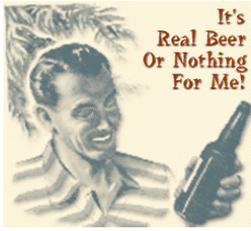


LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION



Prez Sez

By James Dorman

As many of you know, the Limbo Challenge is this month and we will need quite a few people helping us out with logging in the beers and judging. This is a new competition, so we have no clue as to how many entries to expect. I know with everyone helping out, we will be able to handle whatever comes along.

The Bluebonnet committee meetings started last month. I am the Assistant Director

this year which means I will be the director next year. Since our club is the host next year, it would be very helpful if a few more from our club were to show up and volunteer to lead or be on one of the committees. The committee meets on the third Sunday of the month at Big Buck in Grapevine. We typically meet in the upstairs bar and have a drink around 12:30 and then move down to our reserved tables for lunch and meeting about 1:00. I really don't want to hound people, but as the largest

club in the area we really should have more than one or two people at these meetings.

We had a great brewday this past month over at Fred's house. He slaved away at a blonde ale and Curtis Martin made a sweet stout. As you might expect, it was rather warm outside so most of us stayed in the garage drinking the swill that people brought.

Cheers,
James Dorman

Announcements

- August meeting at Humperdink's NW Hwy on August 8, at 7 pm
- Limbo Challenge entries due Aug 16
- Cactus Challenge entries due Aug 25
- NTHBA Session Beer Competition Award ceremony at Big Buck Brewery Aug 26
- Dixie Cup entries due October 15

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What's Brewin'?

Fred David

Summer party—We were all having a great time at the summer party at Bill James' house when what should appear but a banana, a bunch of grapes, and a deviled egg. We all know Steve prefers Belgian beers, but I never thought he would appear dressed as one of his favorite flavors, banana. We all know Debbie Harris is a good egg but this time she showed us that she has a little devil in her by



showing up as a deviled egg. And Steve's daughter Jessica showed us her preference for wine by dressing up as a bunch of grapes—but she certainly isn't sour grapes. The three of them certainly

gave us a laugh. Along with the deviled egg and fruits there was plenty to eat and drink. Ernest made beef and chicken fajitas and every one else brought the

Limbo Challenge this Month

By Mike Grover

This is it – August is the month for our first-ever club-sponsored competition: The Limbo Challenge. Hopefully each of you will be supporting us by entering at least one beer in the competition. Remember that if you enter two or more beers in the competition then you can enter the special Lawnmower Beer category for free! Entries are accepted **August 4-16** at Homebrew Headquarters. Everything you need to enter (except, of course, your brew) can be found at <http://www.nthba.org/limbo/LimboWebPage.htm>. The Lawnmower Beer (Category “109 in the shade”) is a catch-all and is open to ANY BEER STYLE. The entries in this category will not be judged against BJCP guidelines, but will be judged for overall hot-weather-thirst-quenching potential. The winner of this category is not eligible for Best of Show, but a very unique trophy will be

awarded. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the evening of August 26th for the awards ceremony at Big Buck Brewery & Steakhouse in Grapvine (<http://www.bigbuck.com/>).

At the August meeting we will be looking for folks to sign up to help with tasks such as checking in beers, judging, and preparing for the awards party at Big Buck. Since this is the first year for our competition we really have no idea how many entries to expect. Our plan is to attempt to knock out all of the judging on Saturday, August 19th at Andrews Distributing in Dallas. If needed, we will finish up on Sunday.

Limbo Challenge Competition Categories

- ♦ Light Lagers 1A, 1B, 1D
- ♦ Pilsners 2A, 2B, 2C
- ♦ Vienna Lager 3A and American Dark Lager 4A
- ♦ Light Hybrid Beers 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D
- ♦ Amber Hybrid Beers 7A, 7B, 7C
- ♦ English Pale Ales 8A, 8B
- ♦ Scottish Ales 9A, 9B
- ♦ English Brown Ales 11A, 11B, 11C
- ♦ Weizen/Weissbier 15A, Witbier 16A, and Berliner Weisse 17A
- ♦ Fruit Beer 20 (must be based on one of the above styles)
- ♦ Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer 21A (must be based on one of the above styles)

Iron Mash 2006 Update

By Mike Grover

The Cap and Hare folks recently announced the critical dates for the Iron Mash competition. **All entries are due to Cap & Hare by the 16th of August.** Entries can be dropped off at Homebrew Headquarters. Make sure they are clearly marked “Iron Mash” because Limbo Challenge and Cactus Challenge entries will be collected during the same time period. Also, remember to use

the special bottle labels that were handed to your team at the event – these identify your brewing team by number. The Iron Mash awards

party is set for September 9th at

Rahr & Sons Brewing in Fort Worth.



