



The Foam Rangers Newsletter Urquell

All the beer that's fit to drink

September- Volume 28 Pints- Issue 9

Oh Golden grains!

Out of the Wazoo

Dixie Cup Madness

Octoberfest

Picture Pages

Competition Update

**September
Meeting:**

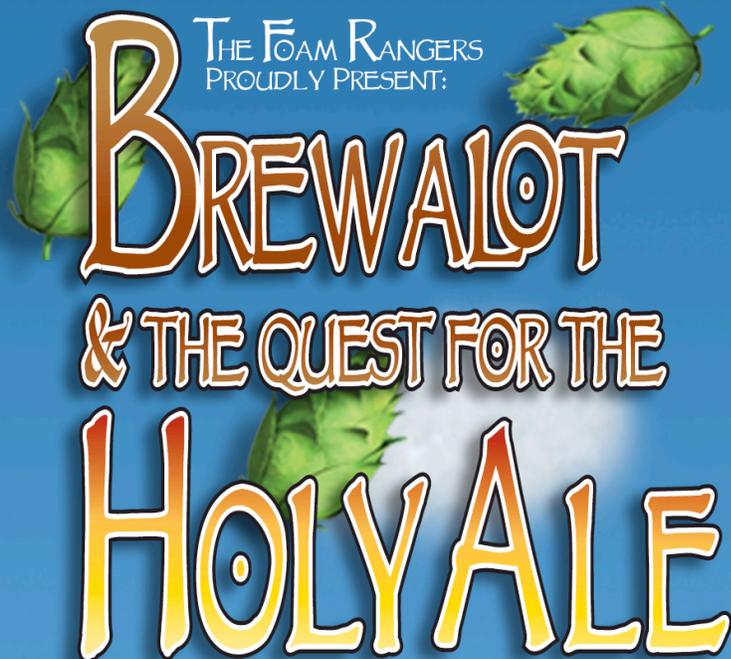
**Friday
September
21st**

Defalco's

8:00 p.m.

THE FOAM RANGERS
PROUDLY PRESENT:

BREWALOT
& THE QUEST FOR THE
HOLY ALE



DIXIE CUP XXIV

HOME BREW COMPETITION • OCTOBER 19-20, 2007
HOUSTON, TEXAS

**Will
you accept
the Quest?**

The Brewsletter Urquell

The Official Foam Rangers
Zine

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Wear your Lederhosen and get
your October fest on...

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Out (of) The Wazoo



By
Grand
Wazoo

"Titanic"
Bob

I hope everyone is gearing up for the upcoming Dixie Cup! For it to continue to be the nation's best homebrew competition, we will need **everyone's** help. Judging a thousand or so entries always presents a tremendous challenge and we have plenty of days you can help (Sunday October 7, Tuesday October 9th, Sunday October 14th and, if necessary, Tuesday October 16th) I know you can't come every day **but if every Ranger would come to at least one session it would really help.** "But I can't judge T Bob, "you say! Well we will need stewards but, even better, we need folks to come out and help us sort entries at Saint Arnold's Saturday September 29th and Saturday October 6th. We also need people to do computer data entry those days, so if you have a wireless enabled laptop, bring it out one of those days!

Though we plan on having some great commercial beers on tap (for some reason Bigfoot and Foghorn come to mind!) we need members to share some of their great homebrew (even just a gallon or two!)

Our Potluck dinner has become famous and we need Rangers to cook and bring food to it and/or Thursday night's Orange Show.

Be sure to make your reservations at the 290 Crown Plaza as soon as possible and

make sure you insist on the Dixie Cup \$69 (hey, hey) rate!

However, most important **we need Rangers to bottle some of that excellent beer you made this year and ENTER it!** Early entries are due Friday September 28th but you can bring them to Saint Arnold's the next morning for sorting. Late entries will be accepted through Friday October 5th. Though are in pretty good shape to remain Texas Club of the year, **we will need your entries to keep either the Mashtro-nauts or the KGB from taking our beloved Dixie Cup from us!** Remember... we, and we alone, should get to drink Bigfoot from that cup! So enter!

Many were deeply hurt by the untimely death of the world's most famous and best beer writer this month—Michael Jackson. As much as anyone, MJ was responsible for the renewed interest in craft (particularly Belgian) beers and for getting many of us into brewing. His books still set the standard and cannot be topped for accuracy and readability and were the first I read (and still read!) We can take some contentment in the fact that he will live long after his death through his words but we would have loved him to be able to write so much more! Many Rangers (especially Scott Birdwell) knew him personally and counted MJ as friend. They bear an even greater loss. I hope everyone raised a toast to Mr. Jackson and if not, we will as a club, at our meeting this Friday! I hope there is good beer in Heaven Michael! (And if so...we expect a review soon!)

