



# THE FOAM RANGERS Newsletter Urquell

News With Your Brews!

August 2005 - Volume 25 Pints - Issue 8

## Club In Shock After Colby Sheridan Is Traded to Atlanta

By "Titanic" Bob Daugherty

Houston's Foam Rangers are still shaking their heads over the trade of one its officers to a rival brew club. The trade, the first of its kind in brew club history, was orchestrated by Competition Coordinator Mike Heniff and sent Dixie Cup Organizer Colby Sheridan to the South Atlanta Association of Zymurgists (SAAZ) for a brewer to named later and a case of barleywine.

Grand Wazoo Ed Moore was still in shock and unable to comment on the trade but Secondary Fermenter Rob Kolacny remarked, "I can't believe that Mike, that Beeriac, of all people could do this! A brewer to be named later? What kind of brewer? Experienced or inexperienced?" (Continued on Page 11)



Competition Coordinator, Mike Heniff suffers "trader's remorse."

### In this Issue:

The Minutes!	2
The Credits!	2
<b>BREW WARS:</b> Episode XX!	3
Competition Corner!	4
The Path to...	5
Wet, Nearly Naked Women!	6-7
It's Dixie Cup Time!	8
Rendezbrew Pics	9
Text Galore	10-11
Pay Your Dues!	12

## Out (of) The Wazoo

By Ed  
Moore,  
Grand Wazoo



From what I remember from the July pool PARTY, I had a great time. It was 9 and the next thing I knew it was 2 AM. It was originally Pils and Kolsch but a beer tasting meeting broke out instead. There were barleywines, IPA,

stouts, India Brown Ale, and more beer than I can possibly recall. Needless to say they all were welcomed and consumed. We had a great showing at the Lunar Renczbrew with Rob Kolancy and Stuart Strack leading us in our medal count. We had a lot of entries and the Mashronauts were very appreciative.

Now the Dixie Cup is acomin' so be sure to brew beer for the competition since several clubs are gunning to take the Dixie Cup away from us. Also, we will need beer for the reception at The Orange Show on Thursday night. Have our esteemed Dixie Cup speakers try your beer! Maybe they will like it!

Be sure to sign up for the pot luck dinner – a regular bonanza of food for your discriminating palate.

Make your room reservations soon as the hotel may not have a wide selection of rooms if you wait too long. ( I.E. The more expensive ones may be all that's left ). National mead day went well. Only one mead was brewed but there was a lot of interest in the making OF mead and in all the different meads I served. We had 8 different traditional meads, 3 fruit meads, and 1 perry cider. I believe there were 8 people but I started seeing double after a while so it was difficult to count. Also, three (Continued on Page 11)

**August  
Meeting:**  
  
Friday,  
**August 19**  
**8:00 p.m.**  
at DeFalco's

**The Brewsletter Urquell**  
**Official Organ of the**  
**Foam Rangers Homebrew Club.**

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By the time you've read this, I will have completed what Rebecca Weitzenhoffer called "Liver Appreciation Month," my annual ritual of not drinking for roughly 30-31 days. As I have explained many times over the past month, my involvement with the hobby, Saint Arnold and the Southwest Brewing News provides me with so many chances to imbibe that at times I wonder if it's truly a hobby or a habit. The time off is instructive and I recommend that everyone should try it now and then. It's important to be around alcohol and not partake though, as that is as instructive as the abstinence itself.

## A Recounting of the Events of 15th July, 2006: As Told By Substitute Scrivener Stephen Moore



**By**  
**Stephen**  
**"Mr. Pompous"**  
**Moore**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, the Foam Rangers did gather at the home of Colby Sheridan and his lovely wife Gloria for the annual pool party. Also present was the Sheridan's dog Barkley, a noble and majestic beast.

The Sheridans will soon be moving to Atlanta for job-related reasons. We will all miss them and their hospitality. This also means we will have to find other members who can volunteer their house and pool for next year's party. Either that or some kind of home invasion. Maybe some place in River Oaks.

I did begin the night with some of Joe Lindsey's legendary Ooby Dooby Barleywine. As the late great Roy Orbison would say, "mercy"! In spite of the name, Joe assures me that his Barleywine contains no Doobie. Now it was time to begin the Beer of the Month tasting. The designated topic was Pilsner and Kolsch. We began with Shiner Summer Stock which professes to be of the Kolsch variety although I rather suspect they use their regular lager yeast. I noticed in the latest Southwest Brewing News that Shiner is changing the name to Shiner Kolsch and that Shiner Winter Ale is becoming Shiner Dunkelweizen. This is even as St. Arnold is renaming Kristal Weizen to Texas Wheat. May the best marketer win, but I digress. Next was National Bohemian from Milwaukee which I think may have been in a can. I also was offered and accepted some of Mike "Beeriac" Heniff's Baltic Porter, a dark malty and complex brew that is one of his specialties.

