



# THE FOAM RANGERS Newsletter Urquell

P Is For Pilsner, Not The Pool!

July 2011 - Volume 31 Pints - Issue 7

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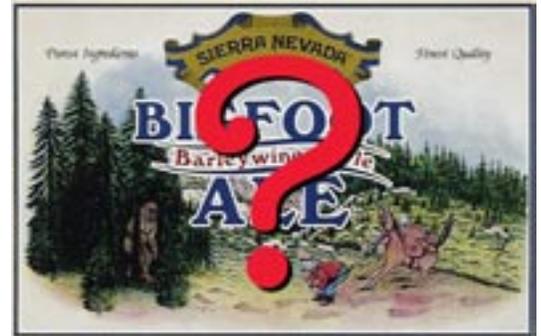
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## D.C.'s Inebriation Rating Threatened With Downgrade

By Bev Blackwood

Recent issues with securing a keg of Sierra Nevada Bigfoot have caused the national homebrewing community to threaten the twenty eighth annual Dixie Cup's inebriation rating with a downgrade from it's present "liver transplant" rating.

"Failure to secure sufficient barleywine supplies threatens the very character of the event," a spokesman stated. "They managed to survive the Fred-eral deficit crisis by borrowing talent from the Chicago Beer Society, but they can only do that for so long." There was a brief flirtation with making their own barleywine supply for the event, lessening their dependence on commercial suppliers, but in the end convenience won out, although borrowing the keg from Austin's



## Barleywine... Precious Barleywine...

supply may have repercussions once the currently ascendant Austin Zealots discover where it came from.

"We count on their entries for income."

States Dixie Cup Coordinator Rolland Pate.

"If they discover we've run up their barleywine deficit, they might call in the debt."

This year's keg, now safely in the hands of the Foam Rangers, assures another year of pleasant inebriation. "If we don't get one next year, it really will be 'Beermageddon' Wazoo Kyle Jones somberly observes.

## Out (of) The Wazoo

By Kyle Jones,  
 Grand Wazoo



Recently, survey results from one of the premier U.S. homebrewing competitions, the Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing (MCAB), were posted. This survey dealt primarily with

the competition in general, earlier in the year we received glowing feedback about our handling of MCAB XIII back in January. The survey touched on some interesting competition issues and highlighted some ways that we can seek to improve Dixie Cup and maintain our status as an MCAB

qualifier and one of the premier U.S. homebrewing competitions.

What is the most important thing in a homebrewing competition? Not surprisingly, most respondents listed "High quality judging" as the most important thing a homebrewing competition can do. We must keep in mind that "highly ranked" is not necessarily equal to "high quality", and vice versa. High quality judging involves not only knowledge of the style, but also providing high quality feedback that is more than a few sentences. However, what is more interesting is that coming in a close second was "Service and responsiveness" and "high quality judging" are equally important. This should motivate us to respond to entrants' questions in a timely fashion and to improve our service by incorporating online payment in with our online entry process. And not

(Continued on Page 8)

**July Meeting:**  
 Friday,  
 July 15th  
 7:00 p.m.  
 at  
 The Perjak's

## The Brewsletter Urquell

Official Organ of the  
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It's too damn hot! Huge thanks to the officers for getting their materials in on time and a big thanks to Abisha for providing so many interesting photos for me to choose between! Buck's article about his mom's quest for Founder's KBS is a true testament to a mother's love for her son... My own folks have brought me out of state beer from time to time and it's always appreciated. Keep cool, keep brewing and keep the \_ool "p" free!



By Jaime Ortiz,  
Scrivener

Tonight was Wheat Ales and such and the meeting got off to a sssslow start. Most of the first hour, Secondary Jaime

was doing his best to give away some beer but everyone was ignoring him. He did not mind, it's not like he liked wheats anyway. An assortment of local and brand name wheat ales were displayed and, honestly, they all tasted about the same. Meanwhile, Paul had his Dry Grain 2.0 experiment in full display. Once again, a very interesting flavor profile with the various grains. The hop-hating mad scientist has a masterplan to take over the craft beer world. We are all witness! Kyle got up for announcements and mentioned that my IPA won the club competition this month. Now Jaime and Jaime are all tied up with only a few competitions to go. Stay tuned for the next installment in battle Jaime. Kyle made note that next months' meeting will be a pool party, so please wear your swimsuit and bring kegs of beer. Bottles and pools don't mix well. We talked about the exciting Austin Pub Crawl. \$35 to sign up. You get a cool t-shirt and \$20 spending money if you show up. The location of the bus pick



## Bev's F-ing Class

up is to be determined. Kyle welcomes suggestions. If the bus does not fill up with members soon, we will invite other clubs to come.

Dixie Cup preparations continue in full swing so please be on the look out to help with the many jobs. More details will be available soon. Please submit entries to the Lunar Rendezveous and other upcoming competitions. We need the points. Bev then asked us to sign up for his BJCP class that will start in the fall. Almost all spots are taken for the BJCP test already.

Raffle time gave us the usual array of "this raffle sucks" and "shake it up" with an interesting number of repeat winners. Where did all the OTHER tickets go? And how come I never win anything. Thankfully, the night got WAY more interesting when Cindy impeached Jaime from secondary duties. Let's just say that she is a natural and that Jaime's skills won't be missed. In addition, Jaime came close to popping his cork several times during the evening. There was also a lot of beer licking going on from places I don't need to spell out. Bev started running around with a sheet of paper asking for people to sign up for his F-ing class. Once he explained that the BJCP list was on the front of the sheet of paper and the F-ing class was on the back, most of us wondered if he is qualified to teach either of these classes. I guess you will have to sign up and find out for yourself.

