



The Foam Rangers Newsletter Urquell

All the beer that's fit to drink

April- Volume 29 Pints- Issue 4

BELGIAN NIGHT... WHAT HAPPENED?



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Out (of) The Wazoo



**By Grand
Wazoo**

**Scott
Dewalt**

April already and the weather is still very nice. For those of us who brew all year long, the current run of cool weather is great! We're getting close to the time when we'll all swelter over our boil kettles but that time has not quite arrived. I had a great time at the brew-in this month making a doppelbock with Doak's help and great food from Landry. Expect to try some at a meeting in a few months.

Last month was a busy month for us all. We had a great time at the meeting with several hard to find beers from Belgium. George continues to do a remarkable job finding those rare beers from different corners of the country and the world. We also owe a big thank you to Was Waz T-Bob and Nannette for the Belgium-centric food. The mussels were a special treat along with the chocolate and various other delicacies.

This month we'll enjoy yet more of George's work as we sample Brown, Old and Scotch Ales. Doak is bringing the food so be sure and thank him as well. Doak gets thanked or Doak smash.

There were several Foam Rangers who made the annual trek up to Dallas for the Bluebonnet Brewoff. The Foam Rangers did well and everyone had a great time. If you've never been to a Bluebonnet Brewoff, you might consider joining us next year. The Dallas clubs put on a first-class competition and it is fun to help them judge then be a participant rather than working the competition as we all must do during the Dixie Cup.

Our entries are in for the AHA Nationals. There was a bit of a scare as one of the boxes made the unmistakable sound of sloshing liquids; however, after assuring the nice folks at UPS that the 'Kitchen Supplies' probably included a bottle or two of balsamic vinegar, the boxes were accepted and have

since been delivered to Colorado. Good luck to all the THUGZ that entered. It seems our entry count is much greater than in the years past. Kudos to Jeff Reilly for spear-heading the effort.

The KGB invited us to their crawfish boil happening the Saturday after our meeting. It will start around 7 p.m. and feature plenty of crawfish and beer. Please consider coming to support the KGB and bring some beer for others to sample. See their web site at <http://thekgb.org> for more details about the event.

Kris Morris at Two Rows has started a homebrewers appreciate night. Each night on the second Tuesday of the month you can go by and demand discounted pints just for being a member of the Foam Rangers! It is like being a member of the AHA except you actually get a discount. Kris has also brought Two Rows beers to many of our meetings and, if you've had any, you know that his [first one to prove they've read this far by telling me gets a free kiss from Rob "Redneck" Kneck] beer is reason enough to visit Two Rows; the discount just makes it even sweeter.

Our next 1st Sunday meeting will be Sunday, May 4th at The Gingerman. As we've done in the past, we'll be having the meeting, starting at 4 p.m., in conjunction with the KGB. There will be an officer's meeting (a.k.a. Dixie Cup meeting) starting at 3 p.m. If you'd like to help with the Dixie Cup this year or are just curious as to what is going on, stop by; the meeting is open to all. The Big Batch will feature Weizenbock this year. New to this year is an entry cut-off. You must have your beer entered and dropped off by Sunday, May 11th. It is a free competition that culminates at St. Arnold's on Sunday, May 18th. There will be food, beer and a terrific raffle. The winner's beer will be used as a future Devine Reserve by St. Arnolds.

St. Arnolds is also hosting us homebrewers again during their Homebrewer Day. This is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. Come by and see all the homebrewers homebrewing in the parking lot. We'll have more information about the event as the time draws closer.



**Secondary
Fermenter**

**“Storge”
West**

Secondary's Rant

In April the beers we feature are a grab bag of different styles, but what can you do with only 11 meetings and so many beers to feature? The theme this time is malt with only a few exceptions. We will start off with brown ales, which despite sounding rather simplistic, often seem like a style many struggle with in an effort to get just right. Then again, what is right?

At one point in time most historians believe all ales in the British Isles were brown ales, of course at that time the drink was simply called “ale”. These beers are possibly some of the closest in style to those imbibed in British pubs from Roman days well into the 1700s when new brewing techniques led to the rise of porters, lagers, etc., etc. In other words brown ales are a blast from the past.

