



Brewsletter Urquell

THE FOAM RANGERS

March 2016

Volume 36, Issue: 3

Out (of) The Wazoo

Robert Brown, Grand Wazoo

Great news this week with regards to the search for Dixie Cup XXXIII coordinator. Matt Stephens has agreed to spearhead the effort. Theme information to follow. Matt will now be assembling his team. If called upon, please consider helping out with putting together the best gosh darn homebrew club competition known to man!



Not only did the club get a Dixie Cup coordinator for this year, but we already have a volunteer for next year! I will wait to announce them until after we have that “are you sure?” moment. If it sticks though, it’ll definitely be a great jumpstart to 2017.

See Good Head On Page 2

Bat Boy Enters Race For Beer Party

Perennial underdog and tabloid sensation Bat Boy has entered the presidential race under the Beer Party.



He was quick to receive endorsements from several fraternities and other beer consuming groups around the country. Controversy erupted when the Grand Wazoo offered an endorsement, and Bat Boy was called upon by the public and media to denounce and disavow the endorsement. Clearly, some people had mistaken the title as Grand Dragon of KKK notoriety due to David Duke’s endorsement of The Donald Trump a few weeks ago.

In his speech accepting the nomination, Bat Boy energized the crowd and made bold statements but did not get into specifics about how he planned to reign in opposing legislators.

See Bat Boy On Page 8

Upcoming events

April 3rd - First Sunday

@2pm, Moon Tower Inn

April 9th - Brew-in

April 15th - Meeting

Good Head *From Page 1*

You may recall me previously mentioning the North Houston Brewery Crawl. Well, it's happening! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 25th. The visits that day will include the following breweries: 11 Below, Lone Pint, B-52, & Southern Star. The bus will most likely depart and return to Defalco's (Stella Link) with tickets per person at around \$35. Stay tuned for more details, which will be emailed out and posted on Facebook.

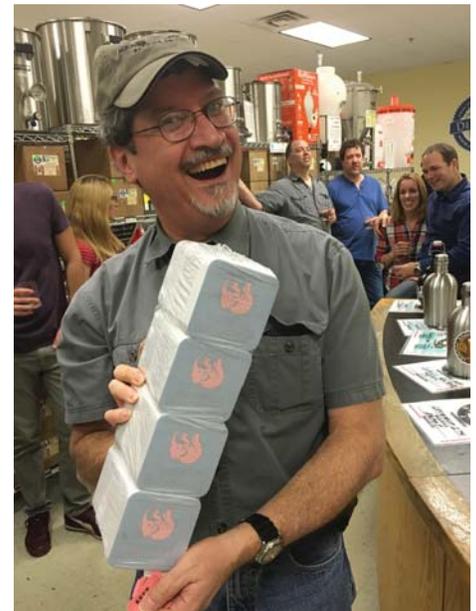
I would normally defer all competition news to the Competition Coordinator, but wanted to point out an interesting observation that I noticed with the Bluebonnet results from this past weekend. Both my American Barleywine and Was Waz Noel Hart's Dry Stout, both of which lost in previous 'Pros vs. Joes' brewoffs, each received first place in their respective categories. To no surprise, conspiracy theories have begun to resurface.

Speaking of "Pros vs. Joes", another one will be taking place at the next Brew-In on Saturday, April 9th. Casey Motes, brewer for the soon-to-be-opened Eureka Heights and former Saint Arnold brewer, will be brewing an American Amber Ale against the Foam Rangers' very own Matt Stephens (yes, the Dixie Cup XXXIII coordinator). As always, it should be a good time. See you there?

I would like to close my article with a call to help out with Lunar Rendezbrew 23 homebrew competition judging. The club that runs that, Bay Area Mastronauts, is very supportive year in and year out with showing up to Dixie Cup judging dates, so let's return the favor. Below is a list of their upcoming judging sessions. Please make an effort to attend a session or two (or more) if you can. Locations vary. Check their website to sign up: <http://mashtronauts.com/lr-judging/>.