Brewdays

By Fred David

The week of July 16 started off in a grim fashion with temperatures of 102F, 104F, 106F, 102F, 102F, and 101F for the daytime highs on Sunday through Friday respectively. And then a glorious cold front came through for the brewday at my house on July 22 and the high temperature dropped to a frigid 98F. Things got started around 9 am, and with morning clouds and a slight breeze it was down right comfortable. The brewers were Curtis Martin and Ken Woodson who jointly brewed 10 gal of a sweet stout and me. I brewed a Blonde ale for the upcoming NTHBA Limbo Challenge. Both brews on this day were all grain batches that went very well with

both mashes yielding their expected starting gravities. Now we just hope we have clean and healthy ferments as we'll have some great beer. The biggest challenge of the day was cooling down the wort to yeast pitching temperature but we all prevailed thanks to the use of a submersion pump circulating ice water through our counter-flow chillers. 65F never came any easier. We had a great gallery of onlookers with about ten to twelve people roaming through at various times of the day. Food for the day was sandwich and/or salad fare that went very well for the hot weather we have been having. Debbie Harris made a great tuna salad and I slaved over an almond chicken salad and a pasta salad that I bought at Central Market. Toward the end of the day Bill Lawrence and I defiled a great tasting Alt beer we

What's Brewin—Continued from Page 1
sides: sour cream, guacamole, pico de gallo, and refried beans. There was also plenty of great cerveza to drink with 15 kegs showing up from various local home breweries. We are blessed with great brewing talent.

There were about forty of us across the evening with at least five new members showing up bringing bottles of their first efforts to share with us. As the evening moved on, quite a few people enjoyed Bill's pool, and great conversation was had by all. This club certainly knows how to party, and Bill James definitely knows how to throw one.

Our next club party stop will be the Oktoberfest party at Walter Hodges' house on October 7th. For those of you that have not been to Walter & Pam's house, you're in for a treat. They also have a great party house and are great hosts. If you haven't started your lager for

this party, you still (barely) have enough time to pull it together. But if you don't have a good German beer in your frig don't hesitate to bring your favorite ale. Variety is the spice of life.

Until then,

Prosit!!!



2006 Brewer Royale

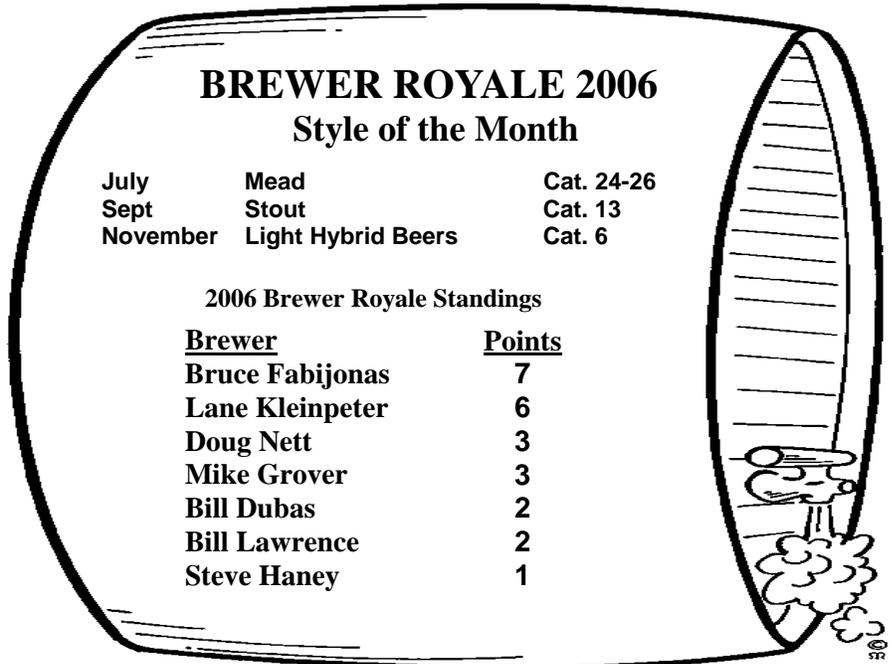
By Mike Grover

Bruce Fabijonas held on to first place in the standings by taking 2nd place with a cyser and 3rd place with a cranberry fruit mead. However, first place went to Lane Kleinpeter for a sweet mead (six years old!) and that puts him only a single point out of first place. A big thanks to our judges Steve Hacker and Richard Harris and a tip of the glass to the brewers and bees that made these beverages possible.

There are only two more competitions for the 2006 Brewer Royale: Stouts (all of 'em from dry to Russian Imperial) in September and Light Hybrids (cream ale, blonde ale, Kölsch, and American wheat or rye) in October. Note that we had to move the final competition up from November to October. This is because the deadline for submitting the winning club entries into the national competition was recently set for November 8th. We try to make sure that there is plenty of time for our winning entrants to get their beers of to the nationals if they choose to participate. As you can see, the standings are still pretty close and everyone still has a chance to win.

On the Horizon

- ◆ Cactus Challenge – Entries Due August 25th www.aliensociety.org/
- ◆ Dixie Cup – Entries Due October 15th www.crunchyfrog.net/dixiecup/



Cactus Challenge

The Cactus Challenge is the next Lone Star Circuit competition. We'll have a packing party on Wednesday, August 16, at Homebrew HQ at 6 pm. We'll supply boxes, packing material, and shipping – just bring your entries and paperwork!

