
LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION

Prez Sez

By Leroy Gharis

The most important thing for everyone to know this month is we need your help with judging beers for Bluebonnet. By the time you receive this, the login will have already occurred. Last year the Bluebonnet had a record number of entries of about 1,300. I expect there will be at least that many this year. Judging dates are Sat. Mar. 6th, Sun. Mar. 7th, Sat. Mar. 13th, and Sun. Mar. 14th. Check out the [Club Calendar](#) on the dates for links to a map to the judging site.

We need all experienced and non-experienced beer judges to help. If you have not judged before just ask to be paired with someone who has. Keep an eye on the club forums and try to hitch a ride with someone in your area. Don't be shy. If you can smell and taste, you can learn to judge beer. If you don't want to judge you might be able to assist as steward to help pull beers for the judges and make sure judges have all of the materials they need. This could be a good way for the shy among you to observe judging before you jump in head first.

The Bluebonnet event date is Friday, March 19th and Saturday, March 20th. Second round

judging will occur on Friday and Saturday afternoons. There will be three pub crawls on Saturday afternoon also but you must register for them early on the website. You will be registering for a specific pub crawl when you sign up. I hear that they may put together a fourth bus route if the others sell out but I would not count on it but don't quote me on that.

For those that will be attending on Friday please bring some of your GOOD beer for the room crawl. All beer must be in a keg so we can dispense it from our 11 tap bar. Any style of beer is fine. It doesn't need to fit in any style. It just needs to be something people will enjoy drinking. This is our chance to show off our brewing skills. Be sure to put your name on your keg(s). If you need assistance keeping your keg cool look for one of the officers who may be able to find a place to keep it chilled. The homebrew room crawl will be right after the commercial tasting which begins about 8pm.

We are planning for NTHBA members to wear silly hats on Friday night. So put on your club shirt and wear your silly hat with pride. I plan to be wearing a Goofy hat, not a wearing a Goofy hat, not a wearing a Goofy hat, a hat of the Disney

Goofy character. That reminds me of a joke. Do you know why Mickey Mouse wanted a divorce from Minnie? Ask me next time you see me. I can't put the answer here. Anyway, look in your closet or wherever and pull out a silly, goofy hat to wear at the Bluebonnet.

There are a lot of competition things happening very soon in addition to the Bluebonnet. There's the ACCF entries due soon and NHC and the next COC. Be sure to check the competition section for details. I will leave that up to Scott. I must say I am having a hard time keeping up with it. All I know is I bottled my entries for the ACCF and Celtic while I was bottling my Bluebonnet entries.

I was unable to attend the brewday at Fred David's due to work commitments. However, I understand there was a good turnout with several newer members watching and learning the brewing process. Thanks Fred and Sue for hosting the brewday at your new place.

Hopefully we are done with the ice and snow for this year. Now it's time for the weather to warm up for a good spring brewing season. I will be bringing a couple of kegs or so

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

to the Bluebonnet so I can make room for some new brews I want to do. I love brewing in the spring when it is cooler but not freezing. I am looking forward to brewing some lighter, refreshing beers for the summer.

In case you have not yet heard, Jimmy Orkin is going to be the director for our Limbo competition in August. Don Trotter has agreed to be Head Judge. Next time you see Jimmy let him know if you would like to help.

A special thanks to Jason Harrington who created some large size versions of the club logo and Limbo logo. Thanks to him we now have pdf, jpg and tiff versions of the artwork. This was of great help so we could send to the LSC president who was working on creating a display for the Hospitality Room at the Bluebonnet.

I'm still waiting to hear ideas from you guys on how to celebrate the club's 25th anniversary. I have received a response about a 25th anniversary slogan. "NTHBA – 25 years – Now that's what WE call head retention." I think that is pretty good. We may have to shorten that if we want to use on shirts. One member has suggested bowling shirts with an embroidered or silk screened logo. This would have to be on a pre-order basis. You would also be able to request your name or whatever be put on the shirt also. I have seen this done by another club and they put their forum

names on the shirt above the pocket. They looked pretty cool. I think a club logo or name on one sleeve and something denoting 25 years on the other sleeve. I am thinking a black or dark navy for color. No decisions have been made at this time. We can discuss at the officer meeting and next club meeting.