April 2nd (Saturday) @ 9:00a.m.
 April 3rd (Saturday) @ 9:00a.m.
 April 9th (Saturday) @ 9:00a.m.
 April 10th (Saturday) @ 9:00a.m.
 April 16th (Saturday) @ 9:00a.m.
 April 17th (Saturday) @ 9:00a.m.
 April 23rd (Saturday) @ 9:00a.m.

That is all for now. Until next time...



Bernie Sanders Drops By Foam Ranger Meeting



Bernie Sanders stopped by last month's meeting to promise free beer for all who vote for him if he gets elected. But that seems unlikely, so we'll just have to continue to pay our dues and buy our own beer.



Competitions

Erol Bura, Competition Coordinator

Congrats to everyone who won medals in Bluebonnet! It was a great start but we have the other competitions to win! Please see the details below.

Bluebonnet Brew Off

Foam Rangers took 2nd for club points!

Cory Marx 2nd place in Kölsch

Hank Keller 2nd and 1st place in Light Lager

Benson Ledbetter 3rd place in Scottish Ale

Jeff Reilly HM and 2nd place in Strong British ale

Noel Hart 3rd place in Strong British ale

Noel Hart 2nd place in Imperial Stout

Noel Hart 1st place in Irish Ale

Eric Heinz and Kyle Autry 3rd place in Strong Belgian ale

Ed Moore 2nd place in Spice Herb Veggie.

Andy Behr 1st place in Wood aged (and Smoked).

Andy Behr 2nd place in Alternative Fermentables

Robert Brown 1st place in American strong ale



Competitions Upcoming

Cactus Challenge

Entry Period: Until Mar. 25

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

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.

Lunar Rendezbrew

Entries needed to be dropped off Today!

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)

Here is the link to register, pay the entry fee and access to more information:

<http://rendezbrew.brewcomp.com/>

Cactus Challenge

Registration Period: Through March 25th

Drop Off Deadline: March 26th at Yellow House Canyon Brew Works

Second Drop off deadline for Houston: Date TBD at Defalco's

We will announce the exact date later but it is probably going to be the beginning of next week (March 21-22) so it would be good to bring your Cactus Challenge entries to the monthly meeting.

Here is the link for more info: <http://www.ale-iansociety.org/cactus/>

2016 Homebrew Shootout Pro-Am

This year's Pro-Am will be BJCP 2008 Category 18, Belgian Strong Ale. All subcategories are included.

Entries Open March 4, 2016

Entries Close April 2, 2016

Awards Ceremony April 23, 2016 at the Katy Wild West Brew Fest

For more info and to register: <http://competition.cialers.org/index.php?section=entry>



March Officer's Meeting Minutes

Denise Whitney, Scrivener

3/5/2016



Let's start with who WASN'T in attendance in this meeting. ME. I was out in Cali visiting my sister. It just happened to be Beer Week there in Sacramento, but I digress.

I missed you guys. Really.

Instead, I sent my lovely husband in my place to record the meeting, and I've been having a great time listening to

this beer infused club discussion on my phone on my commute, on my couch... it's been... fun (?) But, the recording is clear, so here I am doing my best to type up the happenings of the meeting I couldn't attend.

In attendance: I'm listing based on voice recognition, sorry if I missed anyone! Robert, Rich, Matt, Paul, Shazia, Erol, Luke as proxy for Denise

Topics discussed:

AHA Rally

Sunday February 22 was successful - gained new members, renewals. Positive FR presence. Sweet.

Dixie Cup Coordinator

Still a huge to-do. Still pending as the club's biggest need.

North Houston Brewery Crawl

June 25 date set for North Houston Brewery Crawl -- Mark your calendars!!! We will hit 11 Below, Lone Pint, B52, Southern Star, in that order. We will loop back through 11 Below for the convenience of KGB members who would like to join us as well. We will start and end at DeFalco's. A suggestion was made to change the pick up/drop off location to a hotel to allow folks to crash there instead of driving home if needed. Ideas include surveying club to see who would be interested, have a second (quick) pickup at a hotel near 11 below for those who want to be picked up there instead of DeFalco's. Will revisit options as planning for the event develops. Robert

is currently getting bus quotes and have spoken with most of the breweries. Go ahead and get the word out, put it on your calendars. Aiming to set up ability to pay on website. Motion to host Brewery Crawl was voted in - it's a go!

