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# LIVIN' THE BREWS

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



## **OFFICERS ELECTION 2013 EDITION!** **PINTS OF INTEREST**

- THE NEXT CLUB MEETING AT ALLEN WICKERS' IN PLANO —NOV. 13TH
  - BEERING BEER CAMP AT WAYNE YANDELL'S IN PRINCETON—NOV. 17TH
  - CHRISTMAS PARTY AT PAM & WALTER'S IN CARROLLTON —DEC. 8TH
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## **Prez Sez**

The BYeer in review for 2012. It's hard to imagine we are winding up yet another year – with so much going on and packing a lot of events into the past 11 months – things really passed by quickly. This has been a year of change and evolution in several respects. The beer culture within the DFW area has finally taken off and gone through a huge growth spurt. A combination of events (both good and bad) along with new breweries coming online has created a whole new attitude in North Texas. This has also put Texas on the craft beer map more prominently than ever. Combine this with the growth we are seeing in the local homebrew clubs – things have never been busier.

One of the key things for our club going forward is what level of engagement between the clubs and commercial entities we want to see. We also need to address the fact that there are so many competition, event and on-the-job training opportunities and how do we allocate time and money to those areas. This is a great problem to have though and I look forward to seeing where our club plans to go next under the 2013 officer's guidance. We experimented with a lot of new ideas – some came off great – others were “interesting” at best – but that was the plan all along – make 2012 the year of experimentation. I expect to see us hone in on the things that worked best and make them best of breed events going forward.

Just to recap a little – this year saw us brewing in a brewery under construction, we had club meetings at 3 different breweries, we had some of the biggest brew-days in our history, club membership is larger and more diverse than ever, the upcoming Burning Beer event and we worked closely with beer sharing and competition event more than ever – Bluebonnet, Brew Riot, Labor of Love, etc.

Lastly I want to thank my fellow officers, those that regularly attended the officer's meetings and the general membership of the club that helped me and the board pull together the things we did this year. Without a lot of help from many-many people in the club – we would never have been able to do what we did. It was by no means perfect – but remember you get what you pay for! I really feel fortunate to have been part of what I think is one of the premiere clubs in the country and have made so many new friends over the past year – the biggest benefit of them all in my opinion. I look forward to supporting the next group of officers as Past President in any way I can. The most important aspect of this role is to ensure continuity and consulting and I look forward to it – not to mention a special project or two next year!

Thanks everyone and please remember to vote early and often at the next club meeting J and I hope to see folks at Burning Beer and the infamous Christmas Party!

**—Chuck**

# Competition Corner

By Einar Jonsson

## Lone Star Circuit News

The winners of The Dixie Cup, the final Lone Star Circuit competition, we're recently announced. I am proud to say we had some winners.

Don VanSlyke won 3rd in Pilsner, with his German Pilsner, "Gunter's Secret" The brewing team, I is I Brewery (Ryan Davidson and Kevin Wajert), won 2nd in Specialty Beer, with "Gimme S'more Stout".

Our club finished a respectable 4th place this year, with 77 points. The by Area Mashtronauts came in 3rd, with 99 points. The Austin Zealots led the circuit for most of the year, And had a commanding 51 point lead, going into this year's Dixie Cup. However, The Foam Rangers put in a huge showing in their home competition, out scoring The Zealots 98 - 41, to win back The Dixie Cup, and overtake them in the standings, and win The Lone Star Circuit, 282 - 276.

Overall, we had a good year in the Lone Star Circuit. We won back the Bluebonnet Trophy in March. In August, we had a very strong showing in our own Limbo Challenge, where our results over the last couple of years were less than stellar. We improved on our 2011 results, where we finished 6th in team standings. We had plenty of accomplishments to be proud of this year in the LSC, and I think this club is capable of a bigger year next year. I would like to congratulate everyone who contributed to our performance this year on a job well done!

## 2012 Queen of Beer Competition

The Queen of Beer Competition is a women's home brew competition, hosted by The Hangtown Association of Zymurgy Enthusiasts (H.A.Z.E), in Placerville, California. Our own Melinda Beyer and Kim Rhea won 1st place in Specialty and Lambic category, with a Straight Lambic, and 3rd place with a Fruit Lambic. They won 2nd place in

Porters, with a Brown Porter. Their Straight Lambic also won 2nd place in Best of Show. Be sure and congratulate Melinda and Kim next time you see them.

COC, Brewer Royale, and Brewer of The Year

The final COC entries will be judged soon, and final standings and winners for Brewer Royale and Brewer of The Year will be announced at the Christmas Party in December.

—Einar

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## NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Elections for 2013 club officers will be held at the November club meeting at Allen Wickers in Plano. Please take a look at the bios in this newsletter so you will be able to make an informed decision come voting day. Currently, there are a few open positions if you want to be more involved now is your time.

