

LIVIN' THE BREWS



The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXVII

Issue IX -

Quick Sips for September:

Officer Meeting	September 7th 6:30pm	Boomer Jack's Bar and Grill, Plano
Club Meeting	September 14th 6:30pm	TBD
Brew Day	September 11 th 9:00am	Smitty's, Plano

Prez Sez by Stephen Tyner

Wow! That was one heck of a Limbo Challenge showing for the NTHBA. Congratulations to all of our NTHBA winners. All told the club took home 29 medals and swept the Lawn Mower category. If you would like more information on the competition feel free to reach out to any of the Committee members or our Competition Coordinator/Brew Wrangler Fritz. Thank you to all that brewed and a special thanks to the judges, Smitty and Julie, and The Beyers for helping us put on an extremely successful competition this year.



The NTHBA Took 29 of these Medals!

While Limbo was a major success and great news for the club, there is pending news as it pertains to upcoming club functions. Unfortunately we are dealing with an increase in Covid across the country with a significant increase in cases in the DFW area. In response to what is happening locally, the officer team has some updates to the September club meeting schedule. We will have the officer meeting in-person at **Boomer Jack's Bar & Grill** in Plano on Tuesday, **September 7th** at 6:30pm. At this time the location of the September 14th club meeting is TBD. The officer team will determine how we will proceed in the best interest of the club at the officer meeting and relay that information through the Facebook site and NTHBA Communications email.

Rest assured - there will be a club meeting (either virtual or in-person), we just want to monitor the situation before making arrangements.

Myself and the rest of the officer team hope each of you continue to stay safe and we look forward to seeing everyone as soon as we can.

Prost,

Stephen

The First Sip by Terry Olinger

Social activities last month were limited with no brew day occurring due activities surrounding the Limbo competition. We were able to have a nice Limbo awards party at the Beyers house to announce the winners. I was unable to attend as I was sitting in LAX airport waiting for a flight back to Dallas. From all reports, a good time was had by the attendees.

September brings a return of brew days, and we are looking forward to holding our fall party at Matt Parulis' house. The October party theme will be Oktoberfest with a people's choice award competition, see more details below.

Here's what's on tap for September

Monthly Officers meeting will be held **Tuesday August 7th** at **BoomerJacks Grill & Bar, 5430 TX-121, Plano, TX 75024**. We will be arriving around 6:30 with business starting at 7:00pm.

Monthly Club meeting will be **Tuesday August 14th**. **Location pending**. As usual socializing for the first 30 minutes starting at 6:30 and official business starting around 7:00pm.

Brew day:

September 11th – James "Smitty" Smith residence, 4100 Camino Drive, Plano, TX

Current Scheduled brew days

September 11th – James "Smitty" Smith residence, Plano TX

October 16th – Robert Petrin residence, Allen TX

November – Teach a friend to brew day, discussing with local brewpubs.

If you would like to host a future brew day, please let me know at socials@nthba.org

Fall Party

Mark your calendar and get your brew rigs ready for the fall party. Matt Parulis will be hosting at his house in Carrollton on **Sat 10/2**. We would like to hold a people's choice competition for German / Oktoberfest style beers at the party! A list of the styles included in the competition is below. Everyone will vote for their favorite beers and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. More details on the party to

come as we get closer to the date but we wanted to give everyone enough time to brew for the competition. The club kegerator will be at the party for storing the entry kegs.

Beer Styles for People's Choice Oktoberfest Competition

- Munich Helles (4A)
- Festbier (4B)
- Kolsch (5B)
- Marzen (6A)
- Altbier (7B)
- Munich Dunkle (8A)
- Weissbier (10A)
- Dunkle Weisse (10B)

Looking forward to another fun party.

Prost,

Terry



Here is a shot of the judges hard at it. It would seem one of the judges is in dire need of a haircut but frankly you can't tell these aging hippies anything.

