



THE FOAM RANGERS Newsletter Urquell

If We Don't Brew, the Terrorists Win!

By *Titanic Bob*

Despite the heightened amber level terrorist threat, three patriotic Americans gathered at Grand Wazoo Mike Heniff's suburban home to brew on New Year's Day. Only hours before Secretary of Homebrew Security, Charlie Papazian, had assured brewers that holiday brew-ins were safe. At a Denver press conference held at Falling Rock Papazian declared, "Additional security measures have been taken...so relax...and have a brew-in." Brewers Bob and Nannette Daugherty chose to make an English India Pale Ale while Heniff settled on a Strong Belgian Golden. "Titanic Bob" explained, "I had planned to make an American IPA but switched to an

English one to honour our British allies. I mean... no body else that was an ally of ours in WW1 and WW2 has backed us in Desert Storm II The Sequel: Bush Takes Saddam. Tony Blair may lose his job over it. Not even the Canucks backed us (not that I'd make a Canadian beer anyway!)" Heniff was more diplomatic, "I know the Belgians did not support us directly either, but they didn't exactly oppose us like the surrender monkey French, Russians, or Germans. Besides they are really nice to me when I visit Belgium for business!" Nannette "Flygirl" Daugherty, though put the matter more succinctly, "If we don't brew the terrorists win."

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Out (of) the Wazoo



By *Mike Heniff, Grand Wazoo*

I'd like to start off by saying that I truly appreciate you having the faith in me to be the Waz for the

next twelve months. It really is an honor to be elected to be "The Most Powerful Man in Homebrewing". Besides, it will be great not having to tote around that 50 pound chain! I want to remind everyone of one little necessity: "Pay your F#\$%ing dues!". Yes it is that time again, \$20 is the price and great beer is the reward.

Thanks go out to all of the previous officers for a job well done. We have an equally great officer crew this year. Please be sure to show them your

support for all of their hard work on their free-time. Also, we can't forget the food crew: Stuart and Sandy West did a great job last year with some offerings from Mark Muckelroy. Cliff Peery will be heading up the food duties this year.

Have you been out to check out the Dixie Cup Best of Show beer at TwoRow's yet? Better try it soon; it went on tap on January 17th. A 10-barrel batch of North German Pils was brewed by Ian Larsen along with the BOS winners Jim Johnson and John Schmaltz from the Mashtronauts. Be sure to stop by and try some before it's gone. Be sure to give Ian your thanks for being such a great supporter of the Foam Rangers and the Dixie Cup over the years.

January meeting
is
January 16
at DeFalco's

Don't forget
Dues are
due!!!

The Brewsletter Urquell

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Notice: If you are not a paid up member (for 2004) of the Foamrangers or a guest member, you are hereby forewarned of the fact that no more Brewsletter Urquells will be dropping into the mailbox. Well... as soon as i can find out what a skinflint you actually are and cut you off!

Also please consider getting the Brewsletter via email as it saves trees and is generally a damn site easier on all of us!!!



By
**George
"Stu" West,
Scrivener**

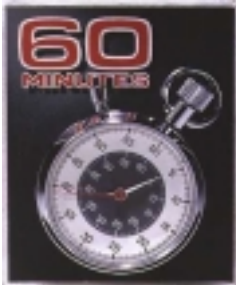
Greetings! Dave has asked me to introduce myself as the new Skriviner. I have the enviable task of actually taking notes (i.e. writing coherently) during the drunken mess we call our meetings and then recounting what happened, or what I imagined happened before losing consciousness. Needless to say this sounds like fun. So what can I say about the December meeting...other than there wasn't one. There was no endless dribble from the pundits while awaiting another beer, no waiting around for someone to pour the beer, no Bastards running off with our beer, and no berating of Skirt-boy (I actually appreciate that last tradition). Instead Houston area homebrew clubs including ours, amassed at St. Arnold's for our annual holiday festivi-

