



# THE FOAM RANGERS Newsletter Urquell

Pool Edition - dripping wet!

Volume 23, Number 7 - July 2004

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## July meeting

is

**July 16th**

**8pm**

at Colby Sheridan's House

## Great Beer Quote:

All other nations are drinking Ray Charles beer and we are drinking Barry Manilow.

Source: Dave Barry

## Out (of) the Wazoo



By  
**Mike Heniff,**  
**Grand Wazoo**

In my "Out Of" last month, I mentioned the lull in competitions for the summer. I was mostly right. But what I failed to mention is that this is the time that we need to be brewing our A\$\$\$ off for Dixie Cup! It is our competition, but most importantly OUR DIXIE CUP! There are at least three clubs gunning for us. The North Texas Homebrewers (Dallas area) and Central Florida Homebrewers (Orlando area) are gunning for the Gulf Coast Competition Cup AND the Dixie Cup (of which we currently hold both!). Also, our brethren of the north, the KGB are openly gunning for the Dixie Cup. They all did well last year at our competition but we can't let them get our Cup! Boogety, boogety, boogety boys, let's go brewing!

There is also a local competition coming up soon: the Lunar Rendezbrew held by the Mashtronauts on July 23rd. Regardless if you enter or if you are into competitions or not, be sure to show up to have a ton of fun and drink a ton of beer - it's just a good time hanging out in the Clear Lake area (Seabrook, to be exact).

We have will have a BJCP training class again this year. For those that are not familiar with the BJCP, the

BJCP organizes style guidelines, competition formats, and judging procedures. Their website is [www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org). Although, you do not need to be a BJCP judge to judge at a competition, it certainly does help allow you to judge the styles that you prefer, not to mention that it gives you little more confidence in the judging process. This class will help you prepare for the exam which is \$50 (cheaper for this retaking all or part of the exam) and consists of 11 essay questions and 4 evaluation beers over 3 hours. The exam is not yet scheduled but will likely be in early October.

The class details are as follows: six sessions with a possible seventh session (to be determined), held more as a guided self-study with plenty of discussion and beer evaluation. The classes are scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of July, August, and September at DeFalco's from 5:30 PM to 8 PM (please park across the street so DeFalco's other customers will have a place to park). The class fee is \$15 and covers photocopies and beer

Mark your calendar for this year's Dixie Cup Warm-up Pub Crawl: Saturday, August 28th, from 9 AM to 10+ PM. One new catch this year, the destination is San Antonio. Good beer in San Antonio, home to Pearl and Lone Star??? Actually, there are a few good spots. It's nothing like Austin, where you can do a pub crawl ... literally crawling! Definite stops on the list are two of Texas' best brew pubs: Dodging

## The Brewsletter Urquell

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Foam Rangers Homebrew Club.

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#### Notice:

**This month we bring you the first in an occasional series called 'Beer Goddess'. Check out Was Was Was Waz's daughter - Stacy Smith for the July edition.**



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

With most of the officers off in Las Vegas swilling the best the west coast had to offer, and others apparently saving themselves for the July pool party, the June meeting enjoyed a rather light turnout. The category due jour this time around was wheat beers. The Putz brought a plethora of bottle cereal which ranged from the innocuous krystals to the hefty dunkels and ice beers. A few members unwilling to elevate their carb count to unhealthy wheaty proportions were thankful a few brave souls sneaked in some hoppier fare, some of which some bastards absconded. A few brewers brought in kegs to be judged for inclusion in the upcoming Mashtronaut event, although I have no idea if any one of them was selected. Bringing to mind what could

have happened if Reagan had died during his last term, the shinier than usual Putz took the floor as senior officer to discuss the month's events. Off to a slow start, he gradually rose to the occasion and sounded every bit as exciting as our normal crew of semi-deified brewing idols. As usual, enthusiasm filled the air as members grew transfixed at the news of more pack and ships and contest winnings. But further discussion of what awaits us next month and visions of svelt speedo clad revelers at the upcoming July pool party quickly tempered any additional happy thoughts. More talk of beer was followed by more pouring of beer and just as quickly as the Putz had imparted his wisdom, he was done. Say less, drink more...profound. Given the light turnout, the general lack of intrigue and the short duration of the Putz's speech, there isn't a whole lot more to relate. OK, I lost my notes, but I swear not much else happened.

### *Waz...cont from p1*

Duck Brauhaus in Boerne and Blue Star Brewing, both past supporters of Dixie Cup. Also, there is a Flying Saucer and a small handful of good beer bars as well. More details are to come soon.

