

# LIVIN' THE BREWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEXAS HOME BREWERS ASSOCIATION



## Prez Sez

By James Dorman

I would like to thank all of you who came out for our last meeting at Humperdink's. I thought it was a good turnout, especially for a different meeting night. I know I had a good time and hope everyone else did too. Our March meeting will be at one of our favorite meeting places, the Bavarian Grill in Plano.

This past weekend a few of us trekked up to

Gainesville to help with the login of the beer for the Bluebonnet. This year is going to be one of the biggest in recent history. We logged in 1169 beers if I remember correctly and there were some that were still in the process of being shipped. My guess is we will have about 1200 beers to judge in the next few weeks so I hope to see many of you on one of the two weekends for first round judging. Any help with this enormous task is greatly appreciated.

For those of you that don't know a whole lot about the newly formed Texas Circuit, please read the article by Mike Heniff on page 5 in this newsletter. This should be a very fun competition circuit be involved with, and hopefully we can do well enough to win the circuit.

Cheers,  
James Dorman

## Announcements

- March meeting at Bavarian Grill in Plano
- April 1 Brewday at Fred David's house
- Bluebonnet first round judging March 11-12
- Bluebonnet Brew-off March 17-18.

## What's Brewin'?

By Fred David

Here we are at the beginning of March, and everything is turning up green. The trees are already budding with some already showing color. More importantly though is the color green and what it represents—big parties and Saint Patrick's Day. This year, as I mentioned last month, the Bluebonnet Room Crawl is on Saint Patrick's Day. This is going to be a party occasion that I am sure would make the Irish jealous. Those of us who are working on the



room crawl committee are certain we are going to have a great room this year but I am still sure Walter Hodges could use some help on putting things together at our room on March 17. If any of you out there are

planning to take off for a half day on the 17<sup>th</sup> and would like to help out, please contact Walter.

During our meetings to plan our room crawl room this year we met

*(Continued on page 2)*

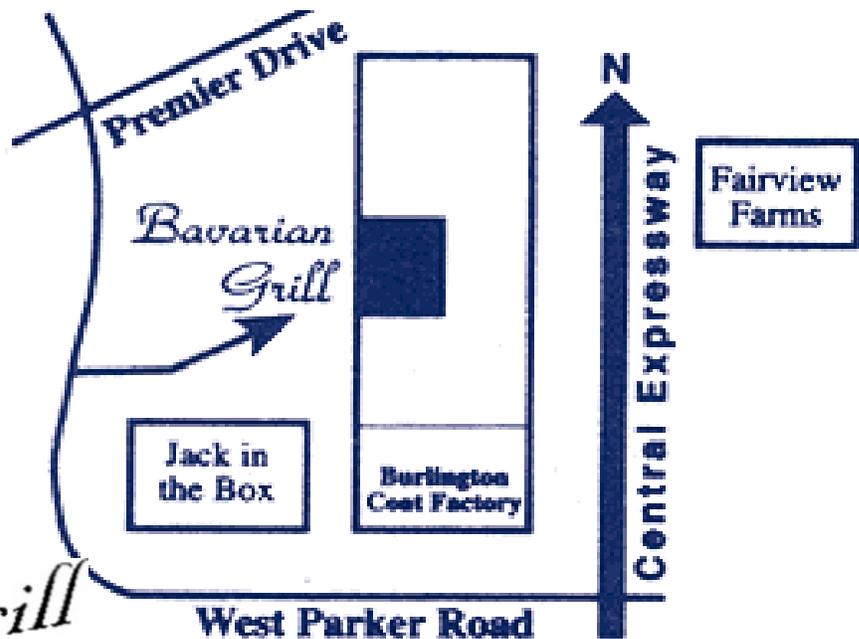
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## March Meeting at Bavarian Grill

### March Meeting

- ◆ Tuesday, March 14
- ◆ Great German beer selection
- ◆ Full food menu
- ◆ Club-Only Competition:  
American Ales (See page 4 for details).



