

# LIVIN' THE BREWS



The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXVI

Issue X - November

## *Quick Sips for November:*

Officer Meeting	November 3 <sup>rd</sup> 6:30pm	Heritage Pizza, The Colony
Club Meeting	November 10 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm	Zoom
Brew Day	November 7 <sup>th</sup> 9:00am	Steam Theory, Dallas

## Prez Sez by Mike Grover

Welcome to November! As you are reading this election day is nearly upon us, and with it the merciful end of political ads for a little while. I hope you've all been busy brewing up tasty suds. Be sure to get your bigger beers and lagers ready for the Bluebonnet Brew-Off, and don't forget that the CIA Operation Fermentation now occurs first on the Lone Star Circuit calendar. A good showing in both will put NTHBA in a good spot in the Lone Star Circuit standings.

This month our officers meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 3rd**. We will meet at [Heritage Pizza](#) in The Colony at 6:30 PM. As always, members are welcome to join. Please give me a heads up at [President@nthba.org](mailto:President@nthba.org) if you do plan to join us so that we can assure adequate seating.

For November we will have a virtual club meeting. The meeting will be held on Zoom on **Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**. We'll have a quick meeting to cover upcoming club business and events, followed by a special presentation. Dave Carpenter, Editor-In-Chief of Zymurgy Magazine, will give a presentation on lager brewing. Join the meeting armed with your questions about lager brewing, Zymurgy, or AHA. If you have some specific topics you'd like to hear about email me ahead of the meeting and I'll forward them to Dave. A Zoom link will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.



### **NTHBA Officer Elections**

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone that November is election month. We will elect our 2021 officers remotely this year. **If you are interested in supporting the club by becoming an officer, please send an email with your name and a brief bio to [President@nthba.org](mailto:President@nthba.org).** The bio needn't be anything elaborate. We would just like to know about your interest in beer & brewing, favorite beer styles, thoughts on the direction of the club, etc.

*Cheers, Mike*

## The First Sip by Stephen Tyner

And just like that, November is here and it brings our first major club event since Bluebonnet judging. Before we get to the new stuff, let's talk about October. I want to thank Walter Hodges for hosting the club at the October brew day. We had seven club members and one guest in attendance. Quite the variety of homebrew was shared (and consumed) which is a testament to how busy many of the club members have been this year.



*Only one brewer but lots of "help" from the peanut gallery*

In other social news, it was announced at the October club meeting that we will unfortunately not be having a holiday party this year. We are monitoring the situation and will continue to do what we can to hold in-person events as safely and responsibly as we can.

Now, on to November. We will be having a special club brew day at Steam Theory (340 Singleton Blvd

Dallas, TX 75212) on **Saturday, November 7th starting at 9am**. November 7th is also the date the AHA is observing National Learn to Homebrew Day. An [eventbrite link](#) has been sent to the club and you will need to register as either a brewer or attendee in order to attend the brew day. If you register and are not able to attend, please update your status on eventbrite so we can have an accurate count. Alternatively let myself or Jimmy know and we can update it for you.

Those attending the brew day must wear a mask and abide by any policies that Steam Theory has put in place. The club will have disposable masks if you forget to bring one. Since Steam Theory is gracious enough to host the club, we want to ensure we represent the NTHBA in a

safe and responsible manner. Your understanding is greatly appreciated and will go a long way in allowing us to hold future events as we continue to navigate the pandemic.

From a logistical standpoint, we will be setting up brewing rigs in the parking lot. Steam Theory will provide water and power access (120V AC) for those who need it. If you require power it is a good idea to bring your own extension cords. The club will provide donuts and the weather looks like it will be perfect so we hope to see you there.

Until then, I hope everyone has a happy Halloween and I look forward to a fun brew day in November!

*Prost,*

*Stephen*

## [Competition Corner by Fritz Schanz](#)

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### External Competition Updates

#### Recently Held

- The Red Coat Challenge (non LSC competition) is hosting its award ceremony live on Nov 7, 3:00 pm, Denton County Brewing Company; it will also stream the award ceremony on its Facebook page.
- The Dixie Cup (LSC competition) is hosting its award ceremony by Zoom on Dec 12.

#### Forthcoming

A major schedule change has taken place in the Lone Star Circuit. In the past, the first competition of the year has been the Bluebonnet, but this year, it will be Operation Fermentation. Many of you are aware that this is a well-attended event, filling up in less than 2 weeks. Thankfully, the entry limit has been increased from 300 to 450 beers to allow greater participation. Of importance, the entry limits are based on paid entries. This is significant because if the 450-paid limit is reached before you have paid your entry fees, you will be locked out of the system, and will not be able to pay for or submit your beers to the competition. Please register your beers and pay for them immediately.

