



The Foam Rangers Newsletter Urquell

All the beer that's fit to drink

January- Volume 29 Pints- Issue 1



**A new Waz is
crowned.**

**Out of the Wazoo
Porters & Stouts
Competition Corner
Picture pages**

**January
Meeting:**

**Stouts
Friday
January
18th**

**Defalco's
8:00 p.m.**

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Competition Coordinator
???

Was Waz
T-Bob Daugherty

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Out (of) The Wazoo



**By Grand
Wazoo**

**Scott
Dewalt**

The Foam Rangers is an amazing organization. Established in 1981, the group has been a force for good in the home brewing universe. There are so many stories generated each and every year. Hardly a meeting goes by without one of the "old timers" saying, "I remember when..."

Another year and another group of volunteers to help ensure stories continue to accrue. I welcome the new officers and wish them luck continuing the traditions that have made the club what it is today.

There seems to be some contention about where the phrase, "Standing on the shoulders of giants" came from. What an incredibly visual and powerful metaphor. We certainly know Issac Newton used the expression to explain from where his ideas of gravity and optics came. Einstein is quoted by our modern-day equivalent (Stephen Hawkings) as having used the phrase as well. But this expression is not related to just scientist. Everything any Waz hopes to do for the club is built on the experience and effort of those that came before.

I want to express my heart-felt thanks for the time and effort Bob Daugherty has put into the club over the years – especially over the last year as Waz. T-Bob has been tireless in his support to the club during his Wazooship. He's been at nearly every event and has cooked often for those who have helped with brew-ins. He's a great person to represent the club and we all owe him a big Thank You for his and Nannette's efforts.

I could spend the entire article thanking those who have helped me as Secondary last year and who promise to keep my on my toes this year; but what's the point? Most of you have quit reading already. <haha>

In February, we're hosting the twentieth MCAB, a competition the Foam Rangers helped create. To qualify for the event (it is an invitational), you have to place first in a qualifying competition like the Dixie Cup. This year we'll be judging and running the competition from St. Arnold's Brewery. Please ask Rob Kolacny what you can do to help. It'll be held February 8th and 9th. If you are a BJCP judge, please plan on helping. If you're not a BJCP judge, please plan on helping.

Of course we've the upcoming Bluebonnet competition in Dallas. This large competition has been ours to take for several years now. Though the entries to the Dixie Cup have lagged over the last few years, the Foam Rangers have entered their competition in force. We'll need to bring our game again if we wish to retain the Bluebonnet Cup so if you are interested in entering this competition, please begin your brewing and packaging now.

And we will be starting the planning for this year's Dixie Cup very soon now. If you'd like to help in planning and putting on this legendary event, please let me know. As of now, we expect the event to be held at the same hotel we used last year. Why they keep inviting us back is anyone's guess.

There are a few changes we are looking at making this year. We plan on changing the monthly 1st Sunday meetings to quarterly events. Our next 1st Sunday meeting will be a combined meeting with the KGB at BJ's at Willowbrook. This will be held on Sunday, February 2nd starting at 3PM.

So we go forward in a new year with a new group. Thank you to everyone in the club for making this such a fun organization. Now as my first command as the new Wazzoo, "Pay your <insert choice of expletive here> dues!"

