

LIVIN' THE BREWS

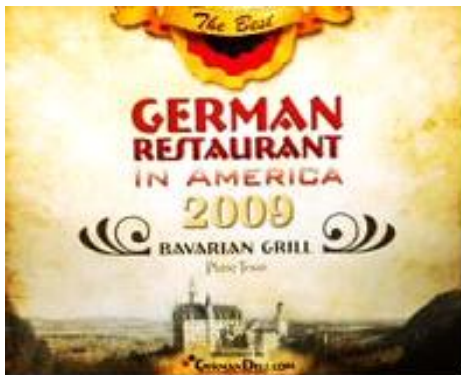


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION

Prez Sez

By Leroy Gharis

The April 13th club meeting will be held at The Bavarian Grill in Plano. It is located at the northwest corner of Parker and Hwy 75 in the shopping area. Juergen always appreciates having us and it is a good time. So come join us for some brats or schnitzel and good German beers.



Don't forget the next brewday occurs before the club meeting on Saturday, April 10th at Orlando Guerra's house. You can see how a medal winning brewer brews. The weather should be nice so bring you brew gear or a chair and some good beer to sit and watch.

Wow! North Texas Homebrewers wins the Bluebonnet Trophy for the third year running. Congratulations to



all of the medal winners. I am really proud to be part of this group. If you won a medal or a stein you can pick them up at the brewday on Sat. April 10th or at the club meeting. I believe some of you won your

first stein and/or award. The club members would like to meet you and share in your triumph. We thank you for helping the club retain the

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Bluebonnet Trophy. It is on display at Homebrew Headquarters. Ask Kelly to show you the old trophy too. Wow, what a difference.

Everyone in the club should hold your head high whether you won an award or not. Anyone that has been at a brewday or club meeting or on the forum discussing beer had a part in this. It is by sharing thoughts that we are all able to brew better beer. The really amazing thing to me is I was told our average score sheet score for 292 entries was 33. That was only two points behind the Bay Area Mashtronauts who won the Brown-Mueller Quality Award. My challenge to everyone for next year's Bluebonnet is to win the Bluebonnet Trophy as top points club and the Brown-Mueller Quality Award. I know we can do it.

I must say I was not sure we were going to win it this year. The wealth was really spread around amongst a lot of clubs this year. In the end we prevailed by about 10 point over the Bay Area Mashtronauts. Other clubs that were close were Foam Rangers and Austin Zealots. There were also winners from newer clubs. One new club, The River Valley Ale Raisers, has an ex-NTHBA member, Steve Arnold, as their president. That club won multiple awards. Another north

Texas club from Abilene, Big Country Brewers, came to their second Bluebonnet and went away with some awards. It's great to see new blood joining in the fray.



The judging for me this year was very enjoyable. I only remember one or two not so good beers. I remember one that smelled really bad but tasted pretty good. It smelled so bad my judging partner didn't want to taste it. It was only after I took a taste and said it's not that bad that he would take a sip. He also was surprised.

Then there was the second round judging where I had the privilege of judging an absolutely awesome Imperial Stout that won 2nd place in Best of Show. Getting to judge one beer like that makes it all worth it. If you haven't been judging you need to get some experience. You will be amazed at how much you will learn. It will make you a better brewer because you will be able to honestly judge your own beer.

We also brought home several cases of commercial beer that you will see at club events soon. Sorry, Pam there was no cider. You must have drank it all Friday night. Or maybe that was Kim that drank it all. I don't think she ever left that table with the cider. I'm sure Kim can tell us all about it.

We didn't get any homebrew for the club. I know you may be disappointed but it went to a good cause. There were some GI's that had checked into the hotel. Melinda gave them all of our club's case with a chart telling them what style the beers are based on the number on the top. They may still be drinking that beer. I couldn't think of a better place for the beer to go. Those guys and gals deserve it.

Now that the Bluebonnet is over and the weather is warming it's time to brew some beers cause I am close to out. There's just enough time to brew some beers that can be entered in the Celtic and the Lunar.

I am trying to get a few people together to figure out what to do about 25th anniversary shirts. If you would like to help with picking shirt styles, artwork, and shirt colors send me an email. The email address for the president is on the back of your membership card.

