

---

# LIVIN' THE BREWS

---

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME XXVII ISSUE I



## PINTS OF INTEREST

- JANUARY WELCOMES OUR NEW OFFICERS
  - THE NEXT OFFICERS MEETING IS JAN. 4TH AT LA FINCA IN ALLEN
  - THE NEXT CLUB MEETING IS JAN. 10TH AT THE RUGBY HOUSE IN PLANO
  - THE NEXT BREW DAY IS JAN. 21ST AT MIKE GROVER'S HOUSE IN CARROLLTON
  - THE NEXT CLUB COMPETITION IS DARK LAGERS—ENTRIES DUE JAN. 27TH
  - BREW NOW FOR THE BLUEBONNET BREWOFF—ENTRIES DUE FEB. 24TH
- 

## Prez Sez

By Chuck Homola

I have to be completely honest and say I never thought I would be writing one of these articles as President of this club – when I joined a few years ago I always knew I wanted to be active but had no idea where the journey would take me. I was pretty intimidated the first few times I attended club functions – there was so much knowledge and experience around me – I didn't want to make a fool of myself – looking back at that now – I can see what a mistake that was. It turns out I have never seen a bunch of folks so willing to share what they knew to help others.

I intend to do whatever I can to help evolve the club into whatever the constituency wants it to be. Just in casual discussions over the past couple of weeks I have heard a huge number of ideas on things we could change or add to what the club has/does already. There have been some absolutely brilliant ideas pop already and I think all of the officers are pretty excited to get this show on the road!

The biggest challenge for me at this point is on prioritizing all the ideas and facilitating who will work each aspect of the ideas that we choose to start with. Be ready for a lot more online interac-

tions/media in the coming weeks in addition to crisp new education ideas, a resurgence in attracting new members along with ways to retain the members we have today. We are looking into new types of commercial relationships we can foster, creative new social ideas and putting focus back on some our basics including but not limited to home brewing fundamentals and the rekindling of our competitive spirit starting with Bluebonnet. We will also work closely with our local home brew stores as they are the main conduit of members – I can't thank them enough for all they do for us.

We will be soliciting input both online and at the various functions starting with our first meeting in January. There will be surveys like in the old days and online polling on a regular basis to make sure we understand the club's needs and desires. I also want to make sure that everyone knows that the officer's meetings we hold at the beginning of each month are open to all club members – it is a great venue to see how things work “behind the scenes” and feel free to bring ideas/concerns to the attention of your elected officers.

*Continued on next page...*

I look forward to our first meeting in a couple of weeks – I want to make it a very relaxed and interactive forum for everyone. This club of ours is an amazing resource and as one of the caretakers of it I pledge to do whatever I can to leave it in an even better state when my term is up. I will need your support and will work hard to earn it.

Thanks and I hope everyone is enjoying their holidays and wish you all the best of new years!

## ***A Moment with the Treasurer*** **By David Lee**

Hello everyone, I'm the new club treasurer and with some ramp up from Bill Lawrence I am ready to step up and try to fill his shoes. It's a little early, but don't forget to pay your d@mn dues!!!! ...when it's time. Lol As treasurer, I'll be helping with club finances and member relations, so if you have any great ideas for this next year please reach out and share them with me. In the coming months in addition to my normal duties I want start a series of articles on beer styles, so look forward to the coming months, in February, I'll start with Porters.

I want to thank the members for giving me an opportunity to become more active in the club as an officer. I have been a member of the club for about 2 years and have really enjoyed meeting the members and learning from everyone. We have a great club and let's really focus this year on beer competitions, education and reaching out to new members. I have a personal goal to increase my beer production and enter my first completion!!! That's right I have brewed many beers, but never entered a competition, so if that sounds familiar get those beers ready and join me.

Happy New Year everyone. I really look forward to this year and if you don't know me, please come by at a club meeting and say hi. I would like to get to know all of the active members and how I can better serve the club.

## ***School's In Session***

**By Aaron Wolin**

Hola from your new Minister de Education. I'd like to first off thank our previous minister, Chuck Homola, for all his hard work. As a relatively new brewer, the lessons over the last year have been essential in my growth.