I would like to hear from you guys to find out the current member who has been active the longest. At the last club meeting we identified Doug Nett as the oldest actively participating member. He has been a member since 1990. Now that doesn't mean he is the oldest member, he's just been a member longer than anyone else that was there. Kelly Harris and Steve Hacker were not too far behind Doug. If you have been active as a club member since before 1990 let us know.

Clay Mahone has been in touch with Jess Haupt who is the first president for which we have a name. Clay says Jess will come to the 25th anniversary party. I think that would be awesome to have some of older members come and share some stories with us.

I have this lingering feeling I am forgetting to mention something, but there is so much going on right now my brain cannot keep it all together. Good luck to everyone at the Bluebonnet. I hope to see you there and share some brews and some fun times. Don't forget to bring your silly hat and beer for the room crawl. I

hope to be writing about NTHBA winning Bluebonnet Homebrew Club of the year for the third year in a row.

What's Brewin' **By Kimberley Rhea**

Special thanks to Sue and Fred David for hosting the February Brew Day at their new home (it was fabulous). We had a great turn out. I believe we had at least 37 club members in attendance.

Fred David made Mead, Kelly Harris brewed a Dortmund/Export, the Townson Brothers made an Oktoberfest/Marzen and Darrell Simon dropped by for a visit.

While everyone was brewing Mike Grover led us in a BJCP Intro and Guided Tasting of an American Ale.

Our next Brew Day is scheduled for April 10th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Orlando Guerra's home.

Orlando's address is:
7409 Avalon Drive
Plano, TX 75025
972-839-8675

We will have demonstration at the April Brew day on Brewing Electronics from 10am – Noon.

I still need a Brew Day Host for November 2010. Please contact me at socials@nthba.org if you are interested in hosting or have questions about hosting an event.

Kim

Limbo Challenge

By Jimmy Orkin

Our board has appointed me as the Director of our club competition, The Limbo Challenge. We have worked out some of the details for the competition that I will share here.

Dates:

Entries Dates: July 19 through August 5th.

Login at Homebrew Headquarters: August 6th.

Judging at Fred David's house: August 14, 15.

Event on August 28, location TBD.

Entries will be accepted at Homebrew Headquarters and the Wine Maker's Toy Store.

We are listed on the Homebrewers Association website already. We are also listed on the Lone Star Circuit website. Our LSC representative, Orlando Guerra, is working to get the other clubs in the LSC informed of dates.

There are many jobs and responsibilities to be assigned. Don Trotter has volunteered to be the Head Judge again. We will need many judges. Here is a great way to learn to judge or add to your BJCP judging points.

I will start holding planning meetings for the Limbo in April.

If you would like to assist in any aspect of the Limbo, I encourage you to contact me at director@limbocomp.org.

Brew Strong!

Jimmy

Does this spot look like it needs a picture?

Please send an club photo's to damon@brotherhoodbrew.com

Beer Education Arbitrary Accuracy

By Clay Mahone

At February's brew day Mike Grover gave us some great info on the BJCP course and a primer about judging beer. A group of amateurs and experienced club members tasted and scored an unknown commercial APA with Mike's guidance. Once the scores were complete, the beer was revealed to be Sierra Nevada's Pale Ale. By the BJCP guidelines, SN PA is number one on the list for commercial examples but scored an average of 43/50 with this group.

So that got me thinking, "how accurate is this beer judging anyway?" We know that judges' palates are different, that palates fatigue, and that experience plays a key role in finding flavors that should or should not be located. But one would imagine that over a large enough example of controlled judges that they would most often come to similar conclusions. But how similar?

The only data I have is from this small sample of 6 people who would not be considered a controlled sample. Some had drunk more that day than others. Some were experienced, some not. So basically, this doesn't give us a meaningful set of data from which we can extract any useful knowledge, but I ran some numbers anyway.