We also will be saying adios to one of the most generous and talented homebrewers in the area—Was Waz and KGB Czar Ed "E Mo" Moore. Ed has accepted a position and will move to that beer desert known as Denver, Colorado. As much as anyone in our club, E Mo was always willing to host a brew-in, acquire and share a rare beer or fill out a missing category from his incredible stash of homebrewed beer or do

(Continued on Page 11)

Octoberfest

Secondary Fermenter Scott Dewalt



enough, it does not produce Vienna lager. No, the Mexicans brew that. Well, Austrian brewers who migrated to Mexico and brought the European Amber Lager with them. You'll enjoy a fine Mexican-Austrian beer of the Vienna lager style when you have Negro Modelo. Please do not confused Vienna lager with the Venetian style which is called wine. But I digress. Vienna lagers are very similar to Oktoberfest beers but have a bit less malt intensity yet still are very clean, hop supported and amber.

Oktoberfest and Vienna Lagers are European in origin, amber and lagers. This leads one to try and explain why these two beers make up the entire European Amber Lager category (category 3) of the BJCP guidelines. I'll leave it to smarter people than me to differentiate between Oktoberfest and Marzen – to me they seem interchangeable.

Suggestions for brewing any of these beers is subject to personal opinions. One can brew a great example using some Munich / Vienna malt or using them as the base malt. The more Munich and/or Vienna you add, the more intense your malt flavor will be but the beer needs to be balanced with hops and should not come across as cloying. Use a noble hop and one addition, just to find the fine line of balance, is sufficient. Use you favorite lager yeast or one of the yeasts from the suppliers with the style in the name. Brew this beer in April/May and enjoy in September – like a good Foam Ranger should do.

So a loooooong time ago in a place far, far away, this German dude who eventually wore a crown and had all the little people marvel at his importantness married a woman with a very long name and decided to throw a very long party. During this five-day party the guests were awed by horse racing in what seemed to be a BYOB gig. This celebration became an annual affair but the peeps were upset because of the BYOB nature of the event. Things changed and eventually beer was sold. Today we know this annual celebration as Oktoberfest. My, have times changed. The over six-million people who visit Germany during the Oktoberfest consume an estimated 1.5 million gallons of beer, most of which is rumored to be brewed on Jeff Rielly's rig over the course of a lazy afternoon.

Naturally as Foam Rangers, being a busy lot in October, we celebrate Oktoberfest in September. Busy and impatient. Why wait a whole 'nuther month for something so good? What is Oktoberfest beer? Well, think orange and malty with supporting hops. This is a lager, very clean and soft, never cloying. It is part of the European Amber Lager style and is also referred to as Marzen (my umlaut key is broken but imagine a couple of dots of the a and you get the picture – silly German characters.) In the same category, you'll also find Vienna Lager which has an interesting story as well.

So, there is a city called Vienna, in Austria. Not just a city but THE city. The capital city. It has houses and streets and everything. It also has breweries. Interestingly



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Beer of the Month Calendar

January
Porter & Stout

February
Barleywine & Holiday Beer

March
Belgian Ales & Lambics

April
Brown, Old, Scotch, Irish

May
Bocks, Dark Lagers, Dunkel

June
Wheat, Wit, Fruit & Rye

July
Light Lagers & Ales

August
Pale Ale, Bitter & Steam

September
Oktoberfest & Smoked

October
Dixie Cup

November
I.P.A. & Ambers

December
Homebrewer's Xmas Party

The Doakenator



The Scrivener Doak Proctor

More than that, get your entries in and make your hotel reservations soon, as you only have about a couple weeks left to do so. Don't look to me to twist your arm about it too much, though. If you want to pay an extra \$3 per entry and sleep out on the parking lot, go right ahead. You're all grown-ups, and I'll let you act like it.

Okay, upon a good three seconds' reflection, I must retract that last statement. Here's what you need to do: **GET YOUR ENTRIES IN. MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS. NOW.**

Moving on, we made it to the raffle, and an exciting thing happened when we did. That's right, it was Ladies' Night at the Foam Rangers raffle! I don't know how they did, but the Bastards somehow got Sandy to draw a whole bundle of tickets held by the double-X-chromosome crowd. What generous gentlemen! Bless their hearts, though, they left the grand prize, plastic, Brazilian Brahma light-up beer sign for yours truly. That'll go perfect next to the Löwenbräu neon in the Doak Zone. Allow me to give great thanks to Fundrew Sheridan for donating it.