*Bavarian Grill*



### Vice president's letter continued from pg 1

once at the Tipperary Inn. If any of you out there want to go to a very traditional Irish pub, this is the place. It is at the corner of Skillman and Live Oak and has been under new ownership for about two years. When the new owner took over, he hired architects from Ireland to totally renovate the place and produce an authentic Irish pub down to the last detail. The original space has been divided into the main pub which is

Join us Tuesday, March 14 at Bavarian Grill in Plano. The meeting starts at around 7 and will last until everyone goes home.

totally non-smoking and a smaller sports pub that has a pool table, dart boards and two big-screen TVs. The beers are traditional ales such as Smithwick's, Harp, Boddingtons, and of course Guinness. The food is typical Irish fare and the entertainment comes from Irish and Scottish folk bands on the weekends. If anyone is interested in going down as a small (or large) group on a Friday or Saturday evening I would be glad to coordinate that.

Looking forward a little brings us to our annual spring party.

This year it will be at Brian Beyer's house in Frisco. I will be including more information in the April news letter but I just wanted to mention that the April Club Only Competition for extract beers will be held at the party at Brian's house.

I hope most of you entered your best beers into the Bluebonnet competition and I really am looking forward to see everyone several times this month.

Until then,

Prosit!!!

# Brewdays

By Fred David

In the last issue I asked if anyone has seen winter. Well, it showed up at Bruce Fabijonas' house for the President's Brew Day on February 19, but he was prepared. Out of the garage came the vehicles and in went the brewery. His propane burner provided for some heat and the remainder was provided by a roaring fire in his chiminea. Unfortunately Bruce was the only one brewing but the way he had things set up turned out to be quite comfortable and would have easily accommodated one or two other brewers. All in all we had ten or so brave souls who came out despite the weather and we had a great time. We shared some good homebrew, one or more of which will have a good chance at the Bluebonnet. Things finally slowed down with the last hangers-on leaving around 5:30 PM. The greatest thing about this day was that we proved mailmen are not the only guys that do their thing regardless of the weather! Camaraderie and the sharing of good beer go a long way to solving many of the world's unpleasant-tries.

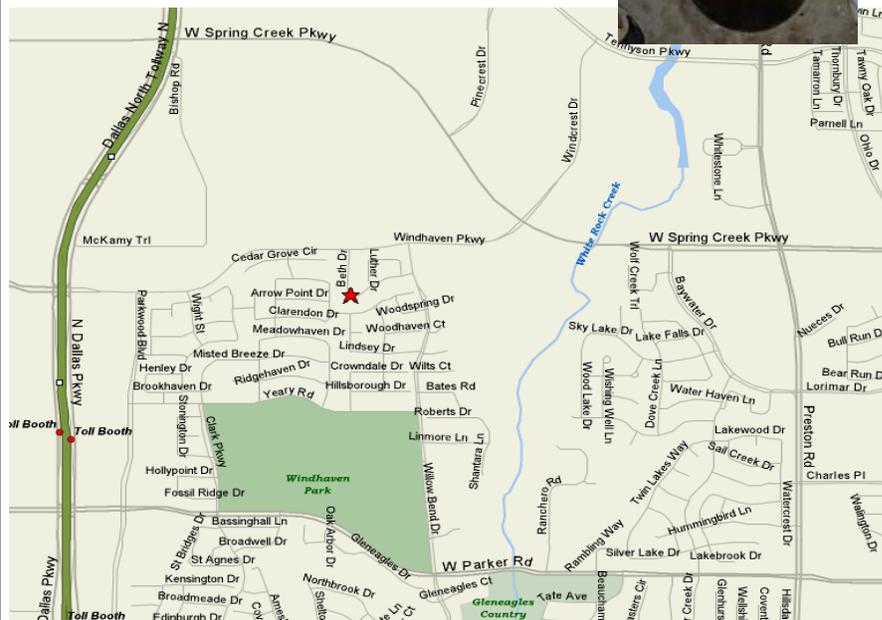
There will be no brewday in March due to the Bluebonnet competition. Our next brewday will be at my house on April Fools Day, April 1. Because it is so early in the month I am including a map to my house in this issue. I have room for five or six brewers and many more onlookers. If it rains I will still brew and there will still be plenty of room so I hope to see some of you then.



Above: Bruce, his kettle, and his wort chiller. Right: Aerated wort.



