



THE DRAUGHT CARD

May 1st, 2006



Our Last Meeting

April 22nd, 2006 Bricktown Brewfest



While not an official Draughter meeting, members and officers were present at the 3rd Annual Bricktown Brewfest, hosted by KRXXO Radio (107.7 FM) at the Bricktown Brewery on April 22nd.

The chuck wagon was set up and dispensing beer; a Chocolate-Hazelnut Porter, a Fat Tire clone, Amber Ale and American Pale Ale. In addition, we had three other kegs that served India Pale Ale, Classic American Pilsner, and a Light American Lager, which was Keith Wrights' Bluebonnet Brew-Off award-winning 'Peckerwood Lager'. There were other kegs waiting, so there was no shortage of beer. Many thanks to those who supplied beer to the event.

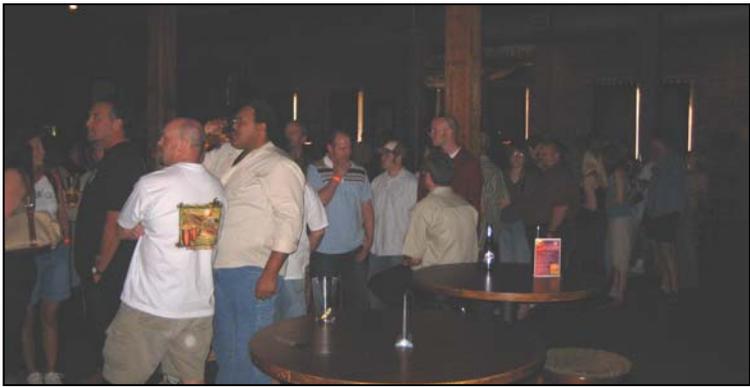
A quick survey of those who partook of the goods found a strong favorable response to the brews that were served. The particular favorites were Keith Wrights' Peckerwood Lager (a big favorite among the Bud-guzzler types), and the Choc-Hazelnut Porter (a favorite of those with more developed beer palates) provided by the Trail Boss. Supply Master Chuck Deveney also brought along a killer 3-year old Barleywine that was available for the tasting.

When you folks run into Joe Carter or Dan Shore, congratulate them for the job done in getting the display set up. Also, a hearty well done to those Draughters who fronted at the event, poured brew, and talked beer with the attendees. Besides the 'volunteers' who manned the booth, a number of other Draughters showed up for the Brewfest.

It was interesting to note the number of former (past) members of the Draughters (including some from the 'wild' early days of the organization) and other former local home brewers who wandered through and tasted our stuff. Many of these worthies mentioned some thought of getting back into brewing and the club after tasting our wares.



On to other important stuff related to the Brewfest. There was a good-sized crowd present, and it arrived early. Lines were forming 40 minutes before the flag dropped, so there was apparently some hurry to get to the really good beer. Unlike past years when the event ran 3 hours (or more), it was shortened to 2 hours AND servings were reduced to 2 ounces, hopefully making it difficult for participants to get hammered and in trouble later in the evening. Given the crowd size (and their thirst), it was a bit hectic behind the tables for most of the event.



A quick tour of the Brewfest showed that a number of distributors, microbreweries and brewpubs were in attendance. Included were staff from Coaches and Belle Isle. Supply Master Chuck also had the Brew Shop table set up to show off the wares and gear of home brewing. Among the distributors was one responsible for Dogfish Head products. They were giving out samples of both the 60- and 90-minute IPA's, but no Worldwide Stout, unfortunately (oh the pain!).

Next Meeting - May 6th, Big Brew Day

Our next meeting will occur May 6th at Big Brew Day. As with last year, we're meeting at Marty and Lilli Thees' place in Mustang. The address is 1131 West Kentuck and is located on the map below. If you're brewing, try and arrive by 11:30 to be set up for the noon start time. If you're going and will be supplying some eats, get in touch with Cookie to let her know what you're bringing. More importantly, if you're brewing, let the Ramrod or Trail Boss know so a rough idea of numbers can be pulled together. Examples of all four images (to date) that might be used as a replacement for the old 'Troubleshooters' image will be posted and available for comments. Additionally, if you've got one you think is truly righteous, bring it along and the Editor will get it posted ASAP to the site for viewing.



Relax, Don't Worry...



Another Important Date in

May: Our next technical meeting will occur 7:00 –10:00 PM, May 19th at the City Arts Building, State Fair Grounds, OKC. The Schoolmaster will conduct a presentation on recipe conversions (grain to extract and vice versa), and comments on the potential replacement images for the Draughters web page can be made. A second notice will be posted in early-May.

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★ HPD Competition Information ★

American Ale Club-Only Competition. The following are excerpts from a message by Jeff Swearingin - forwarded by Rob Rescinito - about the most recent CoC. Thanks Rob!

‘The Fellowship of Oklahoma Ale Makers (FOAM) hosted the national phase of the AHA Club-Only Competition, BJCP Category 10 - American Ales. Judging was held April 8th at High Gravity Homebrewing & Winemaking Supplies in Tulsa. There were 53 total entries; 33 APA, 11 Amber Ales, and 9 Brown Ales. ‘The average score was 29.6 pts, with high and low scores of 41 and 20 pts.’



‘The winners were: 1st Paul Pilcher of Kansas City, MO from Kansas City Bier Meisters (KCBM) with an American Pale Ale (APA); 2nd Kevin Deaton of Charlotte, NC from Carolina Brewmasters with an American Amber Ale; 3rd Tony Simmons & Julie Jessen of Pagosa Springs, CO from Homebrewers of Pagosa Springs (HOPS) with an APA.’

