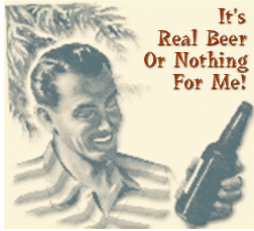


# LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION



## Prez Sez

By Mike Grover

I hope all of you are having a great Oktoberfest season. As expected, October has brought us great brewing weather. In the spirit of the season we will be having our monthly meeting at the Bavarian Grill in Plano on October 14th. Come out and enjoy some authentic German food and beer. We will be recognizing our Cactus Challenge winners this month and also handing out our membership survey. Thanks to everyone who made it up to the Irish Rover for last month's meeting. They treated us well and had a very nice beer selection. Sticking with the Oktoberfest theme, don't forget our upcoming Oktoberfest party on the 25th. Also our brew day is this Saturday, October 11th. More information is available in "What's Brewin'."

Next month will be our annual officer election. If you are interested in running for an officer position for 2009, please email any of your current club officers and let us know. Also



please provide a brief bio of yourself that we can include on the ballot. The bio only needs to be a paragraph or so. Tell us a little bit about yourself, how long you've been brewing, what made you decide to homebrew, etc. Votes are taken at the November club meeting and the new officers are introduced at the Christmas party in December. Club officers meet once a month on the first Tuesday of each month (one week ahead of the club meeting) to discuss club issues, plan upcoming events, and enjoy a few beverages. If you have any questions about being an officer please feel free to drop me – or any of our current officers – an email.

As you can see in Cactus Awards table later in the

newsletter, we did very well at the Cactus Challenge this year. Unfortunately so did the Bay Area Mashtronauts, and they were able to increase the point gap in the Lone Star Circuit standings a bit. We sent a lot on entries down to the Dixie Cup this year, so with a little luck – and a lot of good brewing – maybe we can overtake them. Regardless of the final outcome, this has been a great competition year for the club and it has been fun slugging it out with the Mashtronauts. The Dixie Cup will wrap it up for the Lone Star Circuit this year, but planning is already underway for next year's competitions. A Bluebonnet Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday the 26th of October at Big Buck Brewery in Grapevine. Look for more details on the club website.

## What's Brewin'

By Brian Beyers

This month's brew day will be at Bill James house on October 11th. The address is 2801 Glen Forest Lane Plano TX, 75023. He will be starting around 9am. If you have any interest in a HERMS system this would be a great brew day to show up and check out Bills home made system. The Oktoberfest party will be at Brian and Melinda Beyer's house on October 25th. The address is 2117 Rheims Carrollton TX, 75006. There will be various sausages and a pork dish for every ones enjoyment, so be sure to bring those side dishes. We will also have the clubs keg cooler at the party so be sure to bring all of those Oktoberfest beers, or any other beer, that you have been working on. Keep an eye on the website for more details.

## Tech Corner

By Ken Woodson

The next beer basics class will be held on October 11th, at the October brew day. We'll start around 12:30 p.m. and we will continue to discuss beer recipe formulation. In particular, we will review specialty malts. So, if you get a chance, come out and join us.

Our next BJCP study class will be on Sunday October 12th and we will discuss Belgian Strong Ales. Each study session will start around 12:30 p.m. and last until around 3:00 p.m. My home address is 6913 Rochelle Dr. in Plano, near COIT Rd. and Legacy Dr. If you want to become a BJCP judge, it's not too late to join us.

Chances are most of you have used a hydrometer to measure specific gravity; however, you may not be aware that most hydrometers are calibrated to

work at a specific temperature, usually 60 °F or 68 °F.

Hydrometers measure the density of a liquid relative to the density of water at the calibration temperature. If you use a hydrometer to measure the gravity of wort or beer at a temperature that is different from the calibration temperature, then you need to adjust the specific gravity reading.

For example, if your hydrometer is calibrated at 60 °F and you measure your OG to be 1.050 at 80 °F then you need to add 3 gravity units, so your actual OG is 1.053. For the same hydrometer, if you measured 1.050 at 105 °F, then you would have to adjust the reading by 6 gravity units, that is, your actual gravity is 1.056. In general, the greater the difference between the actual temperature and the calibration temperature, the more you will have to adjust the hydrometer reading. Also, at a specific temperature that is different from the calibration temperature, the higher the gravity the more you will have to adjust the hydrometer reading. The literature has many references that provide tables to adjust your hydrometer reading; however, if you always use your hydrometer at room temperature, then the adjustment will be small.