Competition Corner by Fritz Schanz

Competitions

So, why all the commotion about the Limbo Challenge?

Someone asked me recently, “Why all the commotion about the Limbo Challenge.” I responded as calmly as I could by saying, “The reason for the commotion, the reason for the competitive drive, is that in the past 5 years we have lost the Limbo 4 times. We have lost 3 times to the CIA, and we have lost once to the Austin Zealots. Relatedly, during those years, we averaged 9.8 medals per year at the Limbo, compared with 18.1 medals per year at the Limbo for 2006 – 2015.”

“We have fallen off, and we face becoming inconsequential and irrelevant as a club. We have to regain the Limbo.”

The good news is that we have done so . . . and have done so in grand and historic fashion.

Year	NTHBA		Winning Club		Total Entries
	No. Medals*	No. Medalists	No. Medals	No. Medalists	
2021	29	12	NTHBA		292
2020	12	9	18 (CIA)	4	186
2019	9	5	10 (CIA)	2	247
2018	10	7	22 (CIA)	5	274
2017	13	10	NTHBA		218
2016	5	5	16 (AZ)	4	199
2015	13	9	NTHBA		177
2014	23	10	NTHBA		146
2013	15	9	NTHBA		222
2012	19	10	NTHBA		240
2011	15	6	15 (AZ)	3	176
2010	15	12	16 (AZ)	4	184
2009	26	10	NTHBA		141
2008	18	12	NTHBA		142
2007	19	11	NTHBA		106
2006	18	9	NTHBA		NL

*All medals whether or not reported to the LSC.

Limbo Challenge: How Dominion Was Regained

The 2021 Limbo Challenge has concluded, and the mighty North Texas Homebrewers Association has achieved a historic victory. This was possible only through greater club participation, planning, cooperation, and, of course, the talents of our members. As a result of this victory, our club has moved up from 4th place to 2nd place on the LSC circuit.

What are some of the reasons for our success?

First, let's look at our coordinated effort compared with last year.

- We increased our entries: from 58 to 145.
- We increased the breadth and depth of our subcategory coverage: from 30 to 65, moving from 46% to 88% coverage of all subcategories.
- We reasonably managed the duplication of our entries, providing added insurance in winning medals: at 80 duplicates.

NTHBA Entry Stats for Limbo Challenge			
	2020	2021	% Change
No. Subcategories in Limbo	65	74	14%
No. Subcategories Entered	30	65	117%
% Subcategories Entered	46%	88%	91%
No. Entries	58	145	150%
No. Entries per Subcategory	1.9	2.2	16%
No. Duplicated Entries	28	80	186%
% Duplicated Entries	48%	64%	33%

Second, let's look at our table performance.

- We medaled in 14 tables, compared with only 7 tables last year.
- We failed to medal in only 1 table (T61: Belgian Ale), compared with 7 tables last year.
- We earned the majority of medals (67% or more) in 10 tables, compared with only 4 tables last year.
- The result was 29 medals, a 6 : 1 advantage over the Ninjas and a 30 : 1 advantage over the CIA.

NTHBA Table Performance		
Percent Wins	2020 Tables	2021 Tables
0%	7	1
33%	3	4
67%	4	7
100%	0	3

Medals by Club*		
Club	2020 Medals	2021 Medals
NTHBA	12	29
Ninjas	2	5
Horsemen	0	4
NSA	0	4
BAM	0	3
CIA	18	1
FR	5	3
Draft Punk	3	0
*Includes all medals whether or not reported to the LSC		

Third, let's look at the historical significance of this victory.

- 29 medals is the highest number of medals won in club history; in the past 5 years, our club has won 5 to 13 medals; thus, our 2021 medal count has improved in a range from 580% to 223%.
- These 29 medals generated 45 reportable points, which is the second-highest point total in club history (47 pts in 2009) and which, in this year's competition, surpassed the point total for all other clubs combined (33 total points). This is one of the most dramatic victories in club history.
- NTHBA had 12 members earning medals, which ties the record for the highest number of members medaling (2010 and 2008).
- NTHBA had 25 members submitting entries, with 145 entries received. This is the highest number of entrants and entries in club history.

