



Brewsletter Urquell

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 5

MAY 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our Foam Ranger Reputation
- Officer Updates
- Purser—NOW HIRING!
- LOTS of Competition news

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Out (of) The Wazoo

Bev Blackwood II, Wazoo

I have a news flash for you... The Foam Rangers have a reputation. Of course, what that reputation is, depends on whom you ask. I have heard us referred to as "cheaters" and I have heard us referred to as "competitive." Some use the term "assholes" and others "amazing." Still more think we're "incredible" and thankfully fewer think we're "idiots." So how do we get all these widely varying characterizations? The answer is quite simple, we are all of these things (and more!)

Now I can hear a few outraged murmurs already over being referred to as "cheaters." I think that it's more a case of perception than reality, to be honest. You have to admit, we are (at times) fiercely competitive. We will be celebrating thirty years of Dixie Cups to prove it this October. We were competing before competitions were cool. The Dixie Cup has occasionally been the largest single site homebrew competition in the world. So yes, we know how the game is played and we also know how

to play to win. I've seen the occasional non-brewing spouse or pet enter the Dixie Cup and I will readily admit I've never bothered to see if it's a "legit" entry or not. (I.E. One that should be disqualified) Why? Because other clubs also play the exact same games with their entries. It's a strategy and frankly, when you're facing the need to judge over one thousand beers, it's one that's not worth fighting over. I say, thanks for your \$7.00, moving on. Anyone getting bent out of shape over our competitiveness is forgetting that: 1) The Foam Rangers don't always win, even at our own event. 2) I've accidentally judged my OWN beer at a homebrew contest (NOT at Dixie Cup) and couldn't tell it from any of the others, gave it a 32 and didn't pass it to second round. Anyone who thinks they can easily pick their beer out of a lineup of similar beers is very sadly mistaken (and likely shouldn't be told the truth about Santa Claus either...)

"Assholes..." I have very mixed emotions about this one. Frankly, it's often true. We Rangers often get our drink on and as we've been

known to say, "We think we're clever when we're drinking..." Sometimes we truly are, but I have also endured a Foam Ranger meeting while sober, and I have some news for you... We aren't as funny as we think. However, I wouldn't say this is somehow a uniquely Foam Ranger characteristic. In fact, based on my experience around other clubs I'd say we actually have the best time of just about any of them. It helps we are a club of strong history and strong traditions, among which is the telling of tales that informs fellow Rangers WHY we act as we do. While impeaching the Wazoo, our reverence for Fred and shouting "This raffle sucks!" at random intervals may seem odd to a newcomer, there's a reason they exist and if you give us beer, we'll share the story of the tradition at length.

Now at this point, you may be wondering just how you got hooked up with this particular bunch of idiots. There's a lot to recommend us, in spite of our "reputation." We are devoted. To the Foam Rangers, to one another and to homebrewing. I count many of my fellow Rangers among my oldest, dearest friends.

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“when you start taking the beer too seriously, you’re not going to have as much fun”

Out (of) The Wazoo (Continued)

We are generous. We share beers, both rare and common with one another without regard to how well we know you or whether or not you’re “worthy.” We put on a dinner for two hundred or more fellow homebrewers at Dixie Cup every year as a potluck rather than making our guests pay for a “rubber chicken dinner.” We’re helpful. We readily share recipes, brewing tips and offer advice constantly (sometimes even if you didn’t want any!) We’re smart. We’ve had brewers who had their own spectrophotometer to determine IBU’s, and who’ve written for Zymurgy, Brew Your Own and the much missed Brewing Techniques magazine. There are professional brewers who were once Foam Rangers scattered across the globe. Lastly, we know “It’s just beer.” This more than anything else helps to define us. Beer is why we come together for meetings and brew-ins and the Dixie Cup, but we manage to keep it all in perspective. Everyone has daily challenges and obligations to meet and beer is what we do for fun. Whether it’s sharing at a meeting or competing in the Lone Star Circuit events, when you start taking the beer too seriously, you’re not going to have as much fun and the Foam Rangers are nothing, if not fun!

Yes, we often do some dumb things. Yes, we can be obnoxious when we’re enjoying ourselves and there’s beer involved. Yes, we sometimes indulge in the lowest forms of humor. Yes, I sometimes cringe when I hear how others perceive us. However, being a Foam Ranger does require at least a little attitude on our part. We have a long history, we’re known throughout the brewing world and have been written about (in good terms) by more than a few respected authors. So when you hear a disparaging word about us, just remember that there’s no fun in being boring, and boring is a word I never hope to hear used about the Foam Rangers.

Your 2013 Foam Ranger Officers

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What is a Purser ...and Why Do I Care?

Sharon Hayes, Purser

Let's start with why you care.