## April 1 Brew Day Map



Fred lives at 5905 Beth Dr., Plano, 75093. (214) 415-0233

### Future brew days

April 1 hosted by Fred David

May 6 National Homebrew Day at Big Buck Brewery

## 2006 Brewer Royale

By Mike Grover

Our second club-only competition will be at the March meeting at Bavarian Grill. The beer style this month is American Ales, which includes American Pale Ale (10A), American Amber Ale (10B), and American Brown Ale (10C). If you plan to enter your beer, please plan on being at the meeting as early as possible so that we can get the judging started. Speaking of judging, **we always need judges for the club-only competitions.** This is especially true when we are judging a popular style where we expect many entries. You do not need to be an experienced judge to participate. In fact, for those who have never judged beer before, this is an excellent way to gain some experience. Style guidelines are provided, and you will be working alongside more experienced folk. Last but not least, you will be drinking good homebrewed beer... for FREE!

Remember that next month the club-only competition is for extract beers of all styles. The only requirement is that *extract makes up at least 50 percent of the fermentables* in the brew. This competition will be held at the Spring Party on April 22, so there is still plenty of time to brew up an extract beer. More information will be provided in the April newsletter.

### BREWER ROYALE 2006

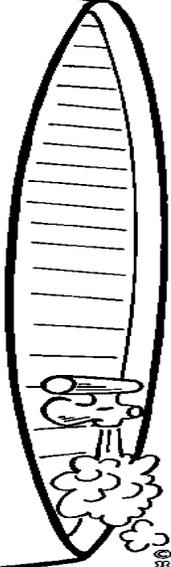
Style of the Month

Jan	Big Beautiful Belgians	Cat. 18
March	American Ale	Cat. 10
April	Extract Beer	Cat. 1-23
May	Mead	Cat. 24-26
Sept	Stout	Cat. 13
November	Light Hybrid Beers	Cat. 6

2006 Brewer Royale Standings

Brewer	Points
Bruce Fabijonas	3
Bill Dubas	2
Steven Haney	1





### Bluebonnet news

The deadline for entries has come and gone – best of luck to all the NTHB members who entered beers. Based on conversations I've had at our recent club events, I believe that we have a lot of entries this year. Hopefully this will be the year to reclaim the trophy! First round judging will take place during the weekends of March 4-5 and 11-12, from 9AM-5PM, at two separate locations: Andrews Distributing at 2601 Cockrell in Dallas and Coors Distribution Company at 2550 McMillian Pkwy in Ft. Worth.

I strongly encourage you to help out with the judging at one of the locations. If you aren't comfortable judging, you can steward instead. This allows you to assist the judges, taste the beers, and learn from some experienced judges. The word is that there are at least 1,200 entries this year, so the more judges the merrier.

Don't forget to register to attend the event, and to reserve your hotel room before the place fills up (which it will!). Registration and event information is available at [www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com](http://www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com).

Thanks to all of those who attended the room crawl workday on February 26<sup>th</sup>. A special thanks to Walter Hodges for the use of his garage, wood-working tools, and porter! Our Irish Pub should be the class of the room crawl.

## A letter from the Lone Star Circuit president

Over the past number of years, our clubs have competed mightily in the Gulf Coast Circuit. It has been a great time: tons of inter-club participation, a huge variety of individual winners, the club trophy passing hands year after year, and the individual and team awards changing virtually every year. What a great circuit it has been!



But in the past two years, the Crescent City Competition in New Orleans has not been held due to lack of interest and competition funding. In addition, Hurricane Katrina has thwarted any effort that they might have had to rekindle their competition. Additionally, this year, the Central Florida Homebrewers have elected not to hold the Sunshine Challenge because they are holding the AHA National Homebrew Competition.

Therefore, the club Presidents of the Gulf Coast Circuit have elected to hold a new circuit this year named the Lone Star Circuit. This circuit will include Gulf Coast Circuit holdovers Bluebonnet Brew-off and the Dixie Cup as well as longtime Texas competitions such as the Cactus Challenge, the Big Batch Brew Bash, the Lunar Rendezbrew, and the Celtic Brew-off.

The circuit awards will be very similar to those of the Gulf Coast Circuit: the three end-of-year major awards will include “Homebrewer of the Year,” “Homebrew Team of the Year,” and “Homebrew Club of the Year.” The points will be accumulated in a similar matter to the old circuit: 3-2-1 points for 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> respectively, with the exception of an 8-6-4-2-1 for the single style KGB Big Batch

event.