What's Brewin'

By Kimberley Rhea

We didn't have any Brew Days in March, but we did have a huge party, The Bluebonnet Brew-off. I believe everyone had an awesome time. Thank you to all who helped out to make it another success.

Our next Brew Day is scheduled for April 10th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Orlando Guerra's home.

Orlando's address is:
7409 Avalon Drive
Plano, TX 75025
972-839-8675

Jimmy Orkin will give a demonstration at the April Brew day on Brewing Electronics from 10am – Noon.

Sue and Fred David will be hosting our Spring Party this year. The party is on April 24, from 6pm – 10pm. We will be having Bar-B-Que Beef and Sausage catered by Ernest Paul. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and of course beer if you like.

The David's address is:
6803 Overbrook Drive
Parker, TX 75002
214-415-0233

I still need a Brew Day Host for November 2010. Please contact me at socials@nthba.org if you are interested in hosting or have questions about hosting an event.

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, maps to locations and general information.

Kim
"Woo Girl"



Right: Pam Hodges,
Walter Hodges and
Richard Harris at the
Bluebonnet.

Limbo Challenge

By Jimmy Orkin

We are having our first Limbo Challenge planning meeting on April 8 at Gordon Biersch in Plano. I will be there early (quality checking) with the official meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

We have several items to discuss:

1. Location for the Awards Ceremony.
2. Head steward position.
3. Awards, type and source.
4. Must be more but I cannot think of them as I write this.

Please come with your ideas.

Here are some of the facts we know.

Dates:

Entries Dates: July 19 through August 5th.

Login at Homebrew Headquarters: August 6th.

Judging at Fred David's house: August 14, 15.

Event on August 28, location TBD.

Head Judge: Don Trotter.

Entries will be accepted at Homebrew Headquarters and the Wine Maker's Toy Store.

If you would like to assist in any aspect of the Limbo, I encourage you to contact me at director@limbocomp.org

Brew Strong!

Jimmy



Orlando is style at the Bluebonnet.

Any one wanting beer has to get by me.

Beer Education

Arbitrary Accuracy

By Clay Mahone

This year was my first year at the Blue Bonnet, and it was awesome! I tried my best to try just a little thimble of everything, but near midnight it felt like my thimbles had turned into pints. That night was worth the headache.

A lot of people are involved in this event and it really is an educational experience that can open your world to new styles, techniques and very intelligent brewers. I had to carry a note pad in my back pocket and write down everything I thought I would want to remember the next day. Then I ran out of paper, so I hope I got most of the good stuff early on. Thanks to everyone who works hard to make this happen!

So onward to summer; it's coming soon I hope. Let's see a quick preview of education events to take us through the warmer months. I included parties, because those can often be very educational for the sheltered small town boy like me.

April 10, 2010 – Brew Day: Brewing Electronics workshop to be held by Jimmy Orkin. Jimmy is the Guru of gadgets, so I'm looking forward to see what kind of brewing droid he'll bring for show and tell.

April 24, 2010 – Spring Party: I better bring my notepad.

May 1, 2010 – Brew Day: Brewing 101 Demo by Kelly Harris will help our newcomers see how easy it can be. Bring your note pads.

June 12, 2010 – Brew Day: Bottling and Kegging Demo will be led by Cougar Brewing for procedures on bottle conditioning and Orlando Guerra will show us how to fill from the keg using the handy-dandy counter pressure bottle filler.

July 10, 2010 – Brew Day: Since this will be a really hot one, what better time to have a friendly discussion about water? I will lead the traditional overview of water and then let the flood gates open for comments, gentlemanly disagreements, arguments, duels, fist fights, ect. Water is always fun because everyone seems to do it differently with great results. There is more than one way to boil this chicken.

July 17, 2010 – Summer Party: TOGA party! Bring your speedo.

August 14, 2010 – Brew Day: No official education event scheduled yet. Email me with ideas, and check back at the website often for more info. Education@nthba.org

The Competitive Edge (Where the action is!)

