



The Foam Rangers Brewsletter Urquell

All the beer that's fit to drink

August- Volume 29 Pints- Issue 8

Dixie Cup Coming soon

Out of the Wazoo

Picture pages

**ASTRO
WASTE
INC.**

HOUSTON, TX.

3-849-3554

**August
Meeting:
Pale Ales
Bitters**

**Friday
August
15th**

Malt Liquor Time !

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



The Brewsletter Urquell

The Official Foam Rangers
Zine

Officers and Contributors:

Grand Wazoo
Scott Dewalt

Secondary Fermenter
"Storge" West

Scrivener
G-lover

Purser
Rolland Pate

**Bozo Head
of Special Events**
Scott Birdwell
sales@defalcos.com

Brewsletter Urquell Editor
Emil Campos
cerevisiae@me.com

Foampage Webmaster
Beto Zuniga
info@foamrangers.com

Mail and Unix "guy"
Dave Cato
webmaster@crunchyfrog.net

**Dixie Cup XXIV Coordina-
tor**
Wuz Waz T-Bob Daugherty

**Competition Coordinator
??
Was Waz**
T-Bob Daugherty

Thanks Bev for the Pictures.

The Brewsletter Urquell is
published by the Foam
Rangers Homebrew Club,
8715 Stella Link, Houston TX
77025
© 2007



By Grand
Wazoo

Scott
Dewalt

Out (of) The Wazoo

The dog days of summer are almost behind us and that means it is time to continue our preparations for the biggest party in Houston. No, I don't mean that little rodeo that comes every year or so, I mean the Dixie Cup!

This year's theme is Fred, White and Brew! This is the twenty-fifth annual Dixie Cup – our silver anniversary! Fred will be back, for his twentieth year of treating us to the best of beer and food pairings. We'll have near a thousand entries to enjoy and I'm sure some B*stard or other will throw a legendary party; please jump on the beds.

The Dixie Cup takes a ton of effort from so many people in the club. I want to thank Bob Daughtery for stepping up and volunteering to coordinate the efforts of all. It is great to have someone like T-Bob, who has shown his coordination acumen so well in the past, coming forward and offering his time, sweat and talents to help put on this important Foam Rangers event. Thank you, T-Bob!

He'll need some help and there is plenty to do. We'll need people to run boxes, help steward, help judge, ... There are so many ways to help.

Emil Campos, our intrepid Brewsletter Editor, is putting on the potluck Friday night. Please get with Emil and let him know what kind of food you can bring. Every bit helps and if we all bring a dish or two, the potluck becomes one great many for many great people.

We're at the same hotel this year, the Crowne Plaza, Brookhollow. You should contact them soon about getting your room. Using the keyword 'Dixie Cup' ensures you get a special room rate and the competition gets credit for your night's stay. We have a certain number of rooms we've told the hotel we will fill and every room we add gives us credit to use to put up or speakers. Book now and you'll get into the block of special pricing.

And speaking of competitions, we've several and a new Competition Coordinator, Rob "Red Neck" Kolackny. (I won't use the new moniker!) Rob has offered to coordinate our competition efforts going forward through the year. We've a long road ahead of us if we're serious about keeping the Lone Star Circuit Homebrew Club of the Year trophy. Ask Rob when the next competition is and what you can do to help! Several Rangers will be in San Antonio at the Alamo City Cerveza Fest during our meeting. Support the club and represent!

I'd also like to thank the Bay Area Mashtronauts for putting on a fantastic Lunar Rendzebrew. Everyone there had a great time. We had quite a few medals taken during the event, most notably, Jeff Rielly who took an incredible 13 medals. I tell you, it was great to be Jeff for a day!

Thanks much all and see you at the meeting!



ARTWERK • JOHN GONZALES • ROUNDER GRAPHICS 2008 • WWW.ROUNDER-GRAPHICS.COM

I WANT BREW FOR THE DIXIE CUP

HOME BREW COMPETITION • OCTOBER 17-18, 2008
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Look Out! Dixie Cup XXV!

It's Coming Down Fast!

In case you have been wondering why you have not been reading about the Dixie Cup in this year's Brewsletters...it's because until about three weeks ago we did not have a Dixie Cup Coordinator. Well... at the recent pool party held at stately West Mansion, I volunteered to be the Coordinator. I would have done so earlier in the year but my wife Nannette and I had a cruise planned during most of the Dixie Cup. The bad news is we had to we cancel our cruise. The good news is we got a Dixie Cup Coordinator. Well I guess that's good news! And to think, I volunteered...without the influence of barleywine! Fortunately much of the hard work had already been done but there is still much to be done in the weeks ahead. So here's what we know right now...

