



The

April 2002

# Brewsletter Urquell

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HOUSTON FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW CLUB

VOL. 22 - ISSUE 4

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**April Meeting  
Friday, the  
19th  
8 P.M  
DeFalco's**

## George W. Bush Wins Bluebonnet Cup

Foam Rangers, North Texas Homebrewers Association, Knights of the Brown Bottle Detained by John Ashcroft

By Steve "Scoop" Moore

IRVING, TX— The most contentious Bluebonnet Brew-off in history has come to a surprising conclusion with President George W. Bush being named the winner. On Saturday March 23rd the 2002 Bluebonnet organizing club, The Knights of the Brown Bottle (KOB), and CNN called the contest for the Foam Rangers. Later, Bluebonnet director Steve Westrom announced that there had been an error in tabulation, due to a problem with new software, and that the contest had actually been a tie with the Foam Rangers and N.T.H.B. each scoring 30 points. Foam Rangers Grand Wazoo, James Paige protested that the Foam Rangers should be the clear winner by virtue of the Rangers' two honorable mentions, but this proved to be a moot point.



The Shrublets celebrate their success as Governor "The Haircut" looks on

Beginning Sunday March 23, Steve Westrom and the KOB were deluged with absentee scoresheets from members of the armed forces who were stationed outside the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. According to Westrom, "At first, we thought it was a joke; these people hadn't judged, hadn't attended the Bluebonnet". However, counting these scoresheets

enjoyed unanimous support from Republicans in Congress and even from some Democrats. Senator Joe Lieberman from Connecticut stated "We cannot disenfranchise the brave fighting men and women of this country when it comes to deciding who wins large homebrew contests".

(Continued on page 10)

## Out Of The Wazoo



By Jimmy Paige, Grand Wazoo

Sean and Steve told me I was not getting paid by the word so I had better keep my article short this time. March was an unbelievable month for the club, **we won the Bluebonnet Brew-Off for the first time in Foam Ranger his-**

**tory!!!** It was a great contest and our name will be placed on the trophy, now residing next to the Dixie Cup in DeFalcos, along with co-winner North Texas. Congratulations to everyone who entered and helped bring the Cup to Houston. Don't think for an instant those Dallas boys are not hot about our win. They will try to seek revenge at our Dixie Cup. Please brew as much as you

can before next October to help defend our Dcup.

We also had great showings at other contests including Drunk Monk, and Reggale and Dredhop. Time will tell how we faired in this month's Crescent City Competition, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gulf Coast contest in the circuit. The third circuit contest is May's Sunshine Challenge in Orlando, Florida. Bev will let us know the entry deadline in May.

(Continued on page 10)

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If you are desperate enough to want to see your words printed in this rag, articles should be submitted in plain-text format to one or all of the Brewsletter Staff at the email addresses above. Hardcopy submissions can be sent to 8715 Stella Link, Houston, TX 77025

## Meeting Minutes

By Eric Wooten, Scrivener

(**ACTUAL EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is the meeting minutes exactly as submitted by Eric. Everyone thinks they're funny these days, and we're to lazy to goof with what they submit for the *Brewsletter*)



[**Editor's Note:** The Scrivener failed to submit a complete article for this issue. What follows are random bits of scriven

luckily recovered by Lars Kovar from the De-Falco's dumpster as well as some heavily scrivended notes scrawled on the back of Robitussin labels which were found by Landry under the bridge at 610 and Stella Link. An attempt at chronological order has been made, and numerous grammatical and stylistic errors have been corrected, as usual.]

Belgian night! Five new members welcomed into the club. Emil Campos, Jessie and Dawn Heinsohn, David Culbreth and Keith Shoop join la cosa nostradamus. Ron Solis provides a Belgian pale.

April will be a busy month for the Foam Rangers. Thanks to the indefatigable work of Steve Moore, the AHA has reluctantly agreed to change the location of first round AHA nationals judging to Houston's own Saint Arnold's Brewery. Judging to transpire on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> with morning and evening sessions; there will be a break on Saturday to make way for the tour (damned tourists). Two Rows will likely be employed for lunch on both Friday and Saturday. Beds for brewers are sought for traveling judges. I've been a brewer for years and I have yet to bed anyone because of it. Well, other than myself.

Crescent City coming up in New Orleans. Seems like I've heard of that city before, but maybe it's just the Saison talking. What's that, DuPont? April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Must locate this "Louisiana" before then.

New badges coming next meeting. \$10. I wonder if I can use my badge to arrest strippers. Note to self: attempt to arrest a stripper at earliest convenience.

First Sunday at the Stag's Head. Is that some sort of barter fair? Where am I? And what is a Gueze anyway? Wasn't there a television detective by that name? I want this Gueze situation taken care of immediately! Maybe

one of Rockford's prison "friends" was named Kriek.

