

LIVIN' THE BREWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION



Prez Sez

By Fred David

Here it is: January 2007 and it seems like only a few days ago I announced the first 2006 brewday at Walter Hodges' house. Time certainly has flown by and the new year of brewing better beer is upon us. During 2006 we had our ups and downs. On the down side, we were not able to reclaim our beloved Bluebonnet trophy and we lost great people and homebrewers such as Bill Dubas and Bruce Fabijonas due to relocation. On the upside, though, we had four great parties (five counting the Bluebonnet room crawl), we gained several new members, and there appears to be some genuine interest in making our club the one to beat in competition.

We are fast approaching the

Bluebonnet Brew-off and I have been brewing up a storm, hoping one of my entries will bring home a coveted stein. To that end, I have been carefully studying score sheets from previous competitions to continue improving my beer. I used to read them once and then set them aside, 18 months ago, I decided to start cataloging my results and really looking at the comments, especially those by the BJCP certified judges. Using their comments as a guide, I started modifying recipes with the hopes of winning something. I have had great success with this, winning a second and third place at the Dixie Cup and a first, second, and third place at the Cactus Challenge. The other thing I believe has helped me in my success is sticking to two or three specific styles and making them the best I can. I also



have been given great advice from the other people in the club and a wealth of knowledge is there for those who ask.

I hope that my experience is not a fluke and others follow suit. Ken Woodson, our new Minister of Education, will do a great job. If anyone has a specific topic to address I'm sure he will be accommodating. I hope everyone had a great holiday and that you've also been brewing up a storm for the Bluebonnet. I look forward to seeing everyone at our first 2007 meeting at Bavarian Grill on Tuesday, January 9. There's a club only competition at the meeting. Check www.nthba.org for details.

Until then,
Prosit!!!

Announcements

- Jan 9 Meeting at Bavarian Grill, 7:00pm
- Jan 13 Brewday at Mike Grover's House

In this issue

Prez Sez	1
What's Brewin'	1
Brewdays	2
Competition News	3
Ask Jacque	5
Classifieds	7
Officer contacts	7

What's Brewin?

By Walter Hodges

I hope you all had great holidays and that Santa brought you some great new brewing gadgets.

2007 should be another fun year for the North Texas Homebrewers. We have the usual parties on tap (pun intended). We will be looking for loca-

tions for the spring, summer, Oktoberfest and Christmas parties. Please let me know if you are interested in hosting any of these parties. The ever-popular brew days will continue in 2007.

Our first brew day of the



year will be Saturday, January 13th at the home of Mike and Leah Grover, located at 2312

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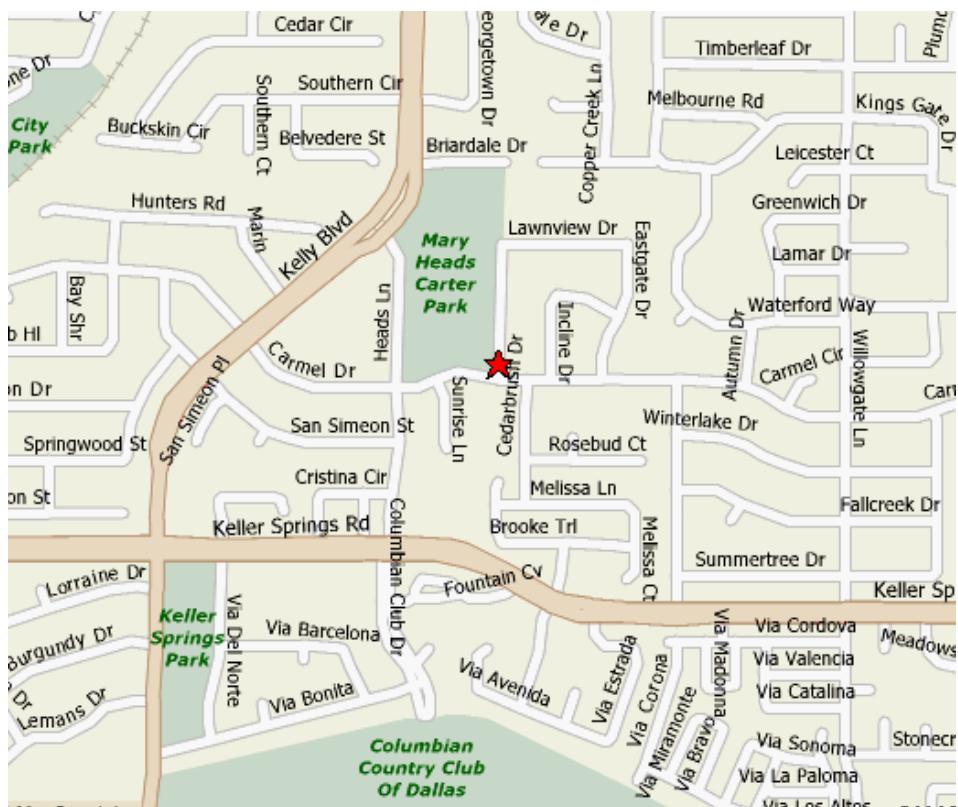
Westwind Drive, Carrollton 75006. The brew day will begin at 9:00 AM, with Mike brewing an all-grain beer. Mike wants to let everyone know that his system is a "Po' Man's" all-grain system. So if you are thinking about making the leap to all-grain but are afraid that you will have to spend \$5000 on some fusion fired HERMS brew sculpture, come check out Mike's system that cost nowhere near \$5000 and is powered by propane and gravity, yet turns out delicious beers.

