



THE FOAM RANGERS

Brewsletter Urquell

September 2018 / Volume 38, Issue: 8

Hey **Foamies!**

I'm gonna get right to the point this month. It's Dixie Cup judging time and **WE NEED JUDGES!** Please see Hank's article for details on judging dates.

OFFICER ELECTIONS! They're happening. Soon. Elect someone. Get elected. Everyone will love you for it (especially the current officers). If you would like to be considered for any of the following positions, please let The Waz, or any of the officers, know and they'll make sure your name gets put on the ballot. Following The Waz's article there is a list of officer positions, and as much of an official description of those positions as you can say is official when it's from the Waz.

The Wazoo is the club president and is the head wrangler of all the various, important sub-functions that happen, but mainly the Wazoo posts club information, heads the meetings and rounds up volunteers to do stuff like brew-ins and special events. It can be an easy job if you get lots of active minions/helpers/volunteers to help out. The Wazoo attends all club meetings, Occifer meetings, and external functions (unless impossible). Writes an article for the brewsletter each month.

The Secondary (Fermenter) is responsible for buying beers for the meeting and serving. He/she is reimbursed for beer purchases. Also for having enough cups, drinking water, and serving stuff for the meeting. Secondary provides a box of beers with ice for brew-ins. Secondary attends all meetings and the Occifer meetings (First Sunday meetings), but can delegate serving duties to someone else if unavailable for a meeting. Secondary writes a short or long article for the newsletter about the beer(s) of the month.

The Purser (Treasurer) is responsible for tracking the club income and expenses and making sure folks get reimbursed in a timely fashion. The Purser also is involved in longer-term planning for special events like Dixie Cup and pub crawls. The Purser makes sure we can pay our fucking bills (insurance, internet, etc.) - but that can only happen if y'all pay yer fucking dues on time (by the way). Writes a short article for the brewsletter every month.

The Scrivener (Secretary) documents what happens at the Occifer meetings (First Sunday meetings) and at the regular meetings. Writes a short article for the brewsletter.

Upcoming Events

- October 18-20 / Dixie Cup @ Crowne Plaza NW
- November 4 / Officers Meeting @ TBD
- November 10 / Brew-In @ DeFalco's
- November 16 / Club Meeting & Elections @ DeFalco's

Dad Joke of the Month

Does anyone want to buy a broken barometer?
No pressure.

The Brewsletter Urquell Editor compiles all the articles from the other officers, adds pictures and other rude things to make the ever-amusing Brewsletter Urquell. The Brewsletter Editor is an integral part of the planning and functioning of the club which means he/she attends most meetings. Brewsletter writer also can take responsibility for webpage updates.

Director-At-Large (or Large Director) has an advisory role to guide the new Wazoo and other officers and to provide some institutional memory/knowledge. Attends most meetings and Occifer meetings. Can be a Was Waz.

Food God / Food Goddess oversees the preparation and serving of healthy and unhealthy snacks and light food to be served at the monthly meetings. Food God/Goddess can assign serving duties to others or get assistance. (you don't have to do it all every single month, this can be a shared job).

Dixie Cup Coordinator is in charge of the Dixie Cup Homebrew Competition as "Competition Organizer". Is responsible for rounding up and organizing the vital volunteers that make Dixie Cup possible (Head Judge, Venue-Finder, Head Steward, finding Speakers, Scrounger). The Coordinator gets to select the theme of the event.

Competition Coordinator keeps track of the usual competitions (Lone Star Circuit events) and other interesting events and provides reminders via email and in the brewsletter. Organizes pick-up and drop-off of entries to the major competitions. Sometimes will do a pack-and-ship for a special event.

IT Guru will redesign the webpage, the membership database and the online store so that we are up to modern standards and have easier access by the officers to update and edit the information.

Bozo Head of Special Events is always Scott Birdwell because we occupy his shop....and we like him and he puts up with us.

