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# LIVIN' THE BREWS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION

## Prez Sez

By Leroy Gharis

Recently I realized that this is the club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as NTHBA. Anyway the list of presidents goes back to 1985 although with no names for the first two years. I think the club actually started with maybe another name a year or two earlier. As the current president I am officially declaring 2010 as the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We need a slogan like "25 years of making great beer and friends". I am sure someone can come with something better. Send me an [email](#) with your suggestions.

We are still looking for a high resolution copy of any club logo and Limbo logo. If anyone has a copy of knows someone who does, please contact me or Orlando Guerra know. Orlando is our NTHBA representative to the Lone Star Circuit. I believe the LSC is trying to put together a display for use at the Bluebonnet and Dixie Cup events with all club and event logos. If we cannot locate a copy of the logos then we need someone who can create one for us. Personally, I'd like to see a version of the pentagonal logo without the cowboy. I'm sorry but I don't get what a cowboy with a lasso has to do with brewing beer. He should be

holding a mug, a keg, or a mash paddle. Or maybe just do away with the lasso. I mean, you know that people outside of Texas think we all own a horse and have an oil well in our yard. I would rather they think we all have a homebrew shed in the back yard.

An interesting thing happened during my last brew session on a Friday afternoon. A phone company truck stopped in the alley and backed up to my driveway. The driver got out and asked me if I was brewing beer. He said he had just brewed his first batch with some friends in Little Elm. It was an all-grain Schwarz bier that he is fermenting with ale yeast. I wished I had a club card to give to him. The officers have discussed having some cards made to hand out to someone just like that. That incident convinced me that I need to get with it and get some printed. I hope he and his buddies show up at a club event soon.

If you haven't made your plans to attend the Bluebonnet Brew-off, you need to get with it. This is one of the largest regional competitions in the country and since it is local it is a great opportunity to spend time with other brewers. There will be brewers from all over the state of Texas and several

from out of state. There are some important dates you need to know. The login of the entries will be Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The first round judging will be at the Coors Distribution Center in Ft. Worth March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. You can find a map for these events on the [club calendar](#). We need everyone who is available to help with the judging. If you haven't judged you will be paired with an experienced judge or you can help steward.

You can register your entries and for the event on the [Bluebonnet](#) web site. This year's keynote speaker is Shaun O'Sullivan of the 21st Amendment Brewery and Restaurant in San Francisco. I was fortunate enough to meet him last summer while attending the NHC (National Homebrewers Conference) in Oakland. It was interesting to hear him talk about how they started making their Watermelon Wheat beer and then gradually made changes to come up with a consistent tasting beer. Also, rumor has it that Matt Brynildson of Firestone Walker may show up again.

Fred David is selling style sponsorships for the  
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Bluebonnet program. For \$20 you can sponsor a style and have an entry with your name or company name listed with the style in the program. The NTHBA is responsible for styles 1 through 12. If you are interested be sure to contact Fred at the February club meeting at the Rugby House Pub in Plano.

Speaking of NHC, this year it is in Minneapolis. There are several members that have already made plans to attend. All of the normal rooms in the hotel are already sold out. Once the deluxe rooms sell out there should be rooms available at another Sheraton hotel nearby. Last year's event had over 1200 attendees. In addition to getting to meet many, many other brewers there is a big selection of seminars presented by other homebrewers and professional brewers. There is a big variety of topics so you can surely find something that would interest you. Click [here](#) to get more details.

We had a great turnout for the January meeting at BJ's in Addison. We had at least 5 first time attendees at the club meeting and many of those showed up for the brew day at Mike Grover's house. That was beautiful day for brewing. We had seven brewers show up. Brian Beyer, Erich Gens, Kelly Harris, Walter Hodges, Scott Townson and Don Trotter brewed in addition to Mike. That is the most number of brewers we have had since the TV crew came and taped us in June of 2008. Erich Gens made a mead using honey from club

member and local apiarist Jim Marr. Thanks to Mike for hosting a great event and thanks to everyone who showed up.

Wayne Yandell did a demonstration on how to solder a fitting on a stainless steel kettle. As long as you get the correct flux and solder, it is not that hard to do. If you can sweat copper pipe you can do this. This really helped me as my hot liquor tank was leaking in its weld-less fitting. I soldered a fitting on my HLT the next day. Now it doesn't drip into my brew kettle anymore. I must say it doesn't look pretty as I had to use too much solder. Maybe if I get some practice and get better I will redo it someday but for now I am just happy it doesn't leak. I also soldered on a brass elbow fitting and attached the straight part of a broken racking cane for use as a sight glass. On my three-tiered system this is very helpful for me to tell how much water is in my HLT without having to climb on a stool. It also helps me measure how much water I empty into the mash tun for mash in, mash out and sparging. Thanks Wayne for a great demonstration.