Twitter/Social Media Platforms

Who uses Twitter? There is a Foam Ranger Twitter account that is not in use, and the question is posed of whether it should be. Would it help us gain publicity? Would our members give a tweet?

Shazia made the suggestion to add a new elected, not voting, officer position as social media chair for all platforms. Would be good to look into app to link all platforms together. #Foamies. As a note, any information shared via social media still has to go out in email as well.

IT Coordinator update

David Rogers is meeting with Lance Ford this week to fully brief Lance on and hand over reigns of the IT duties to Lance. Should be a done deal very soon. Lance will be in full control of website, calendar, email admin, etc. Calendar updates need to be addressed as a priority. Some officers (apparently not just me!) are still not getting emails from our system.

Membership database

This needs to be consolidated and updated. Robert has been updating official database in Google Docs with new members from January meeting and

AHA Rally. Rich has been maintaining an Excel sheet on the side, because his access is limited to Read Only. Will work to restore Rich's access and have one cohesive database.

DC Score Sheets

There was discussion around what we may be able to do to improve distributing Dixie Cup score sheets to entrants, by sending them electronically vs pick up or by mail. A lot of chatter around time and cost effectiveness. There is curiosity around if there is a system that would help this happen quickly and accurately tie score sheets to entrants' login for registration. Score sheet conversation will be revisited - it is irrelevant without a coordinator.

Badges

Do we need stinkin' badges? We're down to 11 badges and likely need to order more. Badges are sold (rarely) to club members, used as giveaways to Pros, guest speakers, etc. As a club, we would like to begin pushing more merchandise sales, both for light fundraising for the club as well as, and more importantly, to "brand" the club. We want to get our name out by wearing gear, especially when we're out appearing out as Foam Rangers. For instance, at the aforementioned Brewery Crawl, competitions, rallies, etc. Every Foamie should have some gear and wear it with pride! Officers voted to re-order more badges.

Meeting Start Time

Need more officer representation at 7pm when the meeting starts. Paul has committed to be there by 7pm at every meeting - others that can be there would be appreciated. We want members to be greeted, feel welcome, and that there's actually an event going on.

Financials

Taxes are taken care of. Rich is handling January meeting deposit this week. Robert made deposit of new member from AHA Rally.

May Meeting

"First Sunday" meeting needs to be shifted from May 1 to another date, possibly the second Sunday, May 8. That's Mother's Day. Will vote on May meeting date in April meeting.

Shirts

Continued point that we need to order more shirts. We are down to about 4 small men's and 4 small women's Barleywine shirts. That will fit basically zero Foam Rangers. Plan to decide on action plan at next meeting.

As a reminder to ALL!! The First Sunday Officer's meeting is open to all Foam Rangers! The first hour is spent covering club business followed by social time. Everyone is welcome to the meeting, and we'd love to see more of you out.

Good Head *From Page 1*

At times the speech seemed to rattle and drift across multiple topics, which were defined by a unified rage against Big Beer. "I'm sick and tired of having to be so PC everywhere. So I'm going to say it--Bud Light Sucks!" Which drew in the crowd for the announcement of his biggest plan: "We're going to make a beautiful river come out of that eyesore brewery on I-10, and we're going to make Saint Louis pay for it!"

"Oh--and...THIS RAFFLE SUCKS" to which the crowd erupted in agreement.

At this point, it is not clear how Mr. Boy will do in the general election. Several political pundits are predicting a flop, and others think he will act as a spoiler candidate, either keeping normal citizens away from the polls while drawing out the crazies, or by taking the crazy vote away from whatever hair experiment might be nominated.

The only thing for certain is that this is really has become the most unusual presidential race in years.