Once we made it to First Sunday (held a week late due to Labor Day), more happiness ensued. We moved the locale to the Flying Saucer for a couple reasons. First, they just rock like Jimi Hendrix, AC/DC, the Ramones, The Clash, and Engelbert Humperdinck all rolled into one. The second, more important reason was to celebrate Emil Campos's plate unveiled in the Ring of Honor that day. For those that don't know, Emil is our oh-so-patient Newsletter Editor.

So, that's about it for this month. See y'all at the Dixie Cup!

Even though a month has gone on by, it seems like we just had a meeting yesterday. The funny thing is, I remember about as much and have about as many notes about yesterday as I do about the September meeting. That's good, though, because I had a good yesterday.

I doubt you want to hear about it, though, so let's just deal with the meeting.

Our good Secondary, Scott DeWalt assembled a bunch of the finest pale ales and biters available around here, peppered with a bunch of bodacious bootlegged brews, courtesy of the Wests. As exciting as that is, we got to witness and benefit from one of the most serendipitous slip-ups in Foam Ranger history: DeWalt it was also an IPA meeting. Does it get any better than coming across a bunch of IPAs that you didn't expect to be there? Really, does it?

Well, it sure as heck does when you have a tasting to choose the club's entrant in the club only barleywine competition. After the Foam Rangers division of the Jedi Council finished divining which offering was strongest with the Force, the rest of us got to check out the boneyard of beers that missed the final cut. As far as leftovers go, that'll beat the tar out of your Grandma Sally's Tuna Surprise, I tell you what.

When it got down to business time, the Wazoo kept it short and sweet and concentrated a bit on a subject that is near and dear to my heart: Dixie Cup XXIV. It's right around the corner, so get psyched.

Foam Ranger Calendar

September 21st

FoamRangers
meeting S.O.M
Octoberfest

28th

Dixie Cup
Entries Due

29th

Dixie Cup Sorting
August

October

5th

Late Entries
Due for
Dixie Cup

6th

Final Sorting
Dixie Cup

7th

First Officer Meeting
& 1st Round
Judging
(Additional Dates
TBD)

18th

Dixie Cup
Welcome reception
at
Orange Show

19th-20th

Dixie Cup
Crowne Plaza
Brookhollow

Competition Corner



Competition Coordinator

Mike
Heniff

raffles, a huge potluck spread, barleywine tasting, and tons of beer. All this for free for just being a dues-paying Foam Ranger member (well, the pub crawl is extra).

Competition Pack and Ship Club Paid Shipping
AHA Club-only Bock Sep 20 Yes

<http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/club.html>

Sunshine Challenge (MCAB) Sep 27 Yes

<http://www.cfhb.org>

Dixie Cup (MCAB, LSC) Sep 28 (early) Drop-off
Oct 5 (late)

<http://www.crunchyfrog.net/dixiecup/>

Competition Results

Limbo Challenge, Dallas, TX

R. Kolacny 1st Light Lager
R. Kolacny 2nd Light Hybrid
R. Kolacny 1st English Pale Ale

M. Heniff 2nd English Mild
M. Heniff 1st Belgian Wit
M. Heniff 3rd Fruit Beer (Apricot Wit)

R. Kolacny 2nd Best of Show (English Best Bitter)

Cactus Challenge, Lubbock, TX

M. Heniff 1st Imperial Stout
M. Heniff 2nd Baltic Porter

E. Moore 1st Spice Beer
E. Moore 2nd Light Hybrid

Dixie Cup!!

This is our own competition and the finale of the [Lone Star Circuit](#). To keep our club trophy – The Dixie Cup – we will need a ton of entries. Entries for Dixie Cup will be due October 5th! More info can be found at <http://www.crunchyfrog.net/dixiecup/>.

Also, get your [hotel room](#) now. All of the weekends events are at or near the hotel so being at the hotel keeps you close to the action (and helps you avoid that nasty DUI).