If Martin Landau could build basketball-playing super-robots, wouldn't he have built in a cooling mechanism of some sort? I mean, come on, they can play basketball. Perhaps the Professor interfered in some way. [Expletive deleted].

Bev is talking. I think it is English. Steve Moore has [illegible] further convinced the AHA and especially Charlie Papazian to graciously allow Bev to offer discounted memberships to Rangers [scrivened in margin: *whoever they are*].

Brewer's Festival is on the weekend of first round judging. Steve Moore implores us to join him in taking part in AHA judging and furthermore to attend the festival only during non-judging hours; ideally, one should use this free-time to think about the AHA and it's greatness and near [illegible].

Why is Bev floating a few feet off the floor? Mustn't alert him, he might fall.

[Several lines of gibberish follow and have been deleted.]

Drinking the Devil. Lord Satan hath never tasted so [illegible] sweet.

Burn the House! Sell the kids! I AM NEVER COMING HOME!

Dixie Cup [*note: find out what that is*] planning will occur monthly on Sundays after each meeting. [Scrivened in margin: *What's a meeting? Do I attend them? Who are these Foam Rangers that people keep referring to?*]

I can see into the future. Look on my works, ye mighty and despair! Cars run on regolith. Cities float a few feet off the ground to enjoy a slightly better view. The Foam Rangers (?) win the Bluebonnet Cup. Sweet, sweet dry stout never tasted so sweet as out of the heavily personalized "Winning Club" stein of glory. Sweet! I must drink a bacon-beer. Ring a ding ding. ["ding" is repeated an additional 453 times, occasionally interspersed with "dong," and has been deleted]

Anyone know where I can get a good price for cans? Out of work, need help! God Bless You!

[Expletive deleted]

TripppeIIII, eh?

I envision a slug crawling on the edge of a razor. His name is Larry. The slug's name is [expletive deleted].

**Visit the Club Web Site—It's Fun And Educational!**  
**www.foamrangers.com**

## Beer Of The Month

By Kuyler Doyle, Secondary Fermenter



**B**rown. A very plain color. Not necessarily a very plain beer! This will be proven this month as we explore the array of flavors we can achieve with brown malts. To first explore the derivation of brown ales, we will go to England.

Brown ales first appeared on the scene in Britain in the late 1890's by breweries in northeastern England centered around a town called Newcastle. Sound familiar? Although brewing either dark ales or pale ales were the trends at the time in England, these beers were reddish and translucent beer that were in between on the color spectrum and was made to challenge the pale ale market. The Newcastle brown ale that we know today made its debut in 1927 and is a good example of the Northern English brown ale. These ales are characterized by a slightly fruity aroma and flavor with good malt character and a slightly nutty flavor. What the British brown ales don't have is an excess of hop or roasty character. The brown ales being brewed in southern England were slightly darker, sweeter, and lower in alcohol. It's always a challenge to find a good Newcastle in a bottle due to their clear bottles, but we're going to give it a try along with Samuel Smith's Nut Brown ale. As U.S. versions of this style, we will also have Redhook Nut Brown Ale and Acme Brown ale (North Coast).

Another British brown ale is simply called "mild." This term refers to its relative hop content as compared to the British "bitter." Milds are meant as low alcohol restoratives to have at a pub. The style is thought of as the draught version of an English brown ale, but it likely had its beginnings as a lighter porter style. Milds can range in color, although most are medium to dark brown. The flavor and aroma consist of good malty characteris-

tics and slightly nutty without roasty flavors. The traditional malt making up a high percentage of the grist for a mild is a "brown malt" that was roasted over a hardwood fire giving added flavor. This style of malt is not produced in large quantities any more and is no longer roasted over a fire. Being primarily a pub ale, there are a limited number of British milds bottled today. Some U.S. breweries are also trying their hand at brewing and bottling milds. However, we won't be trying any of those at the meeting. For our special treat, we will be sampling Eric Wooten's homebrewed mild in a keg prior to the commercial tasting! Joy!

So those Brits thought they had a pretty good thing going with their brown ale and all. But then along came the American homebrewer. With typical American homebrewer attitude, some of these brewers decided that the English brown ale would be a lot better if you could just add more hops. And make it that good citrusy American hops! While you're at it, why not throw in some good roasted malt to give it that extra flavor! And with that attitude the American Brown Ale was born. This version of the brown ale is characterized by its strong citrusy hop aroma and good hop bitterness and flavor balanced by the normal malt complexity of a brown ale with an added toasty or roasty touch. The first marketed version of this beer was Pete's Wicked Ale. We will be sampling Pete's in addition to St. Arnold's Brown ale and Snowshoe Brewing's Grizzly Brown ale (thanks to Cliff Peery's excursion to California!).

