



LIVIN' THE BREWS



The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association, Inc.

Volume XIV, Issue 4

April, 1999

April Club Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 1999, 7:30 PM

Location: The Flying Saucer

14999 Montfort Drive

Addison, TX 75240

(972) 934-2537

Mapsco -14D

Club Birthday Party and Brew-Day

by Steven Hacker

Saturday - May 1, 1999

Activities begin at 8:00 AM
(see below for specifics)

Rock Creek BBQ Club

501 Wildlife Parkway

Grand Prairie, Texas

They Came, They Drank, They Conquered !

by Russ Bee,
Competition Coordinator

The Thirteenth Annual Bluebonnet was a real blast. I was on the blue bus pub crawl along with Jason and the Ale-ian society from Lubbock, the gang from Wichita Falls, and Jimmy Paige from the Foam Rangers. For most of the trip we were locked in a loud, heated debate over which end of the bus sucked. I think it was finally decided the front of the bus sucked. Richard Wincorn was on the bus microphone regaling us with one of his hilarious jokes when he got a brain fart and couldn't remember the punch line, thus getting booed all the way back to his seat. It was a lot of fun. Anyway, while we were pounding down beers and acting out scenes from Animal House and singing the Brady Bunch theme song the Florida boys a.k.a. Steve, Matt, Ed and Dave were back at the hotel amassing

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Ramblings from the President

Much like the rise and fall of the Chicago Bulls, so goes the dynasty of the NTHBA in the Bluebonnet competition. I would like to congratulate the Florida boys and girls on their well-earned victory. Since they have *our* trophy, it is up to us to capture *theirs*. As for the Bluebonnet cup, I feel confident it will make its way back to where it belongs next year. I hope everybody had a good time. I look forward to seeing you next year when the North Texas Home Brewers will be at the helm of the 2000 Bluebonnet.

Don't forget we have two upcoming competitions. The Crescent City competition to be held in New Orleans. We already have that strange D-Cup locked away in our trophy case. Our mission, if we chose

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May 1st is a big day in the homebrewing world. The AHA has it set as the National Home Brew Day. This provides the opportunity to brew a batch of the same style, on the same day as many other homebrewers around the world! Closer to home, the NTHBA has marked May first as the clubs official Birthday therefore one must have a Birthday Party - right? Not forgetting the National Brew Day, why not combine these events and have a club brew-day / birthday party for all. Russ Bee has arranged for us to hold our festive event at the Rock Creek Bar-B-Q Club located near Lone Star Park Race Track in Grand Prairie. We held a brew-day there back in '97 and the facility was perfect for the event.

Would you like to eat some Bar-B-Q ?

The Rock Creek Bar-B-Q Club would like to cook their delicious food for us. So we need a head count to determine if there is enough people to cook for. Our Club will buy the food but we need to know how much will be needed.

If you are going to attend, we need to know the number of adults in

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**BREWER ROYALE '99
COMPETITION**

BEER OF THE MONTH

May	Bock (Cat. 12)
July	Traditional Mead and Braggot, Fruit and Vegetable Mead, and Herb and Spice Mead (Cat. 25, 26 & 27)
September	Porter (Cat. 9)
November	English & Scottish Style Strong Ale (Cat. 10)

STANDINGS

Jim Layton	3
Steve Wall	3
Paul Doxey	2
Darel Simon	2
Charlie Feder	1
Paul Kensler	1