HOTEL

We will be returning to the same Crowne Plaza Hotel Brookhollow that has hosted us the past two years and they will kindly be giving the heckofabargain \$69 (heh, heh) rate per night. Be sure you make your reservations early and request "the Dixie Cup" rate. If the reservations desk does not know what you mean when you request this, ask to talk to someone who does. The number is: 713-462-9977.

SPEAKERS

This year will mark the last appearance of Beer Legend Fred Eckhardt. Fred is an eighty something World War II (and Korea) vet and the trip is getting more and more difficult for him each year. He will be presenting his famed Fred Tasting (Chocolate and Beer is the theme this year) as well as revisiting his first Dixie Cup speech (oh how things have changed!) We also will honor Dale Katechis of Colorado's Oskar Blues speaking. Dale and Oskar Blues make some of the best beer you ever have had...Dale's Pale Ale, Old Chub etc... What's all the more amazing is that's in a frickin' can! Dale will tell how that happens. Dave Fougeron (one of founders/owners of Houston's newest brewery Southern Star) will also talk to us. No doubt these two great brewers will have some of their outstanding products to share with the audience.

THEME

Since this is an election year (what you did not notice!) we will be nominating Fred to be the candidate of the Dixie Cup Party. We are calling it: "FRED, WHITE AND BREW!" We will have bunting, balloons, buttons, alcohol, great food and everything else that goes with political conventions (bribery, hookers, police riots,

and long winded speechifying will be left up to the individual attendees)

SPECIAL BEER CATEGORY

This year's special category will be... The Return of Malt Liquor. What beer could be more American than Malt Liquor? Malt Liquor, until a few years ago, was actually a BJCP category. We think it deserves to be so again! When we did this category back in the Stoned Age, we put each entry into its very own brown paper bag and judged it by dumpsters. We will do the same again this year and, since presentation is an essential part of this style, we will reward extra authenticity points to entries in forty ounce clear bottles! We will supply the brown bags. Remember you only need to submit two bottles. Here are the "official" guidelines:

High in starting gravity and alcoholic strength, malt liquor is somewhat diverse. Some American versions are just slightly stronger than American lagers, while others approach bock strength. Some residual sweetness is perceived. Hop rates are very low, contributing little bitterness and virtually no hop aroma or flavor. Perception of sweet-fruity esters and complex alcohols (though not solvent-like) are acceptable at low levels. Chill haze and diacetyl should not be perceived. The style is best enjoyed in large clear bottles in brown paper bags and when consumed near dumpsters. Extra authenticity points will be given for beers in 28 oz. bottles or larger. Clear bottles and screwcaps are optional but not required (How the entrant seals screwcaps is up to the individual homebrewer). Commercial examples include: Mickey's, King Cobra, Colt 45, and Olde English.

Original Gravity

1.050–1.060

12.5–15.0 Plato

Final Gravity

1.004–1.010

1.0–2.5 Plato

Alcohol

5.0–6.0% ABW

6.25–7.5% ABV

Bitterness

12–23 IBU

Color

2–5 SRM

4–10 EBC

(continued on page 5)

(Dixie Cup from page 4)

VOLUNTEERS

I really hope every, single (and married) Foam Ranger helps out in one way or another at this year's Dixie Cup (and I don't mean just showing up, paying your dues and eating and drinking vociferously). It seems like it's the same twenty or twenty-five people who do all the work every year. To be honest many of us are burned out! We have gazillion opportunities to help. We expect nearly 1000 entries and will need boatloads of judges. Last year we would not have survived without the help of Mashtronaut and KGB members coming to judge our beers. This is your competition Rangers, we welcome and need their help but Rangers should provide the majority of judges. The entry fees for judging pay for most of our operating expenses for the year. Remember most of y'all consume and drink your membership fee in two-three meetings easily! Dixie Cup provides the food and outstanding beer for the rest of the year. Most of first round judging will be done BEFORE the Dixie Cup begins. The Head Judge is The Incredible Doak Proctor. The dates and locations are: Sunday September 28th, Tuesday September 30th, Saturday October 4th and Tuesday October 7th. Sunday judging begins at 9 AM and Tuesday evening judging begins at 6 PM. All judging takes place at Saint Arnold's which has been kind enough to put up with us. If necessary we will also judge at Saint Arnold's Sunday October 12 at 9 AM and /or Tuesday October 14. Judging continues and concludes at the hotel beginning at noon on Friday, October 17.

If you are not either an experienced non-BJCP judge or an official BJCP judge you can still help us get these entries sorted. We need to open the many boxes bringing entries and sort them. We will be doing that on Saturday September 20th and Saturday September 27th.