Terrorists.....cont from page 1

Despite the additional measures taken, security concerns no doubt did decrease numbers among the more timid. Steve "the Putz" Moore, for example, had planned on joining the Pearland Brew-in but switched following Homebrew Secretary Papazian's announcement. The Putz said in a phone interview, "If Charlie says it safe...run the other way!" Moore instead attended the New Year's celebration at Time Square. Being in the heart of the nation's largest city with a million potential terrorist targets is lot safer than being with three enebriated homebrewers with propane and oxygen tanks and an open fire in the middle of 'em. What if some stray bottle rocket were to crash into Mike's garage? No thanks!" Heniff was philosophical about the smaller than anticipated number of homebrewers, " It's a shame more Rangers did not brew, I mean do, their patriotic duty and join us on New Year's. Bob, Nannette, and I were left to consume all the vintage Thomas Hardy and

ties, which invariably led to drinking exponentially more beer. I can't say I remember much about that day, but I do have some hazy memories of filling up on the regular St. Arnold's fare in the brewery, partaking of some wonderful pot luck goodies, and then heading outside where a few people set up kegs. I have to say I was a little disappointed about the stout being off-line, but I do recall someone ferreting away a small amount for one of the Bastards...those lucky bastards. I can also remember four or five kegs set up in the loading dock including two barley wines...barley wines...then things really started getting hazy. One kind soul also brought by what was left of his St. Arnold's Christmas to satisfy those in the holiday spirit - who says Santa isn't real? Needless to say, it was another amazing event hosted by an amazing hometown brewery and your fellow brewers. Like many around me I was infused with a copious amount of holiday cheer...some of which I felt like expelling later that day.

Rodenbach Alexander beers I had left over from my (former) job as Secondary Fermenter that I had never brought to the club meetings. We had planned to share it with dozens. Instead we had so much left we were forced to use it to rinse out the carboys after sanitizing them." The Brew-in was not without incident, however. As "T Bob" got the grain from his car's trunk he learned an important lesson. "Scott (Birdwell) had used an empty Maris Otter bag for my grain. I didn't know the bags were printed upside down!" Lifting the bag from the trunk, its opened end spilled several pounds of grain onto the street in front of Heniff's house. "I was ready to give in to terrorists and just go home but 'Flygirl' (saved the day. Quickly grabbing a plate she scooped up most of the spilled but still clean grain." T Bob later stated, "Hey I still got about 3 and ½ gallons of a 1080 IPA!" When asked if he suspected terrorists of sabotaging the grain bag, Daugherty only muttered, "It wasn't sabotage...I was just stupid."



**A Few Minutes
with Andy
Brewney,
by Secondary
Moore**

Editors Note: Because Secondary Fermenter Steve Moore can never make a deadline, we are using guest writers for the BOM article until we think of something better to do.

Did you ever notice Porter? Sure it's a delicious dark beer that originated in England in the early 18th Century. But the name Porter originally referred to a blend of several beers that was mixed at the pub. This blended beer was also referred to as "three threads". A London brewer named Ralph Harwood first made a beer that attempted to capture all the characteristics of the blended brew. This was called "entire butt" or just entire, but it too was also tagged as Porter.


Nobody knows for sure what three threads or entire tasted like. They were probably sour and maybe smoky, but by the 1970's Porter had pretty much died out in England. Now the BJCP has a category called Robust Porter which has an OG from 1.050-1.065, 25-45 IBUs and 35 SRM. They also have Brown Porter which has an OG from 1.040-1.050, 20-30 IBUs and 20-35 SRM. Why is that? Nobody knows what this stuff is supposed to be in the first place and now they're subdividing it. While they're at it, why don't they divide Bière de Garde into Mild Bière de Garde and Robust Bière de Garde?

There are some subcategories of Porter that make sense, but they're not brewed in England. There's Baltic Porter from Northeastern Europe. Unlike most Porters, they're often fermented with lager yeast and they're stronger, too. OGs can range from the mid 1.060's up to the low 1.090's. Then there's East Coast Porter. It's kind of a dying style with Yuengling Porter from Pennsylvania being about the only one left. East Coast Porter is lighter bodied than any of the other Porters and my contain corn or other adjuncts. It's also likely to be fermented with lager yeast. It's sort of the missing link between traditional Porter and American Dark Lager.

And what about Stout? It's yet another variation on Porter. It was originally called Stout Porter, but they eventually dropped the Porter from the name. The BJCP says Porter "may be distinguished from closely-related Stout as lacking the Stout's roasted barley character". Can you distinguish whether a beer made from roasted barley, black patent malt, Carafo malt, Starbuck's coffee or some combination all of them? I know I can't. The BJCP also says the name, Stout, "originally reflected a fuller, creamier, more 'stout' body" than Porter, but then they go on to say that it doesn't anymore. Are you confused yet?

