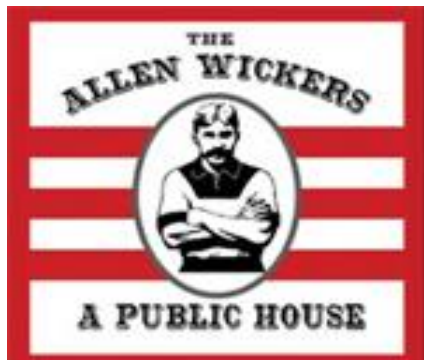


LIVIN' THE BREWS



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



June Quick Glance:

[Club meeting](#)
[June 10th at](#)
[The Allen](#)
[Wickers Sports](#)
[Pub](#)

[Club Brew Day](#)
[June 21st at](#)
[Brian and Melinda](#)
[Beyer's](#)

Prez Sez

By Walter Hodges

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Well at least by the club calendar we have started a new year. Welcome to new members who joined in the last month and thanks to all the members who've renewed their memberships for 2014.

May was a busy month for the club. We started in late April with a packing party for the Alamo City Cervezafest and sent down 35 entries. Hopefully we'll extend our lead in the Lone Star Circuit. Next, we held our Spring Party. Thanks to Doug and Kathy for opening their home and for the great BBQ. Our monthly meeting was held down at Deep Ellum Brewing Co. where they opened their taps and shared a new beer hitting the stores soon. We finished the month out with a Memorial Day weekend brewday at Bill James' and finally, a camp out at Cedar Creek Brewing. WHEW! It's time to sit back, relax, and have a homebrew.

We have lots to do in preparation for the Limbo Challenge in August. We held our first planning meeting on May 15th. Committee positions were decided and initial assignments were made. There is still plenty of work to do, so if you are interested in helping, please check the club web site for meeting times and locations. Meeting notes are available on the forum under; Competitions->Limbo 2014. Speaking of the Limbo Challenge, now is the time to get your entries started. We want to own this competition. Besides the fact that we run the Limbo, we want to continue building points in the Lone



Star Circuit. Get your low gravity beers going. The Limbo web site has been updated with dates and categories. Check limbocomp.org for more information.

See you at the June meeting. We'll be at The Allen Wickers in Plano.

Prosit
Walter

The First Sip

By James Smith

Well, Memorial Day, the official start of summer, has passed. So, it's time to break out the Speedo and beach towels along with some great homebrew. I'm definitely a sun baby, but wishing too that we get some rain for our lakes as well.

As mentioned last month, I've been busy getting my inventory re-stocked with summer brews, namely a Belgian Wit, Saison, and a Hefeweizen. I am to this day still a bottler, which for me has become one of the most despised parts of the whole homebrewing process. Thus, I have recently purchased a 3-keg system and will soon be converting a chest freezer to a kegerator...finally! So, if you have any tips, please feel free to send them my way.

And 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!

Ramblings from the Cedar Creek Revival...

Well, the inaugural Cedar Creek Revival is in the books and what a blast it was. The brews were flowing and the fire pit was going...and for several of us, WELL into the wee hours of the morning. Add to that some great food served up by Mr. Prez, Walter Hodges, and our host Jim Elliott and his wonderful wife.

The competition was quite the battle, with some outstanding brews being served. There could only be one winner though and it was truly shocking(as you can tell in the picture). Congratulations to the winner, Mr. Jimmy Orkin and his Hefeweizen.

Thanks to those who participated, and especially to our hosts, all of the great folks at Cedar Creek Brewery. Those who were not able to join us, do yourself a huge favor and DO NOT MISS next year's Cedar Creek Revival!!



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

- The June brew day will occur on the 21st at our esteemed club Secretary's house, Mr. Brian Byer. The address is 2117 Rheims Dr. Carrollton 75006. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)
- The Summer Bash will also occur at Brian's house and will be held on Saturday, July 19th. Address above.
- August – NO BREW DAY
- The September brew day will occur on September 13th at the home of yours truly. The address is 4100 Camino Dr. Plano 75074. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)
- September – The Oktoberfest Party will occur on September 20th at Jeff Stark's house in Rowlett.

