

LIVIN' THE BREWS

The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association
Volume XXXI Issue IV - April 2016



QUICK SIPS FOR APRIL:



BfCP Study Group
"Mini-Course" @ Mike Grover's

April 3rd @ 1p

Club Meeting @ Franconia Brewing *Club Brew Day @ Dean Weaver's*

April 12th @ 6:30p

April 23rd @ 9a-3p

3rd Annual Cedar Creek Campout

April 30th - May 1st

THESE AND OTHER EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE.

PREZ SEZ BY JAMES SMITH

Well, here we are already in April and we made it past the Bluebonnet all in one piece... albeit without quite the amount of hardware we had hoped for. Seems for the most part, the winners were Cap and Hare along with quite a few independents. In fact, this correlates with the number of entries received. I am pleased that we were 3rd in the overall number totals. Here is the breakdown by club with greater than 50 entries:

Total	Club Name
261	Cap and Hare Homebrew Club
211	Independent
135	North Texas Homebrewers Association
92	Foam Rangers Homebrew Club
74	Austin Zealots
69	Bay Area Mashtronauts
58	Knights of the Brown Bottle

As for individual winners, we want to acknowledge our club winners!
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Category	Place	Brewer(s)
Special Hop Beer	3 rd	Jimmy Orkin, Walter Hodges & Brian Beyer
Pale Lager	3 rd	Joseph & Keya
Amber Malty Euro Lager	1 st	Jesse Thoresen
Amber Malty Euro Lager	Hon. Mention	David & Lloyd
Brown British Beer	2 nd	Matthew Linnenburger
Scottish Ale	2 nd	Matthew Linnenburger

Category	Place	Brewer(s)
Strong British Ale	1 st	Mike Grover
European Sour Ale	1 st	Barrett Tillman
Belgian Ale	2 nd	Antony Gachima
Strong Belgian Ale	2 nd	Barrett Tillman
Seasonal Spiced Beer	3 rd	Walter Hodges
American Wild Ale	Hon. Mention	David & Jenna Lee
William Lawrence	2 nd	William Lawrence
Spiced and Specialty Mead	3 rd	Barrett Tillman

That puts our number of wins to entries ratio at about 10%. If you would like a detailed listing of the category winners, here is a link to the presentation:

http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.org/downloads/2016_presentation.pdf

Monthly Club Meeting/Officer Meeting

Finally, the **April club meeting** will be held on Tuesday, April 12 at **Franconia Brewing**. They are located at 495 McKinney Pkwy, McKinney, TX 75071. The club will be providing pizza, as we have done in previous years. However, please be sure to bring along some extra cash for our raffle and contributions to the tip jar. We will get started at 6:30. If you plan to attend, please let us know through our events posting on the NTHBA website or via Facebook. This will help us in calculating the amount of pizza to purchase.

<http://nthba.org/?q=groups/member-announcements/april-meeting-franconia-brewing-company>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/548857781947502/>

The **April officers meeting** will be held on Tuesday, April 5 at **The Ginger Man** in Plano. The address is 7205 Bishop Rd, Plano, TX 75024. As always, club members are welcome to join. We will arrive at 6:30 and get going around 7:00.

Hope everyone has a great month!

Cheers!

“Smitty”



*Walter Hodges, Jimmy Orkin & Brian Beyer (not pictured)
3rd, Special Hop Beer*



Mike Grover - 1st, Strong British Ale

THE FIRST SIP BY BILL JAMES

The Bluebonnet Brewoff is over once again and things hopefully are back to normal. Thanks to Wayne for his impromptu brewday at his house, I am sorry that I missed it; it looked like everyone had a good time from the Facebook postings.

The one major event in April beside the club meeting at Franconia, is the brewday at Dean Weaver's home on April 23 at 9 am. This will be Dean's first brewday so I hope we have a lot of people showing up to brew and to watch and learn. Dean Weaver: 8611 Wingate Dr. Dallas, TX 75023.

The Spring Party is still a month away and will be at Doug and Kathy Nett's house. Doug has a pool and the way things are going, I am pretty sure it will be warm enough to swim. The party starts at 6pm. Bring homebrew and a side dish. The Netts live at 5505 Lomita Circle, Plano, TX 75023. Doug requests that since parking is limited near his house that people park at the office at Bay Hill and Pleasant Valley.

Also in May, is the Brewday at my house on May 28. As usual I will be brewing in the backyard next to the pool; I hope to see some fellow brewer brewing with me.



