



# LIVIN' THE BREWS



## Prez Sez

By Jacque Keller

Presidents Brew Day was a wonderful success. I counted 23 people, among them many new members. We even had a guest in from Miller Beer in Milwaukee! Past Presidents Jim Layton and Richard Harris were the honored guests. Kathy Williams and host Bruce Fabijonas were the only two brewers for the day. That means over twenty people did not brew. The word is out that brew days are not just for brewing, they're fun! Let's have even more people next time!

Party Boy Fred Davis arranged the brew day, so I'll give him the credit for picking such a beautiful sunny day. Minister of Education Steve Jones gave a wonderful and very helpful demonstration of how to use a counter pressure filler. A number of members took advantage of the offer to fill their competition beer bottles. First Vice President Bill James organized the Club-Only Competition for Sour

## March Meeting

Tuesday, Mar 8

7:00 PM

Two Rows—Addison

17225 Dallas Pkwy

Dallas, TX 75248

Beers. I know the judges got to sample some excellent beers. The winners will be announced at the next club meeting. We also took this opportunity to pass out Bluebonnet handouts and maps to the Gainesville log in. There was a lot going on that day!



Bruce Fabijonas was a gracious host and also provided two kegs of his very tasty beer for us to drink. At the next brew day at Bruce's, be sure to take a look at his back room, filled with beer in it's various stages of maturity. It's quite a sight! Thank you to Ernest, who brought some excellent sausage, and all the folks who brought food and beer to share.

This was just a great day on all counts!

Now lets speak just a little on the Bluebonnet. Marshall Richard

Harris is recruiting a posse of deputies for the Bluebonnet. If you can spare a couple of hours to help with security, talk to Rich or email him at [harrislo@northstar.net](mailto:harrislo@northstar.net). Volunteers will sit at the entry points for the room crawl area and check for the wristbands that allow folks to get in. We really need volunteers to help out with this. The advantages are that you get to sit down and people bring you beer. So volunteer!

Everyone is also invited to **judge beer** on Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6, at the first round judging for the Bluebonnet. Veteran judges, we certainly need your expertise. For those of you new to this idea, don't be shy. We need you too. If you haven't judged before, you will be paired with an experienced judge. You'll have fun and learn a lot about beer.



First round judging will be held at Andrews Distributing Company at 2601 Cockrell near downtown Dallas. Cockrell is a funny little disjointed street, so ignore the ad-

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dress. Go to the intersection of Lamar and Grand. You'll see a building with a big "Coors Light" written on it. Follow the arrow to the Office, go in the gate, and there you are.

The Saturday session will start at about 9:00 and the Sunday session will also start at 9:00. You can come for a whole day or only for a flight of beer. Lunch will be provided. We really need you there, so come on in! We do the serious work of judging, but it's also always a fun time!

## What's Brew'n

By Fred David

Here I am sitting in front of my computer writing this article drinking what I think is great American Amber ale. While doing this I'm thinking how great it is to be able to drink beer that is as good as or better than what we can buy at a fraction of the cost! It is, however, a lot of fun visiting places that are interested in the fine craft of brewing and serving great food. It's fun to get out and explore never knowing what you might find. After a business meeting last summer my wife and I decided to spend three days in the town of Victoria on Vancouver Island, BC. Victoria is a beautiful town that sits in a well protected and very picturesque harbor that is an awesome sight at night. We found several great pubs and two microbreweries, one of which was the Canoe Brewpub & Restaurant. To greet us on the way in the door there was the following limerick on the wall: **On the chest of a barmaid in sale, were tattooed the prices of ale. And on her behind for the sake of the blind**

was the same information in Braille. If this had been on the wall in my house I'd probably get thrown out but in this setting my wife found it very amusing.



The point I'm trying to make is that there are a lot of things we can do as a club that will put us in new surroundings. Last month I mentioned the Telluride Blues & Brews Festival held every year in September in Telluride, CO. Here is the official website: <http://www.tellurideblues.com>. I'm not suggesting that we all go to Victoria, Vancouver or Telluride, CO, but there are a lot of things we might consider as a small or large group. Number one and a lot of fun is our very own Bluebonnet Brew-off coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March. If you haven't been you need to go. Friday night has the opening ceremony and dinner and the commercial beer tasting. Then the fun begins with the room crawl. This year I be-



lieve we have ten clubs setting up rooms as small pubs all along a common corridor. There you will find some of the best beer you can find as well as a great bunch of people. Saturday will be seminars

on brewing, the pub crawl and, in the evening, the awards banquet. Book a room for Friday and Saturday night and you won't have to worry about getting home. We've been given a special rate for the event. I hope we have a great turn out this year.

