

# LIVIN' THE BREWS



The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXVII

Issue XI -

## *Quick Sips for November:*

Officer Meeting	November 2nd 6:30pm	Bavarian Grill, Plano
Club Meeting	November 9th 6:30pm	Tupps, McKinney
Brew Day	November 6 <sup>th</sup> 9:00am	Walter Hodges, Carrollton

## Prez Sez by Stephen Tyner

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November is upon us and (finally) the weather is starting to show it. Spooky season has given way to campfires with imperial stouts, barleywines, and winter warmers! This also marks the end of the Lonestar Circuit and while I don't want to steal the thunder from our Competitions Czar, I do want to congratulate all of the NTHBA members who participated in competitions this year with a special congratulations going to Mark Rendon, this year's Brewer of the Year. Mark not only medaled in every major LSC competition but he also scored the highest point total in NTHBA history from an LSC standpoint. One would normally say that if you see Mark you should buy him a beer but given his brewing success, you should ask for one of his!

From a club focus point of view, the topic of the month is officers! It is that time of year where we need members to volunteer to carry on the success, traditions, and spirit of the club. We have had a significant amount of positive momentum these last few years and it is a great time to be an officer! Homebrewing is at an interesting crossroads but the strength of this club is outstanding! We just had one of the best Limbo years ever, representation in major competitions is up, we have energized brewers, and we are getting some new members. It really is a great opportunity to be a part of a major North Texas homebrewing movement. If you have any questions about the positions, duties, or are interested in volunteering, let any officer know.



From a club meeting standpoint, the November officer meeting will be held at **The Bavarian Grill** in Plano on Tuesday, **November 2nd**. The club meeting will be held at **Tupps Brewery** in McKinney on Tuesday, **November 9th**. Please note that Tupps is planning to move to a new location in 2022 so this may be the last club meeting at their current location behind the Cotton Mill. Come out and show them some love as they prepare to close down their long time location.

Finally, in the spirit of not doing an Irish goodbye, this upcoming club meeting will be my last in-person meeting with the NTHBA. For those that are not aware, I will be relocating to Ohio for a new job. Never fear! You will hear from me in a digital sense as I will not vacate all of my duties. Don't worry Fritz - I will continue to enter mediocre beer in competitions for the NTHBA!

It has been an honor getting to know and learn from people who have forgotten more about beer and brewing than I will ever know. The NTHBA was the first homebrew club I joined after diving into this hobby and I'm thankful that this is the club I ended up finding.

*Prost,*

*Stephen*

## The First Sip by Terry Olinger

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October turned out to be a very nice month both for club social activities, but more importantly the weather finally cooled off enough to break out the fire pit! We kicked off the month with the fall Oktoberfest party and the German beer Peoples Choice contest. We had eight entries on tap and an additional entry in bottles. First place went to Terry Olinger for his Munich Helles, second to Jimmy Orkin for his Kölsch, and third to Mike Grover for his Munich Dunkel. The October club meeting was a resounding success as we had three new club members! Wrapping up activities, the brew day at Robert Petrin was well attended with and all duly impressed with his man cave (aka 3<sup>rd</sup> car garage).

### Learn to Homebrew Day

November 6<sup>th</sup> is the American Homebrewers Associations official Learn to Homebrew Day. We were intending to hold a brew day at a local brewpub but with conflicts and changed opening hours at various locations we have decided to hold this at Walter Hodges home. The AHA website has links to 2021 event recipes, discounts for new members, and a link to pledge to homebrew for anyone brewing that day. If you know someone who is interested in brewing but has not yet taken the leap, or know someone who is already brewing but not a club member, invite them out to the brew day. Address information is below.

### Here's what's on tap for November

**Monthly Officers meeting** will be held **Tuesday November 2nd** at **Bavarian Grill, 221 W Parker Road, Plano TX**. We will be arriving around 6:30 with business starting at 7:00pm.