If you do not think you are quite ready to judge, you can help us by stewarding. The lovely Sandy West is our head steward and can definitely use your help. You will learn a great deal by stewarding and get to drink some great beers, meads or ciders.

T SHIRTS, PROGRAMMES, AWARDS:

Once again we are fortunate enough to have the outstanding services of JD Gonzales and his Rounder Graphics for our t-shirts, awards, programme and the label for the commemorative Jeff Reilly brewed beer (Imperial Amber Waves of Grain) Much of the artwork has already been done and its looks great. First place glasses are simply beautiful and if you want a chance to win one these sure-to-be-coveted-and-collector's items trophies you had better start brewing lighter beers and bottling or shaking the cobwebs off any of those bigger beers immediately!

POT LUCK

Chef Emil Campos will be heading up the Friday Night Immortal Potluck. Though he and his helpers (that could be you!) will do much of the cooking, Emil will always welcome additional donated courses, appetizers, desserts, etc...

RECEPTION

Alas, we will not have the Orange Show for our Thursday night reception this year. The folk art masterpiece (or just a piece depending on how you looked at it) had already been booked when we were finally able to get someone to talk to us there. Therefore, we are considering alternatives such as the Beer Can House, DeFalco's, or another site to be announced later. We always like to showcase homebrew at the reception so be sure you save two-three gallons of some of your best in a keg to share with your fellow attendees.

ENTERING

By the time this article goes to press, and thank to the effort of Foam Ranger-in-Exile Dave Cato, we should have the Dixie Cup website up and ready to go. Entry fees will remain the same again this year... that is \$7 for on-line paperless entries, \$8 if you do it the old fashioned fill out your recipe method and \$10 if a late entry. Notice that deadlines are a week earlier this year and are: September 19th for early entry and September 26th for late ones. Entries need to be dropped off by 5 PM at DeFalco's or Brew It Yourself.

This year the Rangers will have an uphill battle to hang on to our beloved Dixie Cup trophy. We are going to need folks to brew! (Your Wazoo, Was Was Waz Rob Kolacny, Beerbo Witaneck, Treasurer Rolland Pate and myself tried to give us a fighting chance by brewing last weekend. You can help by brewing this weekend!)

I know with the hard work of your officers and volunteers it will be a successful Dixie Cup. However, for it to be the best DIXIE...CUP...EVERRRR, everyone will need to pitch in by entering, sorting, stewarding, judging or sharing great food and beer! I know you will do that for your club Rangers!



DeFalco's
HOME WINE & BEER
ESTABLISHED 1971

8715 STELLA LINK
HOUSTON TX 77025
(713) 668-9440
FAX (713) 668-8856

TOLL FREE ORDER LINE:
(800) 216-BREW (2739)

**Dues Paid Foam Rangers
Members Receive
a 5% Discount at:
DeFalco's**

website:
www.defalcos.com

*Ask about getting your very own
Frequent Fermenter Card!*



**Secondary
Fermenter**

**“Storge”
West**

Ramblings form the Secondary

Time flies when you are overwhelmed with occasions to drink good beer. I think George Carlin used to call it “time traveling”, but I usually just call it Friday...even when its Monday, or Tuesday. Wait. What day is it? Anyway, point is if there is one, someday you might find yourself with so many opportunities to drink that you decide to give yourself and your liver some time off. I have been thinking of doing just that for several weeks. OK several hundred weeks. The problems is I can go as much as a week without having a beer, but despite all good intentions someone somewhere always has something that can't be resisted and I succumb. The past few weeks have been an onslaught of beer related events, some of which required making tough decisions about which to attend. Last weekend a quickly organized brew-in drew a great crowd, while this weekend we have both the monthly meeting as well as the Alamo Cerverzafest in San Antonio. Somehow I am going to find a way to make both. There are plenty of great places to find beer these days, especially when you are a Foamranger. Don't forget this Friday we will have an excellent selection of Pale Ales and Bitters for you to enjoy. We get so much as members of the Foamrangers, but then what can we do in return you might ask? One thing that I hope everyone will consider doing in the next week or two is to try to brew some beer for Dixie Cup. Unfortunately I was doing homebrew liaison work last Saturday visiting the Austin Zealots homebrew club, so I wasn't able to brew with the group that assembled at DeFalcos, but upon returning on Sunday I went about starting a batch of cider and I will be heading out to get ingredients for a

weekday brew tomorrow. Dixie Cup is always a time for Foamrangers to shine and share some of the wonderful beers and ciders we can all make – and yes, anyone can make award winning beer, ciders and meads. Now I've never been big on competitions and in general I recoil from any pressure to do anything, but over time I have appreciated the sporadic instances of good feedback I have received in competitions and every year I seem to enter a few more. So don't feel pressured to enter competitions, and don't expect all of your feedback to be positive or in some cases even constructive, but consider making something for Dixie Cup and contact one of the more experienced brewers if you need some guidance.