By Scott Townson

Wow! What a ride! The Bluebonnet has come and gone and once again we are the **2010 Homebrew Club of the Year**. Good job guys! This makes it the 3rd year in a row. We scored 39 overall points this year. That's a downward trend from last year's record 50 total points. Still it was enough to get the job done. Summarizing this years club winnings, we took 4 first place Steins (including new entrants), 11 second place finishes and seven third place finishes; all won by 13 club members and teams. Outstanding accomplishments all! I had a great time and I hope you did too. If you didn't make it, you really missed out. Record entries and record attendance really made this a stellar event. I'm looking forward to next year already! You can check out the overall results here: <http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=Subjects&file=index&req=viewpage&pageid=47>

<u>Style</u>	<u>Club Winners!</u>	<u>Points</u>
3. European Amber Lager	1st - William Bens, Trevor Pulver	3
4. Dark Lager	2nd - Orlando Guerra and Damon Lewis 3rd - Chris Mewhinney	2 1
9. English Pale Ale	2nd - William Bens, Trevor Pulver	2
11. Scottish and Irish	2nd - Doug Nett	2
12. Strong Scotch	2nd - Scott Townson 3rd - Scott Townson	2 1
13. American Amber	2nd - Scott Townson	2
14. American Brown	2nd - Don Trotter, Kelly Harris	2
15. English Brown	1st - Jesse Thoresen 2nd - Scott Townson	3 1
16. Dry Stout	3rd - William Bens, Trevor Pulver	1
26. German Wheat and Rye	2nd - Bill Lawrence 3rd - Scott Townson	2 1

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<u>Style</u>	<u>Club Winners!</u>	<u>Points</u>
28. Sour Ale	2nd - Charlie Gottenkieny	2
32. American Barleywine	2nd - Scott Townson	2
34. Spice/Herb/Vegetable	3rd - Cody Gray	1
36. Specialty Beer	3rd - Fred David	1
38. Melomel	1st - Wayne Yandell	3
39. Other Mead	2nd - Wayne Yandell	2
41. Specialty Cider and Perry	2nd - David Ireland 3rd - Don Trotter, Kelly Harris	2 1
42. New Entrant	1st - Scott Townson	0

Will we continue this trend of excellence? Alamo City Cerveza Fest is underway. The entries we did have for this event are now in San Antonio and being evaluated. I just hope that the judges be smitten with our brews and long for our nectars throughout all eternity!

The club entries for the American Homebrewer's Association National Homebrew Competition are on their way to Breckenridge Brewery in Denver, Co. We've all got high hopes for this National level event. Damon and Orlando blazed the trail last year let's hope that someone from our club can do it again.

Do you have an English Barleywine that's aging nicely? The **Big Batch Brew Bash** deadline is the 8th of May. Please let me know if you have one to enter. You can reach me at competitions@nthba.org

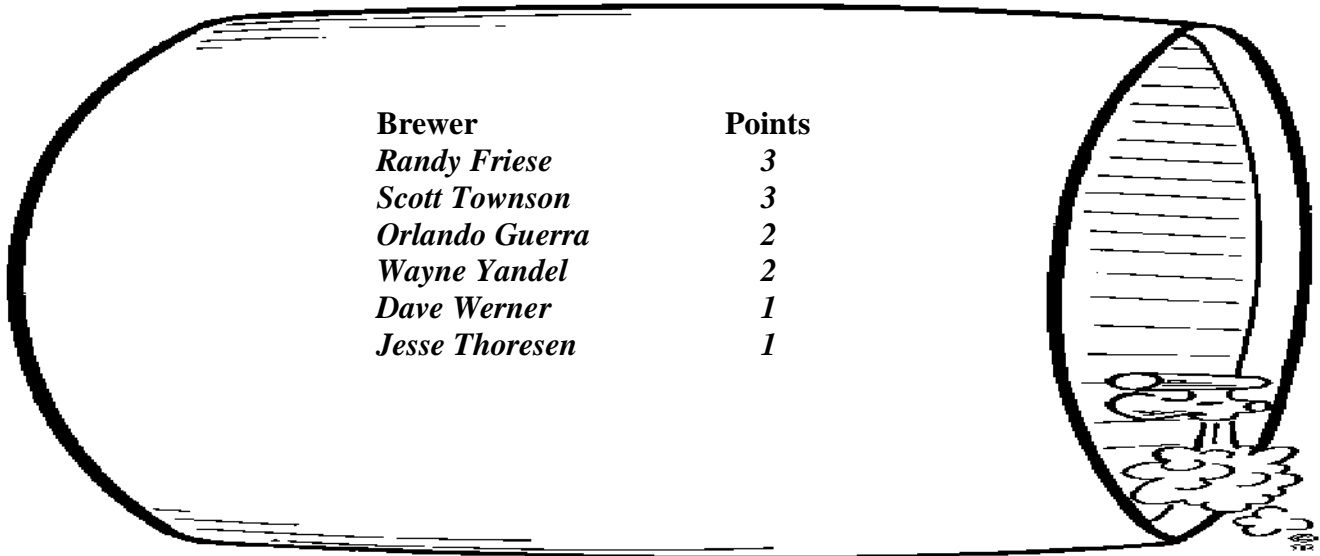
The Celtic is the next event to gear up for. Are you brewing you Celtic style brews yet? Lets get busy and make a good showing at this years competition. The deadline is the 15th of May. Details can be found here when the update for this years event: <http://hbd.org/kobb/main.html> (then click on "Celtic Brew-off" at bottom of page.)