**Monthly Club meeting** will be **Tuesday November 9th. Tupps Brewery, 721 Anderson Street, McKinney Tx.** As usual socializing for the first 30 minutes starting at 6:30 and official business starting around 7:00pm. Tupps Brewery does not serve food so plan accordingly.

**Brew day:**

Will be held November 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am at Walter Hodges home, 2203 Le Mans Dr., Carrollton Texas.

**Current Scheduled brew days**

November 6th– Learn to homebrew day, discussing with local brewpubs.

December – Bill Lawrence

January – Mike Grover

If you would like to host a future brew day, please let me know at [socials@nthba.org](mailto:socials@nthba.org)

*Prost,*

*Terry*



Now, this is rather bizarre. Here we have a homemade German Wheat Bier in a Pils glass with some sort of cat statuary which I can only assume represents a minor deity in what religion or cult I really can't say.

Could it be that the "Cat God" is perhaps the patron "Saint" of fermented beverages in some lesser known organization which has yet to hit the mainstream? Anyhow, the wheat beer looks inviting and the erect headstand should bring inspiration to the membership.

## Competition Corner by Fritz Schanz

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### Preparing for Operation Fermentation and the Bluebonnet

Now is the time to begin planning for two very important homebrew competitions: Operation Fermentation and the Bluebonnet.

- Operation Fermentation: registration Nov 13 thru Jan 7. In the past, this competition has filled up within **72 hours**, so please register and pay for your entries on **Nov 13**.
- Once you have registered and paid for your entries, you **may change those entries** at any time through the end of registration, Jan 7.
- The competition is limited to **600-paid entries**, with a personal entry limit of 24.
- To maximize club success at this competition, we should **coordinate our entries** as we did for the Limbo Challenge. You will receive an email regarding this information. Thus far, we have about 35 commitments.
- Your entries for Operation Fermentation **can also be entered** in the Bluebonnet, given the proximity of both competitions.

### Lone Star Circuit – A Retrospective on Performance

How did we as a club perform on the Lone Star Circuit? We had 4 competition goals:

1. To increase the number of members competing
2. To win the Bluebonnet
3. To win back the Limbo Challenge
4. To maintain a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish on the Lone Star Circuit

We accomplished the first three goals handily, and we almost achieved the 4<sup>th</sup> goal. Going into the final competition of the year, the Dixie Cup, we were in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. When the Dixie Cup concluded, though, we had dropped to 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

### Why Didn't We Do Better?

A number of issues can be attributed to our performance, and I think there are no real surprises. The reasons below are all interrelated.

#### 1. **Low Points per Medalist** (see table below)

Although we had more members medaling than any other club (45), our medals weren't of the same quality. That is, our points-per-medalist average, at 3.60 points, was lower than that of the other clubs.

Club	Medalists	Total Pts. by Club	Pts. per Medalist
Bay Area Mashers	34	124	3.65
CIA	41	237	5.78

<b>Foam Rangers</b>	30	147	4.90
<b>Ninjas</b>	27	174	6.44
<b>NTHBA</b>	45	162	3.60

Why might this be the case? Aren't our homebrewers as good as those from other clubs? Absolutely, we are. Yes, there are standout homebrewers in Houston and Austin, and we know who they are. But look at the records, all clubs have their share of standout brewers. But the question remains, "why do we have fewer points per medalist?" This is a tough question to answer, but some possible reasons are below.

## 2. Unbalanced Entry Portfolio (see table below)

This is a big topic, and it will be discussed in the December newsletter. Quickly, though, our club tends to enter and win in too few categories, and heavily entered categories often result in duplication of effort and with members competing against one another. In 15 categories, we won medals in 50% to 100% of the subcategories; on the other hand, in 19 categories, we won medals in only 0% to 33% of the subcategories. There is a huge upside in these 19 categories, which we should explore.

