



THE FOAM RANGERS

Brewsletter Urquell

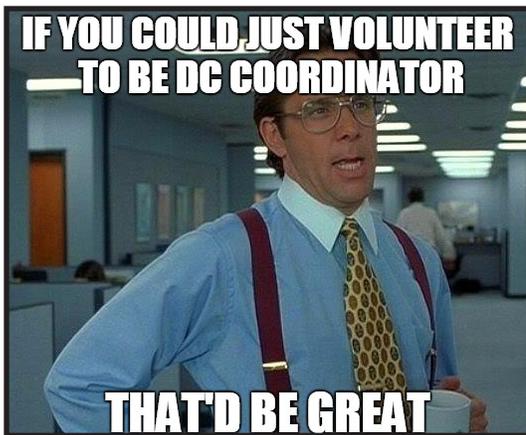
March 2017 / Volume 37, Issue: 3

This month in the political world of Foamies:

- WAZ ACCUSES WAS WAZ OF TAPPING PHONES DURING ELECTIONS AFTER CLAIMING NOTHING THE WAZ DOES IS ILLEGAL
- BREWSLETTER EDITOR FURTHER SPECULATES THAT MICROWAVES MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN TAPPED, RENDERING YOUR TINFOIL HATS USELESS
- TURNS OUT ONLY BEER WAS TAPPED

Upcoming Events

- April 2 / Officers Meeting @ Brash Brewing (512 Crosstimbers)
- April 8 / Brew-in @ DeFalco's
- April 21 / Club Meeting (Brown, Old & Scotch Ales) @ DeFalco's



Did we mention we need a DC coordinator? Perks may include (but not limited to):

- Late bedtime (you'll be the envy of children everywhere)
- Beer (as coordinator, you're allowed to drink it sometimes)
- You're the boss (suck it, Tony Danza)

CATS: ALL YOUR BASE MALT ARE BELONG TO US.

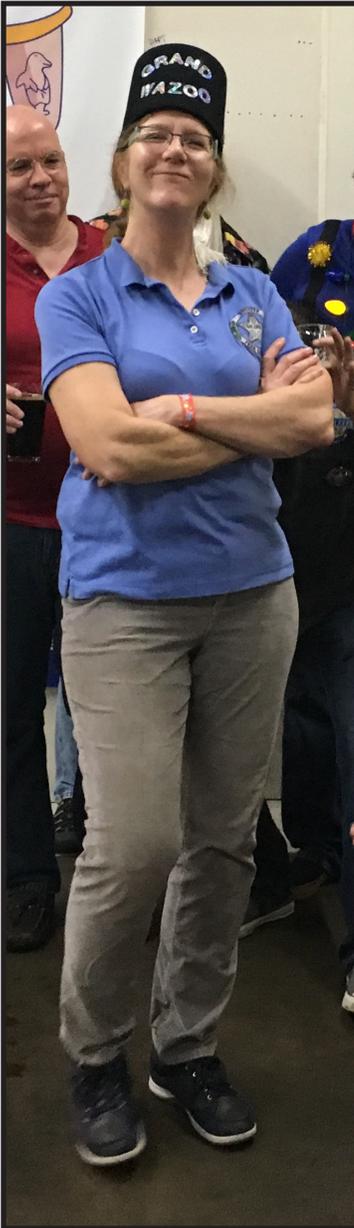
Brew and bottle or they will set us up the bomb!!

Aware		Bluebonnet Brew-Off 31	Awards Ceremony 25-March
Achtung!		Lunar Rendezbrew 24	Drop off deadline @ De Falcos is Fri 24-March. Truck rolls 25-March. Entry period still open Awards Ceremony 29-April
Achtung!		Cactus Challenge 20	Drop off deadline @ De Falcos is Thu 23-Mar. Truck rolls Fri 24-Mar. Handoff happening at Bluebonnet. Entry period still open.
Aware		Big Batch Brew Bash 22	One style only: Belgian IPA BJCP 2015 Category 21B Entry deadline 12-May

Out (of) The Wazoo

Janine (J9) Weber, Grand Wazoo

Your Wazina Says....