Another thing we might consider as a road trip was sent to me by Bill Dubas. This is the [Texas Craft Brewers Festival](#). This takes place in Austin, Texas on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. With more than 40 handcrafted beers on tap, the festival provides a unique opportunity to taste some of Texas' best beer. Entrance to the festival is free. Beer tasting packages (\$10.00) include a plastic tasting cup and 5 tasting tokens, which you redeem for beers at the brewers' tents. Additional tokens and souvenir festival glasses are available for purchase at the event. We could also consider going to the Rahr Brewery in Fort Worth for lunch/dinner and a tour. Let me know what you might think about these ideas or others. You can find me at one of our meetings or shoot me an e-mail.

## Southwest Brewing News Info

By Bill Dubas

Southwest Brewing News is looking for a new writer to over the North Texas area.

The pay is \$75 per article and each article should be 500-750 words. The newspaper is published 6X per year. You also have the option to write feature articles for them, which usually pay \$100 per article. I used this extra income (avg \$650/yr) to pay for homebrew supplies, etc.

Previous writing experience is not  
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 required, but you should be able to write well (i.e., good grammar, spelling, and composition) and you must be knowledgeable about beer.

If anyone is interested, please contact me at bill\_dubas@hotmail.com. This is a great chance to meet all the brewers in the area and talk with them one-on-one.

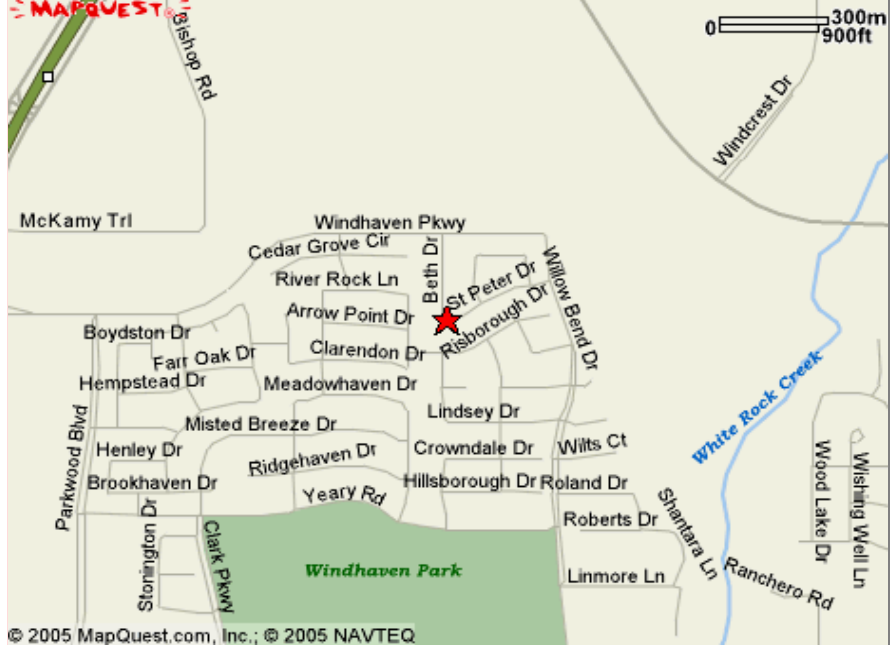
**Brew Day**  
 By Fred David

God definitely smiles on homebrewers as was witnessed by the weather we had for the Past Presidents Brew Day on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at Bruce Fabijonas's house. As of the Thursday before, the forecast was for cloudy with showers and a high of 48 F. As it turned out, the weather was sunny with a high of about 75 F. There was very little wind except from the stories told by all. There were two people brewing and an addi-



tional 20-25 others who came out to watch and learn. Steve Jones did a great job in teaching the art of bottling using a counter pressure filler. I must admit that I have been using one of these for over a year and finally learned the right way from Steve. I subsequently bottled a case of beer with no mishaps and only a half a glass of overflow which did not go to waste. Our next brew day will be

**April Brew Day (April 2nd)**  
**Fred David**  
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the first weekend of April, which will be Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. I will be hosting it at my house and we will need beer tasting judges on hand. If you recall, Steve Jones started a bittering hops experiment at the January brew day where he