## What's Brewin'

### By Kimberley Rhea

There was a lot of brewing going on at the January Brew Day. Special thanks to Mike Grover for hosting. Along with all of the brewing we had two demonstrations.

Our next Brew Day is scheduled for February 20th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Fred and Sue David's home. Fred will be making Mead.

**Their new address is:  
6803 Overbrook Drive  
Parker, TX 75002  
214-415-0233**

We will have a Pre Bluebonnet entry evaluation taking place from 10am – Noon at Fred's house as well on February 20th.

I still need Brew Day Host for October 2010 and November 2010. Please contact me at [socials@nthba.org](mailto:socials@nthba.org) if you are interested in hosting or have questions about hosting an event or party.

Please remember we do not have Brew Days in March (Bluebonnet Activities) or August (Limbo Challenge Activities).

Be sure to keep an eye on the NTHBA calendar located on our website, [nthba.org](http://nthba.org), and our Monthly Newsletter for upcoming parties, brew days and general information.

Kim  
"Woo Girl"

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volume of wort before the boil. If you know your pre-boil gravity and the pre-boil volume you can determine what your post-boil gravity will be if you know what your volume will be at the end of the boil. There was a [discussion](#) on this topic in one of the forums on the club website. Some people made other suggestions for marking carboys such as enamel or finger nail polish.

As I stated earlier, the next club meeting will be at [Rugby House Pub](#) in Plano. I know we were just there in November but I wanted to have this meeting where we can have a good turnout so we can communicate all news about Bluebonnet to everyone. I also want to do all I can to make them successful. They have good food, a good selection of beers and their draughts are \$2 off all day on Tuesdays. For all of you who live in Dallas I plan to schedule a meeting at the new Gordon Biersch at Park Lane and Central Expressway but I am not sure of the date yet.



I did a demonstration on how to etch gallon markings on your carboy. It is important to know how much wort is in your fermentation vessel. When doing full boils, it is important to know the difference between the volume of wort in your fermentation vessel and the

Where are these guys now, former NTHBA presidents Jim Layton, Rett Blankenship, Steve Wall, McKee Smith and Tom Henderson? Oh and the dog's name is Chase. I'll let you figure out which one is the dog. This was from the Sept. 2001 newsletter. I met Jim and Rett but not the other guys. That trailer in the background made me think of Randy Quaid's RV in Christmas Vacation.



Officer email addresses

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**Clay Mahone/Education**

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**Damon Lewis/IT Director**

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**Jimmy Orkin/Past President**

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# Beer Education

## If You Can Break It, You Can Fix It

**By Clay Mahone**

As in past years, we will continue to hold monthly Brew-days with an educational activity scheduled at each brew-day for 2010. The only exceptions will be March and December because we are not holding brew days those months. Since I know just enough to get myself into trouble, my appointment as Minister of Education will be less like the teacher of a class and more like a scheduler of hands on events and workshops.

First, I want to extend a big thank you to Leroy and Wayne for stepping up and starting this January's brew-day off right with some very cool demonstrations. Leroy showed us how to etch glass safely with an acid paste and lots of masking tape on a carboy that needed it's gallon hash marks. Certainly more durable than the sharpie dashes on my carboy. Also, Wayne taught everyone some basics about soldering stainless steel and then showed us the technique by soldering a fitting for a thermometer into a stainless brew pot. This was a great start to a year we hope will be full of hands on learning and experimenting.

At February's brew-day, BJCP certified judge Mike Grover will be leading a "BJCP 101" discussion and beer tasting workshop. Anyone ever entered the same beer in two competitions to receive scores that don't match? The club will be providing a commercial but unnamed example of a beer from the American Ale category for a group judging, complete with score sheets. I hope this will give us a real hands-on experience for those who have never "judged," and help demonstrate the many variables of beer judging.

For those who love gadgets and whats-its, Jimmy will be conducting a "Brew day electronics workshop" in April. Cougar Brewing will also be doing "bottle conditioning" and Orlando will be adding a demonstration on counter-pressure bottling at the June brew day. There's lots of interesting topics coming up this year, so please check the website calendar for more details about the workshops at each brew day. We do have a couple brew days open to suggestion, so please email me if you have an idea for a class or if you can guide the rest of us in a subject or project.

Let's get our hands dirty this year, stretch our brains, break something, and then learn how to fix it.

Clay Mahone  
NTHBA Minister of Education  
education@nthba.org

# The Competitive Edge (Where the action is!)

By Scott Townson

Well, another month has passed and I've been one busy brewer. I hope that you've kept busy too. It looks like I'll manage to have around 20 entries in the Bluebonnet this year. To those of you who'll have more, my hat's off to ya! I know how hard you've worked to get there. If you've got less, I fully understand. If not for a very understanding wife I wouldn't have been able to pull off as many as I have. Thanks Sue!