Also, in August, for the First Sunday Pub Visit we will be mixing it up a little bit. We will do a pub crawl of our own in Houston using Houston's newest form of transportation: the METRO light rail. There are some great beer bars along the light rail including Flying Saucer and Brewery Tap and a number of good hang-outs such. Once again the details will follow soon.

Have you been getting updates on Foam Ranger events? If not, you need to check out three sources. The obvious one is the calendar on this Brewsletter. There is also a similar (and more up-to-date, thanks to Dave

Cato) on the website [www.foamrangers.com](http://www.foamrangers.com) under "Club Events" (duh!). Also, there is a email list where updates (or even corrections or changes) are posted. See the website at "Club Info" and "Email Lists" for instructions.

Finally, we have a "Brewers Assistance" program to help ANY brewer with just about ANYTHING. The list of the brewers is in the back of the Brewsletter; contact by email works just as well but to prevent spammage the email addresses aren't listed (just email me and I can get you in contact with them (all of us officers have sacrificed their email addresses on the website)). If you are looking for extreme expertise on a certain style, I can probably put you in touch with the right brewers. Also, we will host a National Mead Day on August 7th. Details are still developing and will be posted on the email list within the next few weeks!



# Beer of the Month

by Sean Lamb

*Editors note: Since Steve is out of ideas (some would say he ran out in mid-2002) we are presenting this article from the June 1993 Newsletter.*

Left, right, left, right...on leave and I'm still marching. At least my destination is more hospitable than the barracks. Just around the corner and...there it is! The tavern! Such a pleasant light spilling out onto the cobblestones. Being posted to Germany hasn't been all that bad, but no place I've been has compared to this.

Karel, my schoolmate, has greetings as I enter. "Schweik! Schweik! It is good to see you! How has the Army been keeping you? Come let me get you a beer!" "No Karel, I am here to meet Father. Have you seen him?" "He's at his usual table, Jaroslav, and he's in good spirits. Maybe he's happy about your visit."

Past the bar, right into the short hall, and there in the alcove on the left he sits. "Jaroslav! I was hoping you would come today! Let me get you a beer! Karolina! Pivo for Jaroslav!"

"Thank you Father, I've had a great thirst since I put in for my leave. A thirst that only the magnificent beer of Plzen can quench!" A brimming mug of Plzensky Prazdoj arrives in the waitress' hand. It is as wonderful in life as it has been in dreams. The light gold color, thick frothy head, the wonderful spicy aroma of the best Czech hops from Zatec (Saaz in the US. Other "noble" hops such as Hallertauer and Tettnanger are acceptable), the slight caramel aroma of the malt. Now, the taste. Close the eyes and, ah! the sweet smooth flavor (the result of moderate attenuation, a relatively high level of diacetyl for

lagers, and soft water) and the crisp, bitter finish of the hops (Pilsner Urquell has a bitterness of 43 IBU, or 11.5 HBU, making it one of the hoppiest lagers in the world). Putting the mug down and opening my eyes, Father is staring at me astonished. "I am sorry Father, but I have not had a good Czech beer in many months. Neither Plzensky Prazdoj or Gambrius Plzner, nor the Budweiser beer is available where I have been."

His stare relaxing into a grin, Father laughs. "Things are going well, Jaroslav. The work at the factory is picking up. I have also received a letter from your uncle Emil in America. He is also doing well. They have a farm in a place called Iowa. He wrote about something strange, though. He says that a man in a place called St. Louis, Missouri is selling beer and calling it 'Budweiser' style! And it is hardly as good as our Czech beer! It is too bad that the good Czech names are being used so."

"You know Father, I have had some beer while on duty in Germany. It has been very good, but it does not, in my mind, compare to this. And they call it Pils after beer made here in Pilzn. It is paler, is not as sweet (higher attenuation and lower diacetyl levels) nor does it have the bitterness (30 to 37 IBU, 8 to 10 HBU) of our Plzen beers. It does not even have the good malty smell!"

"Since life in the service of the Habsberg King has deprived you so son, let me buy you another Plzener beer".

"Thank you, and here is to your health!" I toast him as I raise my mug to empty it.



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## Beer of the Month Calendar

**January 16th, 2004  
Porter & Stout**

**February 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**

# Vegas Pix



Jimmy finds his own personal heaven!

Bev's already drowning & could give a craps about the table.



The Waz drowns his gambling sorrows.



