



LIVIN' THE BREWS



Prez Sez

By Bo Turton

OK fellow brewers, it's my turn to take the wheel and see what I can do. As President of the club, one of my responsibilities includes the front-page article in the club newsletter. I'm told I can write about anything so I will try to be informative and tell you what is going on within the club and our hopes for the future.

To begin with, in the past 5 years since I have become one of the club officers, we have worked hard to change the direction of the club. We found ways to provide education in the form of brew-days, in-club brew competitions and 4 club parties filled with great food

January Meeting:

Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7 PM
**BJ's Restaurant and
Brewhouse**

2609 S Stemmons Freeway
Lewisville, TX 75067
(972) 459-9700

and homebrewed beer.

For 2004 we have taken our second step towards education. A new officer position, "Minister of Education," will replace "Member at Large." Pat Kruger has accepted this new position and will manage educational topics for the club. Any recommendations on topics for education, please speak with Pat or any club officer.

Starting January 1st, dues will be increased to \$20 {electronic newsletter} and \$30 {Hardcopy} per year. Dues will be pro-rated to 50% if a person joins after Jan. 1. The multi-year memberships will be discontinued. The decision to increase dues was a hard first decision of the year, however it's necessary. For \$20 - \$30 you get 4 great parties with all the home brew and food that you can eat, brew days with beer, Bluebonnet room crawl invitations and all the other club events, WHAT A DEAL!!!

So what about 2004, what is coming up with in the club? To begin with Bill Dubas is our new party boy!! He will help

manage the up coming brew days. We have brew days set up for both January and February so we are off to a great start. If you would like to have a brew day at your home, please contact any club officer or just speak with Bill directly.

Bluebonnet is in March and we have great plans for our room during the room crawl. The theme is Clone brews and we need kegs for this event – let's start brewing those beers. When we have more information on the four club parties and what the themes might be, I will keep you informed.

Finally, I would like to encourage all members to join our MSN group web site. <http://groups.msn.com/NorthTexasHomeBrewAssociationHomePage> When you join, please indicate that you want same day club updates. This web site is a means of communication to its members. I have the ability to e-mail all members about brew day and other club events. The entire public has access to the site, but only members can post messages, send e-mails and upload pictures and documents. To become a member you must have a manager accept your request so please type a little message so we know who you are when you join.

Good Luck and Happy brewing

Bo Turton

BREWER ROYALE 2004

Style of the Month

Nov '03	Barleywine & Imp. Stout	Cat. 12
April '04	Mead	Cat. 25
May '04	Extract Brews	N/A
August	Wheat Beer	Cat. 17
September	Smoked Beer	Cat. 23
November	IPA	Cat. 7

<u>Standings</u>	<u>Points</u>
Jim Layton	4
Bill Dubas	2



you will be known as Brewer Royale and receive a gift certificate to Homebrew Headquarters. We of course need judges for these events. What better way to lower your bar tab, by tasting free homebrew. Below is the COC calendar for 2004:

- April – Mead
- May – Extract Beer
- August – Wheat Beer
- September – Smoked Beer
- November – IPA

The first COC is not until April, so get busy brewing!

The Board of Commitment will be back for 2004. If you have not heard of the Board of Commitment let me explain... I will be coming around at the January meeting looking for commitments from you to enter beers into the Bluebonnet. Several months before each leg of the Gulf Coast competitions, I will again, come around with a new Board of Commitment. I will ask each of you to commit to entering at least two beers into each competition. We have roughly 150 active members, so, if each member sends two beers, we as a club will send 300 beers to compete. 300 beers at each competition should be enough to help us reach the goal of winning one other leg of the competition.

VIVA LA NORTH TEXAS HOMEBREWERS!!!



Brewer Royale Update

By Walter Hodges

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your 1st Vice President for 2004. As 1st Vice President, I will serve as the competition coordinator. I will pester you to judge Club Only Competitions and rally you for the big shows like the Bluebonnet. My first order of business is to thank Joe Scivique for his hard work during the last two years. I will have some big shoes to fill.

Now that the butt kissing is over with, I would like to outline my agenda for 2004.