## Foam Ranger July Brew-In!

Paul braves heat and a  
hangover to brew up a  
batch for a future Foam  
Ranger meeting!





## This Month in Foam Ranger History

By Sean Lamb, Club  
Historian (Sorta)

### 25 Years Ago:

#### In the Newsletter:

A logo contest is announced for the first club t-shirt. Scott Birdwell, Newsletter Editor, touts the upcoming 3rd annual Dixie Cup competition - "This year we are expecting over 200 entries." Jim Scisson explains how he created a mash tun out of an enamel pot and a colander for \$13.00. Dr. Strangebrew answers a question about how long homebrew will keep before "it starts to go bad".

#### At the Meeting:

Held Friday July 16th at the Gingerman. The BOTM was Pilsner beers. "Needless to say a lot of Pilsner Urquell was sampled along with Wickuler Pils, Eder Pils, and a few others"

#### Other Events:

Brad Kraus wins 2nd place in sparkling mead and Scott Birdwell takes 1st place in Wheat Beer at the AHA Nationals held in Estes Park, CO. Club members went to the July 19th Astros game against the NY Mets. A keg of Killian's Red was available. Mr. Birdwell opined: "I don't know about you folks, but I thought the beer was much better than I had anticipated!" The Astros took a 4-0 lead, the 7th inning was rough with the Mets tying the game and the keg running out, and the Astros won in the 9th.

### 20 Years Ago:

#### In the Newsletter:

Waz Lou Carannante wrote effusively about his admiration of the new fez presented to him in June. Chris Todd laid out the rules and categories for the Foam Rangers in-house competition that was planned for August. Gerald "Jerry" Rogan was profiled (for those of you haven't been keeping up, Gerald is now practicing law in Corpus Christi (cclawyer.com) and was in the national media last month for his taking up the cause of the convicted sex offenders who are getting

the "scarlet letter" treatment). Gerald's favorite beer: Belgian Ales or Goebels light lager; Style of brewing: extract. Gerald also expounded on eliminating beer ads from TV and what to do if you get stopped for DWI. Elvia's Cantina and the (first) Velvet Elvis were reviewed. A short article described the Frankenmuth brewery in Michigan.

#### At the Meeting:

The meeting was held at Brad Evan's bar-to-be, Dunlavy's Tavern, at 2604 Dunlavy (the bar never opened-it opened as a coffee house and is now a bar called Brasil). Scott Birdwell gave a presentation on beer judging, including walking through scoring using the AHA score sheet. The TABC came by and hassled everyone because they thought that the bar was licensed, but it wasn't yet. Lee Anthony won the very last Hacker Pschorr banner in the raffle.

#### Other Events:

Darts night was held at the Crown and Serpent bar (The Big Easy now occupies the same place). Steven Daniel won 3 first place ribbons at the AHA national homebrew competition. Club member Norm "I've fallen and I can't reach my beer" Malone took a nasty spill on his eurobike on I-10 and was laid up.

### 15 Years Ago:

#### In the Newsletter:

In The Newsletter Urquell Waz Wes Woods and Secondary Scrivener David Odom recounted the three meetings held in the month of June (see June 2001 month's "This Month in Foam Ranger History" column for the full story). Heather Villasana defined her 4-point "Chick Challenge" for men: (1) invite your female SO to brew with you; (2) host a homebrew dinner party; (3) educate the woman of your choice about beer and brewing; and (4) spread the word about a series of "all women's beer tastings" that Heather and Laurie Littlewood of the Bank Draft were setting up at the Village Brewery and the Bank Draft.

#### At the Meeting:

Beer of the month was Wheat(ies) in all of its variations. Charles Vallhonrat

(Continued on page 9)

## Beer of the Month

### Calendar



January 20th, 2012

Porter & Stout



February 17th, 2012

Barleywine & Holiday Beer



March 16th, 2012

Belgian Ales & Lambics



April 20th, 2012

Homebrew!



May 18th, 2012

Bocks, Dark Lagers, Dunkel



June 15th, 2012

Wheat, Wit, Fruit & Rye



July 15th, 2011

Homebrew!



August 19th, 2011

Pale Ale, Bitter & Steam



September 16th, 2011

Oktoberfest & Smoked



October 20th - 22nd, 2011

Dixie Cup XXVII



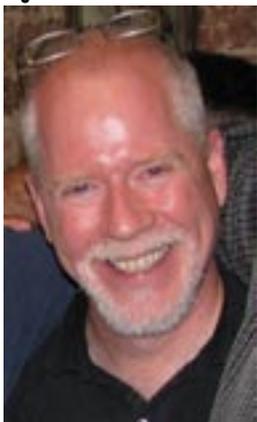
November 18th, 2011

I.P.A. & Ambers



December 4th, 2011

Homebrewer's Xmas Party



## The Lazy Days Of Summer...

By  
Bev  
Blackwood II,  
Competition  
Coordinator

Despite the heat, now is the time you should be brewing for Dixie Cup! We may be in a bit

of a lull for upcoming competitions, but the entry deadline will be here before you know it and this year, the Dixie Cup is at greater risk of being taken from us than it's been in quite some time. Austin's Zealots, despite their friendly smiles and lovable Viking horns have already taken home the Bluebonnet Cup and I have little doubt they would enjoy showing off the Dixie Cup at its side in Austin.

