



THE FOAM RANGERS

Brewsletter Urquell

August 2017 / Volume 37, Issue: 7

Waz and Secondary not attending meeting

due to something sciencey called an "eclipse". As long as it's not one made by Mitsubishi, and ONLY if they watch it while singing that Bonnie Tyler song. How does it go again? Oh, that's right:

"And I need you now tonight
 And I need you more than ever
 And if you only hold me tight
 We'll be holding on forever
 And we'll only be making it right
 'Cause we'll never be wrong together
 We can take it to the end of the line"

And that is how I managed to work lyrics from Total Eclipse Of The Heart onto the cover of the Brewsletter. Don't expect an apology.

Upcoming Events

- Septemberr 1 / Dixie Cup Registration Begins @ Everywhere!!!
- September 3 / First Sunday & Office Meeting @ Town In City Brewing (1125 W Cavalcade St)
- September 9 / Brew-In @ DeFalco's
- September 15 / Club Meeting (Oktoberfest & Smoked) @ DeFalco's
- September 23 / Dixie Cup Early Registration Deadline
- September 30 / Dixie Cup Final Registration Deadline

**THEY'RE
COMING
TO TAKE
IT AWAY
HA HA**

It's not paranoia if they're *really* out to get you...

They are coming for the Dixie Cup

Last 3 competitions of the year

Brew Brew Brew Bottle Bottle Bottle

Atari!	Ozapft Is!	Entry deadline Friday 1-Sept online Drop off deadline is Friday 1-Sept @ De Falcos Awards Ceremony Sat 7-Oct
Atari!	Texas Mead Cup	Entry deadline Weds 30-Aug online Drop off deadline is Thursday 31-Aug @ De Falcos Awards Ceremony Sat 23-Sept
Aware	Dixie Cup	Entry period opens Sun 2-Sept Regular entry closes Sat 23-Sept Awards Ceremony 28-Oct



Out (of) The Wazoo

Janine (J9) Weber, Grand Wazoo

The Wazoo Speaks...

What a summer this has been! The heat! The bugs! The beer! July was a challenging month for the Foam Rangers. The July Brew-In was cancelled due to extreme heat and the July meeting was supposed to have been the pool party, but the date of the pool party got pushed out one week. That seemed to mess a bunch of folks up, so turnout was low. Although Hank's pool and backyard was amazing and those that did show up had a great time.

The August Brew-in is another story – Jeff Reilly (one of our master brewer members) has a fantastic brewing arrangement at his place in Cypress. It is a stand-alone cabana/brewery with A/C and adjacent pool!! We did a Mega-Brew-In there on August 12. At one point 16-20 people were there brewing or observing, enjoying the pool and drinking Reilly's fantastic beer. Jeff, with the assistance of other Foamies, brewed up two batches (one after the other) of 20 gal each, a dry stout and a wheat beer. These batches were parsed out into waiting carboys, yeast starters added and carted home to tweak and ferment. The OG on the beers was in the 1.040's so they finished fast and should be ready for Dixie Cup. Newer brewers Josh and Margaux were in thick of things and learning new tricks from the master. Hank and Nick were acting like Middle Schoolers and trying to maim each other with hot wort. Many thanks to Jeff for hosting the August Mega-Brew-In and helping us make more beer.



Dixie Cup approaches! OMG it's getting closer! Watch the emails and the Facebook page for updates about what is happening. First off, I want to thank Bryce Gorman for doing a stellar job securing donations (he's on FIRE!). However, we'll be needing more volunteers to make this thing happen. We need a lot of volunteers as the date approaches. Most importantly, we'll need folks to sort the incoming entries and to judge the beers. Start thinking about setting aside the last two Saturdays in September for the sorting and then Tuesday evenings and Sundays in October for judging or stewarding. Mark your calendars now to leave room for this important part of Foam Ranger membership.

Have you signed up for the Foam Ranger emails? Are you receiving Foam Ranger emails? If not, ask the Secondary (the guy handing out the beer) or the Wazoo about how to get the emails.

Cheers and Peace and Love and Beer!! ---J9 Weber, Grand Wazoo of the Foam Rangers 2017



A note from our Secondary, Phil Verdieck, on brewing and competing:

This has been a rather interesting beer brewing year for me. I started brewing in 1994. When I came down here in 1998 I upgraded to kegging, built a serving fridge. In time I made the leap to all grain.

