

LIVIN' THE BREWS



The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXVII

Issue IV - April

Quick Sips for April:

Officer Meeting

April 6th 6:30pm

Bavarian Grill

Club Meeting

April 13th 6:30pm

3 Nations Brewing

Brew Day

Who the hell knows

Matt's Abode

N/A

Prez Sez by Stephen Tyner

Wow! That is all I can say after the NTHBA performance at Bluebonnet. To win BBO Club of the Year two times running is a major accomplishment for the NTHBA and showcases the brewing talent in the club. I will let our tireless Competition Coordinator go into more detail on our performance (*it appears our club has a penchant for brewing all beers of the European variety*) but I have listed the winning club members below so we can acknowledge them front and center. Normally you would buy someone a beer for a major accomplishment but considering what we are congratulating these folks for they should share their wares with the club!

Big Rig Crew

Dean Weaver

Jimmy Orkin

Douglas Hicks

Jesse Thoreson

Bill Lawrence

Mark Rendon

Steven Franks

John Driscoll

Richard Harris

Walter Hodges

James "Smitty" Smith

Terry Olinger

Antony Gachima

Fred David



This beauty will remain in the hands of the NTBHA for another year!

If the club performance in the BBO was not enough positive news for you, the club officers are excited to announce that the NTHBA will resume in person club meetings on April 13th with the meeting being held at Three Nations Brewing. We understand that many members may wish to continue practicing distancing so we will be streaming the April club meeting over Zoom for those that wish to connect remotely. This will be a great opportunity come together as a club for the first time since October of last year and congratulate our BBO winners in person.

It looks like Spring 2021 is allowing us to turn a new leaf after a crazy 13 months and I am very much looking forward to starting the process of returning to normal club activities. We already have several brew days on the calendar and we look forward to adding more events in the coming weeks and months. We look forward to seeing everyone soon but until then, stay safe!

Prost, Stephen



Clearly this is just wrong on several levels however in my never-ending quest to publish the provocative I bring you Jimmy in his summer attire.

The First Sip by Terry Olinger

Finally we have something to look forward to other than zoom meetings! As Stephen said in 'Prez Sez', we are getting back to in person club meetings with zoom option for those who do not wish to attend. We will also be holding in person officer meeting. Club brew days are resuming after not holding any in February and March due to Bluebonnet activities.

National Homebrew Day falls on May 1st this year and Steam Theory will again be hosting a club brew day as they have for the last 2 years.

While no spring party is planned this year, we are looking forward to holding a summer party in July.

Here's what's on tap for April

Monthly Officers meeting will be held **Tuesday April 6th** at **Bavarian Grill, 221 W Parker Rd, Plano, TX**. We will be arriving around 6:30 with business starting at 7:00pm.

Monthly Club meeting will be **Tuesday March 13th** at **3 Nations Brewing, 1033 E. Vandergriff Drive, Carrollton, TX**. As usual socializing for the first 30 minutes starting at 6:30 and official business starting around 7:00pm. Zoom link will also be available and will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Brew day – The club brew day is at the home of Matt Paralus, **1805 Redbud Circle, Carrollton TX** beginning at **9am, April 10th**. We hope to see a good turnout to Christen Matts new home.

May Activities

National Homebrew day is **May 1st** this year and we wanted to get information out as early as possible.

Steam Theory Brewing located in Trinity Groves at **340 Singleton Blvd #100, Dallas, TX** will be hosting our club brew day starting **10am May 1st**.

Steam Theory will again be hosting a pro-am competition that day with the winner being invited to brew a batch of the winning recipe on STBC's pilot system. When the beer goes on tap – the winner gets 10 9 ounce free pours for you and some friends.

STBC Pro-Am Competition info

- Open to all BJCP beer styles in the 2015 Style Guide
- One (1) bottle per entry
- Max of one (1) entries per person
- Entries must be turned in to an STBC staff member before 2p. (Please do not take entries into the brewery. Give them to a staff member outside and let them take care of it.)
- Judging will take place at 3p

Looking forward, we have brew days scheduled through June. If you are interested in hosting a future brew day please let me know.