Rob and Jimmy try to enlist MJ to judge the Best of Show round!

## 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!

DeFalco's  
713.668.9440  
Business Hours only

# Brewing for Dixie Cup (aka How to Win a bunch of Medals)

by **Mike Heniff**

This is a variation of an article that I wrote last year and a philosophy that I follow for homebrewing experimentation and occasionally for entering the competitions that mean the most for the Foam Rangers:

Well, it's no secret that I like entering homebrew competitions; I like winning them even more. Other than feeding my ego, the feedback helps me hone in on a style and even sometimes catch an off-flavor that I may have missed.

This year I expect to have about [insert an insane number here] beers for this year's Dixie Cup. You're probably thinking that I must brew every week. Well I don't. I've learned over the years how to make more beers out of a batch and how to keep more beers reserved for competitions. Sometimes my special beers are a pilot for a new style, sometimes they're beers that I like but one that I don't want 5 gallons, sometimes they are just plain old experiments.

Bev Blackwood wrote an article like this a few years ago for the Brewletter (which I can't find) and Ed Measom from Central Florida just had one published a year ago in Brew Your Own. Here's my slant:

**Parti-gyle Mashing:** this is the technique of making two beers from one mash. This technique goes way back to historical brewing in the British Isles. The first runnings is the big beer (Barleywine, Old Ale, Wee Heavy) and the second runnings is the small beer (Bitter, Brown Ale, 60 schilling Scottish) (actually the British used to use this method to brew three beers!). To make two 5 gallon batches you need a big mash tun (15 gallons) or you need to use extract. A 5 gallon batch and a 3 gallon batch might be more reasonable (with a 10 gallon tun you may need a pound or two of DME). The big trick is figuring out and tweaking the mash bills since the character of the first and second running can be quite different. Also, it takes quite a technique to take all of the gravities during the run-off to be sure you're hitting your target gravities.

**Split Batches:** here is where you make one wort into two beers. A natural split would be into two 3 gallon batches (or 5 gallon batches if you have a big mash tun and kettle). Five or six one gallon batches - possible but unlikely. The key here is to find two beers that match a malt bill. How about a Belgian Triple and a Maibock? How about a Belgian Dubbel and a Weizenbock? This doesn't have to be limited to totally different beers. How about an English Pale Ale, one with London Ale yeast and the other with Ringwood Ale yeast? Or even, an American Wheat, fermented as one batch in the primary that is split into two secondaries with fresh raspberries added to one of the secondary fermenters. The possibilities are almost endless.

**Two Batches/Same Day:** I know a few crazy brewers who do this (I'm one of them). If you're already sinking five or six hours to brew one batch, what's a few more hours to brew a second batch? The trick here is that you'll need some extra equipment to do them side by side (not to mention a few more eyes and hands). You can get by with even less equipment if you stagger the batches (boiling one and mashing the other) but you better plan your brew day well. I wouldn't advise drinking a whole lot of beer while brewing if you want to pull this off.

But, you don't have to just brew more beer to have more entries. Here are a few other good tips:

**Plan Your Brewing Schedule:** I brewed my big beers and meads a few months ago. They'll hit their prime around Dixie Cup time. My smaller beers and hoppy beers will be the last ones to get brewed. If you're into lagers, now is the time to brew.

**Enter in Multiple Categories:** Not everyone hits the target with the style (light lagers are notorious, if you made a German Pils may do well as a Munich Helles or Bohemian Pils). Some beer categories overlap (old ale and barleywine). Some beers straddle multiple categories (think APA and IPA). Let someone else try your beer without telling them what category it is. Even better, let Scott Birdwell or some of the more experienced BJCP judges try your beer.

**Store Your Beer Right:** Refrigerated storage keeps your beer fresh. Keep at least three to four bottles of every beer that you have and will brew between now and Dixie Cup in the fridge just for the competition. That beer that you brewed last year might still have been great if you would have kept it in the fridge. If fridge space is at a minimum, keep only four bottles in the fridge just for Dixie Cup (one to let yourself and other good judges to try to determine the category that it best fits in!).

**Brew Meads and Ciders Too!** The brewing process is extremely easy for these styles but they can be finicky. Meads take forever to come into their own. But, this opens up a few more categories as well.

**Enter in Categories with Low Entry Counts:** Even the best APA or Dry Stout can get lost in a half-dozen flights. But in most homebrew competitions there are a few styles with only a few beers entered. Less competition can mean a better chance for that medal.