Porter & Stout



Secondary Fermenter

“Storge” West

First off let me thank everyone for allowing me to be your Secondary this year. Variety being the spice of life, my goal is to bring you the widest selection of beers humanly possible. This month's meeting centers around one of my favorite styles, porters and stouts, not just a tasty group of beers, but a historically significant one at that. Originally thought to be a blend of three ales of differing age and strength which together were known as “entire”, porter became the drink of choice in England in the 1700 and 1800s (it is first mentioned in 1726). It initially gained popularity among porters in the markets of central London that some say survived on pints of porter and several pounds of bread each day. Porter is dark so you often don't notice if it's cloudy while the roast malt helped mask off-flavors. Soon affluent citizens also embraced porter, igniting an explosion within the British brewing industry. Huge wooden vats were constructed for fermentation and aging that could take up to a year. The largest vat in the world which held 860,000 gallons was built by the Meux Brewery in London and as was the custom before the vat was used, a huge celebration dinner was held inside. In October of 1814 one of the biggest vats at the Meux Brewery collapsed, sending a tidal wave of porter through the streets. Homes were demolished and eight people lost their lives as a result, by drowning, alcohol poisoning, and injury. Despite the tragedy porter remained king and eventually attracted the attention of beer drinkers on the continent that commissioned a “stout” or strong porter that could make the journey. The Russian Imperial court began ordering large volumes which were eventually labeled “Imperial Stout Porter”. Immigrants from Britain and others in northern Europe also

began to brew similar high alcohol porters, although they soon adopted the practice of using lager rather than ale yeast creating what we now call Baltic Porter. What we now call stout was originally porter and to many the distinction remains a source of contention despite some effort to pigeon-hole the two. Ireland actually imported porter throughout the early 18th century and Guinness, established in 1759 did not produce its porter varieties until the 1770s. In 1820 the company renamed its XX Porter “Extra Stout Porter” and its XXX porter denoting a higher original gravity was later changed to “Foreign Export Stout”. Eventually the company and others in Ireland began using the term stout to describe their beers, which over time outlasted the popularity of porter in England where cheap gin supplanted ale as the drink of choice by the late 1800s. London was never the same...slums, serial murders in Whitehall, bad stuff.

Here in the US porters were also the beers of choice for a relatively lengthy period of time. When the Revolutionary War broke out in the American colonies, trade with England ceased, and brewing porter was left in the hands of the colonists. George Washington regularly ordered abundant supplies of a porter brewed by Robert Hare of Philadelphia delivered to the presidential mansion and was himself a home brewer with his own porter recipe. Porter remained the drink of choice in the Americas although many early brewers reportedly used a wide range of adjuncts including molasses. As a wave of German and immigrants migrated to America in the 1800s lagers gained in popularity and a bottom fermenting porter was introduced, of which Yuengling is the only (I think) remaining example of the style. Of course now we in the US can enjoy a myriad of different styles from coffee imperial stouts to Belgian chocolate stouts and everything in between.



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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
Octoberfest & Smoked

October
Dixie Cup

November
I.P.A. & Ambers

December
Homebrewer's Xmas Party

Competition Corner



Competition Coordinator

Mike
Heniff

As I end my 6th officer term, I want to thank all of those that have helped the club and me personally over the past few years. Thanks to all of the entrants, judges, organizers, stewards, and other volunteers. Special thanks to those that help pull off the pack-and-ships that I could not attend. Congrats once again to all of those that have won medals!

MCAB (Master Championship of Amateur Brewing)

MCAB is coming up in February. Those that have qualifiers have been notified – if you have not been notified and think you have qualified – contact me IMMEDIATELY. The competition will be **Feb 8-9, 2008 in Houston** with entries due a few weeks before the competition. There will be festivities associated with this event, judging, speakers, and beer! Watch for announcements soon! For any questions, email me or Rob Kolacny. Checkout <http://www.masterhomebrewer.org/home>

Competition Results

Palmetto State Brewers Open, Columbia, SC

Brad Petit 2nd IPA

In summary for the last year, the club has won the Dixie Cup, Bluebonnet Trophy, and the 2007 Lone Star Circuit Homebrew Club of the year. Among individual high honors, we had:

- MCAB medals (Heniff, Kolacny)
- Bluebonnet Steins: Kolacny, Heniff, Lindsey, Daugherty, DeWalt, Reilly
- Bluebonnet Brew-off 2nd Runner-up BOS (Heniff)
- KGB BBBB BOS (Heniff)
- KGB BBBB Runner-up BOS (Heniff)
- First Place AHA National Homebrew Competition (Kolacny/Daugherty)
- Alamo City Cerveza Fest BOS (Heniff)
- Alamo City Cerveza Fest 2nd Runner-up BOS (Heniff)
- Limbo Challenge Runner-up BOS (Kolacny)
- Dixie Cup 1st Place: DeWalt, Glaves, Reilly, Lindsey, Paige, Heniff, Chaka/Beery
- Dixie Cup Mike Templeton Award (Heniff)
- Lone Star Circuit Homebrewer of the Year (Heniff)
- Lone Star Circuit Homebrewer of the Year 2nd Runner-up (Kolacny)

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BREWING COMPANY

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

Amber Ale, Brown Ale, Texas Wheat
Fancy Lawnmower Beer, Elissa I.P.A.
&
Winter Stout, Spring Bock, Summer Pils,
Oktoberfest, Christmas Ale

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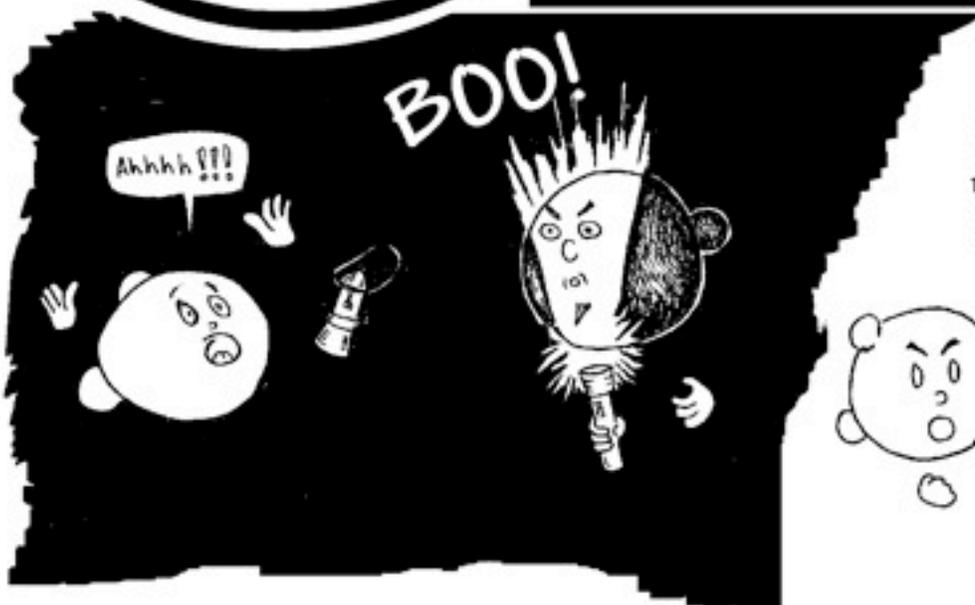
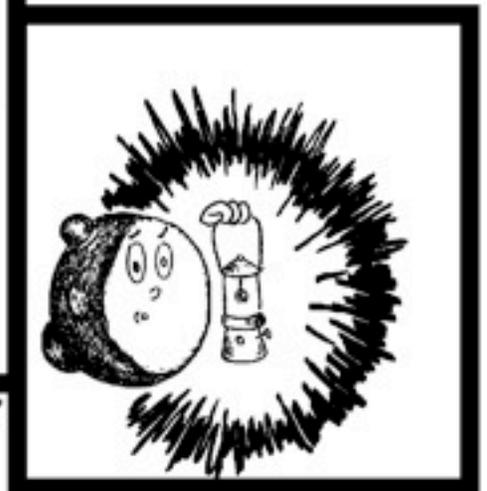
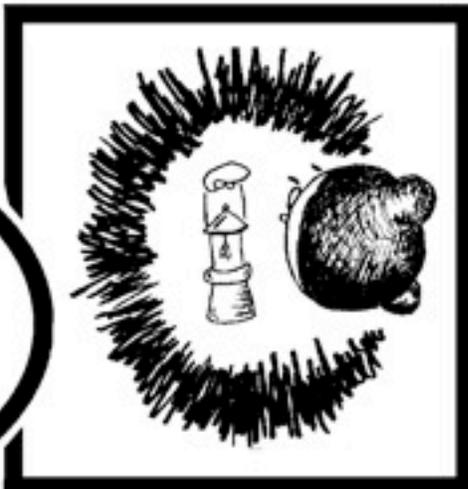
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HOUSTON'S FIRST MICROBREWERY