Judging for the Lunar Rendezbrew starts bright and early on Saturday, July 16th in Seabrook. (If you're reading this at the meeting, that's tomorrow morning) and also on Sunday, July 24th at Saint Arnold. We need their help when Dixie Cup rolls around, so please make the effort to lend a hand at Rendezbrew.

Thanks to all who entered Rendezbrew and also the Homebrew Inquisition in Austin. Next issue I will hope to have lots of Foam Ranger winners to write about!

The next two Lone Star events are sooner than you'd think, with

the Limbo Challenge and Cactus Challenge both having entry deadlines on August 5th. Pack & Ship for both these events will be Thursday, July 28th at DeFalco's. I may drive the entries up to Limbo, but we'll be shipping our entries to Lubbock. At the midpoint of the Foam Ranger Club competition, there's a dead heat between the two Jaimes, with seven points each, followed by David Rogers who has five. Rolland, Joe and Paul each have three points and in last place are Bev and Dan with a single point each. There's no July competition, so our next round will be at the August meeting. Keep brewing and be ready for Dixie Cup. It will be here before you know it!

## Lone Star Circuit Current Standings

### Individual

Mark Schoppe - Zealots - 53  
Jeff Oberlin - Mashtronauts - 27  
**David Rogers - F.R. - 17**

### Team

Bradley & Bradley - Zealots - 27  
Darity & Darity - NTHB - 10  
**J & J Brew Crew - F.R. - 6**

### Club

Austin Zealots - 163  
Bay Area Mashtronauts - 55  
**Foam Rangers - 51**

## Get Yourself Up To Date!

By David Cato  
Database Administrator

The Foam Rangers membership database is accessible to all dues-paid Foam Rangers. If you do not yet have an account, or forgot your login information, contact the Purser for your login details. Then, point your web browser at:

<http://www.crunchyfrog.net/foamrangers>

to access the online membership database.

You can view and update your own information, thus keeping your contact information up-to-date without having to track down the Purser. If you move or change your email address, be sure to update the information in the database so that you continue to receive The Brewsletter Urquell. In addition to your own information, there is also a club directory available to paid-up members; press the "Directory" button at the top of the page to view it. All paid-up members are listed, along with their public contact information and photo, if available.

You control whether your mailing address, phone number(s), and email address are available to other club members. Any contact methods that you mark private are not shown in the club directory.

To change the data in your member profile, go to the Membership Information page (the first page you see when you log in, or press the "My Info" button at the top of the page if you are viewing the club directory) and press the "Update Info" button on the left side of the page. Edit your information as appropriate and press the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. Press the "Cancel" button, or your browser's "Back" button, to leave the update page without making any changes to your profile. The only data you cannot change is your name, photo, membership type and expiration date, and your membership history. If any of these are incorrect you should contact the Waz or Purser to get them corrected.

**BREW ★ ENTER ★ JUDGE ★ WIN**  
THE CONTESTS OF THE LONE STAR CIRCUIT!

**NEXT EVENTS:**

**LIMBO CHALLENGE**  
DALLAS, TEXAS  
ENTRY DEADLINE  
8/5/2011

**CACTUS CHALLENGE**  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS  
ENTRY DEADLINE  
8/5/2011

[WWW.LONESTARCIRCUIT.COM](http://WWW.LONESTARCIRCUIT.COM)



**By Jaime Robles  
Secondary Fermenter**

No need for a vortex bottle here!

First of all, I'd like to send a huge

Thank You to Lori and Joe Perjak for once again letting us soak ourselves in their pool after last year's epic performance. Hopefully by now, the water chemistry has returned to normal. Joe, it may be a good idea to add some extra chlorine to the hot tub. Foamies, please avoid swimwear malfunction by ensuring that your garment of choice is in good operating conditions.

Now to the beer talk. July is the perfect month to showcase the lighter side of brewing. It's so damn hot outside that my boiling wort may actually cool the city water. With the exploding growth of the craft beer industry, you don't have to worry that the American Lager or Pilsner you just decided to order will taste like it came out of a Clydesdale. For this month, I will try to present a case as to why drinking Light Lagers, Kölsches and Pilsners can be as enjoyable as having anything else.

To stay well hydrated during the pool party (I don't plan on drinking any of that pool water, even by accident), we'll kick things off with a few good ol' American Light Lagers. With descriptors like "little to no malt, little to no hops, pale yellow, light body", I can see how it's hard to get excited about them. Trying to brew one of these flawlessly can be quite a challenge since there is not much that will mask any mistakes. The use of pale malt plus adjuncts such as rice and corn is par for the course to get the clean, dry, and refreshing profile that characterizes these beers. But Light Lagers don't always have to be boring and ragged on. When crafted for the right reasons, they can be flavorful and quite enjoyable. To redeem this often disregarded style,

## Take A Dive Into Pilsner, Kölsch & Light Lagers!

I will try to avoid anything you would have consumed while playing beer pong. And I will also not be bringing any limes.

A common misconception is that Pilsners only come in two varieties – German and Bohemian. Just like with IPAs, barleywines, stouts, and others, we also have our interpretation of the style (but hold the citrusy hops)! Pilsners are clean, refreshing, pale lagers with German roots, a few notches above the Light Lagers. Your traditional German Pils is drier and crisper with a stronger hop presence that can linger into the finish and aftertaste. They can be quite low in gravity too; topping out at 5.2% ABV. The Bohemian interpretation is maltier and with a slightly bigger body than the German Pils. This style lets you get away with a tad bit of diacetyl, which in the end adds to the complexity and richness. Moderate hopping is expected, with a spicy Saaz profile, but not as high as the German Pilsner. The American version throws a bit of graininess and corn flavors into the mix, partially from the use of flaked maize and six-row malt. The American Pils will commonly use traditional German hops or rely on their American equivalent (Liberty, Cluster, Perle) for a moderate bitterness. They are clean (almost too clean) and crisp, so don't completely discount them on a scorching summer day.

