

LIVIN' THE BREWS

The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXIV

Issue XII - December



Quick Sips for December:

12/3 - Officer's Meeting - Cafe Amore - Richardson

12/10 - Club Meeting - Bitter Sisters Brewing - Addison

12/14 - December Brew Day - Bill Lawrence's House - Richardson

Prez Sez by Matt Parulis

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and enjoyed plenty of great food and homebrew with family and friends! It's hard to believe that it is December already but time flies when you are having fun! I've enjoyed my time serving as president and competition coordinator this year and I hope everyone enjoyed the club meetings and events as well. A big thank you to the 2019 officers for their efforts in keeping the club running smoothly!

We held our elections for the 2020 club officers at the November meeting at Lakewood Brewing. The club provided pizza and we had a pretty good turnout of club members. After tallying the votes, the 2020 club officers are...

Fritz Schanz

Jimmy Orkin

Stephen Tyner

Mike Grover

Bill Lawrence

In addition, James "Smitty" Smith has volunteered his services as the Minister of Education (MoE) for 2020! Thank you to the folks who stepped up to help out as officers next year!

Individual positions will be sorted out at the December officer's meeting on 12/3 at Cafe Amore in Richardson. As always, all club members are welcome to attend the officer's meeting. If you are planning to attend, please let us know on the Facebook event or email me so we can get a large enough table.

Cheers,

Matt



This is just an example of the carnage that can occur at a brewday. This looks like Grover's garage so likely this was taken in January of this year.

The First Sip by Mike Grover

I hope everyone is ready for the Holiday season. We have our last club meeting and brewday for the year, and we'll be announcing our 2020 officers at the December club meeting.

Here is what we have on tap for December:

The **December Officer's Meeting** is being held on Tuesday, 12/03 at [café Amore](#) in Richardson. It is located at [600 North Coit Road #2050](#). Club members are always welcome to join us. We will be determining officer positions for 2020. We meet around 6:30pm and start with club business around 7:00pm.

The **Monthly Club Meeting for December** is being held on Tuesday, 12/10 starting at 6:30pm at [Bitter Sisters Brewery in Addison](#). The address is [15103 Surveyor Boulevard](#). We will be announcing our 2020 officers. Come out and enjoy some great beers!

On **Saturday, December 14th** starting at **9am**, we'll have our last Brewday of the year Bill and Cathy Lawrence's house in Richardson. The address is [2008 Glenn Meadow Court](#). The club will provide a light breakfast snack in the morning and lunch. Join us to close out the 2019 brewing season.

A look back...

Our Fall Party was held at Bill James' house in Plano. We had a Halloween theme with prizes for costumes and we got to check out classic sci fi on Bill's Star Trek viewscreen. Delicious Mexican food including beef and chicken enchiladas were provided by our host. Of course there was plenty of homebrew and other beer on hand. Thanks Bill for hosting another great party!

The *November Brew Day* was held at Bitter Sisters Brewery in Addison. We had one of our best turnouts of the year, and had five different brew rigs going. Bitter Sisters provided BBQ for lunch and also gave NTHBA members a discount on beers in the taproom. Thanks to everyone who showed up, and thanks to Bitter Sisters for hosting and feeding us!

Our November club meeting at Lakewood Brewery was well attended. The club provided pizza for dinner and we voted on 2020 officers. Thanks to all who showed up and voted.

A look ahead...

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events in January. More details will be provided in the coming month.

- January Brewday: 01/11/2020 at Mike Grover's house (1939 Castille Drive, Carrollton)
- Winter Party: 01/18/2020 at Fred and Sue David's house (6803 Overbrook Drive, Parker). Note: may show up as Allen, TX in some mapping apps.

Prost,

Mike

Competition Corner

The Nov COC was the last club competition for 2019 and focused on **Historical Styles** from **category 27**. We had 5 total entries including 4 Pre-Prohibition Porters and 1 Pre-Prohibition Lager. Thank you to Walter Hodges and James Smith for judging the competition. With that being said, the results for the Nov COC are...

1st Place - John Driscoll - Fat Finger Pre-Prohibition Porter

2nd Place - Matt Parulis - PA Porter - Pre-Prohibition Porter

3rd Place - Andrew Kotas - Past Time Porter - Pre-Prohibition Porter

The final club competition is in the books and we ended up with a tie for 1st place in the final Brewer Royale standings. Fred David and Andrew Kotas both finished with 7 points for the year and John Driscoll took 3rd place with 6 points. Thank you to all who entered the club competitions this year! Competition awards will be handed out at the winter party on Jan 18th at Fred & Sue David's home.

Brewer Royale Standings (Final)

Fred David – 7 pts
 Andrew Kotas – 7 pts
 John Driscoll - 6 pts
 John Sutton – 3 pts
 Matt Parulis – 3 pts
 Stephen Tyner – 2 pts
 Doug Nett – 1 pt
 Mike Grover - 1 pt

2020 COC Schedule

The 2020 COC schedule will get started in January and will feature American Strong ales from category 22. Next year's competition coordinator will provide more info on entry deadline and judging date. Below is a list of the 2020 COC's.

