



# THE FOAM RANGERS

## Brewsletter Urquell

April 2017 / Volume 37, Issue: 4

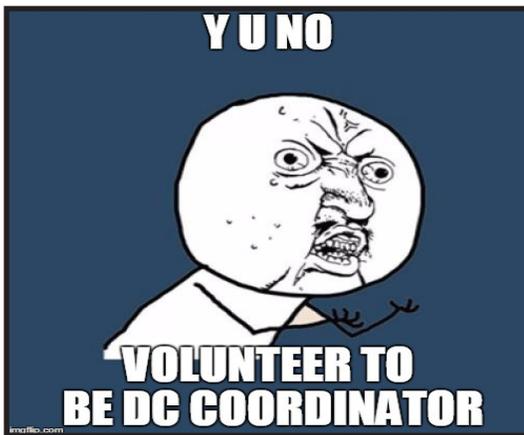
Some rumors have been going around that the Foam Rangers will be hosting an event this year. Well, I guess I'll go ahead and spill the beans. Yes, it's true, THE Foam Rangers (easy now, we put our pants on one leg at a time, just like everyone else...except that once they're on we make award winning beers!) will be hosting a huge event. The HUGEST. Probably the hugest ever. The event will be called "Dixie Cup". So, I'd like to go ahead and offer up the opportunity of a lifetime...TO BE DIXIE CUP

### Upcoming Events

- May 6 / Big Brew for National Homebrew Day @ DeFalco's
- May 7 / First Sunday & Officer Meeting @ Eureka Heights (935 W. 18th St.)
- May 13 / Brew-in @ DeFalco's
- May 19 / Club Meeting @ DeFalco's (Bock, Dk Lager)

COORDINATOR!!! Some say it's a good way to lose an arm or a leg, but don't worry, 'tis but a flesh wound.

Seriously though, we need a Dixie Cup coordinator. Volunteer now or I shall taunt you a second time!



Look well Foamies, for it is your sacred task to seek this cup...  
The Quest for the Lone Star Cup



The Austin Zealots say "we've already got one!"



Aware		Lunar Rendezbrew 24	Awards Ceremony 29-April
Aware		Cactus Challenge 20	Awards Ceremony 6-May
Achtung!		Big Batch Brew Bash 22	Last weekend to brew! One style only: Belgian IPA BJCP 2015 Category 21B Entry deadline 12-May
Achtung!		Alamo City Cerveza Fest 12	Only 2 weekends left to brew! Enter now through 19-May Awards Ceremony 24-June



# Out (of) The Wazoo

**Janine (J9) Weber, Grand Wazoo**

Hey all you Foamies! It is great to be back in town after an 8-day trip to our nation's capital, Washington DC to attend this year's Craft Brewers Conference (CBC). It was the second time to the CBC for me and I learned just as much this time. It is a lot like drinking from a firehose and I was pretty wrecked on the flight home.

Ex-Foam Ranger, Matt Crnkovich, hosted not only me, but also Foam Ranger-going-pro Robert (Waz Waz) Brown, aka Whiney Bitch. He got the couch, I got the air mattress under the desk. We made sure Matt got invited to the Texas Craft Brewers event at Atlas Brewing, and between Bev (Waz Waz2), Charles Vallhonrat (one of the "Bastards" – I forget which), RB and

myself, Matt lucked out on free beer all week. Three cheers for Matt for making it possible for 2 fellow Foamies to attend CBC!!!

The CBC had the highest attendance EVER and it was clear from the number of folks who had "Brewery in Planning" on their name tags, that there is no slowing down yet in the Craft Beer scene. There were major (large-audience) talks in the mornings, but I chose to prowl the enormous Exhibition Hall for cool new ideas for the club and for my own brewpub in planning (and where I scored a shit-load of swag). There was also a second exhibition hall in the upper upper level (they called this "The Coolship" area) that I barely touched because there was so much to see on the lower level. This is seriously the golden age for Craft Brewing. In the afternoons, there were many smaller presentations arranged according subject. I followed the "Startups" and "Brewpubs" subjects, while Robert followed the "Technical Brewing" subjects. Then in the evening there was FREE BEER and live music in the Coolship area.



