

# LIVIN' THE BREWS



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

November Quick Glance:



[Club meeting November 11th](#)

[at Rugby House Pub](#)

## Prez Sez

By Walter Hodges

The year is winding down and the dust from the competitions has settled. Unfortunately, the Foam Rangers knocked us down to third place in the Lone Star Circuit with a great showing at the Dixie Cup. Oh well, there is always next year.

While the competitions may be done for the year, the club activities certainly are not. We still have a couple of brew days, a club meeting and the popular Christmas party coming up. Mark your calendar now for the Christmas party on Friday, December 5th from 6:30-11:30 at the Plaza Theater in Carrollton. The club keggerator will be in attendance, so be sure to bring some great beer to share. Watch your email for information about the party as we get closer to December 5<sup>th</sup>.

We had a great response to the survey, so I thank everyone who took time to provide us with feedback. Jimmy and I are working on reviewing the results and I hope to have those available to the membership soon. This is your club and we want to make it better for you.

Be sure to attend this month's meeting at the Rugby House in Plano, as we will be electing officers for 2015.

*Prosit!*

*Walter*



## Candidates for 2015 Board of Officers

**Name:** James Smith "Smitty"

**Member Since:** May/June 2013

**Brewing Experience:**

I am a relatively new brewer compared to many in the club. First batch was all extract on January 26, 2013, so going on 2 years. After this first batch, I have done 95% all-grain using just a simple pot and cooler method. Right now, I keep things fairly simple, but consistent, and just try to make a drinkable beer. I am into most styles of beer except the hardcore sours.

**Interests:**

Of course, I enjoy the experiences of making things, whether it is beer, food, or other DIY type things. Tasting commercial examples as well as a moderate amount of collecting is also of interest to me. My other interests include motorcycles, boating, and DIY projects when I have time.

**Goals should I be re-elected:**

I would say first and foremost, continue to progress the club forward and follow, wherever feasible, the recommendations of the club set forth by the recent survey respondents. My ultimate goal is to make the club as appealing as possible for its current and future members.

**Name:** Jimmy Orkin

**Member Since:** 2005

**Interests:**

I have been home brewing for about 14 years. I have been active in the NTHBA for about 5 years. I have an interest in improving my brewing processes. I have built some electronics and structures to help me improve my beer. Automation of the mash process and fermentation temperature control is my focus.

My favorite beers are German Hefeweizen and American hoppy beers.

I was president of the NTHBA for the 2009 year. I assisted in the development of the current club bylaws. I am your current Treasurer. I have tried to bring transparency to the Treasurer job by reporting accurate information about the clubs finances.

I am the Director for the 2015 Bluebonnet Brewoff.

**Goals should I be re-elected:**

I would like to be the treasurer again for 2015. I will continue to supply a treasurer's report for the monthly newsletter and the financial reports on the club's website that clearly shows the income and expenses to the club.

I would appreciate your vote for NTHBA Officer for 2015.

**Name:** Walter Hodges

**Member Since:** 1993ish

**Interests:**

I was always wondered about the brewing process and after reading an article about homebrewing, I was hooked. I like to compete with my beer and feel that competition has helped me improve my beers, not that I always agree with the feedback I get.

My favorite styles are Kolsch, Hefeweizen, Porter and Doppelbocks (as long as they are not too malty).

**Goals should I be re-elected:**

I am willing to fill any position that is available. As president this last year, I was focused on getting the club back to basics, and with a great board we accomplished a lot. Next year, I would like to take action on the survey we just completed. We received a lot of great comments and suggestions to make the club better. Along with working on the survey results, I want to continue publishing the newsletter at the start of each month and update the club web site.

**Name:** Mike Grover

**Member Since:** 2002

**Interests:**

I have been brewing since 2001, and my favorite styles are altbiers, IPAs, and American pale ales. I am also a minority partner in Cedar Creek Brewery in Seven Points, Texas. I first took an interest in trying more “adventurous” beers in college in the late 1980s and never looked back. I previously served as an NTHBA officer from 2006-2009, including President in 2008, and I am the current 1<sup>st</sup> V.P./Competition Coordinator. I am also hosting the January 2015 club brew day – my 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive January brew day! I had some other interests outside of beer but can’t remember them. Pros’t!

**Goals should I be re-elected:** I will fill in where needed, but ideally would like to take on the Minister of Education (aka MOE) role and try to revitalize our club’s education activities.

