



**THE  
NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE  
KUYKENDAHL  
GRAN  
BREWERS**

Happy New Year!  
January Meeting  
The Brew Stop  
(You know the way)  
Sunday  
January 20th  
Noon



### Edicts From the Czar

*by Eric Hendrix (Czar@TheKGB.org)*

HAPPY NEW YEAR COMRADES! I hope all of you had a safe and joyous Holiday Season. We took the children to visit their grandparents over the holidays. Fried turkey and homebrewed beer and wine were the order of the day. I managed to slip in a fine cigar or two while no one was looking. All in all we had a relaxing time. We are looking forward to the new year. I hope you are too.

I am especially looking forward to brewing this year. Ron Hamm's article in the last newsletter, about brewing to style has inspired me to not only brew drinkable beer, but to take the next step to becoming a brewer. I am going to study the styles, water treatments, fermentation temperatures for the various styles, I'm going to pay a little more attention to the basics such as sanitation, OG range, and all of the other things that contribute to making a good beer even better. All of the things that help at the judges table.

I am going to enter more contests this year. Last year I had six entries bottled up for the Dixie Cup. None made it to the competition because I was too busy. Well, this year, busy will have to wait a few minutes while I fill out the paperwork and get my entries submitted. Even if I don't win any ribbons, the feedback from the judges will be helpful and so will the practice. I hope each and every one of you will consider entering more competitions.

We have become a very large homebrew club. Now lets go out there and bring

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### Notes From The General Secretary

*by Al Jurica (GeneralSecretary@TheKGB.org)*

**W**OW, what an office. I never realized how good the General Secretary had it. Huge plush chair, massive desk, humidor full of Havanas, cold and cold running beer, personal secretary (yeah right now back to reality). So I have moved from your ever so humble Ruble Collector, to the post of your new General Secretary. I hope I can measure up to the tasks ahead as well as those who have gone before me. Now then.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! to all of the comrades. Last year ended well with another great Christmas party at St. Arnold. I know all the KGB folk in attendance thanked Brock for providing the facilities and the beer for our homebrewing community. In addition to the St. Arnold beer, many members from all the clubs brought excellent beers to the party. I can't, as of this writing, remember the Deja Brew member's name, however, he brought a most wonderful chocolate stout. John Donaldson brought a great pils, and there were many more fine brews. Thanks to our MOP (*It was not I—MOP*) for his fine Samichlaus sampling, also to Leroy for his vintage 1995 magnum of Anchor Christmas Ale (see what you miss when you don't make the to-do's?). There was also lots of food and way too many desserts.

We hit our goal of 100 members by the end of 2001. Thanks to everyone that helped solicit the new comrades. Now we'll have to see if we can do as well in

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## Edicts From The Czar

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home some ribbons. I am tired of hearing and reading about these other clubs, local and otherwise, that are winning the various competitions. Now don't misunderstand. We have many members that are avid contest competitors and do very well. Congratulations to those, however, the rest of us need to get off of our duffs and enter. We've already mentioned the fact that brewers using the KGB Stand, in 2002, need to submit 6 bottles for entry into contests. There will be no charge to the brewer for the entry fees or shipping fees. Just get the beers to The Brew Stop.

Speaking of the Brew Stand, brace yourselves, there will be some conversation at the January meeting concerning its use. Last time I checked we had 103 Comrades in the ranks. That is incredible. A great number of these new Comrades, as well as many not so new, in order to brew all grain, need to use The Stand. Let's treat The KGB's equipment as if it were somebody else's and you had to return it to them with hopes of using it again. I encourage all of you to use The Stand. It attracts attention to The Brew Stop, keeps the brewer's costs down, helps keep beer on tap at The Brew Stop, while helping the brewer produce a fine all-grain brew. Get your name on the board and get after it. If you have misgivings about doing an all grain brew, no worries. Tell Ken and he will help you through it. Or, call another comrade to see if he or she would mind assisting you.

As you all know by now, there is going to be a great push to improving the quality of beer that we brew. I certainly need the help, as I'm sure a lot of you do. Even if you don't think you do. Just kidding. To that end there will be a technical presentation at each meeting. These technical presentations will begin 30 minutes before the regularly scheduled meeting start time. Comrade John Donalson is going to

get us started this year, with Part One of a two part series on water treatments. I hope to see many of you there. There can be no beer brewed to style with improper water as its base.

