

LIVIN' THE BREWS

The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXIII

Issue X - October 2018



Quick Sips for October:

Officer's Meeting	@Whole Foods Market Richardson	October 2 nd	6:30pm – 8:00pm
Club Meeting	@Steam Theory Brewing	October 9 th	6:30pm – 8:30pm
October Brewday	@Hodges's House	October 13 th	9:00am – 3:00pm

These and other events can be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

Prez Sez by James Smith

Call for 2019 Officer Candidates!

Fall is upon us, and it is time to start planning for next year. Coming up in November, we have elections for your 2019 officer. Without your NTHBA Board and other volunteers, the club would cease to exist. Your board consists of 5 elected members: President, 1st VP(competitions), 2nd VP(Social), Treasurer, and Secretary. Along with that, the prior year's President resides on the board to vote and assist as needed. We also have two additional appointments. They are IT Director and Minister of Education(MoE). Roles and responsibilities for each of these can be found at <http://nthba.org/?q=groups/club-information/officer-tasks>.

The amount of volunteer time required in these positions is enough to keep you involved with the club, but negligible enough to not overwhelm you. NTHBA needs member participation to keep going. If you have any interest in serving as an officer, please let one of the current officers know ASAP! Better yet, start attending the officer meetings to see how things work. We would love to have you!

Bluebonnet Update

As 2019 Director, I along with Jimmy Orkin, have been working with the 2019 Bluebonnet Brew-Off Committee planning for the competition and awards ceremony weekend coming up. We have been making good progress and I hope you are either already brewing, or getting ready to help NTHBA take home the most awards next year as host club. Please take some time to go out and review the medal categories, as there have been a few updates. Namely, with the exception of Lichtenhainer, Piwo Grodziskie, and Sahti, we have placed the historic styles into medal categories matching their style.

http://bbbrewoff.com/bluebonnetbrewoff/?page_id=106

Another update is with the [Hop Showcase](#). The traditional category rules of any beer style and single hop remains. However, we have added an additional subcategory for a single style (American Pale Ale) with a stipulation that 60% of the hop additions be that of the showcase hop. See below for rules:

http://bbbrewoff.com/bluebonnetbrewoff/?page_id=132

For 2019, we have been provided cryo-hops of three distinct varieties from YCH. They are:

	Alpha %	Beta %
Citra	24.8	6.6
Simcoe	23.8	7.9
Palisade	14.8	12.6

I published more information on these hops in my article a couple of months ago. Although these cryo hops are about double the AA, we have only a very limited supply of them...7.5 ounces of each hop. Technically, these are about 2x the AA of your typical pellet hops. Thus, we do have a limited supply for the club. We plan to discuss the allotment of these hops at the next officer meeting to ensure they are utilized to their fullest and not wasted. Stay tuned!

Monthly Officer and Club Meetings

The October Club Meeting will be at Steam Theory Brewing. Chuck Homola & Co. are one of our own, so please plan to show up and support them. They have great beer and food! Their address is 340 Singleton Blvd #100, Dallas, TX 75212.

The November Officer Meeting will be on the 6th at 6:30 PM. We will be meeting at BJ's in Addison. They are located at 4901 Belt Line Rd, Dallas, TX 75254. Members are always welcome, especially if you are considering volunteering.

The November Club Meeting will be on the 13th at the Lakewood Brewing. Their address is 2302 Executive Dr, Garland, TX 75041. Elections will be held at this meeting and pizza will be provided. Please plan to attend! As always, we will be running the raffle at the meeting. \$5 gets you six tickets and any losing tickets will be entered in the Big-Mohonker.

With that, hope everyone has a great October, and we'll see you at our upcoming events!

Cheers!

"Smitty"

The First Sip by Walter Hodges

Fall is in the air and with the lower temperatures, it's a great time to dust off your brew rigs and start brewing up beers to get you through the winter and build up your Bluebonnet entries.

Our September brewday was hosted by our President, James Smith. Smitty showed off his new Blichman Brew Easy by brewing 10 gallons of hazy IPA. Thanks to James and Julie for hosting.