First, and foremost, I want to make certain that we retain the Bluebonnet. Entry dates are coming up very quickly, so we all need to get busy brewing for the February 21st early, or February 28th late entry deadlines. The Bluebonnet is March 19-

20. If you have never attended the Bluebonnet, you have missed out on some great fun and beer.

Second, I want us to win at least one of the other of the Gulf Coast shows. We have the brewing talent in this club to win them all if we really focus and get our entries in. Judging by the quality of the 22 kegs of beer we had at the Christmas party, there should be plenty of 12-ounce soldiers going off to do battle and bring us pride. We will schedule packing parties for the Sunshine Challenge and Dixie Cup. All you have to do is show up and pack your beer. Oh, and maybe sample some homebrew. The club pays for the shipping.

Thirdly, I would like everyone to participate in the Club Only Competitions (COC). These are friendly competitions within the club. Enter throughout the year and build enough points,



What's on Tap?

By Bill Dubas

January 2004! It's the start of a new year for the North Texas Homebrewers Association!

Bo Turton, our club's 2nd VP (a.k.a. "party boy/Social Chairman") for the last few years, decided to step up and take over the President's position for 2004, so I am filling the void by taking over his vacated 2nd VP position. Bo has done a SUPER job as Social Chairman (a big round of applause please), so it will be a tough job to fill. Lucky for me that Bo has already laid the groundwork and all I have to do is make sure that I don't run the ship aground on some uncharted desert isle. I have no plans to change Bo's successful calendar of social events, but I do want to possibly add a few events. More about that later.

As the job title indicates, I will be responsible for organizing all of the club's social activities outside of the regular monthly club meetings. This includes the following:

Club Parties: We seemed to have a great turnout for all four of the club parties in 2003, so I plan to continue with that amount for 2004. I'll organize one party per quarter (spring, summer, Oktoberfest, and Christmas) and the format of each will be the same as 2003. The club will provide the main dish, the members will provide the beer and side dishes, and the host will provide the location. The one thing that I do plan to change is the club's

involvement in the planning of the party. Up until now, the hosts had to do most of the work and the club just cut them a check for expenses after it was over. In my opinion, the club needs to shoulder more of this responsibility. I want these parties to be "turn-key" operations so the hosts are just providing the location. If you are interested in hosting a club party for 2004, see me at a club meeting or shoot me an email.

Brew Days: Brew days serve two purposes. 1) They are a great social event, and 2) they are a great way for new members to learn how to brew. This is especially true for members that are thinking of making the leap to all-grain. But why do

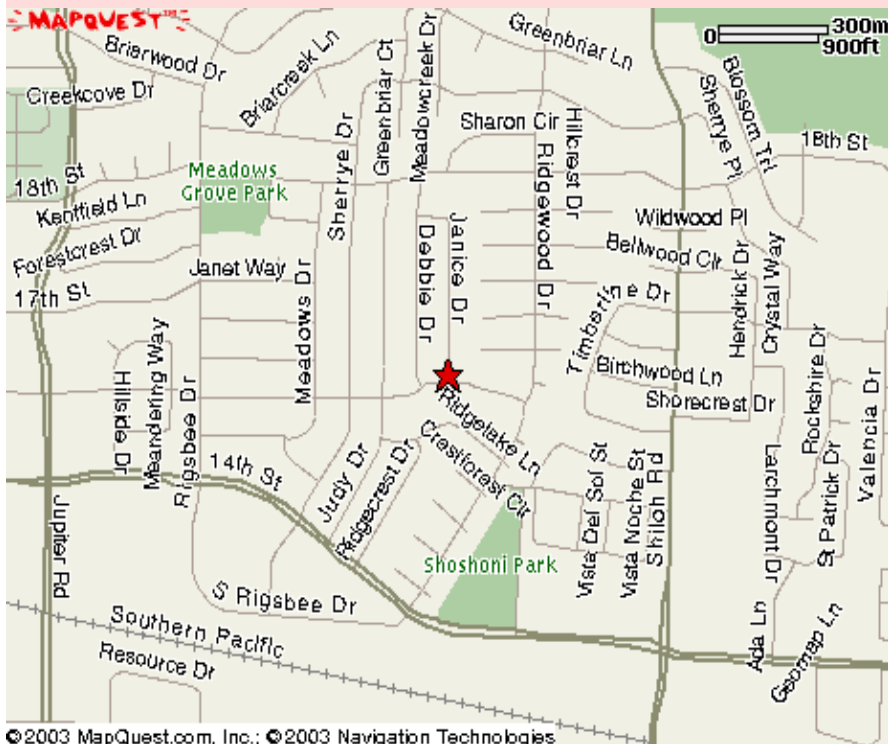
we have to stop there? Brew days are a perfect forum for the club to conduct other educational events too. At the last officers' meeting, I proposed that the club's Member-at-Large become more of an educational chairman. The social chairman and the educational chairman could then work together on the brew days to make them even more beneficial. This would also help the brew day hosts by allowing them to brew their beer, as they intended to do, rather than entertain the guests, which is what often happens. The other officers accepted this proposal, and Pat Kruger volunteered to fill the role of Member-at-Large/Minster of Education. My plan is to hold six brew days this