Competition season is in full swing and I hope many of you are brewing and bottling your entries. Stop drinkin' all yer dang beers! Save some for competitions so'z you can get medals and street cred. If you need help with bottling, grab a brewing buddy to lend a hand. If you want to learn how let me know and I'll find a way to get you all "learned up". Ask around at meetings and get names and contact info of folks you'd like to brew & bottle with. If you're not sure how to enter a competition, ask me, the Competition Coordinator Nick Handel, or one of the other beer-heads to explain it.

One of the things the club does for the members is to provide delivery of competition entries to sites around the region. To take advantage of this, you need to bring your labeled entries in a box to DeFalco's before the drop-off deadline. Watch the emails for reminders, but also check the websites to find out deadlines and requirements. Some events need a "Bill of Lading" to accompany the entries. Others do not. Be sure to read the contest rules carefully so that your entries will be accepted. Also be aware that some contests require 2 bottles, others require 3. Nationals want 2 for the preliminary judging and then 2 more if you go to the next level. Read the fine print so you don't disqualify yourself or (worse yet) that you send too many bottles, cuz that's just a waste of beer!

The bottles will get handled several times during the transfer from DeFalco's to a vehicle and then to another location, so it's best to put your entries into a sturdy box, like a case box or something that can be completely closed up. I like to tuck each label into a small plastic ziplock bag (snack size) to protect the paper from moisture. Put your entry labels

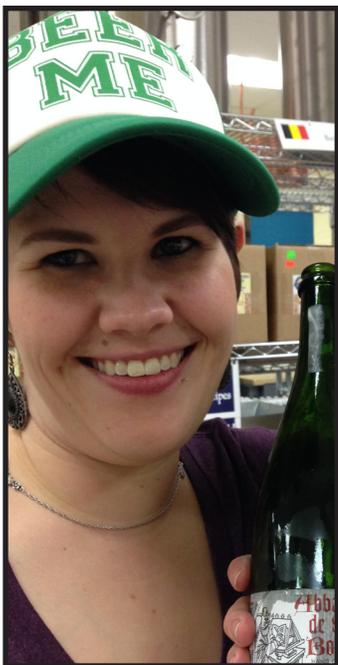
on each bottle with 2 rubber bands (in case one breaks). Bottles go into a box with the extra space stuffed with padding: crumpled paper, bubble wrap, but NOT packing peanuts. Write the name of the competition on top of the box just in case two different competitions have overlapping drop-off dates. All entries go into one corner at DeFalco's and there's no way to tell the boxes apart unless they are labeled.

This year a bunch of us will be traveling to the various competition awards ceremonies. Come along and party with us! Wear your Foam Ranger gear, be obnoxious hecklers, drink their beer and get thrown out along with us! Watch the emails for info.

The last words here are: Brew your homebrew. Share your homebrew. Drink your homebrew. And enter your homebrew in competitions. Who knows, you might become the next ProAm winner!

Foam Rangers Officer Meeting

Minutes by Denise Whitney, Purser/Substitute Scrivener



March 5, 2017 @ Karbach Brewing

In attendance: Janine Weber, Denise Whitney, Luke Whitney, Phil Verdieck, Jeff Reilly, Leroy Gibbons, Andy Thomas.

Member-at-large was at large; Scrivener Mike was also unavailable for this meeting, so you're getting quick notes from me, your current Purser and last year's Scrivener.

Topics covered in the meeting were few and revolved around Dixie Cup. The biggest, most pressing point of conversation is that we need a Dixie Cup coordinator. There hasn't been an inkling of interest from anyone yet, and this is getting to be a concern of the officers.

Without having an official leader for our largest event of the year, and knowing the timeline for planning has started, we had some brainstorming conversations about where we can go directionally at this point.

Jeff Reilly showed up and declared his generous support once again in providing the commemorative beer. His one question was, "what's the theme?" Given the aforementioned lack of a Dixie Cup leader, we don't have one, as recent tradition holds that the coordinator has the perk of choosing the theme. Jeff himself made the ear-perking, heads-nodding suggestion of a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory theme. Our heads went to all the fun places this could go with beer styles, food pairings, and costumes. It was generally decided that if we don't have a Coordinator volunteer very soon, this is the direction we will go. It was mentioned that if someone steps up as Coordinator within the next week or two and has another idea that's great that they would prefer to run with, they still have that opportunity.

Other theme ideas include "Mix it Up" (blending), and Prohibition.

