



The Foam Rangers Brewsletter Urquell

All the beer that's fit to drink

March- Volume 29 Pints- Issue 3

Out of the Wazoo

Belgian Time

Ye olde Purser

Picture pages

H O M E B R E W

A close-up photograph of two hands, fingers interlocked, forming a fist-like shape. On each finger, from left to right, the letters H, O, M, E, B, R, E, and W are tattooed in a bold, serif font.

**March
Meeting:**

**Belgian
Friday
March
21st
Defalco's
8:00 p.m.**



**SEAN'S F-CKING
BEN AFFLECK !**

Out (of) The Wazoo

The Brewsletter Urquell

The Official Foam Rangers
Zine

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"Storge" West

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???

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By Grand
Wazoo

Scott
Dewalt

It is March and that only portends good things for the beer lover and Foam Ranger. What a meeting the February barleywine meeting was! George West brought us some rare treats to sample and, as far as I could tell, everyone was having a great time. I had a nice time circulating and talking with everyone after a year chained behind the counter. We owe another special thank you to everyone that helps put on these meeting by supplying us with the food, drink and place to gather.

Our Secondary, George West, is doing absolutely incredible work collecting, collating, cataloging, and caring for the outrageously varied and delicious beers we all enjoy sampling. Have some homebrew you'd like to share? I hope so. We are, after all, a homebrew club. This month we'll travel to the beer Mecca of Belgium. I can almost guarantee there will be some beers you've never seen, never tasted and could never pronounce (unless you're Beeriac.)

Big thanks to Mike Heniff and Rob Kolacny for putting on an outstanding MCAB this year. This was the tenth MCAB, a competition the Foam Rangers helped form, and it was great to see it back in Houston after a decade of traveling around the country. Thank you to all the judges from the Foam Rangers and other clubs that came out to help. The BJCP Continuing Education Program, games, fun, beer supplied and general good time had at St. Arnolds all contributed to a fantastic event. Once again, the Foam Rangers garner national attention and praise for the quality of their effort and this comes from the hard work and dedication of our membership. Congratulations to the winners!

It was my pleasure to brew with Steve Moore during the February brew-in. He

made about three bottles of an American Brown and I look forward to trying an ounce or two when it comes of age. Jimmy Paige held the brew-in this month. Beer being made by home brewers? How great is that? If your out and about during a brew-in weekend, you should come by and enjoy the fun.

Our first Sunday event with the KGB was a blast. The next 1st Sunday will be held on May 4th at The Gingerman. Rumor has it they have some beer on tap.

The Bluebonnet is coming up this month in Dallas. Our entries are there and probably in the hands of judges right now. Good luck to all the people who entered. There will be a group going up to enjoy the festivities again this year. Talk to me if you'd like to come. We're in need of some more kegs for our booth so if you have one you'd like to donate, please do so.

And speaking of home brewing. Get your kettles out and brew up your beers for the AHA Nationals. Entry deadlines are coming fast. Consider entering your beers as part of the pan-area, BJCP registered homebrewing club known as THUGZ (The Houston area United Group of Zymergists.) See the THUGS president, Jeff Reilly or me for more information.

We've made some progress on the annual campout though it is likely we'll find ourselves in the sticks a bit later in the year. For the last couple of years the campout has occurred during the month of March. This year's event might be later but efforts are being made to ensure we won't be camping during the dog days of the Texas summer. It looks as if we'll be camping in the sticks around the first or second weekend of November.

The Dixie Cup is coming! The Dixie Cup is coming! Yes, after a five month breather, we're already planning our next endeavor in Dixie Cup history. Same hotel though why they keep having us back is anyone's guess. Mark your calendars for October 16th – 18th. This year, we're looking at the 'Fred White and Brew' as our theme.

Enough club talk, let's get after Belgians!



Secondary
Fermenter

"Storge"
West

The barleywine meeting might be a fuzzy fading memory at this point, but the Belgian meeting looms large on the horizon. Those "Bloody Belgian Bastards" brew a huge array of beers that were never constrained by the kind of purity laws that Germans once abided by. A country home to a hell of a lot of good beer as well as the worlds largest brewing conglomerate Inbev, Belgium is as screwed up and wonderful as a country can get on the continent.

My goal once again is to bring in the most out of state selections as possible and at this point I think that those rare beers now number about 35. Anything I bring will be a drop in the bucket this month compared with the number of beers Belgium itself produces much less what other countries such as our own make in the Belgian tradition. According to the country's tourist office Belgium makes over 450 "varieties" of beer, but I think that assumes each brand is a different "variety". And why not, look at how much effort Bud and Miller put into claiming each is vastly different than the other.

