



The Foam Rangers Newsletter Urquell

All the beer that's fit to drink

May- Volume 29 Pints- Issue 5

BEER

HEALTH HAZARD

- 4 - Passed Out
- 3 - Obnoxious
- 2 - Laughing Out Loud
- 1 - Little Topsy
- 0 - Sober

FIRE HAZARD

- 4 - Why didn't somebody tell me I was on fire?!
- 3 - Big Cigar Smoker
- 2 - Chain Smoking
- 1 - Didn't Inhale
- 0 - Will Not Burn



SPECIFIC HAZARD

- Could Lead To Shots Of Tequilla.
- 10** Could Turn A **3** Into A **10**.
- H** Hangover Likely

REACTIVITY

- 4 - Ready To Take On Mike Tyson.
- 3 - Easily Provoked.
- 2 - Getting Brave
- 1 - Mild Mannered
- 0 - Stable

STANDARD (NON-FIRE) PROCEDURES

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED



May Meeting:

Out of the Wazoo

Bocks
Friday
May
16th

Bock Time

Picture pages

Defalco's
8:00 p.m.

WARNING

Promotes irritability.
Do not attempt to drive or operate heavy equipment.

FIRST AID

Drink plenty of black coffee.
Remove to fresh air.
Wash entire body with cold water for 20 minutes or longer.

BEER - It's not just for breakfast anymore.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Industrial Safety
800-237-1001

4001

MKT5000R98

Out (of) The Wazoo

The Brewsletter Urquell

The Official Foam Rangers
Zine

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"Storge" West

Scrivener
Anyone??

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???
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By **Grand
Wazoo**

**Scott
Dewalt**

Hello fellow Foam Rangers and welcome to the middle of May. We have a busy month and quite a few happenings, both past and present.

Thanks to Rob "Red Neck" Kolacny for hosting this month's brew-in. Rob showed up with his ever-popular brew-rig and was heating his strike water, ready for an action-packed day of home brewing. Lounging under the blue and white pop-up while the sun hid behind thick clouds and the temperature stayed relatively moderate, Rob proceeded to create a fine Vienna lager.

At the brew-in during the day were various Rangers and guest who happened by the happening. A plethora of commercial beers, most from the Mid-West were iced down and enjoyed by the participants courtesy of another generous Ranger. If you are the one who donated the beer, please let me know; I'd like to thank you!

The American Homebrew Association (insert music here) held their annual National Competition of which we took part in the first round of the Old West regional. The THUGZ did very well, advancing nineteen beers and gaining sixty-eight points. Overall, the THUGZ ranked tenth out of one hundred forty-nine clubs. Not bad for a first year out of the gate! Congratulations to the advancers.

Why THUGZ? Houston and the surrounding areas have a wealth of brewing experience, some very fine brewers and several homebrew clubs. Each year we help each other during our local competitions and compete like dogs at regional and local matches. The AHA National (insert music here) Competition seemed like a perfect opportunity to come together and attempt a run on the national scene as a combined

front. All Houston area clubs were involved in the effort: Foam Rangers, KGB, Mashtronauts, Barley Coherent and the Golden Triangle.

Jeff Rielly took the initiate in setting up THUGZ (The Houston United Group of Zymurgists) and making the initial contacts around the area to gauge interest. He registered the club with the AHA and made it all proper. There are no dues, no meetings and no barriers to entry. People who wish to enter the AHA (insert music here) Nationals are free to do so as a THUGZ or register as part of their preferred homebrew club; however, THUGZ are encouraged to enter only the AHA (insert music here) National competition using this combined club. THUGZ represents what we already know about respective clubs – we can compete against each other during specific competitions but generally view each other as brothers (and sisters) in brewing. What a strange hobby we have.

Over the last year, the THUGZ have entered most of the AHA (insert music here) club-only competitions. We've not won at those events yet but for an inaugural year, who can complain at the showing so far?

There are, of course, other competitions and we've one coming up Sunday at St. Arnolds. The KGB are hosting their annual Big Batch Brew Bash featuring Weizenbock this year. Please come by to help with the competition and enjoy the fun that is the BBBB. This year's winner will brew their beer at St. Arnolds as a Devine Reserve. Further, the winning club will be receive the King's Ransom of a free keg of St. Arnolds beer!

July is the annual pool party and we're going to be doing something a bit different. There will be very little commercial beer offered at that meeting. As a homebrew club, we should be drinking a bit more homebrew! At the July meeting, we'll have several kegs of homebrew on tap which we will rotate. The point of this missive is if you don't bring homebrew, expect to have very little variety and very little beer. Who can bring their best?

See you at the meeting!



**Secondary
Fermenter**

**“Storge”
West**

Bock Beers

Now is der time in der meeting when we will dance...

