

LIVIN' THE BREWS



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

Prez Sez

By Walter Hodges

Another year is done and a new one is upon us. The NHTBA had a great 2013 with lots of opportunities to socialize and brew. We brought home the Bluebonnet Homebrew Club of the Year award by holding off some fierce competition. The Limbo Challenge was a success; even though we didn't win it, we had a good showing and conducted a popular competition. We finished 4th in the Lone Star Circuit. And finally, we finished off the year with the Christmas party, which unfortunately had to be rescheduled because of the weather (a first in all the years I have been a member). The outgoing officers deserve a round of applause for their dedication and hard work.

The new board of officers has already begun work on 2014. I plan to focus on some of the basics. First, the newsletter will be published by the first Tuesday of each month. Second, I'll work with Jimmy to provide more financial transparency through detailed accounting reports published to the website each month a report given at the club meeting each month. Third, we'll be working behind the scenes to improve the transition from one board to the next with documentation of what's required for each position.

If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to make the club better, I'd love to hear them.

Your 2014 Board of Directors:

- President – Walter Hodges
- 1st Vice President (Competitions) – Mike Grover
- 2nd Vice President (Social) – James Smith
- Treasurer – Jimmy Orkin
- Secretary – Brian Beyer

January Quick Glance:

[Club Meeting January 14th](#)
[Flying Saucer Addison](#)

[Brew Day January 25th at](#)
[Mike Grover's](#)

- Past President – Barrett Tillman
- I'd like to wrap my column up with a few brewing resolutions for the New Year.
1. Brew a beer style that I have never brewed before.
 2. Enter at least four competitions.
 3. Introduce a non-brewer to homebrewing.
 4. Have fun with numbers 1-3!

Prost!

Walter

The First Sip

By James Smith

Happy New Year! Thank you for allowing me to serve you over the next 12 months. I look forward to a successful and exciting 2014! 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. I look forward to hearing from you!

2013 NTHBA Christmas Party

Despite having to reschedule due to "Icemedgeddon 2013", this year's NTHBA Christmas party was a phenomenal success! What an outstanding buffet of turkey, smoked meats, sides, and deserts, along with several

great homebrews on tap! Not to mention, how about some of those white elephant gifts?? First and foremost, many THANKS to Walter and Pam Hodges for their generosity and hospitality as hosts this year. Lastly, many thanks to everyone who attended!

Notable Club Events Coming Up:

- The January Club Meeting will occur on the 14th from 7-9 PM at The Flying Saucer in Addison. The address is 14999 Monfort Dr. Addison ([MAP HERE](#)).
- The 2014 President's Brew Day will be hosted by Mike Grover on January 25th from 9:00am – 4:00pm. His address is 1939 Castille Drive, Carrollton, TX ([MAP HERE](#)). Let me know if you intend to brew. Food will be provided. We look forward to seeing you all there!
- Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 11 from 7-9 PM for the monthly club meeting.
- Additionally, we are seeking a host for the February Brew Day. If you are interested in hosing, please email socials@nthba.org. Thanks in advance!

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

Please contact me at socials@nthba.org if you have any questions.

Cheers!
James, aka "Smitty"

Treasure's Report By Jimmy Orkin

This is my first article as your 2014 Treasurer. I am writing the week of Christmas and I am still gathering my footing to the job. In this article I want to set your and my expectations of what I believe are the duties of the Treasurer job.

I will describe what I believe are the normal Treasurer tasks.

Normal Treasurer Tasks

- Respond to member questions about any financial related information of the club either immediately or no longer than one week.
- Make deposits into club checking account within one week and no longer than two weeks.
- Pay club obligations either immediately or no longer than one week after the debt is incurred. Proper receipts or invoices are required before the clock starts.
- Reconcile the club checking account with the bank statement monthly.
- Provide a report in the club monthly newsletter on the status of the club's finances to include:
 - Beginning checking balance.
 - Ending checking balance.
 - Income to the club by category.
 - Expenses of the club by category.
- Manage the club membership list. This task involves:
 - Picking up completed membership forms from the homebrew stores weekly.
 - Keeping the homebrew stores stocked with membership cards and applications.
 - Having membership cards and applications available at all club events.
 - Managing the club members in a list that stores their email addresses used to email the newsletter.
 - Report on the number of members added

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or removed in the previous month in the newsletter.

- Obtain raffle items for the club meeting raffles.

I am interested in what you think about the Treasurer's job. Have I missed something you think the Treasurer should be doing?

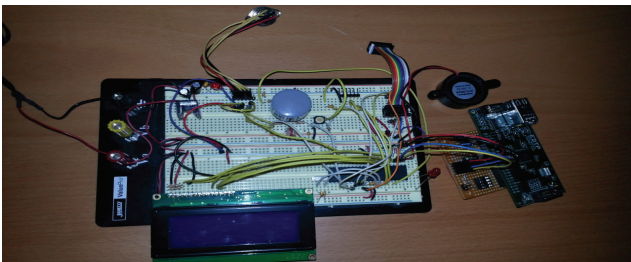
Your job as a NTHBA member is point out to the President when an officer fails to do their job. It is possible that life changes can remove an officer's spare time. When this happens we need find someone that does have the time.

In other areas of the job, I want to investigate getting the club recognized as a Not for Profit organization again. The club had this status in the past but I believe lost the recognition when proper paper work was not filed.