Special thanks go out to all of the officers from the participating clubs of the new Lone Star Circuit: Jim Layton from NTBHA, Richard Dobson from Red River Brewers, Mark Wedge from Cap and Hare, Steve Westrom from Knights of the Brown Bottle, David Majoras from Ale-ian Society, Don Sadjia from KGB, John Jurgensen from Mashtronauts, John Rudzki from Bexar Brewers and SAAZ, non-voting, and Bev Blackwood at large.

At this time, the fine details are being cleaned up, expected to become final any day. All of the details will be at the official “Lone Star Circuit” website [soon at www.lonestarcircuit.com](http://www.lonestarcircuit.com). Please visit the website and certainly support all of the Texas homebrew competitions.

Best of Luck to All Clubs and Competitors!

## Other competition news

**Big Batch Brew Bash**—Don’t forget the Big Batch Brew Bash hosted by Houston’s KGB. This is a single-style competition, and is part of the new Lone Star Circuit. This year’s style is Imperial India Pale Ale (14C), and the deadline for entries is May 26. The competition will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Arnold’s in Houston.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Celtic Brew-Off hosted by Arlington’s Knights of the Brown Bottle is also just around the corner. Entries will be due in

early May. This competition is also part of the new Lone Star Circuit and is open to all styles of fermented beverages associated with the Celtic regions of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. More details will be provided as soon as they are available. Information can be found on the Knights’ website: [hbd.org/](http://hbd.org/).

### On the horizon

**Celtic Brew-Off:** Entries due by May 11, event held on June 3,

Open to all Irish, Scottish, and English styles.

**Lunar Rendezbrew:** Entries due by July 5, event held on July 29, multiple styles.

**Cactus Challenge:** TBA but probably in July/August, Multiple styles.

**Dixie Cup:** Entries due by 15 October, Event held on 19-21 October, Open to all styles.

# Beer Talk With Jacque

News, Hearsay & Odd Info  
by Jacque Keller

**One Lucky Brewer**—Enter the drawing for the annual Lallemmand scholarship to attend the World Brewing Academy Concise Course in Brewing Technology. One lucky homebrewer will win a scholarship to this excellent two week course at Siebel Institute in Chicago this fall. The Concise Course is a great program for those wanting to expand their technical brewing skills. Only AHA members are eligible to enter. Get full details on the scholarship and registration info on the American Homebrewing Association web site at <http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/scholarship.html>.

**Trivia**—Thank you to those who sent in answers to last month's question. We had some good answers and some creative answers – but no correct answers! Answer to last month's question: the first international trademark was given to Bass Ale. This month's question: **Where is the oldest brewery in North America?** Email your answers/guesses to [Jacquelyn.Keller@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquelyn.Keller@gmail.com).

## Book Review

**The Parting Glass: A toast to the Traditional Pubs of Ireland**  
Book by Eric Roth and Eileen McNamara

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, photographer Eric Roth, along with *Boston Globe* columnist Eileen McNamara, give us this coffee-table collection of photo spreads from historic pubs of Ireland. Roth's photos capture the quaint, anachronistic pubs, and McNamara's writing richly identifies and contextualizes the spirit of pub culture on the wane.

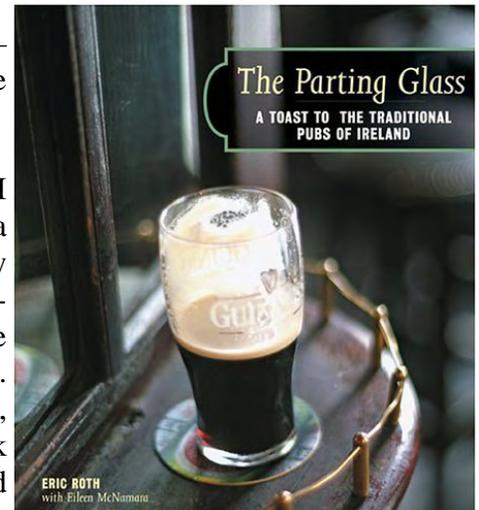
In addition to photos and short essays about the pubs pictured, the book has several quips from quotable Irishmen such as James Joyce and Oscar Wilde. The quotes are mostly familiar to the literate drinking audience (“Work is the curse of the drinking class” and all that), but they provide a good cultural context

for the book's subject matter—and some motivation to make another trip to the fridge

