

Important Issues and Dates:

? Big Brew 2002 May 4th.

? BrewShop in Morning for Brewin!!! Extract and Grain

? Hibner's Around 3 for a Family Picnic

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Send your E-mail Address to
TheAkins@prodigy.net !!!

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2002 Bluebonnet Brew-Off- Tim Nagode

The Bluebonnet this year, held March 22 – 23, was the usual barrel of laughs and was well attended by HPD loyalists. I'm not sure of the exact head count, but it was more than 20 but less than 50. Coincidentally, the club had a grand total of 51 entries this year, up quite a bit from last year. Yours truly didn't arrive until after the Friday dinner and talk, but made up time at the commercial tasting. There were a number of excellent beers to be tasted, personal favorites included the Duvel, the Moinette and the Arrogant Bastard Ale. Up next was the second annual Room Crawl and the Draughters had several kegs of excellent beverages for sampling. A three-gallon corny of a Celis Grand Cru knockoff was floated in less than two hours, while an English barley-wine and a mint stout lasted somewhat longer. Other clubs had excellent offerings as well and a grand time was had by all. The morning talk was given by Ralph Olson of Hopunion, who covered the whos, whats, whens, wheres, whys and hows of our favorite cannabis variant. The talk was followed by a short break, then second-round judging started. Thanks to all the membership who jumped in to help steward and judge, your efforts were noted and appreciated. After judging, a nice lunch was provided and the crew either jumped on a bus or bee-lined to the Gman. Good beers, good cigars and good basketball were enjoyed by all.

The awards ceremony was a bit on the Texas-oriented, self-congratulatory side, but enjoyable nonetheless. Kegs of Delirium Tremens, Arrogant Bastard and Old Foghorn were available for quaffing while the hardware was being handed out. And the winners are:

Gloria Solheim – First Place, Scottish Ales

Paul Solheim – Third Place, Porter (Paul was much relieved to have something to add to the Solheim trophy case.)

Burt Rennard – First **AND** second place, Fruit and Vegetable Mead

Bob Rescinito – Third place, Herb and Spice Mead.

Congratulations and job well done to all the winners. The ad hoc, after-ceremony party went well into the wee hours, but was highlighted by our own JB Akin making a name for himself with the Bluebonnet aristocracy by uttering that now-famous phrase, one that's usually reserved for OU-Texas weekend. Steve Wesstrom, 2002 Bluebonnet director, sauntered up to us with a smile on his face and JB greeted him with a rousing "FUCK TEXAS!!!" Steve was taken aback, but couldn't really come up with a one-line riposte, so he just left in a huff. I think JB was actually trying to make an excellent point about the tone of the awards ceremony, but the beer just got in the way. In any case, there is now an excellent photo of him hanging in the main Dallas post office with the other nine most wanted...

The Draft Card

Newsletter for the High Plains Draughters

The Beer Calendar

May 4th 5th Annual AHA Big Brew or National Homebrew Day
 May 17th - 19th The Sunshine Challenge, Orlando, FL
 June 14th High Plains Draughters Meeting at City Arts
 June 20th - 22nd AHA National Homebrew Competition, Irving TexASS.
 July 2nd Wildbrew Entry Deadline, Tulsa, OK
 July 13^h Annual High Plains Draughters Mead Clinic
 August 3rd 1st Annual AHA Big Mead Brew Day.
 August Club Only Competition American Lager
 August 17th Wild Brew IV, Tulsa, OK
 Septemeber 21st High Plains Draughters Oktoberfest
 Septemeber/October Club Only Competition Belgian Strong Ale
 October 3rd - 5th Great American Beer Festival, Denver, CO
 October 18th High Plains Draughters Meeting at City Arts
 October 18th -19th Dixie Cup, Houston, TexASS
 November 2nd AHA Teach a Friend to Homebrew Day
 November 15th High Plains Draughters Meeting at City Arts
 November/December Club Only Competition Fruit and Spice Beer
 December 17th High Plains Draughters Holiday Party
 January 24th High Plains Draughters Scottish Night

The American Homebrewers Association, a division of the Association of Brewers, is working hard for you and for homebrewers everywhere. Support the AHA's efforts by becoming a member! Membership fees are \$33 for one year, \$58 for two years, \$87 for three years and lifetime memberships are available for \$460. Contact Bob Rescinito (405.820-BREW or bobr5@prodigy.net) for membership information. Be sure to ask him if you qualify for a discount on the above rates.