January 2020	American Strong	22
March 2020	Irish & Scottish	14 & 15
May 2020	British Beers	11 - 13
July 2020	Lagers	1 - 3
September 2020	Extract - American Beers (at least 50% extract)	18 & 19
November 2020	Spiced Beers	30
January 2021	Trappist Beers	26

Lone Star Circuit Happenings

The Lone Star Circuit wrapped up in October when the Dixie Cup awards were announced. Fred David finished in 1st place and is the 2019 Brewer of the Year! Congrats to Fred for an outstanding effort in Lone Star and club competitions this year! Awards for the Brewer of the Year will also be handed out at the winter party in January.

Brewer of the Year Standings (Final)

Fred David - 18 pts

Walter Hodges - 12 pts

Layne McBeath - 7 pts

Dean Weaver - 4 pts

John Sutton - 3 pts

Don Trotter - 3 pts

Matt Parulis - 2 pts

Stephen Tyner - 2 pts

Mark Stolle - 2 pts

For more info on Lone Star Circuit competitions, please visit the [Lone Star Circuit](#) website.

Cheers,

Matt



Yeah, this is just a bit disturbing but well, these are some of our members. The “monkey” are the right looks to me like he’s been over-served but then, perhaps that is his natural facial expression.

The Secretary’s Missive by Bill Lawrence

By the time you, my gentle readers, consume this bit of prose, the tryptophan depression should have subsided. Actually, I’m not sure if the numb feeling is the result of the turkey or the copious amounts of liquid refreshment generally served at the traditional November feast. At any rate, I hope you gave thanks for your bounty this year and commemorated the subjugation of the native American population there at that first Thanksgiving properly. Now for the stress filled, hedonistic extravaganza we call Christmas. By the way, did you know this celebration was actually designed back in the day to compete with the feasting and debauchery associated with a pagan holiday which as it turns out was held at roughly the same time of year? As you are laying around fighting that nasty post-Christmas hangover; remember to blame those damn pagans and perhaps also the druids.

We are getting close to closing out yet another year in the club and if memory serves me correctly there are only two events left this year; the monthly meeting (at Bitter Sisters I think) and well as the brewday at my house. Well ok, there is also an officer meeting but nobody gives a damn about those anyhow. As is my custom, I will endeavor to demonstrate the latest cutting edge techniques for producing our favorite beverage for your enlightenment as well as entertainment. Did you know for instance that you can sanitize brewing equipment with ordinary household bleach? Who knew? Oh yeah, yeah.....I'll clean my fermentation fridge before the event.

Finally, as this is my last missive before the dawn of a new year, allow me to bestow my blessings on you all. May your holidays be filled with sweetness and light and may the new year bring nothing but health and the prospect of more of the good things life has to offer. In closing, may God bless America and for the love of everything holy, make a couple of entries for the Bluebonnet while you are sitting around doing nothing this year.

*Prost,
Willy*



Well, if you thought the first picture was an issue this one should pretty much put you away. Due but for the grace of the almighty, at least we were not forced to witness the speedos that half those guys were wearing but then I suppose at least they chose a relatively modest approach.

Beer Porn



Much like reading a “girly magazine” sometime one just wants to look at the pictures. I honestly don’t know what type of beer this is but it certainly looks tasty, enjoy.

The Treasurers Report by Jimmy Orkin

Summary:

Equity September end \$9,629.16

Equity October end \$9,228.25

New members in October: 8.

Members at October end: 86.

Current members at the time of this article: 88 members for year 2020.

I want to remind you that the financials trail the newsletter because I write this article before the end of the month.

The final monthly reports are available on the club website at the following link:

<http://nthba.org/?q=groups/financials-corner/financial-statement-archive>

Please let me know if you would like to discuss any of the club's financial information. Also, please let me know if you would like additional or different information in this article.

Our membership year runs June until May. If your membership is not current, please renew at Homebrew Headquarters or any club event. I'll be at most events and you can pay with a credit card. The membership fee is \$30 and will expire at the end of May 2020.

I or the officers always have membership forms and cards at all the club events. I'll send some email reminders. We will also keep you on the email list for a few months into the New Year even if your membership lapses. My plan was to send renewal email reminders then trim the email list. That has not happened. So you might be getting notification of the Newsletter availability with an expired membership. I hope to work on the club mail list in November.

Brew Strong,

Jimmy

The Minister of Education Report by Stephen Tyner

Tis The Season to Prepare for Competitions

Fall is in full swing and Christmas is right around the corner so everyone is ready to break out the Christmas Ales and Russian Imperial Stouts that pair nicely with cool weather and holidays. While it is a slow time of year on the competition front, Bluebonnet and the start of the 2020 Lone Star Circuit will be here before you know it. Judging for Bluebonnet starts February 7th, 2020 so by the time you are reading this you will have around eight weeks to prepare your entries. In this installment we will do a brief refresher on things to consider for competition brewing.