The COOLEST thing I saw was a new way to make an oak barrel – you start with a stainless-steel cube, cut out panels in the sides, add a roomy port in the top and a spigot for sampling in the bottom. You can replace the wooden panels easily to renew the oak flavor. The square kegs can stack and they don't weigh a ridiculous amount, AND they don't need special stacking frames. They hold as much as a regular keg, so they're a bit smaller than a bourbon barrel, but the advantages are clear. I also saw some great new ideas about brewer's shirts that aren't quite as heavy as the standard stuff and I think they would be great to order for the club. More info on that will be forthcoming.



Other interesting products were the new varieties of hop oil essences and all types of flavorings. Home brewers can also use these to improve and enhance our beer because many of them are available in smaller quantities. I'll be asking Scott if he can order some for us to try out.

The best talk I attended was about how to structure the business when starting (but y'all don't want to hear about that) – and also a very interesting talk about why hop uptake often goes non-linear (doesn't do what you'd expect) when you add a shit-ton of hops to a big beer. It got way over my head because he broke down the different hop oil components, some of which I'd never heard of. But the audience was madly taking notes and I could see guys realizing how they were going to revise their IPA recipes.

Washington DC is a beautiful city and the weather played nice for us. I even had a chance to visit several museums and to tour all the monuments. My feet were SOOOO sore on the last day!! My pedometer said I did over 13000 steps on Friday.



The only worry I have about the apparent interstellar trajectory of the Craft Brewing business is that there are going to be so many great small breweries that, eventually, for some of us, it really won't make sense to brew our own anymore. There will just be too many fascinating places to visit and drink the fruits of someone else's love and labor. AND: no crappy kettle to clean! Even so, some of us die-hards will continue to brew our own because we want to enjoy the fruits of our OWN love and labor.

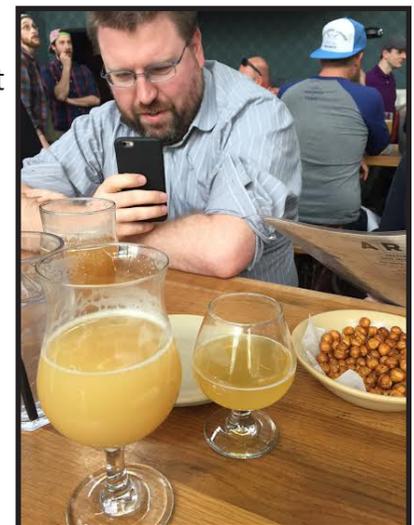
With that thought in mind, remember to give your patronage and bucks to our sponsor, DeFalco's, because without Scott

and his team of DeFalcoids we would be stuck mail-ordering all our brewing shit. Which would just be tragic (and stupid).

And speaking of DeFalcoids, David Toups, whom many of you know as the long-time store manager, has been struggling with cancer for the last 3 years. He's gone through several rounds of treatment and it has taken a toll on his family's finances. To support David, 8th Wonder Brewery is putting on a benefit party for him this Sunday, April 23rd. It will happen in the taproom where proceeds will go to David's gofundme campaign. Additional information at: <https://www.gofundme.com/help-david-toups-with-cancer-bills> . I encourage everyone grab some friends to go to 8th Wonder, buy a bunch of beers and drink to David's recovery.

Cheers y'all!

Janine, Grand Wazoo of the Foam Rangers 2017



# Foam Rangers Officer Meeting

Minutes by Mike Reed, Scrivener  
April 2, 2017 @ Brash Brewing

In attendance: Janine Weber, Phil Verdick, Denise Whitney, Luke Whitney, Scott Birdwell

As stated above, the meeting was held Brash Brewing. There was no signage at the turn-in for Brash. Several members searched for it for many minutes before exploring an unmarked driveway. I personally spent 20 minutes searching for the entrance hidden by apartments on both



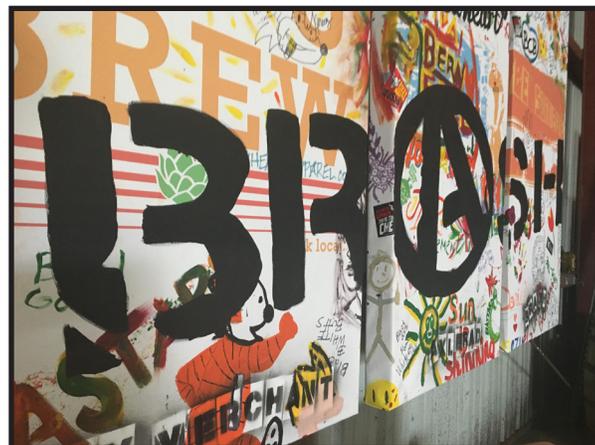
sides. On one of my many passes I looked deep down a driveway I thought was part of the apartments and saw what looked like a tour bus and decided to take a chance. The bus turned out to be part of someones pub crawl. If it were not for that bus I might have still been looking.