This month's beers are of the dark and/or malty German variety. Several months ago (maybe 6 or 8) I wrote about a trip to Germany Sandy and I took during a particularly festive time of year. I remember describing beers and great beer bars in Frankfurt and Berlin, but I intended at some point to complete an account of what we encountered on the rest of our journey. As it happens Emil is once again hounding us to write something and this seems like as good as a time as any to pick up where I left off despite the fact that I probably won't remember most of it. You see we made it to Bavaria at the end of September and that means Oktoberfest. Contrary to what I thought, Oktoberfest begins in September and usually ends the first week of October (Germans are known for being early). Our trip took us along the Danube to some small towns that were quaint but lacked great beer selections, so it wasn't until we made it to Munich, the home of the largest Oktoberfest celebration in the world that we hit our stride. Various breweries have tents filled to the brim with people that reserve tables well in advance and often spend the entire day there listening to oompah bands, drinking and eating. We chose to forgo the table reservation, wander around all the stalls and occasionally sit out at a side beer garden next to one of the tents (all of which you can peer into). As you might expect everything at the festival is a little pricey. A one liter mug (also known as a Maas) cost roughly \$10, but then again I couldn't drink many and unfortunately they don't serve in smaller portions at the fest for those of us that want to try different varieties. While Oktoberfest was fun in a hectic state-fair kind of way, I personally preferred visiting the bars and breweries around Munich on their own.

Several of the more well known breweries like Spaten and Paulaner have pubs along the main drag leading into the city center that are not very authentic (but much of downtown Munich was flattened by Allied bombing). Hofbrau is near the same area and over-run by tourists. I found the Munich location as plastic-like as the one in Las Vegas, although they did have a nice shiny “vomitorium” – see photo. It's also infamous for being Hitler's favorite party hangout – apparently in the 30s and 40s the walls were covered with swatikas. Hofbrau like many beer halls, have two beers at all times, a helles (light) and a dunkel (dark), neither were that impressive despite being from the source so to speak. Visit these places quickly and head on to nearby Weisses Brauhaus that features Schneider beers and big mugs of Aventinus! Eis variety was only in bottles. Ayinger Speis und Trank (Food and Drink – very original) is also a great bet, less crowded by far, nice surroundings, better beer – and you can watch the Japanese across the street fighting to get into Hofbrau for amusement. At the time Ayinger was serving their malty high alcohol fest beer in kegs from the bar. If you can drag yourself away for the inner city, within walking distance you can also find the Hackerhaus, featuring Hacker Pschorr beers which were better than anything I have had from them in bottle or draft (and like Ayinger they had a fest beer that was incredible). Farther away from town, but a taxi, bus or long walk to the northwest is my personal favorite watering hole. Augustiner Keller is a sprawling beer hall and beer garden that is among the largest in the city. Beer is rolled out in huge barrels and tapped one at a time, and if you have had this beer in the bottle or on draft here, then maybe you can imagine what a freshly tapped barrel is like (I think I just drooled

Continued on page 7

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

Thanks Philip Verdieck for the travel pictures and your friends in "Buzz" homebrew club Pennsylvania?



Est. 1971

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a 5% Discount at:
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FoamRanger Picture Pages



I'll whip yur ass in guitar hero anyday!

Your on, I'm first!

CONGRATS TO THE MCAB WINNERS.



THE EX WAZ'S ENJOYING RETIREMENT



I SHOULD BE WEARING THAT LEATHER VEST.



LOOK BUBBA, YOU CAN MAKE WINE TOO...



LOOK MOM I HAVE A BUBBLE IN THE BREWSLETTER.



GIVE ME MY CAMERA BACK!

THE HIP HOP PUTZ

A BIG THANKS TO ST ARNOLDS FOR HOSTING ONCE AGAIN



National Homebrew Day



YUR CLUB HIRING PUTZ'S?



THE USUAL CHARACTERS...



BLINDED BY "STORGES" WHITENESS

Secondary from page 3

on myself). All in all Munich is a great beer destination, but further afield you will find more roads less traveled with just as good a selection. On the way out we stopped in Andechs Monastery set atop a hill not far from Munich proper. Still a working holy site but with very modern brewing equipment and a restaurant pumping out huge cheap ham hocks, Andechs is the place to chill out with reasonably priced food and spectacular malt beverages while admiring the scenery below. Don't forget to grab some Doppelbock bottles at the little shop as you walk down the hill from the monastery! Maybe some gracious reformed sinner back from a pilgrimage will offer up a bottle at the meeting! Well that's it until next time when I try to recall things about a small town called Bamberg.



Art Car Parade 2008



Vomitorium at Hofbrau

SAINT ARNOLD 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

**Come tour the brewery!
Saturdays at 1:00 PM**

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HOUSTON'S FIRST MICROBREWERY

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



**The May club meeting is:
8 p.m. Friday,
May 16th
at Defalco's**

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

HOME/WK PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

AMOUNT PAID

New Renewal Change of Address

Membership Fees: (per year) \$35.00 Individual /\$45.00 Family

Paid between December 1 & December 31st	\$30.00 / \$40.00 (Pay early and save)
Paid between January 1 & March 31	\$35.00 / \$45.00
Paid between April 1 & June 30	\$30.00 / \$40.00
Paid between July 1 & September 30	\$25.00 / \$35.00
Paid between October 1 & November 30	\$35.00 / \$45.00 (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