The infamous caramelized honey for Wayne Yandell's Bochet Mead

COMPETITION CORNER BY MATT PARULIS

Happy Spring to all North Texas Homebrewers! Everyone had a great time at Bluebonnet and the NTHBA brought home several medals including some first place steins! Congrats to everyone who placed! This month includes the April club only competition, judging for the Cactus Challenge and Lunar Rendezbrew comps in the Lone Star Circuit, and opening of the entry period for the Alamo City Cerveza Fest.

April Club Only Competition (COC)

Our next club only competition will take place in April. The category for the competition will be IPA's which is category 14 in the 2008 BJCP guidelines. The drop off deadline at Dallas Home Brew and Homebrew HQ will be Friday, April 8th. I'll also be collecting entries at the April meeting on Tuesday 4/12 at Franconia Brewery in McKinney. 2 bottles per entry please. Results for the April COC will be posted in May's newsletter and score sheets will be emailed shortly after the newsletter goes out. The remaining 2016 COC schedule is listed below. Start planning your brews now for the rest of the year!

Upcoming Lone Star Circuit Competitions

Judging for the Lunar Rendezbrew and Cactus Challenge will take place in April. If you have entries in either competition, you should expect to receive scoresheets in May.

The Alamo City Cerveza Fest is also coming up in April. Registration for the ACCF will open on April 9th and close on May 3rd. More info is available at the competition website. We will be sending out an email in April to determine if a packing party is needed to send entries to ACCF. As always, the club will provide packing supplies and pay shipping charges to send entries to San Antonio.

The link below is to the Lone Star Circuit competition website. It has links and schedules for all of the LSC competitions. <http://www.lonestarcircuit.com/qualcomps.html>

Limbo Challenge

One of the signature events of NTHBA's competition calendar is the Limbo Challenge! The categories have been set and the committee organized except for the Head Steward. We are in need of a volunteer or 2 to help with organizing and pulling beers on the judging dates in August. Currently, judging is set for August 6th & 7th and will take place the following weekend (Aug 13th & 14th) if necessary. If you are interested in helping out with stewarding, please email firstvp@nthba.org.

2016 Club Competition Schedule

April – IPA – BJCP Category 14

June – Session Beers – Limbo Challenge Categories

September – European Amber Lagers, Vienna Lager,
Oktoberfest / Marzen– BJCP Category 3

November – Cider and Mead – BJCP Categories 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28

Cheers!
Matt

THE TREASURER'S REPORT BY WALTER HODGES

We are continuing work on our 501© status. Things are going a bit slower than I had hoped, but we'll get 'er done soon.

We have entered into membership renewal season. Current 2016 memberships will expire on May 31st. Membership dues will remain \$30 per member/family for 2017. We hope that you feel the \$30 is a good value and will renew again for 2017. We use your dues to support club activities such as parties and brewdays. Dues are also used to pay for club expenses such as our webserver and club liability insurance which protects members who host parties and brewdays. If you have any questions about how dues are used, please feel free to contact me.

Speaking of webserver, I hope you have had a chance to check out the new NTHBA website at www.nthba.org. I hope everyone signs up for an account and contributes comments and content. If you have any issue with the website, you can email me at: tech@nthba.org