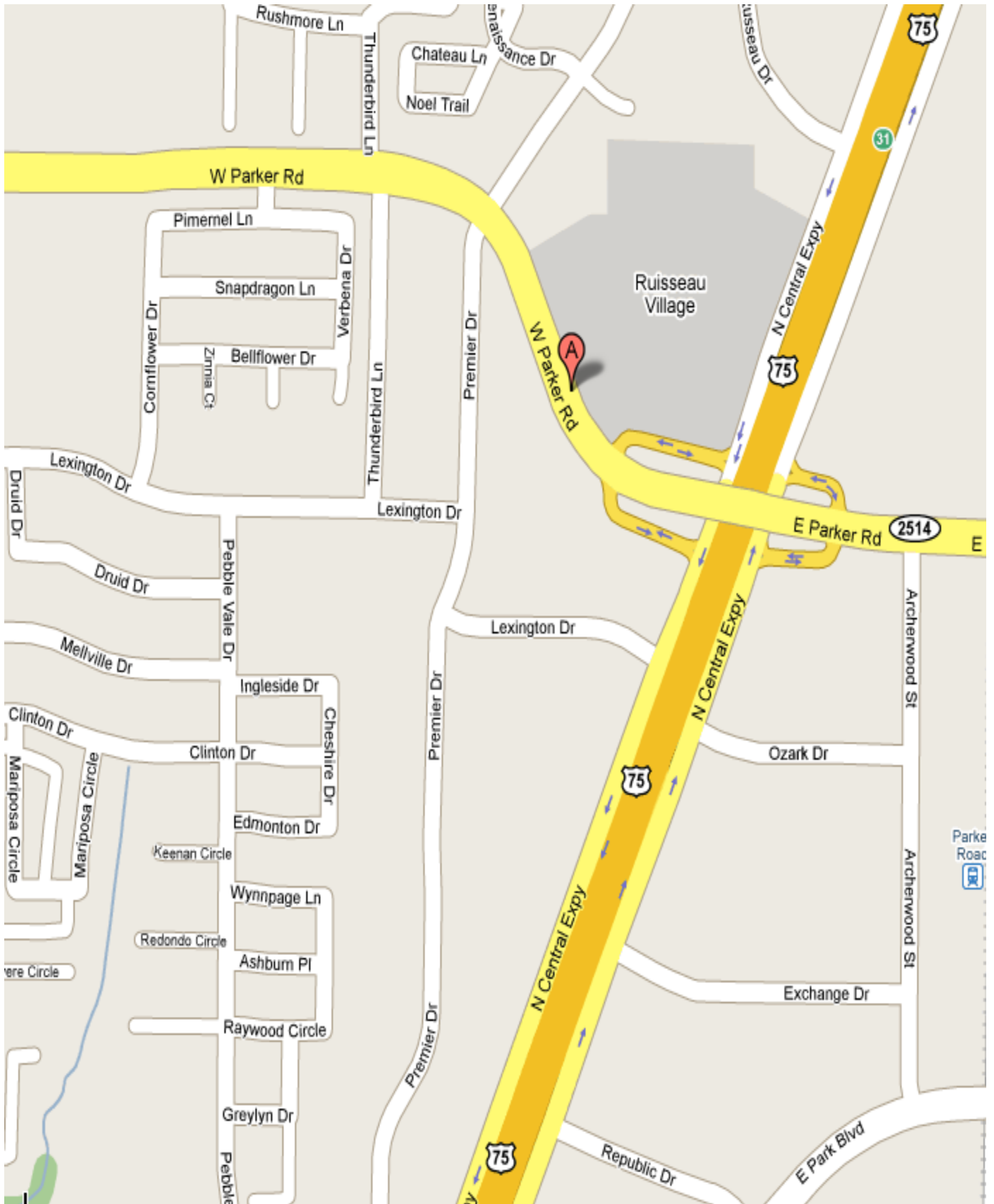
When you are boiling your wort it is necessary to measure the gravity to determine if you are on track to meet your target OG. An indispensable tool is a temperature compensating refractometer. A refractometer measures the refraction of light

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Sept Club Meeting @ The Bavarian Grill

**221 West Parker Road, Plano, Texas 75023**





(Continued from page 2)

through a liquid to determine the sugar content of the liquid. Therefore, it can be used to measure the gravity of your wort. Moreover, you do not have to adjust the reading for different temperatures, provided your refractometer compensates for temperature. Normally, refractometers use the Brix scale to measure the sugar content. If you typically work with gravity units, just remember the following approximation:

$$\text{Gravity Units} = 4 * \text{Brix Units.}$$

For example, 8 on the Brix scale is roughly 32 gravity units or an SG of 1.032.