Thumbing through this book, I note that I've been to at least a couple of these pubs during my time in Ireland, but the comfortable, inviting photos make me feel like I've been to them all. But speaking of pub travels, don't expect to take this book along with you to Ireland and actually have luck finding these pubs: the book's poor organization makes it difficult to identify or locate any of them, other than by name and city. A map in the front numbers the pub locations, and a corresponding table identifies them, but the numbers in the

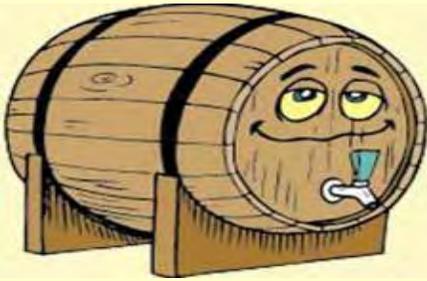
**Big Beer Travel**—Sam Calagione, founder of Dogfish Head Craft Brewery, takes a whirlwind tour of Belgium this month. He and brew world luminaries Tomme Arthur of Port Brewing, Vinnie Cilurzo of Russian River Brewing, Adam Avery of Avery Brewing and Rob Todd of Allagash Brewing will introduce some US versions of extreme beers to celebrated Belgian brewers and will also pay homage to Belgium's centuries old tradition of extreme brewing. Calagione's new book, not coincidentally named *Extreme Brewing*, will include recipes from his four fellow VIBs (very important brewers) and will be out in the fall.

*Note: Look for a review of Calgione's new book in an upcoming issue.*



map and table don't correspond with the order in the body of the work. All this makes the book difficult to use, especially for readers who've already had a couple pints of plain.—Sean Fitzpatrick.

# The Brewing Equipment Trading Post



## HELP WANTED

Homebrew Headquarters is looking for a knowledgeable person in beer and wine making. Help is needed for full or part time. OK money, excellent employee discounts. Contact Kelly Harris @ 972-234-4411 or [brewmaster@homebrewhq.com](mailto:brewmaster@homebrewhq.com)

## 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 Sean at [news@nthba.org](mailto:news@nthba.org)

## **NTHBA Officers**

### **President**

James Dorman  
[jlmdorman@hotmail.com](mailto:jlmdorman@hotmail.com)  
214-320-8426

### **1st vice president**

Mike Grover  
[MikeGGrover@aol.com](mailto:MikeGGrover@aol.com)  
972-417-3057

### **2nd vice president**

Fred David  
[i\\_brewfer\\_2@earthlink.net](mailto:i_brewfer_2@earthlink.net)  
214-415-0233

### **Treasurer**

Bill Lawrence  
[Lawrencefam@attbi.com](mailto:Lawrencefam@attbi.com)  
972-644-8878

### **Minister of education**

Steve Jones  
[sjones@netbelay.com](mailto:sjones@netbelay.com)  
214-536-3243

### **Secretary**

Sean Fitzpatrick  
[news@nthba.org](mailto:news@nthba.org)  
940-594-8538

### **Past President**

Jacque Keller  
[Jacquelyn.keller@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquelyn.keller@gmail.com)  
214-320-8426

## **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 Cow-boy games!

Russ Bee  
[Russmbee@aol.com](mailto:Russmbee@aol.com)  
(972) 771-9489

Darrell Simon  
(972) 675-5562

McKee Smith  
(972) 393-3569

Jim Layton  
[Blutick@juno.com](mailto:Blutick@juno.com)  
(903) 546-6989

Homebrew Headquarters  
(972) 234-4411  
[brewmaster@homebrewhq.com](mailto:brewmaster@homebrewhq.com)

## **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  
<http://groups.msn.com/NorthTexasHomeBrewAssociationHomePage>

Livin' the Brews Newsletter  
Sean Fitzpatrick, editor  
C/O Homebrew Headquarters  
300 N. Coit Rd., Ste 134  
Richardson, TX 75080

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