Today the categorizing powers still seem to struggle in efforts to categorize the stuff. The color of brown ales can be amber or at the other end of the scale very dark and almost stout-like in color. Alcohol can range from very low in some sweeter versions to moderate and drier as is the case with some we are more familiar with from English-Scottish border towns like Newcastle. In the US many of our homegrown versions are heavily hopped – big surprise! While in the UK complex malt profiles dominate with varying degrees of subtlety that would be overwhelmed by some of our versions. Scottish Ales also seem to present some difficulty in pigeonholing.

For stylistic purposes they are deemed to have several sub-styles of light, export, heavy and strong (also known as simply “Scotch Ale”), but given at its roots the term applies to an entire region (or in the

mind of those that love Braveheart, a country), in some respects any ale made in Scotland should be called Scottish Ale shouldn't it? From a historical perspective Scotland, being somewhat cooler than neighboring England and heavily into malting barley to make whiskey, found they had plenty of the cereal needed to make beer but not much in the way of hops (which were expensive to import and much of the time in the hands of the bloody English bastards to the South).

In order to mimic the balancing effect of hops sometimes local herbs were supposedly used and some historical brews remain such as the heather infused Fraoch Ale or the Alba Pine Ale. But what is deemed Scottish in style these days are beers with significant malt profiles and in the case of all but more recent US interpretations, very little hop presence.

Our final mix-and-match beer style is another doozy to try and define - old ales. I have never really been able to find out why old ales are so substantially dissimilar to barleywines to require a different category, but at least it gives us an excuse to drink high gravity beers again! The BJCP says old ales fit in the space between “strong bitters and brown porters” and “barleywines”. Looking over the specs for each there seems to be some overlap, but what the heck. One of our selections, Bell's Third Coast OLD ALE, BJCP actually categorizes as an American barleywine - but I am going with Larry Bell on this one. According to BJCP some are also holiday ales and winter warmers which in terms of our purposes means we get to “celebrate” again (so I guess I will pick and choose and side with BJCP on that call)! So onwards and upwards my good friends, here's to the malt!

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



INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

T-BOB DAUGHERTY

GRAND WAZOO RESIGNS OVER BARLEYWINE FOR SEX TRYST

Houston Foam Ranger Grand Wazoo Scott DeWalt announced at Friday's Scottish and Brown Ale meeting that he was resigning due to "personal issues." The resignation comes as no surprise following days of speculation that one was necessary to prevent impeachment and trial by drinking by the homebrew club. Though the solicited woman has only been identified as "Hottie 1.100" she is believed to be an employee of a major beer distributor.

The "Affaire de Barleywine," as it is being called, surfaced earlier in the week when a text message was accidentally sent to Was Was Waz Rob Kolacny reading "ABW 4 U 4 SEX." Kolacny was shocked and texted back to his long time friend and fellow University of Texas grad "WTF Waz??????" DeWalt, not realizing his error responded "U NO U WANT 2!" In the best interest of the club, Kolacny told DeWalt's wife Michelle and revealed it to Steve "the Putz" Moore. Somehow the story then leaked out. Michelle quickly hired the private eye firm Blue Moon Investigations and had her husband followed. Soon damning photos were presented to the First Lady of Homebrewing. A blurry photograph shown in this issue shows a blurry figure carrying what appears to be a case Sierra Nevada Bigfoot barleywine into a seedy "no tell" motel. The figure appears to be wearing a fez like object that may or may not say "Grand Wazoo" as well as a UT jacket or some sort. Details and some additional photos were released on the KGB blog. Calls for DeWalt's impeachment soon followed. Similar information is expected to be eventually posted on the Foam Ranger website within the next two-three years.