This is also the last day for entries for the Iron Mash and Limbo Challenge (a busy beer day for sure!). We will coordinate with Cap and Hare and arrange a beer swap, trading our Iron Mash entries for their Limbo Challenge entries. If you miss the packing party you still have until August 25 to get your entries to Lubbock. All you need to know about the Cactus Challenge is at: <http://www.aliensociety.org/CactusChallenge/Cactus2006TOC.htm>

Dixie Cup Update

It's only **five four three two!** months until the entry deadline for the Dixie Cup (Early – September 29, Late – October 6). Let's get busy and make a good showing down in Houston this year. We will have a packing party for the Dixie Cup on September 20 – more details to follow. Remember, this is a HUGE competition on the same scale as the Bluebonnet so we will need lots and lots of entries in order to have a good showing.

Another Texas Competition

Hot off the presses! The San Antonio Area Zymurgists (SAAZ) and Bexar Brewers have announced the first annual Alamo City Cerveza Fest. Entries are being accepted now through August 4. This AHA/BJCP-sanctioned competition is open to BJCP Categories one through 16, 18, and 19. In addition, there is a special Chile Beer category. The event will be held at Blue Star Brewing Company (San Antonio's only brewpub) on August 12. The Cerveza Fest plans to become part of the Lone Star Circuit in the future. Let's support our fellow Texans with a good number of entries this year! More information can be found at the following websites: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAberegroup/> and <http://>

July Brewday

(continued from page 3)

brewed at the Iron Mash by adding cinnamon and vanilla extract as required for our entry. It actually turned out fairly decent all considered but I for one am sure glad that holiday spiced beers come only once a year. At the time of this writing I do not have a volunteer for a brewday in August and with the Limbo Challenge right around the corner it will probably be September before the next one. I hope all of you have your favorite lawnmower beer ready for entry into the competition! If things change I will let everyone know ASAP



Beer Talk With Jacque

News, Hearsay & Odd Info
by Jacque Keller

Send Them to HBHQ

Someone at the Coast Guard Academy had the good idea of serving homebrew at Academy social functions, reports the New York Post. Enterprising folk at the Academy brewed up 532 bottles of “Admiral Amber Ale,” with a label that had a picture of the school’s superintendent, Rear Admiral James C. Van Sice. However, government officials thought it imprudent to use tax payer money for the endeavor and shut them down. About 78% of the brew funds came from a private foundation and the Coast Guard Academy will reimburse the federal government \$227.23 for the other 22%. If you do the math, you’ll see that the Coast Guard brewers spent about \$1,000 to brew 532 bottles of beer. I don’t object to them using tax payer money for homebrew instead of purchasing beer. I’m for it. But I think Brother Kelly could have given the Coast Guard brewers a better deal.



Rear Adm. James C. Van Sice
The Amber Ale Admiral

BYOHB

Do you know of a BYOB restaurant or a pub that serves only beer and no other types of alcohol? We hope to find additional places for the club meetings, places where we can bring in homebrew for competitions and sampling. Take a look around your neighborhood and see if some place fits the bill. Remember – if we meet close to you, you can drink all you like and just walk home!

I’m a Belgian Ale

At <http://www.herestobeer.com/> you can take a quiz to find your beer style. Go to The Tavern and What’s Your Style to find the multiple choice questions which ask your favorite type of movie and your opinion on the designated hitter and other equally critical questions. An explanation of beer types follows the quiz, so this brings easy beer education to the previously untutored masses. Good idea! So check it out – what’s your style?

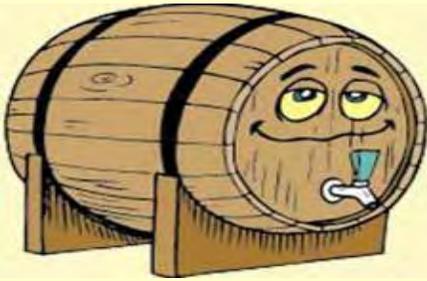
Resistance May NOT Be Futile

As companies begin to report second-quarter earnings, figures show that the American beer drinker continues to resist the Beer Borg and its ilk. Domestic beer sales are down, while imported and regional and craft beer sales are strong, according to a Merrill Lynch report. In June, Anheuser-Busch volume fell 1.9 percent, SABMiller volume fell 5.7 percent, and Molson Coors fell 0.3 percent. Craft and locally produced beers gained the most, with the volume for this segment up 12.5 percent in June.

Beer Trivia

Last month’s question: Revolutionary patriots/founding fathers/brewers include George Washington, Samuel Adams, Ben Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson. Congrats to Don Trotter, who sent in the first correct answer! **This month’s question:** In what state is it illegal to take more than three sips of beer while standing? Email your answers/guesses to Jacquelyn.Keller@gmail.com.

The Brewing Equipment Trading Post



HELP WANTED

Homebrew Headquarters is looking for a knowledgeable person in beer and wine making. Help is needed for full or part time. 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.

Email Sean at news@nthba.org

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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!

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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

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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.