Also, in 2002, there will be some new events added to the Event Schedule. We are starting with the Pub Crawl to Austin. This event should be a great time and will be a wonderful way to kick off the new year. Thanks should go out to Comrade Commissar Brewski Don Sajda for organizing this event. If any of you have ideas for other events, please make them known. Damn, I just had a brain cramp and my train of thought has derailed. Easy folks, a little respect now.

Oh, now I remember. Speaking of events, the Big Batch Brew Bash is coming up. As you all know, this is our big event of the year. We need everyone to pitch in. I will coordinate the event with help from as many of you as will. Comrade Minister of Propaganda Mark Rogerson and Comrade Wes Powell have agreed to help in official capacities. We will need judges, stewards and all manner of other volunteers. Food will need to be organized, the raffle prizes solicited and gathered. All kinds of things that I am sure I am forgetting will also have to be done. I am asking for help from any and all of you. I especially need the help of those that have organized this event in the past. Let me use some of your experience to help make The Big Batch Brew Bash 2002 what it should be.

There will be a Special Election held at the January meeting. We must elect a Ruble Collector. Bring some nominations to the table. Comrade Al has done yeoman's work as both General Secretary and Ruble Collector. He needs a break. I was hoping he could pass the torch before his annual pilgrimage to Las Vegas, but alas, he has gone, and sans audit to boot.

All in all, 2002 is shaping up to be an exciting year in The KGB. We need to maintain our focus on bringing in new members. We need to encourage all members to brew as often as possible. Let's become more technically astute in our brewing. Let's enter more competitions and win them. We will use The Stand as it was intended, often and well. Maybe we can keep both taps flowing this year. Attend more meetings. We have over 100 members. We can have 60 to 70 at every meeting. We might even have to increase the Commissar Brewski's

*(Continued on page 3)*



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## Notes From The General Secretary

*(Continued from page 1)*

2002. I know I'll do my part to help keep the KGB growing. I am also looking forward to the technical presentations we have scheduled for this year, as I hope many of our new members are.

Our operative from the north paid us a visit this month. That's agent North Star, a.k.a. Doug Piehl, for all you new members. He brought down a nice selection of beers from his area, (somewhere in the deepest, darkest, well certainly coldest, Wisconsin) to share with us. Those privy to these tasty treats were: Ken, Chad, Don, Jack, Nadine, David, Andy, Doug and I, and (better late than never) our beloved Czar. The samplings were: Main Street Brown, Old Port Porter, Buck Naked Light Beer, Grays Black and Tan, Oscars chocolate oatmeal stout (my favorite), 3 selections from Goose Island, oatmeal stout, honkers ale, & their IPA., and 3 selections from New Glarus, Red ale, spotted cow ale, and Hearty hop ale. Excellent job agent North Star. Oh try not to stay gone as long before your next visit. It was good to talk to Doug again, and hear some of his stories from the north.

O.K. This month's meeting is at the Brew Stop. Sun. Jan. 20th. Everyone knows how to get there. Technical

presentation 1st of 2 parts on water treatment to be given by John Donaldson. Pizza is planned as well as a special election for the vacant Ruble Collector's position. Holiday Beers for the BOM, a raffle, who could ask for more? Hope to see you all there. We might even try for a group picture to send to SW Brewers news, along with our clubs milestone membership.

Enough said. Its Pivo time.



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## Edicts From The Czar

*(Continued from page 2)*

budget. Let's get a group together to attend the meetings of the other area clubs and spread a little of the Comradship (sic), so to speak.

Comrades, we have a huge homebrew club. In 2001 we set some goals and achieved a great majority of them. In 2002 we have some of the same goals and many new ones as well. Only a few are outlined in this article. We can and will achieve those new goals as well. None of this can be done, however, without your help. I need it, the other officers need it, and The KGB needs it. If you see an area where you would like to help, speak up. If you see something you would like to contribute to or have an idea, speak up. If there is something that is bothering you, speak up. We are all adults and can handle it. The common theme here is SPEAK UP! Without your input The KGB will not continue to grow and prosper. With your help 2002 will be a better year than 2001!

Thank you all for your time and dedication to the craft.



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## (Acting) Ruble Collector's Report

by Al Jurica (RubleCollector@TheKGB.org)

**H**appy new year! I hope everyone had a good holiday, drank too much beer, ate too much food, enjoyed all the merriment, and...ok, I guess that's enough of that.