Birthday Party

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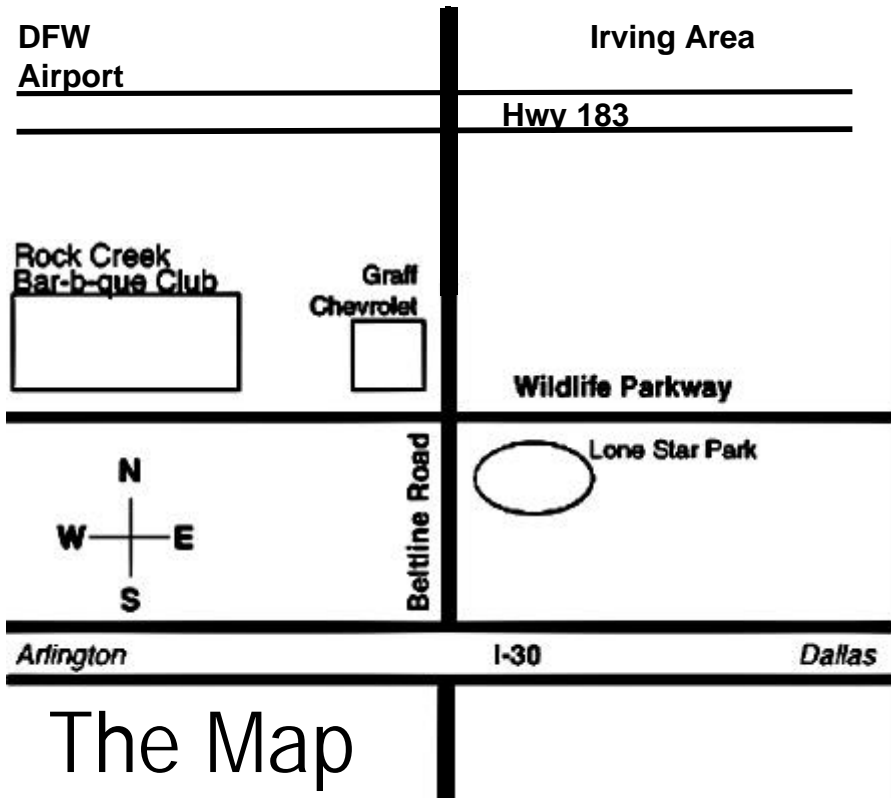
your party that will be eating. A "count" will be taken at the April club meeting. If you can not make the Tuesday club meeting, please call a board member ahead of time so we can count you in.. (See Rett's "Ramblings article for more.)

Our Club will also provide a keg of commercial beer. And of course you can bring your homebrew to share as well.

The Plan

8 AM - Brewing begins
 Exactly 1 PM - Kick-off AHA Big Brew '99 with the "Big Brew Toast"
 1 PM (plus a few minutes)-
 Bar-B-Q Dinner is served and Club Birthday Party Celebration begins

Important Note: If you plan to brew, and want to brew the AHA Big Brew style, the recipe will be available at the club meeting or you can get it on the AHA webpage at <http://beertown.org/AHA/bigbrew99/>



The Map

**3rd Annual
Celtic Brew-Off**

To be held June 5th & 6th in Arlington. Sponsored by The Knights of the Brown Bottle. Entries due by 5/7/99 with \$5 entry fee. Category Descriptions and Entry Forms will be available at our club meeting or you can contact J.B. Flowers about entry forms at (817) 467-0398 or e-mail: bpflower@flash.net.

Membership Survey

by Steven Hacker

In the February issue of the newsletter there was the -

North Texas Homebrewers Membership Survey

If you filled it out and turned it in I want to thank you for your participation.

If you have not done so, then as Gomer would say, "Shame, Shame, Shame", we really need your input too.

We have over 120 members but so far have only received **16 surveys**..... (that includes mine). We all know that's not enough to represent a good consensus of our club. Your information is needed to help us plan club activities that are of interest to the majority of members, not just the club officers (we are good but we can't read minds).

Please fill out the survey and bring it to the club meeting Tuesday night. If you can't make the meeting, you can mail it or even e-mail it to steve4beer@aol.com if you prefer. Being conservative, I did not reprint it in this issue so pull out your February '99 issue to retrieve the form. I have the survey available in MS Word format and I will email you a copy of it if requested.

I have copies that I will bring to the April meeting as well. Please participate, this is YOUR homebrew club.



Ramblings

continued from page 1

to accept it, is to keep it for another year. The second competition is the Sunshine Challenge in Orlando. Hopefully we can net some hardware (**A Trophy!!!**) for our efforts.

We will have a packing party at Tom Hendersons house, on Tuesday April 20th at 6:00PM. for anyone who would like to ship their entries and save on postage costs. Toms address is 902 Wateka Way in Richardson. There is one catch though; I have 41 different bottles of Belgian beer that I need help drinking. If you think you can come to my rescue, I'll see you at Toms. If you can't make the packing party, then please take your pre-packed entries to Homebrew Headquarters or Homebrew Supply of Dallas by April 19th. We will ensure that they are picked up in time to make their way to Florida.

It is time to bring those fancy shmancy T-shirt designs down to the club meeting at the Flying Saucer. After eyeballing them, club members will be asked to select their favorite entry, to be worn proudly across the chests of the members of NTHBA as the new official garment. The winner will not only get bragging rights into the new millennium, but also a free T-shirt as well.

May 1st is National Homebrew Day, second in importance only to our own club's birthday. We have planned a big brew day in addition to club party to coincide with each other. This brew haha will be held at Rock Creek BBQ in Grand Prairie. Brewing will begin at

8:00AM with lunch being served around 1:00PM. The club will supply a keg of beer and treat you to some of the best BBQ to ever cross your gums. We will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting or you can contact Bill Waters at 214-823-5419; Email, Waters@TI.com or Kyle Newman at 214-824-7802. or Email at Knewman@airmail.net. We must know how many meals to purchase, so please let us know of your plans to attend.