Events not to miss include the Fred Tasting (guided by legendary homebrewing pioneer, Fred Eckhardt), pub crawl, judging!, milli-conference with Randy Mosher and Steve Grossman from Sierra Nevada, two mega-



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

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&
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Oktoberfest, Christmas Ale

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**THIS BIG
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IS CRUSHING
MY GRAINS**



**SOMEDAY I
WILL RULE ALL
OF YOU.**

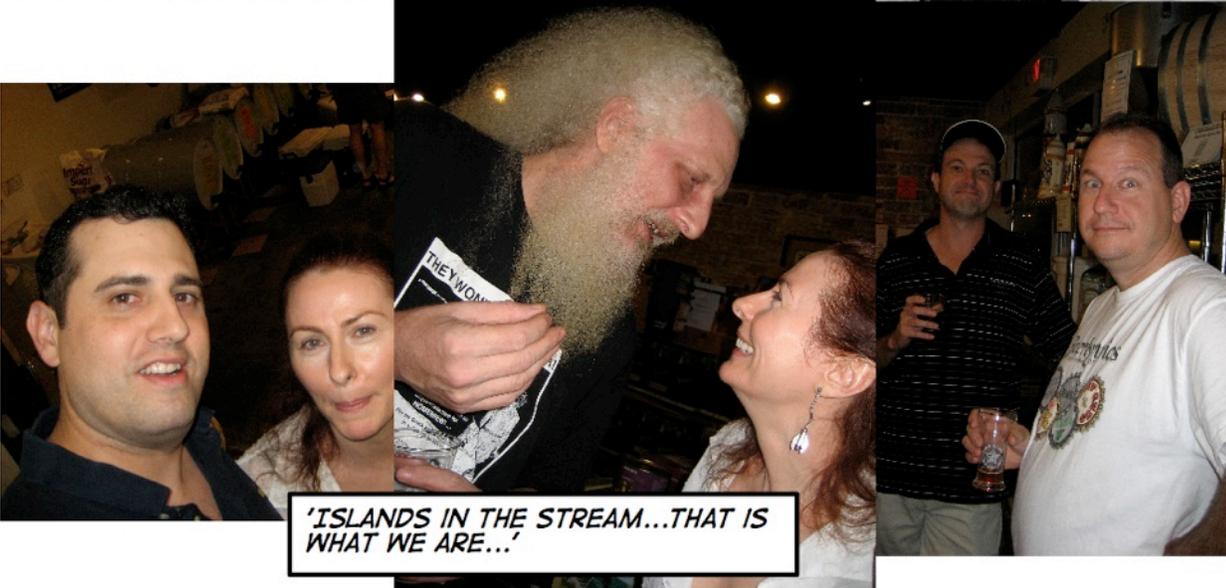
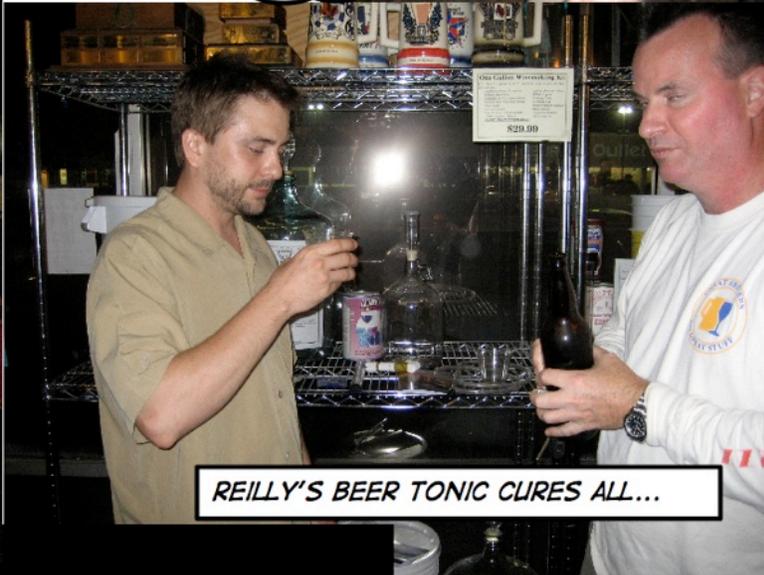


**DO YOU DREAM
ABOUT BREWING?**

**YES I DO &
LONGHORN
FOOTBALL**



**BASTARD'S
COMPILING A
BEER LIST TO
PILFER AT DIXIE**



THE ADULT BEER TOYS COME OUT AND THE LADIES ARE HAPPY...



JANET JACKSON'S NEW ACCESORIES...