**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

<http://www.saintarnold.com>

2522 FAIRWAY PARK DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092

713•686•9494
FAX 713•686•9474

HOUSTON'S FIRST MICROBREWERY

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



Scrivenor

The G-lover

7/6 - Baker's St. Pub Dixie Cup /First Sunday Meeting

As most months should, July started with the First Sunday meeting hosted in part by the KGB. The current Czar Bill King has an in with the owner of the Baker St. Pub in the woodlands, neither of which were there. Due to the distance from our home base the event was lightly attended by foamies consisting of Grand Wazoo DeWalt, Scrivenin' G-Lover, Steve Moore, and Leroy Gibbins. As for the actual meeting it was to discuss the Dixie Cup and with just the Waz and Scrivenor present here's how it went:

[Scene I wherein the Dixie Cup is discussed]

Waz, "Hey, I booked the hotel so we're solid there."

Scriv, "Cool." [scribbles on napkin] "How 'bout some nachos?"

[Meeting adjourned, lights come up]

The rest of the evening was pleasant as we joked and traded prose with the KGB. I'll offer this little bit of advice for anyone who wants to drive that far for British ambiance whilst consuming spirits. Prepare yourself to wet your pants a little bit as you feel like a poorly trained James Bond. You've been told the bathroom is behind a false book case, but you're too inebriated to figure out which one. If you weren't a fan of literature before, beating a book case in frustration while giving your pants an internal hot acid wash isn't going to make you want to go look up on Oprah's book of the month club.

7/12 Doaks Brew in - Doak like to cook

I woke up bleary eyed one Saturday and realized I could actually do it, I could attend my second brew in ever if I ran to the car. Doak C. Proctor the IV was brewing a...beer of some style for the pleasure of myself and... that guy in the shirt who showed up. Wait, now I remember. He worked or works with the Incredible Doak in the Legal Justice League. We spent the morning talking about the nuances of water quality in Houston and broken thermometers. Broken thermometers were of particular importance as one or the others of Doaks did just that. You can't really tell which one is more trustworthy without a third so we picked the digital one just because. The first brew in I attended was DeWalt's who owns a pH meter which is just spiffy. Doak uses iodophor and old pool pH test strips. Then he takes a small measuring spoon, laughs derisively, and yells "I like to cook" and throws some minerals in the water. I compli-

mented him for his amazingly scientific endeavors and incalculably accurate pH adjustments because he teaches the BJCP classes and I don't want to study. Also any bribe under \$1,000,000 means to him. Phillip Dore came by to drop of entries for Cerveza Fest and Lunar Rendezbrew and blessed us with some ale meads to sample. It's not really mead, not really beer but totally wonderful on a warm day. Hey, we also got to meet Ms. Proctor the IV as she came by with their two sons to feed the patriarch. Having met her it's possible he married for looks and she married for money and at least one won. In all honesty a guy as great as Doak certainly deserves a girl as nice as her.

7/13 Gingerman Tasting

Not really a Foam Ranger event, but interesting none the less. Those in the know about the world of beer and brewing magazines have spied an odd issue of the Beer Advocate. There are online forums for the magazine on which are announced monthly beer tastings for the Houston area at the Gingerman that concentrates more on hard to find beers or those not available in our market. Along with myself at times you will find fellow Rangers David Touns and Mr. Mock.

7/18 Pool Party - Kegapalooza

Beginning disclaimer about the pool party. I took notes, but they're soggy than a cigarette butt at the bottom of a pool. Many of us drove the long road to the West house and gained new respect for how much they travel to make all the events they do. Also I would once again like to thank them for opening up their pool, garage, front yard and bathroom to us. Personally, I'm not brave enough to invite all of you over if I owned a junkyard. Which brings up a question...how did we get kicked out of a camp site, the great out doors and not the Crown Plaza? A serious Whiskey Tango Foxtrot on that. The beginning of the meeting accompanied by the sun and no one was brave enough to be the first in the pool. I learned how Rob Kolacny earned the name Redneck. Every time I see him he's fixing something, this time the clogged soda keg I brought. Along with the Ever G-Lovin Gruit and 20lb CO2 tank I brought, some of you may have noticed my friend Rasputin! The terrorist beard sported by my friend Ian McKee throws some people off, but not you guys. He works at the Specs by I-10 and Sam Houston Parkway and is probably the beer knowledgeable guy in the store. Apparently by the Power of Beard long lost foamie Benny was in attendance and with Ian in hand I was granted audience. Someone told me he might be the guy to talk to for the unusual herbs I use in my gruits. Benny heard herb and informed me he doesn't smoke...anymore. I was then schooled in theoretical physics. Benny is the kind of genius that is interesting because you don't know which side of mad scientist he's on, but he's willing to devote as much time as he can force on you so you can decide.

continued on page 12

FoamRanger Picture Pages POOL PARTY!