For those who don't know me, I've been in the club (and brewing) for a little over a year now. In this time frame, I've brewed over a dozen beers, from extract to all grain. Its been a wild learning experience through books, blogs, podcasts, and, most importantly, people. I'm looking forward to sharing the knowledge I've accumulated and gain much more in the process.

We have some exciting ideas in motion for this upcoming year. To gauge members' interests, we'll be sending out a survey shortly with some lesson plans and prioritize accordingly. As always, if you have anything you would like to learn or demonstrate, please do not hesitate to send an email to [education@nthba.org](mailto:education@nthba.org).

## ***Competition Corner***

**By Einar Jonsson**

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2012! We have an exciting competition year ahead of us and I can't wait to get started. First, I am the new Competition Coordinator. I have been in the club for 4+ years and I am excited to finally serve as an officer this year. Between the Lone Star Circuit, the Club Only Competitions, and a few other area competitions, this will be a very active year.

Another competition season is about to start, so let's all get busy brewing so we can win back the Bluebonnet Trophy and give the other clubs in Texas some competition this year. If you have any questions, you can email me at

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

*Continued on next page...*

## Club Only Competitions

The Club Only Competitions (COC) are the competitions that we hold within the ranks of NTHBA. We hold about 6 competitions a year, in conjunction with the AHA COCs. The club pays for entry and shipping of the club COC to the National COC, which is hosted by other homebrew clubs in the country. Points are awarded for the top three entries in each competition, 3 for first, 2 for second, 1 for third. At the end of the year, the brewer with the most points is the winner of the Brewer Royale. If you have never competed before, this is a good place to start. It is free, and only requires one bottle for entry.

Our first COC is coming up soon. The January/February category is Dark Lagers, BJCP Category 4. Entries are due by January 27th, and can be dropped off at the following locations.

Homebrew Headquarters  
300 N. Coit Rd. Suite 134  
Richardson, TX 75080

The Wine Maker's Toy Store  
1300 N I-35 Suite 106  
Carrollton, TX 75006

The March/April category is Stouts, BJCP Category 13. Entry deadline is March 3rd for the club, March 17th for AHA.

The May category is Scottish and Irish Ales, BJCP Category 9. Entry deadline is late April for the club, May 10th for AHA. Our friends, the Knights of the Brown Bottle, in Arlington, are hosting.

## Lone Star Circuit

The Lone Star Circuit (LSC) is comprised of 8 homebrew competitions in Texas. It begins with the Bluebonnet in March, and concludes with the Dixie Cup in October. The Bluebonnet is near and dear to our hearts, and is coming up very soon. We have won the Homebrew Club of the Year at the Bluebonnet many times over the years. This is a great source of pride for our club, and we had won

for 3 straight years, until the Austin Zealots won it last year. Seeing the trophy heading south last year was a bitter pill to swallow. I hope you're all as anxious as I am, to reclaim the trophy this year. I must admit, the Austin Zealots did outstanding last year in the Lone Star Circuit. NTHBA has no shortage of talented brewers, and I think we have what it takes to compete with the Zealots, and any other club in the Bluebonnet, and throughout the LSC. The Bluebonnet will be our first chance to showcase our talent, so I hope everyone has been brewing for the event. The entry deadline is February 24th, and login on the 25th. Login will be at Coors Distributing in Fort Worth again this year.

We have a few more LSC competitions, right on the heels of the Bluebonnet. The Alamo City Cerveza Fest is coming up in April. The ACCF is open to all beer, mead and cider categories. Entries will be due in early April and awards in late April. The exact dates have not been announced yet. The Celtic Brewoff will be a month earlier this year. The Celtic covers beer, mead and cider from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Brittany. The Celtic holds its awards on the Saturday of the weekend of the Texas Scottish Games. The Texas Scottish Games have been moved to the first weekend in May. The entry deadline for the Celtic will be April 12th. Also in May, we have The Big Batch Brew Bash. The KGB club in Houston hosts this one, in conjunction with Saint Arnold Brewing. The winner gets their beer brewed as an upcoming Saint Arnold Divine Reserve, usually released in the fall. This is a single style competition, and this year's style is Black IPA. The Houston area clubs always enter this competition heavily, and usually dominate it. It would be awesome to see someone from this club win this competition this year.