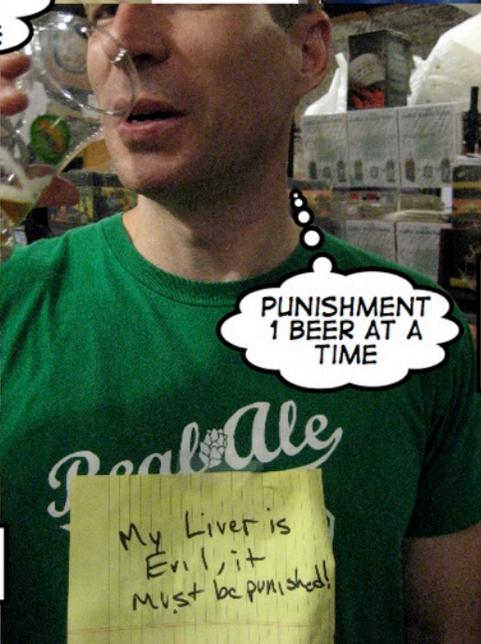
YEAH GIRLS JUST DON'T LIKE THOSE 'WIFE BEATER' T-SHIRTS. GO FIGURE



JIMMY WORKING OFF HIS TAB AT THE SHOP...



PLENTY OF READING MATERIAL IN THE DEFALCO'S BATHROOM



PUNISHMENT 1 BEER AT A TIME



WHITELABS STOGIES



200 BEERS AT THE FLYING SAUCER & ALL I GOT WAS A PLATE BY THE BATHROOMS...



ANONYMOUS BEER CRITIC



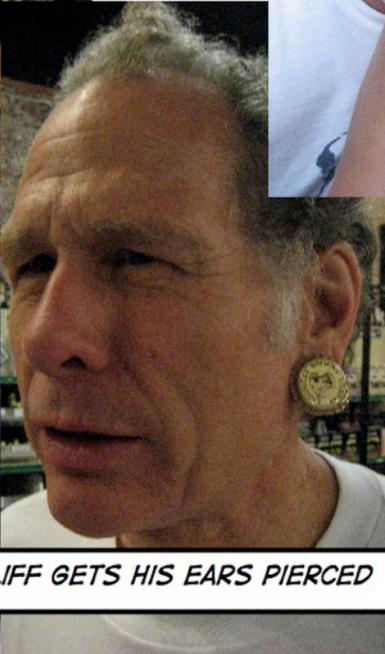
DIXIE CLIP PLANNING



...AHEM (INSERT YOUR OWN CAPTION)



CLIFF GETS HIS EARS PIERCED



(Wazoo from page 2)

whatever it took. Ed always took our ribbing (and there was a lot of it) about his cats and his brewery in a great spirit. I will also miss our trips to see the symphony as well Ed as well as our pre post symphony sessions at the Saucer! Houston's homebrewing will be much poorer without E Mo but at least we all now have an additional reason to visit Denver and now a place to stay! Good Luck E Mo!

We have had two Brew-Ins since our last *Brewsletter*. Sean Lamb brewed a porter at end of August. Sean said he did not get the volume he wanted I think he just wanted a 1.070+ Imperial Robust Porter. Let's hope it is ready for the D Cup! A couple of weeks ago our treasurer Eric Glaves had to contend with both strong winds and rain to brew an American Stout! I appreciate the help of these guys. Because of the Dixie Cup, we will not have a Brew In in October but do need a volunteer for November and December. Let me know if you are interested!

Finally **occifer (as I like to say) elections will soon be upon us.** We will need candidates for Grand Wazoo, Secondary, Scrivener, Treasurer and, if our editor decides to leave, the *Brewsletter* Editor. Most important **we will need a volunteer to run the 2008 Dixie Cup.** We also need folks to take up the job that Paul Levy, Sandy West and Rebecca Weitzenhoffer have so ably filled this year- food provisionaries! Theses folks have keep many of us from feeling really bad after a night of Barleywine, Imperial Stouts or dozens of Belgians and deserve our thanks!

Well that about wraps it up! Please offer help to our Dixie Cup coordinator Doak Proctor and do your part! (and put back a couple of hard to find barleywines for the Saturday morning Dixie Cup barleywine tasting!) I'll see you all at our meeting this Friday September 21 at 8 PM at Defalco's!

From the Archives: Michael Jackson in the Late 80's.



The Foam Rangers Homebrew Club
Brewsletter office
8715 Stella Link
Houston, TX 77025



The September
club meeting is:
8 p.m. Friday,
September 21st
at Defalco's

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| Paid between January 1 & March 31 | \$25.00 / \$35.00 |
| Paid between April 1 & June 30 | \$22.50 / \$31.25 |
| Paid between July 1 & September 30 | \$20.00 / \$27.50 |
| Paid between October 1 & November 30 | \$25.00 / \$35.00 (Includes next year) |

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