Fourth, who were this year's medalists?

Congratulations to the following medalists for helping our club take back the Limbo Challenge.

Also, congratulations to everyone who submitted an entry. A number of non-winning entries did go to the mini-BOS, which helped block our competitors from entering into the medal rounds.

2021 Club Limbo Challenge Medalists			
Member	No. Medals*	Medals	Reportable Points
Mark Rendon	5	1st Czech Dark Lager, 3rd BOS Czech Dark Lager, 1st English Porter, 1st Scottish Heavy, 3rd Scottish Light	10
Fritz Schanz	4	1st Munich Dunkel, 2nd Schwarzbier, 2nd Experimental Beer, 2nd English Brown Ale	9
Jimmy Orkin	4	1st Hard Seltzer, 2nd California Common, 3rd Kolsch, 3rd Australian Sparkling Ale	4
James Smith	3	2nd Czech Premium Pale Lager, 2nd Best Bitter, 3rd Lawnmower	4
Daniel Boyd	2	2nd American Lager, 3rd Vienna Lager	3
Terry Olinger	2	1st Weissbier, 2nd Lawnmower	3
Walter Hodges	2	2nd Roggenbier, 3rd New World Perry	2
Stephen Tyner	2	1st Lawnmower, 2nd New World Cider	0
Dean Weaver	1	1st New England IPA	3
Robert Lawrence	1	1st American Wheat Beer	3

Antony Gachima	1	2nd Lambic	2
Steven Franks	1	2nd Specialty IPA	2

*Includes all medals whether or not reported to the LSC.

Last, let's bring it all together through the historic context of our club members.

- When reviewing our club's performance at the Limbo Challenge over time, we should all be impressed by the consistency and longevity of many of our current members.
- More than a half dozen current members began their medal-winning careers in the 2006 – 2008 time frame.
- Consider the longevity of two grand masters: Bill Lawrence (10 years) and Walter Hodges (9 years). There are only 2 or 3 other brewers in the state that have demonstrated such long-term success.
- Also, consider those members who have won medals in at least each of the past 3 years. Walter Hodges – 4 years in a row, and Stephen Tyner – 3 years in a row. These have been lean and tough years; yet these members have persevered.

In large part, our club is successful because of this cadre of knowledgeable and passionate brewers. These members constantly share their expertise at brew days and club meetings, and they have established a committed and knowledgeable brewing culture. Thanks to all the members below!

Limbo Challenge 2006 - 2021		
Consistency of Members -- Medal Years (> 3 yrs)		
Current NTHBA Members	No. Medal Years	Years in which Medals Won*
Bill Lawrence	10	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
Walter Hodges	9	2008, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Mike Grover	6	2006, 2007, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020
Fred David	5	2007, 2008, 2010, 2018, 2019
Jimmy Orkin	5	2010, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2021
Richard Harris	4	2006, 2007, 2008, 2013
Dean Weaver	4	2016, 2017, 2019, 2021
Don Trotter	3	2008, 2010, 2013
Steven Franks	4	2016, 2017, 2020, 2021
Kelly Harris	3	2006, 2008, 2010
Stephen Tyner	3	2019, 2020, 2021
Bill James	3	2011, 2013, 2014
Former NTHBA Members		
Doug Nett	7	2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2018
Orlando Guerra	6	2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
Damon Lewis	5	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
Barrett Tillman	5	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
Don VanSlyke	4	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Jason Christian	3	2007, 2008, 2010
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*Includes all medals whether or not reported to LSC.

The Future – What is next?

Clearly, we have established a model on how to coordinate a large group of brewers toward a winning strategy. So, how do we want to move forward with other competitions?

I know many of you have fresh ideas, and I'm sure that we will be having exciting discussions over the next few months.

