



Brewsletter Urquell

THE FOAM RANGERS

January 2016

Volume 36, Issue: 1

Out (of) The Wazoo

Robert Brown, Grand Wazoo

This is my very first article as your new Grand Wazoo. It is a great honor to be in this position, especially considering that I was kicked out of the first meeting I attended. Hopefully, I will live up to expectations and continue to carry the torch appropriately. I promise not to let being "The Most Powerful Man in Homebrewing" get to my little pea-brained head. I understand the legacy and will do my best to make the club proud in 2016.



For those that don't know the newly appointed "Biggest Idiot in the Room", here is a quick See What a sucker *On Page 2*

Brewsletter Done in a Hurry

Yup! Again...



Upcoming events

- February 7th - Officer's meeting @Noon, Sugarland Saucer
- February 13th - Brew-in
- February 19th - Meeting

What a sucker *From Page 1*

bit of info about myself. I grew up on the north side of Houston and have been an “inner loop” for about the past fifteen years. I attended The University of Texas at Austin (Hook ‘em, horns!), where I first began to dabble in making beer. I have been homebrewing pretty steadily for over five consecutive years now.

One goal that I have while sporting the “Fez of Power” is to increase interaction with other area homebrew clubs (The KGB, Bay Area Mastronauts, & CIA to name a few). I plan to personally visit at least one monthly meeting of each of these clubs throughout the year. First up for me is to attend the Sugar Land Imperialists’ meeting on Friday, February 5th (6:30pm) at Texian Brewing Company. Feel free to join me.

Another thing I would like to encourage during my term is more folks entering competitions. Maybe it’s only my perception, but member participation in the various competitions has dipped in recent times. There are now eleven homebrew competitions in the Lone Star Circuit (<http://www.lonestarcircuit.com/>). Get your tasty beers in some of them! And bring a bottle or two, or a growler, to the monthly meetings for “homebrew happy hour”. If you’re more into judging beers instead, great! We could always use more BJCP certified judges in the group. Ask around if you are interested in judging opportunities or would like to begin the road to official certification. Speaking of “club competitions”, we are in search of a coordinator to lead the effort for the Foam Rangers’ very own Dixie Cup. Please contact any of the officers immediately if you are interested in putting together what will be the 33rd installment of the event (the oldest homebrew competition Texas and one of the oldest in the nation).

Some of you may recall the Galveston Pub Crawl that we did in June 2014. Well, we are working on a North Houston Pub Crawl this time and are hoping to have it in the Spring or early Summer. Stay tuned to details.

There is so much more that I could write about, but will bring this article to a close. In my few years of being involved with the Foam Rangers, I have learned quite a bit from fellow members and have met some really cool and/or “interesting” people. I hope to continue this learning process and look forward to the opportunity to meet, interact with, get to know, etc. several others. Cheers!

PS: If you haven’t already, I would like to ever so kindly ask you to **PAY YOUR FUCKING DUES!**



Competitions

Erol Bura, Competition Coordinator

With additional reporting by Beeriac and The Grand Wazoo

Bluebonnet Brew Off (one week earlier this year!)

Entry Period: Jan 10 - Jan 24, 2016

Judging: Feb 2, Feb 13, Feb 20-21, Feb 27-28, March 5-6

Event: March 11 - 12, 2016

Awards Ceremony: March 12, 2016

For Foam Ranger group transportation, registered Bluebonnet competition entries need to be at Defalco's by close of business on Wednesday, January 27th.

Registration Note: Choose 'Texas Brewing Inc' from the "Where will your entries be received?" drop down.

Cactus Challenge

Entry Period: Mar. 4 - 25 (registration opens at noon March 4th and closes at noon March 25th)

Entry Check-in: March 26th 1:00pm @ YHCBW

1st Round Judging: Apr. 2-3, Apr. 8-9, Apr. 15-16 & Apr. 22 (if necessary)

Final Round Judging: Apr. 23 and Apr. 29 (if necessary)

Event: April 30th

Awards Ceremony: April 30th

You can drop off your entries at the Bluebonnet Brew-Off!

