
LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION
VOLUME XXV ISSUE 11

Prez Sez

By Wayne Yandell

As the saying goes, go out with a bang, and man did we. The Christmas party this year was a blast and the most well attended that I have memory of in my six years of being a member. As always Pam and Walter Hodges outdid themselves in hosting the party. The catered food was a hit and bringing back the side dishes really made a huge difference to all those who came. I know I enjoyed the wide varieties of great food each of you shared with us.

2011 is here and as your new president, I'd like to say that I can see some good times and great beer ahead of us. I'd personally like to extend a big thank you to Leroy Gharis for his fine leadership and the other officers who gave their time and effort to keep this great brew club running! : Scott Townson, Kim Rhea, Melinda Beyer, Bill Lawrence, Clay Mahone, and Damon Lewis. Without their volunteering their time, our club would not be what it is today.

Bluebonnet is right around the corner and we need to keep up the pressure on the other clubs. We have the talent to do what it takes. If you are new to club and want to make a contribution, then enter as many of the Lone Star Circuit competitions this year that you can! If you are unsure of your beer please approach someone in the club for advice and guidance. Although not scheduled yet, we usually have a social to let people get together before entries are due to help with deciding categories or to evaluate your entries before sending them in.

I look forward to serving you this year! Cheers!

NHC Regional Judging

Leroy Gharis

For those who have not heard, the DFW area will be one of the nine regional judging sites. The NHC (National Homebrewing Competition) is sponsored by the AHA (American Homebrewing Association) and is held once a year. The rules are a little different this year in that you are not limited to sending your entries to a specific regional site. In the past we had to send entries to the judging site for the Old West region which included Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. You may now send your entries to any of the judging sites but you must send all entries to only one site.

I am the organizer for the event. Jimmy Orkin will be the Judge Director. Jason Harrington has agreed to process the MS Access database and Kim Rhea will make sure we have food for the judging days. James Lallande of Cap and Hare is working on arranging discounts for out of towners at one of the hotels close to Coors in Ft. Worth. One position that I still need to fill is that of head steward and/or cellar master.

The judging will occur on Saturday, April 9th and Sunday, April 10th at Coors Distribution in Ft. Worth. All entries will be due by Friday, April 1st. We will do login of the entries (limited to 750) on Saturday, April 2nd or Sunday, April 3rd. The Wine Maker's Toy Store will be the shipping site. I will let you know of other drop off points in the area as I have confirmed them. If we don't finish all of the judging on the 9th and 10th we will finish them the following Saturday but I really expect to finish the first weekend. I have received a lot of inter-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

est from the Oklahoma clubs. Hopefully we will have a few come from the other Texas cities.

Here are a couple of helpful links for more information. If you want to keep up with the planning you can join Yahoo group [AHA OldWest DFW](#). I created the group before I knew they were not going to keep the region names. You can get more details

BJCP Test Oct. 15th **Leroy Gharis**

We will be having a BJCP test in the north Dallas area on October 15th. Chuck Homola and I will be getting more information out soon about a new class. There will be a limit of 12 testers. I have already gotten an email asking about available spaces. I plan to make spots available to NTHBA members and local brewers before accepting out of town requests. However, I cannot hold spots forever so I encourage you to let me or Chuck know if you are interested.

By the way there will be a test in Fort Worth in September. It will be limited to 12 testers also and will be administered by James Lallande. James has asked for a spot in our test to which I have agreed

Get Passionate about Competing! **By Jim Lavin**

I'm writing this after having pitched the yeast on my second batch of the new year and with every new year the competition season gets started up before you know it. I know my brewing calendar is chocked full for the next couple of months and you can expect to find me brewing every weekend until the end of the competition season. So let me get you caught up on the recent and upcoming competitions.

January/February Club-Only Competition (COC)

We held the judging for the January/February Club-Only Competition – The Battle of the Bitters on January 21st at Homebrew Headquarters. This COC was for beers in BJCP Category 8 English Pale Ale which included 8A. Standard/Ordinary Bitter, 8B. Special/

Best/Premium Bitter and 8C. Extra Special/Strong Bitter.

I'd like to thank Kelly Harris, Bill Lawrence and Jimmy Orkin, who graciously took their time to judge the ten entries we received. We had a great showing and I know they had a good time judging all the entries as well.

1st Place went to Randy Friese with his "> Bitter" from category 8B

2nd Place went to Jesse Thoresen with his "Everyday English" from category 8A

3rd Place went to Jim Lavin with his "Off-the-Cuff ESB" from category 8C

An Honorable Mention also goes to Jesse Thoresen for his "Piccadilly Pale Ale" from category 8C

I'll have the score sheets with me at the February Monthly meeting so catch me after the meeting to pick them up. Congratulations to everyone who placed and thanks to everyone who entered!

Up Coming Competitions

Blue Bonnet Brew-Off

Blue Bonnet Brew-Off kicks off the Lone Star Circuit and is considered one of the largest single-site homebrew competitions in the US. This competition covers all BJCP Styles for Beer, Meads and Ciders. Online registration is now open at <http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com>. The cost is \$7 for each entry and the entry deadline is February 25th. You can drop off your entries at the following local locations:

Homebrew Headquarters

300 N. Coit Rd. Suite 134

Richardson, TX 75080

972-234-441

The Wine Maker's Toy Store

1300 N. I-35E, Suite 106

Carrollton, TX 75006

866-417-1114

The National Homebrew Competition

The National Homebrew Competition (NHC) is the world's largest international beer competition recognizing the most outstanding homebrewed beer, mead, and cider produced by amateur brewers worldwide.