Phil V. wishes to organize the Fred Tasting again this year, incorporating a lot of helpful feedback received from last year. It was also suggested that the Fred Tasting should include a special tribute to Fred, to continue to honor his legacy through that event as well as keep newcomers in the know about who he was and what the event is. On this note, it was also decided that while we continue to honor Fred in the event, his face can be retired from Dixie Cup graphics.

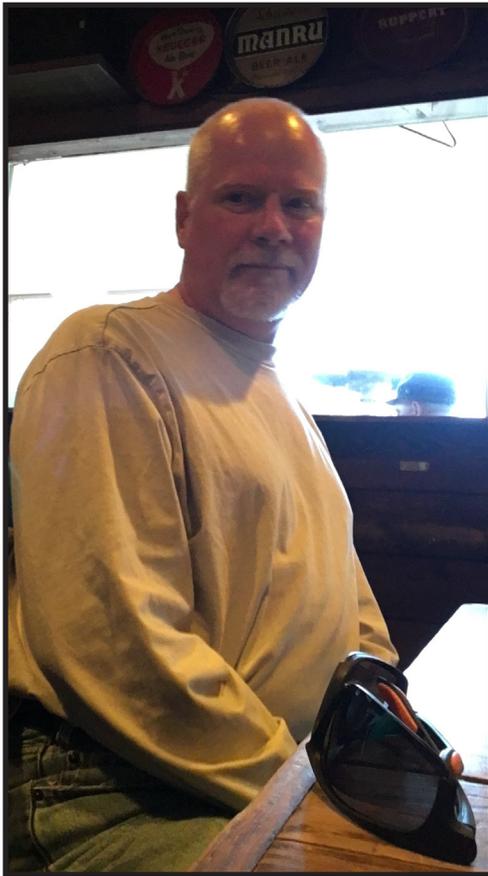
Noted that Scott D. has the hotel covered. He has been negotiating contact details. Unclear at this point if the contract is secured.

Also in brainstorming:

- > Jeff mentioned the possibility of a wood aged theme for next year's competition, knowing brewers would need advanced planning for that.
- > Possibly open up a special category for local pro categories to enter.

This Month in Foam Ranger History

Compiled by Bev Blackwood II



Five years ago – March 2012

In The Brewsletter: The Wee Wazoo anecdotally details his first efforts at brewing a sour beer which is to be continued in next month's Brewsletter. Secondary Bev rambles more about Belgium's history than its beer, but shares a recipe for a Best of Show worthy strong golden. Scrivener Jaim-B recaps the Barleywine meeting which apparently involved lots of Bigfoot for some reason. Competition Coordinator David talks water chemistry and how to find better water when dealing with Houston's widely variable sources. The editor bemoans how busy he is and there were lots of pictures of people playing Bigfoot ring toss and some sneaky Zealots who crashed our meeting.

At The Meeting: Held at DeFalco's on Stella Link (the current one). There was lots of Belgian beer and some American made taste-alikes, but the real star of the night was Food God Erik's pommes frites. He fried them out back most of the night, much to the enjoyment of everyone attending. New tasting glasses arrived and were purchased. (Thanks to a big order, you TOO can order these durable little half-pints!) The Wazoo wears a sombrero-fez hybrid, the raffle sucked and it was Jackson's birthday, apparently.

Other Events: Occifer's meeting was held at the Stag's Head, Bev did the March brew-in, making 5 gallons of mead, 5.5 gallons of Belgian-style strong golden, 5.5 gallons of grand cru and 5 gallons of robust porter, Alaskan Brewing's beers entered the Houston market.

Ten years ago – March 2007

In The Brewsletter: An atrociously blurry MS Paint fabrication assaults us, this time a bedazzled (or beRangered) Mike Heniff, urging all Foam Rangers to join the Bluebonnet "surge" needed to keep the overly phallic trophy. Wazoo T-Bob mourns the death of Ken Rich in late February. Ken was a longtime Foam Ranger and KGB member, had worked at DeFalco's for many years and owned BrewStop up on Houston's north side. A tribute to Ken appears later in the Brewsletter as well. The Waz then moves onto compliments for the barleywine meeting, flogging the Backwoods Campout at month's end and talking up competitions. Secondary DeWalt dispels many (if not all) Belgian beer myths, Doak remembers winning many raffle items (clear evidence that it sucked) and that he had a hangover after the barleywine meeting. Chef Emil teaches us how to make Carbonnade using Chimay (Chi-may NOT!) and also has a curious Homebrew Photographer article a few pages further on. Beeriac fills us in on all things competitive, including many wins at out of state competitions. Life in the Carboy makes a retro gaming joke, there are photos from the AHA Rally, featuring Charlie P, The occifers meeting at Cottonwood and the barleywine meeting (of course!)