Internal Competitions

Brewer of the Year -- Update

Given the results of the Limbo Challenge, the Brewer of the Year standings have been revised.

We have only two LSC competitions remaining, so catching Mark is going to be a real challenge.

NTHBA Brewer of the Year		
Brewer	Total Points	Competition
Mark Rendon	21	Op Ferm, BlueB, LR, LC
Fritz Schanz	12	LR, LC
Terry Olinger	9	Op Ferm, BlueB, LR, LC
Dean Weaver	8	Op Ferm, BlueB, LR, LC
Jimmy Orkin	8	BlueB, LC
James Smith	6	BlueB, LC
Antony Gachima	3	BlueB, LC
Bill Lawrence	3	BlueB
Daniel Boyd	3	LC
Douglas Hicks	3	BlueB
Fred David	3	BlueB
Robert Lawrence	3	LC
Steven Franks	3	BlueB, LC
Jesse Thoresen	2	BlueB
John Driscoll	2	BlueB
Richard Harris	2	BlueB, LR
Walter Hodges	2	LC

COC

The COC is on for this month. Here is the schedule:

Month	Beer Style	Drop-Off
Jan 2021	Trappist Ales	Completed
Mar 2021	IPAs	Completed
May 2021	Open format	Completed
Jul 2021	Open format	Completed
Sep 2021	Open format	5:00 PM, Sun, Sep 19, Homebrew Hdqtrs
Nov 2021	Open format	5:00 PM, Sun, Nov 21, Homebrew Hdqtrs
Jan 2022	Open format	5:00 PM, Sun. Jan 23, Homebrew Hdqtrs

Competition Calendar

Alamo City Cerveza Fest (hosted by Bexar Brewers, San Antonio)

- **Judging** – underway
- **Awards Ceremony** – Sep 18, 5:00 pm
- **Website** -- <https://acfbexarbrewers.org>

Dixie Cup (hosted by Foam Rangers, Houston)

Many of your Limbo entries can be sent to the Dixie Cup. The bulleted items below represent the latest information from the DC competition director, but the DC website has not been updated to reflect some of this information.

- **Entry Registration** – Aug 6 thru Sep 2
- **Entry Drop-off Deadline** – Sep 2
- **Competition Entry Limit** – 800
- **Personal Entry Limit** – 15, with 1 entry per subcategory
- **Number of Bottles Required** – 3
- **Judging** – Sep 8 thru Oct 16
- **Awards Ceremony** – Oct 16
- **Website** – <http://dixiecup.foamrangers.com/>
- **Entry Drop-Off** – Fritz picked up beers from Homebrew Headquarters at 12:00 noon, Monday, Aug 30, and will drive the beers to the drop-off location in Houston on Sep 1.

Belgian Draft Horse (Non-LSC, hosted by the Horseman of the Hopocalypse, Ft Worth)

- **Entry Registration** – Aug 2 thru Sep 17
- **Entry Drop-off Deadline** – Sep 17
- **Competition Entry Limit** – not listed
- **Personal Entry Limit** – 8, with 1 entry per subcategory (limited subcategories)
- **Number of Bottles Required** – 3
- **Judging** – TBD
- **Awards Ceremony** – Oct 9
- **Website** -- <https://drafthorse.brewcomp.com/>

- **Entry Drop-Off** – Brewhound Supply, Ft. Worth, TX

Redcoat Challenge (non-LSC, hosted by the Denton County Homebrewers Guild, Denton)

- **Entry Registration** – Aug 15 thru Sep 16
- **Entry Drop-off Deadline** – Sep 16
- **Competition Entry Limit** – not listed
- **Personal Entry Limit** – 8, with 1 entry per category (limited categories)
- **Number of Bottles Required** – 3
- **Judging** – TBD
- **Awards Ceremony** – Nov 6
- **Website** -- <https://texasredcoat.com/competition>
- **Entry Drop-Off** – Redcoat admins will pickup beers at Homebrew Headquarters on Sep 16.

