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# LIVIN' THE BREWS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME XXVIII ISSUE V



## PINTS OF INTEREST

- OKTOBERFEST PARTY AT THE HODGES IN CAROLLTON — SEPT. 28TH
  - NEXT OFFICERS MEETING AT COVINO'S IN PLANO — OCT. 1ST
  - NEXT CLUB MEETING AT WINE MAKER'S TOY STORE — OCT. 8TH
  - NEXT CLUB BREWDAY AT CHUCK HOMOLA'S IN ALLEN — OCT. 5TH
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## Prez Sez

Oktoberfest season is upon us if you missed the fest in Addison make time to visit with us as we celebrate with Pam & Walter Hodges. The club kegerator will be in attendance members bringing beer will have the chance to take home a people's choice prize of \$25.00. Prepare your beers for serving rack off the yeast and arrive cold. Bottles are welcome as well bring enough for the night. We are closing out this will be the last party before the Christmas party.

The town hall meeting was a grand success. Judging from your comments there is a strong desire to compete, write newsletters, and track spending. Let's encourage each other to make better beer. If you would like to be paired with an established home brewer or enlist as a mentee email [president@nthba.org](mailto:president@nthba.org). Send also your favorites styles to brew. NTHBA has a long list of awards I should have no trouble finding a style partner. The newsletter is here to stay we are collecting articles, submissions, resources, and photos. Keep us news current by way of the forum and emails to [secretary@nthba.org](mailto:secretary@nthba.org). We can work at all alone we need your support. In an effort to make life easier updates will continue to post using social media. I encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter share links and get involved. The club financials was also recurring topic or the discussion.

Our effort to be transparent is a sign of good accounting and leadership. These documents will be posted to the club website along with budget changes in the club minutes.

Members with supporting ideas are invited to serve as officers next year. Send a bibliography to [secretary@nthba.org](mailto:secretary@nthba.org). We also welcome you to the next officers meeting. The club is in need of the following roles for 2014: President, Vice President (Social Coordinator), Secretary, Treasure, Competition Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Technical Administrator, and Lonestar Circuit Representative. The members at large elect five members as officers. Following the election in November the incoming members meet at the officers meeting to select roles. The appointed roles Education, Technical, and LSC Rep are approved at this time as well. Officers then work together transfer knowledge and information. We are need new and returning members to step up for these roles. It is exciting to see new faces as we grow as a club.

The hardest working members of club NTHBA are the team Officer. I'd like to Thank You for continued service. These items are listed as growing points. I'd like to see us equip and challenge the next generation of professional brewers. As we hammer out these ideas let build a community of supporters. I'd like to see us deeply involved in Dallas Beer Culture.

—Barrett

## *What's Brewin'?*

**By Kimberley Rhea**

I would like to thank Bill James for hosting our September Brew Day. We had a great turn out. Bill grilled some burgers and brats, they were tasty!

We have our "Oktoberfest Party" coming up on September 28, 2013 at 6:30pm at the home of Walter and Pam Hodges. The main course will be provided so please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Our next Brew Day will be on October 5, 2013 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at Chuck Homola's home,

905 Glen Rose Drive  
Allen, TX 75013

The Christmas Party will be on December 7, 6:30pm. The location will be at "Glamour Hall" in Addison, TX. We will begin selling tickets on Event Bright soon, \$5 in advance/\$10 at the door. We will send out an email when online purchasing is available.

Kim  
"Woo Girl"  
socials@nthba.org

## *The Cerveza Certification Inflection Point*

**By Chuck Homola**

The world of craft beer continues to grow and entrench itself into everyday society. As this occurs there is a natural tendency to see a structure of evaluative qualification evolve around the products that not only come to market but also those produced by the amateur community. The first of these is Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) that has been around for quite some time and was started up by Gordon Strong. A set of guidelines (one of many now in existence) was created to define modern day

beer styles and to provide a standard against which commercial and homebrew beers could be evaluated. This program has grown tremendously since inception and provides the brain trust to which we look to oversee and facilitate the many competitions that occur not only in this country but around the world.

Recently BJCP changed the way it tests new judges to determine their potential ranking within the program. There is a renewed emphasis on qualitative sensory analysis over memorization of beer terminology and lore. One only needs to pass an online test in order to be eligible to take the tasting/judging test. Based on the score you get on that test determines how high you can go in the ranks when combined with administrative and judging points at competitions. One can ascend to the level of Certified at this point. In order to move on to National or Master, then the essay test must be taken (and passed of course). Within our own club there are many people that have taken the old format test, a combined written and tasting test, and attained ranks of Recognized, Certified and National. I myself recently became a grader within BJCP so I now help with the scoring of both tasting and written exams and this has opened my eyes up even more in how the organization operates – and frankly it is quite amazing. The collaborative work is just like it is amongst brewers – its been a highly educational experience for me.

There is also a newer program established by Ray Daniels called Cicerone, that focuses some on beer styles, but not to the extent of BJCP and also on the proper handling, serving and presentation of beers. Obviously this is focused more on the commercial side of the beer culture – but just by studying for the Certified Cicerone test, I have already improved the quality of my draft lines on my kegerators and have a deeper understanding on how important the proper handling and dispensing of beer has on the end product. We all go to great lengths to craft wonderful beers but all is for not if we destroy them on the way from the keg to the glass with diacetyl riddled beverage lines and/or over/under carbonation.