DeWalt had refused to comment or be sober until Friday's meeting since word broke of the beer for sex tryst. In a tearful speech standing on top of an Igloo cooler of rare Wee Heavies, DeWalt explained, "Rangers... I have sinned against you. I have sinned against my wife Michelle I have embarrassed my beloved children Gannon, Adalynn and Kaylee and any others I have may



Wazoo reacts over FR club indictment

have spawned with other women while pursuing my barleywine addiction. My dog Shelbo won't even talk to me anymore! I have sinned for barleywine and sex. I must thank my wife who has so bravely stood by me this week and brought me what Bigfoot I still have to help me deal properly with this crisis. I could not have made it without her. She is my hero, my Rock of Gibraltar!" All eyes and ears turned to the First lady of Homebrewing Michelle DeWalt as Scott DeWalt presented an obviously stressed woman. She began, "My husband has asked me to say a few words to demonstrate my support and unconditional love. I would just like to say...what a loser! I can't believe I married him and that he fathered my children! Are there any lawyers in the shop? Doak? Where are you Doak? I want a divorce NOW! When I am done with you Scott, you will have Tequiza to drink. See! I will drinkkkkkkkk your barleywine! All you will have to brew with is a Mister Beer Kit. How 'bout that? Is that supportive enough for you, my Grand Wazoo?"

Following her demonstration of unwavering support, the Rangers moved to impeach and remove DeWalt and elevate Secondary Fermenter George West to the Wazooship. However, Jimmy "Stairway" Paige soon intervened. "Rangers we have only gotten to enjoy Storge West as Secondary for four months. Yes, I admit, the best months, Stouts, Belgians and BARLEYWINES are behind us but I remind you we still have Bocks and IPAs! We do not know what the vicissitudes of fortune will give us as a replacement for Storge but we DO know no one could provide the first class rare beers

(Continued on page 9)



William
Barnard

One Drunks Opinion.

You meet funny people in bars. Some of them are true individuals, and some of them you meet everywhere you go. There is at least one of the following ten in every bar in America.

1. The Dressed-Up Drunk Chick-She just came from a wedding, or a funeral, or some college shindig with a dress code. She's hammered and pointing out every couple minutes how GORGEOUS her dress is. She sits down too hard and laughs until she snorts. Her drink of choice is either really low-rent and therefore ironic, or very complicated. Why is the sloshed blonde in the frilly dress with the train always nursing the warm Lone Star?
2. The Depressing Businessman With An Opinion-This guy is invariably elbows-down into the bar, yelling at whatever team of his is losing on the TV, telling the bartender how his wife doesn't understand or how we should just nuke Iraq. He's keen on gin, vodka, and girls half his age. He has a money clip and a cell phone hanging from his belt in one of those little leather cases. He'll give you his card and try to buy you whatever he's drinking.
3. The Reeeeeeeaaaalllllyyyy Old Man-Beers just keep magically appearing in front of him, he was there when you showed up, he'll stay until after you leave. He asks for cigarettes and talks about how much stuff used to cost. Every now and then a song will come on the juke that he knows and he'll slap you on the back and say, "Heh, this one's before your time!" His hat is sitting on the bar. Old pros always wear hats to the bar.
4. The Off-Duty Bartender-He/She will sit next to the waiter's swinging door and talk to whatever coworker is slinging booze. He/She will go behind the bar to use the phone, pour their own drinks, change the channel, etc. They'll ask you if you know every type of shot in the world and try to get you to sample them all. Inside jokes and name-dropping hazards ahead.
5. The Dude Who Needs A Ride-Pretty self-explanatory. The interesting thing is, it's never "Take me to my house," it's "Take me to the store and then to this other dude's house and wait outside, and then to this other house, and there's 'something' in it for you when we get there."
6. The Dancing Chick-Every song on the Jukebox is this girl's all-time favorite jam, because it reminds her of her boyfriend/best friend/pet/car/rando she's going home with. Her trademark move is raising her appletini in the air, scowling and shaking her head in passion, and wobbling around waiting for someone to grab her and take her home. She might have jean shorts on, but it's not mandatory. Jean skirts are also appropriate.
7. The Writer In The Corner-Converse low-tops, corduroy pants, a cardigan, black-rimmed glasses, and a man-purse. He's smoking cloves or bidis at the end of the bar and drinking the micro-brewery stuff, or whiskey, the most literary of boozes. He'll be really quiet for hours, and then all of a sudden he'll throw his two cents into a conversation as if we've been waiting for his opinion all night. Always on his way somewhere else, for some reason.
8. The Self-Promoting Guitarist-He's in a band, here's his email and myspace band page. Here's a flyer. Here's a demo cd, three bucks, go to the show for the good cd. There aren't enough hyphens or "posts" in the world to categorize his band's sound. He just changed bassists, maybe you know some of his friends, check him out, PLEASE!!
9. The Sleeper-Just let him sleep, it might be me.
10. Me-Frequent bathroom breaks. Marlboro lights to mark my territory. I put my head down on the bar a lot, I don't initiate conversation. I like sports on TV to avoid eye contact. I'm a jukebox nazi, and will often sacrifice tip money to play Hank Williams. Whiskey and dark ales. My go-to drink is Southern Comfort on the rocks with a slice of lemon. I will let you know I'm in the army within the first ten minutes of conversation, in order to try and score free drinks. I'll hit on you, lose my nerve, drink too much, fall down, and drive to whatever couch I'm crashing on that night.