Now was the time for the club business. Only one man could conduct the club business! Only one man is the wearer of The Fez, the most powerful man in homebrewing (which is kind of like being the most dignified of the Three Stooges,

but again I digress). Grand Wazoo Ed Moore (no relation) began with calling for judges for the Lunar Rendezbrew. It seems the contest put on by our pals down south, the Mashtronauts (the club where all the members are rocket scientists), is experiencing a growth spurt. They were expecting to break 300 entries and would need all the judges they could round up. The celebration and awards ceremony was to be held July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ed also announced that the finest of all brewpubs in the Houston city limits, Two-Rows would be holding a multi-course dinner beer and food dinner for the delectation of the citizenry on July 26 at 6:00 p.m.

August 6<sup>th</sup> is National Mead Day and Ed invited the membership to stately Wazoo Manor to make Beowulf's favorite beverage with him.

August's First Sunday Pub Visit was scheduled to actually BE on a 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at that venerable multi-tap beer bar, the Gingerman. "Venerable", by the way, is Latin for overpriced.

Sean Lamb bravely agreed to do the August brew-in at Deflaco's on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Since Sean's chosen theme for the brew-in was Brew Nekkid, even more bravery would be required by the attendees. Eric Graves will be handling the September 10<sup>th</sup> brew-in. There was a Dixie Cup news round-up. The Rangers will need to decide on a 1<sup>st</sup> place award by mid-September.

The club business thusly completed, Joe and Sean gently escorted Ed into the pool. Next up in the BOM was that most original of Pilsners, Pilsner Urquell, followed by the newly arrived Baltika 8.

A suitably hydrated Ed offered a postscript to the club business reminding us of the Austin Pub Crawl on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Bus faire will be \$25 for homebrew club members and \$30 for muggles. The crawl will leave from the St. Arnold Microbrewery parking lot at 9:00am and allegedly return at 10:30pm. Stops will include the Live Oak micro, the brand spanking new Independence micro, South by Southwest brewpub for dinner and an extended romp in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street area. We then let out a yell for Rebel Pils from the Czech Republic which is apparently now available at the HEB Central Market.

**(Continued on Page 8)**

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...

# BREW WARS

-REDD KNECK VERSION

By Rob Kolacny, Secondary Fermenter

## Episode XX: The Watery Menace

THE  
DIXIE CUP IS  
JUST TWO MONTHS  
AWAY! MOST OF THE  
BEERS HAVE BEEN BREWED  
AND ARE BEING BOTTLED AND  
LABELED FOR ENTRY. ALL SEEMS  
WELL, BUT THE EVIL **AB EMPIRE** HAS  
NOT GIVEN UP AND IS DETERMINED TO PUT  
AN END TO THE HOMEBREW REBELLION.  
THE EMPEROR AND HIS MINION, **THE SITH  
BREWERY**, WILL TRY TO BEAT THE FOAM  
RANGERS AT THEIR OWN GAME. THEY  
INTEND TO WIN THE DIXIE CUP AND  
CRUSH THE HOMEBREW REBELLION  
ONCE AND FOR ALL...

Our story begins with Redd Kneck Skywalker washing bottles for the batches of beer he and Obi-Wan Stairway have brewed.

"Master," said RK. "There are too many bottles to be washed. I will never get all that beer out of the primary."

"Ah my boy," replied Stairway. "As Master Birdwell would say 'Worry too much about what cannot be done, you do.' Perhaps it is time to step up your Fredi Brewer training. Put down those bottles and clean these kegs." He said as he points to the shiny stainless steel vessels. "Just one can hold the same amount of beer as 48 bottles! – but you must use the Force Carbonation..."

"Thank you Master," said RK as he began to break down the kegs for cleaning and sanitizing. "I now see what can be done."

"When you are finished," said Stairway. "We will continue your training in the ancient art of the BJCP. You are a good brewer, but you are not a Fredi Master yet. Only after you master the BJCP will you truly become a Fredi."

RK finished his chores and the two soon arrive in the Defalco's system where they find the Fredi Master, Heniff teaching a class. He is being assisted by the brew droid, BDB-3PYO. "Master Heniff," greets Stairway as he and RK enter the room. "I have brought my padawan, Redd Kneck Skywalker to you to complete his training in the BJCP."

"Welcome, RK," replied Master Heniff. "Find a seat, the class has already begun. BDB-3PYO, give RK a copy of the handout." RK receives his booklet.

"The lesson today is Pale Ales," instructed

Master Heniff. "There are two types: English Pale Ales and American Pale Ale. The older English Pales were broken

down long ago by the BJCP into 3 subcategories: 8A. Standard/Ordinary Bitter, 8B. Special/Best/Premium Bitter, and 8C. Extra Special/Strong Bitter (English Pale Ale). They are similar, but with more character as you go down the list.