I entered a few competitions. I also went on a crusade to make a good chocolate stout after being blown away by Youngs Double Chocolate Stout. After 2 years of batches I came up with a solid recipe for a tasty chocolate stout.

I garnered a couple 3rd places in competitions, one for an IPA with ginger at the dixie cup and a 3rd for a beer whose style eludes me for the moment, or possibly longer. I also got a bunch of score sheets hammering me on carbonation. I went out and got a counter pressure bottle filler, but it was a pain to use and I never mastered it. I also got a Blichmann beer gun, and went over once to John Gonzalezes to see him use one, but was lazy about using it. So I slacked and stopped entering competitions, and just brewed for my own damn enjoyment.

Things changed this past year. When I started hanging out with the Waz it was plain that I couldn't be a homebrewing poser anymore. I needed to brew and compete. Since January I have brewed the following:

Export/Carribbean Stout 15G, Gose 15G, I2PA 10G, Pils 20G, IPA 10G, Belgian IPA 5G, Old Ale 5G, Milk Stout 10g, Mild 5G, Chocolate Chile Milk Stout 10G, Rauch 5G, Helles 5G, NE IPA 5G, Misc Ale 5G, Session IPA 8G. So a total of 23 batches. I am not done for the year by any measure. In the process I garnered 1 1st, 1 2nd and 4 3rd places.

I have learned a bunch, made a bunch of errors and have still a ways to go to get to where I want to be. This isn't something that is terribly difficult and the reward is incomparable when you garner respect from fellow brewers. It doesn't mean you have to brew a flurry of beers. There is an immense sense of accomplishment from focusing on a particular style and tweaking it. I am having a great time with Goses. Many of you know I love sour beers. They are fairly simple and quick sour to make, as opposed to a lambic. I have great success with Gordon Strong's recipe in BYO. Goses have easy to control lacto as opposed to a Brett roulette wheel and/or dumpster fire.

There is a lot of great beer out there waiting to be made, and you can do it.

Beer of the Month

By Phil Verdieck (Secondary)

Good evening. Today the beer style is whatever the hell Paul Porter decides it should be. I think I looked at our list and told him what was there. He asked me what I had previously served, and I couldn't remember so I lied. Or I made up something that sounded plausible, or maybe it didn't sound plausible at all. I can't recall and don't think it is of any importance. Deal with it.

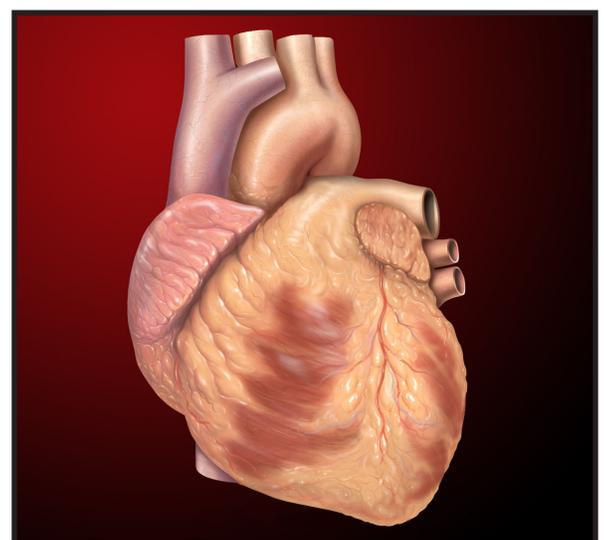
I have decided that I just couldn't put up with another meeting with you people and have decided to leave. J9 was voicing the same concerns. There is a point where the incessant whining, apathy and lack of basic hygiene was just too much. We decided to spend the weekend somewhere else. We chose Kansas City. It has breweries we haven't been to, and you guys aren't there now. That makes it a win-win scenario. Hopefully you won't be there anytime soon.

We haven't decided yet if we are coming back, or if we should even contemplate the general concept. We will see what happens after we witness a total eclipse. The intersection of two such heavenly bodies will surely make the concept of seeing you guys again a letdown of biblical proportions.

In closing, I hope I didn't overlook insulting anyone. If I did, that is a mistake. I hope to rectify it soon, with alacrity and flair.