LABELING THE TAP TABLE

POOL LOUNGING TIME



A GOOD CROWD SHOWED TO THE WEST'S



PUSH THE WAZ IN!

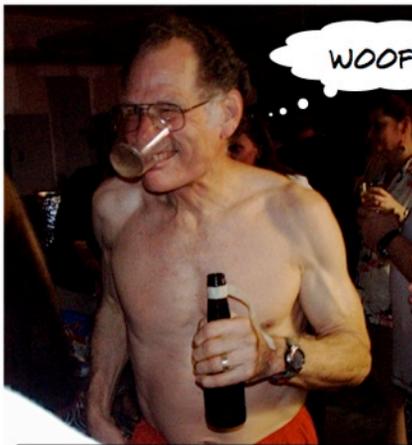


WATER GUN FIGHTS!



GEORGE BUSTS OUT THE RARE AMERICAN OWNED BUD LIGHT

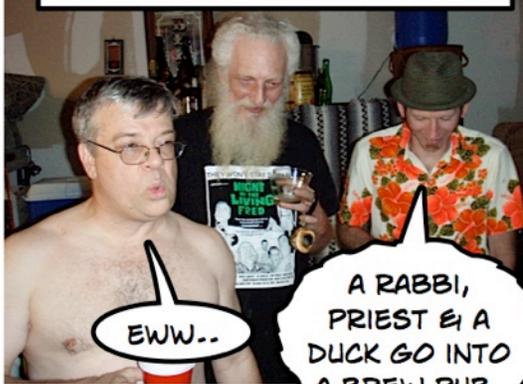




WOOF!



CLIFF DOES TRICKS FOR BEER



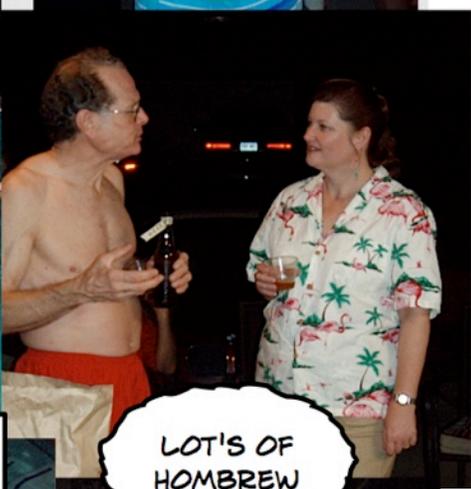
EWV..

A RABBI, PRIEST & A DUCK GO INTO A BREW PUB.



"NO MAN IS AN ISLAND"

AFTER A POT OF BEANS THE HOT TUB BUBBLES START.



LOT'S OF HOMBREW



NEVER LOOK AT THE CAMERA IT'S MORE ARTSY...



HOW DO YOU DO IT?

SYNCHRO. HOMBREWER DANCING



I AM THE GREATEST BASTARD EVER!



YA LIKE CATS?

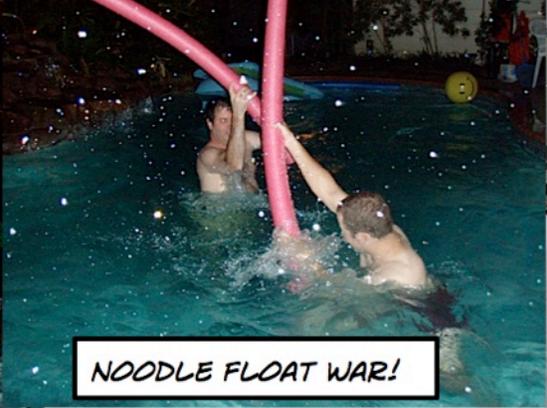




BASTARD.

BARLEYWINE ENVY.

BEER A GIRLS BEST FRIEND.



NOODLE FLOAT WAR!

LUNAR RENDEZBREW



I'M IN THE BREWSLETTER I'M SOMEBODY

RENDEZBREW WASHER TIME





WAZ HOLDS THE TREE UP AFTER MANY BARLEYWINES



WINNER!



REKNECK WINNER!



