

THE DRAUGHT CARD

January 18th, 2005

Our Last Meeting

Robert Burns Night

Happy New Year, fellow Draughters from the new Editor. On January 20th we met at our old haunts at City Arts for the first time in quite a while. We finalized the various and sundry things related to the Constitution and By-laws, nominated/voted on new officers for the coming year, and toasted Robbie Burns and reveled in things Scottish. Room theme for the upcoming Bluebonnet was also given a going over. The one with the most support among the participants was the 'Sooner Land Rush' in which a faux chuck wagon (the back part) to be created for the room centerpiece and dispense the beer (see the below picture for progress, as of 1/30). The folks from KRXO Radio were also in attendance and put forward an invite to the 3rd Annual Bricktown Beerfest slated for April 22. Man, talk about busy.



The only change in the officer ranks occurred in the installment of a new Ramrod (Dan Shore), Cookie (JoAnn Carter), and Editor/Town Crier (yours truly, Brian Northup). Many thanks to our outgoing officers – Burt Renard, Dianne Shore, and Steve Krieske for their hard work and diligence in the performance of their duties.



Ramrod & Cookie with the 'Wagon'





Turnout was a bit light and if you couldn't make it - too bad. There were a number of respectable homebrews of ale styles from the British Isles to be sampled, and our outgoing ramrod Burt represented with a couple of righteous meads (one a traditional sack and the other a raisin-nutmeg) that were well worth tasting. If you weren't there, it's your loss.

Our Next Meeting

Friday, February 17th, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
City Arts Building

At the next meeting, issues related to the Bluebonnet! Various things related to the room crawl will be considered, and probably preparations for the upcoming Beerfest. Speaking of the Bluebonnet, if anyone has entries needing delivery, the Paymaster is making a run down Texas way. If you bring your beers to the meeting (with proper paperwork and entry fees), he'll deliver them. So round 'em up and head 'em out. Also, Schoolmaster Stan Babb will be educating the masses on yeast.



Late Breaking News: At press time, the Trail Boss has been in contact with the FOAM crew, who expressed interest in being part of the Bluebonnet room crawl this year, after an absence of several years. Basically we would present a united Okie front to all those Texans. Particulars of this issue will certainly be covered at the meeting and FOAM members have been invited, so be there y'all.

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★ HPD Competition Information ★

2006 COC Competition Schedule:

Here's the competition schedule through December. You can get more information at:

<http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/schedule.html>

<u>Type</u>	<u>Entries Due for Local Judging</u>	<u>BJCP Category</u>
American Ales	Mid-March, 2006	10
Extract Beers	April – May 2006	1-23
Mead	Mid-August 2006	24-26
Stout	Sept/Oct 2006	13
Light Hybrid Beer	Nov/Dec 2006	6

★ Results – Big Belgian COC ★

There were 12 (that's right 12) entries for the local strong Belgian COC held this month. There were only 3 brewers who sent in examples, which shows something of the obsessive nature of those who brew or drink them. Top 3 entries were: 1st a Dubbel by Shaun McAllister; 2nd a Tripel by Mike Divilio; 3rd a Strong Golden by yours truly. The fixins for these brews will be posted to the Belgian pages of the recipe section. Congrats to Shaun on an excellent Dubbel and good luck at Nationals!



★ American Ales – What's What? ★

Local judging for the American Ale COC (BJCP Category 10) is in mid-March, so let's get to brewing. There's still plenty of time to get one in. As one of the subcategories is a definite homebrew favorite, here's to a big turnout. Specifics related to flavor, aroma, ingredients, statistics, etc. can be found at <http://www.bjcp.org>.

American Ales are adaptations of English ales, but reflect ingredients that are indigenous to North America, including hops, malts, and yeast. There are three subcategories within BJCP 10, and as with British ales display a wide variety of styles and profiles. Original and final gravity, and IBU ranges have some degree of overlap among the subcategories, but they differ in color and amount of chocolate/roast grain character (none to moderate-high) and levels of hop aroma and flavor. Brief descriptions are as follows:

Kinds of American Ales

10.A. American Pale Ale. An adaptation of the English pale ale. Generally lighter in color, with fewer fermentation by-products, and less caramel flavors than their English counterparts. Hops predominate the flavor profile, as they are regularly used at multiple stages of the brewing process. A citrusy hop character is common, and hop presentation is supported by low to moderate maltiness. Commercial examples: Sierra Nevada Pale Ale, Stone Pale Ale, Pyramid Pale Ale.