If you aren't able to attend the function in Grand Prairie, there is a great second option. Mike Leonard of Homebrew Headquarters is having a rather Big TADOO of his own to celebrate his store's 10th anniversary and National Homebrew Day. He would like a couple of the NTHBA'ers to talk to other brewers about our club. Once again, beer and groceries will be provided. Give Mike or Kelly a call at Homebrew Headquarters if you would like to do this.

Email, Email, and Email. If you would like to pick up bits of information from the bowels of the NTHBA, then please forward your Email address to Steve Hacker at Steve4beer@aol.com so we can get you hooked up to our technological digestive system. Perhaps you would like to interject some food for thought.

In closing, I would like to thank everybody who lent a hand in making the Bluebonnet 99 a wonderful competition which was

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They Came.....

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enough points to make off with our beloved Bluebonnet trophy. That's right, boys and girls, our trophy is relaxing on the beach in Florida. **OUCH!** If that isn't bad enough, they told me afterwards that there is no way we could ever win their trophy. So there you have it.

All those who wish to join in the effort to avenge our loss and capture the Sunshine Cup drop off your packaged entries by the close of business on 4/20 at either Homebrew Supply or Homebrew Headquarters in Richardson. If you are dropping them off at either location be sure they are packed for shipping. Or you can bring your entries to Tom Hendersons the nite of 4/20 and join the packing/pizza party. The club pays for shipping. Bottle labels, entry forms, and packing material will be on hand. We'll also have entry forms at the club meeting. Lets return the favor and ride off into the sunset with the Sunshine Cup.

It's probably the only way to stop them from mailing us all those humiliating post cards of the Bluebonnet trophy for an entire year.

If anyone is thinking of attending the Sunshine Challenge I'd highly recommend it. It's a 3 day party. (and we can say "Hi" to our trophy.) Will Greg Noonan continue the tradition and give Barb Covington his underwear? Will the Florida band, Barleywine, finally learn how to play Crocodile Rock? Will the pub crawl stop at the Cricketeer for cask conditioned Fullers E.S.B.? Is it humanly possible to drink all the kegs dry that they have at the Sunshine Challenge? Will the beer truck follow us around again all weekend? Did something really crawl up inside Steve Vallencourt and die? Will the North Texas Homebrewers take their defeat lying down or seek revenge? Will YK2 bring an end to civilization as we know it?

All these questions will be answered in May. As Cosmo Kramer would say, "Giddyup".

Ramblings

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enjoyed by all. Spence Mabry did a bang-up job as director and I can only hope I can follow his lead for next year. Thanks to everybody who entered beers, judged, cleaned up, and drank up. Special thanks to Al Kinchen for supplying us with good Routh Street beer that was there for the asking. I would also like to give kudos to Steve Wall and Steve Hacker for all they did at the Bluebonnet and the months leading up to the competition. Hey guys, do you want to do it again?

Your Prez, Rett Blankenship
Edited and typed by my Prez,
Donna Blankenship



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Atmosphere ★★★

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Facing Parker in the NW Corner at Central
Lunch Tues.-Sat. 11-5; Dinner Tues.-Sat. 5-10

How about a Laugh

A mother was reading a book about animals to her 3 year old daughter:

Mother: "What does the cow say?"

Child: "Mooooo!"

Mother: "Great! What does the cat say?"

Child: "Meow."

Mother: "Oh, you're so smart! What does the frog say?"

The wide-eyed little three-year-old looked up at her mother and replied, "Bud."



North Texas Home Brewers Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President -----	Rett Blankenship -----	(972) 412-0540 firebrew20@aol.com
1st Vice President -----	Kyle Newman -----	(214) 824-7802 knewman@airmail.net
2nd Vice President -----	Bill Waters -----	(214) 823-5419 waters@ti.com
Secretary -----	Steven Hacker -----	M (817) 540-1210 steve4beer@aol.com
Treasurer -----	Jim Layton -----	(903) 546-6989 j-layton@ti.com
Member-at-Large -----	Eric Schoville -----	(972) 874-8128 eschovil@us.oracle.com
Past President -----	McKee Smith -----	(972) 393-3569 mcksmith@iadfw.net

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 -----	(972) 771-9489
Charlie Feder -----	(972) 223-8771
Ken Haycook -----	(214) 381-3770
Darrell Simon -----	(972) 475-7571
McKee Smith -----	(972) 393-3569

The Brewing Equipment Trading Post



Turn your great beer into a prize winner. I have a couple extra Pall Profile II polypropylene filters for sale. 0.5 micron removal rating at 99.9% efficiency; 10 inches in length; will fit standard filter housings. Specifically marketed to the fermentation industry. \$25 each.