Lastly, 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"

Competition News

By Mike Grover

LONE STAR CIRCUIT STANDINGS

With three LSC events in the books, we remain in first place and doubled our lead from 7 to 14 points. Nice work everyone!!! Foam Rangers remain second, and Austin Zealots moved up a spot and are tied with them. KGB surged into fifth place behind Cap & Hare after dominating their competition, the Big Batch Brew Batch. We did not pick up any points in the BBBB but fared very well in the Celtic. The ACCF results will be available in a little more than a week, and I know we had lots of entries shipped down there. Good luck, brewers!

1. NTHBA	51 pts
2. Foam Rangers	37 pts
3. Austin Zealots	37 pts
4. Cap and Hare	28 pts
5. KGB	25 pts
6. Bay Area Mashtronauts	21 pts

Celtic Brew-Off

Congratulations to NTHBA's 2014 Celtic Brew-Off winners! The club did great, finishing first in points and even claiming Best of Show.

Lee Pelfrey and David Ireland: 1st Place in Stouts with a Sweet Stout (BEST OF SHOW WINNER)

Leroy Gharis: 1st Place in Strong/Old Ales with Flatulent Floyd's Barleywine

Doug Nett: 2nd Place in English Pale Ales with Hailey's English Bitter

Jimmy Orkin: 2nd Place in Stouts with Jimmy's Export

Doug Nett: 3rd Place in Scottish Ales with Hailey's Strong Scotch Ale

Walter Hodges: 3rd Place in English Brown Ales with Oppsie Mild Ale.

UPCOMING LONE STAR CIRCUIT COMPETITIONS

Next up is the Lunar Rendezbrew, which accepts entries from June 2nd through the 25th. We will send out a dispatch as soon as we have scheduled a packing party. Expect it to be the week of June 16th after NHC is over. Dates have not been announced for the Cactus Challenge but should be soon.

Limbo Challenge

Limbo will be here before you know it. We have had our first planning meeting and things are moving along. I know that I plan to brew several session beers this summer. Let's have a great showing in our "home" competition and pad our lead in the LSC. The entry window for the Limbo is July 18th-August 1st, 2014. Judging will be done on the weekend of August 9th and 10th, and the awards ceremony will be on August 23rd. The awards ceremony will be at Craft & Growler in Dallas – conveniently right across the street from the Fair Park DART stop.

BREWER ROYALE – Part Deux

Results are in from our Celtic Styles Club Only Competition. We had a total of 16 entries of English and Irish styles (oddly, no Scottish). I appreciate everyone's patience, as I intended to get this done much sooner. I will strive to move things along faster starting with our next COC. Big thanks to Walter Hodges, Don Trotter, Richard Harris, and Bill "Willy" Lawrence for coming out on a Friday evening to judge. The winners are:

1st Place: Leroy Gharis, Flatulent Floyd's Barleywine

2nd Place: Leroy Gharis, It IS Bloody Irish

3rd Place: Jimmy Orkin, Jimmy's ESB

Congratulations to the winners – job well done! Updated standings are below:

BREWER ROYALE STANDINGS

- Leroy Gharis 5pts
- Charlene Hoke 3pts
- Barrett Tillman 2pts
- David Lee 1pt
- Jimmy Orkin 1pt

UP NEXT: Session Beers (Any category accepted in the Limbo Challenge except Lawnmower Beer – <http://www.limbocomp.org/styles.php>) – **Entry deadline Saturday, July 19th, 2014.** Think of this as a warm-up competition for the Limbo. I pushed the deadline back later in the month so that it is close to the Limbo entry deadline yet gives us a couple of weeks to get the judging done before Limbo check-in and judging start.

Looking Ahead

Check the website for the complete 2014-2015 Club Only Competition schedule (<http://www.nthba.org/content/coc-schedule>).