Dixie Cup Sorting





Out (of) The Wazoo

Paul Smith, Grand Wazoo

Hello **Foamies** Rangers,

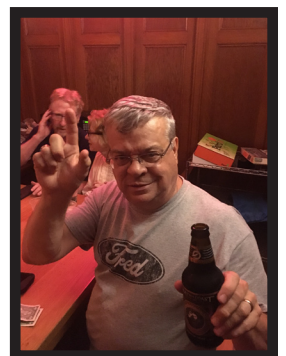
Dixie Cup activities have begun. Hopefully you have had an opportunity to jump in with a helping hand already. We had a great turnout for our one day of sorting this year and were able to get entries, mostly, sorted, palletized, and into cold storage. Thanks to all those that showed up. The brewery corralled us into a much smaller area this year, but it may have worked to our advantage, as there was not nearly as much marching around the warehouse looking for the appropriate box. Janine Weber and Phil Verdieck put in some additional work on Sunday to tie up some loose ends. They love this stuff. And finally, judging began on Monday evening.

There are many judging dates left, however, the schedule has been modified a little this year over previous years. If you haven't already, be sure to check the Dixie Cup website and schedule the session you expect to attend. If we can get big turnouts for the early sessions, we may be able to cancel a session or two on the backend. This would be a particularly good thing this year, as we have had to move some sessions offsite from our normal judging location. Not having to deal with the logistics of offsite judging will make your Head Judge and Head Steward very happy.

One does not have to be experienced to judge. You will be paired with a ranked judge. If you just aren't comfortable judging, then Co-Head Stewards Jon and Leah Jarvis will get you setup to help their effort. Stewarding a judging table is an excellent way to get exposed to the judging process and help out your club at the same time. If you can pour beer, you will likely turn out to be a qualified steward.

Now to break the bad news to membership - after Dixie Cup there will be a long awaited impeachment! And the Grand Wazoo will be deposed. Grand Wazoo (President), Secondary Fermenter (Vice President), Purser (Treasurer, Scrivener (Secretary), and Director-at-Large are all club officers and have voting privileges for conducting club business. BrewsletterUrquell Editor, Competition Coordinator, Dixie Cup Coordinator, Food God(dess), and I.T. Coordinator are also very important roles filled by wonderful volunteer Foam Rangers. You too could share in the glory of having your name listed on the Foam Rangers Officer's webpage for an entire year by just stepping up and letting someone know which role you can help with. Look elsewhere in this dirty rag for a brief description of responsibilities for these positions, and don't be afraid to ask questions at meetings and brew-ins. I look forward to responding to all of your questions – and impeachment!

August Club Meeting/After Party @ DeFalco's



Dixie Cup XXXV

October 18-20, 2018

Rangers, **Foamies**, or whatever you call yourself:

The 2018 Dixie Cup is now officially underway, with the sorting of all 815 entries completed on 9/15, in 1 day! That was a massive job, and I was lucky enough to have a great turnout from you folks!

The next phase of the Dixie Cup is JUDGING!!! We start judging on 9/17, and will go all the way until, and at Dixie Cup in October 18-20. WE NEED YOUR HELP JUDGING 815 ENTRIES!! This is the largest competition on the Houston / Central Texas area by a long shot! Even if you're not a BJCP judge, we still need your help stewarding or assisting a judge! This is a great way for you new members to learn more about the dozens of different varieties of beers, as we pretty much have entries from all recognized categories. As a bonus, you will CERTAINLY learn about off flavors (and the judges can teach you what causes them and how to avoid them).

2000 Lyons Ave Judging Dates (Investor's Pub):

Mondays 6-9PM: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1

Sundays 9AM-4PM: 9/23, 9/30, 10/14

Deflacos Store judging dates:

Mondays: 10/8, 10/15 (if needed)

Sunday: 10/7

I will try to have the NFL games on for MNF and Sunday games, to make it a little more fun. Sunday judging sessions also include lunch (on your own on Mondays).

Don't forget to get your tickets (unless you're already a dues paid Ranger) for Dixie Cup! There will be beer, raffles, speakers, barleywine, beer & food pairing, beer, medals, pub crawl, judging, and did I mention BEER?! We are still having Peter Bouchaert, the guy who literally wrote the book on Wood & Beer attend and give a little presentation at Dixie Cup. Tim Schwarz from Real Ale is also going to give a little talk on the direction of craft brewing in Texas. And our own Charles Vallhonrat will give a talk about TABC and newer rules and regulations for brewing in Texas!