If anyone else would like to run for an officer position and just hasn't got around to letting us know, there is still time. Just send a short bio to [secretary@nthba.org](mailto:secretary@nthba.org) or to any of the other club officers before the meeting or at the meeting. We will do our best to get you on the ballot. Everyone is welcome—you don't have to be an experienced homebrewer or have even been a member before (although current membership is required). The club is what we make it. If you think you have something to contribute, consider becoming an officer. It's a lot of fun and a great experience.

Look over the following candidates bios before the next meeting.

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## Biography for Graham Keffee

Howdy everyone! I have been a homebrewer for nearly six years – I started in my basement apartment in Ithaca, NY after my first semester of graduate school. Through many bad batches of beer (and many more good ones), along with many great exchanges with people in our club, I have gained valuable experience in how beer is made and what good beer should taste like. Further, my interest in homebrewing has led to a real passion and appreciation for craft beer in general. I think that I can carry this passion for craft beer into an officer position with North Texas Home Brewers Association, and in turn help give back to the club that has given so much to me. As an officer of our club, I would like to help maintain or even improve the already great quality of our newsletter by penning articles about the craft beer movement in Texas and even nationally, plus chronicling my own brewing exploits and beer-related travels across the country as they may come up. Additionally, I would like to work with the other officers to ensure the continued financial stability of our club (and to keep having good raffle items at our monthly meetings).

Thanks, and Cheers!  
Graham Keefe

## Biography for Kim Rhea

I have been a member of the NTHBA for about 7 years. Richard and Debbie Harris had a lot to do with that. Debbie was always inviting me to brew days, parties and of course the Bluebonnet. How I love that Bluebonnet. I look forward to it every year.

In August 2008, the Cougar Team formed. Melinda Beyer and I started brewing with extracts and have now moved quite successfully to all grain. Our team has entered many competitions. My favorite beers to brew are the Cougar Wit and our Lambic.

I served as the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP-Socials in 2010 and 2011. I have also been very involved with the Bluebonnet for several years.

I have two wonderful children. Sarah who is 25 years old has now graduated from nursing school at TWU and is employed at Baylor University Hospital. She is getting married this May. My son, Hayden, is 21 years old and is currently pursuing his degree in computer science.

I have really enjoyed being involved with the NTHBA. I love meeting all of the members, selling tickets at the club meetings and learning about “Good Beer”.

## Biography for David Lee

David Lee is an active club member and the current Treasurer for NTHBA. He has been active in increasing club spending, driving social sites, maintaining club memberships, and picking up sweet ass raffle prizes! David is running for an officer's position to continue to driving these items in addition; he hopes to tackle the whole membership issue. What is that issue??? Well it's a pain in the butt to read hand written forms; also it would be nice for folks to be able to sign up online. David loves this club, the people (members) and brewing so he is happy to help where he can!

# *Let's Coagulate!*

by Barrett Tillman

Over the course of homebrewing I have learned some new terms. Like the murky mass that forms when chilling the wort is called cold break. Tiny lumps of protein matter gathered together or coagulated to form a cloud at the bottom of the kettle.

Proteins precipitate and fall out of solution when the wort is cooled fast. A good cold break means the wort was been boiled long enough at a decent pH for the positive and negative particles to equalize and stick together.

A beer with good break can result in crystal a clear beer —given the turbid mass is left behind.

I would like to continue this quest to for clarity by running for NTHBA president next year. Considering the club members time and dedication to my own efforts as a young brewer. I would like to extend a positive reach to our incoming membership. The goal is to make better beer, compete with grace, focus on education and to boil-over at the parties. I have a strong notion that we are boiling too short and our wort's a little murky let's turn the flame up get excited again!

As president I will attempt the **4 x 4** method focusing on doing four things well:

- Education (4 segments in-depth)
- Brewdays (Style Focused)
- Competitions (Ambassadors needed)
- Parties (Oh Yeah, Great Beer!)

I would like you to join me in this effort. Like protein matter lets gather together and set free some great beers —great brewers. Your involvement is needed for success. I will work to organize our thoughts so that we are a cohesive group. Lets chat, if you have ideas let get things rolling. I am looking for a small army of home brewers willing to learn. I am seeking past NHTBA presidents for leadership and guidance. I envision taking the load off our established members by training our new members. This also means reaching out to the local breweries. This week is Dallas Beer Week. Please show your appreciation by ordering beers made locally.



Contact me at [secretary@nthba.org](mailto:secretary@nthba.org) if you would like to get involved. I would love to see us uniquely engaged in the Dallas craft beer movement!

—Barrett

## NTHBA Officers

### President

Chuck Homola  
president@nthba.org

### 1st vice president

Einar Jonsson  
competitions@nthba.org

### 2nd vice president

Jason Starnes  
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### Treasurer

David Lee  
treasurer@nthba.org

### Minister of education

Aaron Wolin  
education@nthba.org

### Secretary

Barrett Tillman  
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### 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)