*Continued on next page...*

## National Homebrew Competition

The NHC is our chance to show what this club can do on a national level. Entries for the regional competitions will be due March 28th. Regional awards will be announced in early May, and the winners will advance to the final round, at the NHC in Seattle, June 21-23.

### 2012 Schedule

Competition/Style	Entry Deadlines	Awards
January/February 2012 COC BJCP Category 4 - Dark Lagers	January 27 - Club February 10 - AHA	February 18 - AHA
Bluebonnet Brewoff All BJCP Beers, Meads, Ciders	February 24	March 24
March/April 2012 COC BJCP Category 13 - Stouts	March 3 - Club March 17 - AHA	March 24
Alamo City Cerveza Fest	Early April	Late April
AHA NHC All BJCP Beers, Meads, Ciders	March 19 - 28 - First Round Early to Mid June - National	May 4 June 23
Celtic Brewoff "Celtic" Beer, Cider and Mead styles	April 12	May 6
May 2012 COC BJCP Category 9 - Scottish and Irish Ales	Late April - Club May 10 - AHA	May 19
Big Batch Brew Bash Black IPA	May 11	May 20
Lunar Redez-brew All BJCP Beer, Mead, Cider	Early July	Early August
Limbo Challenge Beers w/ SG < 1.050	Late July - early August	Late August
Cactus Challenge All BJCP Beer, Mead, Cider	Early August	Mid September
August 2012 COC BJCP Category 12 - Porter	TBD - Club TBD - AHA	TBD - AHA
September/October 2012 COC BJCP Category 6 - Light Hybrid	TBD - Club TBD - AHA	TBD - AHA
Dixie Cup All BJCP Beer, Mead, Cider	Mid - late September	Mid - late October
November/December 2012 COC Ant Hayes Memorial Burton (Olde) Ale BJCP Cat 19A	TBD - Club November 10 - AHA	November 17 - AHA

## *A Speech From Your 2nd Vice President*

### By Jason Starnes

This is a day of national consecration, and I am certain that my fellow Home brewers expect that on my induction into the 2nd Vice Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our club impels.

This is pre-eminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our club today. This great club will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper.

So first of all let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.....Oh wait...wrong speech...

Ahem, hey there my fellow brewers! I am honestly honored to have been voted into the "party boy" position. I really only have a few announcements.

First, I have some great ideas for this year's brew days and have begun weaving that special social magic to get it all done. I am also very interested in any ideas you all have!! So please share them with me!

Second, I am taking volunteers to host the club parties. So if you want to go a step beyond the brew day and open your home for the socialites, email me and we will talk. And fear not our brewers can handle their liquor!

Third, I will be compiling a list of people who would like to host a brew day in 2012. So if you hosting a brew day sounds like fun (which is it) then shoot me an email. Include your contact info and my people will talk to your people...yadda yadda.

First intrepid host of the year, Mr. Mike Grover, will be rally the January brew day. As we all know the weather in January can be sketchy, but between officers and club members there will be enough

ez-ups to keep everyone undercover. So fear not! Pack up your rig and head to the brew day! And remember if you are not brewing, at least show up with some of your homebrew. Brew days are a great place to get spectacular feedback and help correcting a problem. Also I heard there has been some effort to compile a really good soundtrack for the brew.....

Let's make this year's brew days and parties rock! Email me [socials@nthba.org](mailto:socials@nthba.org) with all great ideas and events you want to host! Ready? 1, 2, 3, BREAK!!

## *The Scribe's Bribe*

### By Barrett Tillman

Greetings fellow members and thanks for pulling me into the ranks as this year's Secretary. I am filling the roles of Larry Papkin and bring forward our meeting notes and newsletters. Larry thank you for your continued support hard work and dedication!

I am calling out to everyone for articles in the coming months. Jim Lavin's road trip was a great success in the December issue lets keep the wheels turning. If you have items of interest compile them with photos and put to words your story. Also submit your questions and comments by email [secretary@nthba.org](mailto:secretary@nthba.org).