**Name: Brian Beyer**

**Member Since: 2000**

Interests:

I saw a home brew kit at a hobby back in 1992 while I was in college and I have not looked back since. I like to keep my brewing simple, gravity tower, single mash, and an immersion chiller. In the last few years I have gotten more interested in all types of sour beers. I also do some wood working and DIY projects.

Goals should I be re-elected:

To make sure the news letter gets out at the first of the month, but I am willing to help out in any capacity needed. I have previously served the club as “party boy”.

## The First Sip

### By James Smith

As we close out 2014, it is time to elect officers for next year, as the Walter has noted. I have enjoyed my time serving the club and am not hesitating to once again run for a seat on the board. Hopefully, you are pleased with the performance of the 2014 officers, including me. If so, I would be happy to serve you for 12 more months.

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

- The Holiday Party will occur on Friday, December 5 starting at 7PM. The location is Plaza Arts Theater in Carrollton.
- The December Brew Day will occur on December 13 from 9am to 4PM at Mrs. Kim Rhea’s house.
- 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](#)

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](mailto:socials@nthba.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers!

James, aka “Smitty

## Competition News

### By Mike Grover

O’zapft Is!

Results are in for O’zapft Is!, the all German beer competition hosted by Fort Worth’s Cap & Hare. In spite of a limited number of entries, NTHBA did quite well with three medals:

Leroy Gharis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Vienna Lager
Richard Harris	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Bock
Don VanSlyke	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Oktoberfest/Marzen

Congrat's guys!

### Dixie Cup

The Dixie Cup results are also in. The Dixie Cup, hosted by Houston's Foam Rangers, is the final competition of this year's Lone Star Circuit. NTHBA had a decent showing. Here are our winners:

Abhishek Chinchalkar	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Gunner's Ale (Ordinary Bitter)
Barrett Tillman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Blackmanbrew.com (Straight Lambic)
Jonathan Barrows	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Mead Curtains (Open Category Mead)
Doug Nett	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Hailey's Strong Scotch Ale
Jimmy Orkin	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Here's to Scott Townson (Weizen/Weissbier)

Great work! The Dixie Cup is really big and medals are hard to come by.

### Lone Star Circuit Standings

Points were fairly evenly distributed amongst the contenders at O'zapft Is! However, host club Foam Rangers ran away with the Dixie Cup with a whopping 82 points. Not sure I've ever seen one club rack up so many points in one competition. Is it a sign that the Foam Rangers are back with a vengeance, or did they just focus all of their energy on the Dixie Cup? Time will tell. The Austin Zealots finished solidly in second place with 55 points, making them the runaway LSC winners this year. Unfortunately our 10 points was not enough to overcome the Foam Rangers' huge win, and NTHBA will finish in third place in the LSC standings ahead of the Bay Area Mashtronauts. A solid showing for a good effort! Thanks to everyone who entered beers on behalf of the club this year.



- Austin Zealots 269 pts
- Foam Rangers 164 pts
- NTHBA 150 pts
- Bay Area Mashtronauts 121 pts

### Brewer of the Year

Here are the unofficial final Brewer of the Year standings. Points are awarded for first, second, and third place finishes in style categories for all Lone Star Circuit homebrew competitions. As you can see, we have a tie for first!

Jimmy Orkin	20 pts
Barrett Tillman	20 pts
Don VanSlyke	19 pts
Doug Nett	14 pts
Leroy Gharis	14 pts
Walter Hodges	7 pts
Randy Friese	6 pts

### Club Only Competition (COC)

As announced at our October club meeting (if you could hear!), here are the winners for the second-to-last COC (German Beers):

Leroy Gharis	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Vienna Lager
Barrett Tillman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Berliner Weisse
Barrett Tillman	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Dunkel

The November COC features Holiday Beers. This includes category 21B (Christmas/Winter Specialty Spiced Beer) plus Holiday or winter-themed beers in categories 16E (Belgian Specialty Ale), 20 (Fruit Beer), 21 (Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer – *think pumpkin*), and 23 (Specialty Beer). – **Entry deadline Saturday, November 22nd, 2014.** Results will be announced at the Christmas party along with our Brewer Royale and Brewer of the Year winners.