The First Round of the National Homebrew Competition (NHC) takes place at nine judging locations in the USA during the month of April. The best of the beer, mead, and cider entries in the regional competitions advances to the Final Round of the competition at the AHA National Homebrewers Conference.

The online entry registration will be available in mid-February 2011. The shipping/drop-off window for the First Round of the 2011 National Homebrew Competition is Monday, March 21 through Wednesday, March 30 (by 5 p.m.). Check out <http://www.homebrewersassociation.org/pages/competitions/national-homebrew-competition> for more information.

Alamo City Cerveza Fest

Alamo City Cerveza Fest will be the next Lone Star Circuit Competition coming up in April. This

competition covers all BJCP Styles for Beer, Meads and Ciders. The Entry deadline will be April 3rd and the Awards Ceremony will be held April 30th. I'll provide more details as I get them.

March/April Club-Only Competition (COC)

The March/April Club-Only Competition will be BJCP Style 5 Bock covering 5A. Maibock/Helles Bock, 5B. Traditional Bock, 5C. Doppelbock and 5D. Eisbock. Entries will need to be dropped off by April 7th at the following locations:

Homebrew Headquarters

300 N. Coit Rd. Suite 134

Richardson, TX 75080

972-234-441

The Wine Maker's Toy Store

1300 N. I-35E, Suite 106

Carrollton, TX 75006

866-417-1114

A Call for Judges

I'd like to ask anyone interested in judging to help out by volunteering to judge the Club-Only Competitions. This is a great way to hone your judging skills and you don't need to worry about your experience level, we will always have experienced judges to guide you through the process. If you plan to take the BJCP test

this year judging the COC is a great way to get some practice sessions in with certified judges before the test. If you are interested in judging please send your contact information to competitions@nthba.org with COC Judging as the subject.

It's Time to Pitch!

Well that's all I've got for you this month. So, it's time to pitch the yeast and see how things turn out. So stay sanitized, keep an eye on those fermentation temps and I'll catch you all at the next club meeting.

Jim Lavin – Otaku Brewer

What's Brewin? By Kimberley Rhea

The final Brew Day of 2010 was a success. It started out just a bit on the cold side but by 10:30 it was quite nice. We all had a great time. The Cougars plus Bill Lawrence brewed a Wheat Beer with Cherries.

The last brew day was on January 22, 2011 at Mike Grover's home. We had a lot of club members show up and a few new friends as well. There were four different brewers. Thanks Mike!

Our next brew day will be February 12, at Wally and Pam Hodges home.

Their address is:
2203 LeMans
Carrollton, TX 75006

Lunch will be provided, but if you would like to bring dessert or a side dish to share feel free.

I still need a few Brew Day Host for 2011. Please contact me at socials@nthba.org if you are interested in hosting or have questions about hosting an event or party.

Be sure to keep an eye on the NTHBA calendar located on our website, nthba.org, and our Monthly Newsletter for upcoming parties, brew days, classes/demos offered, maps to locations and general information.

Please contact me at socials@nthba.org if you have any questions.

Kim
"Woo Girl"

By Chuck Homola
Education Director

Now that we are well into the new year, I wanted to steal a little real estate in the club newsletter to talk a bit about some things that most of us never get too much of – yea you guessed it – continuing edumication (ok – education). I've been glad to have had the opportunity to help put together and present for the club in the past and hope to continue doing so – but the most important thing is that everyone has the chance to participate and we ensure that you are getting information on things that

really interest you. To this end (don't you hate it when people start sentences with prepositions?) I started up a new topic on the club website forum. You can find it under "General Discussions" and the topic is "Beer Classes for 2011". I see a number of folks have taken a look but not many replies so far. Please chime in and I will be happy to make the classes happen that you all most want.

I have been getting a number of requests for two things in particular so far – our flagship class – Preparation for the BJCP Exam and a class on yeast starters. We will need to get a list of the folks that want to do the BJCP class so we can pick times that work for everyone and schedule the series of a dozen or so workshops to have us ready for the test this fall. The other hot topic is how to prepare and use yeast starters. This we could do one weekend afternoon at my house (it would be easy as I have all the stuff handy) or we could do it at a brew day. Let me know your preferences at education@nthba.org for both of these classes.

Speaking of brew days – thanks to Jim Lavin for putting on the DoItYourself stir plate – that was pretty clever. If anyone has something they would like to demonstrate at the upcoming brew days – please let me know so we can get you slotted in. Anthony said he would be willing to put on a demonstration on smoking malt (not that kind of smoking!) and I will plan to demonstrate drying hops in an oast at the September brew day. I know there are a lot of brilliant brewers in the club that I and others could learn a lot from – so please volun-

teer if there are areas you would be willing to share with us.

Now on to judging events. As we all know there are going to be 2 major judging events in the area this spring and several smaller ones through out the summer. There is a need for more people to help out with the judging – both from a beer judging perspective and those helping with logistics. I mentioned at the January meeting that we would offer a one afternoon training session for anyone considering judging at any of the upcoming events this year that has not done so before. The intent of the class is to get folks over any possible intimidation to participating. I was new at this myself at this time last year, but am very glad I took the plunge into the big pitcher! Even if you have no BJCP background – you can judge at these competitions – you will always be paired with experienced judges that really do enjoy teaching the craft to others. I am tentatively planning to hold the class on either February 26th or 27th. Please send me an email at education@nthba.org and let me know if you are interested and which day(s) work for you.

NTHBA Officers

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Past President

Leroy Gharis
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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

The Wine Makers' Toy Store
(866)417-1114

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