

# LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME XXIX ISSUE III



## March Quick Glance:

[Bluebonnet 1st Round Judging](#)  
[March 8th-9th](#)  
[2nd Round](#)  
[March 15th-16th](#)

[Club Meeting March 11th](#)  
[at](#)  
[Four Corners Brewery](#)

[Bluebonnet Event](#)  
[March 21st-22nd](#)

## Prez Sez

By Walter Hodges

In just a few short weeks we'll find out if we retained the Bluebonnet trophy. We still need help judging first round entries the weekend of March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and second round entries on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have never attended the Bluebonnet event, you should consider coming out on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, tickets are still available on the Bluebonnet web site. Friday evening is the big party with the commercial tasting and room crawl. Saturday evening is the awards ceremony, so if you entered beers, you should come out to collect your award. This year, there will be a people's choice award for the room crawl.

James is coordinating the decoration committee for our bar area

Right on the heels of the Bluebonnet is the Celtic Brew-Off. Entries will be accepted from March 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This competition is open to styles originating from Ireland and the UK. So, hopefully you bottled up a few extra entries for the Celtic.

We'll resume our brew days in April, so watch the club web site for more information. We'll also be publishing information about the upcoming spring party soon.

We are still looking for someone to take on the job of Limbo Director. This position will mainly coordinate the tasks and make sure things get done. You'll have plenty of support from the board and club members who want to help with the event.



This is our club's competition and we want to put on a good event.

Our next meeting will be at Four Corners Brewing and we'll have tamales available for purchase from The Tamale Company. We'll have a choice of pork, chicken and cheese tamales. Four Corners will be pouring beer and may have something special on tap.

*Prost!*

*Walter*

# The First Sip

By James Smith

Greetings homebrewers! All 2014 events have just about been all planned out. We also have a very special event coming up in May! More below and with details to come soon! I look forward to seeing everyone out there! As always, if ever you have a question or comments, or if you would like to provide suggestions or feedback about a specific event, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [socials@nthba.org](mailto:socials@nthba.org). I look forward to hearing from you!

## February Brew Day

Last month's brew day was hosted by our past prez, Mr. Barrett Tillman. Although it was cold and a bit dreary, we had a good turnout with several brewers going, including Wane Yandell's big rig brewing a Berliner Weisse. Barrett's chickens were almost sacrificed to the Beer Gods, but alas we decided against it. Many thanks to everyone who attended!

## Notable Club Events Coming Up:

- There is NO March brew day as the Bluebonnet Brew-off will be going on that month.
- The April brew day is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> at Walter Hodges(your current Prez) house. His address is 2203 Le Mans Dr. in Carrollton. [Map Here](#)
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the 2014 Spring Party! It will be held at the home of Doug Nett. His address is 5505 Lomita Circle in Plano. [Map Here](#)
- The May brew day will occur on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Bill James house. His address is 2801 Glen Forest Lane in Plano. [Map Here](#)

## May Special Event – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

As was mentioned earlier, we have a very special May event to announce. We are working with our friends at Cedar Creek Brewery for them to host a beer campout Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at their brewery in Seven Points. They have plenty of land around to set up campsites, or there are hotels in the area too. You would be welcome to bring your bottles and kegs down as well. Additionally, we are working with Damon



to brew up a batch to split amongst anyone who wants it so they can take it home and ferment on their own. Also in the works is a people's choice competition. The exact details are still pending, but if this sounds like fun to you, please mark your calendars and we will see you down there!!

The address for Cedar Creek Brewery is 244 E. Cedar Creek Pkwy, Seven Points TX 75143. [Map Here](#)

Lastly, you can always find out about the latest events coming up on the NTHBA Club Calendar here: <http://nthba.org/content/club-calendar>

Please contact me at [socials@nthba.org](mailto:socials@nthba.org) if you have any questions.

Cheers!

James, aka "Smitty"

## Competition News

### By Mike Grover

#### COMPETITION NEWS

#### BREWER ROYALE

Our first club only competition is in the books. Congratulations to our winners! Winners are listed below, along with their winning beer styles and Brewer Royale points:

- FIRST PLACE: Charlene Hoke, Irish Red Ale 3
- SECOND PLACE: Barrett Tillman, Scottish Heavy/70 Shilling Ale 2
- THIRD PLACE: David Lee, Strong Scotch Ale/Wee Heavy 1

We had a very solid group of entries. Thanks to everyone who entered, and a big thanks to Leroy Gharis and Walter Hodges who came over to my house and judged the beers. Next up is Celtic ales, so be sure to save an extra bottle for the club only competition when you bottle up your Celtic Brew Off beers. With a large number of available categories in the April competition I am expecting a pretty large number of entries. Extra judging help will be needed and appreciated. As we get closer to April I'll be looking for volunteers.