### Brewer Royale Standings

Leroy Gharis	11 pts
Barrett Tillman	6 pts
Charlene Hoke	3 pts
Linda Rankin	2 pts
David Lee	1 pt
Jimmy Orkin	1 pt

As you can see, the standings are very tight. Even if you don't have any points yet, a first place finish in the final COC would put you into a tie for third place. Good luck to all!

## Looking Ahead

Check the website for the complete 2015 Club Only Competition schedule. **In particular, note that the January and February categories are high gravity styles and extract beers, respectively.** The 2016 schedule will be set by next year's club officers. (<http://www.nthba.org/content/coc-schedule>).

## COC Information

Entries for the Brewer Royale can be dropped off at Homebrew Headquarters, Dallas Homebrew/ The Winemaker's Toy Store, or you can bring them to me at club meetings, brew days, or club parties. **Due to the larger numbers of entries we have been receiving, we now need TWO bottles for each entry in the club only competition.** This is necessary so that we have enough beer to conduct a "mini best-of-show" to determine the winners. Each bottle must 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](http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_BottleID.pdf)). Limit one entry per subcategory and two entries per club member.

Pros't!

Mike Grover, NTHBA Competition Coordinator

# The Treasure's Report

## By Jimmy Orkin

Summary:

Equity August end \$5,742.39.

Equity September end \$5,697.33

New members in September: 13.

Current members August end: 159.

Current members at the time of this article: 166.

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

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

I believe the club is going to close the year down about a \$1,000 for the year. We had some expenses to cover for last year that we will not have going forward. We also had some keggerator maintenance that we should not see again for a while. The cost of the Christmas party facility is substantial.

We will have full year of data to examine at the end of this year. We will have a discussion about where the club spends money in January so we can decide if the current expenditures match the members' priorities.

## The Bluebonnet Brewoff

We had our October planning meeting at the Irving Convention Center (ICC). The ICC is a large facility. We have the opportunity to do much more with the Bluebonnet at the ICC such as a Vendor Exposition area, cigar rolling/pairing event and Brewers talk.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 23 at 1:00PM at Humperdinks NW Highway. I need to firm up the back room at Humperdinks.

We really need artwork for the Bluebonnet Steins, Taster glasses and T-shirts. We have run out of runway on the artwork. I am now shopping for a commercial graphic artist to create the artwork. If you do graphic artwork and are interested in a job or know someone that does, please contact me at treasurer@nthba.org.

That is it for this month.

## Bluebonnet 2015 Committee Heads and Key Contributors

- Director – Jimmy Orkin
- Assistant Director/2016 Director – Einar Jonsson
- Judging Location - TBD?
- Head Judge – Mike Grover
- Beer Wrangler – Danny Kocurek – Knights Asst: Kyle Mackay
- Hotel Contract – Richard Dobson
- Website Update – Brad Berven
- Registration System (BCOEM+) - Matt Morriss
- Data – David Lee, Don Trotter
- Treasurer – Brian Schoolcraft
- Case Box Coordinator – Einar Jonsson
- Door Prize Drawing Coordinator – Kris DeMaria
- Medals/Awards – Steve Wesstrom
- Stein Coordinator – Steve Hacker
- Pub Crawl Coordinator – Brad Berven/Jamison Kirmser
- Head Steward – Jamison Kirmser
- Glasses/Shirts/Hats – Jimmy Orkin+
- Registration Table/Registration Packages –Carolyn, Sue, Jane, Fred
- Program Editor – Kyle LaPointe
- Hospitality Room Coordinator – Walter Hodges
- Commercial Tasting Coordinator – Mike Robichaud
- 1st Round Judging Meal Coordinator – Kim Rhea
- Advertising, Marketing and Artwork – Just Dave

Brew Strong!

Jimmy



## NTHBA Officers

### President

Walter Hodges  
president@nthba.org

### 1st vice president

Mike Grover  
firstvp@nthba.org

### 2nd vice president

James Smith  
socials@nthba.org

### Treasurer

Jimmy Orkin  
treasurer@nthba.org

### Minister of education

OPEN

### Secretary

Brian Beyer  
secretary@nthba.org

### Past President

Barrett Tillman  
pastpres@nthba.org

## Our Supporting Home Brew Stores



**Dallas Home Brew**  
1500 N I-35E, Suite 116  
Carrollton TX 75006  
866-417-1114  
WWW.DallasHomeBrew.com



300 N. Coit Road, Suite 134  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-234-4411  
www.homebrewhq.com

## 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](http://www.nthba.org)