Bluebonnet registration is open; you need your entries recorded no later than the February 25th.

You can register on-line here:

<http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=bbreg&file=index>

The closest drop-off locations for most of us are at The Wine Maker Toy Store in Carrollton and at Home Brew Headquarters in Richardson. Please have your entries complete (3 bottles for each entry, a bottle label on each bottle held in place with a rubber band, and proof of payment or payment in the box with your entries) at a drop off location no later the close of business on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Bluebonnet Log-in will take place on February 27th at Richard Dobson's place up in Red River country. Please keep an eye on the club calendar for maps and details. <http://www.nthba.org/content/club-calendar>

Bluebonnet judging will take place March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and again on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The judging will be at the Coors Brewery Hospitality Suite located at **2550 McMillan Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76137**. All BJCP judges and all who would like to learn judging are encouraged to attend. It's a great experience; I love it and I suspect you will too! Show up early to get teamed up.

Please pay close attention to the Competition Schedule. Our friends down in San Antonio <http://www.bexarbrewers.org> have changed the date on us for this year's competition. They've moved the **Alamo City Cerveza Fest** from their usual August date **to a March 21st deadline**. This means that Bluebonnet weekend is their deadline. Good news if you don't drink all your Bluebonnet competition brews before then. I'll be scheduling a packing party sometime in March close to the deadline date. We need to have the entries at the drop-off location in Austin NLT March 21st. Details will be posted on the Club message boards and calendar. This is a very important competition for the Lone Star Circuit. I encourage all of you to enter as many as you can. Let's make a good showing not only to

support their competition but to show them who makes the best beer in Texas! In my opinion, the North Texas Home Brewers Association is the best Club in Texas. We need to prove it! So please step up and let's get it done!

While you're at it.....

Also in this same time frame is the American Homebrewer's Association National Homebrew Competition. The deadline for entries is the April 1<sup>st</sup>. For entry information, go the AHA website: <http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition/participate/entry-shipping-drop-off>

Finally, the next Club Only Competition is for **American Ales BJCP style 10**. Please submit your American Pale Ales 10A, your American Amber Ales 10B, and your American Brown Ales 10C to **Home Brew Headquarters** no later than **March 24<sup>th</sup>**.

Only one (1) 10-14 oz. green or brown bottle is required for each entry. If you are the winner (2-3) additional bottles will be required for the AHA Club-Only Competition. No swing tops allowed. **Printed crown caps must be blacked-out with a permanent marker and all labels removed to assure anonymity of all entries. Each entry should use an AHA/BJCP Bottle ID form:** [http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP\\_BottleID.pdf](http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_BottleID.pdf)

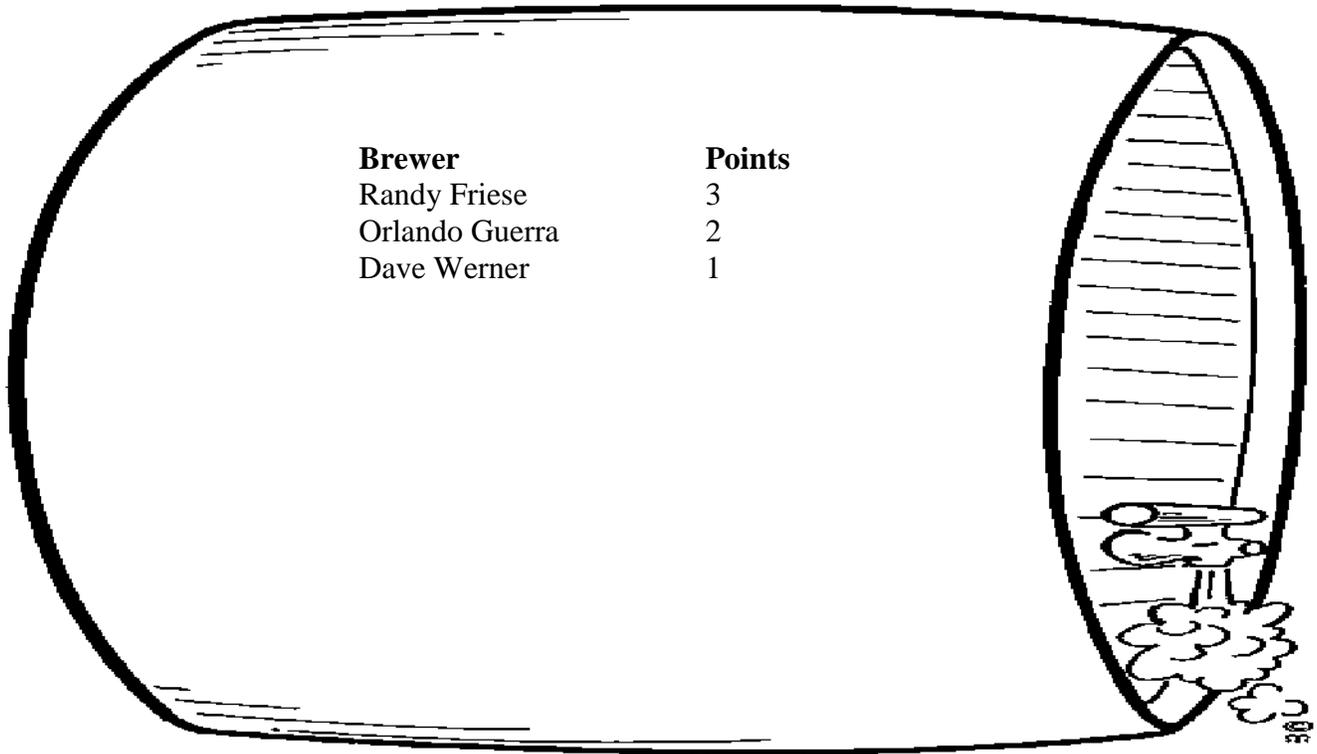
The results from the Jan/Feb COC English Brown Ales are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place - **Randy Friese** - Mild Nigel - category 11A English Mild Ale - **Congratulations!**