April 2014: Celtic ales (English, Scottish, or Irish origin – BJCP categories 8, 9, 11, 12, 13ABCDF, 14A, 19AB) – Entry deadline April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

July 2014: Session Beers (Limbo Challenge categories except Lawnmower)

September 2014: German beers (BJCP categories 1DE, 2A, 3, 4BC, 5, 6C, 7AC, 15, 17A)

November 2014: Holiday beers (BJCP category 21B, other winter seasonally themed beers falling into categories 16E, 20, 21, 23, or ...?)

January 2015: Imperial Anything/Big Beers (BJCP categories 5CD, 13F, 14C, 15C, 18, 19 or an "imperialized" version of any other BJCP beer style)

February 2015: Extract Beers (Any BJCP beer style where >50% of the fermentables are derived from either dry or liquid malt extract)

April 2015: Lagers (BJCP categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and any beers in categories 20, 21, 22, or 23 that are fermented with lager yeast)

July 2015: Session Beers

September 2015: Sour Beers (BJCP category 17 and sour beers falling into categories 20, 21, 22, and 23)

November 2015: Belgian & French Ales (BJCP categories 17 and 18)

Entries for the Brewer Royale can be dropped off at either Homebrew Headquarters, The Winemaker's Toy Store/Dallas Homebrew, or you can bring them to me at club meetings, brew days, or club parties. For the club only competition we need only one bottle along with a label identifying the brewer, BJCP beer style, and name of the beer. Labels should be attached by a rubber band (please do not tape or glue them and do not use self-adhesive labels). I recommend using the BJCP bottle identification form ([http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP\\_BottleID.pdf](http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_BottleID.pdf)).

#### LONE STAR CIRCUIT

Hopefully you got all of your entries submitted for this year's Bluebonnet Brew-Off. Log in was completed on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and approximately 1,350 entries were received. NTHBA had a good showing at log in so a big tip of the hat to all of you who showed up. Judging is up next and we really need to make a good showing with judges and stewards over the next three weekends. Check the discussion forums on [www.nthba.org](http://www.nthba.org) for updates and location details. While entry registration is closed, registration for attending the event and for room crawl beers will remain open until just before the event. To register or for more information visit the competition website ([www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com](http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com)).

#### Bluebonnet Brew-Off Important Dates

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| March 1-2 and 8-9, 2014 | <a href="#">First round judging – 1509 S Irving Heights Drive, Irving</a> (in the vicinity of Loop 12 and Shady Grove)  |
| March 15, 2014          | <a href="#">Second round judging – 1509 S Irving Heights Drive, Irving</a> (in the vicinity of Loop 12 and Shady Grove) |
| March 21-22, 2014       | Bluebonnet event and awards ceremony at the Westin DFW Hotel  |

#### Other Lone Star Circuit (<http://www.lonestarcircuit.com/qualcomps.html>) Competitions

Celtic Brew-Off – Next up is the Celtic Brew-Off which is open to beer styles of English, Irish, or Scottish origin only. A rep from Knights of the Brown Bottle, the sponsoring club, will accept Celtic entries at the Bluebonnet event this year.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| March 22 – April 3, 2014 | Competition registration open and entries accepted          |
| April 12-13, 2014        | Judging – location TBD                                      |
| May 4th, 2014            | Awards ceremony at the Texas Scottish Festival in Arlington |

Big Batch Brew Bash – This is a single style competition, and this year’s category is Texas brown ales. This is a “custom” category for this event, and basically covers bigger, maltier versions of Northern or Southern English brown ales. The style guideline for Texas brown ale can be found at the BBBB website (<http://thekgb.org/TexasBrown>). Entry forms may be found here: <http://thekgb.org/Portals/0/BBBB/4B2014%20flyer%20with%20Ken%20Rich%20Ray%20logo.pdf>.

TBD (early May) Club packing party for NTHBA entries.

May 9th, 2014 Entry Deadline for drop-offs

May 18th, 2014 Judging – Saint Arnold’s Brewing in Houston (9:15 a.m.)