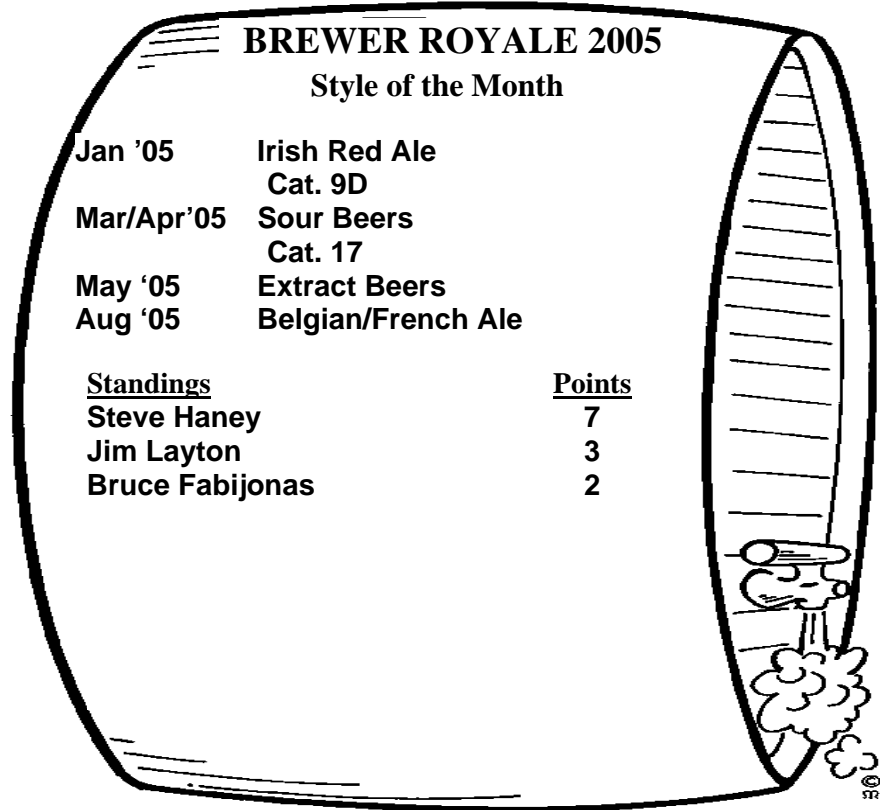
brew three five gallon batches of beer all from the same mash. He added different hops to the three batches in order to compare the bittering effects of each hop variety for a national study. Well, get you hop tasters ready because we need them for the second, and best, half of this study at my place

on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The map to my house and my address are above. I hope I'll see all of you at our March meeting and at the Blue-bonnet.  
 Prosit!!

**Editor's Corner**  
 By James Dorman

I found this little tidbit of information about Whitriflock on the Cap and Hare Website.. I know many of us are using it over Irish Moss these days due to the ease of not having to measure out amounts.

From the Cap and Hare Webpage:  
 I did actually hunt down the specialist at the manufacturer of Whirlfloc. The company that  
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with 3 points and Bruce Fabijonas in third with 2 points. The next phase of the contest is in April and is Extract Beer. The beer types for the Extract Beer competition consists of all BJCP beer styles (Categories 1-23), but Extract must make up more than 50% of the fermentable sugars. We will be having the judging at the April meeting at the Bavarian Grill. So get your beers ready, and give Steve a run for his money. We of course will need judges, so I hope to have plenty of help.

Well by now, I hope everyone has gotten his or her entries in for the Bluebonnet. I entered my Maple Porter hopefully it will do well. I would have entered my chocolate and coffee stouts, but by some strange happenings, I drank them. I have to learn to bottle some before drinking it all. I know everyone will be helping at the Bluebonnet and I am sure there will be many requests for assistance.

### NTHBA Plans for the Bluebonnet Roomcrawl

By Bill Dubas

Besides walking up to the podium to claim a stein at the awards ceremony, my favorite Bluebonnet activity is the Friday night "Room Crawl". I'll bet that many of you have been on a pub crawl before, but a room crawl may be a new concept for you that needs a little explanation. But first, a history lesson. . .

In the not too distant past of the Bluebonnet, it was common practice for the members of a homebrew club to congregate in a fellow member's room to drink beer in between events and late into the

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makes Whirlfloc tablets is Quest International in Ireland and the contact was Liam Holog? Anyway I learned several interesting things from this very friendly, knowledgeable and interesting man (he even wanted to idle talk for quite some time):

1. Whirlfloc is refined kappa carrageenan with some talcs to help in tabulation.
2. pre-hydrating whirlfloc does nothing at all to increase effectiveness. In fact it's not even water soluble at lower temperatures so all you'd be doing is getting it wet.
3. most interesting: do NOT add whirlfloc any earlier than 10 minutes before end of boil. It acts immediately and at most only really needs 5 minutes in the boil. If you add it earlier you will denature the carrageenan (not quite sure what that means - anyone?).