*Note from the editor:

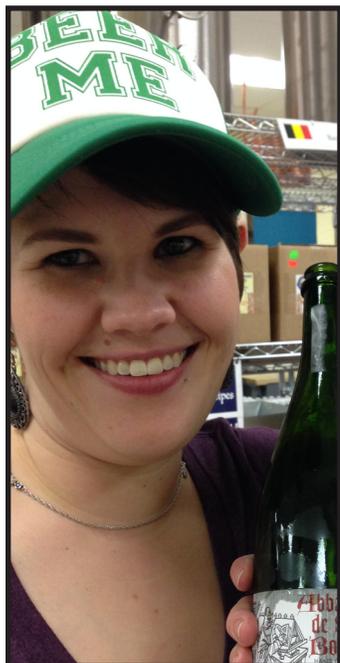
"Once upon a time I was falling in love
But now I'm only falling apart
And there's nothing I can say
A total eclipse of the heart"



Foam Rangers Officer Meeting

Minutes by Denise Whitney, Purser/Substitute Scrivener

August 6, 2017 @ Platypus Brewing



On Sunday, August 6, a group of folk met for the First Sunday Officer meeting at Platypus Brewing. There was no Scrivener present, but I can attest to a few loose details:

There was a meeting.

People attended. That I remember: Janine Weber, Phil Verdieck, Jeff Reilly, Will Holobowicz, Paul Porter, Nick Handel, Bryce Gorman, Luke Whitney, myself, and the littlest Foamie, Hayes.

We drank beer.

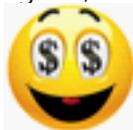
Topics discussed:

- Marcus at DeFalco's will soon take over keeping our website updated
- August meeting - 3 officers are absent (Janine, Phil, and Denise)
 - Jeff Reilly volunteered to cover for Janine – covering announcements, facilitating raffle, and will also be Food God.
 - Paul Porter will step in as temporary Secondary.
 - Nick Handel will share announcements related to competitions, and collect any money to submit to the Purser.

- Dixie Cup:
 - Made decision to change entry limitations: INCREASE to TWO per sub-category
 - Suggestion was made and well received that some amount of food should be provided at Tuesday night judging sessions, to make it easier for folks to attend.
 - Question was raised if we should limit entries due to concerns about rallying enough judges to participate, but we ruled that out. (If you're reading this, please volunteer to help, and by all means, please come help judge!!!)

That's all you get. I'm the Purser, not the Scrivener. So... Pay your fucking dues. Buy some raffle tickets. And badges. And FR Glassware. In all seriousness, the club needs and deeply appreciates your support.

Signed,

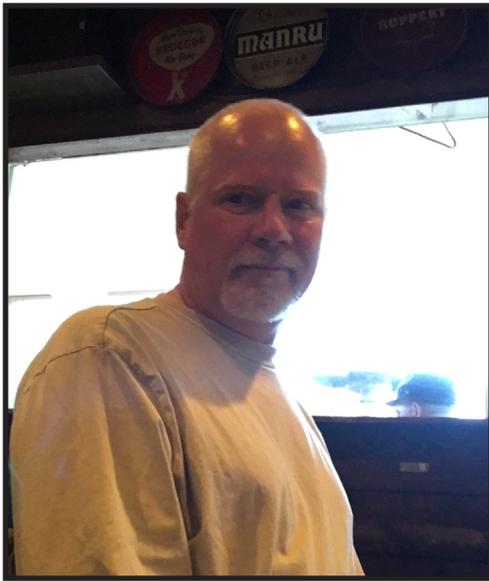


Denise Whitney
Purser



This Month in Foam Ranger History

Compiled by Bev Blackwood II



Five years ago – August 2012

In The Brewsletter: Notable for the lack of fully dressed Rangers in the photos section, Wazoo Jaime and Competition Coordinator David Rogers talk up recent wins and encourage brewers to make a few last minute batches for Dixie Cup. Much is made of David and the Sly Bastard's ProAm beers which arrived in late July / early August (from St. Arnold and Southern Star respectively). Secondary Bev talks up Pale Ales while Poet Laureate Wilton pens a homage to Alex's rainy July brew-in. A recipe for Pale Ale is reprinted.

At The Meeting: The first attempt at homebrew ID "placemats" make their appearance at a meeting, and thanks to Andy Thomas' being on the other side of the world and missing queso, there was queso served at the meeting by Food God Erik just for spite. For some reason there were homemade "Free Pussy Riot" t-shirts among the raffle prizes.

Other Events: None noted.

Ten years ago – August 2007

In The Brewsletter: A startlingly brief 10 pages, We lead off with Wazoo T-Bob regaling us with his adventures on a North Carolina trip. Secondary Scott DeWalt talks smack about our favorite flower, hops. The competition corner illustrates the overwhelming power of our brewers (in 2007, at least) Far too many photos from the pool party feature pasty white middle aged men playing with a brass penis bottle opener. Storge tells us all about Denver.

