there and English Dave too, fresh off the bike trail. Dave really likes pancakes and I was surprised to learn that the English don't have some silly name for them like, cookies or biscuits or griddle pies or something... ..Nope. They just call them pancakes! Anyway, those were the best pancakes I have ever had! I hear he did the same for the Saturday crowd too. I missed out. After Sunday breakfast, I was amazed to find how clean the campground was. Everyone pitched in and did a great job policing their areas and the base camp. George and Sandy were very pleased. It was as if we were a bunch of Beer Scouts or something: "bring only Bigfoot, leave only memories" or

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Double Bastard (the beer) in the flashlight

something like that; I forget... The Annual Texas Beer in the Backwoods Homebrew Festival will be back next year and I must stress: *The campout is a Texas homebrewing event. It belongs to us all!*

Hopefully, we can spread the word and attract more clubs and more sponsors in the years to come. We would like to see other clubs join the administration and pass around the stewardship baton each year.



Beereoke!



Some things are best left in the dark...

(Continued from Page 1)

that Sasquatch like creatures had been fairly common in the LaGrange area until the closure of the Chicken Ranch bordello in the mid '70s. I was determined to bag one so I brought along my dad's eight gauge shotgun. Friday night during 'Drunkeoke' I was sure I saw the creature near our campout fire. The next morning I knew I had to try to find the critter and perhaps catch it asleep." Daugherty rose about 8 A.M. and headed into the woods with his gun. He says that he ran into Scott Weitzenhoffer who agreed to accompany him on his quest. The two had only gone about five feet into the woods when a shot rang out, striking Weitzenhoffer in the buttocks. Weitzenhoffer received only minor injuries and was taken to nearby St. Mary's Medical Center. Fellow Foam Rangers were apparently so hung over that the shot did not wake any

of them. News of accidental shooting was not released to the media or even to the club Grand Wazoo (President) Rob Kolacny. Kolacny only found out about the accident from Steve Moore (whom Daugherty had taken into his confidence.) Daugherty has insisted that he did not shoot Weitzenhoffer on purpose, claiming instead that the victim stepped into his line of fire. In a press conference Daugherty stated, "I am certain that I saw Bigfoot about twenty feet ahead of me. Quickly I raised my gun and squeezed the trigger. Scott suddenly ran in front of me just as I fired. I lowered my gun too late and my shot hit his backside. Immediately I helped him to his car and took him to a hospital." Some Rangers doubt that the shot was accidental and claim that Daugherty may have had an ulterior motive. One member who did not wish to be identified said, "Accident? Yeah right! T Bob was trying to kill

Wifenswapper! (Weitzenhoffer's club nickname allegedly because of the attention he sometimes pays other club member's spouses at meetings.) Scott had been on T-Bob's wife Nannette like white on rice since she arrived late Friday night. He was talking to her every second. I admire T-Bob for defending her honor. He gave it up smooth." Daugherty denies such an accusation: "Scott and Nannette are friends and nothing more. I trust her and him completely. I bear him no ill will for the suffocating attention he gave her Friday night." Weitzenhoffer himself also believes the shooting was an accident: "T-Bob and I have been friends since a bus crawl to San Antonio a couple of years back. We have much in common especially when it comes to the former Soviet Union and atomic bombs. I know he would never shoot me on purpose and invent some malarkey story about it being an accident while hunting a mythical creature. In fact, I feel really sorry for all the negative attention T-Bob has gotten over this incident. I have apologized to him for getting in the way of the half pound of lead pellets he fired into my ass." Weitzenhoffer, however, would not comment on whether he saw the big creature that Daugherty claims he was aiming at when he struck Weitzenhoffer instead. Despite Weitzenhoffer's acceptance of Daugherty's version of events, some questions remain. Many feel that the incident only underscores the isolation and impotence some feel Grand Wazoo Kolacny has displayed lately. "Kolacny should have been informed immediately when this happened and notified the club membership immediately. The fact that we only heard about it a couple of days later through e-mails shows he is out of touch, out of the loop and uncaring. He is too busy brewing beers and winning dozens of medals to provide adequate leadership!" said one disgruntled, medal-less member. While a formal investigation is still underway many wonder if Daugherty actually saw Bigfoot. Several witnesses state that the only Bigfoot sighting was the five bottles of Bigfoot barleywine that Daugherty consumed before he went hunting.

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Randy Mosher & Andrew admire T-Bob's "Enron Series" label entry.



Sean's under the table...
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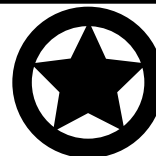
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