Back to England again to try out some Old Ale. Just when you thought you were supposed to drink your beer fresh, along came old ale which in England was traditionally supposed to be aged for at least a year. The aging process can add interesting oxidative and wild yeast notes to the beer which actually enhance its flavor. Although some people interchangeably use the terms "strong ale" and "stock ale" to designate an old ale, the alcohol content is not always very high. Some versions of old ales are simply made

*(Continued on page 8)*

### BOTM Calendar

#### January

~~Porter and Stout~~

#### February

~~Barleywine and Holiday Beer~~

#### March

~~Belgian and Fruit Beer~~

#### April

Brown, Old, and Scotch Ale

#### May

Bock

#### June

Wheat Beer

#### July

Pilsner and Kolsch

#### August

Pale Ale and Bitter

#### September

Oktoberfest

#### October

Dixie Cup

#### November

Amber Ale and IPA

#### December

Homebrewers'

X-mas Party

## The Business Of Beer

### Boston Beer Company Releases New Sam Adams Lager

BOSTON—The Boston Beer Company has introduced its new year-round beer, "Double Redundant" Lager. The beer is designed to take up shelf space that might be used for beer from other breweries. "The beer is identical to our Sam Adams Boston Lager, but it's packaged in purple, which is a color we haven't used yet" said president Jim Koch at the roll-out of the new product. Koch also noted "We just didn't want to waste time messing up another traditional beer style just to get shelf space, so we just changed the packaging to make a new product."

**Foam Rangers  
Calendar**

**April**

- 7 1st Sunday Pub Visit
- 12 AHA National Competition South Regional Beer Check-in at St. Arnold Brewery(??)
- 12-13 MCAB 4 Cleveland, OH
- 12-13 Crescent City Competition
- 13 Brew-In at DeFalco's with Mr. Excitement
- 19 Club Meeting
- 19-28 AHA National Competition 1st Round Judging
- 22 Sunshine Challenge Entry Deadline
- 26-27 AHA National Competition South Regional Beer Judging at St. Arnold

**May**

- 4 AHA National Homebrew Day Big Brew Brew-in at St. Arnold Brewing (??)
- 5 1st Sunday Pub Visit
- 12 Brew-In at DeFalco's with Bev Blackwood
- 17 Club Meeting
- 17-19 Sunshine Challenge XIII Orlando, FL
- ?? Jennings Homebrew Rendezvous

**June**

- ? Big Batch Brew Bash at St. Arnold Brewing

**Please send items that you want listed on the Foam Rangers calendar to:**

editor@foamrangers.com

Or the brewsletter office address!

**Competition Corner**

By Ice Bock

**""We came, We saw, We Kicked Their Ass!"**



**-Bill Murray as Dr. Peter Venkman in Ghostbusters**

**W**ord up. Ah' dought we'd be lucky t'get away wid our fair share uh medals. Bluebonnet be a real tough competishun. In some ways de Dixie Cup be a "point ho" wid our 40 medals, sho't judgin' window and 'estensive bustwaaay down uh styles. Clubs and individuals kin make o' bust deir year wid some baaaad Dixie Cup showin'. We reward diversity and encourage enterin' in lessa' styles which be a phat thang in mah' eyes.

De Bluebonnet be de opposite... real tight in terms uh styles, wid huge numbers uh entries, it's hard t'progress widout bein' among de best uh de best. Man! Winnin' dere be a measho' man uh quality which be hard t'dispute.

I gots said it befo'e and I'll say it again now, so cut me some slack, Jack... Judgin' be neva' sump'n ya' kin predict. Man! Dere's "halo effect", "palate fatigue" and plum plain sorry ass judgin' all conspirin' t'drow beers ya' neva' 'spected t'win into de Best uh Show round. ah' judged some variety uh flights in Dallas.. none which had any bearin' on some Foam Ranga' win. Since ah' wuz de ONLY judge down dere fum Houston, no tellin' if any mo'e would gots made da damn difference. However, ah' encountered real few beers dat wuz plum plain baaaad. We dun did VERY well.

I kin't begin t'dank dat fine soul Endacott enough fo' lightin' some fire unda' our butts

t'compete. His sass t'Russ Bee and da damn Dallas crew wuz de point uh entry fo' whut gots become one uh de biggest triumphs in de histo'y uh de Foam Rangers. Last year, when ah' wuz Grand Wazoo, dere wuz some doubt if we could even win back de Dixie Cup. Jes hang loose, brud. You's, de Foam Rangers, took it back and ya' gots neva' looked back.