Current Scheduled brew days

April 10th – Matt Paralus residence, 1805 Redbud Circle, Carrollton TX

May 1st – Steam Theory Brewing, Dallas. National Homebrew Day

June – Brian Beyers residence, Carrollton

Prost,

Terry

Competition Corner by Fritz Schanz

TRIUMPHANT for the 2nd Year in a Row!

For the second year in a row, the mighty North Texas Homebrewers Association is the Bluebonnet Club of the Year. As with last year, we sent more homebrewers to the winner's circle than did any other club, and we won more medals. Here is a breakdown with last year's performance in parentheses.

- 34 points (38 points)
- 20 medals (20 medals)
- 1st place – 3 medals (6), 2nd place – 9 medals (6), 3rd place – 9 medals (8)
- 15 members won medals (12 members)
- 6 members won 2 or more medals (5 members)
- Most medals – all tied with 2: Big Rig Crew, Bill Lawrence, Dean Weaver, Jimmy Orkin, Mark Rendon, Terry Olinger (John Driscoll, with 4 medals)
- Most points – Jimmy Orkin with 4 points (John Driscoll, Don Trotter, and Fritz Schanz, tied with 6 points)

This is, again, an amazing success story.

Bluebonnet Club Performance

Below is a table providing various data regarding the top-performing clubs at the Bluebonnet. Although we had the greatest number of points, the greatest number of medals, and the greatest number of members placing, we had the lowest points per medal and the lowest points per member. Surely, we will want to give this thought, but let's not quibble. These are hard-earned medals with difficult odds of success. We should enjoy this great win, and we should do very well in the upcoming smaller competitions.

Club	Total Points	Total Medals	Points per Medal	Members Placing	Points per Member
Cane Island Ales	23	12	1.9	6	3.8
Cap and Hare	21	11	1.9	6	3.5
Foam Rangers	27	12	2.3	6	4.5
Ninjas	20	10	2.0	4	5.0
North Texas HBA	34	20	1.7	15	2.3

Bluebonnet Individual Performance

The heroic individuals winning medals at the Bluebonnet are as follows.

2021 Bluebonnet Individual Wins			
Member Name	Beer Name	Beer Style	Place
Antony Gachima	Sacred Ibis Artisan Ales	23D: Lambic	3rd
Big Rig Brew Crew	Big Rig Vienna	7A: Vienna Lager	1st

Big Rig Brew Crew	Big Rig Vienna	7A: Vienna Lager	2 nd BOS
Bill Lawrence	Willy's Wee Heavy	17C: Wee Heavy	2 nd
Bill Lawrence	Willy's Limey Juice	12C: English IPA	3 rd
Dean Weaver	Deanitude English Biscuit	11C: Strong Bitter	2 nd
Dean Weaver	Deanitude Smooth Operator	26D: Belgian Dark Strong Ale	3 rd
Douglas Hicks	Biere de Garde	24C: Biere de Garde	1 st
Fred David	Lavender's Blue Dilly Dilly	C2E: Cider with Herbs/Spices	1 st
James Smith	544 Bochet	M4C: Experimental Mead	3 rd
Jesse Thoresen	Fudweiser	1B: American Lager	2 nd
Jimmy Orkin	F*ck Ginger	5C: German Exportbier	2 nd
Jimmy Orkin	F*ck Ginger	19B: California Common	2 nd
John Driscoll	Fatfinger - Up Your Nose	5B: Kolsch	2 nd
Mark Rendon	Dunkles Weissbier	10B: Dunkels Weissbier	2 nd
Mark Rendon	Pre-Prohibition Porter	27A8: Pre-Prohibition Porter	3 rd
Richard Harris	Hardscrabble Barleywine	17D: English Barleywine	3 rd
Steven Franks	Pilsen Rosa	29A: Fruit Beer	3 rd
Terry Olinger	Saboteur	9A: Doppelbock	2 nd
Terry Olinger	Wedding Belles Munich Helles	4A: Munich Helles	3 rd
Walter Hodges	Hutton Branch Roggenbier Eff 2020	27A4: Roggenbier	3 rd

