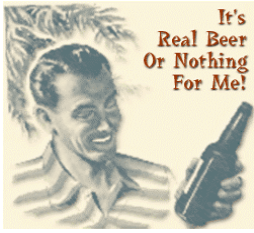


# LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION



## Prez Sez

By James Dorman

We had a great time at Big Buck Steakhouse and Brewery for the awards ceremony for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Limbo Challenge. Raymond dug up an 8 gallon keg each of their Koelsch and Honey Rye for us to drink during the awards ceremony which all in attendance appreciated (but none more than Bruce). As mentioned at Big Buck, I would like to thank all who participated in any aspect of the Limbo Challenge as quite a bit of work was needed to carry out the event.

To say the least, last month was rather busy for the club, but looking at the schedule of events, I see this month we are almost as busy. There is an event coming up in a few months called the Bluebonnet that is in need of a few volunteers to help on various committees. The Knights of the Brown Bottle is a small club, and it would really be good if we were to help them out in any way we could, especially since I know that next year they will be helping us out. If you are interested in helping in any way, please let me know. The meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun-

day of the month at Big Buck. We typically meet in the bar for a beer or two around 12:30 then go downstairs for lunch and the meeting around 1:00. I've been a faithful member of the committee for the last few years, and we really need some new blood to show up and contribute ideas. The old guard know how to run the event, but are not always the best at seeing where things can improve.

Cheers,  
James Dorman

## Announcements

- Sept 9 Iron Mash Awards ceremony
- Sept 10 BJCP Class at Fred David's
- Sept 12 Meeting at Gingerman
- Sept COC: Stout
- Sept 15 Cactus Challenge
- Sept 17 Big Buck Planning meeting
- Sept 30 Brewday at Steve Jones' House

## What's Brewin'?

By Fred David

The Limbo Challenge has come and gone and some of us have discussed renaming it the Jim Layton Classic. Jim really cleaned up with the culmination being "Best of Show". I hope everyone will congratulate Jim the next time you see him. The awards banquet went great with an attendance of about 30 people at Big Buck Brewery for the event. I hope next year's contest will have twice the entries and a much larger turnout for the awards. Big Buck was gracious enough to provide us with a keg each of Raymond's Kolsch and Honey Rye ale.

Next up for our club party stop will be the Oktoberfest party at Walter Hodges' house on October 7<sup>th</sup>. For those of you that have not been top 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 it is a little late but have no fear. From a poll taken at the last club meeting people have volunteered to chip in to buy a keg of commercial Oktoberfest to bring in this great

celebration.. 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!!!



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# Limbo Challenge: How low did you go?

By Mike Grover

The first-ever Limbo Challenge is history and it was a great success! We had low-gravity beers from all over the Metroplex as well as elsewhere inside and outside of Texas. Thanks to all who entered! Judging took place at Bruce Fabijonas' house over a weekend, with the Best of Show and Lawnmower judging taking place on Monday. Everything went very smoothly thanks to the efforts of many! We expect this competition to grow significantly next year as we are planning on it becoming part of the Lone Star Circuit. Extra help with check-in, stewarding, and judging will certainly be needed.

The awards ceremony was held at Big Buck Brewery and Steakhouse on Saturday night, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Folks showed up for dinner and a couple of brews before migrating to the awards area. There, the hopeful competitors were greeted to a real treat. Big Buck head brewer Raymond Plasek provided two kegs of his own session beers: a honey rye and a Kölsch. Big Buck were great hosts and Raymond had some

wonderful beers on tap. NTHBA is already looking forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Limbo Challenge!

Now, on to the winners. The complete listing is included in this newsletter and can also be found at [www.nthba.org](http://www.nthba.org). Raise a glass for the Best of Show winner – NTHBA's own Jim Layton for his Kölsch! Jim was the man to beat, as he won five medals in addition to the BOS award. NTHBA cleaned up on our home field with five first, five second, and four third place medals. Participation from outside was good too, with the Knights of the Brown Bottle, Foam Rangers, and Beer Mafia all winning medals including at least one first place award. Ed Vandergrift of Beer Mafia deserves special mention as he was the only brewer to win first place medals in multiple categories: European amber lager with a Vienna Lager and English brown ale with a northern brown.



We also had a great showing from some of our newer club members. Damon Lewis, who moved here from the Lubbock area and joined the club earlier in the year, took both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Scottish ales category with a 60 and 70 shilling Scottish ales. Steve Sauerwein, who joined the club very recently, not only took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the fruit beer/spice-herb-vegetable beer category, but placed third in Best of Show. His winning beer was a chili beer featuring roasted poblano and Anaheim peppers. This is a great sign for our club. We really need new members, as well as older members that are new to competition to step up to the plate and compete!