Brash was brash and loud as usual. When the Waz requested slightly less columns or a change of music, the bar-keep answered, "This is BRASH!" And nothing changed. The couple sitting next to us left because of the music, committing a cardinal sin "Leaving a half glass of beer".



- Meeting began with discussion around Janine and Phil's trip to Bluebonnet. Not comparing Bluebonnet to Dixie Cup, but how to apply some of the successful things they do to DC. One thing is approaching KGB or other clubs about helping, maybe doing the Fred Tasting.
- We need to have our tax status (tax free) handy to show, it helps to open up purse strings at breweries and other places. Also helps get discounts as a nonprofit organization. Need to get with Sharon to get tax status and bylaws. Need to think about setting up succession so we always have access to information.
- Discussion around increasing membership and getting new members, getting them interested in our club and how to retain them. How to get them to step up as officers infusing new blood and new ideas to keep club growing:
  - Discussion around what other clubs do to get people involved.
  - Also discussion again around getting to know new people at the meeting and being able to help them.
  - Having a photo book and people tagged as well to help new brewers
  - Decided to use name tag at meetings and make an announcement asking who is new to brewing and who needs help, then hook them up with someone who is willing to help.
- Discussion around Dixie Cup
- Hotel
- Room setup
- Scheduling
  - Judging
  - Mili-Conferences
  - Pub Crawls
  - Local brewery involvement
  - Fred tasting

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m. and with so many people dropping in, turned into a beer social, which we all could use on a Sunday afternoon.



# Beer of the Month

By Phil Verdieck (Secondary)

Scottish Ales. Not just for those who wear kilts! The Scottish have a great sense of humor, as exemplified by naming a beer Sheepshaggers Gold: "The Best Beer Baa None."

Scottish ales making goes back at least 5000 years in history. The ancient Greek Pytheas remarked in 325 BC that the inhabitants of Caledonia were skilled in the art of brewing a potent beverage. While it has long been assumed for various reasons that Scottish brewers made little use of hops, the available information from brewing and trade records show that brewers in Edinburgh used hops as much as English brewers,[10] and that the strong, hoppy ale that Hodgeson was exporting to India and which became known as IPA, was copied and brewed in Edinburgh in 1821, a year before Allsopp is believed to have first brewed it in Burton. Take that, Bass!



Wee Heavy beers come to mind when Scottish Ales are the topic (or at least if you want something with balls). A little searching through Ron Pattinson's Barclay Perkins blog has come up with some interesting Wee Heavy history, and minor ranting.

"Fowler's Twelve Guinea Ale

Wee Heavy. I've always been troubled by this supposed style. Partly because it seems to be based on a single commercial beer: Fowler's Wee Heavy. Or to give it its proper name, Fowler's Twelve Guinea Ale.

The name "Wee Heavy", though poetic, is pretty rubbish. Wee = small, heavy = strong. "Small Strong" doesn't sound quite so cool, does it? The more I look into Scottish brewing, the more obvious it is how broadly the word "Heavy" was used. There's Heavy Export Ale, Heavy Stout and, of course, Wee Heavy.



Let's use the real name for Fowler's Wee Heavy: Twelve Guinea Ale. What does that mean? Nothing more than that a hogshead of the beer sold for 12 guineas (£12 12/-, £12.60 in new money). It's like the shilling system, just posher. Guineas weren't used for any old sums. No, they were reserved for the price of racehorses and that sort of thing. And for the very top-end Scottish beers.

Just a few days ago we heard that ten and twelve guinea ales were "rarely brewed". William Younger didn't make one. They didn't go higher than 160/- (£8). There was one brewer who did regularly brew a Twelve Guinea Ale. You guessed it, Fowler of Prestonpans. It must have been quite famous, given the number of analyses of it that I've found.

In the 19th century, Twelve Guinea Ale had a ludicrous OG: 1159°. I think that's the highest I've seen. It's so high that even though the FG is 1068°, it's still 12% ABV. You can see that between the wars, it was still a real beast, with a gravity of over 1100°. The second war put an end to that and, by the time we reach 1955, the OG is the same as the FG had been a century earlier. Sort of sums up the decline in British beer strengths."