The first and most important thing is as true for competitions as it is for general brewing and that is preparation. Homebrewing is unlike many other hobbies in that instant gratification is not part of the deal – you must wait weeks, months in some cases, to know if you did well. The best way to make sure your efforts are not in vain is to prepare. One of the key things many that are new to competitions don't think about is conditioning time associated with many styles. An award-winning stout or lager is not something that you can brew two weeks before entries are due – you need to prepare. Make sure you are not setting yourself up for failure by planning to a brew that requires more time than you have. Another element of preparation is making sure your equipment is ready and in good working order. Nothing is worse than starting a brew day only to run out of propane mid-boil or realize you never fixed that line leak from the last brew day. Preparation extends to recipe research as well as making sure you have the right ingredients and supplies. Quality preparation can solve most brewing problems.

The next thing to consider when it comes to competitions is that you must brew to style. One of great things about the world of beer is that experimentation has led to some really great styles (milkshake IPAs, coffee and pastry stouts, etc.) that taste great but may not fit within the guidelines of the main style. BJCP sanctioned competitions center around entrants brewing to a defined style so make sure you research the style you intend to brew and make sure your beer meets those guidelines. I'm sure any experienced judge can tell you about many occasions where they encountered a phenomenal beer in a flight only to exclude it for not matching the category they were judging. If you do have an awesome cross between a double IPA and a saison but it doesn't fit the bill for either category, fear not! I would steer you to BJCP category 34 – Specialty Beer. This category includes sub-categories that allow brewers to enter beer styles that don't fit the traditional guidelines of well-defined styles.

The third thing to consider is in the same vein as preparation above but warrants its own topic and that is know the competition rules. Many competitions have guidelines around how bottles should look, labeling, number of bottles per entry, etc. Read these and make sure your entries are compliant as some competitions will disqualify entries that are not compliant with the rules. In general, competitions require that entries be submitted in clean, 12oz brown, longneck, unlabeled bottles with plain caps. Use of corks, non-12oz bottles or stubby bottles, swing-tops, screw-tops, bottles with label residue, or branding in the glass (See New Belgium Brewery bottles) are typically not permitted. In addition to the bottle presentation, labeling is also important. You will generally print your labels from the competition site and these need to be fixed to the bottles. The best practice is putting the label in a small zip-lock bag and using a rubber band to wrap the label to the bottle. The bag ensures that when the bottles are refrigerated the ink does not run off the label leading to issues with identification. Using tape or glue to attach the label to the bottle is typically discouraged. If you are shipping your entries then brush up on any special shipping and labeling instructions. If you are dropping off, make sure to abide by any special rules (some competitions discourage using six-pack carriers). In short, you put a lot of time and effort into brewing a beer so make sure it is presented properly for judging.

Our next topic shifts the focus of the advice from those entering competitions to those judging competitions. The NTHBA is fortunate to have quite a few experienced BJCP judges and many other members with significant judging experience. These judges are also expert brewers and can provide excellent insight into how homebrewers can improve recipes or processes. One thing the NTHBA does not have a lot of are calligraphers. Yours truly has some of the worst handwriting on the planet so I am a guilty offender. One of the main things entrants look for out of homebrew competitions is feedback from experts. You can provide the best feedback in the world but if the entrant can't read it then it doesn't help them. I would encourage all of those judging to make sure the feedback written on judging forms is legible so that it maximizes the value to the entrants. Sometimes this may require judges to slow down and read what they have written on the form. Sure – it may take slightly longer to get through a flight but anything judges can do provide clear, legible feedback will encourage future submissions and help to grow the hobby.

The last thing I will leave you with is a call to get out and judge. Judging is one of the best ways to improve your skills as a homebrewer. Even if you have never judged before it is very easy participate. You will be paired with an experienced judge who can provide great insight you can use in your own brewing. You also get the opportunity to try excellent (and in some cases not so great) samples of beers brewed to certain styles. This is great for understanding how styles should truly taste so you can hone your recipes. It can provide examples of off flavors and how to identify them so you can better evaluate your own beers. It is a win-win situation all around and I encourage you to come out and judge.

*Cheers,
Stephen*



This is just a phot of a club meeting. Looks like the guy in the orange shirt is pontificating on God only knows what. If I am not mistaken, this is Four Bullets and if you have not been there they make nice British ales which are a little hard to find in these parts.

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North Texas Home Brewers Association

The North Texas Home Brewers Assoc. is a group with an interest in beer and homebrewing. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at various locations around the DFW area. Visitors are welcome!

"Livin' the Brews" is our monthly newsletter. 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.



www.NTHBA.org