I am supplementing the out of state line up this time with a relatively smaller number of local beers that are more widely distributed in our area but still represent quality examples of the styles we will be running through. A quick look at the BJCP guidelines and you will find Belgian (and French) ales

I like Acetone on my Palate Bring the Belgians

spread across three broad categories (16 is Belgian and French Ales, 17 Sour Ales, and 18 Belgian Strong Ales) which encompass a range from Wits to Belgian Strong Dark varieties. Belgian specialty ales (16E) is essentially a catch all for everything that those maniacal beer "categorizers" can't categorize like Belgian Stouts (made a few intentional and unintentional ones myself).

The Belgian meeting will be heavily weighted towards the sour and, uhh, well, heavier styles. Of those bigger beers many are of the Trappist variety, of which only six abbeys lie Chimay and Orval can legitimately claim provenance (look for the Trappist seal). Several of our award winning homebrewers will also hopefully grace us with their heavenly creations. I seem to remember a particularly good Flemish Brown our exalted leader bottles from time to time...yummy. Could it make an appearance? From malty Dubbles through golden triples (including a growler of New Belgian's that never makes it beyond draft at their brewery), to a few quadruples we will hopefully have something to satisfy everyone's tastes.

Some of the beers we have a good amount of and others we have only a wee bottle of, so taste accordingly. Also remember that many of the beers will be once again higher alcohol selections so arrange for a driver or call a cab if you plan on going through all of them.

**Beer of the Month
Calendar**

**January
Porter & Stout**

**February
Barleywine & Holiday Beer**

**March
Belgian Ales & Lambics**

**April
Brown, Old, Scotch, Irish**

**May
Bocks, Dark Lagers, Dunkel**

**June
Wheat, Wit, Fruit & Rye**

**July
Light Lagers & Ales**

**August
Pale Ale, Bitter & Steam**

**September
Octoberfest & Smoked**

**October
Dixie Cup**

**November
I.P.A. & Ambers**

**December
Homebrewer's Xmas Party**



Ye olde Purser speaks:

Rolland

News from the Treasury:

A quick update on the membership front...

Please welcome our new members who have signed up in February. We all look forward to seeing you at the March club meeting on the 21st.

Steven & Teresa Glover
Nat Guyton
David Toups

Also welcome back our existing members who have renewed their membership for 2008.

Rick Lloyd
Scott Weitzenhoffer
Gardner Biggs
John Gonzalez
Mark Slamen
Tom Chaka
Todd Kellenbenz
Guillermo Benavides
Anne Marie Eastman
Rob Kolacny
Robert & Kathy Orahood

Through February we have added a total of 11 new members and 64 current members have renewed their membership for 2008.

Keep in mind that March is the last month that the old membership fee structure will be in place. Effective April 1st the fee structure outlined below will go into effect. Now would be a good time to get those renewals in before the fees go up.

Membership Fees: (per year) \$35.00 Individual /\$45.00 Family

Paid between December 1 & December 31 - \$30.00 / \$40.00 (Pay early and save)

Paid between January 1 & March 31 - \$35.00 / \$45.00

Paid between April 1 & June 30 - \$30.00 / \$40.00

Paid between July 1 & September 30 - \$25.00 / \$35.00

Paid between October 1 & November 30 - \$35.00 / \$45.00 (Includes next year)

Please make checks payable to: Foam Rangers
Bring this form (and your payment) to the next club meeting, drop it off at DeFalco's or send it to:
The Foam Rangers, 8715 Stella Link, Houston, TX
77025-3401

Thank you all for your continued support of the Foam Rangers.

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&
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Foamranger Picture Pages

BARLEYWINE
MAKES ME
TINGLE...

MR. 3000 (BARLEYWINE)
MINGLES WITH THE PUBLIC

WITHOUT THE WAZIDENTIAL
PRESSURES NANETTE
ENJOYS A BEER.

I'LL OPEN
THE BEER
FOR YA!

OLD MAN LINDSEY KEEPS
A WATCHFUL EYE OVER

HOW DO YOU
DO IT MR.
3000?

CHEERS!