Ya' know? We dun didn't only win at Bluebonnet dat Saturday, we also took ribbons at Drunk Monk in Illinois and at Wo'ld Cup uh Bea' in Oakland. Two weekends later, we saw furda' victo'ies at Reggale and Dredhop in Colo'ado! We be some competitive machine dis year! Right on! By de time ya' eyeball dis, we'll be on de cusp uh de Crescent City competishun, where we entered upside 50 beers as some club, which should be nearly 1/6d uh deir entries, again nearly doublin' our entry totals. Do we stand some chance? Who knows?

It's real hard t'put da damn effo't and da damn bre'd aside when doodads duzn't go yo' way in some competishun. Afta' all, ya' wouldn't even enta' a bea' dat ya' dun didn't dink could win, right? When ya' mosey on down back fum an event empty handed (as ah' dun did in bod Illinois and Califo'nia) ya' wonda' whut happened, ya' may eyeball yo' sco'esheets and disagree wid deir assessments, ya' may be real mad. Dat's de time t'snatch de deep bread, close yo' eyes and call fo'd "de phrase." It's jes beer.

I's gots'ta be de competishun coo'dinato' and NOTHING makes me look betta' dan dat big ass ceramic Bluebonnet mug sittin' in De-Falco's. I'd likes t'augment it wid some bronzed bra (De 'C-Cup" fum New Orleans) and some surprisin'ly small silva' bowl fum Flo'ida.

*(Continued on page 10)*

Competition Calendar			
Event	Entry Deadline	Pack 'n' Ship Date	Info
Sunshine Challenge Central Florida Home Brewers	Mon. May 6	Thurs. April 25	<a href="http://www.cfhb.org/sc02.html">http://www.cfhb.org/sc02.html</a>
Spirit of Free Beer BURP, Washington D.C.	Sat. May 11	Thurs. May 2	<a href="http://burp.org/events/sofb/2002/index.html">http://burp.org/events/sofb/2002/index.html</a>
Aurora Brewing Challenge 2002 Edmonton Homebrewers Guild	Friday May 31	Thurs. May 16	<a href="http://www.ehg.ca/COMPS/abc/Abc_main.htm">http://www.ehg.ca/COMPS/abc/Abc_main.htm</a>
Buzz-off BUZZ, Chester Co. PA	Wed. May 29	Thurs. May 16	<a href="http://hbd.org/buzz/BUZZ%20Off.htm">http://hbd.org/buzz/BUZZ%20Off.htm</a>
Big Batch Brew Bash KGB	Sat. May 25	Sat. May 25	<a href="http://www.thekgb.org/4b2k2/index.html">http://www.thekgb.org/4b2k2/index.html</a>

## Fez Captures Bluebonnet Cup

By Jimmy Paige, Grand Wazoo

The Fez, it is the signature of the Foam Rangers. Like the Green Destiny sword from the Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon movie, it does not care who is wielding it, but it brings its wearer lots of attention. The Fez had not made the trek to the Bluebonnet in quite some time, in fact, it did not know if it had ever been to the Bluebonnet. It enjoyed leaving Houston and traveling north for its brief weekend stay. It brought the Foam Rangers good luck for this was no ordinary Bluebonnet.

It all started back in October of 2001 when Redneck Phil Endacott declared at the Dixie Cup he was going to get his power brewers together and dump a 15 gallon boil kettle of whoop ass on the Bluebonnet and the Foam Rangers were going to take that trophy home. He called it his "all day country ass whoopin'", and his "Texas country surprise". The competition said bring it on as they emphasized we did not stand a chance. Phil asked the Bee brothers, fresh from their winnings at Dcup, what they were doing the next day? They said going back to Dallas. Phil told them they had better brew tomorrow because they were going to need more entries for Bluebonnet. Phil continued to motivate the club members trying to follow his lead of brewing like a madman during the break after the Dixie Cup. Unlike the Enron debacle, the hard work by all the Rangers yielded great dividends.

The call for entries brought in over 100, the most we have generated, in the Fez's memory, for any Bluebonnet. Bev Blackwood gave the beers presidential treatment driving them to the check-in site. Later, Bev was able to spend time assisting the Dallas folks with first round judging. The dedication by Was Waz, its former wearer, pleased the Fez immensely.

On Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, the Fez was greeted by all the revelers. An excellent dinner was had while listening to Paul Gatza of the AHA, and keynote speaker Ralph Olson of Hop Union. Immediately after this, the commercial bottled beer tasting commenced. This year the tasting encompassed two rooms and probably featured most of, if not all of, the "good" beer distributors from the Dallas area. It was great fun; the Fez was happy weaving its way through the crowds to sample all the great beers. It especially liked the freshest Fuller's Porter ever quaffed by the Fez, Yummy.

The Fez then moved to the highlight of the evening, the ROOM CRAWL. Dozens of homebrew club hospitality suites were inspected by the FEZ, it wanted to drink more than its wearer allowed, but the next morning would arrive all too soon. The Fez talked with the magic 8 ball in the Foam Ranger room, the ball predicted good tidings when asked about the outcome of the Bluebonnet contest.