Now, to another lager...or wait, is it an ale? Well, it's technically an ale yeast strain even though it is lagered. I guess you can call a Kölsch a 'fermentation-confused' beer. Personally, this is one of my favorite summertime styles along with pale

ales and sours. The malt can exhibit grainy or cracker-like flavors that meld very nicely with a low-medium noble hop bitterness. With a hint of fruitiness, just like our Wazoo, it adds another layer of complexity to their character. Luckily, we have Saint Arnold Lawnmower, the 2010 GABF gold medal Kölsch -style winner, readily available in town. It is a very clean and refreshing beer that only got better with the new brewery, in my humble opinion. Or probably because Dennis has been adding MSG or something.

Of course, since this is a pool party and it's just not safe to have inebriated people stumbling around with glass bottles, I will also have a fair amount of canned beers. Don't fret; they will not be of the 30-pack variety. Cheers and see you by the pool. PS – The pool water will be ready for this - [www.muntean.com/beer](http://www.muntean.com/beer)



## Got Hefe?

Compare your Hefe-Weizen with the big boys! Enter your German style helles hefe-weizen in the 2nd annual Hefe-Weizen Shootout. Give one bottle to Doak, Leroy or Buck by August 12th. Submit a Hefe-Weizen Haiku and the best one will go in the write-up. Send it to: [buckdog@buckdog.net](mailto:buckdog@buckdog.net)



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# Foam Ranger Foto Pages!



Going for the "aerial" view...



Checking the camera for good blackmail material...



Photographers (even new ones) get no respect...

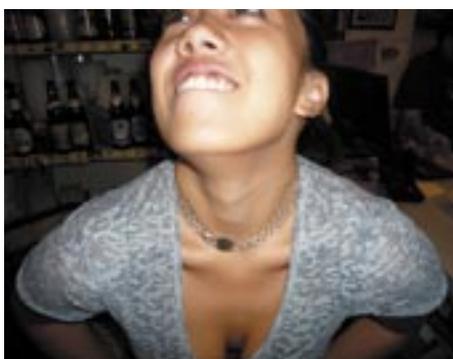


Hello little girl! Want to get into the Brewsletter?

Lisa shows off her blackmail material...



You got a close up of this, right?



For the record, Bev did *not* take this picture.





**Mighty Raffle Ranger!**



**Kyle gets the pressure relief valve in *just* the right spot!**



**Wait... It's *not* okay?**



**"It's okay to put us in a three-way, it's not gay when it's in a three way..."**

**Experimental beer, right here!**



**Come on y'all... Get a room!**



**Foam Ranger**

**Foto Pages!**



**Abisha offers Laura some tips for getting into the Brewsletter**



**The dangers of standing behind a Foamie...**



**Come on... Waz and Secondary! How can you resist?**



**(Wazoo - continued from page 1)**

losing the medals would probably help, also.

When ranking qualifying competition characteristics from least to most important, MCAB entrants ranked "Low entry fee" and "Quality of awards" as least important, while ranking "High judge rank" and "Quality of score sheet feedback" as most important. Our fees for Dixie Cup entries are quite reasonable, and we should not hesitate to increase them slightly in the future if needed to cover the cost of the competition. We already have high quality awards. We are in excellent shape as far as judge rank is concerned, as we count amongst our ranks a Grand Master judge, at least two Master judges, several National judges, many Certified judges, and a host of Recognized judges. If we are to continue judging mead as part of Dixie Cup, we need to actively seek out opportunities to educate our members about mead and how it is judged, as well as take the new Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) mead examination. Finally, we must take our scoresheets very seriously. While many of our members who are judges in the BJCP program, and many of the members of other clubs who help us with Dixie Cup, write wonderful scoresheets, there are BJCP judges who do not give any worthwhile feedback on scoresheets. As difficult as it may be, the Head Judge and Head Steward must be on the lookout for this poor feedback, and take the appropriate action, whether that be speaking with the offending judge, adjusting judge pairings, etc. While we do not want to offend our fellow homebrewers and judges, we also have an obligation to provide high quality feedback to entrants. As more and more competitions come on the map, those competitions that give poor feedback and are characterized by low quality judging will see their entry numbers fall.

Two of the more contentious issues at homebrewing competitions today are walk-in entries and allowed bottle and cap styles. Some competitions allow walk-in entries to be delivered by judges, stewards, or staff on the day of the competition. This may

provide an advantage to the walk-in entries, as other entries have been shipped, sorted, and stored. Even if stored properly, the rigors of shipping can have a detrimental effect on the beer. Dixie Cup does not really have this problem, as we require all entries to be delivered by the last day of sorting at Saint Arnold's. All entries rest for at least a few days in the cold box, and aside from the problems caused by shipping, we take good care of the beer. Also, our competition occurs over multiple days, so allowing walk-in entries would be impractical for flighting. However, competitions that occur on a single day, such as MCAB, may allow walk-in entries to entice judges, stewards, and staff to show up. This allows those bringing walk-in entries to take good care of their beer until it is dropped off. A similar thing could be said of allowing entrants to bring entries to sorting after the deadline, but before the actual competition. This also has similar advantages, as it brings more hands to help with sorting.

