

# LIVIN' THE BREWS

The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXII Issue VIII - August 2017



## *Quick Sips for August:*

Officer's Meeting      @ [BJ's Brewhouse Addison](#)      August 1<sup>st</sup>      6:30pm – 8:30pm

Club Meeting              @ [Lakewood Brewing Co.](#)      August 8<sup>th</sup>      6:30pm – 8:30pm

These and other events can be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

## Prez Sez by Fred David

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I was at the brewday at Matt & Nicole Saladin's house and I think it only got to about 88 F all day. It was great just sitting around drinking homebrew and talking about the good, and sometimes not so good, attributes of everyone's beers. It made me start thinking about our upcoming Limbo Challenge and all of the judging that we, as a club, will need to do.

In just a couple of weeks we will need to judge upwards of most likely 222 entries and we will need everyone's help in one capacity or another. Mostly we will need judges. Since I first joined NTHBA I have heard people say on a regular basis that they have never judged beer and don't know the first place to start. At the Saladin's brewday, and others, I heard people mention things such as malt aroma, hop aroma, fruity aroma, sweet malt flavor, finishes bitter, etc. In the same breath I have heard some of the same people say they can't or don't know how to judge beer. To that I say nonsense!!!

If you can talk about various aspects of beer, you're well on your way to becoming a beer judge. Sure, some of the off flavors and aromas are not familiar to a lot of us but the only way to learn to identify them is to encounter them and have someone who is acquainted with them guide you. The best place for that to happen is in judging. I have found that judging has really helped me in my own brewing. I used to have to rely solely on feedback from others either through sharing my homebrew or from competition score sheets to see what was right or wrong with my beer. After jumping feet first into judging, I now can fairly objectively judge my own beer and have an idea of what to do if something did go wrong. That, in turn, has helped me in the competitions I enter.

As I'm sure many of you have heard numerous times, start off judging a beer style that you enjoy drinking. After thoroughly reading the style guidelines for that beer and you will find that you are already a pseudo expert on that style. The only thing you need to learn is the proper sequence in judging a beer. After inspecting the bottle for such things as proper fill, pour the beer to the judges in such a fashion as to maximize the aromas coming from the beer. Then, start by taking a very deep whiff of the beer. The best time to observe beer aroma is right after it is poured because these aromas are volatile. Make notes on what you smell. First hand impressions are usually correct. You'll be looking for aromas of malt, hops, phenolics, and fruity esters depending on style. You will also be looking for any off aromas that can indicate problems with the beer.

After you have really smelled the beer comes the time to make notes on appearance, flavor, mouthfeel, and overall impression of the beer. Discuss your impressions with your judging partner. If you are new to judging, you will be paired with an experienced judge. You will also have plenty of supporting materials to help you. Please be thorough with your comments. The entrant paid to get good feedback on their beer. Make comments on their score sheet in the same fashion as you would want your own scores sheets to come back to you.

At this point in time I do not know how many entries we will have for or Limbo Challenge but it could be more or less than the 222 that we anticipate. I want to encourage everyone to learn to judge for three reasons. First, by becoming a good judge we increase the quality of our judging pool which leads to better feedback to homebrewers. Secondly, what we learn from judging makes us better brewers. Lastly, it's just plain fun. I hope that this article will encourage some of you to join the ranks of homebrew judges.

*Until then,  
Prosit!!!*



NTHBA Summer Party 2017

## The First Sip by Nicole Saladin

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Greeting Brewers!

It's been a hot one recently and I hope we've all managed to brew and stay cool!

Matt and I held the July Brewday where we continued to learn the in's and out's of our electric brewery and a successful second brew was born. We brewed a Marzen and Dave Kutchman brewed an English porter. Thanks to all who came out and braved the early morning rain!

The Summer party was this month as well. Thank you, James Smith for hosting a great party and a wonderful time was had by all! I'm sure the BBQ was on point and many a homebrew passed around.

There will not be an August brewday due to all the activities with the Limbo competition. The September brewday will be held at the home of Andrew Kotas on September 16<sup>th</sup> in Plano. Hope to see you there!

I wanted to give a shout out to Labor of Love (LOL), as well. Labor of Love is happening on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> across from Deep Ellum brewery. It's a fun homebrew event and we hope to see you there!

Don't forget the Cedar Creek Campout was rescheduled for Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Grab your camping gear and join us for a fall, hopefully cooler, campout! It's an awesome event, you won't want to miss it!

*Cheers,*

*Nicole*



NTHBA Summer Party 2017

## Competition Corner by Matt Parulis

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It's hard to believe its August already! This month is a busy one for the Lone Star Circuit! We have judging and awards for the Limbo Challenge, awards for the Homebrew Inquisition, and registration periods for Ozapft Is and the Texas Mead Cup. We also have the unveiling of the club only schedule for 2018. If you have any questions or comments on competitions, please email me at [firstVP@nthba.org](mailto:firstVP@nthba.org).

### August Competitions at a Glance

8/1	TX Mead Cup Registration Open
8/5 - 8/6	Limbo Challenge Judging
8/12	Homebrew Inquisition Awards
8/13	Ozapft Registration Open
8/19	Limbo Challenge Awards
8/30	TX Mead Cup Registration Close
8/31	Ozapft Registration Close

### Limbo Challenge

Judging for the Limbo will take place this Saturday 8/5 and (if necessary) Sunday 8/6 at the home of Brian and Melinda Beyer in Carrollton. Saturday judging will get started at 9am and Sunday at 11am. The awards ceremony will be held at Brian and Melinda's on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are available to help with judging, come on out to Brian and Melinda's on 8/5. No experience is necessary. We will pair you up with an experienced judge.