This is my fourth consecutive year as Purser and I'm ready for a year (or more) off so one of you will need to step up and take this on!

You should also care because as much as we need a Wazoo, Secondary or Food God etc, we also need someone to handle our club money and every member should have a clue about what to expect from their Purser. It's your dues, raffle, etc money coming in that pays for all of our fun.

So what does the Purser do? Now many of you have watched what I do and probably decided it's too much so you can't handle it. Nonsense! I do a lot more than Purser so please keep an open mind about the real job.

- Collect money at the meetings and take it to the bank. (This raffle sucks!)
- Issue checks to reimburse officers and others for club expenses. (Really? Wazoo said we would pay for THAT?)

- Update the membership database. (Uh-huh, the hard part of re-creating our lost data is nearly complete, so what...who can't check a box or type a name and address?)

Reports money in and out and account balance info to the other officers.

Really, does that sound difficult? That truly is the minimum requirement of the Purser job. I have come up with a standardized procedure for each of those things and written out some notes to make the job easier for myself which I am willing to pass along so you don't have to re-invent the wheel.

Most months the time required is about an hour outside of the meeting. January and March have the most membership renewals so they might take two hours instead of one hour.

Dixie Cup is where you really work because there is so much more cash activity from the entry registrations. I love DC so much that I usually go to all the sorting parties and most

of the judging but that is not really required of the Purser so it would be up to you to determine how much time you put into it. You may also have noticed that I usually run the DC registration table. Again, that is my labor of love as a member NOT a requirement of the Purser position.

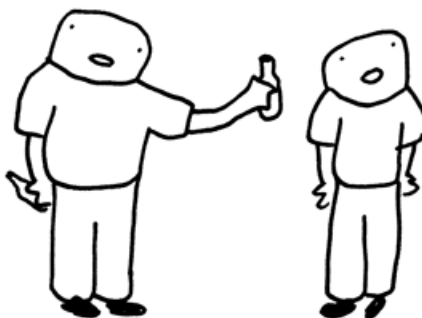
There really are some perks to go with this job too. Other people will bring you beers or snacks at the meeting. You can peruse the raffle stuff before the meeting and talk the other officers into letting you abscond with some minor stuff (nah, not the brew packages from Scott but towels or t-shirts and stuff). You can make people who want a reimbursement dance for it or...well you make up what you want and how to do it. It's also a really cool way to get to know other members. Occifer meetings are kinda fun, another excuse to go out drinking with your friends and talk about beer.

So who is ready to play with the club's money? Free training! No experience required!

here you go... this is a bottle of my homebrewed beer, first batch

some flour... a little raisin bran... you know, whatever was in the cabinet

wow! what kind of grain did you use?



Officer Non-Meeting Minutes

Janine "J9" Weber, Scrivener



No Occifers' Meeting in April, but here's what's up:

Last month it was the Karch ProAm competition, this month it was Fred Fest. Even so, your dedicated occifers have been tirelessly working on all-y'all's behalves to get us ready for Dixie Cup, to have a great May meeting, to restore the lost database, to make an amazing new tap table, and to plan for the summer pool party.

First, Pool Party: The lovely and gracious Perjak family has hosted our lard-laden asses for the pool party for many years. This year they are not able to, so..... we are hoping that some other family will host the pool party. All you need is a POOL! We'll bring all the fixin's! But we gotta get this sorted out soon or it'll be too late. Awww, c'mon now, you know you want a crazy pool party at your house.

I heard 2nd hand that Alex C may actually be able to recover data from our lost database. I hope I heard correctly, because that will be a mighty fine thing. We are also concerned about having a working version of competition software in preparation for Dixie Cup. Several options are out there and, dang! It takes a long time to figure out if a program will work or not. It's looking like (maybe) we could use the same software that was used for Alamo City Cerveza Fest and for the Bluebonnet. At least we know it works even if it IS a pain in the ass to enter beer entries.

Will H. will be asking for volunteers to start taking on Dixie Cup responsibilities, so think about how you might help out at the year's biggest, baddest, awesomest competition – OUR Dixie Cup! Yeah, and start thinking about cool food you'd like to see served at the tasting, making a special brew to served from the keg using the new tap table, and preparing your entries for the competi-tion. Speak up about it at the meeting!

Sharon our purser is spectacular, beautiful and talented AND she reports, "I've been working with Wilton & Julia Adams to get our membership records recorded in Excel. HUGE thanks for to them for the time and efforts. If any other members are willing to assist I can forward the data - all they need is Excel and time. "

Our Grand Wazoo has resolved the lost key to the raffle stash problem (hopefully for the last time). So we are good to go for a great raffle this month.

David R is actively building the new, stainless steel tap table. Some of you may have been following the email thread on this. I can't wait to see how it works – never mind what it looks like!