The Fez and Foam Rangers celebrate their winnings

On Saturday, after a long night of partying, the Fez rested while the Wazoo had to attend family matters in Austin. Other Foam Rangers braved the morning and attended the technical conference and second round judging. The Fez used its force to protect all the Ranger entries that made it into the second round. The Fez was sad it could not go on any of the pub crawl's three buses (red, green, and BLUE) but heard it was fantastic, especially blue bus bitch Dave Dixon complete with toga and blue latex scalp cover.

The Fez was joined before the Saturday awards program by the Lindsey Scottish outfit. Rangers were packed around the table awaiting the announcements. Raffle prizes were slowly given away between categories. It did not matter. The Fez was restless.

Mr. Excitement was the first to attend center stage, soon followed by Bob and Kathy Orahoad, then Joe Lindsey, Bev, Kari and Kuyler Doyle, Guy Munster and the Wazoo. The other clubs were reeling from the heavy blows inflicted by the Rangers who had already taken their full booty of ribbon hung hardware and ceramic steins. The Fez was smiling thinking about those words declared last October by the Redneck.

The Redneck had the last laugh when the Bluebonnet Cup was awarded to the Foam Rangers. It was a tie score (30-30) with the North Texas Home Brewers Association but the Bluebonnet organizing committee, yielding to the power of the Fez, allowed the beautiful Bluebonnet Cup to be escorted to Houston. The Fez drew much power from the trophy and predicted a heavy battle for the 2002 Dixie Cup.

The Fez enjoyed all the camaraderie of the Bluebonnet and was pleased to see what a great competition was enjoyed by all. The Fez proclaimed an even stronger return to the Bluebonnet next year.

# Foam Ranger Picture Page



Joe, when you stroke it like that your kilt moves in a funny way!



You call that a hat? Now this is a HAT!



Eric and Joe talk the talk before the Foam rangers walk the walk at the Bluebonnet



The Bluebonnet Cup it the trophy room



The spoils of another Belgian beer tasting

# Foam Ranger Picture Page



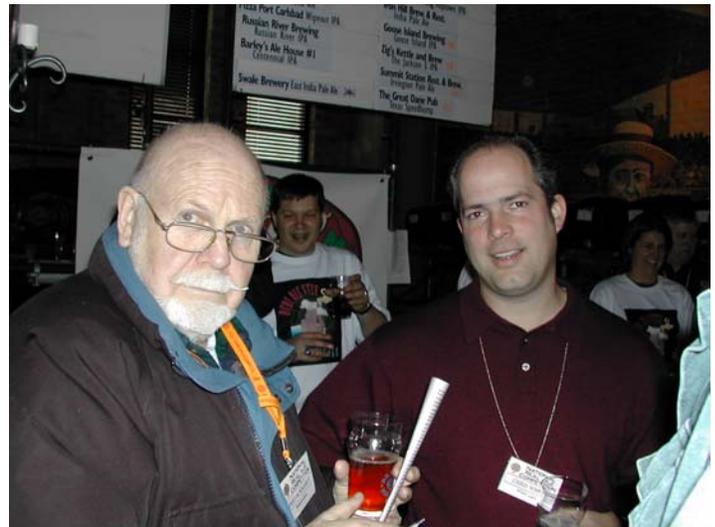
Reppin' for St. Arnold— It's a dirty job but...



Steve Moore talks to former Foam Ranger Dave Weisendorf at the Real Ale Fest in Chicago



Jim Bush of Victory Brewing (far left) and Nick Floyd of 3 Floyds Brewing in 1 shot!? **WE'RE NOT WORTHY!**



Friends of the Foam Rangers Fred Eckhardt and Dr. Chris White of White Labs spotted at the RAF



The Real Ale Festival Cellar Master enjoying his work



Now David, those nasty Belgians were no bloody help during the war— how can you drink their beer?

**Beer Of The Month** (Continued from page 3)

with higher percentages of crystal and black malts but are still lower in gravity than some of the breweries' other offerings. "Stock ales" were other traditionally aged beers produced in England. They were originally brewed in winter and aged to have the interesting flavors, but meant to be blended with fresh beer during warm summer months to give the flavor characteristics of an aged ale. Nowadays in England, old ales are not always aged as long and traditionally present themselves on the shelves as seasonal "Winter Warmers." The BJCP guidelines suggest an old ale should be malty and sweet with good fruity esters and some good oxidative notes. As British examples of this style, we will try Harvey's Old ale (brought back from England by Paul Gruhn), Young's Winter Warmer, and Old Peculier. As American versions, we will sample Great Grain's Old Ale, Hibernation Ale, Jubelale, and North Coast's Stock Ale.