4. The manufacturer recently has done some google searching and was surprised that it has become so popular amongst homebrewers. Their target is large breweries and they only sell it through large distribution chains so wasn't aware it was going out to LHBS suppliers in the current volume.

5. if you are adding any more than one tablet for 5 gallon batch, don't bother. One tablet is 2.5 times the dosage they recommend. For record: one tablet is 2.5 grams. They recommend 5 grams per hectoliter (2 tablets to about 25 gallons).

### 2005 Brewer Royale

By Bill James

Greeting Brewers, we have finished the second round of the Brewer Royale and it appears that Steve Haney has jumped out to an early lead with 7 points, Jim Layton in a distant second place

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evening. Since the Bluebonnet is all about making new friends, members of other clubs were often invited into the room to share a few bottles. These friends went back to their clubs and said "Hey, when we come to the Bluebonnet next year, we need to invite those cool guys from club XYZ over to our room to share some of our great homebrew."



Well, the years went by and soon there were 10 clubs setting up "hospitality suites" to show off their best beers to the other participating clubs. Unfortunately, these hospitality suites were often spread out all over the hotel, which caused problems for the hotel and non-Bluebonnet guests. I remember a case when a guest called the Irving police to complain about the large number of beer-drinkers in the hallway outside her door. Well, the Bluebonnet organizers put their heads together and decided it would be best to reserve all the rooms on one hallway to be used for these hospitality suites. Also, since this activity was becoming so popular, they decided to make it an official event: the Bluebonnet Room Crawl.

At first, the rooms used for the crawl were left stock. . . just a hotel room with a few coolers and kegs. Soon, however, the clubs began to decorate their rooms with banners and signs. The next step was when clubs started removing the bed and other furniture so that there was more floor space for guests. Fast forward to this year. .

. . a theme for the room crawl was declared and a contest will be held to name the best decorated room. When you are dealing with a bunch of guys that like to compete, this is surely a way to get their attention.

Possibly as a result of watching too many home remodel shows on HGTV, I volunteered to help plan our club's room for this year's Bluebonnet Room Crawl. Luckily, a handful of dedicated volunteers joined me, and we have what I feel is a pretty clever room theme. We will be removing all of the furniture from our hotel room and, in its place, we will be recreating an old west saloon. .

. "The Wort Hog Saloon". . . think Tombstone, Arizona, circa 1880. Walter Hodges and Bill Lawrence are building us a bar. We will have saloon doors at the entrance. We will be serving beers that were typically available back in those days, and we are encouraging club members to dress up in old west attire.

Remember that there are 10 other clubs that will also be participating in this event and they will all have a different design (although all have been asked to stick with a cowboy/redneck/hillbilly theme), so this promises to be an interesting evening.

Right about now you should be asking "How can I participate in/ attend this event?" Well, here are the details.

The Bluebonnet Room Crawl will be held on Friday night, March 18th, at 9:30 PM, at the Holiday Inn Select DFW North. See the Bluebonnet website <http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com> for details on how to get to this hotel. We will need a few volunteers to help us set up the room. I imagine

that we will get started early on Friday afternoon (no later than 3PM) so that we can be well on our way by the time the banquet dinner starts at 6:30PM. A few members will continue to set up while others attend the banquet and commercial beer tasting, which is scheduled to end at 9:30 PM. We will also need a few volunteers to help us clean up the room after the weekend is over. This can occur gradually throughout the day on Saturday and must be finished by Sunday at noon. If you want to assist, contact me at [bill\\_dubas@hotmail.com](mailto:bill_dubas@hotmail.com), or call me on my cell phone at 214-475-6402.



If you can't help set up the room, maybe you'd like to donate some kegged beer to be served in the room. We will provide the CO2 and dispensing hardware, all you need to do is bring the keg. Kegs can be brought to the hotel on Friday, or you can arrange to hand them off to me. I live in Carrollton and work in Irving. Make sure that your keg is labeled with your name and the name of your beer. Since we will be serving your beer in an old west saloon, try to come up with a clever beer name related to this theme. Contact me if you can help. Remember that the club will be holding a mini-competition for beers that are donated to the room crawl. If you wish to enter a beer in the competition it needs to be delivered to the room by 7:00

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on Friday. Beers will be judged on drinkability alone, not according to style guidelines, and the winner will have the chance to brew his/her beer at the BJ's Restaurant & Brewery location in Houston with brewmaster Mark Duchow. What a great opportunity!