AHA BENEFITS

Zymurgy® magazine: delivered six times a year, the best keeps getting better! Look for more great articles, recipes and ways to improve your brew in each big issue!

TechTalk: e-mail brewing forum dedicated to technical talk on beer and nothing else. Special industry guests star on this moderated "all beer, all the time" forum!

Book Discounts: save on the latest offerings from Brewers Publications when you order pre-publication books or books purchased in quantity!

AHA Members Website just for you! Includes the TalkBack members issues forum and lots of AHA information online.

AHA Member Discounts for the Connoisseur Tasting at the Great American Beer Festival. Thousands attend this exclusive tasting. Make this your year to be there!

AHA Sponsor Donations Brewing goodies, prizes, educational scholarships supplied by AHA sponsors and Institute for Brewing Studies members! **AND MORE!**

Trail Boss Report of The April Meeting

Eschewing its 3rd Friday tradition in favor of a date midway between the Bluebonnet and National Homebrew Day, about 30 of the High Plains Draughters met at City Arts on the 12th of April. After an hour of socializing to the thrum of the nearby racetrack, the Trail Boss (Steve Law) began the meeting with a number of business items.

The Bluebonnet in review: Steve congratulated the club's award winners, Burt Rennard (1st and 2nd with sublime Melomels), Gloria Soldheim (1st with a strong version of a Scottish Export), Paul Soldheim (3rd in Porter), and Bob Rescinito (3rd in Herb & Spice Mead). The club also had a respectable 12 members whose entries made it into the more competitive second round. Steve also related his experiences with 1st round Bluebonnet judging and encouraged the HPD membership to consider participation in this even next year.

Porter Club-Only Competition Awards: the Competition Coordinator, Michal Carson, gave a report on the COC Porter judging, and (with some help from Bob) announced the winners and presented the ribbons. 1st Place went to a new brewer Tammy Reid for her Brown Porter; a close 2nd place was garnered by the Trail Boss himself; 3rd went to Tim Nagode; and an Honorable Mention went to Brian Northrup. The HPD gave their applause to the winners and further voted to invest in some COC buttons for the ribbons.

Glasses and T Shirts: continuing discussion ensued about the possibility of getting some club glasses. It was proposed that the "High Plain Draughters" name itself might constitute a worthy decoration (especially if done in a fancy western-style font). A more formal proposal will be put before the club as soon as price estimates can be gotten. The issue of a need for new T-shirts was brought forward, with renewed calls for consensus before embarking on expenditure of club funds.

Voting on club expenditures: HPD members were encouraged to (1) pay their dues and (2) act according to their conscience when it comes to voting on club expenditures (especially if you haven't paid your dues!). Donations / dues, of course, are strictly voluntary, but very much appreciated.

Bob's Presentations: The School Master held forth with a plug for AHA membership and its advantage. He also suggested that we consider purchasing a kit to do a "doctored beers" seminar. This was followed by an insightful presentation on CO₂ cylinder precautions. Remember to use exceptional care with any pressurized gas container: not only is the cylinder a potential missile if the valve is broken off, a leaky valve in an enclosed space can seriously jeopardize your health (or even kill your pets). Thanks Bob

Not all chemicals are bad. Without chemicals such as hydrogen and oxygen, for example, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer.