There are variations on Stout too. Dry Stout, the most popular kind, has an OG from 1.035 to 1.050, 30-50 IBUs and 35+





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**Beer of the Month
Calendar**

January 16th, 2004
Porter & Stout

Febrewary 20th, 2004
Barleywine & Holiday

March 12th, 2004
Belgian & Fruit Beers

April 16th, 2004
Brown, Old & Scotch

May 21st, 2004
Bock

June 18th, 2004
Wheat Beers

July 16th, 2004
Pilsner & Kolsch

August 20th, 2004
Pale Ale & Bitter

September 17th, 2004
Oktoberfest / Marzen

October 15th - 16th,
2004
Dixie Cup XXI

November 19th, 2004
India Pale Ale

December 14th
Homebrewer's Xmas Party

Foam Rangers Xmas Party!



It's St. Arnold and he says just because you're the most important man in homebrewing, you can't call him Arnie!



Ooooooohhhh, yeah!, that's the way i like my bottle rubbed...



Wow! is that the star of the new Batboy musical?



How's this for a sporran, laddie?

No, please i can't take any more barleywine





Dammit Scott, you know what Barleywine does to her!

Mmmmmm Barleywine?



Yeah, i'm gonna win more medals than that guy behind us this year



Well we like huntin' too yer know



Oh right Leroy, that "i was a famous astronaut" line ain't gonna work on me!



Foam Ranger Events



February

February 5

Pack & Ship - K.C.
DeFalco's

February 8

First Sunday
BJ's Willowbrook, 4pm

February 12

Pack & Ship - S.D.
DeFalco's

February 14

Brew-in by Mike Heniff
DeFalco's

February 19

Pack & Ship - Reggale
DeFalco's

February 20

February Meeting &
Bluebonnet drop-off
DeFalco's



March

March 7

First Sunday
Location TBD

March 12

March meeting
DeFalco's

March 13

Brew-in by ??????
DeFalco's

March 19-20

Bluebonnet Brew-off
Irving, TX

Waz...cont from page 1

The first three months are busy competition months. Half of the MCAB qualifying competitions are in the first three months of the year. A first place finish at any of the MCAB qualifying competitions in categories 1 through 20 wins you an invitation to submit an entry along with the winners of the other 12 MCAB qualifiers to compete in the most exclusive homebrewing competition on the planet (and a Foam Ranger original) in early 2005: Master Championship of Amateur Brewing VII (MCAB). For the winners that already have qualified for MCAB VI to be held in 2004 the competition date has been set for July 23rd. See <http://hbd.org/mcab/> for more info on MCAB.

Also, the first competition of the Gulf Coast Circuit is coming up soon. The Bluebonnet Brew-off is the second largest single-site homebrew competition. It will take a lot of good entries for us to win the Bluebonnet trophy back (we won it in 2002). Regardless, a good Foam Ranger showing at Bluebonnet is a necessity for us to keep the Gulf Coast Homebrew Club of the Year Trophy (start gathering your entries now!). The Bluebonnet pack and ship will be at the February meeting (thanks to Bev Blackwood for once again volunteering to drive up to Dallas and back to drop off our entries). Also to note, Crescent City WILL have a competition this year so the Gulf Coast Circuit remains intact. See Bev and Ed's competition articles and schedule for more info. (Remember, the club picks up all shipping costs if you pack at the pack and ships!)

To get the most recent updates and announcements, be sure to subscribe to the Foam Ranger mail list. Instructions are at the website and are periodically in the Brewsletter.

I want to remind everyone about the "Brewers Assistance Program". There

is a small section in the back of every Brewsletter with a list of good brewers that have volunteered to be on the list so that if you need brewing guidance or have any questions, you can give them a call or drop them an email.

Now that I got through the business: Over Thanksgiving break, I took a family style pub-crawl to San Antonio (no, I did not have any bar managers take my beer away this time!). Two places in particular were memorable. The first was Blue Star Brewing Company, a good supporter of the Dixie Cup over the last few years. The food was good, upscale pub fare with six beers on tap. The stout (that we enjoyed at the last two Dixie Cups) was very smooth and rich, the pale ale was great with "lots of hoppy goodness", an autumn ale was reminiscent of Old Peculiar, and for the more general audience the PILS and golden were well brewed and delicately balanced. No barleywine was on tap, I guess I was early by a few weeks (damn!).

The second hot spot was the Dodging Duck Brewery in Boerne (about 20 miles NW of San Antonio). The pub and restaurant were small but quaint, and located near a lot of nice shops in downtown Boerne. I had a delicately hopped, very quaffable pale ale and a big, sweet, rich barleywine. Both places are well worth your visit anytime you're in the area.



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**by Sean
Lamb,
Closet
Historian**

15 Years Ago

In the Brewsletter...