Closing the Gaps Initiative

I'd like to point out the previous discussions on the LSC gap analysis. As noted, at the start of the year, there were 72 substyles of beer in which we have not received medals on the LSC circuit (61% of all beer substyles)! Through Operation Fermentation and the Bluebonnet, we have reduced that number to 59. Green indicates substyles in which we have placed in 2021. Let's keep this momentum going; it will round out our success throughout the year.

LSC Gap Analysis		
NTHBA with 0 Medals on LSC Circuit		
1D. American Wheat Beer	25A. Belgian Blond Ale	27. Trappist Dubbel
2A. International Pale Lager	16B. Oatmeal Stout	27. Gose
2C. Interational Dark Lager	16D. Foreign Extra Stout	27. Kentucky Common
3A. Czech Pale Lager	17D. English Barleywine	27. Lichtenhainer
3C. Czech Amber Lager	18B. American Pale Ale	27. London Brown Ale
3D. Czech Dark Lager	19A. American Amber Ale	27. Piwo Grodziskie
4A. Munich Helles	19C. American Brown Ale	27. Pre-Prohibition Lager
4B. Festbier	20A. American Porter	27. Pre-Prohibition Porter
5A. German Leichtbier	20B. American Stout	27. Roggenbier
5C. German Helles Exportbier	20C. Imperial Stout	27. Sahti
6B. Rauchbier	21B. Belgian IPA	28A. Brett Beer
7A. Altbier	21B. Brown IPA	28B. Mixed-Fermentation Sour
7C. Kellerbier	21B. Red IPA	28C. Wild Specialty Beer

9A. Doppelbock	21B. White IPA	29B. Fruit and Spice Beer
9B. Eisbock	22A. Double IPA	29C. Specialty Fruit Beer
10B. Dunkels Weissbier	22C. American Barleywine	30B. Autumn Seasonal beer
10C. Weizenbock	23A. Berliner Weisse	31A. Alternative Grain Beer
13C. English Porter	23B. Flanders Red Ale	31B. Alternative Sugar Beer
14A. Scottish Light	23C. Oud Bruin	32A. Classic Style Smoked Beer
14B. Scottish Heavy	23D. Lambic	32B. Specialty Smoked Beer
15A. Irish Red Ale	23E. Gueuze	33B. Specialty Wood-Aged Beer
15B. Irish Stout	23F. Fruit Lambic	34A. Clone Beer
15C. Irish Extra Stout	24B. Belgian Pale Ale	34B. Mixed-Style Beer
16A. Sweet Stout	24C. Biere de Garde	34C. Experimental Beer

Leader Boards

NTHBA Brewer Royale

This leader board reflects only the January wins; the March wins will be updated next week.

Brewer Royale		
Brewer	Total Points	COC
Fred David	3	Jan
James Smith	2	Jan
Dean Weaver	1	Jan

NTHBA Brewer of the Year

We have many members with 2 or more LSC points on the BOTY leader board. This competition is shaping up nicely, with a fairly narrow dispersion of points and with all of the members in excellent position to move up the ladder.

NTHBA Brewer of the Year		
Brewer	Total Points	Competition
Mark Rendon	7	Op Ferm, BlueB
James Smith	6	Op Ferm, BlueB
Dean Weaver	5	Op Ferm, BlueB
Jimmy Orkin	4	BlueB
Terry Olinger	4	Op Ferm, BlueB
Big Rig Crew	3	BlueB
Bill Lawrence	3	BlueB
Douglas Hicks	3	BlueB
Fred David	3	BlueB

Jesse Thoresen	2	BlueB
John Driscoll	2	BlueB

LSC Club

LSC Club	
Club	Total Points
Cane Island Alers	124
Foam Rangers	54
NTHBA	46
Ninjas	30
Bay Area Mashers	23
Cap and Hare	21

As with last year, we face a real challenge in overtaking the Cane Island Alers, given that the CIA scored 101 points at Operation Fermentation (?!). However, overtaking that club is not out of the question. Note that at the Bluebonnet, the CIA had only 6 members place whereas we had 15. We now have more members engaged in competitions, and this bodes well given that we made the race pretty close last year.