There are competitions on the horizon. Be ready for them and brew in plenty of time so that you don't do what I did: bottle up the witbier the morning of the day it's due while totally stressing out!

That's all I can remember right now, so....

+++++fin

"we are hoping that some other family will host the pool party. ... c'mon now, you know you want a crazy pool party at your house."



Beer Styles of the Month

Dan Muñoz, Secondary

Dark American Lager

Dark American Lager are a somewhat sweeter version of standard/premium lager with a little more body and flavor. Examples include: Dixie Blackened Voodoo, Shiner Bock, San Miguel Dark, Baltika #4, Beck's Dark, Saint Pauli Girl Dark, Warsteiner Dunkel, Heineken Dark Lager

Munich Dunkel

The classic brown lager style of Munich which developed as a darker, malt-accented beer in part because of the moderately carbonate water. While originating in Munich, the style has become very popular throughout Bavaria (especially Franconia). The style is characterized by depth and complexity of Munich malt and the accompanying melanoidins. You will find rich Munich flavors, but not as intense as a bock or as roasted as a schwarzbier.

Schwarzbier

Schwarzbiers are a regional specialty from southern Thuringen and northern Franconia in Germany, and probably a variant of the Munich Dunkel style. In comparison with a Munich Dunkel, they are usually darker in color, drier on the palate and with a noticeable (but not high) roasted malt edge to balance the malt base. While sometimes called a "black Pils," the beer is rarely that dark; don't expect strongly roasted, porter-like flavors.

Maibock/Helles Bock

These are a fairly recent development in comparison to the other members of the bock family. The serving of Maibock is specifically associated with springtime and the month of May. They can be thought of as either a pale version of a traditional bock, or a Munich helles brewed to bock strength. While quite malty, this beer typically has less dark and rich malt flavors than a traditional bock. May also be drier, hoppier, and more bitter than a traditional bock. The hops compensate for the lower level of melanoidins. There is some dispute whether Helles ("pale") Bock and Mai ("May") Bock are synonymous.

Traditional Bock

Originating in the Northern German city of Einbeck, which was a brewing center and popular exporter in the days of the Hanseatic League (14th to 17th century) Bocks were recreated in Munich starting in the 17th century. The name "bock" is based on a corruption of the name "Einbeck" in the Bavarian dialect, and was thus only used after the beer came to Munich. "Bock" also means "billy-goat" in German, and is often used in logos and advertisements.

Doppelbock

A Bavarian specialty first brewed in Munich by the monks of St. Francis of Paula this style is a very strong and rich lager and a bigger version of either a traditional bock or a helles bock. Historical versions were less well attenuated than modern interpretations, with consequently higher sweetness and lower alcohol levels (and hence was considered "liquid bread" by the monks). The term "doppel (double) bock" was coined by Munich consumers. Many doppelbocks have names ending in "-ator," either as a tribute to the prototypical Salvator or to take advantage of the beer's popularity.

Eisbock

Eisbocks are not simply stronger doppelbocks; the name refers to the process of freezing and concentrating the beer. Some doppelbocks are stronger than Eisbocks. Extended lagering is often needed post-freezing to smooth the alcohol and enhance the malt and alcohol balance. Any fruitiness is due to Munich and other specialty malts, not yeast-derived esters developed during fermentation.

Competition News

David "DR12" Rogers, Competition Coordinator



More Results! And more to come....

Alright, two more competitions have expired and we have several Foam Rangers that win. But before we get into that, a things about an upcoming competition. If you've never judged a competition, or seen what goes on behind the scenes, this Sunday is your opportunity to do so. The KGB will be hosting Big Batch Brew Bash at St. Arnold's starting about 9am. I hear they have about 70 entries, and they'll likely need some assistance hashing through all those Wit beers. Check the Foam Rangers email list for details.

There are two, possibly three competitions remaining in the Lone Star Circuit that we'll need to "ship" entries to. In recent instances, individuals have been gracious enough to drive entries to events, however, one competitions is a haul and we don't have anyone to drive entries out yet. If you are headed to Lubbock sometime in August, we could use your help. Also, if you plan on entering the Cactus Challenge, please let me know so we can plan for packing supplies if we don't get someone to drive out to Lubbock.