...Continued on page 4

# Competition Corner

*by Einar Jonsson*

## Limbo Challenge

The 2013 Limbo Challenge is in the books, and I'm proud to say our club had another strong showing in our competition. In spite of a low entry count from our club, we led all clubs with 24 points. As expected, the Austin Zealots came in second, with 20 points. The Bay Area Mashtronauts came in third, with 16 points, and the Foam Rangers came in fourth, with 11 points.

The following club members won awards this year. Be sure and congratulate them, next time you see them!

Ryan Davidson and Kevin Wajert, 3rd, Light Lager, Light American Lager  
 Don VanSlyke, 2nd, Pilsner, Classic American Pilsner  
 Bill Lawrence, 3rd, European Amber, and Dark Lager, Vienna Lager  
 Don VanSlyke, 1st, Light Hybrid, Cream Ale  
 Don Trotter, 2nd, Light Hybrid, American Rye  
 Don VanSlyke, 3rd, Light Hybrid, Kolsch  
 Bill Lawrence, 3rd, Amber Hybrid, California Common  
 David Lee, Hop Prophets, 1st place, and 3rd in BOS, American Ale, American Pale Ale  
 Bill Lawrence, 2nd, American Ale, American Pale Ale  
 Bill James and Tim McGrath, 2nd, English Brown Ale, Mild  
 Richard Harris, 1st place and Best of Show!, German Wheat, Belgian and Sour Ale, Weizen  
 Barrett Tillman, 3rd, German Wheat, Belgian and Sour Ale, Lambic  
 Cary Hodson, 2nd, Fruit, Spice/Herb/Vegetable, Other Smoked and Wood Aged Beer, SHV

## Lone Star Circuit

Now that the Limbo Challenge is complete, here are the leaders in club standings so far.

Bay Area Mashtronauts	145
Austin Zealots	139
Foam Rangers	100
NTHBA	86
Cap & Hare	40
Bexar Brewers	37
KGB	26

A complete list of all standings can be found at <http://www.lonestarcircuit.com/currentStandings.html>

We are solidly in fourth place, and this is quite impressive, considering that the top three clubs have been more active in the circuit this year. This club has quite a collection of talented brewers. If we could match the Zealots, BAM, and the Foam Rangers in entry count, there is no reason why this club could not win the Lone Star Circuit Club award next year.

As I am writing this, there are three competitions left. The O'Zapft Is! and the Cactus Challenge are finished judging. The Cactus awards will be announced on September 28th in Lubbock. O'Zapft Is! will announce their awards on October 5th, during the T&P Tavern Oktoberfest, in Fort Worth.

The Dixie Cup, in Houston, will wrap up the circuit, when they announce their awards, on October 19th. I am happy to say that our club has entries in all three competitions. Good luck to all who entered!

#### Club-Only Competitions

We judged the German Wheat and Rye Beer COC at the last brew day, and here are the results.

- 1st Jimmy Orkin Weizen
- 2nd Shawn Rogers Roggenbier

The next COC is European Amber Lager. Entries are due at either homebrew shop, by October 3rd. We will judge them at the next brew day, on October 5th.

#### 2014 Bluebonnet

Next year's Bluebonnet Brew-Off will be here before you know it. I hope everyone is brewing for next year. Historically, we have owned this competition, and we won the Bluebonnet Trophy for Club of the Year, earlier this year, and we really want to defend our title.

Now is the time to start brewing lagers and strong ales, especially Belgian ales. We certainly have the talent needed to defend our title, but we can expect stiff competition from the clubs from Houston and Austin. Cap & Hare, in Fort Worth, has been emerging as a serious contender in the last couple of years, as well. If we want to win the trophy again, this is not the time to rest on our laurels, so let's all get brewing great beer, and show the other clubs what we are made of!

#### 2014 Competition Coordinator and Limbo Challenge

Elections for next year's officers will be held at the November meeting. I have been the Competition Coordinator and Limbo Director for the last two years, and I would like to hand off the baton for both rolls, to someone else next year. If you are interested in being next year's Competition Coordinator, be sure and submit a bio for the November newsletter.

## *Inflection Point* *..continued*

I really see these two programs as quite complimentary to each other for the full end to end beer experience. By the time you read this – a couple of us will have taken the Certified Cicerone test in Kansas City – we've done a lot of studying to prepare for this – so keep your fingers crossed that we pass!

As always – if anyone would like any more information on either of these programs – please reach out to me – I'll be glad to blabber on all day long about the ins and outs as well as the ups and downs to both of them. They always say things come in 3s – wonder what will round out the BJCP – Cicerone - ????? triad...

— *Chuck*

**NTHBA Officers****President**

Barrett Tillman  
president@nthba.org

**1st vice president**

Einar Jonsson  
competitions@nthba.org

**2nd vice president**

Kim Rhea  
socials@nthba.org

**Treasurer**

David Lee  
treasurer@nthba.org

**Minister of Education**

TBD

**Secretary**

Graham Keefe  
secretary@nthba.org

**Past President**

Chuck Homola  
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**

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 about 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)