Standard/Ordinary and Special/Best are very similar. The aroma is balanced between slightly malty and moderately hoppy, but can have little or no hop aroma. Their flavor and overall impressions are basically the same: medium to high bitterness, low to moderately high fruity esters, moderate to low hop flavor (usually UK varieties) with low to medium maltiness that can have some caramel flavor and finishes dry. The flavor is balanced towards bitter, but not overpowering. Their differences seem only to be in the strengths of their wort and hopping levels: Standard/Ordinary has an O.G. of 1.032 – 1.040, while Special/Best's is 1.040 – 1.048. Both finish near 1.010, and the bitterness levels are also very close: 25 – 35 IBU's and 25 – 40, respectively. They are bitter session beers.

The ESB, on the other hand distinguishes itself from the smaller bitters by having more character. It is bigger and hoppier and picks up where the session beers leave off. With an O.G. of 1.048 – 1.060+ that finishes around 1.013, and a bitterness level of 30 – 50+, the ESB or EPA is a much more respectable beer. Its aroma can be balanced towards the hops, but it must have a significant malt backbone to support them. With a more pronounced caramel component, and medium-low to medium-high fruity esters, the ESB or EPA has a level of complexity that the session beers don't approach. The aroma leaves little  
**(Continued on Page 10)**



## Beer of the Month Calendar



January 20th, 2006

Porter & Stout



February 17th, 2006

Barleywine & Holiday



March 10th, 2006

Belgian & Fruit Beers



April 21st, 2006

Brown, Old & Scotch



May 19th, 2006

Bock



June 16th, 2006

Wheat Beers



July 21st, 2006

Pilsner & Kolsch



August 19th

Pale Ale & Bitter



September 16th

Oktoberfest / Marzen



October 20th - 22nd

Dixie Cup XXII



November 18th

India Pale Ale



December 11th

Homebrewer's Xmas Party

**Foam Ranger Events****August****August 19**

Joint Foam Ranger,  
KGB & Mashtronaut  
Meeting  
*DeFalco's*

**August 25**

Pack & Ship (Unpaid)  
Cactus Challenge  
*DeFalco's*

**August 27**

Austin Pub Crawl  
*Saint Arnold & Austin*

**September****September 1**

Pack & Ship (Club Paid)  
MCAB Qualifiers  
*DeFalco's*

**September 4**

DC/Officer's Mtg (3:00)  
First Sunday (4:00)  
*Stag's Head*

**September 10**

Work Saint Arnold Tour  
*Saint Arnold*

**September 10**

Brew-in by Eric Glaves  
*DeFalco's*

**September 16**

September Meeting  
*DeFalco's*

**October****October 1**

Brew-in by Someone  
(Maybe **You?**)  
*DeFalco's*

**October 2**

DC/Officer's Mtg (3:00)  
First Sunday (4:00)  
*Kelvin Arms*



**By Mike Heniff,  
Competition  
Coordinator**

**Competitions:**

The Foam Rangers brought home a LOT of hardware from the Lunar Rendezbrew XII competition. Congratulations

to all the brewers who won and thanks to all Rangers who entered. The Lunar Rendezbrew had its biggest year ever, with over 300 entries.

**F.R. Lunar Rendezbrew Results:****Rob Kolacny**

- 1st Classic American Pilsner
- 1st Schwarzbier
- 1st Extra Special/Strong Bitter
- 1st Herb / Spice / Vegetable Beer
- 2nd Standard American Lager
- 2nd Special/Best/Premium Bitter
- 2nd Fruit Beer
- 3rd Standard American Lager
- 3rd Weizen/Weissbier

**Stuart Strack**

- 1st Common Cider
- 2nd California Common Beer
- 3rd Imperial IPA
- 3rd Old Ale
- 3rd American Barleywine
- 3rd Metheglin
- 3rd Common Cider

**Bev Blackwood**

- 2nd Russian Imperial Stout
- 3rd Dortmund Export

**Bob Daugherty**

- 2nd Belgian Dark Strong Ale
- 3rd Oktoberfest/Marzen

**Jeff Reilly**

- 1st Fruit Lambic
- 2nd Munich Helles

**Michael Heniff**

- 2nd Foreign Extra Stout

**Ed Moore**

- 2nd Other Fruit Melomel

**Kuyler Doyle**

- 1st Fruit Wine

# Competition Corner

**Upcoming Competitions**Competition

Pack and Ship Club Paid Shipping

Cactus Challenge (Lubbock)	8/25/05	No
<a href="http://www.ale-iansociety.org">www.ale-iansociety.org</a>		
MCAB VII (qualifiers only)	9/1/05	Yes
<a href="http://hbd.org/mcab/">http://hbd.org/mcab/</a>		
Dixie Cup (Houston, duh!)	Entries due 10/7 early, 10/14 late	N/A
<a href="http://www.crunchyfrog.net/dixiecup/">http://www.crunchyfrog.net/dixiecup/</a>		