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Brew Days:

Paul Doxey will host the first brew day of the year on January 10.

Paul's address is (also see map provided):
 1509 Janice Drive
 Plano TX 75074
 Phone: 972-578-4740



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year. If you are interested in hosting a brew day for 2004, see me at a club meeting or shoot me an email. We already have volunteers for January and February, so look for the dates and locations elsewhere in the newsletter.

Bluebonnet: The Bluebonnet is THE social event of the year for the club. While the Bluebonnet Committee is in charge of most events, each club is responsible for decorating their own club room for the room crawl. A team of volunteers from each club generally shares this responsibility. There is also the possibility that the participating clubs will be asked to provide home-brewed beer for a hospitality suite this year. As social chairman, I will be beating the bushes for donations of food and kegged beer for our club room and the hospitality suite, just like Bo has done in the past. I will also be looking for volunteers to help decorate the club room on Friday evening and clean it up at the end of the weekend. If you are interested in helping out with the Bluebonnet room crawl, see me at a club meeting or shoot me an email.

Other Events: You may remember that we handed out our second annual club survey this past November, during the elections, to get more opinions on how the club could better serve its members. While I have not yet seen the results of this year's survey, I remember from last year that there was some interest in other social activities. This includes pub crawls, brewery visits, road trips, and social events with other DFW clubs, etc. While

our club does not have the budget to be able to provide these activities as part of your membership fee, there is certainly the possibility of providing them as extra cost activities. I have a few activities in mind and will share them with you in the upcoming months.

Well, that about does it for this month. I want to thank everyone for electing me to a third term on the board of officers. I hope that I can meet your expectations.

What is a Brew Day?

By Bill Dubas

If you are new to the club, you are probably wondering what the hell a "brew day" is. Well, I'll tell you. Brew days are edu-

cational/social events where club members (and **prospective** club members) meet to brew beer. These brew days are the perfect opportunity for existing members to learn from each other, and for non-members to see if they really want to get into this hobby.

