

LIVIN' THE BREWS

The Newsletter of the North Texas Home Brewers Association

Volume XXXIX

Issue I – January 2024



Quick Sips for January

Officers Meeting	@Palio's Pizza Café Richardson	January 3rd	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Club Meeting	@NTHBS	January 9 th	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Brewday	@Mike Grover's	January 13 th	9am – 3pm
Winter Party	@Smitty's	January 20 th	6:30pm - ???

These and other events can be found on our [Club Calendar](#).

Prez Sez by Marcio Fazzani

Welcome to 2024 and Happy New Year!

Hello NTHBA members, I hope you enjoyed the end of the year holidays with your families and are fully recharged to start brewing again!

In my first article as President, let me share a story that began towards the close of 2018. It was a Sunday afternoon, and I met Smitty for the first time at Kroger in Murphy. Our brief conversation centered on homebrewing, and he extended an invitation to join the club. Intrigued, I returned home, navigated to the website, had everything ready for membership, but just moments before clicking "submit," I succumbed to insecurity and intimidation. Fearful of my limited knowledge about homebrewing, I hesitated and ultimately decided to cancel.

Takeaway: **"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it"**, by Nelson Mandela.

I joined the club in Mar 2022, in 2023 I had the pleasure of serving as the designated "Party Boy" and now in 2024, it is a distinct honor to take on the role of President.

First and foremost, let me express my gratitude to the outgoing leadership for their dedication and hard work and I also wanted to extend my congratulations to the new elected and appointed officers.

Outgoing 2023 Officers

- Terry Olinger – President
- John Sutton – First VP/Competitions
- Marcio Fazzani – 2nd VP/Socials
- Walter Hodges – Treasurer
- Jimmy Orkin – Secretary
- *Open* – Minister of Education
- James Smith – Past President

2024 Officers

- Marcio Fazzani – President
- John Sutton – First VP/Competitions
- James Smith – 2nd VP/Socials
- Walter Hodges – Treasurer
- Jimmy Orkin – Secretary
- David Biershenk – Minister of Education
- Terry Olinger – Past President

Let's do a quick 2023 Recap

Financials – we are in a good shape, particularly highlighted by substantial proceeds from our Limbo competition and the raffle featuring generously donated items. Thank you goes out to our club members who are also AHA members, as their contribution enabled us to secure Club Insurance Reimbursement based on our AHA membership count. We commenced the year with 65 members and concluded with a commendable increase, reaching a total of 75 members.

Socials – Between officer meetings, club meetings, brew days and club events, we were able to visit more than 25 different places. We revived a club meetup event and innovated with club sponsored events at the Addison Oktoberfest and the Downtown Dallas Pub crawl.

Competitions – Oh boy, why not starting with NTHBA winning the Bluebonnet Brew-Off club of the year for the 4th consecutive year. Our COC had a great entrant's turnaround throughout the year with great qualities beers, making the judge's job even harder to choose the winners.

Secretary – Why do you get the newsletter always on time? Why every time you access nthba.org, the website is up and running? Why do you judge using online forms and why do you get your beer scoresheet electronically? The secretary and well known as "The Data Guy" make sure all members have all they need!

Entering 2024, a key focus for the club is member education. We're delighted to announce that David Bierschenk has taken on the responsibility of coordinating this initiative. To ensure collective success, your participation is essential.

If you wish to contribute an article for dissemination to all members, propose a subject for presentation in one of our meetings, or engage in an informal conversation or discussion about a specific homebrew topic, please reach out to David and he will efficiently coordinate and facilitate these interactions. Your involvement will contribute significantly to the richness of our collective knowledge and experience.

A special thanks to North Texas Homebrew Supply for hosting club meetings and especially for the 10% discount our club members receive. Remember to proudly show your current membership to the NTHBS folks when they ring up your purchases.

As we reflect on the successes of 2023 and pinpoint opportunities for enhancement in 2024, your input is invaluable. We invite you to share your feedback and let us know what additions or changes you'd like to see in the club. Your opinions are crucial to shaping the future of our community. YOUR VOICE COUNTS!

Our club is more than just a gathering of brewers; it's a family united by a passion for crafting exceptional brews. Looking forward to embarking on this journey all together.

Saude!

Marcio

The First Sip by James Smith

Happy 2024 to all NTHBA members! Here's to an exciting year of health, prosperity...and of course homebrewing...to each of you. I am excited to serve for 2024 as one of your club officers and once again as the "Party Boy". We have lots of exciting events in the planning stages, so do keep an eye on the club calendar and make plans to attend as many as possible.

If you are interested in hosting either a brewday and/or club party, please let me know ASAP as I am busy creating the calendar for the entire year. I am hoping to have most of the dates locked in for 2024, so please act fast if you are interested. The club will reimburse food you prepare as well as your grain bill on brewdays.

With that, it is worth reiterating...again...that much of the success of the club and its activities depends upon YOUR participation. Brewdays and parties are excellent opportunities for everyone to enjoy what this club is all about...HOMEBREWING! See you in 2024! Cheers!