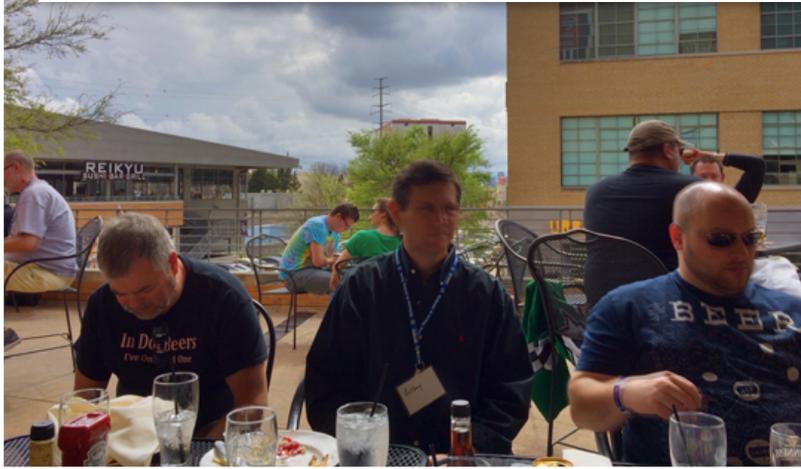
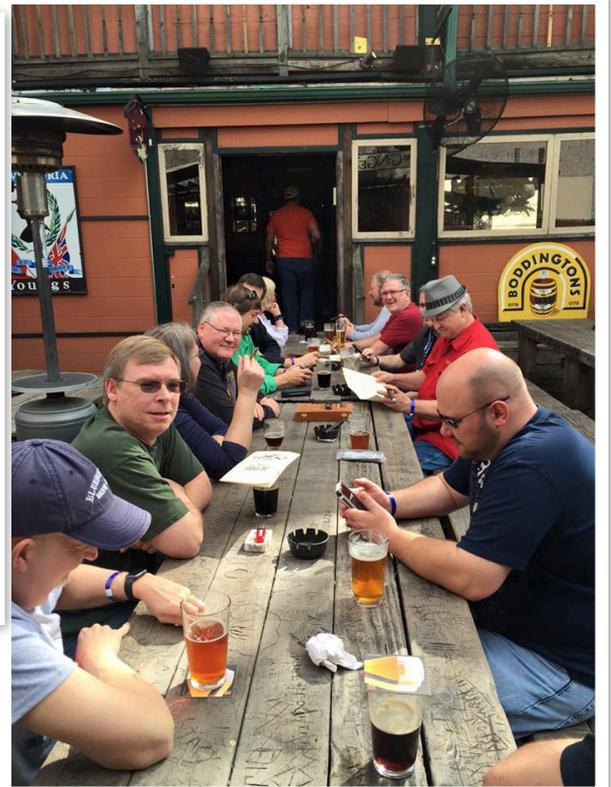
Financial Summary			
Equity ended 1/31	\$5225.78	New Members March	6
Equity ended 2/29	\$5231.97	Membership as of 2/29	155
		Membership as of 3/22	161
Note: Financials trail the newsletter by one month. Current financials are available at: http://www.nthba.org -> groups -> financials-corner -> financial-statement-archive			

Additional financial information may be requested by club members by emailing the treasurer at: treasurer@nthba.org.

Club memberships are effective for one year from June 1st through May 31st. If your membership is not current, please renew at either Homebrew Headquarters or Wine Maker's Toy Store. You may also obtain membership forms and cards at most club events.

Prosit!
Walter

Bluebonnet Pub Crawl



EDUCATION - REFRACTOMETER VS. HYDROMETER BY DEAN WEAVER

At the conclusion of the March membership meeting, Fred David & I had a conversation about Smitty's Brewing Notes article that was published in the March Newsletter. Specifically, the use of a refractometer after fermentation to read the FG. It is my understanding that the presence of alcohol throws off the readings in the refractometer. Fred & I came to the conclusion that the alcohol present becomes the base line or index of the solution being measured. Although this seems completely logical, I did a search to find supporting documentation for our conclusion, and I discovered that a refractometer is calibrated to measure sucrose in water, not maltose that is so prevalent in wort. Therefore, the reading of the wort is not correct and needs to be adjusted with a Wort Correction Factor. If you use BeerSmith, there is a Refractometer Tool that will calculate your reading using a WCF, but you must calibrate the refractometer with BeerSmith before hand. A common rough Wort Correction Factor I've found is 1.04, which will drop your OG slightly.

Circling back to reading the refractometer after fermentation, it can be done, but another calculation needs to be applied in order to account for the presence of alcohol. Although I haven't found any math to work this long hand, I've found a number of calculators on the web as well as in BeerSmith. You can find some of these calculators at <http://seanterrill.com/2012/01/06/refractometer-calculator/> or <http://www.northernbrewer.com/learn/resources/refractometer-calculator/>.

Personally, I've been using a refractometer only since seeing Fred use one at the Club Brew Day last June, and I find it quite handy on brew day. However, I will continue to use the hydrometer for reading FG, which allows me to taste the beer as well . . . the best part of brewing.

At the April Club Brew Day, we can do a side by side comparison of refractometer and hydrometer readings with some fermented wort I have pulled aside to explore the subject further.

If you have any questions, concerns or additions, please email me.



Commercial Tasting @ Bluebonnet Brew Off

Impromptu Club Brew Day @ Wayne Yandell's Shop



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NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION

The North Texas Home Brewers Assoc. is a group with an interest in beer in general and home brewing in particular. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at various locations in the area. Visitors are welcome! "Livin' the Brews" is our newsletter and is published once a month. We do accept advertising, although the NTHBA, its officers, assignees, and editors are not liable for losses or damages resulting from mistakes or misprints, or any other consequences of advertising in this or any other publication. Ads are \$30 for a 1/3 page and \$50 for a full page, subject to change without notice. Readers are encouraged to submit articles. The deadline for ads and articles each month is 14 days prior to the club meeting.



Pre-Bluebonnet Awards



www.NTHBA.org