Contact Jim Snow at
homebrewer@home.com
or 972-359-4185.

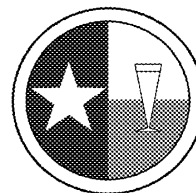
To list your equipment, include the following information -

- 1 - Description of item(s)
- 2 - Whether it is "For Sale", "Will Trade For _?_" or "Free, Come & Get It"
- 3 - Your name
- 4 - How and when to contact you about your item(s).

You can give the information to Steve Hacker at a club meeting or send it as described at the bottom of the Brewers Calendar (in this newsletter).

Your item(s) will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter. There is **no charge** for this service if you are a club member.

North Texas Home Brewers Association, Inc.



The North Texas Home Brewers Association 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! Deadlines for ads and articles are the last Monday of each month for publication the following month.

Visit the NTHBA WEB Site at
<http://hbd.org/users/nthba>



Hey Bluebonnet! Now that you've been won by the Central Florida Homebrewers, What are you gonna do now? ...

Cheers,
Central Florida Home Brewers

It's time for the AHA 1999 National Homebrew Competition!

In 1998, more than 400 judges evaluated 3,489 homebrewed beverages. AHA expects approximately 4,000 entries for the 1999 Competition.

First-round entries must be received at the appropriate site between **Monday, March 29 and 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 1999**. Second-round entries must be received at the appropriate site between Monday, June 14, and 5 p.m. on Friday, June 18, 1999. Notification will be mailed by May 21 with additional instructions if your entry advances to the second round.

Everything's better with Bluebonnet on it From Central Florida

Texas comes from the Indian word "tejas" which means friends. Well friends you sure know how to throw a party!

There aren't many competitions that have as much to offer as the Bluebonnet Brew Off. On Friday when you check in you receive your name badge and T-shirts, mugs etc. There must be more than forty people in line so you know that there is more to it than that. Well, there are two kegs of beer for the thirsty. (I hate waiting without beer) but more important...the annual jockey for a bus seat on the pubcrawl. This is no easy task! The route must be scrutinized, food & beer quality (I've got that reversed haven't I?) This is best researched by asking the locals while drinking beer in line. There are four busses all on different routes so the proper questions are important. I remember one year I waited (researched) about 20 minuets in line. The hands down favorite bus route was

"bus 2", everyone said "bus 2" was the way to go. I asked no further questions, no further research was required. Upon reaching the table I found that they had named all the busses "bus2". I stood there sweating watching the seats fill up wondering if Lewis Carrol had ever been to Texas. To this day the busses are still "bus 2" but they designate them by color so be sure to ask for a color, unless of course your color-blind, then your s.o.l. And yes, there are other pitfalls when picking a bus, be sure to look on roster for fellow homebrewers who have a marked propensity for flatulence. Myself and a busload of other crawlies were stranded one year by a bus driver who thought something had gone foul with the bus...he was part right.

Friday night starts the dinner. Three courses served with the guest speakers being introduced and asked to say a few words, and of course good beer. After dinner this venue becomes the Charlie Gottenkieny show. Charlie, well known for his knowledge of Belgian beers is a national ribbon holder in the style. He has a passion for going to Belgium and hunting Lambic. He brings his bounty back and shares it with us on Friday night once a year. This is nothing less than heroic, you'd agree if you had been there. I lost count of how many we tasted and had never heard of many. He did have some bad news. He reported that lambic having difficulty maintaining its tradition and true lambic is a vanishing style. I think I saw a tear there. On the brighter side then the lambic was gone we still had lots of beer to drink. In fact they kept bringing more out. The room was rearranged so that there were several tables, behind which a brewery rep. would dispense his product. Several local and national micros were represented. I stayed at the Rouge table, it was a stout night for me. When things broke up I discovered the reason we had three

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Bluebonnet Entries by AHA Categories