The average score was 43. The standard deviation of the scores was 3.5. All this really tells us is that we could have expected a similar group to score the same beer somewhere between 39.5 and 46.5. If someone has collected the numbers (and someone probably has) large groups of experienced judges probably have a much tighter scoring field. In massive competitions like the Bluebonnet, my guess is the difference between 1st and second is often less than 1 point. Some great brewers with great beers could enter the same beer in several competitions before it ever places. But they kept on entering beers, probably getting better every time. That means the beer would be different every time which completely wrecks my math skills.

In conclusion, it seems like the math may not mean anything because of the infinitely unquantifiable data that beer brewing brings us. So just brew more beer and get your entries into competitions - cross your fingers!

Next month is the Bluebonnet, so no education events, but April's brew day will bring us "Brew Day Electronics" for you gadget lovers, Cheers!

Clay Mahone
NTHBA Minister of Education
education@nthba.org

The Competitive Edge (Where the action is!)

By Scott Townson

Do you feel the crunch yet? Competition season is fully on us now and things are in high gear! Let's get on with the details:

Bluebonnet registration is closed now. I hope you were able to get all the beers you wanted entered into the competition. There's still judging to accomplish during the first two week-ends in March so come on out and lend a hand. I guarantee you the opportunity to taste some world class beers when you judge the Bluebonnet. It's a good time and an excellent learning opportunity. The judging is taking place at the Coors Brewery Hospitality Suite located at 2550 McMillan Parkway Fort Worth, Tx 76137. [See map here](#)

The next competition deadline is for the Alamo City Cerveza Fest. They're accepting entries between the 6th and the 21st of March. I do hope that you'll enter this competition. It's the second stop on the Lone Star Circuit. We need the representation, you should want the feedback their judges will give you, and I want us to prove who brews the best beer in Texas. I hope you do too. Packing party for this event will be announced at the March club meeting.

For more info click here: <http://www.bexarbrewers.org/>

Very close is the American Homebrewer's Association National Homebrew Competition. The deadline for entries is April the 1st. For information entering this competition, go the AHA website: http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/attachments/0000/2865/NHC_Rules_Regulations.pdf

The club will cover the cost of shipping to this competition. A packing party for this event will be held during the week of March 22nd to March 26th, details to be announced on the Club's Competition Forum. <http://www.nthba.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=4>

(Continued on page 6)

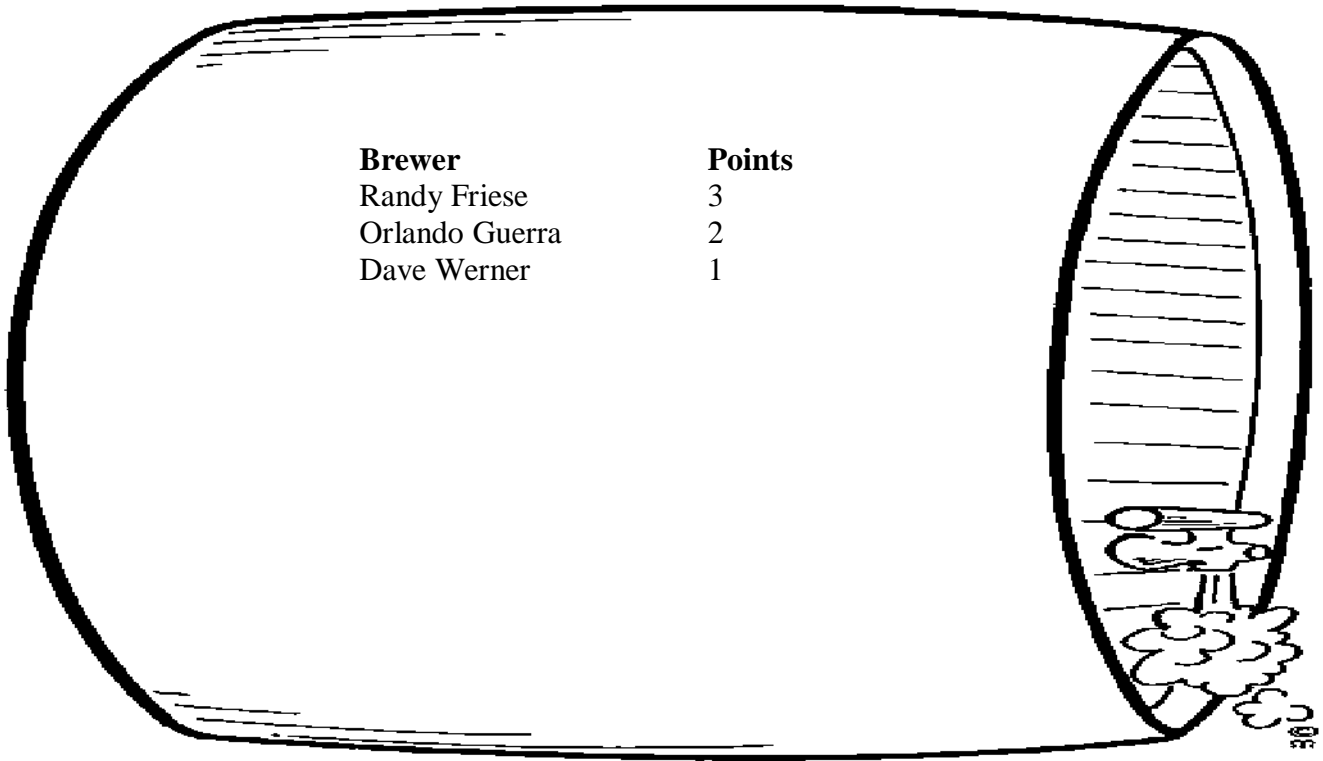
The next Club Only Competition is for **American Ales BJCP style 10**. Please submit your American Pale Ales 10A, your American Amber Ales 10B, and your American Brown Ales 10C to **Home Brew Headquarters** no later than **March the 24th**.