At The Meeting: Held at DeFalco's on Stella Link (the previous one). Belgian beers flowed, as substitute Scrivener Mike Heniff estimated at least 65 different beers were available, some official,

some bottle shares. There was a Continuing Education session on Belgian Strongs and Esters in one corner of DeFalco's while the drinking got started in the other. A giant pizza was part of a Food Gods team effort. A toast was raised to Ken Rich at the beginning of the official meeting by Was-was Waz and current KGB Czar, Ed Moore. Wazoo T-Bob announced a Foam Rangers Café Press site, offering t-shirts and other items on demand (It still exists! <http://www.cafepress.com/+foam-rangers+gifts>) and members were urged to attend both Bluebonnet Brew-Off and the Backwoods Campout. The raffle sucked, despite an abundance of Belgian glassware being given away. Apparently we had too good a time though, as we were reminded to leave the store as clean as we found it, which meant we were really dirty!

Other Events: The Foam Rangers won the Bluebonnet Brewoff Club of the Year, returning the giant ceramic penis wannabee to DeFalco's. There was also solid participation at the Backwoods Campout, with nobody being dragged into the woods by any wild animals.

Fifteen years ago – March 2002

In The Brewsletter: Scott Birdwell, in a Belgian beer haze, mistakenly raffles off DeFalco's, leaving Ray and Landry, his employees, homeless. Grand Wazoo Jimmy Paige opens his column with a joke and it goes downhill from there. Secondary Kuyler launches into a lengthy summary of Belgian beers, Scrivener Eric begins to hit his distinctively surreal stride with a bizarre summary of the last meeting and various announcements. Competition Coordinator Bev talks about driving to north Texas and Bluebonnet stuff in general. Speaking of Bluebonnet, there's a big announcement about Bizarro Bluebonnet, where the awards ceremony is short and the event is actually held in Dallas. "Hell freezes over" proclaims the Brewsletter as the Rangers agree to host the AHA Regionals at the last minute... 400 beers? That's a one Ranger event!

At The Meeting: Held at DeFalco's on Stella Link (the previous one). Lots of Belgian beer was consumed, there was a lot of flogging the AHA Regional judging which was to come later that month. Steve Moore doubtless made many sarcastic remarks about Charlie Papazian. The raffle definitely sucked.

Other Events: The Foam Rangers tie with the North Texas Home Brewers for Club of the Year at the Bluebonnet Brew Off. However, they got it wrong at the awards ceremony and declared that the Rangers had won it outright, for the first time in Bluebonnet history. The Foam Rangers celebrate and quickly take the Bluebonnet Cup home with them before the NTHB wises up and decides that a tie means they get to keep it.

Twenty years ago – March 1997

In The Brewsletter: There wasn't one. Something involving a lot of beer and articles by expectant fathers being late... Dave Odom is sorry, really.

At The Meeting: Held at Chez Moore (Steve, to be clear). Scrivener Andy Thomas missed the meeting... Something about his awesome son David being born... (I met the young man last month, he's awesome.) No excuse, although he did apparently give David some Liberty Ale at just 7 months... I'm surprised nobody called CPS. Instead some neophyte named Charles Vallhonrat filled in for him. His bock gushed all over Sean Lamb, he really couldn't recall much other than wanting to kick Peter Cadoo's ass. The raffle (despite assertions otherwise) sucked and nobody got humped by the odiferous and unfairly maligned Mookie, may he rest in peace.

Other Events: None noted.