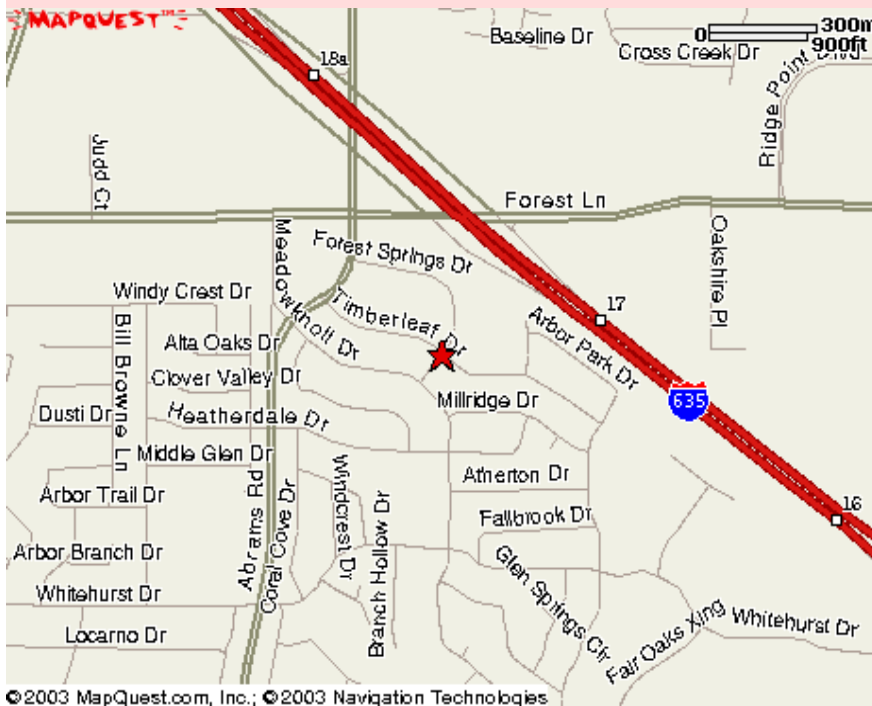
The host of a brew day volunteers the use of his garage/driveway/backyard brewery for a day of homebrewing. In return, the club will pay for the host's ingredients for his batch of beer. This can be a 5-gal extract batch, a 5-gal all-grain batch, or a 10-gal all-grain batch. If the host is making a 10-gal batch, the club asks the host to donate half of that batch back to the club so that it can be served at a future brew

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Upcoming Brewdays:

Bruce Fabijonas will host brew day on February 15.

Bruce's address is :
9502 Timberleaf
Dallas TX 75243
Phone: 214-343-7495



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day or other social event. Everyone else carts their brewing equipment and ingredients over to the host's house and fires up their kettles. The result is a whole lotta brewin' goin' on.

The club will make every attempt to provide a 5-gal keg of homebrew to serve at the brew day. Attendees are responsible for their own lunch. Usually a few pizzas are ordered and everyone chips in. Hopefully we can also arrange for a short educational demonstration to be held at each brew day.

Upcoming Brew Days:

Paul Doxey will host the first brew day for the year on January 10. Paul's address is (also see map provided):

1509 Janice Drive
Plano TX 75074
Phone: 972-578-4740

The second brew day for 2004 will be the annual NTHBA Presidents' Brew Day. All current and ex-presidents of the club are invited to this brew day and the club will pay for their ingredients. Bruce Fabijonas will host this brew day on February 15. Bruce's address is (also see map provided):

9502 Timberleaf
Dallas TX 75243
Phone: 214-343-7495

Brew days usually start mid-morning and run until early evening, so you can come for the whole day to brew, or just pop in for an hour or two to socialize as a break from running errands.

Christmas Party Report

By Bo Turton

The year-end Christmas party: it's a time the brew club gets together to enjoy one last home brew before the year is over and to prepare for the up coming year. This year's party was hosted by Walter & Pam. What a great location, thanks so much for your support throughout the year.

Ernest from "Rear of the Steer Bar-B-Que" donated an entire smoked pig for the event. What a deal for the club, thank you Ernest and Myra for all your efforts keeping all of us brewers full of food.

I didn't really keep count of



Ernest Providing for Hungry Brewers

those brewers that showed up but if I had to guess, we had close, if not more than 70 people who showed up throughout the night. The party started around 6:00 and went on until 1:30 AM for those late brewers

that couldn't help but sample every brew that was brought. This party was a record HIGH for the club!!! 21 Kegs of home brewed beer. We were drinking a beer saying we only have 19 kegs which was a previous record when in walked Paul and Kelly, both with a full keg of beer. "That's it 21 kegs", our best turn out ever. Thanks to every one that provided beer. Your efforts have allowed all of us to enjoy the great taste of home brewed beer.

One thing that I noticed was we had a lot of new members and most of them brought Kegs of great beer to share with all of us. These are members who came to past brew days to learn and meet other fellow brewers. Here are people that had an interest, came to learn and now they are active members provide brew for the clubs. I hope the trend will continue thanks for your support.