Finally, the most contentious issue is the allowed styles of bottles and caps. Many competitions have written rules that exclude certain bottle styles and sizes, while the unwritten rules allow just about anything. The purpose of the rules is to ensure anonymity. For example, there are certain people who always enter barleywine or strong scotch ale in Dixie Cup in clear nip bottles. In my opinion, this compromises anonymity, as it narrows the possible entrants to one or two. These entries should be disqualified and returned to the entrant, along with the entry fee. However, the rules can be taken too far. Some competitions have made efforts to exclude any non-standard (standard = plain, long neck brown 12 oz. bottle) bottles. This would exclude Sierra Nevada bottles (stubby), New Belgium bottles (raised lettering), and many others. While this might be OK for the occasional entrant, someone who enters a lot of beers in many competitions is likely to be affected. One can go to local bars and claim empty bottles, but you get a variety of bottles. Some (all?) Foam Rangers drink lots of Bigfoot and Celebration, so we have lots of empty Sierra Nevada bottles. Reusing

these bottles for competitions at least squeezes one more use out of them, and maybe more if judges, stewards, and staff take them home and reuse them again. Just tossing them out and buying new plain bottles seems like a waste. Perhaps there was some legitimacy to this concern in the past when distribution networks were small, but I bet you have no chance of figuring out who entered the Imperial IPA in the Sam Adams bottle these days. However, you can go too far, for example 22 oz. bombers do not fit well in case boxes, and should also be disqualified from the competition. I'd also like to disqualify bottles with labels stuck to them, but someone is usually nice enough to scrape them off. Caps are similar to bottles, in that even printed caps are very hard to trace to a source. However, it is ultimately the decision of the Head Judge about whether or not to allow a certain entry to be judged. Some brewers may have a very distinct cap that is only sold by a single homebrew store, and this may compromise anonymity. As a courtesy to the competition staff, brewers who mark their caps to identify their beers should use a permanent marker to completely black out the markings on the cap before submitting it. While it will not usually result in the disqualification of your entry, it is a pain in the ass of the competition staff.

In general, Dixie Cup is a well-run competition. In a few cases, which I have discussed above, there is some room for improvement. We must always be vigilant to ensure anonymity and high quality judging so that Dixie Cup continues to be a model for other homebrewing competitions.



**(Continued from page 3)**

showed pictures from his trip to the Anchor Brewery a few days before the meeting. Denise Livingston, "Mission Commander" of the Bay Area Mashtronauts, invited everyone to attend the Lunar Rendezbrew in August. Andy Thomas set up a program that he eloquently called "new guys brew with old guys" which he touted as a mentoring program but was really just a ruse to get the new guys to buy him beer.

**Other Events:**

Charles Vallhonrat and Steve Capo (the Sly Basterds) had their first baby. It is not known who carried the green scaly thing to term. It is suspected that they transferred it from one to the other on a monthly basis. It and the fathers were doing nicely.

**10 Years Ago:**

**In the Brewsletter:**

Grand Wazoo Bev Blackwood writes a column that is simply the phrase "It's only beer" repeated over and over. He also praises Scott Birdwell, who received the AHA Lifetime Recognition Award, thanks Craig Dellacorte for holding the pool party, and apologizes to the Sly Bastards for any slight he might have given them (after they take 1st and 2nd place in the KGB Big Batch Brew Bash). Secondary fermenter Jimmy Paige schools us on Pilsner and Koelsch. The second part of "Titanic" Bob Daugherty's tale of his trip to Belgium is presented.

**At the Meeting:**

Held at DeFalco's on Stella Link. A mini-contest was held to choose the keg to represent the club at the Lunar Rendezbrew. Kehn Bacon, Jimmy Paige, Bev Blackwood and Kuyler & Kari Doyle entered. The Doyle's APA and Kehn's Helles were chosen. New members Gary and Luanne Luckett, Gene Bucsanyi, Donald Hang, Alexander King and Jeff Maynard were recognized. Old members Andy Thomas and Chris Todd also renew. Rick Kelley from the Corpus Christi Homebrew Club attended the meeting to invite everyone in Houston to a get-together "including drinking beer

and possibly deep sea fishing". The meeting ended with a toast to David Slamen to honor him in his passing.

**Other Events:**

Steve Moore, Jim Youngmeyer, Tom Witaneck and Sean Lamb attend the Oregon Brewers Festival and have what is now renowned as the best beer festival trip ever.

**5 Years Ago:**

**In the Brewsletter:**

The lead story explains how the AHA has outsourced the NHC to Dubai Ports World. Grand Wazoo Rob Kolocny thanks Stuey Baby and Sandy West for hosting the pool party, and then rants about the poor quality of the Mead Judging seminar at the AHA National Homebrew Convention. The release of the new beer from Stone Brewing is announced. "Aryan Bastard" White Ale will be sold in only places where the Civil War is still being fought. BoB "Titanic Bob" Daugherty admits he's "not a fan of Light Lagers and don't enjoy Pilsner beers that much either but I'm going to do my duty and write about them."