**Enter the CORRECT Category:** A few years ago I brewed an old ale that was aged on bourbon soaked oak chips. It was wonderful. I entered it as an old ale but it got hammered from all of those "odd" flavors. If I entered it as Experimental it would have got gold. Two years ago, I judged Lambics at Dixie Cup. There was a ringer of a Berliner Weisse in the category. It was a wonderful beer but it was not a Lambic.

**New Categories:** The BJCP guidelines are getting ready to change. The new guidelines are available on the BJCP website ([www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org)). The newer categories will certainly be entered lower this year than in future years.

**Don't Forget About Specialty/Experimental/Historical:** Here is where you enter the weird stuff and some not so weird stuff. Styles that aren't specifically declared by the BJCP go here. If you think of something weird that you would like to do to a beer, do it. But, you probably should do it on a small scale (a few bottles?) so you don't get stuck with 5 gallons of hemp blonde - hey, now you made two beers from one!

**Don't be Bashful:** I know of many very good brewers that have reservations about entering (two are current officers) for various reasons. Don't worry, it's just beer, relax (or it goes something like that!). No one knows who loses, just who wins. I have won a lot but have lost quite often as well!

But the best advice that I have to give is to just brew (and enter!) your a\$& off!

**Foam Ranger Events****July****July 16**

July Meeting  
Colby Sheridan's house  
7pm

**July 17**

Lunar Rendezbrew  
Judging -  
Outpost Tavern

**July 23-24**

MCAB VI  
Detroit, MI

**July 23-25**

Oregon Brewers Fest  
Portland, OR

**July 24**

Lunar Rendezbrew  
Judging -  
Outpost Tavern

**July 25**

Lunar Rendezbrew  
12-6pm  
Seabrook Comm. Ctr.

**August****Aug 1**

First Sunday  
Light Rail Pub Crawl  
4pm

**Aug 7**

National Mead  
Homebrew Day

**Aug 14**

Brew-in  
Paige & Lamb  
DeFalco's 10am

**Aug 20**

Monthly Meeting  
+ KGB & Mashtrouats  
DeFalco's 7pm

**Club History**

*by Sean Lamb,  
Closet Historian*

**20 Years Ago**

In the Brewsletter ... Larry Bristol reviews Anchor Liberty Ale and proclaims "it is without a doubt in the same league as the great ales of Britain." Members are encouraged to join the committee that is being formed to organize the club sponsored "regional homebrew competition" that is possibly going to be named the "Dixie Cup".

A new beer score sheet is released to the masses.

At the meeting... Held July 19th at DeFalcos on Morningside. Beer of the month was Continental Dark Lagers: Hofbrau, Lowenbrau, St. Pauli Girl, Dortmund, and Rignes were served.

Other events.. None noted.

**15 Years Ago**

In the Brewsletter... Grand Wazoo Brad Kraus brags about the brew-in in June, the Foam Ranger's (actually Steve Daniel's) showing at the AHA Nationals, and encourages members to help make the Dixie Cup happen. Dr. Strangebrew explains carbonation for you. And you too. Mike Seidensticker writes about brewing in El Paso.

At the meeting... Held at Linda Livesay's house on Holcombe. Beer of the month was European Lager. No record due to the failing of the Scrivener.

Other events... Lost in the Texas Dog Days.

**10 Years Ago**

In the Brewsletter... Grand Wazoo Autumn Woods-Moore. Editor Ken Baker thinks the membership should be treated to the complete listing of the winners of the AHA nationals. Ken frees up a few column inches for Secondary Fermenter Sam Zabbia's article on wheat beers.

At the meeting... Held at the Odd Fellows hall in the heights. Beers of the Month were Celis White, Eku Kristal Weisbier, Spaten Club Weisse, Hacker Pschor Weisse, Franziskaner Hefe-weisse, Dinkle Acker Weisse.

Other events... Lost in the sands of time.

**5 Years Ago**

In the Brewsletter... Grand Wazoo Wayne Smith schemes about what to do with the keg of beer the club won at the Big Batch. Secondary fermenter Charles Vallhonnrratrrrrt relates sneaking into the South park movie while on business in California to a little bit of stuff about wheat beers. The Mayhews (co-editors) allows Bev to soak up a couple of pages with his calendar.

At the meeting... Um, I'm missing the August 1999 Brewsletter. Anyone got a copy to add to archives?

Other events... None Noted. Really. You were all so boring back then.