10.B. American Amber Ale. Known as 'Red ales' in some areas, they were first popular in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest before spreading nationally. Ambers have more body, caramel richness, and are balanced more towards malt than hops than pale ales. Some ale experts [see Terry Foster (1999), *Pale Ale: History, brewing techniques, recipes*, *Brewers Publications*], consider this

subcategory a catchall for brews that don't fit the other sub-categories. Commercial examples: North Coast Red Seal Ale, Avery Red Point Ale, Bell's Amber.

10.C. American Brown Ale. A strongly flavored, hoppy brown beer. ABA's have more caramel and chocolate character than ambers, and generally balances hop bitterness and finish. IPA-strength ABA's exist, but they should be enter in the Specialty beer category. Dark malt character is more robust than other browns, but stops short of becoming porter-like. Commercial examples: Avery Ellie's Brown Ale, Bell's Brown Ale, Big Sky Moose Drool Brown Ale.

★ Heard Around the Campfire ★

An historical note from *Zymurgy*! Carlos 5th, Holy Roman Emperor in the early 16th Century, was an early beer importer. He gathered brews from throughout the Empire while he reigned. After stepping down from the throne, he kept a Flemish brewer as part of his retirement entourage. Nice!

Beer and Loathing in Las Vegas. The intrepid Mike Kiester recently returned from a trip to Sin City. See the travel log section of the new web site to get the skinny on beer-related things he encountered in Vegas. Mike's also promised to include a post on other recent trips to Colorado.

★ Brewing With the Trail Boss ★

By Gary Shellman, Trail Boss

Brewers talking to Brewers

As mentioned in the last DC, the Trail Boss is on the road doing work-related things, and hopefully drinking a few interesting brews along the way. He's presently in California, but should be back (work schedule permitting) for the February meeting before once again going on the road to 'trip-the-light-fantastic' for another 2 months, including a jaunt through Europe.

In his absence, he's asked me to forward some tidbits e-mailed over last few days.

"I'll be sending in recipes and brewing links for the new website forum, so check it out".

"I would like to put forth a hearty note of thanks to Burt Renard (outgoing Ramrod), Diane Shore (outgoing Cookie, 2 years), and Steve Krieske (outgoing Editor, 2 years) for their dedicated service to the club over the past 12 to 24 months." So should we all fellow Draughters.

"Also a note of welcome to Dan Shore, JoAnn Carter, and Brian Northup to their posts."

"An underlying theme for this segment of the DC is that any brewer can call for assistance, and it doesn't necessarily have to be the Trail Boss who makes the visit. Kind of a one world, everybody helps, concept."

As always Draughters, until then – BREW!!! Gary Shellman, Yer Trail Boss

★ Useful Web Links ★

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

- ★ <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>
 - ★ http://www.maltosefalcons.com/tech/CO2_racking
 - ★
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★ Notes from the Editor ★

Membership Drive: We still want new members. If you know someone who's interested, turn them on to this link, call them, or bring them to the meeting. New faces mean new ideas, recipes, and good times.

The Draughters Need YOU! We are looking for folks just like you (yes, you) to enter beers and be judges or stewards at club-only competitions. What better way to find out how people like your beers than to share it with friends?



Draught Card On-line: The HPD Draught Card is available on-line at www.draughters.com. When viewing the on-line version, accessible through PDF download, the pictures appear in color and the Internet links are fully operational. If you prefer to only get the on-line version of the newsletter, send an email to me (bnorthup3@cox.net) and I'll make the necessary changes.

During recent on-line discussions among the officers it's been pointed out the DC has increased in length over the years, which tends to be normal for web-related things. Accordingly, I'm going to start reducing the length over the year and putting more information into the different pages of the web site related to such stuff (such as calendars of events, travel logs, recipes, etc.). Hey, that's what it's there for. If anybody has issues with this reduction, post it on the site and let's discuss it.

Upcoming Events: A rough list of future Draughters meetings and activities for the coming year are posted to the Events section of the web page. Check it out and mark your calendars.

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 bnorthup3@cox.net. In particular, if you've visited a memorable brewpub we want to know what you thought of it. Been anywhere exciting (or absolutely awful)? Send a blurb and I'll get it in print.

★ HPD Officers ★

The High Plains Draughters' officers are listed below with 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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