THEY WERE SO INNOCENT IN
THE BEGINNING---



HAPPY B-DAY TOM & SEAN

I JUST TURNED 12



THE WAZ IS ALWAYS WATCHING



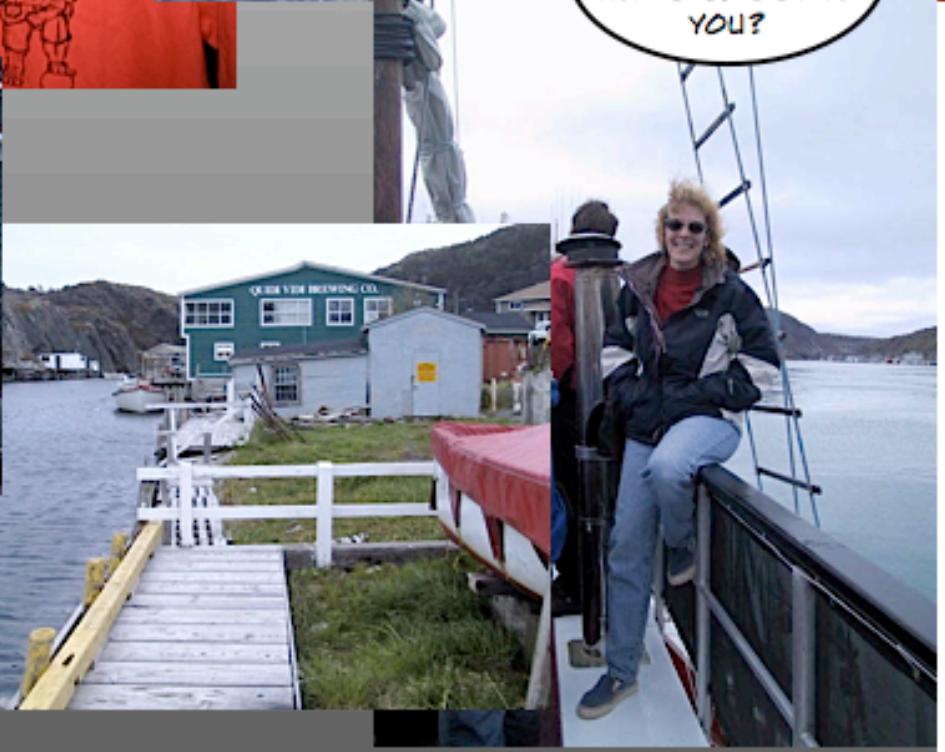
TEAM HOBBIT



JIMMY DOES THE PRESSURE OF THE WAZ EVER GET TO YOU?

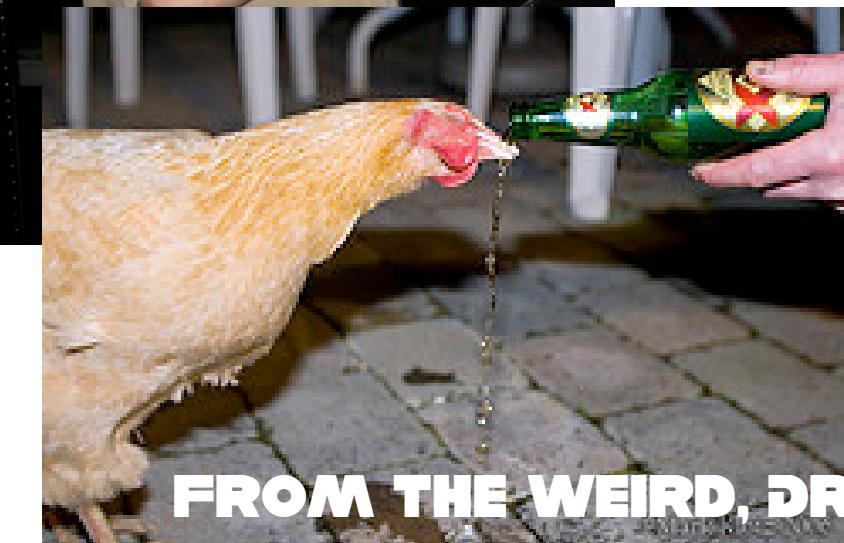


HERE ARE SOME PICTURES OF A NEW FOUNDLAND MICRO SENT BY NIINA RACH (FORMER FOAM RANGER). THANKS NINA





Kris Morris wants to remind everyone that Homebrew Club Night at Two Rows is every 2nd Tuesday of each month with Happy Hour prices on all beer for homebrew club members including Barleywine and casked beer. Yeah, we gots a beer injun (says Kris). To receive the discount bring your membership card or wear a club t-shirt, hat, badge, bjcp pin, or AHA helicopter beanie!



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The Foam Rangers Homebrew Club
Brewsletter office
8715 Stella Link
Houston, TX 77025



The March club meeting is:

**8 p.m. Friday,
March 21st
at Defalco's**

**I WANT TO BE SOMEBODY!
SIGN ME UP TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
THE FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW CLUB!**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

HOME/WK PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

AMOUNT PAID

New Renewal Change of Address

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