

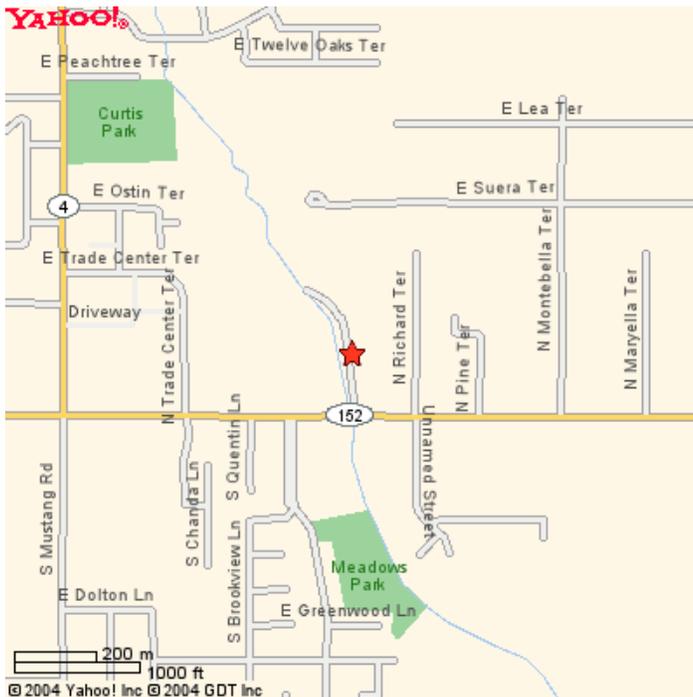
★ High Plains Draughters ★ Oklahoma City ★

THE DRAUGHT CARD

March 4th, 2005

The Next Meeting: Friday, March 11th, 7:00 PM, at the Trail Boss's Tent, Mustang Technical and Final Bluebonnet Prep

During March's meeting (surprise!) the Trailboss wants to pass on some of what he's learned at the BJCP class he's been going to. He will give a presentation on BJCP Category 6, Light Hybrid Beer. He'll talk a little about the differences between Cream Ales, Blonde Ales, Kölsch, and American Wheat or Rye Beers. Also, he wants to make sure we're ready for Bluebonnet which, by my calendar, is a very short two weeks away. He also wants to check the level of interest in the proposed constitution and by-laws. Nothing heavy, no real discussion, he just wants to see how people are digesting it. So plan to gather round the fire and have a bowl of beans while the Trailboss passes on some brewing wisdom. Here are directions to his place:



Take Airport Road (HWY 152) West from I-44 At Council Rd. (just past Hobby Lobby) turn left. You have to go south for about 1/2 mile, and then turn right (West) and follow Highway 152 into Mustang.

Stay on Hwy 152, past Sara Rd (Wal-Mart), about 1/2 mile. Pebble Creek Apartments (and Golf Course) is on the right.

Turn right and go to the 2nd driveway on the right. When you turn in to the parking lot, bear right, past the office and swimming pool.

His stairwell is marked 330, which is to the right front at the end of the parking lot. He's on the top floor, #302

The Last Meeting

Our last meeting was...BEDLAM! Gary, the new Trailboss, took the reins in his teeth and pulled his pistols! He has been looking at several different brew clubs and he found two prevalent and interesting differences between them and the Draughters: they did more things together as a club and they had *structure*. Those of you who went to the meeting won't soon forget the reactions of clubmembers to his "draft" constitution and his ideas for bringing in more money – including payment of club dues. For those of you who weren't able to attend, Gary handed out a first draft of an HPD constitution, adapted from the highly successful, fun, and *growing* F.O.A.M club out of Tulsa. What resulted was a highly spirited discussion about the club's past *modus operandi* (I read that in a book somewhere) and many questions came up about the need to change. Thanks to ALL who voiced their opinions. We need your input to make the new Constitution (and ultimately the Club) a success.