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>
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

★ Extract Beers – What’s What? ★

Local judging for the Extract Beer Club-Only Competition (open to BJCP Categories 1 through 23) is slated for early May, with entries due at nationals by the 12th. The Head Examiner hasn’t yet set the date, so stay tuned. To be considered an ‘**Extract**’ beer, a homebrew must have more than 50% of the total fermentables provided by extracts. Otherwise, what gets included in the grain bill will be driven by the flavor and aroma profile of the category a brew may be entered in. Specifics on flavor and aroma profiles, and general ingredients of the categories and subcategories can be found at <http://www.bjcp.org>, or <http://www.beertown.org/education/styles>, so look ‘em up and see which one your extract best fits. As a lot of us do extract or mini-mash brews, here’s to a big turnout!

★ Heard Around the Campfire ★

The on-going move towards possibly replacing the ‘Troubleshooters’ image on the home page of the website has been running for a month now. A series of 4 (to date) drafts of potential replacements are being displayed between April 1 and May 19th. If you’ve got one that you think would be useful, please contact the Editor (bnorthup3@cox.net) and it’ll get included in the rotation. At the technical meeting in May or June (depending on amount of debate and/or additional images), a vote for the replacement will be taken and the winning image gets the nod. ALL the current contenders are attached at the end of this Draught Card so check ‘em out. Any additional images will be added to the electronic version upon receipt and announcements of such made to the Club. REMEMBER, the chosen image will be a representation of the Club to the wider viewing public. Don’t be a shrinking violet. Register your opinion (at the meeting or on the website), and if you’ve got an idea, put it on paper or electronic media and bring it to the meeting. Let your voice be heard.

Travel Log. The Trail Boss has been submitting Travel Logs on beer-related things in Europe, and has promised some additional inputs in the near future, so keep your eyes tuned to the ‘Road Trip’ page of the Tap Room to get the low down! Travel logs will be posted as they come in.

★ Brewing with the Trail Boss ★

Brewing Feedback

When I first took over about 16 months ago, one of the first things I introduced was an informal rating system at monthly Club meetings. As with anything, a new idea can be hard to implement (does anyone recall the C&BL Process???), and even harder to sustain. At our May 19th meeting, please bring your best homebrew for informal, but hopefully meaningful evaluation.

Changes come in small steps, but the ultimate goal would be for our Club to establish a program similar to the Prairie Homebrewers Club – an Award of Brewing (AoB). There’s a very interesting article in this month’s Zymurgy (think about joining the Brewer’s Association/AHA) that outlines the various levels and details. As I read the article, it seems their program dovetails quite nicely with the BJCP structure in many ways, and would seem like a good path for our brewers to do several things:

1. Rekindle the brewing spirit for those at a sticking point.
2. Provide meaningful feedback that can be used to improve brewing methods.
3. A study path for those interested in getting involved in the BJCP.

I’d like your feedback on establishing an AoB Program for the Draughters.

Also, I am introducing a Worts Ready to Pitch program in late May or early June that will hopefully create some interest in brewing on a slightly larger scale – 20 gallon batches. More on that program in the next DC, as well as brewery reviews on Sam Adams and the John Harvard Breweries in the Boston area.

Looking forward to seeing you at National Homebrew Day on May 6th, where we’ll raise a glass and toast homebrewers around the World at exactly 12:00 Noon (Central Daylight Time).

As always - - - 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 'em on to the www.draughters.com link, call them, or bring them to the meeting. New faces mean new ideas, recipes, and good times.



The Draughters Need YOU! We are actively 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 Internet links are operational. If you prefer to receive the on-line version only, send the Editor an email (bnorthup3@cox.net), and the change will be made.

I hope all Draughters are making use of the 'Tap Room' section of the web site. A recent survey shows a lot of people viewing the existing posted notes, but not many new posts being generated. Hey, it's there for us to use to improve communications among the membership, so please post your thoughts on beer or club-related things. You can jump in as a guest and post a note, or you can become a registered user and post things. Becoming a registered user is not difficult. Next time you're on the site, hit the register button and our web guy (Michal Carson) will set you up with a login ID and password.

WANTED: If you have an interesting story to tell, an article to publish, questions to ask, or a recipe you'd like to share, send it to the Editor (bnorthup3@cox.net).

If you've been traveling the planet lately and visited a truly memorable pub (good or otherwise), or tasted some seriously interesting brew, we want to hear your thoughts. Been anywhere exciting (or truly awful)? Send a blurb to the Editor and it'll be put on the web site.



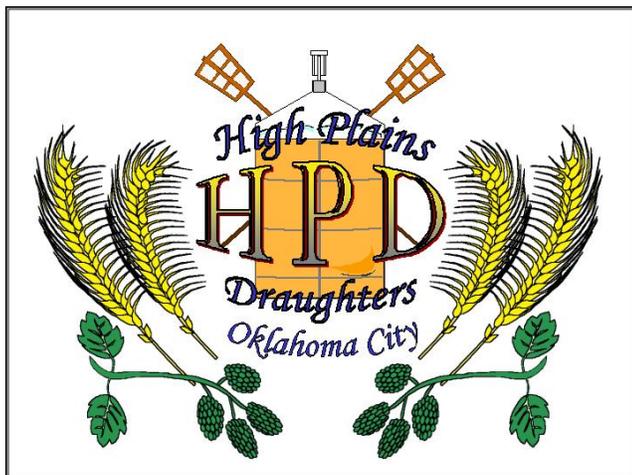
The Potential New HPD Logos through May 1, 2006



'Draughter Star'



'Brew Posse'



'Fancy Logo'



'Brew Builder'



'The Original – Troubleshooters'

★ 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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HIGH PLAINS DRAUGHTERS

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