**Gulf Coast Circuit**

Next up is the Dixie Cup. We have a sizable lead in the Gulf Coast points (our 89 to CFHB's 68) but the biggest focus should be on retaining our cup. We have kept it the last 4 years but it will continue to take the efforts of all of our brewers in order to keep it. For those new brewers that haven't entered or that only enter occasionally, you cannot underestimate the amount of pride that you get from getting that Dixie Cup medal and contributing to the victory of the club (not to mention, the entry fees help our OUR CLUB). Get to brewing!!!! Best of luck!!!!

**MCAB (aka Master Championship of Amateur Brewing)**

For those that have qualified for MCAB VII during 2004, it has been scheduled for September 17 in Pennsylvania. The 1999 style guidelines will be used. You each will be contacted individually by the coordinator, Dave Houseman. Best of luck to all competitors!

**Beer Judge Certification Program**

We will have two BJCP exams during October. The dates, times, and locations are as follows:

Wednesday, October 12, 6-9 PM, DeFalco's

Saturday, October 22, 4:30-7:30 PM,  
Comfort Inn (Dixie Cup Hotel)

The cost is \$50 for first time test takers and \$30 for re-takers (\$15 for retaking only one of the two individual sections). Contact Mike Heniff at: [m.heniff@earthlink.net](mailto:m.heniff@earthlink.net) for more information.

# The Path to Beer Enlightenment

By Jimmy "Stairway" Paige

I have not always loved beer. For some, it takes longer than others. It seems, like most things, you have to learn to enjoy things, and so it was with BEER. Think about the early days, in high school, learning the beer ropes on BUD, or whatever was the cheapest swill you could find to share with your neighborhood friends. You did not care what you were drinking, it tasted like shit, whether it was Blatz, or Milwaukee's Best, or generic beer, you just wanted a buzz.

In college, that fine institution of higher learning, you were supposed to be earning a degree in a major field. Although some of us majored in beer Olympics, where the words "quarters" and "thumper", or "bull moose", "shotgun or bong" acquired new meanings. But somewhere along the time line, you were introduced to beers other than Budswilloors. It may have been on a trip overseas, or to Canada, it may have been a friend or relative sharing something new. It may have been in the military. But somewhere, at some time in your life, a light bulb went off in your head, eureka! You had a beer "epiphany", that not all beer tasted like a semisweet chemicalized fizzy beverage. There actually was another world out there, beyond those white, gold and silver cans, and you were going to explore it, as fast as possible.

I was introduced to better beer at a younger age. My brother, who was a Marine, traveled the world and part of his training included sampling the local beers. So when he returned back to Maine, he passed on some of his knowledge to me. At this time also, Sam Adams was just starting out. As a New Englander, Sam Adams was readily accepted. I must admit, it was a good tasting alternative to the mega-brewed offerings. Shortly after, another friend introduced me to homebrewing. I was stationed in the Coast Guard at this time, and found it difficult, if not totally illegal, to try to homebrew on a ship. Even so, the beer and homebrewing seeds had been planted in my mind. And I was bound and determined to homebrew one day. But I still continued to try all the different beers everywhere I went, domestically and internationally.

It was not until after I was married and my wife got sick and tired of hearing me talk about making beer, and tripping over tons of flip top bottles, that she actually mailed ordered my first kit from Vermont Hombrew. Talk about opening up Pandora's Box that Christmas! I think she looks back now and realizes what

a mistake that was. Like the saying goes, give a man a beer and he will be happy, but teach a man to brew and he will be happy forever. Even after all the hundreds of batches of beer I've made, and the thousands of different beers sampled and "resampled" over the years, I still never get tired of drinking a beer. It was after hoisting a few that I realized that we all go through this metamorphosis, a kind of evolution of the beer man that might be traced in the five categories below:

1. Beer Caveman: This stage of the evolution the beer man does not know too much, except how to open a bottle or can. He/She will drink anything, in any combination thereof in search of a buzz.
2. Beer Neophyte: Where you decide, like "Neo" in the Matrix, to take the RED pill, and see how deep the rabbit hole goes. You might have a beer mentor or Beer tutor, who introduces you to new beers and possibly homebrewing. Instead of being controlled by the mega brewers, you break free from their mind controlling beverages and go on a beer expedition.
3. Homebrewer: You become the sponge of beer knowledge, soaking up everything you can on your quest, even joining a homebrew club like the Foam Rangers. You make your first extract batches of beer, and might even do some partial mashes. You experience your first boil over. You continue to try all beers possible. You start hoarding brown bottles and reading Zymurgy. You enter your first Dixie Cup homebrew competition.
4. Full Blown Hophead: You have become an experienced partial mash homebrewer or even all grain. Your homebrew production has exceeded the weight limits of your kitchen stove and you are banished to the garage with your cajun cooker or other apparatus. You enter contests regularly and win often. Your wardrobe is mostly beer trademark apparel;