Charlie Walker, BIG MOHUNKER winner

When drawing for the "Big Mohunker", Ken Woodson came first and he wasn't present (home sick) so we drew again and Charlie Walker took home the prize. Enjoy and may all your brews stay cool! Remember
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ber, the Big Mohunker is given out each year and we draw the name from all those old no good raffle tickets you turned in throughout the year.

Finally, we had a contest for the best home brewed beer that was brought to the club Christmas party. The rules were you drink and vote on the winner. The only problem I had was 21 KEGS!!! How could a sample all of them, Well I didn't but I voted on what I had tried and carried on. There was a tie between Steve Atkinson with his 18th Century Scottish Ale and Paul Doxey with his double Bock so we split the prize. Next year we should all go out polish off both kegs and revote. The BIG BEER SHOW DOWN!!! I'm sure we all might remember it is the morning. I'm sure the lampshades would come next.

So that's it!!! 2003 is over and we are all looking forward to 2004. This will be a better year, more brew-day, more education and if we are lucky!! More kegs of home brew for the entire up coming club events. Remember, we need kegs for the Bluebonnet room crawl.

Happy Brewing

Bo Turton



Brewer Royale Winners at The Party: (Left to Right): 2nd Place: Kelly Harris, 3rd Place: Steve Atkinson, Steve Haney and Don Trotter.



The Professor

By Pat Kruger

Thanks to all who voted for me in the recent club election. For those critical voters that helped carry me over the top, I have to say, "The Czech (Pils) is in the mail".

I have taken the position of Member at Large with the new duty of helping provide home-brew education for the club. I guess I must have gotten the position due to my status as an expert in the brewing sciences. An expert, by the way, isn't a person that knows all the answers. He just knows where to find them. I have found a great many answers to my brewing questions right here in our own club. We've got quite a few veterans and even a few grand champion winners in our midst with a lot of knowledge to share. I plan on picking their brains and spreading the knowledge to all who are interested through demonstration projects, talks and white papers.

In the past we tried to give tech talks during the monthly meetings. Through no fault of the presenters, they haven't worked out very well. This is mostly because the speaker has to compete with the distractions caused by some members socializing (which is very important itself), wait staff performing their duties, and the general activity going on just outside of our meeting. So this time we plan on doing most of our educational projects during the scheduled club brewdays. A lot of our newer members already show up during these events just to learn from observing an

actual brewing session.

Our first official demonstration will be at the brewday hosted by Paul Doxey on January 10. I'll be doing a show-and-tell demonstration of kegging a beer I made recently at Tom Garner's brewday. For those who are still bottling and want to know about the care and feeding of keg systems, this is your opportunity to learn. In the future, we hope to offer some of the following subjects, either as demonstrations or talks:

- ☞ Yeast culturing and yeast banks
- ☞ Sanitation issues
- ☞ Beer judging 101 (detecting off flavors)
- ☞ Brewing specialties: lambics, braggots, etc.
- ☞ Water analysis and treatment
- ☞ Building your own counter-flow chiller
- ☞ Basic plumbing for brewers
- ☞ Brewers math (standard formulas and use of calculators)
- ☞ Clone brewing – recipe research
- ☞ Designing/building rims and herms systems

Of course we will, on a regular basis, be formally teaching extract, partial-mash, and all-grain brewing methods.

I've already said that I don't know everything so it's no surprise that I would be asking for volunteers to share their special knowledge at a future brewday event. Please contact me or any of the other club officers if you can help. Also, please let us know what other subjects you would like the club to present.

See you at the next brewday!



Club Survey

By Bill Lawrence

As many of you know, the outgoing board ran a small survey of the members along with the club elections in November. The purpose of the survey was to get an idea of what the club members wanted in the way of benefits for their membership dollar. My job here is to summarize the results of the survey, as this year's board will use them as a guide in determining the direction of the club for 2004.

Just to get an idea about the folks answering the questionnaire, we first asked how long they had been a member of the club. 18% of the respondents had been members less than a year, 39% had been members less than five years and 42% had been members more than five years.