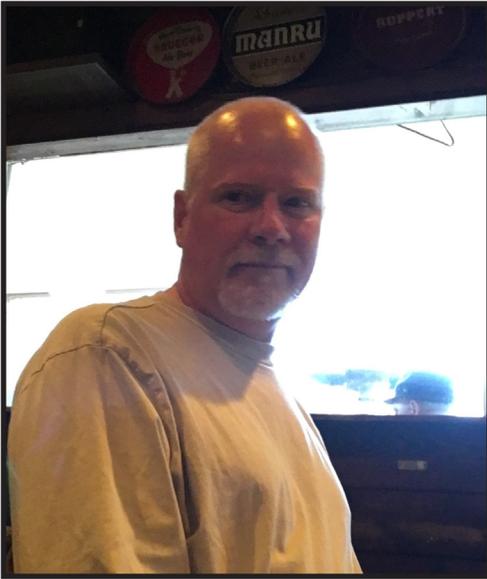
<https://barclayperkins.blogspot.com/2011/10/fowlers-twelve-guinea-ale.html>

# MARCH MEETING MAYHEM!



# This Month in Foam Ranger History

Compiled by Bev Blackwood II



## Five years ago – April 2012

In The Brewsletter: There's a brief taxonomic analysis of where hops and marijuana share a common lineage in honor of the 4/20 meeting date. Wazoo Jaime follows up on his kettle souring efforts, making many Star Wars puns in the process. He also talks up the first ever Battle of the Brews in the RGV, which he and Secondary Bev helped to judge. Results are posted for the Bluebonnet Brew-Off where the J&J Brew Crew were honored as the Homebrew Team of the Year. Homebrew, Brown and Scotch ales are lauded as the style of the month, with Secondary Bev supplying a recipe for Scotch Ale and a Brown Ale. Jaime Ortiz notes that we kept running out of Erik Ribeiro's yummy pommes frites at the March meeting and flogs our new tasting glasses and t-shirts.

At The Meeting: The secondary's beer cart is decorated up with the full line of Hello Kitty bike accessories, much to everyone's amusement. Medals are handed out from Bluebonnet and other events, Scott Birdwell is given a token of the club's appreciation for the new store, signed by many members of the club.

Other Events: First Sunday was held at the Sugarland Flying Saucer in the appropriately named Loon Room, with 20 complimentary pints of Pilsner Urquell provided courtesy of the brewery. Dan Muñoz brewed at the brew-in, but sadly there weren't any Jumbacos. DeFalco's celebrates a "Grand Re-opening" party the day after the meeting, ensuring a two-day bender for most club members.

## Ten years ago – April 2007

In The Brewsletter: Urged to "Chug!" we see Joe Lindsey demonstrate the "wet" form on the cover. Wazoo T-Bob celebrates another win of the Bluebonnet Brew-Off cup by the Foam Rangers and the success of the Backwoods Brewer's Campout. Secondary DeWalt delineates the history of Brown and Scottish ales, taking a few liberties with facts. Salt Lake City breweries are profiled by Storge West and media takes an unusual turn in the spotlight with farcical articles about the Brew Crazy podcast, An Inconvenient Beer Truth film review and negotiations with Steve Moore over his continued service as the club buffoon.

At The Meeting: Held at the former DeFalco's location on Stella Link, Doak drank a lot of Leroy's mead, so unsurprisingly the Scrivener's notes are light on actual details, apart from there being a lot of Brown and Scotch ales. I do note from photos that some Bluebonnet medals were handed out.



Other Events: Many Foam Rangers ride in the MS 150... Many still do! (Please donate to them!) Eric Glaves brews in front of DeFalco's for the April Brew-in.

**Fifteen years ago – April 2002**

In The Brewsletter: George W. Bush (Shrub) wins the Bluebonnet Brew-Off due to a miscount at the Irving competition. Wazoo Jimmy celebrates the Foam Rangers as the actual winners (or at least our tie for first) in his article, as well as in a slightly more mystically inclined piece later in the Brewsletter. Ice Bock delivers the slapdown on competitions in a piece that barely makes sense unless read phonetically, while the Scrivener's article also is a piece of epic BS. Kuyler delivers a surprisingly coherent article on Brown, Old and Scottish ales. The famed Mashtun tribe makes its first Brewsletter appearance and there was a History column that looked like this one, only shorter.

At The Meeting: There was one, although you'd never know it from the Scrivener's notes. Bev Blackwood wins BOS at the Crescent City Homebrew Competition, a BJCP Exam will be given if enough people pay to attend and we drank a lot of beer.