Burps & Farts



The Two Daves. Having a beer with “English” Dave and Dave Cato while in Portland for x-mas. Cheers to our FoamRanger ex-pats!



John Burrow ©2008

Foamranger Picture Pages



REMEMBER THE NOVEMBER MEETING?



LAMBIC ANYONE?



THE GUYS PRACTICE THEIR PIRATE STARES



LOOK HONEY I'M EDWARD BEERHANDS



CHECK OUT MY MANLY BEER POSE



GOOD FOOD, GOOD BEER AT THE X-MAS PARTY



HAPPY 40TH "STORGE"

STOUT & CIGARS





THE CHAIN OF COMMAND WILL BE MINE, OH YES...

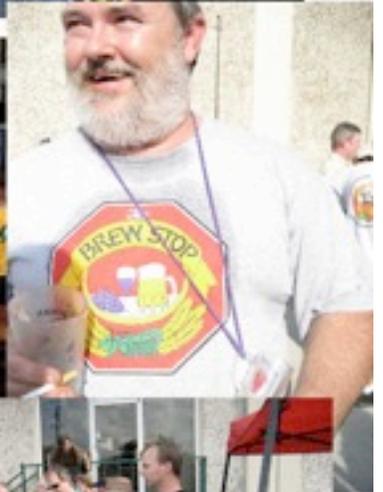


"STORGE" RECEIVES THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

DEWALT ASSUMES THE FEZ



CONGRATS TO THE NEW K.G.B. OFFICERS



STEP RIGHT UP, BEER FOR SALE



THE FIRST WAZ FAMILY FOR 2008



WHATCHA GOT?

NOT SURE AFTER 20 BEERS, BUT IT WAS IN MY COOLER



THIS IS EITHER A PICTURE OF ALL OF THE OLD WAZ'S, OR THE EVOLUTION FROM HAIRY TO BALD....



FOAMRANGER PIMPS



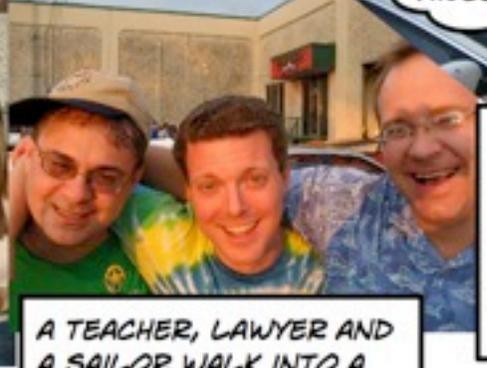
WE LOVE YOU THIS MUCH



I AM SO AWESOME!



FOAMRANGER WIDOWS



A TEACHER, LAWYER AND A SAILOR WALK INTO A BAR.....

JIMMY PULLS OUT HIS WHITE MANS OVER BITE DANCE...

JOHN REALIZES WHERE ANDREWS OTHER HAND IS...





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



**The January club meeting is:
8 p.m. Friday,
January 18th
at Defalco's**

**I WANT TO BE SOMEBODY!
SIGN ME UP TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
THE FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW CLUB!**

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Membership Fees: (per year) \$25.00 Individual /\$35.00 Family +Add \$5 for Mailed copy of Brewletter

Paid between December 1 & December 31st \$23.00 / \$31.00 (Pay early and save)

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)

Please make checks payable to: 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, TX 77025-3401