While in the U.K. and discussing beers on the strong side, might as well make a stop in Scotland for some haggis and some Scotch ale. The term "Scotch ale" typically is used to designate a brewery's biggest, richest, and most complex offering. The other lighter ales are simply known as "Scottish ales" are designated as either 60/-, 70/-, or 80/- based on their alcohol content. The "/-" after the number is the symbol for a shilling, a now outdated unit of currency. The price before the shilling symbol designated the cost of a barrel of that strength of beer. The terms "light," "heavy," and "export" also designate these relative strengths. The strongest offering is the Scotch ales which can also be called a "Wee heavy" or "90/-." The strongest characteristics found in the traditional ales of Scotland are the wonderful full body and malty richness. Hops are not native to Scotland and do not grow well in the soil. Any hops used in brewing was imported from England. Frequently the cost of importing the hops was extremely high. Thus, the Scottish brewer simply used less hops in the brew which help accentuate the malt character. To help with this character, a yeast strain that attenuates less is also used and the beer fermented at lower temperatures. The grain used in Scottish beers does not rely on crystal malts as in English bitters for its malt character. Small amounts of roasted grains are used and long boil times leads to good caramelization of the wort. Sometimes peat smoked malt is added to give an additional smoky flavor. All of these unique brewing techniques lend themselves

to the creation of a very complex and tasty beer. To get a feel for these beers, we will sample Belhaven's Wee Heavy, McEwan's Scotch Ale, and Traquair House ale as examples from Scotland. From the U.S., we will try Flying Dog's Road Dog and Pyramid's Tilted Kilt (thanks Cliff!).

All of these types of ales will be served up at just the right time of year in the beginning of spring when there is still a little cool air floating around at night. So stop on by the meeting to have your fill of delicious brews made with just enough of those dark roasty malts to make you smile.

**2001 Dixie Cup Award Winning Recipes**

*1st Place (Southern) English Brown Ale*

by Chris Ingermann

Recipe for 6 gallons

6 lb British Pale

2 lb Light Munich

.5 lb Honey Malt

.5 lb Crystal 60L

6 oz Aromatic Carafa

Mash for 60 min @ 155

1.3 oz Fuggles for 60 min

.2 oz Fuggles for 10 min

.2 oz Fuggles at the end

White Labs English Ale

1.052 OG 1.015 FG

Ferment 3 weeks @ 66 Deg. F

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Michael J. Heniff Jr.

David Culbreth Emil Campos

**This Month In Foam Ranger History**

By Sean Lamb

**10 Years Ago...**

**In The Brewsletter**— Grand Wazoo Lou Carrannante whines about the lack of rain making his cony keg raft useless. Other than that, it's a pretty thin issue, highlighted by an ad from the Mucky Duck and an invite to

**The Club Meeting**—Hosted by Tim Thompson and Irv Cutter, BOTM was Belgian Ales, with Duvel, Mateen, Artevelde, Kasteel and all 3 Chimays offered. The club also tried the 1st offerings from Beers Across America beer-by-mail: Wild Goose Ale and Boulevard Irish Ale.

**Other Events**— Foam Rangers who won at the HWBTA National Competition: Larry Smith 1st Place Brown Ale; Debbie Smith 1st Place Imperial Stout & 2nd Place American Light Wheat; Jeff Humphries 1st Place Trappist Ale; Chris Todd &

LeRoy Gibbins 2nd Place Brown Ale; Tim Case 2nd Place Lighth Ale; Sean Lamb 3rd Place Trappist Ale.

**5 Years Ago...**

**In The Brewsletter**— Grand Wazoo Steve Moore encourages everyone to get down to the Galveston Brewery before it closes. An article on no sparge brewing by Louis Bonham and one on raw barley by Sal Emma and technical depth, while a California Bay Area travelogue is provided by Dave Odom. A full page is devoted to "What's On Tap" for all 9 brewpubs in the Houston area.

**The Club Meeting**—The meeting was held at the Oddfellows Lodge in the Heights, BOTM was Amber Ale & IPA.

**Other Events**—None noted due to lack of Brewsletters! If anyone has Brewsletters from 1997 please let me know! I'd like to borrow them and copy them!

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To subscribe, just send a message to the following email address: [majordomo@crunchyfrog.net](mailto:majordomo@crunchyfrog.net), with the line

"subscribe foam-rangers" (without the quotation marks) as the only line in the body. You'll get a response from the list bot that will tell you what do to finalize the subscription.