Hank Keller

DC XXXV Coordinator



Beer of the Month

By Steven Distelhorst (Secondary)

Summer has come to an end and fall is here, even if the warm weather is still lingering around. As we move into a new season and the temperatures start to drop and the leaves begin to change its time to switch our drinks from the light and crisp lagers of the summer into ones that have a bit more depth. And of course with October almost upon us that could only mean one thing....its time for OKTOBERFEST! Which means its time for festbiers!

I must admit that one of the big items on my bucket list is to go to the true Oktoberfest at Theresienwiese in Munich, Germany. Any true beer drinker who has an appreciation for rich history and tradition and well-made beer has to appreciate the grandeur and gravity (pun intended) that makes up this celebration. While I could go into detail about the history behind this festival and the beers that have become prominent from it I am actually going to go in a different direction. Rather than give you a history lesson for this article I want to talk about comradery (or if you prefer camaraderie).



Now at this point you might be thinking to yourself “oh geez is he going to talk about friendship and what it means to be apart of a group.” And the answer to that question is a resounding NO! I’m talking about beer comradery, perhaps better stated as what it is that makes people want to come together over a pint of beer. Its something, I think, that is underappreciated.

Think about the number of times you have gotten together with other people, whether at a bar, sporting event, celebration, or some other occasion and had a beer. I’m willing to bet that the number you come up with is more than can be counted on one hand. While you may not have gathered with your friends at these events specifically to drink beer (or maybe you did!) the point is that you had (and hopefully enjoyed) a beer; and it’s probably likely that you weren’t the only one in the group that had one. We, as humans, are social beings. It’s in our nature to want to be apart of a group and one way in which we have done this is to come together over food and/or drinks. All over the world in every culture there is some type of drink that humans come together to partake in and be apart of a group. It certainly does not need to be beer as there are many other drinks like tea, coffee, milk, and other fermented beverages, but across the globe beer is one of the most common drinks of choice for these purposes. So the question is why beer? Why do we choose this specific drink as our beverage of choice (most often) when coming together? The simple answer (which you have probably already thought of) is that it makes us happy and feel good, right? Yes, that is at least part of the reason and while you have probably known this for a while we now have some scientific evidence to support this. In 2016 a scientific article was published in the journal of Psychopharmacology in which the researchers found that after 1-2 beers people (30 men and 30 women were used in the study) were happier and more eager to socialize. Furthermore, while not a scientific study Heineken recently did an experiment where they brought people of different backgrounds and very different political and social views together and allowed them to talk over a beer. The result, people came together and had a nice and civil conversation. Basically, beer helps to lower some of our personal guards, which allows us to be more expressive and open to others. Although this is not limited to beer as its likely that most other forms of alcohol will do this as well (in moderation of course) beer is often the first choice because it is the most affordable and low enough (sometimes) in alcohol that we can drink a few with friends without having the side effects which may come with drinking other stronger alcoholic beverages (I have definitely had a few whiskey Wednesdays that have resulted in rough times at work on Thursday). But there may be more to it than that.

A new theory about the transition of humans from hunter-gatherers to a sedentary agricultural lifestyle for the domestication of grains posits that they may have made this transition for production of beer rather than bread. There is evidence to suggest that hunter-gatherers would gather (no pun intended) together occasionally for religious ceremonies in which they would erect massive heavy pillars. Once these pillars were up they would share beer together probably as a thank you. Just ask any college student, the best way to coerce someone to help you move is to promise them a pizza and some beers at the end (which has worked on me quite a few times). Archeologists have acknowledged (and continue to study) that for early humans, from the late epipaleolithic era (in case you were curious), brewing and consumption of beer was an important part in their celebrations and society. The beer then would have been made from wild grains but eventually they would have needed more grains to make enough of the good stuff. Continued foraging for these grains would have been costly in both energy and time, thus, settling down and domesticating the grains would have been much more efficient.