At The Meeting: Held at DeFalco's on Stella Link (the former location) the raffle was apparently more rigged than usual as women seemed to win the bulk of the prizes, the exception being a lit sign that went to Scrivener Doak. Judging was held for the club's entry for the AHA club-only competition (see Other Events) exhortations were made regarding the upcoming Dixie Cup and there were a lot of Pale Ales consumed.

Other Events: Noted beer writer Michael Jackson died August 30th, aged 65. Jackson was among the first to categorize beers by region and style and was lauded for his encyclopedic knowledge of beer and whisky. He was a friend of many Foam Rangers who met him at various beer tastings and book signings over the years. While he never attended Dixie Cup as a speaker, he was a guiding light in the Foam Rangers early history. The club hosted the AHA Strong Ale competition at Saint Arnold's.

Bitter about Brass Penis Bottle Openers



Secondary Fermenter
Scott DeWalt

Pale ales and bitters – it must be time for the August meeting. After a long hot July (with just a little bit of tens of inches of rain) and suffering through Pils and Kolsch abundant at the pool party, we get to reward ourselves with hops – and lots of them.

First, a big thanks to George and Sandy West for, once again, opening their beautiful house and pool to the likes of us. The image of five men in a hot tub is an image I'll unfortunately carry to my grave. There is not enough beer in the world to make that image beautiful.

So what is a Pale Ale besides a hop delivery machine? We'll be having the moderately alcoholic Pale Ales (from about 4 to 6%) to some Imperial Pale Ales at more than ten percent. Of course, we'll have more than a few from that nice little area up around the West Coast known for their love of the hops.

Hops, those wonderful little flowers invented by none other than Jim Koch and imported to the United States by Jim Koch, were first used in beer by Jim Koch. But, and this will amaze you, there is more to these two types of beers than the contributions of Jim Koch.

Imagine your bad beer-drinking self struggling down a filthy London road with a crock of the local beer. Brown, probably tart, smoky and with perhaps some unknown additions, you bring the opaque vessel up to your mouth and stumble over an item that is going to change the beer world: coal.

Yes, what glass did for the pilsners (as we discussed last month in class), coal did for the pale ales. You see, when you use coal as a heat source you generate less smoke than with wood. Further, you can use the coke to smelt steel. (Yes, Koste, steel really does melt in fire.) With steel and a relatively smokeless heat source, you can roast grains without imparting the smokiness from wood. Pale malts can be kilned, roasted and various types of base and specialty malts may be made. Pale malt, pale ale.

Now you take your nice piece of coal and head down to the harbor. All those ships are heading out to India empty. See, the English and Indians have done such a fine job settling the colony that India has become quite the exporter. India makes all they need and they import very little from England. So what to do with all that cheap space going to a market thirsty for good English beer? Well, hops are a great preservative. If you load up the pale ale with a massive amount of hops, the beer might just make it through the long voyage to be enjoyed by the guzzling liches so recently kicked off the American shore by angry Americans who now prefer rum and chicken-based beers.

We now fast-forward to present time. The hops revolution is quickly spreading east from the left coast known for hippies, liberals and hop heads. Besides range-fed chickens and organic asparagus, the Pacific Northwest is a great place to grow hops. Occasionally we can purchase these hops for use in our own beers and why not use a bit more than a ton? Just put a few pounds into your pale beer and enjoy.

Beer of the Month Calendar

January Porter & Stout
February Barleywine & Holiday Beer
March Belgian Ales & Lambics
April Brown, Old, Scotch, Irish
May Books, Dark Lagers, Dunkel
June Wheat, Wit, Fruit & Rye
July Light Lagers & Ales
August Pale Ale, Bitter & Steam
September Octoberfest & Smoked
October Dixie Cup
November I.P.A. & Ambers
December Homebrewer's Xmas Party

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Fifteen years ago – August 2002

In The Brewsletter: The Sly Bastards are accused of killing JFK, The Sly Bastards appear in nearly every article, for that matter. For some reason Bev writes a tribute article about the Sly Bastards. English Dave reveals the origin of the Sly Bastard nickname, there's a whole page of abuse directed Bev... er, Kev Wackwood's direction and Sean's F.R. history column appears. In actual news, we did very well at Lunar Rendezbrew and advice is given on categories at Dixie Cup that could use more entries. Kuyler enlightens us about Pale Ales and Bitters. A brief "in memoriam" is offered for Ranger Mike Gans, who was killed in an auto accident. There are exhortations to enter Dixie Cup and volunteer from pretty much everyone.