The next brewday will be held at my home on October 13th from 9:00 to 3:00. I am planning on brewing a Belgian Blonde Ale. My base water is RO and I build it up to match the style of beer I am brewing. I have also started using the Bru-N-Water software to formulate my water recipes. This brewday will be a good opportunity for anyone interested in using these tools to come see them in action and ask questions. Our address is: 2203 Le Mans Dr, Carrollton.

I am working on setting up a date for the fall party. If you are interested in hosting the party please let me know. The fall party typically has 25-30 people in attendance. We have had Oktoberfest themed parties as well as costume parties, the choice is up to the host.

Cheers,

Walter

James smiling at his brewday with his new Brew Easy.



Competition Corner by Zac Cathcart

We had a whopping FOUR entries this month for the CoC. The winners are as follows:

Place	Brewer	Cat.	Beer Name
1 st	Fred David	7B – Altbier	Das Alt
2 nd	Fred David	5B – Kolsch	Das Kolsch
3 rd	John Driscoll	5B – Kolsch	Fatfinger Kolsch

Congratulations to our winners!

This is the schedule for Club only Competitions:

November 2018	Seasonal Beers Category 30
January 2019	British Strong Ale Category 17
March 2019	IPAs BJCP 12C, 21A, 21B
May 2019	Hefe, Wit and Saison BJCP 10A, 24A, 25B
July 2019	European BJCP cats 2 – 8
September 2019	Sour and Wild BJCP cats 23, 28
November 2019	Historical BJCP cat 27
January 2020	American Strong BJCP cat 22

Cheers!

Zac

The Treasurer's Report by Kevin Smith

After reconciling Paypal for August, our Limbo results look even better. There was another \$468 in entry fees that was not noted in last month's reporting.

Please renew your membership at your earliest convenience, including a brew day, officers' meeting, or club meeting. The upcoming August club meeting will be a good chance to renew your membership. I'll have the PayPal "swiper", so we can accept cards, cash, or checks in the amount of \$30 to renew through May of 2019.

Equity ended 12/31/2017: \$7,515.46

Equity as of 8/31/2018: \$10,326.33

September summary:

Income: \$394.00

Expenses: \$887.95 (includes Limbo reimbursements)

Net Income (loss): (\$493.95)

Current members through 5/31/2019: 83 (up from 75 last month)

Budget notes:

A few months ago, we created a budget based on prior years' performance. I will share occasional snapshots of our performance against that budget, just to keep everyone apprised on how we're doing against expectations. As of September 30th, here are some highlights:

Income-related:

- Membership dues are \$420 under expectations (pay your damn dues!)
- Raffle ticket sales are right on track (+/- 5%)
- We beat Limbo sales estimates by almost \$500

Spending-related:

- Parties are \$400 under budget so far this year
- Limbo expenses were \$300 under budget (because of amortized awards already created)
- Raffle item expenses are down because of some generous donations

Additional information or full copies of financial reports can be requested by club members by emailing the treasurer at treasurer@nthba.org. Current reports including P&L, Balance sheet, and bank reconciliation information will be available a few days after the end of the month and posted to <http://www.nthba.org> -> groups -> financials-corner -> financial-statement-archive

Club memberships are effective for one year from June 1st through May 31st. If your membership is not current, please renew at either Homebrew Headquarters or Wine Maker's Toy Store. You may also obtain membership forms and cards at most club events. On-line membership forms are available at:
<http://www.nthba.org/forms/membership.html>

Cheers,

Kevin

Education Topics by Steven Barsalou

Education – Drinking Beer For Free And Honing Your Palate: Becoming A BCJP Judge

If you've been following this article, you'll remember that back in March we talked about great sources of beer related information, in June we talked about cold side success, and in July we talked about entering beers into competition to get feedback and maybe even win a few medals. By now, enough time has passed that I'm sure all of you picked up a bit of hardware and have reams of score sheets to pore over. You're probably sitting back drinking those few extra bottles from your competition bottling session and comparing them to judges' notes. Many comments you agree with and some you don't. Many thanks to all those judges for providing this objective feed for us to gain an overall sense of the beer quality and our ability to nail the style guidelines. Because, as you may remember, your family and friends aren't the most objective with their feedback... to say the least.