Alamo City CervezaFest

Category	Style	Place	Brewer	Beer
3	European Amber Lager	3rd	Janine Weber	Austrian Farm Chick
6	Light Hybrid Beer	2nd	David Rogers	Z Kolsh
10	American Ale	1st	Rolland Pate	Pate's Pale Ale
10	American Ale	HM	Hank Keller	Old Brown Stain
14	India Pale Ale	2nd	Bev Blackwood	California Dreamin'
15	German Wheat and Rye	1st	David Rogers	WeisenBock 2
15	German Wheat and Rye	2nd	Janine Weber	Off-Season

Celtic

Category	Style	Place	Brewer	Beer
13	Stout	1st	Jeff Reilly	Czar Obama
14	English IPA	3rd	Hank Keller	London Calling
19	Strong/Old Ale	2nd	David Rogers	Old Brown Stain
26	Other Mead	3rd	Jeff Reilly	Orange Spice
14	India Pale Ale	2nd	Bev Blackwood	California Dreamin'
15	German Wheat and Rye	1st	David Rogers	WeisenBock 2
15	German Wheat and Rye	2nd	Janine Weber	Off-Season

The next ProAm style competition will be Southern Star's competition. This is an open style, brew whatever you like. It doesn't have to fit any BJCP category, but it would sure help if you want it to do well at GABF. Remember that they need 4 bottles, but also remember that there is no entry fee. Other news for other Texas Pro-Am competitions are as follows: Rogness Pro-Am in Austin, Style is ESB; NXNW ProAm, Style is Fruit Beer; Flix Brewhouse Pro-Am, Style is Belgian Blond Ale. Keep in mind that for every ProAm competition you have to be a member of the AHA to eligible to win.

Just in case you're new to the club, or just haven't paid attention to the competition schedule, here is a list of competitions in the Lone Star Circuit and the months they're held. Keep in mind that entry dates are usually about three weeks prior to the competition date. As I get entry deadlines and competition dates, you'll find them filled in at the bottom of each month's article. I will be organizing the pack and ships for each competition as well, usually 2 weeks prior to the entry deadline. Make sure you are on the Foam Ranger's email list or Facebook page, as I'll broadcast our pack and ship dates there.

LoneStar Circuit Competitions

Competition Name	Location	Entry Deadline	Competition Date	Pack & Ship
Bluebonnet Brew Off	Dallas	Feb 17	March 22	Feb 15
Alamo City Cerveza Fest	San Antonio	Mar 16	April	Mar 15
Celtic Brew Off	Arlington	April 4	May 4	Mar 15
Big Batch Brew Bash	Houston	May 11	May 19	Due May 10th
Lunar Rendezbrew	Clear Lake	July 3	August 3	N/A
Limbo Challenge	Dallas	TBD	TBD	TBD
Cactus Challenge	Lubbock	August 24th	September 27-28	TBD
O'Zapft Is!	Fort Worth	August	September	N/A
Dixie Cup	Houston	September 27	October 18	N/A

Non-Lone Star Circuit Competitions

Competition Name	Location	Entry Deadline	Competition Date	Pack & Ship
MCAB	Saint Paul, MN	May 3rd	May 17-18	April 25th
Southern Star ProAm	Conroe	June 7th	TBD	TBD
Rogness Pro-Am	Austin	June 9th	TBD	TBD
Flix Brewhouse Pro-Am	Austin	June 9th	TBD	TBD
NXNW Pro-Am	Austin	June 9th	TBD	TBD
Austin Homebrew Inquisition	Austin	July 7th	August 10th	June 21st



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



**20
13**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

MEMBER E-MAIL _____

2ND MEMBER E-MAIL _____ **PHONE** _____

AMOUNT PAID _____ NEW RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Membership Fees: (per year) \$30.00 Individual / \$40.00 Family (Member +1)

Paid between December 1 and December 31	\$25.00 / \$35.00 (Pay early and save!)
Paid between January 1 & March 31	\$30.00 / \$40.00
Paid between April 1 & June 30	\$25.00 / \$35.00
Paid between July 1 & September 30	\$20.00 / \$30.00
Paid between October 1 & November 30	\$30.00 / \$40.00 (Includes the next year!)

Please make checks payable to: The 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, 9223 Stella Link, Houston, Texas 77025-3902

Detach & Keep!

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Welcome to the Foam Rangers! Now get connected!

We have two E-mail lists:

The Foam Rangers Discussion List & the Foam Rangers Announce List.

What's the difference?

The **Foam Rangers Discussion** list is where people can interact and reply to the posts of other Foam Ranger list members. The **Foam Rangers Announce** list is where the Grand Wazoo posts club announcements and is **not** a discussion list. Anything posted to the Announce list will also be posted to the Discussion list, so you don't have to subscribe to both.

To subscribe to the **Discussion** list, send an e-mail to:

foam-rangers-join@foamrangers.com

To subscribe to the **Announcement** list, send an e-mail to:

foam-rangers-announce-join@foamrangers.com

You will receive a reply from the server with instructions for confirming your subscription.. Follow the instructions to complete the subscription process.

Once you have successfully subscribed, you will receive a reply with the list guidelines as well as instructions for unsubscribing.