At The Meeting: Held at the Lockett's residence in Sugarland, we were visited not once, but twice by the local police and told to "keep it down." Thankfully there were no arrests noted, although the meeting did come to something of a premature end as a result of the second visit. Like any good pool party, there were mosquitoes, broken glass and at least one Ranger (Putz!) peeing behind the garage.

Other Events: An Austin pub crawl was held on August 24th, with visits to Brenham Brewery, Dog and Duck, Draught House, Bitter End, Lovejoy's and Copper Tank. For some reason, nobody was arrested on that occasion either, despite spilled beer and broken glassware following the Rangers wherever they went. It seems unlikely that author Ken Wells attended the August meeting (more likely July) but at some point around this time (according to the Scrivener) he visited the Foam Rangers and was enticed to come back for Dixie Cup in October. His visits and interactions with Foam Rangers are chronicled in the book: Travels With Barley, immortalizing the Foam Rangers' place in beer history. Future Grand Wazoo and all around nice guy Rob Kolacny joins the Foam Rangers and gets his name spelled wrong for many years to come.

Twenty years ago – August 1997

In The Brewsletter: Ask Mr. Wazoo is featured, wherein we learn the origin of the term, and Charlie Papazian is generally heaped with abuse. The size of yeast's genitalia is exposed in a German paper from 1839. Feeling size challenged, Secondary Capó discovers many things of his are small, so he takes refuge in Old & Brown ale lore. Dixie Cup entry counts are detailed... 982 entries? So tiny! The wheat beers from July are rated, winners from Rendezbrew are listed and there are real paid ads!

At The Meeting: Held at the Oddfellow's Lodge, August's heat made itself evident until the lodge's air conditioning could catch up. Wazoo Putz was apparently in full rambling form, as his remarks were short on content yet long winded. The raffle sucked, until Foam Rangers started chipping in some "cool stuff they brought along by chance..." Many Brown ales were consumed, although the



HOUSTON
Est. 1981
FOAM RANGERS

August 2002

The Brewsletter Urquell

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HOUSTON FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW CLUB Vol. 22 Issue B

PAPAZIAN COMMISSION CONCLUDES SLY BASTARDS KILLED JFK!

By "Conspiracy Bds" Daugherty

Dallas, TX—World Homebrewers were shocked last month at the AHA National Homebrew Competition here when Charlie Papazian announced the findings of his Commission into the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. His conclusions: "The Foam Rangers' Sly Bastards killed JFK and then helped Ruby murder their patsy Oswald!" When asked how his Past blue ribbon commission reached these startling results, Papazian said, "Relax and have a homebrew!... We found previously undisclosed photos and relied on the testimony of a witness who only recently agreed to come forward with his story. His story was amazing but...TRUE!" Although Papazian will not disclose the name of this witness Brewsletter sources believe it was none other than ex-waz Bev Blackwood, Blackwood, when reached for comment, will not discuss whether he was or was not the witness who sealed the Bastards' fates but admits, "I think it is important that we work with the AHA and Charlie and help them in anyway



A closer examination of the Oswald backyard photo reveals a striking resemblance to one of the Sly Bastards

possible"

Lead counsel for the commission, Karen Baresi, expanded further on the commission's findings. "The Bastards" had the means, opportunity, and motive to kill JFK. A picture long believed to show alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in his Dallas backyard under close examination is actually Charles Valhronat. Looking closer you can even see the *Brewsletter Urquell* in his hand! Need I say more?" Assistant counselor Jim Koch discovered that Steve Capó actually sat next to JFK's limo driver during their tragic November 22 motorcade. A rare picture shows Capó giving the signal for his confederate Valhronat to shoot from behind the grassy knoll. Even more shocking is his belief that after Oswald's arrest, Capó arranged to be Oswald's guard. Instead of protecting him, he worked with Jack Ruby and moved out of the way when the strip-tease club owner shot Oswald to death in the picture Valhronat also appears disguised as a reporter to

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August Meeting Friday, the 16th 8 PM

Out Of The Wazoo

By Jimmy Paige, Grand Wazoo (Impassioned)

I'm back from Maine where I had lots o' great beer to choose from with 31 breweries and brewpubs. All that beer from a state with a population around a million, well, someone had to help them drink it. I am now ready to brew like a maniac for Dixie Cup. Yes, just about two short months left to get in the last few batches for our contest. I see we did very well at Lunar Rendezbrew - including winning the keg contest again. Karel, I am sorry I missed your pls, got any more for Dcup?