We need to have a planning session to develop a comprehensive strategy for winning at the Limbo, especially, but also at the other competitions.

Competitions

COC

The schedule for our 2021 COC competitions is as follows. By the way, it was nice to see Dean Weaver's Belgian Dark Strong take 3rd at the Bluebonnet; it also took 3rd at the January COC. The COC is definitely a proving ground for excellence.

Month	Beer Style	BJCP Category
Jan 2021	Trappist Ales	26
Mar 2021	IPAs	12C, 21, 22A
May 2021	Fruit Beers	29
Jul 2021	German Lagers	4; 5A,C-D; 6A,C; 7A,C; 8; 9A-B
Sep 2021	Belgian Ales	24, 25
Nov 2021	Smoke Beers and Wood-Aged Beers	32, 33
Jan 2022	Stouts and Porters	9C, 13C, 15B-C, 16, 20, 27 PP Porter

External Competitions

Lunar Rendezvous (hosted by Bay Area Mashers, Houston)

This competition is now closed, and it has 458 entries.

- **Judging** – Apr 12 thru Apr 26
- **Entry Drop-Off** – NTHBA beers were delivered to the drop-off location on Mar 26.
- **Awards Ceremony** – May 15
- **Website** – <http://mashtronauts.com/rendezbrew/>

The National Homebrew Competition

This year brings major changes to the NHC. There will not be first- and second-round judging events; there will be only a single judging event in which beers move through the standard progression. Also, there will not be multi-site judging centers; there will be only a single judging center, which will be in Denver, Colorado. Last, several category changes will take place:

1. Irish and British Stouts will no longer be combined, and will be split out according to their respective categories.
2. New England IPA will be split out from Specialty IPA and will have its own category.
3. Pale European Beer will be split into Pale Malty European and Pale Bitter European categories.
4. Spiced Beer and Seasonal Beer will be split into separate categories.

Also, in the past, the competition has operated at a financial loss, so this year, the fees will be raised to cover expenses. The fee will be \$29 per entry.

Here are important action steps and calendar.

- **By April 9.** Entries are to be received at the shipping location.
- **April 10 to April 25.** Sorting and login
- **April 26 to May 2.** Judging
- **May 3 to June 19.** Competition results verified
- **June 19.** Awards Ceremony
- **July 12.** Competition scoresheets, letters, and prizes mailed
- **Number of Bottles Required per entry** – 6
- **Entry Drop-Off:** Fritz will pick up beers from Homebrew Headquarters on Tuesday, April 6, and will drive the beers to Denver, CO, for a drop-off on April 8.

Belgian Brew Brawl (hosted by South Austin Area Zymurgists, SAAZ)

- This is a non-LSC competition, but SAAZ is trying to grow the competition into something larger and more relevant.
- **Entry Registration** – Mar 1 thru Jun 18
- **Competition Entry Limit** – 200 paid beers
- **Personal Entry Limit** – not specified
- **BCJP Category Limit** – 1 beer per subcategory
- **Number of Bottles Required** – 3 bottles per entry
- **Judging** – Jun 19
- **Awards Ceremony** – Jun 27
- **Website** – <https://belgianbrewbrawl.brewcompetition.com/>

Entry Drop-Off – Fritz will pick up beers from Homebrew Headquarters on Jun 16, and will drive the beers to the drop-off location in Austin on Jun 17.