Technology —A team of scientists in Cambridge, Mass., have developed a glassware system that signals when you are ready for a refill. When empty, the glass sends an electronic cry for more beer, *New Scientist* magazine reported. The iGlassware system from Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories tags each glass electronically with a microchip linked to a thin radio-frequency coil inside its dishwasher-safe base. A coating of a clear, conducting material makes the glass behave like a capacitor, allowing it to measure how much you have drunk. That information is transmitted to a receiver in your table. From the receiver coil, information can be sent back to palmtop devices carried by



Brew Shop and Hibner's - May 4th - Our National Holiday -

The High Plains Draughters are registered as Big Brew Site number 98. What that means to all the Draughters is that we need to gather in the same spirit that made us Homebrewers. This is your day to demand satisfaction for the beer you have consumed all your life. Your day to gather with like minded, sometimes like shaped, and By-God like beered brewers. This is a great educational experience to see how others are doing it. So, put your sensitivities away for this next sentence. So, get up there and give something back to a hobby that has given so much to you. Bring a chair.

All grain batches will kick off early and overnight infusion mashes are encouraged (this is purely due to the time issue). At 12:00 o'clock CST a toast all around the world by participants will occur. Since the Brew Shop is part of the world we will be taking part in this. So, be sure to be available at this time. Followed by a ceremonial striking of a burner signifying the start of a the brewing process.

Around 3 o'clock on this day. The High Plains Draughters will meet at Tim Hibner's (the same place as the Christmas Party) for the Family Picnic. The Address is **7225 Shoreline Dr and is around Macarthur and Northwest Expressway. Bring some sort of covered dish or other eats as well as beverage.**

The AHA's Company Line on Big Brew 2002.

Thousands of homebrewers around the world will brew thousands of gallons of beer May 4 on National Homebrew Day. Last year, brewers gathered at 183 brewing sites to celebrate The American Homebrewers Association's Big Brew. The 2,056 registered participants gathered at 183 brewing sites worldwide, making 5,110 gallons of homebrew. Big Brew festivities are designed to celebrate and publicize the homebrewing hobby. Congress officially recognized May 7 as National Homebrew Day in 1988. Today an estimated one million people homebrew in the United States.

Paymaster Report

A **big thanks** to all of you who have given a donation. Our kitty is steadily growing. When we meet at the City Arts building it cost \$60. As of the 12th our beginning balance was \$994.60. We paid out \$60 for the room, \$77.97 for the room at the Bluebonnet where the room crawl was held, \$17 for 4 boot mugs that were given at a club only competition and \$20 that we owed for the last meeting at city arts. Our new balance is \$944.63. Last year one way of bringing in more money was our beer pull. If anyone is going out of state and would like to pick up some beers that we can't get here, feel free. Keep your receipt and I will reimburse you. At the April meeting we also talked about buying glasses. Our minimum order would have to be 76 at \$5 a piece. Instead of just paying for them out of the kitty we decided to take orders and collect the money ahead of time. Same for T-shirts if and when we can decide on a design as a club. I will be compiling the list of names that are interested in purchasing the above. I'm just throwing this idea out there to get your opinions: what do you think about reimbursing entry fees for any ribbon winners in competitions? Thought it might be an incentive to get more people to enter competitions. Let me know! If you have any ideas or suggestions let me know. I will be glad to take them in front of the officers and club members. Penny

Club Only IPA Judging

The HPD judged the local AHA Club Only IPA Competition the evening of Friday, April 19th. There were 10 entries, all of excellent quality. A panel of 4 judges (and 3 stewards) worked there way through the beers and came up with the winners:

1st Place – Ken Adamson

2nd Place – David Darity

3rd Place – Steve Law

Ken's beer was the clear winner, some 11 points ahead of the second place beer, which was 11 points ahead of the third place beer. It should be noted that the first two finishers are relatively new to the

HPD invades the Gingerman

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Moe and Adamson Argue over the
texture of various bottle caps