Dr. Strangebrew talks to himself about how barley is malted and mashed. It takes 4 pages! A detailed article on "How to get legislators" full attention" is reprinted from the Houston Post, including a flow chart on the TX legislative process. The need for this is lost in the fog time. Buck Wyckoff (brewsletter editor) rants about people needing to help the club and make the Dixie Cup go.

At the Meeting..

Held at DeFalcos on Friday, Jan. 20th. Elections were held and the following fools were flummoxed into serving: Linda Livesay, Purser/Scrivener; Chris Todd, Secondary; and proving that you should show up at meetings when it's election time, Brad Kraus Grand Wazoo in abstentia. A raffle was held with single prize of a precision finishing hydrometer being the prize. It was won by Pete Whalen and Larry Bartos. No formal BOTM, Mike Seidensticker brought some of then unheard of Hoegarden White, and Coopers Real Ale and other long forgotten brews.

Other Events..

A pub crawl was held on Saturday Jan 21st. Starting at the G-Man, the route continued to the Red Lion Inn, The Wellington Stone (12512 W. Alabama) Local Charm on Telephone Road, and Do-be's on Edgebrook.

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SRM. There's also Foreign Stout, which is distinguished by being stronger, and Imperial Stout which is stronger still. Of course Imperial Stout was souped up so it could survive traveling to Russia, much as India Pale Ale was souped up so it could make it to India. There's also Oatmeal Stout which is distinguished by being brewed with Oatmeal and Sweet Stout which is distinguished by the fact that nobody on earth likes it.

10 Years ago

In the Brewsletter...

Grand Wazoo Andy Thomas submits his last column of his term, and reports on the clubs crawl towards being incorporated. Amazing digital technologies make it possible for pictures from the 1993 Holiday party to take over the middle two pages of the brewsletter. Lou Carannante contributes several paragraphs on the madness of moving club meetings to the 3rd Saturday of the month and setting the Odd Fellows hall in the Heights as the regular meeting place, and asks for the club to respond.

At the Club Meeting..

Held at the Oddfellows Hall in the Heights. Elections were held and the following crop of spuds were planted: Purser: Andy Thomas; Scrivener: Norm Malone; Secondary Fermenter: Autumn Woods-Moore; Grand Wazoo: Sean Lamb. The club bylaws were approved, which was the final step to incorporation. BOTM was Winter Warmers, at least Young's, Sam Smiths 1992 Samischlaus and 1994 Bigfoot were served.

5 Years Ago

In The Brewsletter...

Grand Wazoo Steve Moore extols everyone to come out and vote at the January meeting. He signs off his Wazoohood with the famous last words " Beware of the military industrial complex. The needs of the many must outweigh the needs of the few or the one. I have always been and always shall be...your Waz. Peace. Live long and prosper. " (No Karel joke?) Secondary Steve Capo extols the virtues of Barley Wines. Pictures from the Christmas party fill space.

At the Meeting..

The meeting was held on Sat. January 24th at the Oddfellows Hall in the Heights. Elections were held with the following unfortunates slapped into servitude: Jim "Mr. Excitement" Youngmeyer, Purser; Steve Newton, Scrivener; Wayne Smith, Secondary Fermenter; Steve Capo, Grand Wazoo. Beer of the month was Barley Wines.

Other events...

A Dr. Beer seminar was conducted by Tim Case, Steve Capo and Steve Moore at the Houston Brewery on January 18th.

**Brewers
Assistance
Program**

Need help brewing?

Contact one of the following Foam Ranger members:

Bev Blackwood
713.432.1248 (H)
713.927.4832 (C)
Before 11:00 p.m.

Kuyler Doyle
713.523.8379 (H)
832.566.1197 (C)
Before 10:00 p.m.

Mike Heniff
281.489.3762 (H)
281.474.1537 (W)
Before 9:00 p.m.

Joe Lindsey
409.925.4664 (H)
409.763.2366 (W)
Joe Never Sleeps

Jimmy Paige
281.894.0307 (H)
832.576.6191 (C)
Before 10:00 p.m.

Ron Solis
281.324.7157 (H)
Before 9:30 p.m.

Jim Youngmeyer
713.667.0455 (H)
713.267.5108 (W)
Before 9:30 p.m.

Please respect their stated time preferences when calling!

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Monthly Meeting
January 16th
@ DeFalco's

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Paid between April 1 & June 30 \$17.50 / \$26.25

Paid between July 1 & September 30 \$15.00 / \$22.50

Paid between October 1 & November 30 \$20.00 / \$30.00 (Includes the next year!)

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