(Continued on Page 9)

## 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.*

**Mike Heniff**  
281.204.4617 (W)  
281.723.6357 (C)  
*Before 9:00 p.m.*

**Rob Kolacny**  
979.532.8056 (H)  
979.532.1932 (W)  
979.533.1173 (C)  
*Before 10:00 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**  
281.799.8427 (C)  
*Before 9:30 p.m.*

Please respect their stated time preferences when calling!

**DeFalco's**  
713.668.9440  
*Business Hours only*



Wait honey, you spilled a bit of beer.. I'll get it.



I've heard of being joined at the hip, but this is ridiculous.



Rob toasts Hazel's unique choice of "swimwear"



Colby Sheridan: Babe magnet.



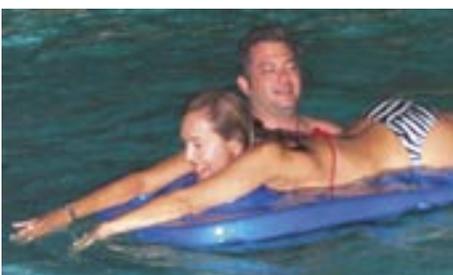
Sean, beer, power tools... BAD idea.



# FOAM RANGER

Scott "Quagmire" Weizenhoffer puts his "best gut" forward.

So wet, yet so dry.



Scott enjoys the scenery. Giggity-giggity!





The Foam Rangers redefine the "wet bar" concept.



Sandy finds that getting a beer is a bit of a stretch.



Ask any Ranger...  
The meeting's not over until everyone's wet.



Hazel twists the night away.



Steve "waters the plants" if ya know what I mean...

# FOTO PAGES



What do ya say George?  
Maybe go for a float?  
Hm? Bit of a swim? Hm?

Hey Bev! We think you're number one!



"Um, Laurel, this part of the pool isn't warmer just because of the people."

# The Dixie Cup Approacheth

By Colby Sheridan  
Soon-to-be-former Dixie Cup  
Coordinator

It's August, 3 months to Dixie Cup. Woo-hoo! It's 3 months to Dixie Cup! However, to Rob and me, it's: "Holy crap, it's 3 months to Dixie Cup!" As you may have heard, my family and I are relocating to Atlanta. Therefore, I'll be leaving the Foam Rangers in search of other beer geeks uh...I mean a homebrew club. Secondary Fermenter Rob Kolacny has bravely agreed to assume Dixie Cup leadership and planning, and get all the corresponding glory in October. Thanks, Rob!!!

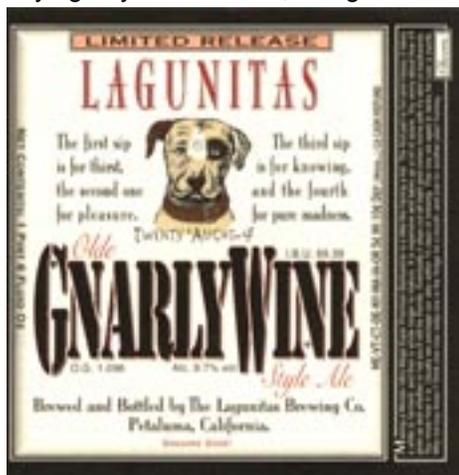
So far, we are well on our way to having what I'd like to think will be the biggest, best Dixie Cup ever! *Sparge Wars - Episode 22: Return of the Fred!* Sam Calagione, founder of Dogfish Head will be our keynote speaker, along with Brian Dunn of Great Divide and John Palmer, author of the excellent "How to Brew." Of course, Dixie Cup would not be Dixie Cup without Fred Eckhardt doing the Fred tasting. This year's theme will be "Surrender to the Dark Side – Pairings with Dark Beers". Thursday we will be having our reception at the Orange Show. We will also have the fabulous, gourmet Pot Luck dinner on Friday night and the pub crawl on Saturday. We'll be having a warm up pub crawl on August 27th to Austin. Copious quantities of barleywine will be available to help get your liver into Dixie Cup shape.