<b>Medal Distribution</b>	
<b>% Subcategories of a Category Receiving Medals</b>	<b>No. of Categories</b>
0%	7
17%	1
22%	1
25%	2
33%	8
50%	2
67%	7
75%	3
100%	3

## 3. Big Turnout for Big Events . . . Small Turnout for Small Events (see table below)

From NTHBA's perspective the two most important LSC events are the Bluebonnet and Limbo C, both of which we won in grand fashion. (Note also that only the NTHBA and Ninjas won 1<sup>st</sup> place in two competitions.) We had more medal winners by far than any other club: **15** and **12** compared to the all-club averages of **6.8** and **4**! These are astonishing margins, and if we had approached the other competitions similarly, we would be golden.

On the other hand, at Operation Fermentation, Lunar Rendezvous, Alamo City Cerveza Fest, and Dixie Cup, we had 5, 5, 5, and 3 medalists, which when compared to the all-club averages translates into deficits of **-1.2**, **-2.4**, 0.8, and **-3.8**. Thus, we have seriously disadvantaged ourselves at the smaller

competitions. We are the only club to have two 5<sup>th</sup> place finishes, and minimal showing at the Dixie Cup hurt the most.

As a club, we haven't been planning and brewing for the other competitions. Historically, our primary goals seem to have been focused on winning the Bluebonnet and Limbo. In the process, we probably exhaust ourselves and take a break from brewing. Then, if any competition happens to come along during our break, we might send in our left-over beers.

Club	Op Ferm		Blueb		Lunar R		Limbo C		Alamo CCF		Dixie C	
	Mbrs Mdlng	Pts.	Mbrs Mdlng	Pts.	Mbrs Mdlng	Pts.	Mbrs Mdlng	Pts.	Mbrs Mdlng	Pts.	Mbrs Mdlng	Pts.
Bay Area Mashers	3	12	2	8	10	38	3	3	5	18	11	45
CIA	14	101	6	23	10	57	1	3	2	16	8	37
Foam Rangers	7	27	6	27	5	24	2	5	3	12	7	52
Ninjas	2	10	5	17	7	61	2	8	6	32	5	46
NTHBA	5	12	15	34	5	13	12	45	5	26	3	32
Total Members Medaling & Pts	31	162	34	109	37	193	20	64	21	104	34	212
Ave. Members Medaling & Ave. Pts.	6.2	32.4	6.8	21.8	7.4	38.6	4	12.8	4.2	20.8	6.8	42.4
NTHBA Variance	-1.2	-20.4	8.2	12.2	-2.4	-25.6	8	32.2	0.8	5.2	-3.8	-10.4
NTHBA Placement	3rd		1st		5th		1st		2nd		5th	
No. Members Medaling for 1st Place Club	14		15		7		12		6		7	

#### 4. Competition Value (see table below)

With regard to LSC points, competitions do have differing values and difficulty levels, and these should be weighed in our brewing calculus.

Competition	Medal Categories	Points Awarded	Total Entries	Entries per Medal Category
Operation Fermentation	47	227	358	7.6
Bluebonnet	39	234	1218	31.2
Lunar Rendezvous	39	232	447	11.5
Alamo City Cerveza Fest	23	130	430	18.7
Limbo Challenge	13	81	292	22.5
Dixie Cup	44	263	436	9.9

Competitions offer different values based on the odds of winning a medal. In the LSC, the best values are Operation Fermentation (7.6 entries per category), Lunar Rendezvous (11.5), and Dixie Cup (9.9). The poorest values are the Bluebonnet (31.2) and the Limbo (22.5). Of course, these data points should not discourage anyone from competing in the Bluebonnet and Limbo; however, they should absolutely encourage everyone to compete in the other competitions.

Also, relatedly, noting the total point awards is important. Lunar Rendezvous and Dixie Cup really offered a ton of points that were well distributed to those who showed up.

It is rather ironic that we had our highest turnout for those competitions that are the most difficult from a probability view, and our lowest for those competitions that were the least difficult.