The March/April Club Only Competition for **American Ales BJCP style 10** was judged on Friday the 26th and results are in:

1 st	Scott Townson	10B	Jurassic Source
2 nd	Wayne Yandel	10B	Big Money Amber
3 rd	Jesse Thoresen	10A	Roadhouse Ale
HM	Leroy Gharis	10A	Dirty Hoe Pale Ale

Congratulation to the winners. A special thank you to the judges who volunteered.

BREWER ROYALE 2010



Brewer	Points
<i>Randy Friese</i>	3
<i>Scott Townson</i>	3
<i>Orlando Guerra</i>	2
<i>Wayne Yandel</i>	2
<i>Dave Werner</i>	1
<i>Jesse Thoresen</i>	1

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

The next COC is scheduled for April. Please have your Extract Brews at Homebrew Headquarters or the Wine Makers Toy Store NLT then end of business on Monday the 19th of April. (I had to move this back a couple of days from previous deadline due to conflicts) These Extract brews must be at least 50% extract and you must declare the style of beer you're entering.

Only one (1) 10-14 oz. green or brown bottles are 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.homebrewersassociation.org/attachments/0000/0325/bottleid.pdf>

As always, you can keep on top of the most current competition news and updates at the NTHBA's Competitions forum. <http://www.nthba.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=4&sid=ec55713ad55b9ec8912e329e99b54378>

- 2010 Competition Schedule -

Competition/Style	Entry Deadline	Competition Awards
Jan/Feb '10 COC English Brown Ale (BJCP style 11)	Jan 22 nd . (Club) Feb. 16 th (AHA)	Feb. 20 th (AHA)
Blue Bonnet Brew-Off All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Feb. 25th	March 19 & 20 39 club points
Alamo City Cerveza Festival All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	March 6-21	April 10
March/April COC American Ales (BJCP Style 10)	March 24th (Club) April 3rd (AHA)	April 10 th (AHA)
AHA NHC All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	April 1st	National Homebrews Conference June 19th
May COC Extract Beers	April 19th (Club) May 1st (AHA)	May (Club) May 22nd (AHA)
Big Batch Brew Bash English Barleywines (BJCP style 19B).	May 8	May 16, 2010
Celtic Brew-Off Fermented beverages associated with the Celtic regions of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, or Brit-tany	May 15	Texas Scottish Festival, June 5, 2010
Lunar Rendez-Brew All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	TBD	July 31 st
August COC Mead	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)
Limbo Challenge Beers w/ SG @ 1.050 or below.	July 19 th - August 5 th	August 28
Cactus Challenge All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	Mid August	Mid September
September/October COC Sour Ale	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)	TBD (Club) TBD (AHA)
Dixie Cup All BJCP Beers, Meads & Ciders	TBD	October 16th
November/December COC 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

NTHBA Officers

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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

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