Operation Fermentation (LSC, hosted by the Cane Island Alers, Houston)

- **Entry Registration** – Nov 13, 2021, thru Jan 7, 2022
- **Entry Drop-off Deadline** – Jan 7
- **Competition Entry Limit** – 600
- **Personal Entry Limit** – 20, with 1 entry per category
- **Number of Bottles Required** – 4
- **Judging** – Jan 7 thru Jan 26 (virtual)
- **Awards Ceremony** – Jan 26
- **Website** -- <https://opferm.cialers.org/>
- **Entry Drop-Off** – Fritz will pick up beers from Homebrew Headquarters at 12:00 noon, Wed, Jan 5, and will drive the beers on Jan 6 to the drop-off location in Houston.

Regards,

Fritz

The Secretary's Missive by Bill Lawrence

The Limbo is now in the books and has become custom, our Grand Puba of Competitions has yet again led the humble proletariat to another amazing victory. Naturally, all praise goes out to all the winners and in fact everyone who entered or judged. Sadly, circumstances conspired against me for this contest but I intend to make up for that in the next iteration of the Bluebonnet in March and have in fact brewed my first beer for that august occasion. As you all well know, this contest maxed out so winning anything was much more difficult than in years past. I would be remiss if I did not mention the dominating performance of our own Mark Rendon as he eviscerated the competition leaving very few prisoners. There is a rumor afoot that Fritz is hatching a scheme to collect some viable DNA from the gentleman so as to clone him in yet another insane effort to secure more winning entries in the future (that didn't work out all that well for Dolly the sheep as I recall). I suspect there will be a discussion concerning that at the next board meeting as of course there are ethical considerations which likely need addressing.

Enough of this competition stuff; it's time yet again to discuss what is really important to most club members; parties. As you recall, my last missive discussed briefly the Fall Party at Matt's abode roughly a month from now. The NTHBA Fall Party is an event right up there with The Haj, Christmas and the annual Burning Man Festival. It seems Mr. Parulis is of the opinion that we as a club are incapable of brewing decent German beer and so wants to shame us at the party by holding a small contest at which I suspect he intends to humble us with his entries. Well, he may well win however I for one do not intend to just roll over and let him violate me without at least making it difficult. I would urge the rest of my gentle readers to make up some nice German bier so that even should we not prevail, at least we can all enjoy some traditional quaffing as they do in the Fatherland.

It may be warm now but actually it is already starting to cool down. My favorite time of year in Texas is the fall; not too rainy and generally nice temperatures. I plan to brew like hell this year since I no longer need to prostitute myself for the almighty dollar (subject only to compacity and consumption considerations). Once the Limbo is completed, the rest of the year is a coast for the club and before you know it, we will be bothering you to volunteer to become an officer (pay sucks but the fringe benefits are priceless). Finally, sadly the virus is not yet done with us (and we may be forced to take evasive action depending on how things develop) so everyone be especially careful out there and may God bless America.

*Prast,
Willy*

Beer Porn



It's not often that I feature a redhead however this month I got a really nice submission for all my gentle readers to lust after. This is a stunning Rye IPA not something you see all that often; enjoy.

The Treasurers Report by Walter Hodges

MONTH ENDED	EQUITY
JANUARY	8048.59
FEBRUARY	8040.71
MARCH	7670.46
APRIL	7760.38
MAY	7993.45
JUNE	8190.97
JULY	8166.17

Current Membership: 38

We had a successful Limbo Challenge which will add to our coffers. Limbo receipts and expenses are recorded in August and will be reported on the next newsletter. Thank you to all the members who supported the club either by entering the Limbo, judging or hosting.

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>

If you have any questions about the financials, contact me and I will be happy to share club financial detail.

Support your local homebrew shop!

Cheers,

Walter

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2nd Vice President

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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