- Operation Fermentation: hosted by the Cane Island Alers

- Entry Registration: 11/01 thru 01/01
- Competition Entry Limit: 450 paid beers
- Personal Entry Limit: 15 paid beers
- Number of Bottles Required: 4
- Judging: 1/16 thru 2/20
- Awards Ceremony: 2/27
- Registration Website - <https://opferm.cialers.org/>

## Internal Competition Updates

- **Brewer of the Year.** Given that the Dixie Cup results have not been announced, there is no change in the Brewer of the Year status. For standings, please see the October Newsletter.
- **Brewer Royale.** November will be the final COC event of the year, and the race for Brewer Royale is close among the top 4 players. The November entries are as follow: Extract American Beer (BJCP 18 & 19) and Spiced Beer (BJCP 30). Please drop off your entries at Homebrew Headquarters by Wednesday, Nov. 14, 12:00 noon. Judging will be held on Thursday, Nov. 15.

## A Road Map for the 2021 Competition Season

With the 2020 season behind us, it is a worthwhile to assess how we performed as a club. Without doubt, we did very well, posting a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the LSC circuit. One wonders, though, can we do better? Our success at the Bluebonnet, year in and year out, indicates that we can, but we are confronted by two issues: (1) how to sustain our enthusiasm beyond the Bluebonnet into the full LSC calendar, and (2) how to implement a concerted competition strategy.

### Sustaining Our Enthusiasm

Of our two issues, the most difficult to address is sustaining our enthusiasm: it involves a wide array of factors from personal psychology to household economics.

- non-competitive attitude toward beer brewing and beer enjoyment
- fatigue for having brewed and competed for so many years
- resentment over judging disappointments
- lack of time, energy, and resources

Most of us have dealt with these issues at one time or another. I am dealing with some now. However, life is short, and I feel a pressing and desperate need to move onward. I want to become a better and more versatile brewer, and if I can accrue a few affirming medals and steins along the way, then I'm all in. Other members seem to be thinking similarly: to wit, 14 individuals submitted beers to the Dixie Cup. Those are Bluebonnet-type numbers!

## Implementing a Concerted Competition Strategy

To implement a concerted competition strategy, we should first assess how we performed as a club, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and targets; second, we should then develop a clear plan that coordinates the efforts of all our club members so that we are more efficient as a competitive entity. The first is the easy part; the second is the challenge.

This newsletter article deals only with the first part; the second part, a clear plan for the future, will be discussed in the December newsletter.

A gap analysis is the most effective way of identifying our strengths and weaknesses. In addition, if we add a layer to the gap analysis by comparing our performance to that of another top-performing club, the CIA, we gain greater insight into the significance of our gaps.

<b>LSC Competition Data 2019 - 2020</b>		
<b>First Gap: No. of Medals and Subcategories</b>	<b>NTHBA</b>	<b>CIA</b>
No. of Medals	80	149
No. of Medals per Subcategory	1.7	2.1
No. of Subcategories with Medals	48	72
% of Total Subcategories (118 total Subcategories)	40%	61%

The above chart presents the number of medals and the subcategories with medals. Of course, we did very well in the Lone Star Circuit this year, posting a strong and enviable 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Nevertheless, compared to the CIA, the data are surprising: we won 80 medals in 48 categories, and the CIA nearly doubled our performance by winning 149 medals in 72 categories.

The medal count is important, but perhaps a more important measure is the number of categories in which medals are won. Our lower number of medals is not a sign that we are less-talented brewers than those of the CIA; rather, it is a sign that we are less-active than the CIA brewers. We simply do not submit as many beers in as many categories as does the CIA. Jimmy Orkin, and other officials who manage the competition databases, can attest to this.

So, let's see what is happening at the category level.

<b>Second Gap: Critical Categories</b>	
<b>Categories in which CIA Has a 4 : 1 Medal Advantage over NTHBA</b>	<b>Categories in which NTHBA Has a 4 : 1 Medal Advantage over CIA</b>
2. International Lager	17. Strong British Ale
3. Czech Lager	
4. Pale Malty European Lager	

7. Amber Bitter European Beer	
8. Dark European Lager	
9. Strong European Beer	
14. Scottish Ale	
15. Irish Beer	
16. Dark British Beer	
19. Amber & Brown American Beer	
20. American Porter and Stout	
23. European Sour Ale	

The above table shows that the CIA has been far more active in a number of categories than has the NTHBA. For instance, in 12 categories, the CIA has scored 4 times as many medals as we have; conversely, in only 1 category have we achieved the 4 to 1 advantage. For the CIA, this represents at least a 48-medal advantage over us (12 categories x 4 medals), and thus, this seems to be the bulk of CIA's margin. These categories are important; they are mainstream and popular, and I know that we have brewers who are adept at these styles. So how can our disadvantage be explained?

Let's dive a little deeper to see what is happening at the subcategory level.