## External Competitions

### Dixie Cup – Achievement by Individual

The Dixie Cup results were announced last weekend. There were 436 entries and 85 participants. We had only 3 members enter beers in this important competition, and all 3 secured wins. However, the wins were not enough to preserve our 2<sup>nd</sup> place position. The turnout by the 4 other clubs was quite impressive.

*Of especial note, our club achieved its highest point total in the history of this competition – 32 points vs. 2 -10 points previously.*

- **Fritz Schanz:** Mike Templeton Award co-winner (high medal points, tied with Janine Weber of the Foam Rangers), 3<sup>rd</sup> International Amber Lager, 1<sup>st</sup> Czech Amber Lager, 2<sup>nd</sup> Czech Dark Lager, 1<sup>st</sup> Munich Helles, 2<sup>nd</sup> American Amber Ale, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rauchbier, 1<sup>st</sup> NZ Pilsner. 16 points
- **Mark Rendon:** 2<sup>nd</sup> International Amber Lager, 3<sup>rd</sup> Czech Dark Lager, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kolsch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vienna Lager, 1<sup>st</sup> Dark Mild, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scottish Light, 3<sup>rd</sup> Irish Red Ale, 1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Prohibition Porter. 14 points.
- **Nupe Singhal:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Spicy Belgian in the First Time Entrant category. 2 points.

This competition closes out the 2021 Lone Star Circuit.

### LSC Club Standings

Although not posted yet, the Club LSC standings will be as follows, or very close.

LSC Club	
Club	Total Points
Cane Island Alers	237
Ninjas	174
NTHBA	162
Foam Rangers	147
Bay Area Mashers	124

## Internal Competitions

### NTHBA Brewer of the Year

Congratulations to **Mark Rendon** for being the 2021 NTHBA Brewer of the Year; also congratulations to Mark (a) for winning medals in each of the LSC competitions this year and (b) for achieving the highest point total in NTHBA history for this award, edging out Scott Townson by 1 pt. (2010, 40 points).

2021 NTHBA Brewer of the Year		
Brewer	Total Points	Competition
Mark Rendon	41	Op Ferm, BlueB, LR, LC, ACCF, DC
Fritz Schanz	38	LR, LC, ACCF, DC, DC
Terry Olinger	12	Op Ferm, BlueB, LR, LC, ACCF
Walter Hodges	9	LC, ACCF
Dean Weaver	8	Op Ferm, BlueB, LR, LC
Jimmy Orkin	8	BlueB, LC
James Smith	5	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
Nupe Singhal	2	DC
Stephen Tyner	1	ACCF

### Brewer Royale

Brewer Royale		
Brewer	Total Points	COC
Dean Weaver	10	Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep
Fred David	3	Jan
Jason Garland	3	May
Terry Olinger	3	Sep
James Smith	2	Jan
Jimmy Orkin	2	Jul
Stephen Tyner	2	Mar
Garry Beckham	1	Jul
Matt Parulis	1	May
Nupe Singhal	1	Sep

There will be a COC this month, and the drop-off locations is being determined.

### Competitions in Progress

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

We completed judging this past Saturday, and it was really fun. James Lallande helped with judging, so there were some really great conversations and interactions. Great food and great beer in Denton.

- **Judging** -- completed
- **Awards Ceremony** – Nov 6
- **Website** -- <https://texasredcoat.com/competition>

### **Upcoming Competitions**

#### **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 **paid** entries
- **Personal Entry Limit** – 24, 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 the drop-off location on 12:00 noon, Wed, Jan 5, and deliver to the drop-off location.