DIXIE CUP PLANNING.



HOW MANY BEERS MUST A MAN TRAVEL?



YOU LIKE MY HATZ?

???



PRECIOUS WORT LOST.



I CAN HAS BARLEEWYNE?



LUV ME!



AHH!



SEND THAT



T-BOB KING OF



AUSTIN ZEALOTS PICNIC



BREWSLETTER COVER OUTAKES

The beer theme of the month was... I'm not sure because I missed the whole thing. Kegs and a pool was enough for me. When I did employ some amphibiousness I got to finally formally meet the Sly Bastard, Charles in particular. I can say this about the duo, they are certainly sly and if they're not sharing they are certainly bastards. I'll let new members learn the story of their monikers themselves but I'll warn them it leaves a major cliff hanger. A need to meet English Dave.

I got to hang out on the couch in the front lawn just as The Fuzz dropped by. Perfect timing to be drunk and soggy. Fun fact of the night, angry drunk Andy Barnard had this to say repeatedly, "I'd rather be gay than Christian. Much rather." Choosing tender or sadistic sodomy over a chance at eternal bliss and salvation seemed rather in line with everything I know about him. I'm now very afraid he may try to convert me.

With time came the inevitable, Man Stew in the jacuzzi. Unlike previous years I presume this years 'twig and berry's' broth was seasoned with the elusive ingredient, women. If you have been following my scrivener career you are familiar with my drive for the Topless Homebrewer Association coupled with urgency for new female members, entirely for political correctness in the club of course. Each meeting has come closer to the goal, this month was no exception. Month 1, a call for more women. Month 2, more women arrive and a call for less clothes. Month 3, more women and a pool party. Foam Rangers, what will next month bring!?

I had to leave early as my guest had a curfew and I hope i didn't miss anything too awesome. One nice thing about leaving just a bit early, I caught InBev "Skirtboy" Blackwood giving away 10yr old Dixie Cup entries. It was hit or miss without any indication to what may lay inside. I look at them in my fridge, daring myself to pop the cap and face a potential gusher or goldmine. One last word about the actual InBev and Bud. I wouldn't be worth anything at all as a club history taker if I didn't mention that this is the time that the "Great American Lager" was aggressively bought out and become the "Great Brazilian-Belgian/American Lager".

7/26 Lunar Rendezbrew / Waz Summits the Hill

I arrived to help the Mashtronauts in their final week-end of judging for this years Lunar Rendezbrew with my wife and two daughters. I stewarded along with fellow BJCP class member Touns and made a great day of it all. While I informally helped judge Dark Lagers and Specialty beers my oldest, Zephyr helped John "The Mad Baker" Jurgensen one of the event coordinators. Brewing for me is a family event and I lamented that my 5yr old daughter was doing all this

work, but points only go back 2 years. Then it hit me! She could take and fail the BJCP test, be put on file and be the youngest official steward and event aid ever! Maybe it's a little too early to end any chance of child hood normality for her though. While stewarding for Rob the Redneck I found that he can not control the need to fix things. I caught him taking apart a mechanical pencil and forced the six pieces that were left of it away from him. All in all I had a nice time and am sorry I didn't get to attend the award ceremony.

Though the judging ended, the beer did not. Waz Dewalt turned 40 and bravely invited Foam Rangers out to celebrate the event. Boy howdy is his neighborhood fancy, gated and everything! I got to meet the Waz Court including the brother of the throne, queen, father, mother and daughters. Immediately there was a division in the party. Out back were anywhere between 4 and 10 kegs of beer with anywhere between 4 and 40 Foam Rangers and a few others from differing clubs. Inside were all of Scott's actual friends, relations and co-workers. Yes, home brewers from Texas are no strangers to standing outside in the heat for beer and it showed. And no, you weren't drunk, many of Scott's co-workers are British, though strangely they knew neither English Dave nor John Adams. I guess this was the only night they could get out to hang with the cool kids. The night really got going when a game of barleywine 'top this' game started and thankfully didn't end before I had to drag my daughter away. Later in the evening the Scott released his 11 year old dog into the backyard with us. Storge West being a huge fan of canine people entreated it to make friends. While he used many time honored methods to encourage dog behavior I played an ace up my sleeve. Fajita! Dogs love fajita's and people who give out fajita meat. It was at this point I realized I the three things to make one idea come to fruition. You may have noticed my 8 month old baby 'Aolani at the party. She was the one covered in chocolate cake which is the second best baby sitter ever. The first of course is the loyal dog. I had a dog, duct tape and Rob Kolacny, what I didn't have was permission from my wife. While my daughter wanted to spend the night with Scott's daughters, and I wanted to spend the night with the kegs I was ushered out by my wife.