Finally, Brix refractometers are usually calibrated for sucrose solutions. Wort contains additional sugars besides sucrose, so you need to adjust your refractometer reading to account for these additional sugars. The actual adjustment depends on the type of grain used, but a rough estimate is to divide your refractometer reading by 1.04.

If you would like to read more about calibrating hydrometers and refractometers, here are two good resources:

New Brewing Lager Beer, by Gregory Noonan

Brew Your Own Magazine, November 2003 Edition, Refractometers, by Colin Kaminski.



# 2008 Brewer Royal

By Orlando Guerra

The '08 Brewer Royal Club Only Competition is really tight now. We had (7) entries submitted for the September/October 2008, "Imperial Anything" COC. Results are as follows:

Place	Name	Category	Beer Name
First Place:	Damon Lewis	Category 23 Base Beer: Saison OG: 1.080, FG: 1.006 Type of Imp: ABV@ 9.7%	Imperial Saison
Second Place:	Orlando Guerra	Category 23 Base Beer: Pilsner OG: 1.090, FG: 1.020 Type of Imp: ABV & IBU	Imperial Pilsner V1.0
Third Place:	Anthony Perea	Category 23 Base Beer: American Amber OG: 1.080, FG: 1.012 Type of Imp: ABV	Imperial Amber

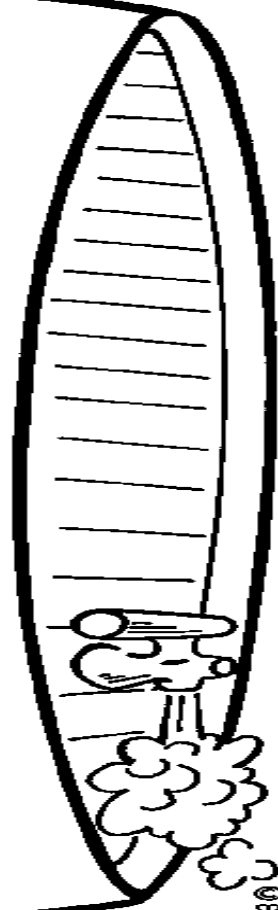
It may come down to the last COC (Celebration of the Hop, Cat. 14 India Pale Ale) to determine a winner. Damon has pulled ahead with 6-points but (4) brewers are tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 4-points each. So break out those IPAs for the final COC, because nothing is final yet.

## BREWER ROYALE 2008

### Style of the Month

Nov/Dec '08      Celebration of the Hop

Brewer	Points
Damon Lewis	6
Mike Grover	4
Wayne Yandell	4
Anthony Perea	4
Orlando Guerra	4
Don Tate	3
Bill Lawrence	2
Leroy Gharis	1
Steve Haney	1
Doug Nett	1



## Club-Only Competition

### November/December 2008 “Celebration of the Hop” (IPA)

**By Orlando Guerra**

The final Club-Only competition for the 2008 year is the November/December 2008 “Celebration of the Hop” (IPA). This competition covers BJCP Category 14, India Pale Ale (14A. English IPA, 14B. American IPA and 14C. Imperial IPA).