Foamranger Picture Pages



NANETTE THE
QUEEN OF FRITES



DON'T
WORRY, WE
GOT BEER.

HOW DO I
DEAL W/ THE
RISING
PRICES OF
GRAIN &
HOPS?

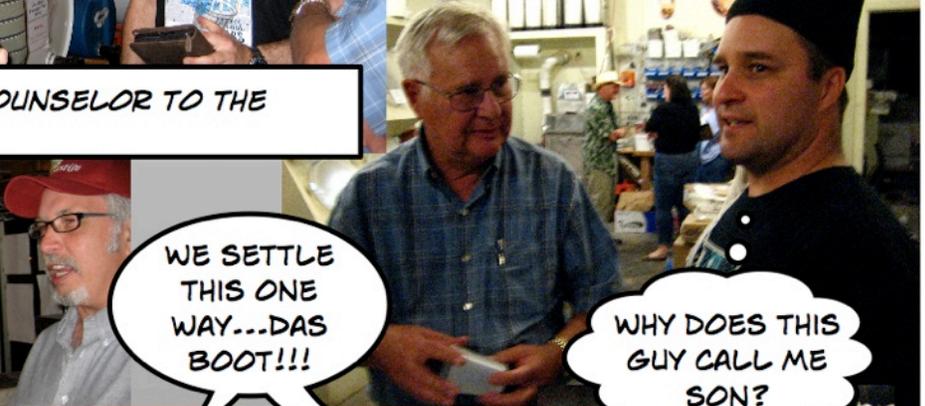
SO I PAY MY
DUES & I CAN
DRINK ALL
THE BEER I
WANT?



WLIZ WAZ ACTS AS COUNSELOR TO THE
WAZ...



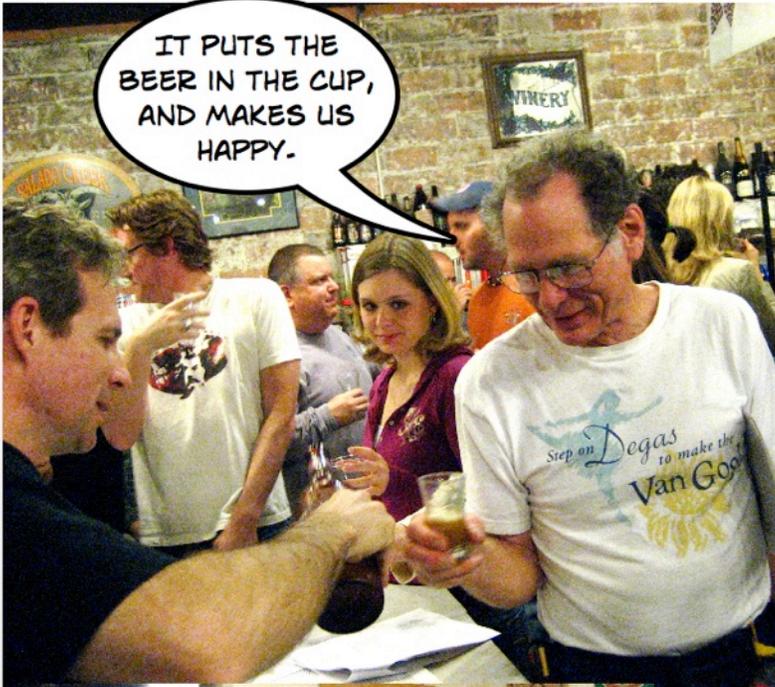
LAMBIC! I
HAVE FOUND
MY GOD!