May 18th, 2014 Event open to public at 1:00 p.m. with Awards Ceremony at 2:30 p.m.

Alamo City Cervezafest- This competition is open to all beer, mead, and cider categories.

April 12<sup>th</sup>-May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Entries Accepted (judging dates TBD)

TBD (early May) Club packing party for NTHBA Entries

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Event and Awards Ceremony

Lunar Rendezbrew – July (open to all beer, mead, and cider styles) – All dates TBD

Limbo Challenge – Dates have been set for NTHBA’s own Limbo Challenge session beer competition.

July 18<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 Entries Accepted

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 Log In

August 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Judging

August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 Awards Ceremony

More information can be found on the Limbo Challenge website (<http://www.limbocomp.org/>). Please contact me if you are interested in serving on the Limbo Challenge Committee. Time commitment is pretty small and it is a great way to get involved in organizing a competition without all of the stress of the larger events.

O’zapft Is! – September (open to beer styles of German origin only) All dates TBD

Cactus Challenge – September (open to all beer, mead, and cider styles) All dates TBD

Dixie Cup – October 16-18, 2014 (final Lone Star Circuit competition of the year - open to all beer, mead, and cider styles)

Pros’t!  
Mike Grover, NTHBA Competition Coordinator

# The Treasure's Report

## By Jimmy Orkin

Summary:

Equity December end \$6,362.71.

Equity January end \$5,681.83 corrected.

New members in January: 16.

Because I write the newsletter articles before the end of the month and have not reconciled and closed out the month yet, I am going to list the previous closed out month in the summary above. The big expense for January was the payment for the 2013 Limbo award expenses.

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

<http://nthba.org/content/club-documents>

Once the month closes, I will get the documents on the website for your review. I am placing three reports on the website:

1. Monthly Balance Sheet
2. Monthly Profit & Loss
3. A QuickBooks account listing to hopefully show year to day sources and uses of money.

We are starting the membership renewal period. As of Saturday, March 1, membership renewals will have a May 31, 2015 expiration date and will cost \$30. The homebrew stores have the new cards. I also have new membership cards and applications with me at all club events.

Let's get on to my personal brewing experiences.

No much new on my brewing controller develop. I am still evaluating the Raspberry Pi.

I bottled my entries for the upcoming competitions. In the past I used two picnic taps with plastic tubes to purge the bottles with CO<sup>2</sup> and fill with beer. I was bottling in my kitchen and would lug my kegs inside to bottle.

The two picnic taps were inexpensive but were not optimal for filling the bottles. There were times where I would have excessive foaming. Lugging the kegs inside could stir up sediment and make my entries cloudy.

I broke down and purchased a Blichmann beer gun, an adjustable height table and a FastRack bottle drainer. With the table set at its highest setting, it was easy to work standing up. The table also allowed me to setup next to my beer refrigerator. I was able to connect the beer gun to my kegs without moving them.

The beer gun is a well-engineered device. It makes the drudgery of bottling much easier. I recommend it. A while back I decided to only use Iodophor for post fermentation sanitation. I worry that the bubbles in Star San might introduce oxygen into my beer post fermentation. I used the FastRack to drain as much Iodophor as I could in the few minutes between draining the Iodophor and filling the bottle of beer.

The accompanying photograph shows my bottling station. Please feel free to ask me about my bottling experience and setup.

Cheers,

Jimmy



## Education

### By David Lee

#### BJCP STUDY CLASSES

As mentioned in the last few club meetings, I am hosting several study sessions for the bjcp online and tasting exam at the flying saucer in Addison on Sundays starting on March 30th. There are no local tasting exams for the bjcp certification in 2014, but I have reserved some spots for an exam in Houston sometime in October, still to be announced, and I can carpool a few folks to the exam if needed! Please check out the info below and email me with your questions/concerns or if you are interested in taking the exam in Houston. Keep in mind, after we complete the study sessions, you should be more than ready for the online exam. The key thing to remember is, once you take the online exam, you only have one year to complete the tasting exam and it is recommend that you schedule the tasting before you complete the online or at least have a spot reserved. Hope to see you there...