Before I left however, I learned something about the Putz. I thought Mr. Moore liked his moniker. He was one of the first members that engaged me in conversation in the club. I asked how he got his name, he smiled and in a sardonically amusing way I was regaled with the tale of a pub crawl 15 years ago. What I discovered is Steve likes to tell the story, not necessarily the effect. If you're reading this, Steve to Steve, G-Lover sympathizes for you. Not with you, I like being G-Lover, but the essential sentiment is there.

FOAM RANGERS PURCHASED BY INBEV

Financial Correspondent
T-Bob Daugherty

Months of speculation ended over the weekend when one of the nation's longest lived homebrew Clubs, the Houston Foam Rangers, was purchased by the Belgian beer giant InBev. The purchase of a homebrew club marks a significant departure in marketing strategy for the beer and soft drink giant which recently acquired Anheuser-Busch making it the largest brewing combine on the planet. InBev officials promise that the acquisition will make the Rangers a better, more efficient and competitive club offering improved, streamlined service for its members. However, many in the club feel differently and worry for their club and personal drinking futures.

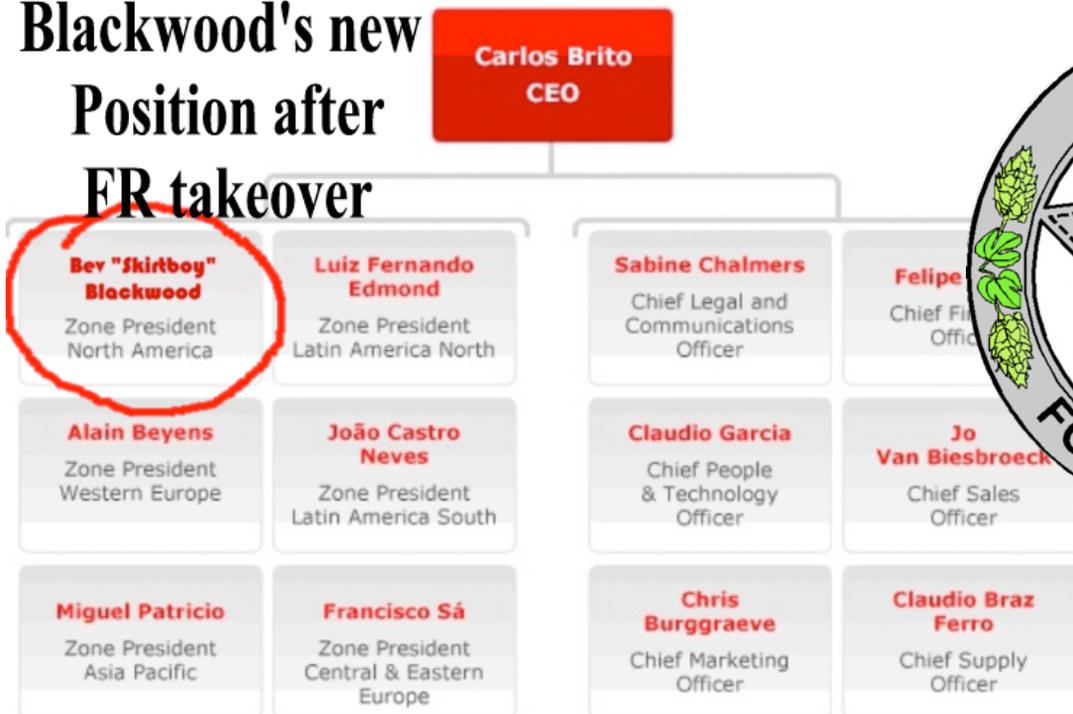
BU sources believe the hostile takeover began months ago when Bev "Skirtboy" Blackwood suddenly decided to leave, as brewer, Saint Arnold Brewing Company and take a long trip to Europe. Though Blackwood cited other reasons for the trip having to do with seeing historic sights and drinking great beer, Ranger officers now know there were other, darker reasons for the journey. "We knew he was up to something. He was negotiating our buy out!" said Grand Wazoo Scott DeWalt. For his assistance in arranging the buyout, InBev disclosed that Blackwood will join the upper management ranks as Zone President of North America. (See organizational chart) He will be second only to CEO Carlos Brito. "We should have known Bev was the one who would stab us in the back," said Sean "the Laminator" Lamb. "Like didn't anyone f—kin' notice! The conglomerate is called

InBev...InBev... for God's sake! Get it!? He's been working for them all along!" Lamb then smashed a glass on his head in anger. Fellow kilt wearer Joe "Papa Hemingway" Lindsey was even more distraught: "If he were here right now I would grab him by his sporran* and stab him with own [HYPERLINK](#) "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sgian_dubh" \o "Sgian dubh" sgian dubh***" "He made a Faustian bargain... And just when I had become an officer!" said Steve "Gruitman" Glover. Glover then went on to explain what a Faustian bargain was.