In the club survey earlier this year, about 50% of respondents said they were currently not BJCP judges, but were interesting in pursuing that path. Becoming a judge is a great way to take a journey through the world's most recognizable beer styles, hone your palate to many of the positive and negative flavors found in beer, give back to fellow homebrewers, have a bit of fun, and make a few good friends along the way. The focus of this newsletter article is to form a study group for the BJCP exam. The schedule, materials, and testing will be decided on by the study group members, but I'll walk you through the general steps that several of us took a few years ago to get there. First let's talk about the requirements to get your BJCP certification. BJCP certification is a two-step process. The first step is a 180 question test that is completed online and has a three hour time limit. The test currently cost \$10 to attempt. It's essentially open book, but you're not likely to pass if you haven't studied the BJCP guidelines and don't understand the brewing process. Once you've passed the BJCP Beer Judge Entrance Exam, you can the find and secure your seat in a BCJP Beer Judging Examination, which consist of a practical examination of 6 beers that may or not have off-flavors. You'll be expected to complete a fairly accurate and detailed BJCP score sheet for each of the beers and you'll given credit accordingly. You're score doesn't have to be perfect, but higher scores do translate to high level of recognition. For more information on these details, please see the BJCP's Exam Center webpage: <https://www.bjcp.org/examcenter.php>.

Back to that basic operating principles we used in our group:

- Group formed to decide on a schedule cadence, locations, and time.
 - Our group was meeting every two weeks on Sunday afternoons at a group member's house.
- How the beers of the BJCP guidelines will be divided into categories.
 - Our group grouped like beers with each other just as a competition would. If the beers were particular big or bold, we may have done a tasting on fewer beers during a session.
- Divide out various aspects of the brewing process for each participant or group of participants to give a short lecture on at the beginning of each session.
 - Our group hit the major highlights of malt, hops, water chemistry, yeast profiles, fermentation, and other brewing topics.
- Each session the host or other designated person will procure one to two commercial examples of the each style. Not to worry, many of the commercially available examples are listed in the [BJCP Guidelines](#). You generally need one 12oz bottle for each three to four participants.
 - Our group often source single 12oz bottles or large formats when available. Occasionally we had a hard time finding certain styles. In those cases, we would just substitute our best pick from what was available or a homebrewed example.
- During the tastings, each member would read the guideline for the style, evaluate the beer, and complete the scoresheet.
 - Once completed our group, would discuss the beer, how well we believe it fit the guidelines, the descriptors used, and the scores given.
- Once all tasting and brewing knowledge sessions are completed, each member can schedule their own entrance exam to get into a tasting.
- As soon as several members have completed the online test, a designated member should look into getting a tasting session created specifically for the study group. If enough people are interesting, a special session can be created for the group. Keep club leadership informed, current BJCP judges may be interested in sitting for the exam again as a way of raising their BJCP level.

If you are interesting in the study group forming, please email be at education@nthba.org with the subject line "BJCP Study Group", be sure to include your full name in the email. On 10/15, I'll collect up the emails I have and send a group email to all respondents.

Steven Barsalou



NTHBA Officers

President

James Smith

president@nthba.org

1st Vice President

Zac Cathcart

firstvp@nthba.org

2nd Vice President

Walter Hodges

socials@nthba.org

Treasurer

Kevin Smith

treasurer@nthba.org

Minister of Education

Steven Barsalou

education@nthba.org

Secretary

Jimmy Orkin

secretary@nthba.org

Past President

Fred David

pastpres@nthba.org

Our Supporting Home Brew Stores



Dallas Home Brew

1500 N I-35E, Suite 116

Carrollton TX 75006

866-417-1114

WWW.DallasHomeBrew.com



**Homebrew
HEADQUARTERS**

300 N. Coit Road, Suite 134

Richardson, TX 75080

972-234-4411

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