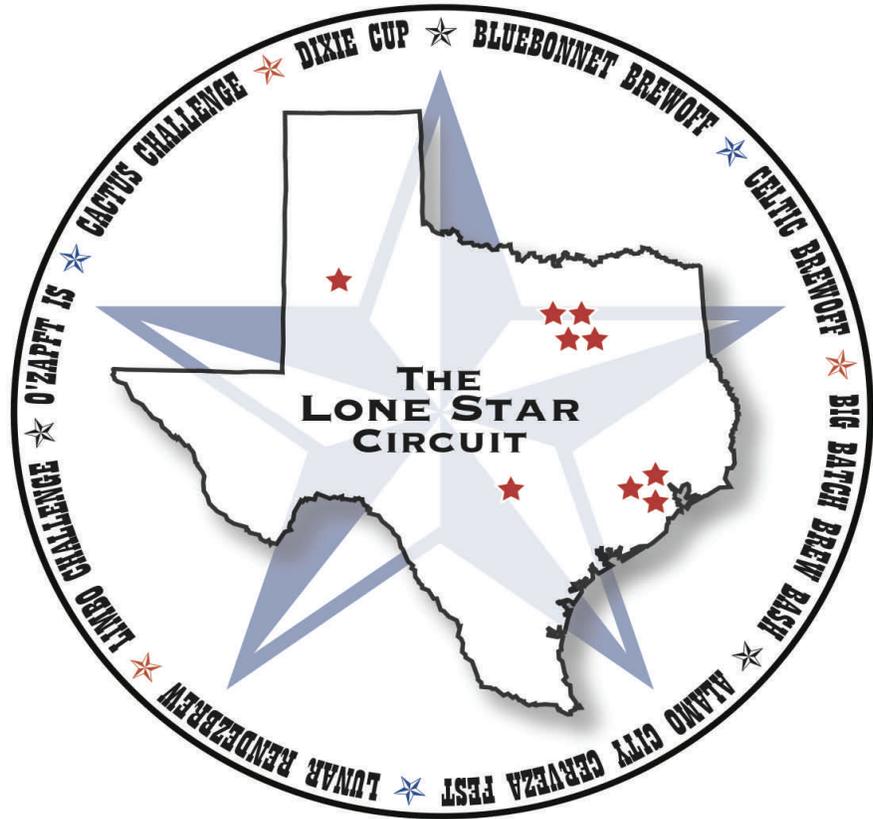
**WHERE?** FLYING SAUCER ADDISON

**COST?** FREE

**WHEN?** STARTING SUNDAY - MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>

1 MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>

- 2 APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>
- 3 APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>
- 4 MAY 11<sup>th</sup>
- 5 JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>
- 6 JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>
- 7 JUNE 29<sup>th</sup>
- 8 JULY 13<sup>th</sup>
- 9 JULY 27<sup>th</sup>
- 10 AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>
- 11 AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup>
- 12 SEPTEMBER 7<sup>t</sup>
- 13 SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>



NOTE: WE DO NOT MEET ON THE HOLIDAY WEEKENDS OF MEMORIAL DAY OR INDEPENDENCE DAY.

THE PLAN IS TO STUDY FOR BOTH THE ONLINE AND THE TASTING EXAM; HOWEVER, THE FOCUS WILL BE THE ONLINE EXAM.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

MEET AT THE SAUCER AT 12:15 PM READY TO STUDY. WE'LL REVIEW ONE OR MORE STYLES AND THE SUBCATEGORIES. WE'LL TEST EACH OTHER AND HAVE SOME GAMES TO HELP WITH LEARNING. WE'LL TRY TO FIND A FEW BEERS THAT WE CAN TASTE AND EVALUATE, BUT **ANY BEER PURCHASED IS ON YOU AND NOT THE CLUB.**



**NTHBA Officers****President**

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**Past President**

Barrett Tillman  
[pastpres@nthba.org](mailto:pastpres@nthba.org)

**Club Brewmeisters**

Club Brewmeisters are members who are experienced brewers and have volunteered to help other brewers, new and old, with brewing problems. Give them a call with your questions! Just don't call too late, too early, or during Cowboy games!

Homebrew Headquarters  
 (972) 234-4411

The Wine Makers' Toy Store  
 (866)417-1114

**North Texas Home Brewers Association**

The North Texas Home Brewers Assoc. is a group with an interest in beer in general and home brewing in particular. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at various locations in the area. Visitors are welcome! "Livin' the Brews" is our newsletter and is published once a month. 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.



Visit the NTHBA Website at  
[www.nthba.org](http://www.nthba.org)