

# LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS  
ASSOCIATION VOLUME XXIX ISSUE XII



**December Quick Glance:**

**[Club Christmas Party December 5th](#)**

**[Brew Day at Bill Lawrences  
House December 13th.](#)**

**Prez Sez By  
Walter Hodges**

As 2014 comes to a close, I like to sit back and reflect on accomplishments, failures, joys and sorrows of the year gone by.

The board has worked hard this year on getting the club back to basics and building a solid foundation for 2015. Among our accomplishments, we have published the club newsletter every month and have sent it out a week before the meeting, thanks to Brian. The club books are in great shape due to the hard work of our treasurer, Jimmy Orkin. Mike Grover kept us focused on competitions and we were able to win the Bluebonnet Brew-off and increase our standing in the Lone Star Circuit. Our brewdays and parties were great successes due to the hard work of James "Smitty" Smith. Also, our parties and brewdays would not be successes without the members who opened their homes to us. Thanks to all of you. We also conducted a member and non-current member survey and have lots of good feedback on which to focus our efforts in 2015.

Top among my failures this year was the lack of education. From the survey results, education is one of the top reasons people join the club. I will work with the 2015 board to make sure we have ample education opportunities in the coming year.

Joys, well, there have been plenty. Winning the Bluebonnet was great! Every meeting, where I got to meet someone new and share beers with friends. Watching the local beer scene explode!

There was great sorrow when any of my kegs ran dry, but I was joyful in the knowledge that I had a reason to brew again.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support this last year and look forward to seeing you all at the Christmas party on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Prosit!*

*Walter*

# The First Sip

## By James Smith

So, here we are almost at the end of 2014 and another year has passed. Looking forward to 2015, I want to personally thank you for allowing me to serve you for another year. I am looking forward to it! Thanks!

As I alluded to at last month's meeting...if you were there...part of the success of the club and its activities depends upon your participation. Brew days and parties are excellent opportunities for everyone to enjoy what this club is all about...HOMEBREWING! With that, I hope that you will come to the holiday party this upcoming weekend and make every effort to attend the events in 2015. See you there! Cheers!

### Notable Club Events Coming Up (Please mark your calendars!!):

- The Holiday Party will occur on Friday, December 5 starting at 7PM. The location is Plaza Arts Theater in Carrollton. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)
- The December Brew Day will occur on December 13 from 9am to 4PM at Bill Lawrence's hacienda 2008 Glen Meadow Ct. Richardson. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)
- The January 2015 Brew Day will occur on January 24 from 9am to 4PM. It will be at its traditional location of the home of Mr. Mike Grover. The address is 1939 Castille Dr Carrollton 75007. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)

You can always find out about the latest events coming up on the NTHBA Club Calendar here: <http://nthba.org/content/club-calendar>

As always, if ever you have a question or comments, or if you would like to provide suggestions or feedback about a specific event, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [socials@nthba.org](mailto:socials@nthba.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

## Competition News

### By Mike Grover

Cheers!  
James, aka "Smitty"

Lone Star Circuit

With the 2014 LSC wrapped up, I'd like to take a look back over the year and also encourage our members to actively participate in the 2015 circuit. The Bluebonnet Brew-Off will be here sooner than you realize, so be sure to bottle up some of your December and January brews for the competition. Looking back at the nine competitions that make up the LSC, it is encouraging to see that we scored points in all but one. The Big Batch Brew Bash is a tough competition since it is only single-style. This year's competition featured a non-BJCP category that would not typically be brewed for the other competitions. Next year the featured style is American barleywine. Since the competition is in May 2015, you need to start this style soon (better yet, you should already have one going). If you have a good American barleywine now, why not set a few bottles back for the BBBB? Looking at the rest of the competitions, it is evident that there are four we should really focus on entering next year if we want to boost our place in the standings. These are the Alamo City Cervezafest, Lunar Rendezbrew, Cactus Challenge, and the Dixie Cup. For the last several years, we have not had a team or individual that has gone brew-crazy and entered dozens of beers in each competition. That is a nice luxury to have as a club (see Austin Zealots), but I would rather see us have a very large number of folks entering just a few beers each. To me it is more fun to spread the fun (and the hardware) around. I was very encouraged this year by the number of winners from our club that were either new to competition or infrequently entered competitions. Let's keep this trending upwards as we enter 2015!