# Brewdays

By Fred David

I hope everyone has already brewed their favorite brew for the next up competition which is the Dixie Cup in Houston. Our next brewday will be a little late for starting to brew for that one but it is a great time to start getting ready for next year's Bluebonnet. The September brewday will be at Steve Jones' house on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Things will start around 9 AM. I hope to see you there.

Until Then,

Prosit!!!

## Brewday Map

Steve Jones lives at 2961 Las Campanas in Farmers Branch. 214-536-3243.



## Beer Prayer

President James Dorman offers this prayer:

Our lager,  
Which art in barrels,  
Hallowed be thy drink.  
Thy will be drunk, (I will be drunk), at home as it is in the pub.  
Give us this day our foamy head, and forgive us our spillages,  
as we forgive those who spill against us.  
And lead us not to incarceration, but deliver us from hangovers.  
For thine is the beer, the bitter, the lager, forever and ever.  
Barmen.

# 2006 Brewer Royale

By Mike Grover

There are only two more competitions for the 2006 Brewer Royale: Stouts in September and Light Hybrids (cream ale, blonde ale, Kölsch, and American wheat or rye) in October.

As you can see, the standings are still pretty close and everyone still has a chance to win. Light Hybrids was one of the most popular categories in the Limbo Challenge. Why not enter that refreshing Kölsch or cream ale in the club-only competition? Don't forget to bring your stouts to the September meeting at the Gingerman – we will be holding the competition on-site and we will be looking for judges too. Mmmmm...stout!

### Important Dixie Cup Dates:

- ◆ NTHBA Packing Party – September 20 6:00pm, Homebrew HQ
- ◆ Early entry deadline, September 29
- ◆ Late entry deadline, October 6
- ◆ Event, October 19-21 in Houston

We need as many members as possible to enter as many beers as possible in the Dixie Cup. This is a large, nationally known competition open to all BJCP styles - just like the Bluebonnet Brew Off. Because of this, there will be a large number of BJCP-certified judges involved. This is an excellent chance to get quality feedback on your homebrew – and maybe just pick up an award or two!

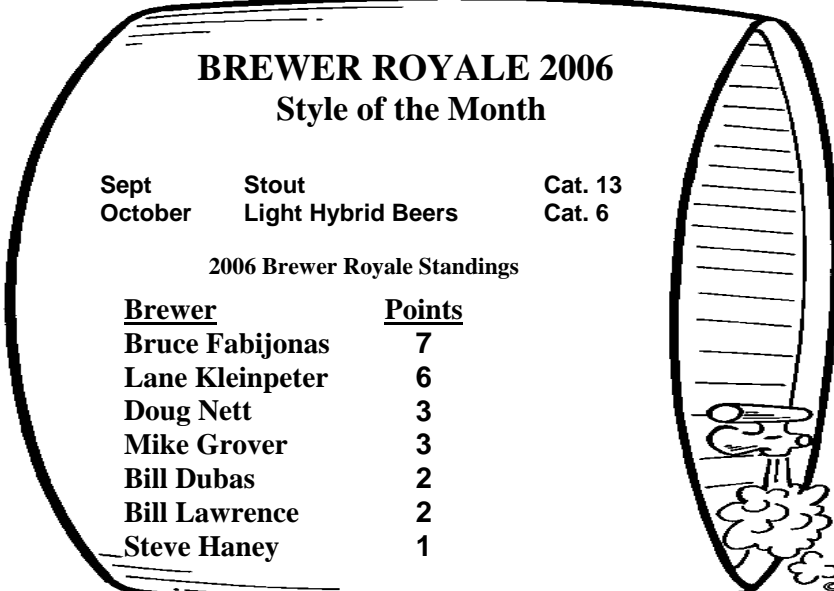
## BREWER ROYALE 2006

### Style of the Month

Sept	Stout	Cat. 13
October	Light Hybrid Beers	Cat. 6

2006 Brewer Royale Standings

Brewer	Points
Bruce Fabijonas	7
Lane Kleinpeter	6
Doug Nett	3
Mike Grover	3
Bill Dubas	2
Bill Lawrence	2
Steve Haney	1



## Alamo City Cerveza Fest

The San Antonio Area Zymurgists and Bexar Brewers held the first Alamo City Cerveza Fest at Blue Star Brewing Company August 12. Several NTHBA members won:

Jim Layton:

- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Place – European Amber & Amber Hybrid (Dusseldorf Alt)
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Belgian Strong Ale (Belgian Golden Strong Ale)
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Light Hybrid (Kölsch)

Bruce Fabijonas:

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Belgian Strong Ale (Belgian Dark Strong Ale).