Entries for the Brewer Royale can be dropped off at either Homebrew Headquarters, The Winemaker's Toy Store/Dallas Homebrew, or you can bring them to me at club meetings, brew days, or club parties. 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).

Pros't!

Mike Grover, NTHBA Competition Coordinator

The Treasure's Report

By Jimmy Orkin

Summary:

Equity March end \$5,512.29.

Equity April end \$4,253.16.

New members in April: 10.

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

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

We had two big expenses that hit our books in April. We had the charges for the pizzas at the April club meet at the Franconia Brewery and the down payment for the venue for the Holiday party in December.

Many current club memberships will expire on May 31. New renewals have a May 31, 2015 expiration date and cost \$30. The homebrew stores have the new cards. I also have new membership cards and applications with me at all club events. I apologize for not have the forms and cards on the Spring Party.

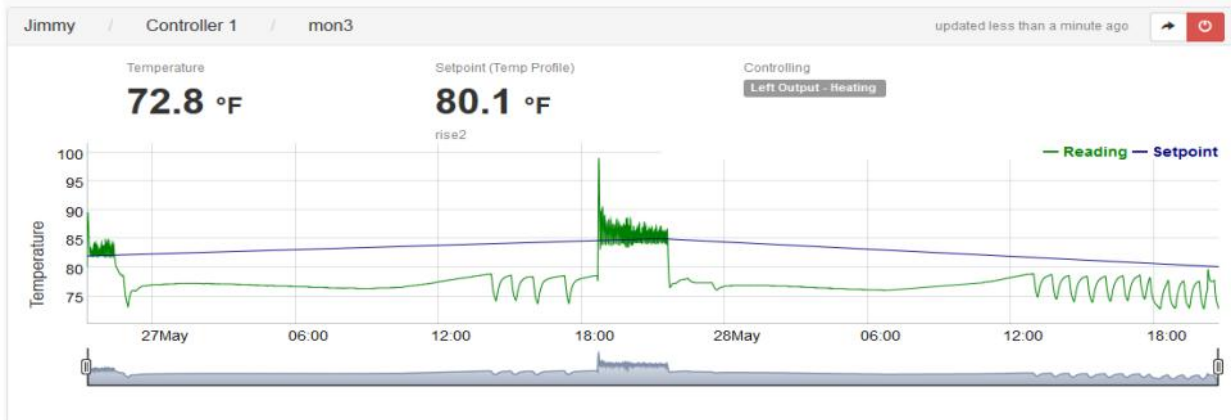
On June 1, I will purge the old email list. Only current members will receive the newsletter and club email messages. Don't let your name drop off our mail list. Renew your membership now.

I will now write about my brewing activities last month. I bought a BrewBit (brewbit.com) Model-T temperature controller as part of a Kickstarter. It looked promising and I liked the form factor and the promised functions of the controller.

Below is an image of the unit:



I like the screen layout. It is Wi-Fi enabled and connects to the BrewBit website. It is a dual controller in the fact that it has two temperature probes and two power outlets. Each outlet can be driven by temperature input in either a heating or cooling mode. Static temperature or ramp profiles can be built in the website. The controller can work in simple on/off or PID mode. This image below from the website shows a couple of days of data from my unit. I have the unit controlling a light bulb with a sensor in top of the bulb. The two fuzzy periods show when the light was actually controlled. The other time the bulb was unplugged and the sensor was just showing the room temperature. The blue line shows the setpoint ramp up and down.



It is open hardware and software so the community can enhance the device. I have ordered the programming adapter needed to program the Model-T locally. The Model-T has several bugs currently. The guys that built the Model-T are working to fix the problems. I don't trust it yet but it looks very promising for mash and fermentation temperature control.

I am glad to talk about it and if there is interest, I can bring it to a club event and demo the unit.

Brew Strong!

Jimmy

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1st vice president

Mike Grover
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2nd vice president

James Smith
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Treasurer

Jimmy Orkin
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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