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**Amber Ale  
Kristall Weizen  
Brown Ale**

**Thanks to all  
the Foam Rangers  
for your support!**

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**Out Of The Wazoo** (Continued from page 1)

Homebrew contests seem to be everywhere. **The ONE** we are hosting this month, the AHA National Homebrew Competition's South Regional, is most important, and will require **YOUR** help. We need entries but by the time you receive this newsletter the entry deadline will have passed. We need help **JUDGING** at Saint Arnolds April 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>. I know the Texas Brewers' Festival is this same weekend, but please support the AHA 1<sup>st</sup> round and you will receive BJCP judging points as an added bonus.

The month of May will bring us to **May 4<sup>th</sup>, National Homebrew Day**. If you want to introduce a friend to our hobby, this is the perfect opportunity. We will assemble as a club with our brewing rigs in the Saint Arnold parking lot. The brewery will provide hot liquor and lots of 34 degree cold chill water to cool down those worts in less than 7 minutes. We will have food there so bring your family, friends and significant others to join the fun. The other Houston homebrew clubs will be joining us at Saint Arnolds as well, with the exception of the KGB. They had previously committed to provide a homebrewing demonstration in the Spring, TX area although they have invited everyone to join their demo. While we are on the KGB, their deadline for the Big Batch Barleywine is May 25<sup>th</sup>. Drop off any barleywine entries to Defalcos before or on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Let's see if Drunk-Ra's prediction comes true.

Our next "first Sunday" visit will be May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the **Flying Saucer**, 705 Main at Capitol St., 713.228.PINT. This day coincides with an Astros home game against the NY Mets, so we may adjust our pub visit time based on who might be going to the game.

Our next meeting, April 19<sup>th</sup>, will feature a brown ale MILD homebrew from our psilocybin pony Scrivener, Eric Wooten (check out [www.ericbeerpage.com](http://www.ericbeerpage.com) for a real wisenheimer brainstorm of beer info). Our meeting will also feature some hard to find Old Ales, Scotch and Brown ales you will not want to miss. Thanks to Mr. Excitement for his homebrewing demonstration on April 13<sup>th</sup> outside Defalcos. His beer will be featured at our May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, Bev Blackwood will conduct a brew-in at the shop on May 11<sup>th</sup>. *Have a great homebrewing month of April, JP.*

### 2001 Dixie Cup Award Winning Recipes

*1st Place Old Ale by Dan Humphrey*

Recipe for 5 gallons

13 lb Liquid Amber Malt Extract    10 oz Carapils

8 oz Crystal 60L    4 oz Torrified Wheat

Steep @160 for 30 min    60 minute boil

Galena (13) for 60 min    1oz Willamette (5.0) for 50 min

Wyeast 1332    1.078 OG 1.016 FG

2 weeks in Primary    10 months in Secondary

**Bush Wins Bluebonnet** (Continued from page 1)

Leaders of the Foam Rangers, N.T.H.B, Knights of the Brown Bottle called for a recount and filed suit in Federal court. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, all members of the three clubs were detained at an unspecified location on the authority of U.S. Attorney John Ashcroft. Ashcroft defended the action, "Those who scare peace-loving people with phantoms of lost homebrew contests only aid terrorists". President Bush concurred stating, "You are either with me victorifying the Bluebonnet or you are with the terrorists". He added that, "The Foam Rangers, North Texas Homebrewers Association and the Knights of the Brown Bottle constitute an Axis of homebrewing Evil". The press has not been allowed access to the homebrew club members.

The president was exultant at outcome, "the Bluebonnet Cup will be an invaluable weapon in the homebrewing arsenal of democracy". When Brewsletter staff questioned him about how he felt about winning a contest into which he had made no effort, he responded, "You haven't followed my academic, business or political careers to closely, have you"?

**Competition Corner** (Continued from page 4)

WORD! However, in de sho't 4 years ah' have been brewin' ah' have discovered dat dere's one constant in enterin' beers fo' competishun... ya' neva' know whut's goin' t'happen. So's even if we do nodin' mo'e dan keep our beloved Dixie Cup here in Houston (and ya' betta' recon' dat dere is some folks in Dallas who is NOT goin' t'wants' dat) dis gots been some great year competitively fo' de Foam Rangers!

Whut's some cup widout some bowl? De pack and ship fo' de next "biggie" on de Gulf Coast circuit, De Sunshine Challenge, be on April 25d at DeFalco's. If ya' need advice on catego'ies/wheda' to enter, etc. Co' got d' beat! brin' an 'estra bottle and let our highly trained staff uh drunks tell ya' if it's any baaaad o' not. Man! By de way, I've had some there results wid "cross-entered" beers so's far, so's if youse not sho' man where it kin be entered, brin' some second set uh bottles. De wo'st dat could happen be de staff gots'ta drink dem! A brief reminda' to all judges, we gots AHA regionals de week afta' de meetin', so's be at Saint Arnold Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28 eyebally t'fill out some sco'esheets!