Scott Accidentally Raffles Shop



Bat Boy for President: Foam Ranger Reactions



“You know, Bat Boy gags and the Foam Rangers were my idea.”
Steve Moore,
Hasher, Was-a lot of stuff a long time ago



“What a bunch of suckers this club is to believe everything”
Nathan Summers,
Malt Wholesaler



“
”
Bat Boy,
Newest Dues Paid Foam Ranger Member



“Someone said there was free beer here.”
Kate Jarvis,
Paranormal Expert



Belgian and Sour Ales

Paul Porter, Secondary Fermenter



Fond Felicitations Fellow Foamies!

Belgian/Sour Night is upon us once again. If you ever wondered where a lot of your dues went, it's to this meeting, so **PAY YOUR FUCKING DUES**. Typically, we serve fruit beers in March as well, but I've decided to move those to the Bock night. There are so many yummy Belgian and sour ales available and so few Bocks, I figured it would be best to rearrange things.

I also moved Oud Bruin's to brown ale night.

This month's line up has 33 brews almost all of them were selected by our resident Belgian and Sour Ale aficionado Phil Verdieck. So if you like what you are drinking give Phil a pat on the back. I decided it would be better to have variety of individual 750ml bottles than 18 brews with excess volume. So, the pours will be small but frequent. The March brew list is below.

As mentioned my previous articles, BJCP has decided to redo the categories and some of the style definitions. In my 15 minutes comparison of the guidelines, I did not see a substantial change in the actual definitions of the beer, but they did shuffle them around a bit.

Here is a table of the old guidelines versus the new ones. It seems saison is now deemed a "Strong Belgian Ale". This kind of struck me as a bit weird since most of the ones I know, and love, are session beers. The new guidelines distinguish more on the potency of yeast character with the "strong" moniker, and Saisons certainly fit that bill. To all of you that loved to cross enter into Belgian Specialty, sorry, they decided to get rid of that category. They also split Trappist Ales out of the Belgian Strong Ale category. With the split, they added the long lost "Trappist Single" which greatly sets my obsessive compulsive mathematical mind at ease. I mean really, we had a Dubbel, Tripel, and Quad where the hell did the single go! I've included pieces of the Single's description that I found interesting. I'm a big fan of low alcohol and high flavor brews. I'm hoping that this category becomes popular, so I can drink like a monk while writing some of my papers.

26A. Trappist Single

Comments: Often not labeled or available outside the monastery, or infrequently brewed. Might also be called monk's beer or Brother's beer. Highly attenuated, generally 85% or higher. **History:** While Trappist breweries have a tradition of brewing a lower-strength beer as a monk's daily ration, the bitter, pale beer this style describes is a relatively modern invention reflecting current tastes. Westvleteren first brewed theirs in 1999, but replaced older lower-gravity products.

Style Comparison: Like a top-fermented Belgian/Trappist interpretation of a German Pils – pale, hoppy, and well-attenuated, but showing prototypical Belgian yeast character. Has less sweetness, higher attenuation, less character malt, and is more hop-centered than a Belgian Pale Ale. More like a much smaller, more highly hopped tripel than a smaller Belgian Blond Ale.



Brew List:

1. Elevation Signal De Botrange
2. St. Bernardus Abt
3. Orval Trappist
4. Lindemans Cuvee Rene Gueze
5. De Danke Hop Harvest
6. Dupont Avec Les Bons Voeux Holiday Ale
7. Epic Elder Brett
8. St. Bernardus Triple
9. Boulevard Saison Bret
10. Lupulus Belgian Ale
11. Kasteel Rouge
12. New Belgium La Folie
13. Boulevard Bourbon Barrel Quad
14. Gulden Draak Quad
15. Nebraska Apricot Au Poivre
16. Rochefort 10
17. Kasteel Cuvee du Chateau Quad
18. Ommegang Three Philosophers
19. Duchesse De Bourgogne
20. Karmeliet Triple
21. North Coast Grand Cru
22. Real Ale Black Quad



23. Petrus Aged Pale
24. Adelbert's Triple
25. BFM Addaye de Saint Con Chien
26. Liefmans Goudenban
27. Adelberts's Barrel of Love
28. Dupont Saison
29. Real Ale Devil's Backbone
30. Ranger Creek La Bestia
31. Boulevard Nommo Dubbel
32. St. Louis Fond Traditional Geuze
33. Destihl Wild Sour Flanders Red