2<sup>nd</sup> place - **Orlando Guerra** for his Pope's SEB – category 11B Southern English - **Good Job!**

3<sup>rd</sup> place - **Dave Werner** for his Mild – category 11A English Mild - **Nice!**

# BREWER ROYALE 2010



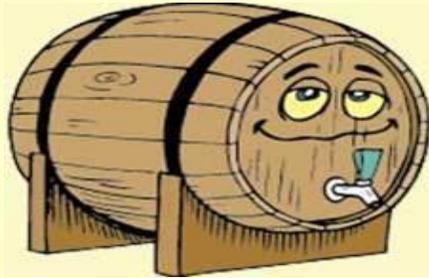
## AHA Club Only Competition Schedule

Date	Category
March/April '10	American Ales
May '10	Extract Beers
Aug '10	Mead
Sept/Oct '10	Sour Ale
Nov/Dec '10	TBD

## - 2010 Competition Schedule -

Competition/Style	Entry Deadline	Competition Awards
<b>Jan/Feb '10 COC</b> English Brown Ale (BJCP style 11)	Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup> . (Club) Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup> (AHA)	Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> (AHA)
<b>Blue Bonnet Brew-Off</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	<b>Feb. 25th</b>	March 19 & 20
<b>Alamo City Cerveza Festival</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	<b>March 21st</b>	April 10
<b>March/April COC</b> American Ales (BJCP Style 10)	<b>March 24th (Club)</b> <b>April 3rd (AHA)</b>	April 10 <sup>th</sup> (AHA)
<b>AHA NHC</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	<b>April 1st</b>	<b>National Homebrews Conference</b> June 19th
<b>May COC</b> Extract Beers	<b>April 22nd (Club)</b> May 1st (AHA)	May (Club) May 22nd (AHA)
<b>Big Batch Brew Bash</b> English Barleywines (BJCP style 19B).	May 8	May 16, 2010
<b>Celtic Brew-Off</b> Fermented beverages associated with the Celtic regions of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, or Brit-tany	May 15	Texas Scottish Festival, June 5, 2010
<b>Lunar Rendez-Brew</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Mid July	Early Aug.
<b>August COC</b> Mead	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)
<b>Limbo Challenge</b> Beers w/ SG @ 1.050 or below.	Late July, Early Au- gust	Late August
<b>Cactus Challenge</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Mid August	Mid September
<b>September/October COC</b> Sour Ale	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)
<b>Dixie Cup</b> All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Mid-Late Sept.	Mid Oct.
<b>November/December COC</b> Strong Ale	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)

# The Brewing Equipment Trading Post



## **FOR SALE**

To list your equipment, include the following information -

- 1 - Description of items
- 2 - Whether it is "For Sale", "Will Trade For \_?\_" or "Free, Come & Get It"
- 3 - Your name
- 4 - How and when to contact you.

Email Damon at [news@nthba.org](mailto:news@nthba.org)

## **NTHBA Officers**

### **President**

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 972-951-5515

### **Past President**

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 214-864-8516

## **Club Brewmeisters**

Club Brewmeisters are members who are experienced brewers and have volunteered to help other brewers, new and old, with brewing problems. Give them a call with your questions! Just don't call too late, too early, or during Cowboy games!

Homebrew Headquarters  
 (972) 234-4411

## **North Texas Home Brewers Association**

The North Texas Home Brewers Assoc. is a group with an interest in beer in general and home brewing in particular. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at various locations in the area. Visitors are welcome! "Livin' the Brews" is our newsletter and is published about once a month. 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.



Visit the NTHBA Website at  
[www.nthba.org](http://www.nthba.org)