In This Issue:

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- ★ Useful Web Links
- ★ Competition Information
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★ Bluebonnet is REALLY Here ★

All entries are in and the waiting begins, right? Not at all! Those of us planning to go down to Texas in two weeks need to have our ducks in a row very soon. Bring your ideas to the meeting on the 11th and, if you have them, your white T-shirts, so the staff artists (Darina and Alex) can make them purdy!

★ Useful Web Links ★

Here are some links you may find useful in your brewing efforts:

- ★ <http://www.brewingtechniques.com/>
- ★ <http://www.convert-me.com/en/>
- ★ <http://www.beertools.com/>
- ★ <http://www.howtobrew.com/>
- ★ <http://www.beertown.org>
- ★ <http://www.beertown.org/education/styles.html>

★ HPD Competition Information ★

2005 COC Competition Schedule:

Here is the competition schedule for the coming future. You can get more information at:
<http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/schedule.html>

Sour Beers	March/April 2005	Category 17*
Extract Beers	May 2005	Categories 1 - 23*†
Belgian & French Ale	August 2005	Category 16*
European Amber Lager	Sept/Oct 2005	Category 3*
Baltic Porter	Nov/Dec 2005	Category 12C*

* Note: Under new 2004 BJCP guidelines

† Note: Extract must make up more than 50% of fermentables

National Competition:



1st Round:

Entry Deadline: April 4-15, 2005

Judging: April 22-May 1, 2005

Entry Fees: \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members

2nd Round:

Held June 16-18, 2005 at the AHA National Homebrewers Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Go to <http://www.beertown.org/events/hbc/> for more details!

☆ Brewing With the Trail Boss ☆

By Gary Shellman, Trail Boss

For those who brew at home (probably most of us), packing your brew gear up and hitting the road is a very different experience, but it doesn't have to be. I have been brewing from an apartment with very limited resources for about a year now, and the cramped space and lack of things most of you would take for granted - - - a simple hose bib comes to mind - - - would make the brewing life much easier. It reminds me of the few times I took my brewing out "on the road". The most recent time was the pool party at Marty Thee's house last Summer, just a couple of miles down the road in Mustang - - - Thanks Marty! To hit the road, a few items are essential; your mash stuff (for all grain brewers), brew pot, water, cook stove, wort chiller, and the hops, adjuncts, and special ingredients, to make it all come together. Of course a carboy loaded with fresh sanitizer is also a 'must', and a racking cane or two, and hoses don't hurt either. The yeast (or starter) can stay at 'home station' awaiting the arrival of fresh wort for the tasting (or chewing). It's up to you, or you can take it on the road with you, if you can keep the starter out of the direct sunlight.

The drill??? Gather your brewing gear in a room (garage might be the best), and then condense everything down to the essentials - - - don't forget the thermometer and hydrometer (and tube). You

can shorten the supply list if you mash at the house (again, all grain) and sparge the un-boiled wort into the brew tank. Load things up into the back seat (or truck bed – this is Oklahoma, right?). At this point, you can carefully drive to most anywhere, if your brewtank has enough spare room for the movement of the un-boiled wort. At this point, you can get to your brewing destination and crank up the fires to start the brewing process. From here, you go through all the normal motions - - - brewing, hop additions, Irish Moss, dropping in the wort chiller, and heading for ‘knockout’ (the shut down of the flame and start of the chilling process). Turn on the hose bib faucet, and chill the wort down for the ‘cold break’. Some will chill down to around 55-60F, while others just want to hit a good yeast pitching temperature (70-72F). Once the wort is chilled and you start flowing wort into the drained (sanitized) carboy, you are just about ready to load up the brew gear and head for the house.