That's a 1-2 finish for NTHBA in the Belgian Strong Ale category – nice work, guys!!!

## Lunar Rendez-Brew

The Bay Area Mashtronauts from Houston held the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Lunar Rendez-brew on July 29. This competition is part of the Lone Star Circuit. Bruce Fabijonas was the lone winner for NTHBA, and he pulled in a pair of 2<sup>nd</sup> Place medals for a Belgian Golden Ale and a Belgian Strong Dark Ale. Nice work! Bruce's winnings also add some points to the club's standing in the Lone Star Circuit.

### Current Lone Star Circuit Standings

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Foam Rangers      | 157 |
| 2. Mashtronauts      | 77  |
| 3. Red River Brewers | 43  |
| 4. Cap & Hare        | 40  |
| 5. NTHBA             | 28  |
| (t) KGB              | 28  |

## Other competition news

### 2006 Iron Mash Update

The Iron Mash awards party is set for Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Rahr & Sons Brewing in Fort Worth. The festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. Brewing teams and their significant others are welcome. The Cap & Hare will be providing BBQ – you just need to bring a summer side dish.



Please bring a keg (or quite a few bottles) of your Iron Mash brew along to share with everyone. A People's Choice Award tasting will take place, so make sure your brew is there. This award is completely subjective, so if you missed your target style but brewed a delicious beer nonetheless, this is your shot at redemption! Additional information and the latest updates can be found at [www.capandhare.net](http://www.capandhare.net).

### Cactus Challenge

The Cactus Challenge is the next competition in the Lone Star Circuit. The entry deadline has passed, and the event will be held on Friday and Satur-



day, September 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> in Lubbock. If you can make it to Lubbock why not enjoy a fun weekend drinking good beer and supporting another great Texas competition? NTHBA had a packing party for this event and sent four boxes (roughly 16 entries) off to Lubbock. This is a good showing, and we believe it's the largest shipment that we've sent to the Cactus. At least one club member sent a separate box on their own, so here's hoping we have a great showing this year! Additional information and registration for the Cactus Challenge can be found at: <http://www.ale-iansociety.org>.

### Plan Ahead!

The American Homebrewers Association recently released the schedule for the first three club-only competitions for 2007. Until they release the specific deadlines for national entries, we can't say for certain which month we'll hold our competitions so consider these tentative. However, this should help you plan your brewing schedule:

- o Low Gravity/Session Beers (O.G. <0.045 - Can you say Limbo?) – January 2007
- o Scottish Ales (Category 9A, B, and C) – February or March 2007
- o Extract Beers (Extract >50% of fermentables – Categories 1-23) – April 2007



### In Memory of John Wilkinson

Folks, I'm sad to let you all know that one of our long time club members has passed away recently. John fell victim to a tragic tractor accident, at his home in Palestine, on July 15. John has a lot of friends in the NTHBA. We are all sorry that we haven't seen him recently.

I must say how much I will miss John -- a nicer man and better friend, I will probably never have. I know many of you do feel the same. John was a great guy, and it was always a pleasure to party with him. John has so many friends, I couldn't begin to count. I was lucky to meet some of them, and they are all like him -- great people.

John's family are also like that. John leaves behind a loving wife Judy, who is also so nice. Whenever I visited

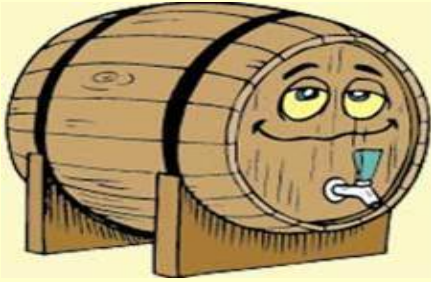
with them, they made me feel like I was family. I treasure the memories of the time we shared together. John also left behind his children and grandchildren. I believe John led a good and full life, but was also taken from us before his time.

I first met John at DSC Communications, where we both started to work in early 1992. John and I worked closely, and became friends quickly. It wasn't too long after that, that we both picked up home brewing again. We had both brewed before, and when he let me know that he was going to start again, I couldn't resist joining in. I may not have done so, if it weren't for John. I'm glad we both did, because it made our friendship stronger.

God bless you, John.

—Don Trotter

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:news@nthba.org)

## **NTHBA Officers**

### **President**

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903-450-5554

### **1st vice president**

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### **2nd vice president**

Fred David  
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940-594-8538

### **Past President**

Jacque Keller  
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214-320-8426

## **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 Cow-boy games!

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Darrell Simon  
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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](http://www.nthba.org)

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If you received this with a yellow post office forwarding sticker,  
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