### Ozapft Is

The Cap & Hare club from Ft Worth is hosting the Ozapft Is competition again this year. This competition focuses on German beers. The registration period runs from August 13<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. Judging will take place September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> and wards are set for October 7<sup>th</sup>. For more info, visit the competition site at <http://ozapfthomebrew.com/>.

## Texas Mead Cup

Registration for the Texas Mead Cup also opens in August. The entry window runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Judging will take place on the first 2 weekends in September and awards on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more info on the Texas Mead Cup, visit the website at <http://www.texasmeadcup.com/>.

## August Packing Party

The club will host a packing party to send entries to the Ozapft and Texas Mead Cup. The date and location for the packing party is TBD however we will plan to have it the week of August 21<sup>st</sup> to give plenty of time to ship entries to both competitions.

## 2018 COC Schedule

The officers have set the club only competition schedule for 2018 and even set the January 2019 COC since it includes big beers that need time to age so you have plenty of time to prepare your entries.

*January - Ciders & Meads*

*April - Extract Beers - must be made of at least 50% extract*

*June - Weissbier & Witbier (10A & 24A)*

*September - Altbier & Kolsch (5B & 7B)*

*November - Seasonal Beers (30)*

*January 2019 - British Strong Ale (17)*

## September Club Competition

The COC schedule for 2017 is in the home stretch with just 2 competitions left! September focuses on Fruit, Wild, and Sour beers from categories 23, 28, & 29. Entries will be collected at the September meeting on Tuesday 9/12 and the drop off deadline will be Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at Dallas Homebrew and Homebrew Headquarters. Judging will take place the following week. If you are interested in helping out with judging, please email me at [firstVP@nthba.org](mailto:firstVP@nthba.org).

*Cheers!*

*Matt*

## Competition Spotlight

### Brewer Royale Standings 2017

Dean Weaver – 5 pts

Fred David – 3 pts

Dave Kutschman – 3 pts

John Driscoll – 3 pts

Jimmy Orkin – 2 pts

Kevin Smith – 2 pts

Matt Parulis – 2 pts

Don Trotter – 1 pt

### Remaining 2017 Club Only Competitions

<i>Category</i>	<i>Sub</i>	<i>Month</i>
Fruit, Wild, & Sour Beers	23, 28, 29	September
Euro Beers	3-9	November

### Brewer of the Year Standings

Dean Weaver – 10.5 pts

Dave Kutschman – 6 pts

Matt Parulis – 5 pts

Fred David – 3 pts

Layne McBeath – 2 pts

Steven Franks – 2 pts

Jesse Thoresen – 1 pt

Walter Hodges – 1 pt

## The Treasurer's Report by Walter Hodges

We are in the midst of the Limbo Challenge. I hope you can find some time to come out and help judge a flight or three. What better way to beat the heat, than judging some low gravity beers.

We had a good influx of cash (219 paid entries) from the Limbo challenge. Expenses related to the Limbo Challenge won't be reported until August.

Our liability insurance has been renewed for 9/1/17 – 8/31/18. Our policy covers the club and event hosts.

Memberships renewals are coming in at a good pace. Thank you to all who have renewed.



Financial Summary			
Equity ended 6/30	\$6504.77	2017/2018 Memberships	76
Equity as of 6/26	\$8806.54		
<b>Note:</b> Financials trail the newsletter by one month. Current financials are available at: <a href="http://www.nthba.org-&gt;groups-&gt;financials-corner-&gt;financial-statement-archive">http://www.nthba.org-&gt;groups-&gt;financials-corner-&gt;financial-statement-archive</a>			

Additional financial information may be requested by club members by emailing the treasurer at: [treasurer@nthba.org](mailto:treasurer@nthba.org).

Club memberships are effective for one year from June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. 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. On-line membership forms are available at: <http://www.nthba.org/forms/membership.html>

*Prosit!*

*Walter*



## NTHBA Officers

### President

Fred David

[president@nthba.org](mailto:president@nthba.org)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Matt Parulis

[firstvp@nthba.org](mailto:firstvp@nthba.org)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Nicole Saladin

[socials@nthba.org](mailto:socials@nthba.org)

### Treasurer

Walter Hodges

[treasurer@nthba.org](mailto:treasurer@nthba.org)

### Minister of Education

Joseph Flay

[education@nthba.org](mailto:education@nthba.org)

### Secretary

Matt Saladin

[secretary@nthba.org](mailto:secretary@nthba.org)

### Past President

James Smith

[pastpres@nthba.org](mailto:pastpres@nthba.org)

## Our Supporting Home Brew Stores



**Dallas Home Brew**  
1500 N I-35E, Suite 116  
Carrollton TX 75006  
866-417-1114  
[WWW.DallasHomeBrew.com](http://WWW.DallasHomeBrew.com)



300 N. Coit Road, Suite 134  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-234-4411  
[www.homebrewhq.com](http://www.homebrewhq.com)

## North Texas Home Brewers Association

The North Texas Home Brewers Assoc. is a group with an interest in beer and homebrewing. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at various locations around the DFW area. Visitors are welcome!

"Livin' the Brews" is our monthly newsletter. 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.



[www.NTHBA.org](http://www.NTHBA.org)