Brewer of the Year

- Jimmy Orkin 20 pts
- Barrett Tillman 20 pts
- Don VanSlyke 19 pts
- Doug Nett 14 pts
- Leroy Gharis 14 pts
- Walter Hodges 7 pts
- Randy Friese 6 pts

Club Only Competition (COC)

Our final COC featuring Holiday and winter-themed beers will be judged during the first week of December. Results will be announced at the Christmas party along with our Brewer Royale and Brewer of the Year winners. I was encouraged by the number of entries received for the COC competitions this year, particularly for some of the earlier ones. Your 2015 officers have some good ideas for boosting enthusiasm for the COC, including tying it in with the beers being brewed at club brew days, so stay tuned! Next year's COC categories have already been set, and the 2015 officers will also set the categories for 2016 shortly.



Next up is  
Anything”  
beers.  
best high-  
**Saturday,**



“Imperial  
or high-  
Enter  
octane  
**January**



gravity  
your  
stuff by  
**24<sup>th</sup>.**

This is open to BJCP categories 5CD, 13F, 14C, 15C, 18, 19 or an “imperialized” version of any other BJCP beer style. Here are the rest of the 2015 COC categories:

- February 2015: Extract Beers (Any BJCP beer style where >50% of the fermentables are derived from either dry or liquid malt extract)
- April 2015: Lagers (BJCP categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and any beers in categories 20, 21, 22, or 23 that are fermented with lager yeast)
- July 2015: Session Beers
- September 2015: Sour Beers (BJCP category 17 and sour beers falling into categories 20, 21, 22, and 23)
- November 2015: Belgian & French Ales (BJCP categories 17 and 18)
- Check the website soon for the 2016 Club Only Competition schedule. (<http://www.nthba.org/content/coc-schedule>)

### Brewer Royale Standings

- Leroy Gharis 11 pts
- Barrett Tillman 6 pts
- Charlene Hoke 3 pts
- Linda Rankin 2 pts
- David Lee 1 pt

## The Treasure's Report

### By Jimmy Orkin

- Jimmy Orkin 1 pt

### COC Information

The COC is open to all NTHBA members, and there is no entry fee. Entries for the Brewer Royale can be dropped off at Homebrew Headquarters, Dallas Homebrew/ The Winemaker's Toy Store, or you can bring them to me at club meetings, brew days, or club parties. **Due to the larger numbers of entries we have been receiving, we now need TWO bottles for each entry in the club only competition.** This is necessary so that we have enough beer to conduct a “mini best-of-show” to determine the winners. Each bottle must a label identifying the brewer, BJCP beer style, and name of the beer. Labels should be attached by a rubber band (please do not tape or glue them and do not use self-adhesive labels). I recommend using the BJCP bottle identification form ([http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP\\_BottleID.pdf](http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_BottleID.pdf)). Limit one entry per subcategory and two entries per club member.

It has been a pleasure serving as your 1<sup>st</sup> V.P./Competition Coordinator this year, and I look forward to

contributing as a club officer again in 2015.

Happy Holidays and Pros't!

Mike Grover, NTHBA Competition Coordinator

Summary:

Equity September end \$5,697.33

Equity October end \$5,942.81

New members in October: 7.

Current members October end: 167.

Current members at the time of this article: 174.

The final monthly reports are available on the club website at the following link:

<http://nthba.org/content/club-documents>

Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of the clubs financial information. Let me know if you would like additional or different information in this article.

### Brewing Topics

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he

I

Pi  
It



am looking at mash control systems again. The Brewtroller guys at Open Source Control Systems have decided to close down. One user the system said is going to take over the effort.

decided that I need something different. I am now looking at BrewPi. BrewPi uses a Raspberry and an Arduino. is designed for

fermentation temperature control. I am going to see if I can make it do mash temperature control.

## NTHBA Officers

### President

Walter Hodges  
president@nthba.org

### 1st vice president

Mike Grover  
firstvp@nthba.org

### 2nd vice president

James Smith  
socials@nthba.org

### Treasurer

Jimmy Orkin  
treasurer@nthba.org

### Minister of education

OPEN

### Secretary

Brian Beyer  
secretary@nthba.org

### Past President

Barrett Tillman  
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



**Homebrew  
HEADQUARTERS**

300 N. Coit Road, Suite 134  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-234-4411  
www.homebrewhq.com

## 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.



Visit the NTHBA Website at  
[www.nthba.org](http://www.nthba.org)