Regards,

Fritz



The Secretary's Missive by Bill Lawrence

As ordained by The Almighty and as is our birthright, the NTHBA has won at the Bluebonnet Brew Off yet again. All hail our fearless leader Fritz who yet again led us into battle so that we might emerge victorious. The entire membership should be very proud of this accomplishment and I suspect a few celebratory pints were hoisted and summarily drained.

Now, if I may be so bold, I would like to get into Fritz's lane a bit and talk about competing as I saw something while judging that perhaps some in the club would benefit from. As I am wont to do, I would like to offer up an analogy. Let's say for sake of argument that you are lonely and decide to utilize the services of one of those online dating sites. I'll assume for this analogy that you are male seeking female companionship although the analogy works if the opposite is true as well. While perusing the various choices, two women catch your eye. While reading the background information you notice that one just completed training in a convent while the other is an exotic dancer. Although it is always dangerous to make assumptions given limited information, I submit that those descriptions set up expectations of what dating each of those ladies would be like. Let's suppose you go on a date with each woman and have a nice stimulating conversation at a local coffee shop perhaps sharing a bagel with each. Although both dates turned out equally well, I suspect if you were asked to rate each date on a 50 point scale the results would be radically different. You likely would rate the date with the nun higher because the experience was in line with what you were expecting while the date with the dancer would suffer in comparison as likely you expected a hedonistic experience and instead were treated to conversation only.

Alright, so at this point you likely are asking, what the hell does dating have to do with brewing competitions and what does some 66 year old guy who has been married for decades know about dating? The answer to the latter question is a resounding "nothing" but I do have a bit of experience with brewing competitions. There are categories that require the brewer to declare information about the entry, specifically what is in the beer (or cider or mead). To be blunt, if you declare an ingredient, you damn sure better be able to taste it in the entry. The rules allow you an opportunity to frame the judge's expectations when judging your entry by giving them a clue as to what to expect. Don't be like the dancer in the afore mentioned analogy and hint at the pleasures of the flesh while delivering a much more benign experience. Be like the nun, frame the expectations to what you know will actually be delivered; you'll score better. Also, less is likely more when describing your entry. The judges frankly don't give a tinkers damn if you fermented your beverage in an amphora that is over 500 years old unless that move affected the flavor in such a way that it would be picked up by the average judge. Maybe you added wood chips collected from the cross of Christ but unless they add a distinctive flavor which a judge could identify, consider just saying the entry was aged on wood (assuming of course you can actually taste it in the entry). Oh and the same can be said for indicating a certain process used when brewing the entry. Oh sure, you brewed your beer in the nude but the judges don't need to know that because it doesn't affect the flavor (and if it does, well, it probably doesn't matter).

Ok, enough pontificating for the month. Again, congrats to everyone on the big win, now you should be thinking about the Limbo Challenge. Entering these things is like fishing; you won't catch anything unless you have a line in the water. Also, it's to some extent a numbers game, don't just send one or two entries. Every

time you make a batch just fill three bottles before you and your mates suck the entire batch down (yeah, I'm talking about you there Jason). Be careful out there, keep brewing and as always, may God bless America.

*Prost,
Willy*



Beer Porn



Well, this looks enticing doesn't it? It's hard to see but I especially like the cherubs on the glass, classy and very unique. Nothing says "sexy" quite like a well turned out Weissbier.

The Treasurers Report by Walter Hodges

MONTH ENDED	EQUITY
DECEMBER	8064.86
JANUARY	8048.59
FEBRUARY	8040.71

Memberships processed: 1

Current Membership: 57

We are in membership renewal season. If your membership has expired, now is the time to renew. With Covid-19 numbers dropping we will be returning to in person events that you will not want to miss out on.

Memberships purchased now are valid until May 31st, 2022. Cost of membership remains \$30.

Memberships may be renewed at Homebrew Headquarters or by following the directions at:

<https://nthba.org/?q=content/membership>

Financials trail the newsletter by one month. Financial reports are available on the club web site at:

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

I am also happy to share any financial information with members.

Treasurer's Report

Cheers,

Walter

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Our Supporting Home Brew Stores



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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