So, I know you're reading this and saying to yourself: "Self, I've got to

get involved. I want to be a part of Dixie Cup! But what could I do? I'm no Jedi!" Well, no, you're not. But here's exactly what you could do: Brew. And brew again and again. Did I say brew? All of the same clubs that covet the cup are yearning for it again. They want it bad. So we need your beers entered proudly as a Foam Ranger to fend off the evil empire. Or something like that. Seriously though, we need you to brew. Bring your beers to a meeting if you're unsure of it or its style. In October the real fun kicks in. We'll need your help sorting the 1200+ (hopefully) entries at St. Arnolds. It sounds like work, but it's not. You're with your friends and you can drink beer. How bad can that be? Then show up for the judging. If you're not a judge, you can help steward. Stewarding's a fantastic way to get to know different beer styles, your fellow club members and to get a cheap drunk on. However, be respectful enough of those around you that are working by helping out before passing out.

So, that's Dixie Cup in a nutshell. This is your competition. Your contribution directly correlates into how well it goes. You know: the more you put into it the more you get out...yadda yadda yadda. You may recall the awesome write up we received in Zymurgy last year. We have the momentum and national visibility. It stung a little to see that Bluebonnet had more entries in February than we had last year. We aim to fix that. It's up to you to ensure we have not only the biggest single site homebrewing competition in the country, but also the best!

**Thanks to C.R. Goodman  
for their ongoing support  
of the Foam Rangers!  
Support their brands!**



(Continued from Page 2)

Beeriac treated some lucky Rangers to the special extra-strong Guinness from Belgium. I also tried some of E.Mo's English Bitter and a beer from Storge West. I can't remember the style nor read my own handwriting. The artist formerly known as Budvar, Czechvar, was next in the BOM tasting. I chased it with the Grand Wazoo's IPA.

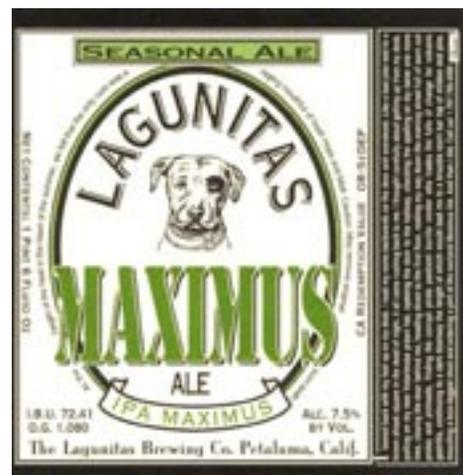
Jennifer Chance and Laurel Martinez judged the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Pool Party Furrriest Foam Ranger Contest.

Our own Brewsletter editor, Bev Blackwood, took third place. Colby Sheridan got the red ribbon. Colby and Bev have similar follicle density, but Bev recieved special praise for his impressive fluffiness. The clear winner of the coveted first place was Leroy Gibbons. Bev saluted his achievement with an enthusiastic Chewbacca the Wookiee yell. I was disappointed that I didn't place, but with Colby gone, maybe I'll have a chance next year.

Either that or I'll spring for electrolysis or that laser treatment or something. Sometime around then I ended up in the pool and lost the will to take notes on the BOM beers. Nobody really seems to remember what happened for extended periods of time after that, a phenomenon that the ancient Greeks called Tempus Beer Us.

The Rangers are still seeking the person who gently escorted Hazel into the pool in spite of the fact that she did not have appropriate pool togs.

The Department of Foamland security has code-named this person Pushy McDrunk. He or she is considered to be drunk and dangerous. If you have information as to the identity or whereabouts of this terrorist, contact your local Wazoo.



you look like a walking, talking microbrewery advertisement. Your neighbors look at you funny with your odd equipment out in the driveway, steaming away, thinking you are a moonshiner with all these copper coils. You have more refrigerators in your garage than your house, and throw around words like diacetyl, IBUs, oxidization, and target gravity. You stump the tour guides at brewery tours, just for fun. You can easily name 5 or more hops beginning with the letter "C". You become a BJCP certified judge. Your vacations require stops at all microbreweries and brewpubs. You get pulled over by the Oklahoma police, because they suspect your pick-up truck bed chock full of beer is not for personal use only. You now live, sleep and dream in beerspeak, the official language of all hopheads, where words like corny, cascades, hot break, mash, and decoction have new meaning. You have forgotten what a Budswillors, one of the first beers you ever had, tastes like. You wear the silver "badge", but you are not a policeman.

- 5. Morpheus: You reach self-enlightenment. You now work to spread the word to others and steer other beer drinkers to homebrew nirvana, teaching others how to judge beer and become better homebrewers. Your beer senses carry over into other foods, analyzing spice levels and other aromatics. You volunteer your time at the Dixie Cup and become a club officer. You realize you never will find that perfect pint, as another will always replace it.

So, wherever you might be on your path to beer enlightenment, keep brewing, keep learning, and share your homebrews, your stories and other experiences with others! Skol brothers!