What a banner year for the KGB in 2001. With all the good stuff we did as a club last year, we can only look forward to more of the same, and better, in the coming year. We want to welcome all of our new comrades to our ranks. They are; Thomas Goethals, Jon Curren, Mark Welch, Joshua J. Law, Chris Coleman, Bob Voisinet, R J Macha, Garrett Smith, John B. Williams, Pete Chase, and Brian Russo. Welcome and good brewing to all.

With the cold weather has come thoughts of trying my hand at lager beer. I have never done such a thing, but since my control box is in the garage, now is the time to give it a try. You see my fridge won't stay warm enough, without some help, to ferment an ale at this time of year. So now is the time to make the Pilsner Urquell clone I so want to try. Saaz hops and more Saaz hops, sounds tasty to me. I will skip on the green bottles though. I'm looking forward to a fresh, unskunked, Pilsner Urquell. Man that makes me thirsty, I'll be right back. The chill of my control box does bring on a dilemma, as to how I will manage to brew my beer for the upcoming KGB brew challenge. But I'm sure I'll get it all figured out, as to have my winning entry in on time.

With the new year comes another challenge. Since I was not able to complete my quest of drinking all the good beer made in the world (so many beers, so few days in the year), I will continue in my pursuit of drinking as many good beers as I can get my thirsty little hands on. I may not prevail in my quest by the end of this year, but it will not be for a lack of trying.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Until then ... DRINK MORE BEER!



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## Technical Presentation Redux

by Eric Hendrix (Czar@TheKGB.org)

**F**ellow Comrades, His Royal Highness, Czar Eric has requested that I write a few words regarding the Technical Presentations (TP) for the coming year. Be aware that all TPs for this year will commence 30 minutes prior to the regular starting time of each monthly meeting.

Sure as clockwork, every so often there are cries for us to do some TPs. "*It will be good for the new members!*" or *We don't want to become known as just a party club!*" are perennially ushered from the disgruntled masses. Then eventually we get around to doing a TP or two, and in short order we usually fall back to mainly drinking beer (not so bad really). Well, by golly this year is gonna be different! As such, Czar Eric has commissioned me to present the first two installments in our (re)education program. Hopefully there will be a huge turnout, everyone will be ecstatic over how much they have learned, and we'll all feel really good about ourselves. The best part... hey we can still drink all the beer we want!

### TP Water (Part I and Part II) Synopsis

You know, as important as water is to beer, it's interesting how little most homebrewers (I dare say many professional brewers as well) know about the subject. Sure, ask them about malt, hops, yeast, and mashing and they will spout off all kinds of minutiae. Yet with water a typical re-

sponse might be, "*Uh gee, Ken said to add this packet of BW Salt, and hey it comes out great.*" Well I suppose that's okay if you want your Oktoberfest to taste say, oh... like a Scotch Ale! But, as with all aspects of brewing, any variable in procedure or ingredient will have an impact. Sometimes that impact, even as it pertains to water, will be HUGE. So with that in mind (now that I have your attention), let's examine what's in store for (drum role please) Technical Presentations: Water Part I and Water Part II.

Many years ago (the early days) I did a TP on water at a KGB meeting. There was a tremendous amount to cover, and before I could finish the masses began to get somewhat riotous (I'd like to think it wasn't so much the material and my presentation, but rather the breadth of material). I subsequently realized that if I ever again did a presentation on water, it would have to be split up into two parts; hence, Water Part I and, you guessed it, Water Part II.

**Water Part I** will include: Local water profile and analysis, water treatment, history of water as it pertains to brewing, and its impact on style.

**Water Part II** (scheduled for February meeting) will include: Water adjustment, salt/ion description, pH adjustment, and brewing considerations.

Well, there you have it. By the time we're through, it's

*(Continued on page 5)*

## From The Brewski Cellars

by Donald Sajda (CommissarBrewski@TheKGB.org)

Once a year we find ourselves immersed with Holiday traditions. So won't this be a perfect time to experiment and create a special holiday brew? Well, most breweries agreed with this idea and as you can see the result is this month's BOM will be Commercial Holiday Beers. I don't think one can find a definition for Holiday Beer other than that it is meant to be special and offered for a short period of time around Christmas.

This month I selected seven different types of beers. You'll have to come to the January meeting to find out which one's we'll have. One even arrived from Milwaukee.

Following in the steps of the microbreweries, I too made a Holiday Beer this year. I must say that it tasted pretty damn good for a beginner. So if you want to impress your relatives here is a simple recipe for you to make a 5-gallon batch of what I call **St. Pumpkin**. It's like eating a slice of pumpkin pie that has a kick.