Entries may be dropped off at Homebrew Headquarters between Monday November 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> by 1pm. Entries will also be accepted at the club meeting Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup>. Judging is scheduled for Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Only one (1) 10-14 oz. green or brown bottles are required for each entry. If you are the winner (2-3) additional bottles will be required for the AHA Club-Only Competition. No swing tops allowed. **Printed crown caps must be blacked-out with a permanent marker and all labels removed to assure anonymity of all entries.** Each entry should use a AHA/BJCP Bottle ID form:  
[http://www.bjcp.org/BJCP\\_BottleID.pdf](http://www.bjcp.org/BJCP_BottleID.pdf)

## North Texas Homebrewers Association

### 2008 Cactus Results

**By Orlando Guerra**

Place	Category	Brewer	Brew Name
2	Best of Show	Wayne Yandell	Summer Kolsch #2
1	Dark Lager & Bock	Kelly Harris, Don Trotter	SchwarzHounde
1	Cream Ale & California Common	Wayne Yandell	Cream Ale #1
3	Cream Ale & California Common	Orlando Guerra	Cream Ale V1.0b
1	Blonde Ale & Kolsch	Wayne Yandell	Summer Kolsch #2
1	American Wheat & Rye	Cody Gray	Bluebonnet Wheat
2	American Wheat & Rye	Damon Lewis	Rye Days of Summer
2	English Brown Ale & Porter	Leroy Gharis	Yeasty Boys Porter
3	American Ale	Orlando Guerra	APA V3.0b
3	Fruit Beer, Spice, Herb, Vegetable Beer	Leroy Gharis	Leroi's Pumpkin Ale
HM	Smoke Beer, Wood Aged Beer	Anthony Perea	Smoked Ale
3	Strong Ale	Anthony Perea	Old Cat Ale
1	Cider	Kelly Harris	Pear Of Hearts
2	Cider	Kelly Harris	Pear Of Kings

# 2008 Competitions

## Lone Star Circuit & Brewer Royal (COC)

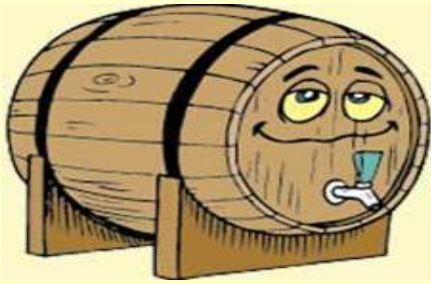
Competition	Entry Due Dates	Event Date
<b>Celtic Brew-Off</b>	PAST	PAST
<b>Big Batch Brew Bash</b> Weizenbock	PAST	PAST
<b>Lunar Rendez-Brew</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	PAST	PAST
<b>July Club Only</b> Meads	PAST	
<b>Alamo City Cerveza Festival</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	PAST	PAST
<b>Iron Mash</b> Saturday July 26th	PAST	PAST
<b>Limbo Challenge</b> Lower alcohol beers with starting gravities of about 1.050 or below.	PAST	PAST
<b>Cactus Challenge</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	PAST	PAST
<b>Sept/Oct. Club Only</b> Imperial Anything	PAST	
<b>Dixie Cup</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	PAST	Oct. 17th & 18th
<b>Nov/Dec Club Only</b> Celebration of the Hop	Club Date: TBD AHA Date: TBD	

See the NTHBA Website and discussion board for links and up to date information.

Livin' the Brews Newsletter  
Damon Lewis, editor  
C/O Homebrew Headquarters  
300 N. Coit Rd., Ste 134  
Richardson, TX 75080



# 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 Damon at [news@nthba.org](mailto:news@nthba.org)

## **NTHBA Officers**

### **President**

Mike Grover  
[MikeGGrover@aol.com](mailto:MikeGGrover@aol.com)  
 972-417-3057

### **1st vice president**

Orlando Guerra  
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 972-618-5144

### **2nd vice president**

Brian Beyer  
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 214-705-0515

### **Treasurer**

Curtis Martin  
[curtis@2cpm.com](mailto:curtis@2cpm.com)  
 972-867-2689

### **Minister of education**

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 972-208-8606

### **Secretary**

Damon Lewis  
[damon@brotherhoodbrew.com](mailto:damon@brotherhoodbrew.com)  
 214-493-1199

### **Past President**

Fred David  
[i\\_brewfer\\_2@verizon.net](mailto:i_brewfer_2@verizon.net)  
 972-378-5198

## **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!

Russ Bee  
[Russmbee@aol.com](mailto:Russmbee@aol.com)  
 (972) 771-9489

Darrell Simon  
 (972) 675-5562

McKee Smith  
 (972) 393-3569

Jim Layton  
[Blutick@juno.com](mailto:Blutick@juno.com)  
 (903) 546-6989

Homebrew Headquarters  
 (972) 234-4411  
[brewmaster@homebrewhq.com](mailto:brewmaster@homebrewhq.com)

## **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)