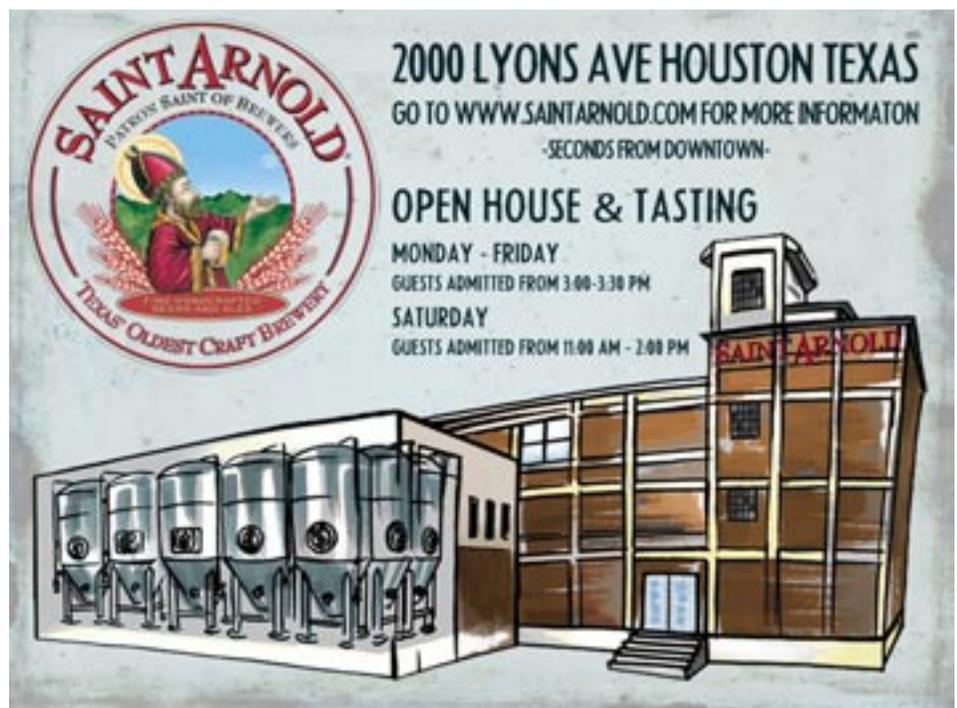
**At the Meeting:**

Held at Stuey Baby and Sandy West's place way the frack up in Tomball. It was the annual pool party, fun

activities were playing "spin Becca", drunk diving, and making the hot tub bubble without it being turned on. The pool party time machine kicked in a little late that year, it waited until around midnight before the temporal distortion field was at its full strength. Those who were still at the meeting were suddenly swept forward in time about four hours. Grand Wazoo Rob Kolacny admits to not leaving until 5AM. Beers of the month included Steamwork's Colorado Kolsche and Schlafly's Kolsch (thanks George and Sandy West for both) as well as Saint Arnold's Fancy Lawnmower, Pyramid Curveball, Reissdorf Kolsch, Pilsner Urquell, Czechvar (the original Budweiser), Saint Arnold Summer Pils, Rogue's Uber Pilsner, Pinkus Ur Pilsner (thanks George and Sandy), Bitburger, Warsteiner, Paulaner Pils, Spaten Pils, Victory's Prima Pils, Sierra Blanco Pilsner from New Mexico, (thanks George and Sandy!), North Coast Scrimshaw Pilsner, Sierra Nevada Summerfest, New Belgium Blue Paddle, and Rogue Imperial Pilsner.

**Other Events:**

Ed Moore, Jimmy Paige, Jeff Reilly, Bob Daugherty, Mike Henniff and Stuart Strack all won ribbons at the Rendezbrew. See the August 2006 Brewsletter for details.



# ¿Que BS? And Other Shenanigans

By Buck Wyckoff

All I said to mom was, "KBS is the best beer in the world and I'm going to try and get me some." This was September 2010 and I understood Founder's KBS would come out in February. Returning to Texas, I planned on keeping in touch with promising MI beer outlets, hoping to score, dare I dream, a 4-pak? What happened next took me by complete surprise and the lands betwixt Flint and Detroit by storm.

Mom (aka Edie Smith) was working a telethon in Detroit later that November. She stopped by Holiday Market, a Whole Foodsesque store in Royal Oak. I found New Holland's Hatter Royale Hopquila there. I told her she might like the produce and bakery. Instead, she went straight to the beer department, "I'm here for some KBS." "I don't have any." "Well, why don't you have any?" Surely I had mentioned KBS's seasonal aspect and that it's currently out of season. Luckily, she wasn't listening. "Well, that's all I want. I don't want any other beer." Ashley disappears through a doorway and returns with one bottle of KBS. Two guys shadowed her to the checkout. "You waiting for me to put down the bottle? You're crazy. I'm not putting that bottle down." In the parking lot, she actually jumped up and down. Witnesses were assumedly bemused. (KBS: 1)

It was around this time that I started hearing about The Bloodhound, mom's friend Lorraine. Mom calls her The Bloodhound because she heard about The Beer, picked up the scent and starting driving all over Lower Michigan in pursuit. Lorraine returned from a Christmas visit to her mother-in-law in Springfield, Missouri and placed a gift basket wrapped in cellophane on the table. Inside was coffee, biscotti and a 4-pak of KBS. This time mom jumped up and down

so hard she almost broke a leg. Lorraine went into a store in Springfield. "We don't have any KBS." "Are you sure you don't have any?" He goes in the back and comes out with one bottle. "You don't have any more?" "No, we don't have any more." "Well, you got to have more." He goes back in and comes out with one more. "It comes in 4-paks, but we can't sell any more. You can come back in February." "I'll be gone by then. I live in Michigan!" Christmas, family and good will towards women where piled on. That the beer comes from where she lives must not have registered as he left and returned with the rest of the 4-pak. (KBS: 5)

Meanwhile, mom pokes her head into Oliver T's in Flint every week. I tell her not to bug him and there's no point until it's about to come out anyway. "I want to get in his face so he doesn't forget me." She tells Ron, "It's getting awfully cold and I can go to Texas as soon as the KBS comes out." He says February. She stops by The Rock in Davison and mentions KBS to Ben. "Oh I can get 4 to 6 cases. I can get all you want." I never talked to Ben about KBS because I knew he wouldn't get any. I called to tell him thanks, but not to expect any. The more I explained, the greater he insisted he could. He didn't.