Total number of entries 811

- 01 Barley Wine 31
- 02 Belgian and French Ale 53
- 03 Belgian-style Lambic 11
- 04 Mild and Brown Ale 43
- 05 English-style Pale Ale 40
- 06 American-style Pale Ale 46
- 07 English Bitter 18
- 08 Scottish Ale 25
- 09 Porter 34
- 10 English and Scottish Strong Ale 24
- 11 Stout 65
- 12 Bock 32
- 13 German Dark Lager 18
- 14 German Light Lager 10
- 15 Classic Pilsner 34
- 16 American Lager 23
- 17 Vienna/Marzen/Okttoberfest 32
- 18 German-style Ale 40
- 19 German-style Wheat Beer 37
- 20 Smoked Beer 17
- 21 Fruit and Vegetable Beer 36
- 22 Herb and Spice Beer 25
- 23 Speciality Beer 36
- 24 California Common Beer 12
- 25 Traditional Mead and Braggot 17
- 26 Fruit and Vegetable Mead 31
- 27 Herb and Spice Mead 11
- 28 Cider 10

Bluebonnet '99 For ALL the results

Goto the Official Bluebonnet website at
[www..flash.net/~smabry/blue.htm](http://www.flash.net/~smabry/blue.htm)

If you don't have internet access, come to the club meeting - we've got the numbers!



Everythings Better

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c-kegs in the room.(never question beer being loaded into your hotel room) I shared the room with Tom Henderson, and he, in his infinite wisdom, had invited most of the still standing attendees (and some that were not) to our room. I think I hit the bed around 5am got up at 8. Three hours is actually pretty good for a beer competition.

Saturday morning brought the seminars, Ray Daniels, and Paul Gatz of the AHA. Followed by a Q & A featuring award winning brewers Russ Bee and Dean Fiker. Then the second round judging. We were forced to drink beer again. Second round beer at that. As usual the entries were stellar. I judged Strong Ale. (one of my favorite breakfasts). and the quality of the entries was great. You would expect that with 813 beers in the competition. the cream is gonna be pretty good. If you won a ribbon in this competition you have good reason to be proud.

With a gullet full of strong ale I was primed for the pub crawl. As luck would have it the busses were here. My nerves were a little on edge with the CFHB having the most entries in the competition, 150. There was a possibility that the Bluebonnet title may go to my our club for the first time ever. Five hours of drinking beer was just the thing to calm my nerves. Living in Central Florida its possible that you would not be use to having the choice of beer as wide as you see on this pub crawl. I've been to a lot of beer bars but it still puts me off balance when you walk into a pub and find over a hundred feet of back bar with taps jammed in every couple of inches. Choice can be refreshing yet confusing at the same time. By the third stop things on the bus had started to degradate. Our bus captain was Cindy and she told some of the boys that she would have to spank them if they did not behave. Bad move. There were several cries of "I've been bad!" "I've been worse" "no I've been worse" and they lasted for the rest of the trip. Well you know how drunken homebrewers can be. (I did none of the above...

honest Alice)

The arrival at the awards ceremony was akin to St.Patrick's day parade. Each bus arrived with it's cargo of debauchery , chanting, cheering and singing the praises of their bus. Once all of the busses arrived the captains all went to the stage and each held up their bus window sign one at a time. The bus with the loudest response and/or most unique response wins. Don't ask me what they win...far as I know nothing. But you never heard anybody try to win nothing so hard in your life. Even after the "nothing" has been won, though out the evening bus captains or members of the cargo will spontaneously hold up the card and shout for a response, perhaps hoping to steal the "nothing" by surprise. By the way... bus 2 won.

And speaking of winners, The CFHB won first place in eight of the first ten categories. At one point we had a 24 point lead. You would think this would put us seriously ahead and give no hope to any other club with eyes on the cup. But the NTHBA is not just another club. As our ribbons became less and less frequent. The NTHBA began to close. They were within 7 points when they ran out of categories. and the cup was ours. The cup was now going to leave the Dallas area for the first time in it's life. Many of the members of the NTHBA and other clubs expressed concern about the cups welfare. They were worried about it being the subject of compromising postcards. I assures them that we would never think of such a thing. (right).

The rest of the night was a blur, It seemed that someone from every club was in our room congratulating us at one time or another. I assume I had a good time. I do remember a threat from the Competition leader from the NTHBA Russ Bee: " We will send just

**Pickup your
Bluebonnet score
sheets at the club
meeting Tuesday**

NOTICE OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Monthly Club Meeting @ Flying Saucer - Addison **April 13th**

Packing Party for Sunshine Challenge Entries @ Tom Henderson's home **April 20th**

Club Birthaday Party and Brew-Day **May 1st**

Livin' the Brews Newsletter
c/o Steven Hacker
P.O. Box 168274
Irving, Texas 75016-8274

If you received this with a yellow post office forwarding sticker,
please give Jim Layton a call at (972) 952-3718 and give him your new address.