If you are like me with a long list of interesting brew days and a stockpile of questions you need help! Brian Beyer helped me out of a stuck mash during the December brew day\*. In short and after much frustration we transferred the entire grist to his mash-tun. The brew turned out well and I managed to hit target gravity. The resulting batch a 1.060 on Saison was split.

NTHBA newcomer Brett Greenstein walked away with the Scribe's Bribe of free wort. His batch is currently with 3944 Wyeast. My batch is going with a curious collection of cultured dregs.

*Continued on next page...*



I asked Mr. Greenstein about brewing. He did his first extract brew in 1997 and has since been on the road of great beer:

*"I'm wanting to tap into all-grain brewing. Learn the different methods, steps, and equipment. Mashing doesn't seem hard some brewers are meticulous about temperature others go by routine."*

We then moved on chatting about the next brew-day. His next brew will be an all grain clone of [Pliny the Elder](#). My guess is this man likes hops!

*\* Kim Rhea thanks for hosting this brew day.*

## ***Big Batch Brewing and the 50 Gallon Split*** By Wayne Yandell

I want to thank everyone who took part in the inaugural brew of the Big 50 brew system in November. We made about 45 gallons of Belgian pale ale and split out the shares to 9 people to take home and ferment with whatever yeast they decided on. We had a sample of Damon Lewis's batch at the Christmas party and it turned out very nice!

I've made it my personal goal to get this system running well and make it available in 2012 and as long as I'm an active member to brew some big batches of beer! We will be doing this on a share the beer basis – if you want a portion of a batch, you will chip in your share of the money for the batch. I've been asked about the club paying for a batch and I'll bring it up at the officer's meeting.

Larry Papkin and I will handle the physical aspect of transport, setup and some of the logistics of getting some big brews planned and executed. We will need volunteers to handle the ingredient purchase and collection of funds for the batches.

As soon as we get some people to volunteer to host 2012 club brews, we will make our second big

brew session official and get our ingredient / collection volunteer busy with purchasing. To give you an idea of cost per share when we brew, our first batch ran about \$20.00 per 5 gallons for the ingredients, propane, and ice to cool the wort.

For batch #2, we will be doing a Partigyle batch of beer. For those who do not know, in its simplest terms, parti-gyle gives you two (or more) beers from one batch of grain. The first batch is typically a no-sparge high gravity beer, though you can do a small amount of sparge if you want. The second is a weaker beer using the rest of the sparge runnings, often called a small beer. To do the whole process, you need to be ready with two boiling kettles, and two separate fermenters. (or in our case a multitude of small fermenters) We can do some blending of runnings to achieve the necessary gravity of each batch. In addition we can do some steeping of one or the other batches with some specialty grain.

Lets get some ideas running on this and firm up some plans for January.

I've made a couple tweaks to the mash tun. I've cut a false bottom and will do some testing to insure the setup will handle a full batch without issues. As it runs now the system will handle 45 gallon batches and can be used to batch sparge.

Feel free to discuss this on the [forums](#) and with me or Larry.

Thanks and happy brewing!

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

**2012 EVENTS**

- BLUEBONNET BREW OFF
- ALAMO CITY CERVEZA FEST
- CELTIC BREW OFF
- BIG BATCH BREW BASH
- LUNAR RENDEZBREW
- LIMBO CHALLENGE
- CACTUS CHALLENGE
- DIXIE CUP




WWW.LONESTARCIRCUIT.COM

## NTHBA Officers

### President

Chuck Homola  
president@nthba.org

### 1st vice president

Einar Jonsson  
competitions@nthba.org

### 2nd vice president

Jason Starnes  
socials@nthba.org

### Treasurer

David Lee  
treasurer@nthba.org

### Minister of education

Aaron Wolin  
education@nthba.org

### Secretary

Barrett Tillman  
secretary@nthba.org

### Past President

Wayne Yandell  
pastpres@nthba.org

## Club Brewmeisters

Club Brewmeisters are members who are experienced brewers and have volunteered to help other brewers, new and old, with brewing problems. Give them a call with your questions! Just don't call too late, too early, or during Cowboy games!

Homebrew Headquarters  
(972) 234-4411

The Wine Makers' Toy Store  
(866)417-1114

## 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 about 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)