Twenty Five years ago – March 1992

In The Brewsletter: The first Bayou Rendezvous is mapped out. Andy Thomas flogs this great event, sanctioned by no less than the mayor of Jennings, Louisiana. Lou The Wazoo wants to row a raft of kegs to Boulder for some reason. Rodney Morris describes how to propagate your own "clean" yeast. Three award winning Bock recipes are offered, Tom Witaneck reminisces about his first FR meeting he attended at Buck Wyckoff's house (the site for the upcoming meeting) where Scott Birdwell was jumping on the couch to Devo's "Whip it!" A freaky and badly reproduced Were-Bock Wheat Ale label of the month is the Label O' the Month... Whatever that is. The heresy of making Non-Alcoholic beer is covered in the Ask the Experts column.

At The Meeting: Held at Buck Wyckoff's stately home and co-hosted by his housemate Tom Cooper (not Witaneck). [I was confused by the whole Tuck & Bom reference and the terribly reproduced photos in the Brewsletter. –Bev] There was a keg of Sierra Nevada Pale Ale and Buck gave a presentation on Mead making. The raffle truly did suck, as apparently the grand prize for the night was a dirty towel. There was "Jumbalaya" and Bock was the style of the month. The meeting broke up about 3 a.m. although someone stayed up late singing...

Other Events: None noted.

Thirty years ago – March 1987

In The Brewsletter: Grand Wazoo Jacques Lord discusses plans to do some roofing work at the Gingerman and a proposed charity softball game between the Malt Hoppers and the Foam Rangers. Quite a few comments are also made on the topic of Homebrewing being something you do for fun, while acknowledging that making GOOD homebrew is actually something requiring a bit more commitment than just having fun. The results of the Seventh Annual Foam Rangers Club Competition are published. There were 53 entries and Best of Show was Steve "Negative Man" Daniel's wheat beer, which he subsequently suggests was Anchor Summer Ale with the labels soaked off. Dr. Strangebrew gets a real question from a real brewer who wants to know how to carbonate a high-alcohol "ice" beer. The extensive answers (complete with explanations) to the "Up Your BBQ" quiz are provided. Charlie Papazian appears in spectral form to Scott Birdwell, threatening him with death by Bud Light unless he sells 8 million dollars in homebrew supplies. An appeal is made to the Rangers to help out by buying as much from Scott as they can. The Foam Ranger treasury is nearly empty, nobody's bringing any food to the meetings, last year's Dixie Cup t-shirts are marked down and a bunch of people haven't paid their dues... So, business as usual.

At The Meeting: Held at the Gingerman, it was rather lightly attended, with roughly thirty members present. The decision to hold the Dixie Cup in the DeFalco's parking lot under a tent is made, along with having an "Oompah band." Style of the month was Stouts and apparently a whopping three examples were provided. The end of Jacques Lord's reign as Grand Wazoo was also made known, as he'd been transferred to Knoxville, Tennessee, a fate worse than death.

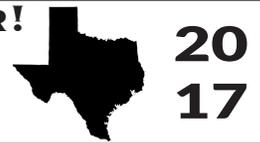
Other Events: None noted.

Thirty five years ago – March 1982

Lost in the mists of time!



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



NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

MEMBER E-MAIL _____

2ND MEMBER E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

AMOUNT PAID _____ NEW RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Membership Renewal: \$35.00 Individual / \$45.00 Family (Member +1)

Paid between October 31 and December 31 \$30.00 / \$40.00 (Pay early and save!)

New Member Fees: (per year)

Paid between January 1 & June 30 \$35.00 / \$45.00

Paid between July 1 & October 31 \$25.00 / \$35.00 (Includes Dixie Cup!)

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:



Welcome to the Foam Rangers! Now get connected!

We have two E-mail lists:

The Foam Rangers Discussion List & the Foam Rangers Announce List.

What's the difference?

The Foam Rangers Discussion list is where people can interact and reply to the posts of other Foam Ranger list members. The Foam Rangers Announce list is where the Grand Wazoo posts club announcements and is not a discussion list. Anything posted to the Announce list will also be posted to the Discussion list, so you don't have to subscribe to both.

To subscribe to the Discussion list, send an e-mail to:

foam-rangers-join@foamrangers.com



The Foam Rangers

To subscribe to the Announcement list, send an e-mail to:



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You will receive a reply from the server with instructions for confirming your subscription.. Follow the instructions to complete the subscription process.

Once you have successfully subscribed, you will receive a reply with the list guidelines as well as instructions for unsubscribing.