*Regards,*

*Fritz*

## The Secretary's Missive by Bill Lawrence

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November is election month in our little club. Because of changes fully documented in last month's missive, things are changing and our club needs good leadership to weather the choppy seas. Most of the current officers are willing and able to do another year before the mast including your humble Scribner. On the other hand, it would be a great thing to have some of the younger members volunteer as we could all use a fresh look at things. In my particular case, I have been an officer at least 6 times over the years and to say that I am somewhat stuck in my ways would be a gross understatement. Besides most of the current officers (except for of course Stephen, see his comments above) Smitty has also thrown his hat into the ring. Below is his bio and campaign rhetoric which I include and he provided for your perusal and consideration:

**HOWDY. MOST OF YOU KNOW ME AS I HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE CLUB GOING ON 10 YEARS AND HAVE ALSO BEEN BREWING ABOUT THAT LONG. IN THAT TIME, I HAVE SERVED IN SEVERAL OFFICER POSITIONS. NTHBA HAS SEEN A LOT OF CHANGES OVER THE YEARS, NOT ONLY WITH THE CLUB, BUT HOMEBREWING AND CRAFT BEER IN GENERAL. MY GOALS ARE TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE JOY OF HOMEBREWING, COMPETITION PARTICIPATION/JUDGING, EDUCATION, ALONG WITH THE CAMARADERIE AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF OUR CLUB. THANKS, AND CHEERS! -SMITTY**

Naturally, I can endorse him without reservation as I have served with him on the board several times and his reputation is beyond reproach (I assume it is ethical for me to endorse candidates and if not then, well screw it).

Ok so the holidays are quickly approaching and naturally it would be blasphemy to attempt to survive the upcoming stress without a goodly supply of strong drink which should of course include good homebrew. While you are at it, you might as well bottle some of your production as Fritz is intent on conquering first Texas and then the world with the club's efforts. Remember, even if you don't win, generally you learn more from your losers than winners. Oh sure, it's great to win however you don't learn a whole lot when somebody blows sunshine up your rear-end for a great beer you have made, it's correcting flaws on the lesser efforts that makes you a better brewer. Especially for you new members, just get in there; after all, I doubt most didn't become savants after entering their first contest (it's akin to proficiency betwixt the sheets, a topic I'll not elaborate on). Getting a crappy scoresheet is just a rite of passage and it's certainly nothing personal (since the judging is blind). Yes, you need to make great beer to win at the Bluebonnet but as luck comes into play it also pays to have several entries. You don't think Master Orkin our local beer pundit attained his exalted position overnight, do you? Yeah, he got molded in the crucible of competition.

So one other thing before I put this missive to bed. With the demise of Homebrew Headquarters (which still stings) I have received a couple of orders from Austin Homebrew. Both orders worked out well and I received my order in two days. Also, you can build your own custom recipe if like me you don't want to store large quantities of supplies, especially grain. You will also find it useful to use yeast for more than one batch and schedule your batches accordingly (think of that batch of lower gravity beer as a giant starter for the next batch). By the way, it seems these guys like to run flash sales and the last order I received got about an 11% discount; sign up for their newsletter and they will periodically e-mail you

with their sales promotions. Well, it seems as usual I have again become verbose so I need to cut this off. Remember; brew, bottle your creations so you can enter these contests (and avoid having Fritz birth a heifer) and consider becoming an officer. The pay ain't great but the satisfaction is exemplary plus if you are a newer member it's a great way to meet people. With that, I bid you adieu my gentle readers and may God bless America.

*Prost,  
Wilby*



## Beer Porn

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This is a first time submission to Beer Porn by one of our members (and I appreciate the help here by the way). As I recall, this is a Martzen; looks inviting. Let's talk about glassware here for a minute. This mug looks like it came out of a box of Frosted Flakes judging by the picture. Perhaps the submitter was going for that "Innocent, wholesome" vibe but come on, this is Beer Porn, we are going for that slightly erotic somewhat naughty look (think "come hither sailor")

## The Treasurers Report by Walter Hodges

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MONTH ENDED	EQUITY
JANUARY	8048.59
FEBRUARY	8040.71
MARCH	7670.46
APRIL	7760.38
MAY	7993.45
JUNE	8190.97
JULY	8166.17
AUGUST	9733.52
SEPTEMBER	9705.25

Current Membership: 46

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.

*Cheers,*

*Walter*

## NTHBA Officers

### President

Stephen Tyner

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### Secretary

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### Past President

Mike Grover

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