Beyond this there are still more theories as to how alcohol and especially beer have played a large role in the development of human society. One of these theories suggests that drinking alcoholic beverages may have allowed us to become socially and culturally expressive. Although we are all different on an individual level we, like all animals, still resort to our basic instincts. As a collective we tend to maintain social rigidity and heed toward the herd mentality which is a core primal instinct. While these instincts may be somewhat more subdued these days, in our earlier days they would have been much greater. This is where beer or other forms of alcohol helped to suppress these instincts. Enjoying these alcoholic delights provided more freedom of expression and thought as it slightly reduced our habitual inclinations to maintain instinctual social behaviors. This occasional "freedom" from our visceral tendencies thus allowed us periodic moments with which to think about abstract ideas such as art, music, to experiment and invent, along with a myriad of other social and cultural innovations. It is said that necessity is the mother of all inventions but I would argue that innovations, regardless of necessity, require creativity. Thus, it is and was the freedom to be creative, by drinking beer to briefly loosen our rigid social instincts that allowed humans to develop a rich culture to build a complex and elaborate civilization (at least partially.....there may have been a few other things involved too). The point is that beer and other fermented beverages have played an integral role in the history of human development and society. But what does this really have to do with going out and having a few drinks with friends or Oktoberfest? The answer is that we enjoy being happy and beer helps with this and also opens us up to enjoy each others company and share in a collective happiness. This trait has become part of the human experience as we have been doing it for thousands of years. This is strikingly clear in the fact that every culture both past and present have produced and enjoyed some variety of fermented beverage. It doesn't always have to be a beer but beer does tend to be a common choice. So when we share a pint or two with friends or strangers what we are really doing is saying I am embracing an ancient human tradition that strives to bring a communal happiness with open expressiveness and creativity. Whether its at a ballgame, a wedding, a bar, or one of the largest beer festivals in the world we can all raise our glasses to humanities thirst for happiness and innovation. Just something to think about the next time you share a drink with friends. Cheers to you and cheers to beer!



Foam Rangers Officer Meeting

Minutes by Mike Reed, Scrivener

Place: Conservatory

Time: 12:30 PM

In attendance: Paul Smith, Steven Distelhorst, Mike Reed, Denise Whitney, Doak Proctor

Dixie Cup

- Judging dates
- No firm place for October 7th judging
- Discussion around insurance for the event
- Discussion how much DC has changed i.e. no potluck or Fred tasting)
- Discussion around looking at different sites
- Waz will look into results from last year's efforts involving different sites before moving forward.
- Decided to pursue reserving Dixie Cup T-shirt
- Waz to discuss Dixie Cup roles in the Waz column

Belt buckle

- Believe that minimum order will be met

Discussion around Club T-shirt

- Denise stated we have 53 votes on the phrases that had been suggested
- Going to have a second vote on the top three
- Going to check on t-shirt printers

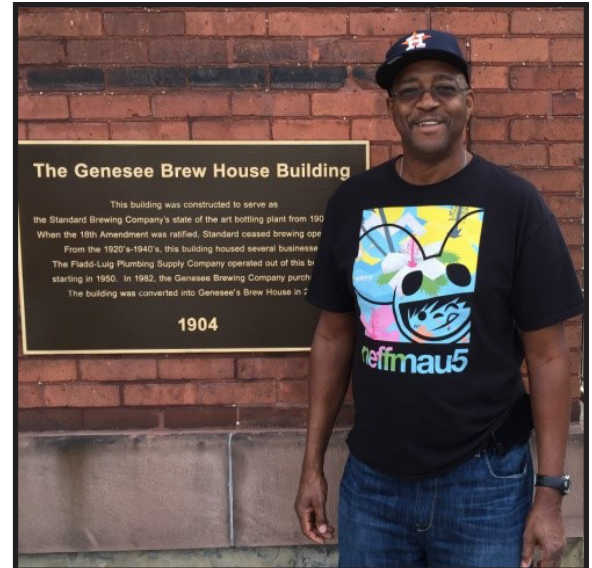
Foam Improvement discussion

- One person to explain using the new score sheet

Discussed officer recruitment for next year

- Waz will send out an email making people aware

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM





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 Fee: \$40.00 Individual / \$60.00 Family (Member +1)

Paid between October 31, 2017 and December 31, 2017: \$35.00 / \$55.00 (Pay early and save!)

All memberships include Dixie Cup admission!

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 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 Announce 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.



The Foam Rangers



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