If you are new to the club or brewing itself, the brew days are great opportunities to learn from other home brewers. Home brewers are encouraged to participate in the brew days by brewing with their systems at the host's home, so you are likely to see multiple configurations of home breweries at the brew days. At the minimum, the brew days are great opportunities to hang out with some fellow home brewers and enjoy some samples of home brew.

I am looking for a host of the February brew day, which is our President's Brew Day, where past club presidents are encouraged to come and brew. If you are interested in hosting this event please let me know at the next club meeting.

Party On!

The January 13 Brewday will be at Mike Grover's house at 2312 Westwind Dr, Carrollton, 75006. 972-417-3057.



2006 Brewer Royale

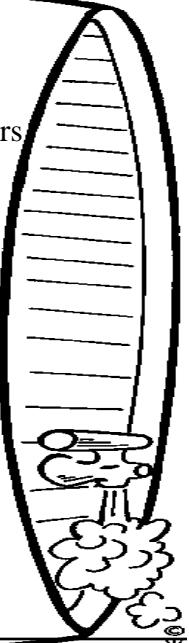
By John McConnell

Below is the Club Competition Schedule for 2007-2008. Please note this could change based off the scheduled provided by AHA Club-Only Competition schedule. If you are interested in judging any of the competitions please email me at sir-john1@sbcglobal.net.

BREWER ROYALE 2007

Style of the Month

January 07	Low Gravity/Session Beers
March 07	Scottish Ale
April 07	Extract Beers
July 07	Strong Ale
September 07	Bock
November 07	Pilsner
January 08	Dark Lagers
March 08	Perfect Porter Challenge
April 08	Extract Beers
July 08	Mead
September 08	Imperial Anything



Club Competition Schedule 2007

January 07	Low Gravity/Session Beers
March 07	Scottish Ale
April 07	Extract Beers
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July 08	Mead
September 08	Imperial Anything

Judges Needed

By John McConnell

We are currently asking members who are interested in judging competitions to please email me at sir-john1@sbcglobal.net. If interested please email me with your name, phone number, email address, experience and the type of beer you like to judge. We have a lot of competitions this year and want to make sure we have folks in place to judge. I will release competition schedules in another article.

If you have never judged a competition don't let that stop you. We will pair you up with experienced judges who will help show you what to do. What better way to help out the club and other members by judging in a competition. Together we can make this the best year yet.

Bluebonnet and Beyond

By Mike Grover

This year has gone by fast, as I'm sure it has for all of you. I will continue to serve as a club officer in 2007, but in a different capacity. So...you will have a new competition coordinator beginning in January. The only part about this position that is tough is rounding up folks to judge the beer at the club only competitions. Please make life easy on your next coordinator by volunteering to judge! We have a lot of club members, and generally great attendance at our monthly meetings, yet there is a small group of members who wind up doing almost all of the judging. I plan on doing my part, especially since I've re-

cently taken the Beer Judge Certification Program exam and am looking forward to the opportunity to sharpen my skills. Why not make it your NTHBA New Year's pledge? **Say it now "I will help judge at least one club only competition in 2007."**

The Bluebonnet Brew Off is closer than you think – just over three months away. Remember to stash away a few bottles of each batch of homebrew so you'll have lots of entries by the time March rolls around. 2007 should be a great competition year for us, especially with the anticipated addition of the Limbo Challenge to the Lone Star Circuit. A good showing



Ask Jacque

All your burning brewing questions answered

by Jacque Keller

Our own Jacque Keller, formerly contributing "Beer Talk With Jacque," will write a new column this year: Ask Jacque. This is your opportunity to get answers to all your nagging, burning brewing questions by an expert who's not afraid to make homebrewers blush!

Dear Jacque,

When my wife/girlfriend helps me brew my hot break increases dramatically. Why does this happen?

Regards,

Brewfuddled



Dear Brewfuddled,

Congratulations! You are in an enviable position when your wife and girlfriend both help you brew. The technical term for this arrangement is "brewnage a trois." ("Jacque's Dictionary of Beer," Reinheitsgebot Publishing, 2006)

Increased agitation and excitement of molecules is the usual result of brewnage a trois. In such a situation, your hot break will be dramatic. This extreme molecular excitement results in a quick and voluminous hot break.

The excitement and agitation to which I refer is caused by - of course - the women's non-stop chatter and talk.

Again, congratulations! Sounds like a whole lot of flocculation goin' on!

xoxoxo
Jacque :)

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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McKee Smith

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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.