**July Beer Goddess - Stacy Smith**

# Competition Corner

by *Bev Blackwood*



So... I didn't have any entries at the National Homebrew Contest, I don't gamble and I pretty much have met everyone who shows up at the NHC before anyway. Why was I baking my ass walking down the Strip in the middle of a Saturday afternoon? Am I so fond of Charlie and the AHA that I was lured to the desert just to bask in his presence? Hardly. As any Foam Ranger will tell you, I was there to promote the Dixie Cup and enjoy the company of my fellow homebrewers. The "Texas crowd" was bigger than ever this year, with a good number of Mashtronauts, KGB'ers, Golden Triangles, Zealots, Cap N' Hares, Red Rivers and North Texas folks making it seem almost like home! I have to admit, one of the big mistakes I made as Grand Wazoo was that I never took the Fez on road trips. (Of course everyone knows I never attract any attention anyway!) The Fez is a real attention getter in a crowd and having Mike there to push Dixie Cup, encourage folks to enter and spread the club's reputation (good, bad and otherwise) was a huge plus.

The attention we garner is paying off, not only in entries at Dixie Cup but in terms of our club's reputation as a competitive, but friendly group who are a little on the eccentric side. If I had hit a slot machine for every time I've heard "Foam Rangers? I've heard about you guys..." from complete strangers, I'd have come home with a lot of cash! You may or may not remember our drive to enter the QUAFF competition in San Diego, a non-MCAB event run by the AHA's

"Club of the Year." Well, they sure remember us! Every time I came across a QUAFF member, they thanked us for entering and wondered why we'd suddenly shown up on their doorstep. My answer was that we wanted to kick their ass on their home turf... said with a laugh of course, and they took it in the spirit we intended. I wouldn't be surprised to see an entry or two from them at this year's Dixie Cup.

Of course, I also spread our club propaganda far and wide. Every sit-down event where there was a table, there was a stack of Dixie Cup promotional material. It was interesting to observe the reaction... Some tables never even touched the 5 or so slips of paper, while others clearly picked them up and passed them around, maybe even taking one home. Mike may never forgive me for my "What happens at Dixie Cup, Never stays at Dixie Cup" flyer, featuring his classic "Dolly" shot from last year's event. Thankfully, he took it in good humor and let me live.

Competitively, we didn't exactly kick ass and take names... our brethren from the Mashtronauts, Golden Triangle and the Zealots did that for us. That was something of a disappointment, given how well we did in the Regionals. However, every homebrew competition is a roll of the dice and we shouldn't take a loss at the AHA Nationals as anything more than that. Paul "Elvis" Gatza once again honored us by sporting his Foam Ranger badge on the podium throughout the awards ceremony. The AHA really isn't the evil empire and they have really come a long way from the "bad old days" some of our members keep dredging up. The technical conference was a lot of fun as well, with some really innovative beers (an all-brettanomyces Abbey beer?) and some truly great hoppy beers... Like Russian River's Pliny the Elder... WOW what an Imperial I.P.A.! Next year's event is in Baltimore, and I'll be there again, to spread the word of Dixie Cup!

By the time you've read this, the entry deadline for the Lunar Rendezbrew will have passed, but don't forget that they will need our help judging in the weeks ahead. As usual, their event will be a fun Sunday afternoon out in the hot sun drinking good beer. Brewing in the summer is a true challenge, but one you should be working on meeting. We've got several clubs gunning for the Dixie Cup, most notably our northern neighbors, the KGB. They are brewing on a plan and on a schedule, with the culminating effort being to flood the Dixie Cup with their competitive might and wrest it from our grasp. (And lest you think they don't have the brewers to do it, I'd remind you that many of their members have won Best of Show at Dixie Cup in the past!) So brew! Brew like the very hounds of Anheuser-Busch were after you!

# The Foam Rangers Homebrew Club Houston, Texas

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Brewsletter office  
8715 Stella Link  
Houston, Texas 77025



**Monthly Meeting**  
**July 16th**  
**@ Colby Sheridan's house**

**DON'T BRING FIZZY YELLO BEER!**

**I want to be somebody!**  
**Sign me up to become a member of the Foam Rangers**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Paid between December 1 & December 31 \$18.00 / \$27.00 (Pay early and save!)

Paid between January 1 & March 31 \$20.00 / \$30.00

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!)

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

Bring this form (and your payment) to the next club meeting, drop it off at DeFalco's or send it to:  
The Foam Rangers, 8715 Stella Link, Houston, Texas 77025-3401