We also gots an MCAB event t'pack fo', de Spirit uh Free Bea' in Virginia. WORD! Dis event ain't too big, so's it's some chance t'go out and snag some few ribbons fo' yo' collecshun! Mah' danks go out t'everyone who be enterin', especially dose who gots entered, but not won. 'S coo', bro. ah' know it's hard t'drow off yo' bea' and yo' bre'd and not dig nuthin back, but dat happens t'ALL brewers, even dose who seem t'win consistently. Some days youse some God, oders youse some dog. What it is, Mama!.. plum rememba' dat. Man!.. It's jes beer. Ah be baaaad... -----

## The Mashtun Tribe of Afghanastan

### A Brewsletter Geographic Special

*By The Brewsletter Staff*

AFGHANASTAN- The fall of the Taliban has allowed the re-emergence of one of the worlds most obscure and misunderstood peoples, the Mashtun tribe of Northern Afghanistan. According to anthropologist Solomon Katz of the University of Pennsylvania, "The Mashtuns are a real anomaly in the region. While Islam is the predominant religion in the region, the Mashtuns practice an older religion that celebrates beer and brewing and invites comparison to the Judeo-Christian tradition".

Indeed, brewing is an integral part of the Mashtun life. It is celebrated as a holy ritual and has also provided a livelihood for the people. The beer itself is a sacrament and a celebration of life. This has led to persecution and even bloody conflict as even moderate Islam rejects the consumption of alcohol. Notes Katz, "The Mashtuns have had to practice their traditions in secret for many years".

The Mashtun religion is a messianic one, but as with Judaism, the Mashtuns await a messiah who has not yet come. As with Christianity, the Mashtun messiah will come from modest cir-

cumstances. The Mashtun's *Hymn to the Messiah*" which is believed to have been written in the 17<sup>th</sup> century BC, describes the prophesized savior as "A humble counter of beans, small of stature and hirstute".

But the comparisons end there. The Mushtun messiah is first and foremost, a brewer. The *Hymn* predicts that "He will travel south and west from the place of his birth to land of the Dome of drunks and cattle. There, the One with the Neck of Red will bless him with the last of the brewing rigs of bigness and he will brew the hoppy beer of his forefathers. According to Katz, "the One with the Neck of Red is a sort of blacksmith to the gods, not unlike the Greeks' Hephaestus". Thus provisioned, "The Messiah will go forth to save us in his crimson chariot, which he will call after the warships of old".

Although the Mashtun religion may seem fanciful to us, "It is the glue that had bound this small tribe together", according to Carter Hall, an archeologist with the Midway City Museum who uncovered the Mashtun Icon of the Messiah. "Throughout thousands of years of adversity and persecution, they have been able to maintain their integrity and their brewing skills".



Mashtun tribesmen Auggie BinDoggie and Asslam Hizrear have shaved their beards in defiance of the Taliban



Image of Mashtun messiah carved in stone

## Brewer Assistance Programme

**Need help brewing? Contact one of the following folks. Use some common sense and please respect their stated time restrictions!**

Kehn Bacon 281.420.5096 Before 11:00 PM

Joe Lindsey 409.925.4664 (H) 409.763.2386 (W)

Ron Solis 281-324-7157 Before 9:30 PM

Jimmy Paige Phone 281-894-0307, pager 713-603-2512, call before taps (10pm)

Bev Blackwood 713.432.1248 (H) 713.972-4832 (M) Before 11:00PM

Steve Moore 713.923.2412 Before 11:00 PM

Jim Youngmeyer 713.667.0455 (H) 713.267.5108 (W) Before 9:30 PM

DeFalco's 713.668.9440 During business hours

# THE HOUSTON FOAM RANGERS H O M E B R E W C L U B

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Brewsletter Office  
8715 Stella Link Rd.  
Houston, TX 77025-3401



**March club meeting is  
Friday the 19th at DeFalco's  
(on Stella Link)!**

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## I Want To Be Somebody!

Sign Me up To Become a Member of the Houston Foam Rangers Homebrew Club!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership  Renewal  Change of Address

**Membership Fees** (per year) \$20 Individual/ \$30 family

Paid Before January 1..... \$18.00/\$27.00 (Pay early and save \$\$\$!!!)

Paid between January 1 and March 31..... \$20.00/\$30.00

Paid Between April 1 and June 30..... \$17.50/\$26.25

Paid Between July 1 and Sept. 30..... \$15.00/\$22.50

Paid Between October 1 and November 30..... \$20.00/\$30.00 (Includes the next year!!)

Please make your checks payable to **The Foam Rangers**

Bring this form to the next club meeting, drop it off in person at DeFalco's, or send it to:

The Foam Rangers  
8715 Stella Link Road  
Houston, TX 77025-3401