<b>3rd Gap: Critical Subcategories</b>		
<b>CIA Medaled but Not NTHBA: 36 Subcategories</b>		<b>NTHBA Medaled but Not CIA: 11 Subcategories</b>
2A. Intrntl Pale Lager	19C. Am Brown Ale	1A. Lite American Lager
2C. Intrntl Dark Lager	20A. Am Porter	6C. Dunkles Bock
3C. Czech Amber Lager	20C. Imperial Stout	11A. Ordinary Bitter
3D. Czech Dark Lager	21. Red IPA	16C. Tropical Stout
4A. Munich Helles	21. White IPA	17A. English Strong Ale
5A. Ger Leichtbier	22. Double IPA	18A. Blonde Ale
5C. Ger Helles Export	22C. English Barleywine	21B. Black IPA
7B. Altbier	23A. Berliner Weisse	22D. Wheatwine
9A. Doppelbock	23B. Flanders Red Ale	25B. Saison
10C. Weizenbock	23D. Lambic	27. Roggenbier
14A. Scottish Light	23E. Gueze	30A. Spice, Herb, or Veg Beer
14B. Scottish Heavy	23F. Fruit Lambic	
15A. Irish Red Ale	25. Belgian Blond Ale	
16A. Sweet Stout	27. Gose	
16B. Oatmeal Stout	27. Pre-Prohibition Porter	
16D. Foreign Extra Stout	28B. Mixed Ferm Sour Beer	

18B. Am Pale Ale	28C. Wild Specialty Beer	
19A. Am Amber Ale	32A. Classic Style Smkd Beer	

Wow! I would never have guessed this. There are 36 subcategories in which we did not win a medal in which the CIA did; most of these subcategories fall under the 12 categories of the previous table. Over the course of two years, I find it improbable that we would not have medaled in such a large number of subcategories. The likely cause is that we simply did not submit beers here, or submitted very few.

How significant is this lack of participation? Well, it is the defining point of our performance. For the 2-year period analyzed, 69 medals separate the NTHBA (80 medals) from the CIA (149 medals). In the 36 categories above, the CIA accrued 74 medals. That is the difference.

Of course, if we had participated more fully in those categories, CIA would have won its share, but we also would have won our share, with the end result approaching parity.

These 36 categories are critical to our success. These represent the fastest and clearest path to ramping up our standings in the LSC. Of course, we must not forget the subcategories in which we have had success, but we do need a plan for combining the two sets. This will be the subject of the next newsletter.

In the meantime, though, I'm incorporating many of the styles above into my brewing calendar.

*Regards,*

*Fritz*



Yeah, I'm the editor so I can pretty much publish what I want.

## The Secretary's Missive by Bill Lawrence

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Humm...it is actually downright cold this week. Fortunately, I have a decent English Brown Porter on tap to sustain me when the temperature dips as it has recently. There really is not a lot going on however from a brewing standpoint things are moving along. I am in the middle of a rather large lager run and three of my planned five lagers have already been brewed. My plan here is to finish the run with a Munich Dunkel and the crescendo will be a standard Bock before going back to ale production. The trick is to make enough ale to keep me in beer while I do lagers as of course they tend to tie up equipment for a relatively long time. The good news about all this activity is that I have five entries already bottled for the Bluebonnet (assuming that the contest will be a go this coming year). I guess if that does not work out, I will at least have a good assortment of beers to quaff.

Once I am done brewing for the "show" in March, I think I'll do a sour; it's been quite a long time since I have done anything funky (at least on purpose). My plan is set up a solera and this time I think I will try to do something like Rodenbach. The plan is to brew the beer and let it ferment out then throw it into a keg with an oak spiral. After a year, I'll make a fresh batch, take ½ the beer from the previous year's efforts and combine it with ½ the new batch and bottle in Belgian 750's. The rest of the new batch goes into the keg for another year. If I keep this going for a few years, I should have some interesting stuff with any luck (the technique is sort of a poor man's version of blending). This time, I am going to put a spudding valve on the keg. Several years ago, I had a solera going with Aud Bruin and I forgot to let any pressure out of the keg. Let's just say that Old Faithful had nothing on me when I went to bottle that year's batch. I had a 6-foot geyser going in my kitchen and it made one hell of a sour mess.

Well, hopefully everyone has, or will vote. Once the national elections are over, I suspect we will need to install new leadership in the club for the coming year. I would especially encourage any new members to consider serving in one of the officer positions. It is not the much work

and it's a great way to meet all the members quickly. Anyhow, be very careful out there and as always may God bless America.

*Prost,  
Willy*

## Beer Porn

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Although I generally like to publish amateur beer porn, this month I am going with a professional submission. I think all would agree that this raven haired beauty is appropriate for the season given the lower temperatures of late. I know one new father who likely is going rather weak in the knees just looking at this and he knows who he is.