Notable Club Social Events Coming Up (Please mark your calendars!!):

- The **January 2024 Brew Day** will occur on January 13 from 9am to 4pm. It will be at its traditional location of the home of Mr. Mike Grover. This is always well attended with the weather sometimes being the main attraction. So, plan to be there. The address is 1939 Castille Dr Carrollton 75007. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)
- The **NTHBA Winter Party** will occur on January 20 from 6:30 to ????. Yours truly is hosting this year. More details are forthcoming. In the meantime, mark your calendar to be there. The address is 4100 Camino Dr. Plano 75074. [CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)
- The **February and March Brew Days** are TBD. If you are interested in hosting, please let me know ASAP!!

You can always find out about the latest events coming up on the NTHBA Club Calendar [HERE](#).

As always, if ever you have a question or comments, or if you would like to provide suggestions or feedback about a specific event, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at socials@nthba.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers!

James, aka "Smitty"

Competition Corner by John Sutton

COC

The [registration window](#) for the first COC of 2024 will open Jan 1st and close at 5pm on the day of the club meeting, which happens to be January 9th at [North Texas Homebrew Supply](#).

Bring your 2 entries to the meeting (if you can't make the meeting, please make arrangements ahead of time), if you don't have entries for the January COC, we always have opportunities for judging as well.

As a reminder the COC is open to all BJCP '21 styles. Brew what you like to drink, and we'll judge it for you.

Lone Star Circuit competitions for '24

As a reminder the club will pay for shipping to LSC competitions.

Operation Fermentation , Cane Island Alers

Registration opens Nov 11th and closes January 5th

Drop off is from Dec 15th through January 5th

Note: As of Dec 29th entries stood at 643 (limit of 700)

Bluebonnet Brew-Off

Registration opens January 2nd at noon and closes January 27th

Drop off is from January 3rd through January 27th

On Site Drop Off & Login February 3rd Peace Lutheran Church

Note: [Popular styles will fill up the first day](#), plan accordingly.

Spirit of '76 (link is not currently working)

Registration opens May 20th and closes June 4th

Drop off is from June 4th through June 8th

[KGB Big Batch Brew Bash](#) (web site is still '23, the dates were emailed)

Registration opens June 7th and closes June 21st

Drop off is from June 7th and closes June 21st

Competition Hints

If you have access to Beer & Brewing (Fall-Winter 2023), Randy Mosher has a very informative (and technical) article on how a person tastes beer and how you can improve your tasting abilities. It's behind a paywall otherwise I would share the link.

Any questions you can reach me at firstvp@nthba.org

Cheers!

John

The Treasurer's Report by Walter Hodges

Treasurer's Report:

MONTH ENDED	EQUITY
2023 BEGINNING	8685.58
JANUARY	8334.74
FEBRUARY	8251.45
MARCH	8316.89
APRIL	8479.36
MAY	9664.98
JUNE	10791.95
JULY	13811.73
AUGUST	12723.78
SEPTEMBER	10555.30
OCTOBER	10920.71
NOVEMBER	10900.42

Current Membership: 74

New/Renewing Members:

Karl Fleischmann

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and maybe even received some brewing gear from Santa. I am looking forward to serving one more year as your Treasurer. This will be my last year as Treasurer since I have been in this position for two years now. If you are interested in becoming Treasurer in 2025, please let me know. We would like someone who has been in the club for a few years and has also served at least one term in an officer position. The Treasurer should be willing to commit to the role for a term of two years as it makes it easier to work with the bank.

Memberships may be renewed at club meetings and events or by following the directions at: [Membership Renewal \(nthba.org\)](#)

Financials trail the newsletter by one month. Financial reports are available on the club web site at: [Financials – North Texas Homebrewers Association \(nthba.org\)](#)

If you have any questions about the financials, contact me and I will be happy to share club financial detail.

*Prosit,
Walter*



Anything Else?

There are whole categories of educational ideas that I haven't thought of, so if you have more ideas please let me know!

A couple fun beer history facts:

- The oldest written beer recipe is *Hymn to Ninkasi* written in Sumerian 3,900 years ago, but chemical evidence of beer is much older. 7,000 year old pottery with beer residue has been found in Iran, and 5,000 year old pottery with beer residue has been found in both China and Europe.
- Pale lager became popular at the same time glassware became inexpensive enough to replace stoneware mugs. The connection is clear.

Cheers,

David

NTHBA Officers

President

Marcio Fazzani

president@nthba.org

1st Vice President

John Sutton

firstvp@nthba.org

2nd Vice President

James Smith

socials@nthba.org

Treasurer

Walter Hodges

treasurer@nthba.org

Minister of Education

David Bierschenk

education@nthba.org

Secretary

Jimmy Orkin

secretary@nthba.org

Past President

Terry Olinger

pastpres@nthba.org

Our Supporting Home Brew Stores



[North Texas Homebrew Supply](http://NorthTexasHomebrewSupply.com)



[Kettle To Keg](http://KettleToKeg.com)

North Texas Home Brewers Association

The North Texas Home Brewers Assoc. is a group with an interest in beer and homebrewing. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at various locations around the DFW area. Visitors are welcome!

"Livin' the Brews" is our monthly newsletter. We do accept advertising, although the NTHBA, its officers, assignees, and editors are not liable for losses or damages resulting from mistakes or misprints, or any other consequences of advertising in this or any other publication. Ads are \$30 for a 1/3 page and \$50 for a full page, subject to change without notice.

Readers are encouraged to submit articles. The deadline for ads and articles each month is 14 days prior to the club meeting.



www.NTHBA.org