They will continue to limit the total number of entries to 335 paid entries, with a per entrant cap of 25 (2 per sub category.) Entry fee will remain \$8/entry, and we will be collecting entries at the Bluebonnet again this year.

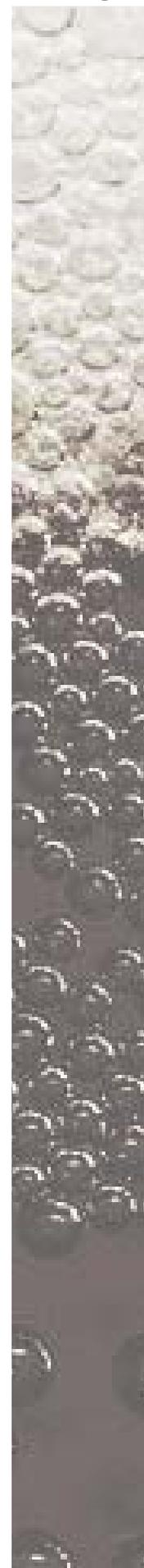
Lunar Rendezbrew (much earlier this year!)

Website active and Entries submission: 2/5 - 3/17

Pick-Up Dates at designated drop off points: 3/18

Login Sorting Date: 3/19 Defalco's Clear Lake

Judging Dates: 3/26, 4/2, 4/3, 4/9, 4/10, 4/16, 4/17, 4/23, 4/24 (Locations TBD)



Officers meeting minutes (January 10, 2016)

Denise Lord (soon to be Denise Whitney), Scrivener



Alright, alright, alright – I'm here. Sort of. Making my debut in the newsletter as an officer, and I'm going to keep it short and sweet, as I'm rather distracted with combing through the final details of an important wedding happening this Saturday – MINE. So please forgive my brevity; as Scrivener, I'm certain I will improve with time, like barleywine.

The first "First Sunday" (Second Sunday) officers meeting took place at Petrol Station, 985 Wakefield Dr, at 2:08 in the afternoon. It was crisp, cool, and SMOKY. As in, I still smell like I've been hanging out in a mesquite pit. Between bouts of crying eye watering from the eyeball burning smoke, we covered a few club topics. In attendance were Wazoo Robert Brown, Secondary Paul Porter, Purser Rich Goeggel, Brewsletter Editor Matt Crnkovich, Newly volunteered Competition Coordinator and brand new Foam Ranger Erol Bural, Elsie Burgos, Steve Moore, and yours truly.

1. Bluebonnet is sneaking up quickly. Entries are due January 24, and despite the short timeline, we hope to see some Foam Ranger participation.
2. THERE IS NO (food) GOD! We've established that this isn't actually a need to panic: everyone should use their good sense and eat before you come to a Foam Ranger meeting. Knowing food at meetings is along the snack vs meal lines, we won't fall apart without a Food God(dess). There's still beer... right? However, it is nice when the club has a coordinator who likes to put a little energy into serving up some tasty beer friendly snacks. If this is up your alley, go for it! Snacks are supported by a limited club budget and are much appreciated by those of us who devour them. We may entertain ideas of potluck style, sign-up sheets, rotating volunteers, etc. in lieu of a God(dess).
3. Officer Meetings: Many First Sunday meetings will actually be Second Sundays this year, due to holidays or other conflicts. See the website to make note of any changes to the regular First Sunday pattern. Dates are fairly certain, locations may change.

February Officer Meeting will be at 12 pm rather than 2 pm, to accommodate for potential Super Bowl Sunday plans.

4. Brew-Ins: We'll be passing a sign-up sheet at the January meeting in attempt to get brewers to cover Brew-ins covered for the rest of the year. Please sign up, but be careful when the alcohol tells you that you should sign up for 3 summer brew-ins.

5. Rich is being relieved of his 2 jobs as IT Coordinator and Purser: Lance Ford has volunteered to be our IT dude.

6. Other Rich related notes: Rich has a first place medal he has committed to bring to the next meeting. He somehow only has read only access to the member database, so he has come up with an alternative to maintaining and making that available to officers. Discussions were had about officer communication preferences toward Messenger vs email. Most prefer Messenger; Rich will survive through this, or we'll make sure to email money specific topics to him.



