

LIVIN' THE BREWS

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



January Quick Glance:



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[Addison](#)

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Prez Sez By Mike Grover

Happy New Year Homebrewers! I hope that each of you enjoyed the Holidays and got to share some great homebrew with friends and family.

It's déjà vu all over again. 2015 will mark my second stint as NTHBA President. As I look back to 2008, my first stint as President, I am amazed just how much the craft beer scene has changed here in the Metroplex. I remember being excited that we were finally going to have a local craft brewery on our side of DFW. Franconia Brewing opened that year and, along with Rahr & Sons Brewing Company, was one of only two craft production breweries in North Texas. I was excited at the possibility of holding a club meeting at a brewery, and I contacted Dennis Wehrmann and arranged for our August meeting to be held there. We braved the heat, enjoyed beer and pizza, and had a great time. We've met at Franconia once a year since then and plan to again. Fast forward to 2015: The North Texas beer scene is hardly recognizable from what it was seven years ago. There are 20+ craft breweries operating in the region now, with many more planned. We have many more great craft beer bars as well. Later in the year I hope to schedule meetings at some of these new locations. For January, though, we will meet at an old standby: The Londoner in Addison. This just happens to be where we held our January 2008 meeting. There's that feeling of déjà vu again!

This year there are a lot of familiar faces, as each of the 2015 officers also served in 2014. We had a good time in 2014 and I want to thank my fellow officers for their hard work that led to a very successful year for the club. One of our goals this year is to identify a couple of folks who are interested in being an officer next year. If you have not been an officer before, please consider throwing your name in the hat for next year.

Speaking of déjà vu, this will be the ninth consecutive year that I have hosted the January brew day. I hope to see all of you there as we once again roll the dice and see how the weather turns out. I will have the club keggerator set up, so feel free to bring your kegged brews by to share. Here's to a great 2015!

Pros't!

The First Sip By James Smith

Happy 2015 to all NTHBA members! Here's to an exciting year of health, prosperity...and of course homebrewing...to each of you. I am excited to serve for 2015 as one of your club officers and once again as the "Party Boy". We have lots of exciting brewdays and other activities in the planning stages, so do keep an eye on the club calendar and make plans to attend as many as possible.

If you are interested in hosting either a brewday and/or club party, please let me know ASAP as I am busy creating the calendar for the entire year. I am hoping to have the majority of the dates locked in for 2015, so please act fast if you are interested. The club will reimburse food you prepare as well as your grain bill.

With that, it is worth reiterating...again...that much 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! See you in 2015! Cheers!

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

- 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](#)
- The **February Brew Day** is TBD. If you are interested in hosting, please let me know ASAP!!
- There is no March Brew Day due to Bluebonnet.
- The April Brew Day will occur on April 11 from 9am to 4pm. It will be held at the home of yours truly, James Smith. The address is 4100 Camino Dr. Plano 75074. [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. I look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers!
James, aka "Smitty"

Competition Corner By Walter Hodges

2014 is in the books, so it's time to get brewing for the 2015 competition year. First up is our own Club Only Competition in January. The theme is High Gravity Beers and covers categories 5C/D, 13F, 14C, 15C, 18 and 19 or an Imerpiralized version of any other BJCP style. The deadline to drop entries off at either Dallas Homebrew or Homebrew HQ, will be 5:00 PM, January 16th. Remember, we need two labeled bottles. You can print labels here: [BJCP Bottle Labels](#)

The Lone Star Circuit competition will be tough again this year, but we made a good move last year finishing third, up from fourth in 2013. With a bit of focus on a few competitions that we didn't do well in last year, we should be able to have another good showing in 2015. First up in the Lone Star Circuit is the Bluebonnet. The Bluebonnet will accept entries late January through February 19th. Hopefully you have a bunch of good beers to enter and can help the North Texas Homebrewers retain the Bluebonnet trophy.

As an incentive to enter into competition, I have a bit of a carrot to dangle before you. For the Club Only Competitions we award the Brewer Royale trophy. The top three brewers who win points throughout the year will be given cash prizes and the first place brewer gets a cool trophy. First place gets \$75, second receives \$50 and third takes home \$25. For the Lone Star Circuit competitions, we declare the winner Brewer of the Year and also award cash prizes. We award \$150, \$100 and \$50 to first second and third respectively. Right now everyone in the club is tied for first in both Brewer Royale and Brewer of the Year standings.

Cheers!

Walter

Competition Schedule			
Lone Star Circuit		Club Only	
Competition	Entry Deadline	Theme/Styles	Entry Deadline
Bluebonnet Brew-Off	2/19	High Gravity Beers BJCP Categories 5C/D, 13F, 14C, 15C, 18, 19 or an Imerpiralized version of any other BJCP style	1/16
Celtic Brew-Off	March	Extract Beers Any BJCP style beer with at least 50% of the fermentables derived from dry or liquid extract	February
Alamo City Cerveza Fest	May	Lagers BJCP Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 20, 21, 22, 23 fermented with lager yeast	April
Big Batch Brew Bash	May	Session Beers All Limbo Categories	July
Lunar Redezbrew	June	Sour Beers BJCP Category 17 and sour beers in categories 20, 21, 22, 23	September
Limbo Challenge	July	Belgian and French Styles BJCP Categories 17 and 18	November
Cactus Challenge	August		
O'zapft Is	August		
Dixie Cup	September		

The Treasure's Report

By Jimmy Orkin

Summary:

Equity October end \$5,942.81

Equity November end \$4,764.11

New members in October: 8.

Current members November end: 174.

Current members at the time of this article: 177.

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.

I'll have a complete year of financial data sometime in January after I get the December statement from the bank. I will pull some information together to show where the club's money comes from and goes and report at a club meeting and newsletter.

Brewing Topics

A lot has happened over the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. I spent much time looking at the BrewPi. I decided it might be good for fermentation but will not do what I want for mash temperature control.

I am going to switch my fermentation chamber over to BrewPi from my homegrown controller. I spent much time over the Christmas break working on a design to implement a BrewPi. I used a new tool called "Fritzing". Fritzing allows you to draw a layout for a breadboard. You can then turn the breadboard view into a schematic and finally into a PCB (Printed Circuit Board) design. It seems to work fairly well but did crash on my a couple of times. My suggestion is to save your work in multiple files as you go.

I want to locate my Arduino Uno in the garage with the fermentation box and place the Raspberry Pi in my office inside the house. I dug out a kit I bought years ago from Digi that will let me use XBee modules to wirelessly connect the Raspberry Pi to the Arduino.

I am planning to create a fermentation emulator out of a carboy and resistance wire to test the control ability of the BrewPi. Talk to me about this crazy idea.

I still do not have anything better than the Brewtroller for my mash control so I will be working to build a real controller with the Brewtroller and get the hardware off the breadboard I have been using for the last year and a half.

I am planning to give a talk on controllers I have been evaluating at a brewday this year as part of the club's education program. Please feel free to talk to me about the control topics when you see meet at a club event.

Brew Strong!

Jimmy



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Our Supporting Home Brew Stores



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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.



Visit the NTHBA Website at
www.nthba.org