# FOAM RANGER FOTOS FROM LUNAR RENDEZBREW XII

Photos by Michael Heniff  
and Mark Mollere



It's July...  
Shade good



Best of Show and  
Loudest of Shirts

Mike wins the traditional "hand over hand" with the tasting cups to determine who gets to open the first bottle of beer.



Striking his best Hitler Youth pose, Stuart accepts yet another medal from the icy Hooters girl.



Chicks dig the Fez!



Ed can't decide what color medal he wants.



(Continued from Page 3)

surprise to the drinker – it tastes the way it smells: balanced towards the bitterness and hop flavor, with supporting malt complexity including caramel sweetness, nutty and biscuity. It finishes somewhat dry.

Across the pond, the Americans have developed their own style of Pale Ale whose signature is the citrusy American hop varieties. With an O.G. of 1.045 – 1.060, that finishes around 1.013, and a bitterness level of 30 – 45+, it seems the mirror image of its English cousin. It too is balanced towards the hops with a supporting malt complexity in both aroma and flavor. But the American Pale Ale is a product of its adaptation to indigenous American ingredients, and that is where it differs from the English versions. Because of the American malt, the caramel flavors are usually lacking; because of the Pacific Coast yeast varieties, the fermentations are cleaner and the fruity esters are toned down; and because of the American hop varieties (and their usually high alpha acid %), they are usually dominated by the citrusy flavor and aroma.”

Master Heniff notices that the Foam Ranger agents, Boba Putz and T-Bob Fet have just arrived and are in deep conversation with Master Stairway and are interrupting his lecture.

“Is there something you want to share with the rest of the class?” demands Heniff.

“Why yes,” replies Stairway. “Actually there is! My agents have informed me that the AB Empire is at it again. The Emperor has created an army of Clone Brewers. Lead by the Sith Brewer, they intend to win

the Dixie Cup and crush the Rebellion once and for all! There are also rumors that the Empire has already started construction on a new ‘Death Tun’ and plans to incorporate into it, a new Rice Hull Counter Measure Defense to prevent it from the same demise as its sister.”

“That ‘Death Tun’ must not reach completion!” warns Master Heniff.

“It will be impenetrable this time and they will be expecting us. What are its defenses now?”

“It is protected by a force shield,” replied Boba Putz.

“The generator is located on the small planet about which it orbits,” added T-Bob Fet.

“Master Stairway,” ordered Master Heniff. “We must start plans to defeat the shield generator on that planet. I will meet with the Fredi Council and find a solution. You and RK will rally the Foam Rangers and inspire them to brew like they never have before. The fate of the Dixie Cup relies on them out-brewing the Sith Brewer and the Clones.”

“Agreed,” answered Stairway. “And I know the perfect place to rally them: Flobey Solo’s Foam Ranger pool party!”

“Cool, a pool party,” interrupted Han Dewalt. “Can I come too?”

“I suppose,” replied Stairway. “We can use all the help we can get...”

So Stairway, Dewalt, RK and the brew droids converge on Flobey Solo’s pool party. The whole gang is there and Leroy has been crowned: *King of the Wookies*, by virtue of being the hairiest. Much to the dismay of Chew Bennie! Because, as King, he is awarded Princess Sandy, complete with bikini! The coronation celebration

## August 27th Austin Pub Crawl Itinerary

Itinerary	Destination
9:00 AM	Depart St. Arnold Arrive
11:30 AM	Live Oak Brewery Depart
12:00	Live Oak Brewery Arrive
12:15	Indepence Brewery Depart
12:45	Indepence Brewery Arrive
1:00	Arrive 6th Street
5:00	Depart 6th Street
5:15	Arrive Draught House
6:15	Depart Draught House
6:15	Arrive Central Market
6:30	Depart Central Market Arrive
6:45	North by Northwest Depart
8:00	North by Northwest Arrive
10:30	Arrive St. Arnold's

is in full swing – a few Foam Rangers are already partially nude! (and in some cases, that’s a GOOD thing!) Stairway interrupts the celebration: “Ok, you drunks! Gather ‘round! I’ve got something important to say!” Just then, General Lindsey and Commander Lamb grab Stairway and RK and attempt to throw them in the pool! Stairway waves his hand in front of them and says “These aren’t the drunks you are looking for.” The two assailants stop momentarily, looking befuddled. They then resume what they are doing but grab the Waz instead and throw him in again. “Listen up!” demanded Stairway. “The Empire is at it again! They have started to build a new ‘Death Tun’! The Fredi Council is meeting right

now to devise a plan to destroy it before it’s completed. But we here have a more urgent problem: The Emperor has created an Army of Clone Brewers! Lead by the Sith Brewer, they have been brewing their asses off in an attempt to win the Dixie Cup. The only way to defeat them is to out-brew them and out-enter them! Every Foam Ranger must brew his part! Help me fellow Foamies, you’re my only hope!