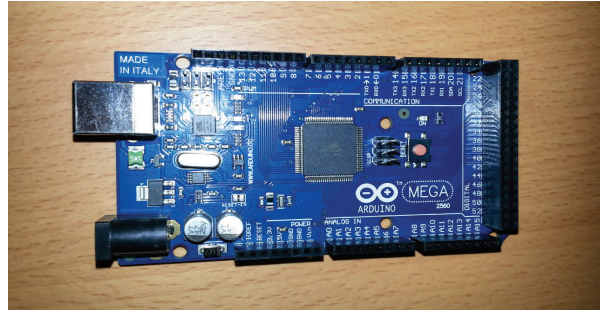
For those that do not know me, let me describe a little bit about me. I have been homebrewing for about 13 years. Eight years of aimless brewing with no temperature control or knowledge of styles.

That changed when I started listening to The Brewing Network's Sunday Session show. I learned a lot about brewing from The Brewing Network.

I now am obsessed with temperature control of my mash and fermentation to the point of building my own temperature control devices and chambers. I brew on a Blichmann Top Tier stand with a March Pump and a [BrewTroller controller](#). My BrewTroller hardware is still in the prototype phase. I am slowly working on porting my prototype from the prototype board to an Arduino Mega 2560.



*Prototype with 4x20 LCD display and Ethernet adapter.
The Arduino Mega 2560 Board.*



I will write more about my system and brewing philosophy in future newsletters.

Cheers.

Competition News By Mike Grover

COMPETITION NEWS

Happy New Year homebrewers! 2014 brings another year of homebrew competitions in our region. I will start with the Lone Star Circuit competitions. Individual brewers and clubs alike start the New Year with a clean slate. The first – and one of the biggest – competition in the circuit this year is the Bluebonnet Brew-Off. Important dates for the Bluebonnet are listed below. With the exception of the event itself, the dates are tentative according to the Bluebonnet Brew-Off website (www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com).

- February 1-15, 2014 Competition registration open and entries accepted
- February 22, 2014 Entry login at Coors Distributing in Fort Worth
- March 1-2 and 8-9, 2014 First round judging at Coors Distributing
- March 15, 2014 Second round judging at Coors Distributing
- March 21-22, 2014 Bluebonnet event and awards ceremony at the Westin DFW Hotel

Jimmy Orkin is the Assistant Director for the Bluebonnet this year, and will be the Director next year when it is our club's turn once again to be the primary host club. As this year's event gets closer, we will be asking for your support with judging and other event activities. Of course, we also want the club to be well-represented with lots of entries. Get your best beers bottled up and ready for competition! There is still a little time to get some last-minute ales brewed but not much. The Bluebonnet Brew-Off is open to all BJCP beer categories and also has a special category for first time entrants (Note: You do not have to be a first-time brewer to enter this category. If this is your first year to submit entries to the competition then you are eligible regardless of your level of brewing experience).

Specific dates have not been set yet for the other Lone Star Circuit competitions, but I have listed the anticipated time frame for each competition to help you plan your brewing this year. Unless otherwise noted, the competitions are open to most or all BJCP beer styles.

- Alamo City Cervezafest - March
- Celtic Brew-Off – May (open to beer styles of English, Irish, or Scottish origin only)
- Big Batch Brew Bash – May (single style competition)
- Lunar Rendezbrew – July
- Limbo Challenge – August (open to lower alcohol “session” or “lawnmower” beers only)
- O'zapft Is! – September (open to beer styles of German origin only)
- Cactus Challenge – September
- Dixie Cup – October (final Lone Star Circuit competition of the year)

The next competition topic for 2014 is the Brewer Royale – our club-only competition (open to current NTHBA members only). Historically we have followed the American Homebrewer's Association (AHA) competition schedule. However, the AHA discontinued their program. The good news is that means we are free to decide which categories we want to include in the competition, and can even group multiple styles together or create our own unique categories. We are finalizing the categories and will release all of the beer styles for the year in the coming weeks. As mentioned in our November newsletter, the first category of the year is BJCP Category 9: Scottish and Irish Ales (<http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/style09.php>).

Entries need to be turned in by Saturday, February 1st and can be dropped off at either Homebrew Headquarters, The Winemaker's Toy Store/Dallas Homebrew, or you can bring them to me at our January club meeting. For the club only competition we need only one bottle along with 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).

Upcoming Brewer Royale categories:

April 2014: Celtic styles (English/Irish/Scottish)
 July 2014: Session beers
 September 2014: German styles
 November 2014: Holiday styles (winter warmers, spiced Christmas beers)
 January 2015: High gravity styles
 February 2015: Extract beers (at least 50% malt extract)
 April 2015: Lager styles
 July 2015: Session beers
 September 2015: Sour styles
 November 2015: Belgian and French styles

Mike Grover, NTHBA Competition Coordinator

NTHBA Officers**President**

Walter Hodges
president@nthba.org

1st vice president

Mike Grover
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2nd vice president

James Smith
socials@nthba.org

Treasurer

Jimmy Orkin
treasurer@nthba.org

Minister of education

David Lee
education@nthba.org

Secretary

Brian Beyer
secretary@nthba.org

Past President

Barrett Tillman
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 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