If you can't show up early to help decorate, and you don't have any beer that you can donate, perhaps you'd like to tend bar. I need a few volunteers to stand behind the bar at the "Wort Hog Saloon". This will only be for a shift of an hour or two. I already have at least 3 volunteers, but I can use a few more. The only requirement is that you dress up to fit the part of a bartender from an old west saloon. I don't want any urban cowboys. . . and NO GUNS OF ANY KIND.

What if you can't do any of the above, but would still like to attend the room crawl? That's great too! It's included in your Bluebonnet admission price of \$20, which also admits you to the Friday night commercial beer tasting, Saturday morning conference, hospitality suite, and Saturday night awards ceremony. After



registering for the event, you will be given a wrist band, and once you show this wrist band to the hall monitor, you will be admitted to the hallway containing the rooms that are part of the crawl.

As with the bartenders, it would be really great if you could dress in period clothes, but that's not a requirement. Just remember. . . NO GUNS OF ANY KIND.

Well, that's about it. I hope to see you there. Please introduce yourself to me if I haven't met you. I'll be coming as Tuco Benedicto Pacifico Juan Maria Ramirez, a Mexican bandito wanted for numerous crimes.

### Room Crawl Patrol

By Richard Harris

Alright gang, the Bluebonnet is almost here, Yahooo! This year's room crawl should prove to be one of the best. The clubs are all working hard to make their room the best ever so we should all be in for a real treat. With the room-crawl beer competition starting this year the beers should be better than ever and the new digs sound great as well.

OK, I've puffed you all up enough now for the real reason I'm writing this dang article (at least I'm making it short for ya'll). I am in charge of room-crawl security again this year and I need help. I need a few deputies to assist in watching the door and making sure all participants have a wrist band. This is very important for the competition as a whole. We don't want to have the room-crawl shut down over such a simple matter. We are the cover your butt crew.

I have done this for two years now and it is not a bad job at all. Each deputy gets one hour on and three hours off. Hell, if I get enough deputies one hour on would most likely do it. In addition to wearing the nice shiny badge (we don't

need no stinking badges) you also get to sit comfortably in a chair and let someone bring you beer at your command. All you do is make sure anyone entering the event has their wrist band. I even made my wife go back to the room and get hers last year (real hard ass). Actually, I had no problems at all. I mainly sat and drink beer.

Anyway, please be a sport and help out ole Marshall Richard (aka One Eyed Dick) keep the town safe and the beer flowing. I can tap you on the shoulder and deputize you on the spot but I would rather have a volunteer posse.

Prost!

### Bluebonnet Log-in

By James Dorman

The last few weeks have been very busy for all involved with the Bluebonnet. If you were one of the brewers, you were trying your hardest to remember how to get your counter pressure bottle filler to work properly or just gave up and did the poor man's filling of your bottles. If you were helping at the log-in, you were running around trying to figure out whether or not someone had paid for their entries and if the correct amount was paid.

I would like to thank all of you who entered beers in this years competition. Looking at the Bluebonnet webpage today I see that there were a total of 1163 entries with NTHBA entering 181 of these entries.

Please come out and help with first round judging both this week-end and next weekend as help will definitely be needed to get through this many entries.



# The Brewing Equipment Trading Post

## HELP WANTED

Homebrew Headquarters is looking for a knowledgeable person in beer and wine making. Help is needed for weekends. OK money, excellent employee discounts. Contact Kelly Harris @ 972-234-4411 or brewmaster@homebrewhq.com



## 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.

You can give the information to James Dorman at our club meeting or email it to [jlmdorman@hotmail.com](mailto:jlmdorman@hotmail.com).

## North Texas Home Brewers Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President	Jacque Keller	(214) 320-8426 <a href="mailto:NTHBAPrez@aol.com">NTHBAPrez@aol.com</a>
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## 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	<a href="mailto:Russmbee@aol.com">Russmbee@aol.com</a>	(972) 771-9489
Darrell Simon		(972) 675-5562
McKee Smith		(972) 393-3569
Jim Layton	<a href="mailto:Blutick@juno.com">Blutick@juno.com</a>	(903) 546-6989
Homebrew Headquarters		(972) 234-4411

## 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://groups.msn.com/NorthTexasHomeBrewAssociationHomePage>

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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.