At press time no official amount had been disclosed for the price of the acquisition but unofficial sources list it as being in the dozens of dollars. Many acknowledge that the Foam Rangers were made vulnerable to the hostile takeover by several factors. One was the declining value of the American dollar compared to the Euro. "They were able to get us for just a few pennies or whatever the hell they use for a decimal device," said current Ranger Treasurer Rolland "Rawhide" Pate. Many cite Pate's predecessor Eric Glaves as a potential explanation for the ease of takeover. "I don't want to name any names but who know who has not been to any of the meetings to explain the books. Like a vulture, InBev sees their chances and they takes them... and we got taken."

Both the future organizational and day to day activity changes are worrying club leadership and membership. InBev has released few details. A confirmed one is that the club headquarters will be moved to Leuven, Belgium. Mike "Beeriac" Heniff was one of only two members who saw this as a positive change. "Let's face it...

Blackwood's new Position after ER takeover



the Houston beer scene, though better than a few years ago, cannot compare to Belgium's. I will just have to make sure that my company schedules my business trips to Belgium to coincide with Ranger meetings. Leroy Gibbons waxed happily. "Hell, I'm over there all the time. I'll probably be able to make more meetings than I do now." Tom "Beerbo" Witanek was less pleased with the news. "So how the f—k are we supposed to get the meetings? How the f—k!?" he politely inquired. As a result of the move, many expect attendance at the monthly meetings to drop to approximately one or two.

Secondary Fermenter George "Storge" West is worried about the beers he will serve at monthly meetings of the club. "You know I have busted my ass all year bringing beers from around the country and world. You know how hard it is to get this crap on airplanes these days? Do ya? Well, even though InBev has like 200 brands they will probably only let me serve their crap beer brands they want pushed. Gee... I can just see the Rangers lining up to have a Becks, Bud or something really exciting like Brahma or Yantar! Whoopee!"

Some Rangers are concerned about the organizational changes that will probably be made. Grand Wazoo Scott DeWalt said, "I don't know what changes could be made that HAVEN'T already been made. I mean we already have basically done away with the Competition Coordinator and Dixie Cup Coordinator. And we finally have a Scrivener! They can't take him away! Well, I guess we could get rid of the Was Waz. After all he doesn't do anything."

More positive members, such as Steve "the Putz" Moore, see a silver lining in an other wise dark cloud. "I think the merger will help make the club and leaner, meaner competing machine. Mergers are great for the economy and consumers. Everyone knows that. Just ask the FTC. Let's face it... we lost the Bluebonnet.

That phallic trophy had been sitting at DeFalco's so long that an inch of dust has accumulated on it and we lost it! Maybe the merger is just what the club needs. You know... a good kick in the butt!"

InBev promises to cut costs and streamline meetings to only fifteen minutes. This pleases Scott "Da Birdman" Birdwell: "Wow! Maybe I can home before 10 AM!" In addition InBev hopes to revitalize the sale of Foam Ranger merchandise. "For the past two years items have been selling like ice to Eskimos," said one anonymous Ranger officer. "We have these crappy pins that T Bob ordered and some stuff on Café Press but that's it! Where are the great shirts and glasses they club was famous for?"

Rival area clubs had mixed reactions about the takeover. KGB Czar Bill King was jubilant: "Ha! Finally the Rangers got what was coming to them! Time and time again they whipped other clubs so badly that many stopped brewing and entering! What goes around comes around! Ha!"

Mission Commander Hugh Lomas was more introspective: "This is a defeat and wake up call for all homebrew clubs. The fact that the Rangers were taken means we are vulnerable. I think about those officers who are going to be without a job and those members who are going to be without any decent beer to drink. That's what I'm thinking about and think we all should."

CNN Commentator Lou Dobbs decried the takeover. "Another American institution was seized today by hostile foreigners. First our ports, then the Chrysler Building, and now our most precious resource... homebrew! What's next Apple Pie and Chevrolet? And our politicians do nothing"

Business observers are confused about InBev's entry into homebrew club acquisition. One offered a reason. "Well... they already own almost all the beer companies in the world. All that IS left IS homebrew. And I guess they are going after that!"

*a small purse like pouch worth with the kilt
** a small Gaelic knife

InBev's Latest Acquisition



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



**The August club meeting is:
8 p.m. Friday,
August 15th
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