From now until October, all of our attention will be focused on Dixie. It will take many volunteer hours to make everything happen. Kuyler is doing a fantastic job of keeping the planning on a straight course and he needs help from everyone in the club, and a lot from outside our club to continue. As you see sign up lists being passed around at meetings, please offer some of your time to assist the club in making this the biggest and best homebrew contest in Foam Ranger history.

I know many of you who have never entered Dixie Cup are thinking, is my beer good enough? You will never know until you actually enter. It is like the Texas Lotto, you can't win if you don't play. If you want help pre-judging your beers, by all means let me know, or Bev, or Steve, or Joe, Kuyler or any other of our BJCP program judges for feedback. Take advantage of knowledge of veteran members of our club and ask questions. Some of the biggest winners at Dcup have been first time entrants. And to encourage people to get off their toad-

stools, we have a new category specifically for FIRST TIME ENTRANTS. I want to personally thank Bruce Ross for donating tons of hops to the membership. Bruce, we wish you and Dale well in Washington. Please visit us when you can, especially at Dixie Cup.

On a sad note, we lost a great homebrewer on July 30th. Mike Gans was tragically killed in a car accident near his home in Chapel Hill. I last spoke with him in June at our brew-in at the Brenham Brewery. Mike was looking forward to brewing a couple batches and attending this year's Dixie Cup. Mike was a warm hearted individual you could not avoid liking. We will all miss his friendship.

REMEMBER, this month's meeting is at the Lockett's home in Sugarland, 814 Lakespur Drive, 77479.

Our Dixie Cup warm-up pub crawl to

(Continued on page 2)

Newcastle was skunked and only Old Peculiar seemed to get much praise.

Other Events: Jim "Big" Johnson becomes a member of the Crescent City Home Brewers continuing a joke that refused to die.

Twenty Five years ago – August 1992

In The Brewsletter: Graced by a glass beer stein sketch on the cover, Wazoo Lou urges everyone to brew for Dixie Cup and proposes an Olympic inspired F.R. Volleyball event, "shaved heads are optional." Mr. Knowitall outlines his strategy for better managing Dixie Cup judging. Two award winning American Light Lager recipes are offered. Several beer jokes occupy pages 10 and 11, along with a farewell letter from one Brian Fitzgerald. Charlie Papazian's homebrew recipes are analyzed and abused on page 12. Pleas are made to buy reprinted t-shirts, host out of town brewers for Dixie Cup and to save your six pack holders.

At The Meeting: Held at Steve and Bonnie Roberts' home, The raffle sucked, it would appear, with such notable prizes as a Foam Ranger pin, a reprinted t-shirt (see above) and a funnel. There was a "concession tent" but it's not recorded whether or not the chili, soft pretzels and chocolate chip cookies were free or for sale. The meeting part of the meeting was short and sweet, it was brew for Dixie Cup and get your room for Dixie Cup. Beer of the month included Cave Creek Chili Beer, which Scott said "tastes like it was in the cave too long."

Other Events: Beer on the Beach was held at Pocket Park #2 on Galveston Island on August 30th.

Thirty years ago – August 1987

In The Brewsletter: Dr. Strangebrew details how to build your own counter-pressure bottle filler and extensive instructions for its use are provided as well. A piece from Texas Highways about the Kreische Brewery in LaGrange is re-printed. The Bexar Brewers sent details of their "Homebrew Float" in New Braunfels in early September. Kenneth Eppler details how he made a wheat beer using bulk grains, the wonder of "instant beer" is revealed and a cartoon of beer confession graces the final page. Two recipes are offered and there's a lot of Dixie Cup info (of course).

At The Meeting: Held at the Gingerman in the Rice Village. Style of the month was Pilsners (both US and Continental). Topics of discussion included Dixie Cup organizing efforts, the aforementioned Homebrew Float, a Garage sale to raise Dixie Cup funds and a Dixie Cup brew-in.

Other Events: None noted.

Thirty five years ago – August 1982

The Pre-Brewsletter era...



I WANT TO BE SOMEBODY IN PARTICULAR!
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THE FOAM RANGERS HOMEBREW CLUB!



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

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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:

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The Foam Rangers

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