Mom goes with her friend Sandra to visit Rudy's Market in Clarkston, one of many picturesque villages all over Michigan. This one is smack dab between Flint and Detroit on I-75.

"You know what I'm here for. I want the KBS." Andy says, "It's not out yet. I got Batch 10,000." Mom calls, I look on the web, Batch 10K nabbed. Mom asks again, "What about the KBS?" "I'm not sure I'm going to get any." He's correct. "If you don't get any, where can I go?" She learns about Pine Knob Wine Shoppe, an exit further down I-75 on Sashabaw Road. PKWS is run by Matt, Zack and Heidi. Mom talked to "the young guy." "I want KBS." "Oh, I'll get some." "How do I get some when you get it?" "You can call me

The Brewsletter Urquell - Volume 31, Number 7 - July 2011 every Monday afternoon." He doesn't know the release date. She also gets on a list, then calls Pine Knob every Monday over the next 5 weeks, never getting that guy, but instead Heidi, who checks and then reports, "Nothing yet."

It's mid-February and mom is getting her taxes done in Fenton. She has dinner with son and daughter-in-law, Ben & Cherie, at the Sagebrush. "When are you going to see Buckaroo Bonzai?" Cherie asks? "Well, I can't until the beer comes out." This prompts the obvious follow-up question and when the dilemma is explained, Cherie takes that as a challenge and declares, "I can get you all you want. I'm friends with the three brothers at Lockes Party Shoppe in Fenton." Lockes will remain KBS free. Cherie works in Clarkston, of all places, and apparently made frequent visits to Rudy's to inquire as to the KBS situation. I have no knowledge of the content of those visits, but I fear the following incident at Pine Knob sheds insight. She saw the Rave distributor truck in the parking lot and approached Jason inside making his deliveries. Cherie proclaims a near life-or-death situation in play which could only be resolved with KBS. She elaborates, "I have a mother-in-law and all she wants for her birthday is

KBS. She'll never speak to me again if I don't get it." Then she adds, "It's for her son in Texas." Whereby Jason asks, "And is his name Buck?" Back in September, I made the Jason/Rave

connection. He loves to talk craft beer, helped me identify what was available and where I could place orders. Again, another quality beer hunter connection that you keep on good terms. I called Jason and we laughed about the Cherie incident. New intelligence indicated a KBS release date of second week in March. I call mom to give her the update and to advocate (again) walking softly. Mom says she and Cherie made a bet as to who can get the next KBS first.

**(Continued on next page)**



**Rave Distributor Truck**

**(Continued from previous page)**

Then it happened. I get an email on 3/15 @ 4:33 p.m. from Oliver T's: "Hey, the KBS is finally here! Tell your Mom we're holding a 4pk in the office for you! -Mike." The KBS is here! Release the hounds. I call mom. She leaves immediately. Mike comes out grinning like the Cheshire Cat. Mom emails, "Got it!" (KBS: 9) Mom asks Mike where she might get more. He says a cafe in Fenton might have it. Mom informs Cherie, who lives in Fenton. Later, mom gets an ecstatic phone call, "I got some! I got some! I can pick it up in the morning. They'll let it go for \$65 a 4-pak".



**"The Bloodhound"**

When my phone rings, mom's a little excited. She tells me the news. "\$65? Tell them to go (expletive) themselves." Cherie is bummed about the bet as she's back to zero. Mom figures Holiday Market should have some too. She calls and is told to come at 3 p.m. Thursday. They will only give out 2 bottles per person. By noon Thursday, she calls Sandra and asks her to go with, to get another 2 bottles. At Holiday Market, Ashley is standing in the beer department with three cases of KBS at his side. He just started handing them out from the top case. Mom and Sandra get two each. (KBS: 13) "If I go back out in the parking lot and come back in, can I get 2 more?" mom asks. "No." "Where can I get more?" She's told about Champagne's Wine Cellars in Warren, the largest outlet in Michigan. They start giving them out at 4 p.m. (it's currently 3:35). Holiday Market is just west of I-75 on I-629. Warren is just east of I-75 on I-629. Not far at all. Mom heads west on I-629. After they realize their mistake and head back east, its 4:35 when they arrive at Champagne's. Getting out of the car, they see a guy pitching a fit in the parking lot. Mom hustles into the store to be greeted by a man at the door. "I'm here for the

KBS." "It's all gone." "It's only 4:35! How can that be?" "They were lined up to the street. It's all gone." He says he'll ask the beer department, maybe they'll get another shipment in. Mom immediately retorts, "No you're not. You're all done!" He looked at her like, "Who the hell is this old lady?", but

by that time mom knew what the deal was. He comes back, "Nope." "See I told you. I come all the way from Flint and you have nothing? Not one bottle? I'm bummed out." He goes into the office and returns with 2 bottles of KBS. As mom's paying for them the cashier says, "You know, those are the two bottles I wouldn't sell to that guy 'cause he had no ID." "Bless you my child," says mom. They were holding them for the guy that stormed out of the store, but he was such a dick about it, mom got 'em. (KBS: 15) Mom figured Pine Knob must be getting theirs Monday, since they told her to call Monday afternoons. Mom tells Sandra to get ready. As Monday ticked well into the a.m., they couldn't