## The Treasurers Report by Jimmy Orkin

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### Summary:

Equity December end	\$8,969.79
Equity January end	\$8,144.11
Equity February end	\$7,793.51
Equity March end	\$7,271.95
Equity April end	\$7,253.62
Equity May end	\$7,264.12
Equity June end	\$7,592.85
Equity July end	\$9,438.47
Equity August end	\$8,269.31
Equity September end	\$8,090.79

New members in August: 5.

Current members at the time of this article: 51 members for year 2021.

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.

Homebrew Headquarters may have applications I need to pick up.

Now is the time to renew your 2021 membership. You can renew at Homebrew Headquarters. The membership fee is \$30 in cash or check at Homebrew Headquarters. HBHQ has the new 2021 Camaro membership card. If we can start club events again, I will be present and can take cash, check or credit cards.

The NTHBA is down about \$880 so far this year. Our membership is, as expected, off from our recent numbers. We still have a safe amount of money in the bank but being through the renewal season, I don't expect many new memberships until the next renewal season starts in May/June.

The officers decided to reduce the club competition awards and Big Mohunker due to the current limited club income, fewer competitions and raffle profit. The payouts this year will be:

**Brewer of the Year:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$75
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$25

**Brewer Royale:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$75
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$25

Big Mohunker will be \$150 for 2020 payable as a gift certificate at Homebrew Headquarters.

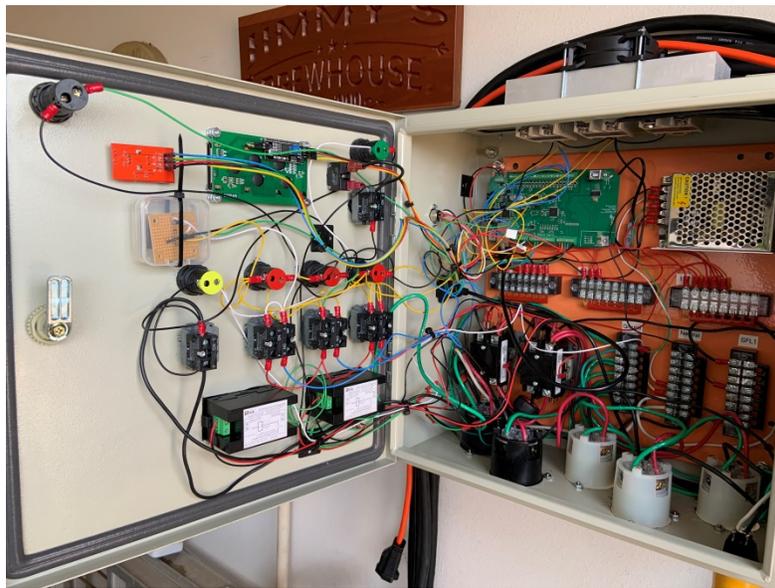
I or the officers always have membership forms and cards at all the club events.

On a side note, I rebuilt my brewing system to be electric and I have brewed my first batch of beer! I am using Blichmann Boilcoils in the Hot Liquor Tank and the Kettle and use a RIMS Rocket for Mash heat. The brains are a Brewtroller board I purchased. I like being able to rewrite the software in the Brewtroller and have some ideas I would like to implement.

The system used two 30 amp feeds that allow me to heat the HLT and the RIMS at the same time.

I am always willing to discuss my crazy ideas so just flag me down.

Here are two pictures of the controller box I built through the pandemic:



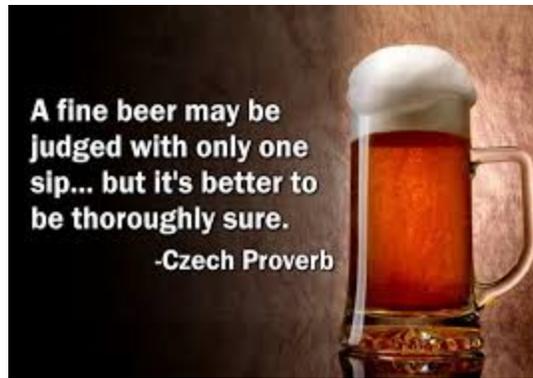
*Brew Strong,  
Jimmy*



I generally like to keep politics and religion out of this newsletter however, I have been reliably informed that this is the first sight you will see once St. Peter lets you through those pearly gates.



One might assume that our boy here is doing something scientific applying precise measurement, yeah, right.



Sometimes it is just good to look at the prize just for the sake of motivation.

## NTHBA Officers

### President

Mike Grover

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Fritz Schanz

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

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### Treasurer

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### Minister of Education

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### Secretary

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### Past President

Matt Parulis

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## Our Supporting Home Brew Stores



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972-234-4411  
[www.homebrewhq.com](http://www.homebrewhq.com)

## 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](http://www.NTHBA.org)