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**(Continued from Page 1)**

Are they an active brewer or someone like Steve Moore? Ale or lager brewer? Mike didn't even get them to specify who it is in writing!?" Tom "Beerbo" Witaneck, overhearing Kolacny's comments, interjected drunkenly: "Don't forget the barleywine! We also got a CASE of BAR-LEEEEEEEWINE!" Kolacny, unmoved, responded with. "Oh yeah, right... barleywine. I forgot about that... but it's BAD barleywine. It's called Festive Ale's Sweetwater and we had some at the February meeting. Don't you remember? It's crap! It was oxidized and I don't mean that good way that English barleywines can be either! Now if they had sent us [Rogue's] 'Old Crusty' or [Victory's] 'Old Horizontal' I'd be behind this deal 100%, but my friend and probable successor 'Flobee' Sheridan is worth more than a case of STALE barleywine!"

The vagueness of the term "a brewer to be named later" also dashed the hopes of long time Rangers such as Steve Moore. Moore hoped that former Foam Rangers Jeff "Surlly Boy" Humphreys might be exchanged for Sheridan. Humphreys, a former DeFalco's employee, was a winner of the Templeton Award at the Dixie Cup several years ago and was also the brewer at the now defunct Houston brewpubs, Bank Draft and the Mercantile. Afterwards, he worked at a computer company before moving to Atlanta. Many had hoped he would return.

Stuart Strack suspects duplicity in the decision of his fellow Pearlander Heniff to deal Colby to Atlanta. "Heniff, see, has been getting worried that Colby's barleywine was getting almost as good as his OWN national award winning barleywine. By trading Colby away he won't have to worry about competition anymore." Glancing around and lowering his voice, he confides, "Heniff just could not stand the thought that there might be one ale or hybrid category at the Dixie Cup that he might not win. That's my theory and I'm sticking to it no matter what facts we later uncover."

Sean Lamb expressed yet another concern of club members. "Damn...if Beeriac [Heniff] will trade Colby, none

of us is friggin' safe! Colby brewed great beers (even the styles he didn't like). He hosted wonderful "clothing optional" summer pool parties and he worked his butt off getting this year's Dixie Cup all ready to go! And this is the thanks he gets! Where's the loyalty, I ask? Where's the loyalty?" Since the trade, many Foam Rangers are now demanding "no trade" clauses on their 2006 membership applications before they submit and pay for them at the Twenty-Second Dixie Cup in October of this year. Rumors are circulating that Heniff's extraordinary trade was actually made in error rather than for selfish or personal reasons. A confidential source wishing to go by the name of "Deep Mash," told this reporter: "Beeriac was blotto, wasted, toasted, gone when he pulled this one off. He meant to send ANDREW Sheridan to Atlanta but typed COLBY's name instead in the trade contract. Now he's too proud to admit the goof!" Heniff, when asked about this possibility, denied it vociferously. "Those rumors have no basis in fact. Let's face it with so many of our great brewers in semi-retirement we need new blood. After our all too narrow victories at last year's Dixie Cup and the Bluebonnet this year we must admit that this will be a rebuilding year for the club and I'm the chief architect!" DeFalco's brewshop owner Scott Birdwell offered shocking evidence to support the trade error theory: "I don't think I'm revealing any top secrets to say that Colby was a bit more popular than his brother Andrew. It had to be an error. Had to be." Birdwell, a longtime baseball fan, concluded, "I don't want to say that this trade was AS bad as the one that sent Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1920 and kept Boston from winning a World Series for eighty-five years but it's close! If

we don't win the Dixie Cup for the next few years, I guess we can chalk it up to the 'Curse of Colbito' rather than the 'Curse of the Bambino.'"

**(Continued from Page 1)**

Belgian beers were brewed as well. Austin pub crawl is a very unique event and is always fun. Any remaining tickets will be made available to the public so there may not be any left by the Saturday of the Pub Crawl so be sure to let me know if you are going ASAP. The pub crawl will take place for Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Seats are going fast and will cost \$25 for homebrew club members. If there are any spaces left, we will sell them to the public for \$30.

Please remember to pay your dues and volunteer to help YOUR Dixie Cup. The Brewsletter will not be sent to non dues paying members. The great selection of beer (Thanks Colby, T Bob and assorted brewers) and food (Thanks Milton) are there for your enjoyment. The beer and food are complimentary, so be sure to pay your dues and for the many that have paid, thank you for supporting your club. Keep on brewing and be sure to make the Dixie Cup meetings to give your input for the Dixie Cup



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

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Paid between October 1 & November 30	\$25.00 / \$35.00 (Includes the next year!)

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