wait and head south out of Flint. On the way, they get a call from Cherie. She's driving up and down Sashabaw Road looking for the elusive Rave truck. "I ALWAYS see him!" Mom pulls into Pine Knob Wine Shoppe at 2:30 p.m. to find Heidi alone in the store. "I'm just passing through, wondered if the KBS came in?" Heidi, standing behind the counter, looks down at her feet and two cases of KBS. Now I'm pretty sure the fact that the two guys were absent from the store made the upcoming transactions

possible. Heidi looks up and says, "Yep, I got it, but I can only sell you TWO 4-paks for \$35 each." I received a frantic call from my mom, "KBS! Pine Knob! Two! \$35! Whado-i-do?!" "BUY IT!" "Okay. Gotta go." Click. Mom gets two 4-paks. (KBS: 23) Meanwhile, Sandra stages a delayed entrance, feigning complete disassociation. Cherie arrives and picks up the charade. Cherie, also on the list, picked up two 4-paks. She had the foresight to use her maiden name, else two Smiths would be in this lineup of unlikely beer enthusiasts. (KBS: 31) Then Heidi turned to Sandra and asked, "Are you on the list? What's your name?" Sandra knew she wasn't on any list, so she thought the second question was best answered first. "My name is Anderson," and up popped two 4-paks of KBS. As they left the store, another woman came in. "I can only sell you ONE 4-pak of KBS," was heard as they left. Cherie wanted to give one KBS to a friend. (KBS: 38) They go to the Sagebrush to celebrate. Mom mentions Ashley at HM told her about another avenue. "How can I get more?" she had asked. "I can't be running all over God's creation for onesies and twosies." "You can go to the brewery the Saturday before the release. They give out a case per person." This year

500 people lined up and 200 got cases. Mom and Sandra declare they are camping out in front of the brewery the night before, unless it's icy. Cherie says, "I'm going too!" Something tells me The Bloodhound won't be far behind.



**Edie, Sandra & Cherie**



# Got E-Mail?

By Dave Cato, List owner

In the example that follows, LISTNAME should be one of these mailing list names:

- foam-rangers
- foam-rangers-announce

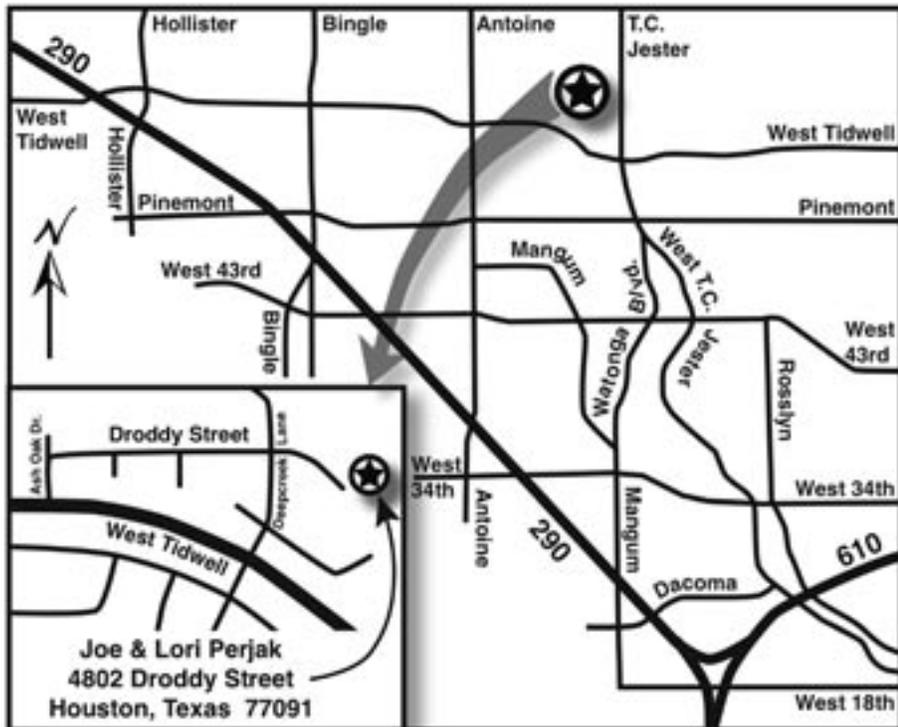
Replace LISTNAME with the *actual name* of the list when subscribing! To subscribe to one (or more) of these lists, send the single line:

**subscribe LISTNAME** in the body of an e-mail message, in *plain text* (make sure the message is not sent in

HTML or RTF format) to: [majordomo@crunchyfrog.net](mailto:majordomo@crunchyfrog.net)

You should receive a reply from the server requesting that you complete the subscription, by sending another message back to [majordomo@crunchyfrog.net](mailto:majordomo@crunchyfrog.net).

Once your subscription is confirmed, you will receive a reply with the guidelines for the list you subscribed to, including instructions for unsubscribing in the future.



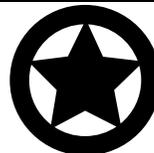
## Where The Heck Is Everyone?

At the Pool Party, of course! Joe & Lori Perjak have graciously opened their home and risked alienating their neighbors to let us have a fun evening by the pool! Bring Homebrew, a towel and be prepared to get wet! See you there!

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| Paid between January 1 & March 31             | \$35.00 / \$45.00                           |
| Paid between April 1 & June 30                | \$30.00 / \$40.00                           |
| <b>Paid between July 1 &amp; September 30</b> | <b>\$25.00 / \$35.00</b>                    |
| Paid between October 1 & November 30          | \$35.00 / \$45.00 (Includes the next year!) |

**Please make checks payable to: The 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, Texas 77025-3401