If you’ve brought your yeast starter, or you’ve brought a ‘pitchable’ tube of yeast, you can add it to the carboy before departing - - - the drive home will agitate or aerate the wort and get your batch off to a rousing start. If you recognize all these steps, you’ll see that most of what you do at home can be done on the road, with just a little coordination at your destination. As long as your brewing place has a simple hose bib for a chiller connection, the rest is a part of routine you probably go through every time you brew. The difference??? You get to share the experience with an interested brewer, and you share your knowledge, as well as learn brewing methods from your host - - - you know, the one with the hose bib.

I intend to take my brew gear ‘on the road for the next several months and am looking for brewers with the desire to share, learn, and (of course) possess the essentials (there’s that hose bib thing, again!!!). If you are interested in brewing on the road, with the Trail Boss, give me a call or drop me an email. BREW!!!

★ Heard Around the Campfire ★

Suspect In Beer Truck Heist Stands Trial

The Associated Press

Published: February 10th, 2005

Last Modified: February 23rd, 2005 at 01:22 PM

FREDERICTON, New Brunswick (AP) – “The former girlfriend of a truck driver charged with stealing more than 50,000 cans of Moosehead beer says he sent her a birthday card signed "the beer bandit."

Cari Watson testified Thursday in the trial of Wade Haines, who is charged with stealing the load of beer destined for Mexico. Watson, a witness for the prosecution, told the judge and jury she received birthday cards from Haines while he was in jail in New Brunswick after being charged with the theft.

Haines, 31, of the Fredericton area, told Watson to look on the back of one of the cards for something funny. Watson said it read: "Copyright. Made in Canadian jail by the beer bandit."

Watson broke down in tears while giving her testimony. She said she and Haines dated off and on for about eight years and she doesn't want him to hate her.

Haines is on trial for theft of a truckload of beer that was being shipped from Fredericton to Toronto last August. It was supposed to be sent from Toronto to Mexico, but the shipment never got out of New Brunswick.

The truck Haines had been driving was found abandoned in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, just across the border from the northeastern corner of Maine, with the keys still in the cab. The beer was gone and so was Haines, who was finally arrested in Ontario.

Police told the court most of the beer was not recovered, although several stashes of the stolen suds turned up at various locations in the province. The beer cans were distinctive because of Spanish labeling.

There have been no other arrests in the heist, but Crown prosecutors have admitted they do not believe Haines acted alone in the theft.

Watson told the court Haines phoned her from Ontario after the robbery and asked if he could deposit \$2,000 into her account. She said she did not have an account at that time, but she would hold the money herself if necessary.

She told the court Haines explained the person did not want his identity revealed. He also told Watson he would be getting a large amount of money once he was out of jail.

The trial continues Monday.”

So how many sane people would go to jail for stealing *Moosehead*??

★ Notes from the Editor ★

By Steve Krieske, Editor and Town Crier

Newest Member! A happy welcome to Bill Douque for joining at the last meeting. In the midst of the discussion he plunked down a double saw-buck and joined the Draughters. Just in case he doesn't want everyone to know which club member he's related to, I won't mention it, Mister SupplyMaster! Welcome, Bill!

Membership Drive We still want more members. If you know someone who's interested, flip them this link, call them, or just bring them to the meeting. New blood means new ideas, recipes, and good times.

Draught Card On-line The HPD Draught Card is also, of course, available on-line at www.draughters.com. When viewing the on-line version, accessible through a PDF download, you'll be able to see all of the pictures in color! All of the Internet links are fully operational in this format as well. If you would prefer to only get the on-line version of the newsletter, please send an email to me at steve.krieske@cox.net, and I'll make the necessary changes. We'll be making changes and improvements to our online web site very soon.

★ WANTED ★ As always, if you have a story to tell, an article to publish, a question to ask, or a recipe to share, send your postings to me at steve.krieske@cox.net. In particular, if you have visited a memorable brewpub we want to know what you thought of it. Been anywhere exciting (or absolutely awful)? Send me a blurb and I'll get it into print.

☆ HPD Officers ☆

The High Plains Draughters' officers are listed below with their contact information. If you e-mail them please make sure the subject line is beer related or your message might end up in the spam bucket!

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