Only one (1) 10-14 oz. green or brown bottles are required for each entry. If you are the winner (2-3) additional bottles will be required for the AHA Club-Only Competition. No swing tops allowed. **Printed crown caps must be blacked-out with a permanent marker and all labels removed to assure anonymity of all en-tries. Each entry should use an AHA/BJCP Bottle ID form: <http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/attachments/0000/0325/bottleid.pdf>**

Does this spot look like it needs a picture?

Please send an club photo's to damon@brotherhoodbrew.com

BREWER ROYALE 2010



AHA Club Only Competition Schedule

Date	Category
March/April '10	American Ales
May '10	Extract Beers
Aug '10	Mead
Sept/Oct '10	Sour Ale
Nov/Dec '10	TBD

- 2010 Competition Schedule -

Competition/Style	Entry Deadline	Competition Awards
Jan/Feb '10 COC English Brown Ale (BJCP style 11)	Jan 22 nd . (Club) Feb. 16 th (AHA)	Feb. 20 th (AHA)
Blue Bonnet Brew-Off All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Feb. 25th	March 19 & 20
Alamo City Cerveza Festival All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	March 21st	April 10
March/April COC American Ales (BJCP Style 10)	March 24th (Club) April 3rd (AHA)	April 10 th (AHA)
AHA NHC All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	April 1st	National Homebrews Conference June 19th
May COC Extract Beers	April 22nd (Club) May 1st (AHA)	May (Club) May 22nd (AHA)
Big Batch Brew Bash English Barleywines (BJCP style 19B).	May 8	May 16, 2010
Celtic Brew-Off Fermented beverages associated with the Celtic regions of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, or Brittany	May 15	Texas Scottish Festival, June 5, 2010
Lunar Rendez-Brew All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	TBD	July 31 st
August COC Mead	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)
Limbo Challenge Beers w/ SG @ 1.050 or below.	July 19 th - August 5 th	August 28
Cactus Challenge All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Mid August	Mid September
September/October COC Sour Ale	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)
Dixie Cup All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Mid-Late Sept.	Mid Oct.
November/December COC Strong Ale	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)

The Brewing Equipment Trading Post



FOR SALE

To list your equipment, include the following information -

- 1 - Description of items
- 2 - Whether it is "For Sale", "Will Trade For _?_" or "Free, Come & Get It"
- 3 - Your name
- 4 - How and when to contact you.

Email Damon at news@nthba.org

NTHBA Officers

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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

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