7. Money: Checks for Dues and receipts were exchanged between Waz and Purser. There is an outstanding United Graphics invoice for Dixie Cup programs that needs to be paid. There is cash money in the lock box behind the counter at DeFalcos. Secondary Paul Porter needs to know his budget for each meeting at least 1 month ahead of time.

8. Merchandise: Need to check inventory and protocol for ordering more badges and Barleywine shirts. No one was completely clear on the process of online purchase or replenishing stock. Should we need to use vendors or merchandise different than we have in the past, Matt Crnkovich has graphics to use.

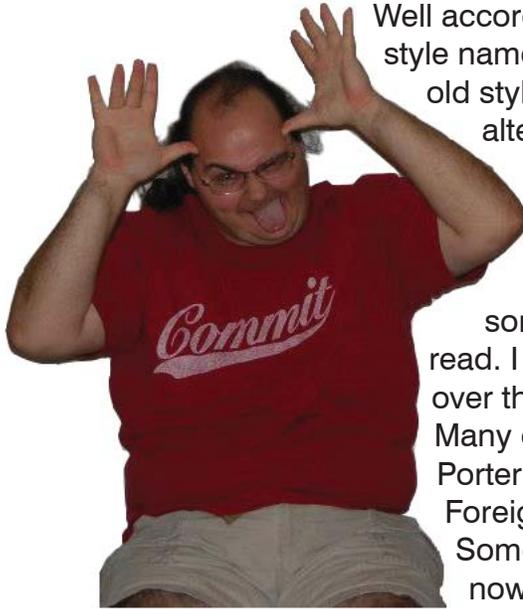
9. There is chatter about a Pub Crawl around the North Side of Houston. I could ALMOST copy and paste the notes about this from the February 2015 Officers Meeting notes, but maybe it will come together this year.

Another gust of smoke comes over us from the fire pit that's really just trying to keep us warm. Some reach to protect their eyes, others reach to protect their beers. (RauchIPA anyone?) We all survived. The End.



Porters and Stouts

Paul Porter, Secondary Fermenter



Well according to the BJCP page, it's time to relearn our style names and the additional styles carved out of the old styles. The guideline format of the styles has been altered as well: "Overall Impression" is now up front, "Ingredients" is now "Characteristic Ingredients," and two new sections have been added "Style Comparison" and "Tags." I have also noticed a large increase in verbiage in the history sections: some of the additions are interesting so give them a read. I will cover the basic changes in the monthly styles over the year. This month's they are porters and stouts. Many of them just changed category number: Baltic Porter is now 9C, Sweet Stout 16A, Oatmeal Stout 16B, Foreign Extra Stout 16D, and American Stout 20B. Some were renamed and numbered: Brown Porter is now English Porter 13C, Dry Stout is now Irish Stout 15B, Robust Porter is now American Porter 20A, and

Russian Imperial Stout is now Imperial Stout 20C. (I'm guessing they are no longer Russian, so chill and eat your "freedom fries.")

There are also two new styles listed among the porter/stout family. 15C Irish Extra Stout which seems to have been craved out of parts of Dry Stout, Sweet Stout, and Foreign Extra Stout, and 16C Tropical Stout which was special type of Foreign Extra Stout with potent fruity character.

This January, let's explore the dark side. Yoda said it best "...beware of the dark side... Easily they flow... once you start down the dark path, forever will it dominate your destiny, consume you it will..." So, buckle up and let the force of emo Kylo Ren embrace you. Now is the time – succumb to the dark, oh so flavorful, side!







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



NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

MEMBER E-MAIL _____

2ND MEMBER E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

AMOUNT PAID _____ NEW RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Membership Renewal: \$35.00 Individual / \$45.00 Family (Member +1)

Paid between October 31 and December 31 \$30.00 / \$40.00 (Pay early and save!)

New Member Fees: (per year)

Paid between January 1 & June 30 \$35.00 / \$45.00

Paid between July 1 & October 31 \$25.00 / \$35.00 (Includes Dixie Cup!)

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:



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



The Foam Rangers

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



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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.