56% of respondents say they joined the club because they wanted to learn more about appreciating fine beer. An astounding 96% said they joined the club to learn more about brewing their own beer and 85% said they were interested in meeting and socializing with other brewers and sampling their beers. Other comments to this question included wanting to go to new places for meetings, wanting other club members to give them their opinions about beers they had made and a desire to compare the fruits of their labors to other members' beer.

We asked if members liked having homebrew made by members at club events and

parties. 96% of members liked the idea of having homebrew at the parties in lieu of commercially made beer. That is a very good thing since frankly, providing commercial kegs for the parties will quickly drive up the price of membership. We also asked how frequently members would like to attend club parties where the club provided the main dish and members brought beer and a side dish. 14% of respondents wanted to party every month, 68% liked four parties a year and 18% liked two parties yearly. We solicited ideas to make the parties better and here are some of the replies:

Sponsor friends that are not members and bring them to the parties

More homebrew sharing and evaluation

The club has great BBQ (yes we do, thanks Ernest!)

Cook offs and homebrew contests

Themed parties around various holidays

92% of respondents had an interest in attending additional social beer events. Road trips, pub crawls, various festivals, competitions, events with other local clubs, brewery tours and training classes were mentioned as ideas. 83% were interested in visiting other members' home breweries to brew beer and/or learn to brew. 96% had an interest in attending additional educational beer events. Brew days, beer tasting, brew pub visits, training classes and practice judging were mentioned.

We asked how members wanted to receive their newsletter. 15% wanted a hardcopy

mailed to them each month. 67% wanted a soft copy delivered via e-mail and 18% wanted to be able to download the newsletter off the website. This also is good from a financial perspective since producing and mailing the newsletter is very expensive. Finally, we asked what the board could do to improve the club and here are some of the responses:

Variety of meeting locations

Need to be notified when it
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T-shirts!



Get your T-shirts!

If you renewed your membership by the June 1st deadline then you are entitled to a free club T-shirt. Richard Harris brings them to each meeting, so find him, show him your membership card, and he'll give you your shirt and check you off the list.

If you didn't make the deadline, you can purchase as many T-shirts as you would like for \$15 each. The shirts are well done and look great. The money we collect for these shirts will help pay for all the fun things we do throughout the year.

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is ok to bring homebrew to the meetings

Club needs a better sound system

Limit the number of entries in the club only competitions

Let members know meeting locations earlier

Spread the meeting sites out geographically

The board would like to thank all those who took time to complete the survey. I think that you will find we are addressing almost every one of the issues brought up by the survey. It is especially interesting that education is a consistent theme and this year's board is making a concerted effort to improve the club in this area (see Pat's prose elsewhere in this newsletter).



Holiday Brewday

By Pat Kruger

It was the last weekend before Christmas and apparently most of our club members were out fighting the mall crowds, purchasing the last of their gifts. This must have been the reason for the light turnout for the recent brewday at Tom Garner's house. The only brewers that day turned out to be Tom and myself. By the time I got to his house, Tom had already started sparging for his Bier de Garde. It was a fine day for brewing as I set up my kettles next to Tom's on his driveway. I soon had my water up to temperature for my partial mash that would eventually become a Fat Tire clone. Bo Turton then showed up with his son, Chesley, in tow and a pot of

barbecued shredded chicken.

The barbecued chicken was delicious, as was some of Earnest's smoked pig leftover from the Christmas party. Tom served some excellent house beers to wash it down with, including an IPA and a cream ale. Phil Butler brought a keg of Arrogant Bastard clone from a previous brewday, which was enjoyed by all. Paul Doxey dropped in to lurk on the proceedings as well as a couple of friends of Tom's, Lisa and Doug. Chesley had great fun feeding live crickets to Tom's pet lizard while the rest of us chatted away on our favorite subject of the day, homebrewing.

I normally am an all-grainer but deliberately made a partial mash that day so I could finish early enough to get some shopping done myself. I bid farewell to a dwindling party by mid-afternoon.

Here's hoping you got that special brewing gizmo you wished for this Christmas and...

Hoppy New Year!

A Message From The Editor

By Steve Atkinson

Thank you to all of those who voted for me, I hope I can live up to your expectations.