WE SETTLE
THIS ONE
WAY...DAS
BOOT!!!

WHY DOES THIS
GUY CALL ME
SON?





IT PUTS THE BEER IN THE CUP, AND MAKES US HAPPY.



TO BREAK A CHIMAY GLASS, 1ST YOU NEED A GLASS.



MOM, SEAN SPILLED KOOL AID ON HIS SHIRT.



BEERS UP!

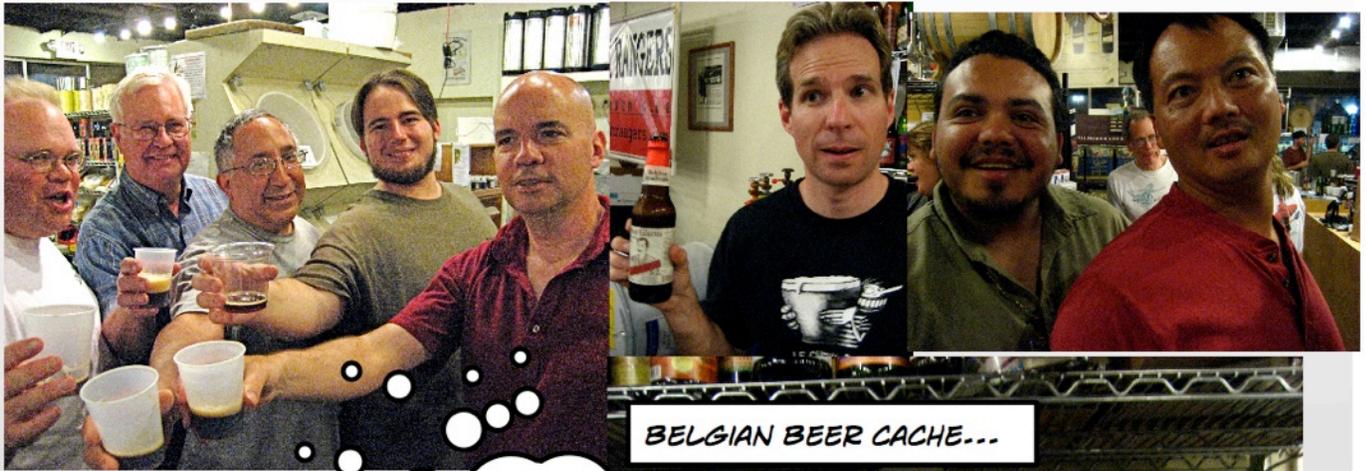


WHY ARE ALL THE BEERS SOUR?



HUN, ACETONE IS AN ACQUIRED TASTE.





BELGIAN BEER CACHE...

WE ARE THE 5 STEVES, OUT TO FIGHT BEER INJUSTICE



I'M SO COLD...

NO C.S.I. HERE. ONE PERSON (PUTZ) AND A PUDDLE OF BEER-PUKE ON THE TABLE, ANY GUESSES?



Great Job!