Other Events: Mike Heniff joins the Foam Rangers, thank God. The Foam Rangers judge the AHA Southern Regionals at Saint Arnold Brewing Company, with help from judges as far away as Dallas!

**Twenty years ago – April 1997**

In The Brewsletter: Wazoo Steve Moore flogs the LA-Tex rendezvous in Jennings and reveals the previously undiscovered species of Homo Sapiens Louisianus, whose primary characteristics are their immense size and abundant flatulence. Award winning Foam Rangers are lauded for their efforts and Steve warns everyone that they need to visit Galveston Brewery before it gets moved to the ill-fated Boondoggles. Randy Veazy exhorts people to attend Jennings or he'll cancel the bus. Secondary Lucky Bastard attempts to define "Amber Ale." The Miller Red Dog gets apprehended by Milwaukee Animal Control in the Beer News section. Serious articles about Brewing with Raw Barley and No Sparge Brewing are the technical topics of the month, and Brewsletter Editor Dave Odom details his brewery travels in the Bay Area. There's also a listing of beers available at the local brewpubs (none of which exist anymore) and at Saint Arnold.

At The Meeting: The meeting was held at the Oddfellows Lodge in the Heights, Beer of the Month was Amber Ale & IPA. (Thanks Sean!)

Other Events: None noted.

**Twenty Five years ago – April 1992**

In The Brewsletter: Grand Wazoo Lou Carannante is complaining about having to organize and run the Dixie Cup himself (sounds familiar) and puts out a list of volunteers so that he has people to blame when things go wrong. Secondary Sean Markham does a "copy and paste" column that makes little sense, but is at least interesting to read. Two recipes for Belgian Trappist ales are offered.



The  
**Brewsletter Urquell**

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HOUSTON FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW CLUB VOL. 22 - ISSUE 4

April 2002

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**George W. Bush Wins Bluebonnet Cup**  
Foam Rangers, North Texas Homebrewers Association, Knights of the Brown Bottle Detained by John Ashcroft

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By Steve "Scoop" Moore

IRVING, TX—The most contentious Bluebonnet Brew-off in history has come to a surprising conclusion with President George W. Bush being named the winner. On Saturday March 23rd the 2002 Bluebonnet organizing club, The Knights of the Brown Bottle (KOB), and CNN called the contest for the Foam Rangers. Later, Bluebonnet director Steve Westrom announced that there had been an error in tabulation, due to a problem with new software, and that the contest had actually been a tie with the Foam Rangers and N.T.H.B. each scoring 30 points. Foam Rangers Grand Wazoo James Paige protested that the Foam Rangers should be the clear winner by virtue of the Rangers' two honorable mentions, but this proved to be a moot point.

Beginning Sunday March 23, Steve Westrom and the KOB were deluged with absentee scoresheets from members of the armed forces who were stationed outside the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. According to Westrom, "At first, we thought it was a joke; these people hadn't judged, hadn't attended the Bluebonnet". However, counting these scoresheets

The Shrublets celebrate their success as Governor "The Haircut" looks on

enjoyed unanimous support from Republicans in Congress and even from some Democrats. Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut stated "We cannot disenfranchise the brave fighting men and women of this country when it comes to deciding who wins large homebrew contests".

(Continued on page 10)

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**Out Of The Wazoo**

By Jimmy Paige, Grand Wazoo

Sean and Steve told me I was not getting paid by the word so I had better keep my article short this time. March was an unbelievable month for the club, we won the Bluebonnet Brew-Off for the first time in Foam Ranger his-

tory!!! It was a great contest and our name will be placed on the trophy, now residing next to the Dixie Cup in DeFalco's, along with co-winner North Texas. Congratulations to everyone who entered and helped bring the Cup to Houston. Don't think for an instant those Dallas boys are not hot about our win. They will try to seek revenge at our Dixie Cup. Please brew as much as you can before next October to help defend our Cup.

We also had great showings at other contests including Drunk Monk, and Reggae and Drechoop. Time will tell how we fared in this month's Crescent City Competition, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gulf Coast contest in the ill-fated Boondoggles. The third circuit contest is May's Sunshine Challenge in Orlando, Florida. Bev will let us know the entry deadline in May.

(Continued on page 10)

**April Meeting Friday, the 19th 8 PM DeFalco's**





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



**20  
17**

**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:

Detach & Keep!

***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.