Thank you, Bill, for the hard work (and boy, do I know how hard!) you have done for the past two years; I have a tough act to follow.

And how do I fill Bill's shoes? I

need help from y'all. This is YOUR newsletter — you tell me what you want to see. If you have any comments, complaints or beer related articles — news, brews, recipes, including food that complements a particular beer, or has beer as an ingredient — email me at:

NTHBANews@AOL.com.

Your submissions will be most welcome.

This year, as always, we have a dynamic, exciting officer team; I look forward to working with them. We have bold, bright new plans for 2004 and you can learn about them here, in Livin' the Brews.

I hope y'all are as excited as we are about the upcoming year. As has already been mentioned, a big focus of 2004 will be on education. I know I have a lot to learn, and maybe a little to teach too. Starting next issue, I hope to include an educational spotlight with some tips on making your brew day go more smoothly and your beer blue ribbon candidates.

If you have any hints, tips or cheats, please email them to me, Pat Kruger, or any other officer.

Cheers!



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FOR SALE

3-kettle-brew system stainless on wheels w/recirculation pump, hot liquor tank has temperature gauge, mash-tun is extremely well insulated. Made by Jack Morgan
 Two propane tanks
 4 carboys
 2.5lb CO2 cylinder (green)
 2.5lb CO2 cylinder (gray/stainless)
 10 lb CO2 w/ gauges (red)
 Hydrometer & flask
 Three fermentation locks
 Blow off tubes, bubblers
 Wort chiller
 3 hop bags
 Clamps, for racking cane /siphon hose
 Floating thermometer



The Brewing Equipment Trading Post

Jet bottle washer
 Bottle drying rack
 Lever style Bottle capper
 Wine bottle capper
 Wine filter kit
 Wine-foil caps
 Caps
 4 Soda kegs w/ hoses and connections
 Two uncut stainless steel kegs
 12 oz bottles, 22 oz bombers, EZ cap bottles
 Wire bale bottles
 Racking cane
 Nylon stirring spoon
 Racking cane soaking tub
 Phil chill one way siphon cane
 Plastic tub for soaking siphon canes
 Hop scale (small plastic)
 1 step cleaning solution
 lagering thermostat for refrigerator/ freezer holds ideal temp for fermenting.

The New Complete Joy of HB
 Charlie Papazian
The HomeBrew companion
 Charlie Papazian
Home brewers Gold Charlie Papazian
Great Beer from Kits- Joe & Dennis Fisher
Pale Ale -Terry Foster
Porter- Terry Foster
Homebrewers Recipe Guide
 Patrick Higgins, Maura Kate Kilgore, etc.
More Homebrew Favorites 260 new Brews, Karl F. Lutzen & Mark Stevens
Clone Brews- Tess & Mark Szamatulski
Beer Captured Tess & Mark
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Call Walt Newell 972-962-7127

North Texas Home Brewers Association, Inc.

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North Texas Home Brewers Association, Inc.



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 next club meeting.

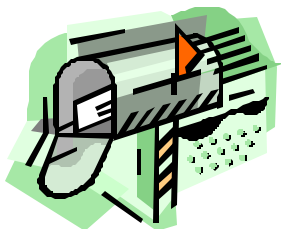
Visit the NTHBA Website at <http://www.hbd.org/nthba/>

Club Brewmeisters

Club "Brewmeisters" are members who are experienced brewers and have volunteered to help other brewers, both new and old, who are having problems. Give them a call with your questions! Just don't call too late or too early or during Cowboy games!

Russ Bee	Russmbee@aol.com	(972) 771-9489
Darrell Simon		(972) 675-5562
McKee Smith		(972) 393-3569
Jim Layton	Blutick@juno.com	(903) 546-6989
Homebrew Headquarters		(972) 234-4411

Livin' the Brews Newsletter
Stephen Atkinson, Editor
c/o Homebrew Headquarters
300 N. Coit Rd, Suite 134
Richardson, Texas 75080



If you received this with a yellow post office forwarding sticker, please give Bill Lawrence a call at (972) 644-8878 and give him your new address.