Foamranger MS 150 RIDERS

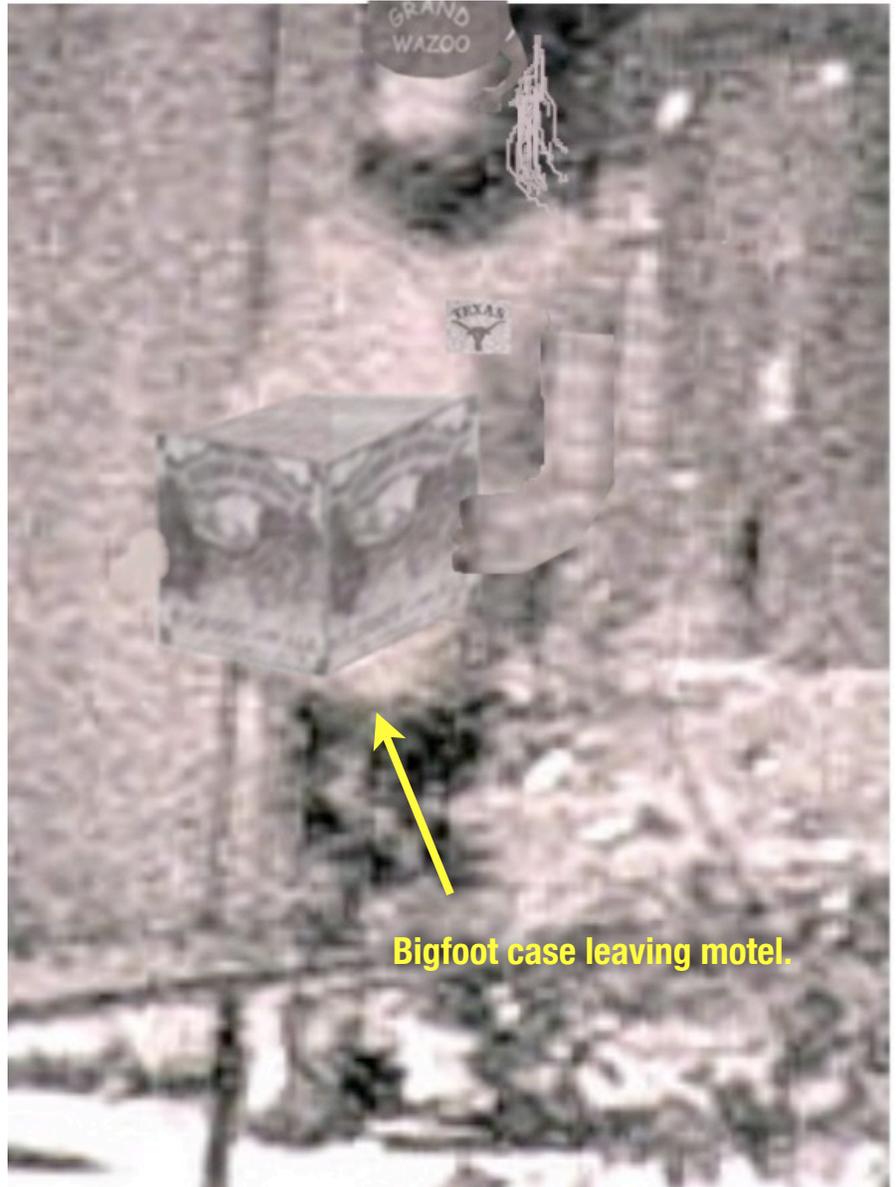
(Wazoo Resigns, from page 4)

Storge has and will provide for us oh my brave Rangers. We must unite behind our troubled Wazoo and help him through his momentary barleywine induced error of judgment and in doing so we may help ourselves!"

Paige's speech was greeted with applause and chants of "Forgive the Wazoo (and Keep Storge Secondary)" The club voted unanimously to re-elect DeWalt as Wazoo. DeWalt was moved by the unselfish support shown by his club crying, "You love me. I know you really me!" However, DeWalt's excitement was short lived. As he left DeFalco's at approximately 3 AM, his wife accidentally attempted to run him over three times. Andrew Sheridan witnessed the scene and remarked. "Poor dumb bastard. He survives impeachment, scandal, eighty plus Scottish and brown ales only to be made into a speed bump. Well, at least she gave it smooth!"

Several Foam Rangers have offered additional thoughts off the record. One bald headed Ranger who asked to remain anonymous however, said. "Barleywine for sex? I ain't ever seen a woman worth a case of Bigfoot! Not even the old oxidized stuff Kar-el used to donate! Heck I would done the Wazoo for a six pack! Why didn't he ask me?!"

"Photo believed to be a disguised Grand Wazoo leaving Motel to exchange barleywine for sex. Note fez, UT jacket and bad beard."



Bigfoot case leaving motel.



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**The Foam Rangers Homebrew Club
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**The April club meeting is:
8 p.m. Friday,
April 18th
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

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

Paid between December 1 & December 31st	\$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:
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