### Grains

- 9.5 lbs Pale Malt Extract
- 1.0lb British Medium Crystal Malt
- 1.0 lb German Munich Malt
- 1.0lb Belgian Cara Munich Malt
- 1/4 lb Special B

### Mash Schedule:

Mash grains for 30 mins. at 155°F

### Hops

- 1.0oz Cascade (4.5% AA) (75 min)
- 1.0oz Cascade (4.5% AA) (15 min)
- 1.0oz Liberty (4.3% AA) (0 min)

### Yeast

Wyeast #1318 London Ale yeast III with starter

### Notes

Take 2 medium pumpkin pie pumpkins, cut the meat out in 1" cubes, bake in the oven till they caramelize, 350 degrees for about 30 min. Add the caramelized pumpkin to the boiling wort the last 15 min. of boil.

Bottle and prime with 1/2-cup corn sugar and 4 teaspoons allspice.



## Technical Presentation Redux

(Continued from page 4)

my hope that all of you will have a thorough understanding of water's implications to the process of brewing beer. At the least, you'll understand why Ken says to add that packet of BW Salt. Hey, look at it this way, we can all still drink beer while were at it!



## Homebrewing Demonstration

by Bruce Ross (bcross@houston.rr.com)

On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> the KGB is hosting a homebrewing demonstration in the private park in the Oaks of Devonshire neighborhood. We will have a paved parking lot to set up in, running potable water, electricity, and a very large sunshade plus lots of big trees for shade. 400 pounds of ice will also be available. A gas BBQ will be available for cooking any meats you bring, and a big pot of hearty Italian soup with bread and cheese will be donated by Bruce & Dale.

The event will be advertised in the monthly newsletters to the 600+ families in the neighborhood and a good attendance is expected as this is also the opening weekend for the park's swimming pool. The Mashtronauts and Foam Rangers will be invited, too. This is the weekend of the National Homebrewing Day, and what a wonderful opportunity it is to show our community the joys and challenges of homebrewing!

The event will include several presentations on selected brewing topics, and will also have a series of more technical presentations of interest to experienced brewers. Bruce Ross is the contact (281) 355-6494 / bcross@houston.rr.com please let him know if you are coming and what demonstration and/or presentation you want to give. There will be one table set up for dispensing homebrew samples to the public, and this will be the only place that any alcoholic beverages may be dispensed to the public (to ensure that only adults get samples). Please plan to bring some of your best brew to share with your friends and the public!

### Schedule of Events: (10:00 AM - 5:00 PM — Open to the public)

- 08:00 - 09:30 am Set-up sunshades and equipment
- 10:00 am Brewers set up & start brewing
  - American Pale Ale by RIMS (Bruce Ross)
  - (any other volunteers w/ RIMS?)
  - (gravity systems – the more the merrier!)
  - (extract brewing – would like at least two set up)
  - (home made sodas – would like one set up)

### Presentations

- 10:00-10:30 Beginning Home Brewing (open)
- 10:30-11:00 Introduction to Beer Styles (open)
- 11:00-11:30 How Did our Ancestors do it? The medieval history and ancient techniques of making beer. (Bruce Ross)
- 11:30-12:00 Introduction to Hops (Bruce)
- 12:00-1:00 (Lunch!)
- 1:00-2:00 Essentials of All-Grain Brewing (open)
- 2:00-2:30 Introduction to Brewers' Yeast (open)
- 2:30-3:00 Home made root beer (open)
- 3:00-3:30 Cleaning and Sanitation (open)
- 3:30-4:00 Bottling & capping demonstration
- 4:00-5:00 Relax, have a homebrew!
- 5:00-6:00 (Clean-up, take down sunshade pavilion.)



## KGB: In The Beginning — A Blast From The Past *(reprinted from Dec. 1997)*

by Ron Hamm (RonHamm@swbell.net)

Since this will be my last issue as your interim newsletter editor, I thought I might take the liberty of waxing nostalgic by relating what I know of the history of the KGB. Some of you lived it, and for those who are recent devotees, I think you'll gain some appreciation for the hardships endured by your forebears.

The actual start date for the KGB Homebrew Club is a little hard to pin down. Memories are fuzzy, but the general consensus and Volume 1, Issue 1 of the then unnamed newsletter, peg it as March - April 1994. The club began life as a result of Sean Markham's (former manager of DeFalco's North) efforts to unite homebrewers geographically located on the northern side of town. My foray into homebrewing had only begun a couple of months prior and I was thrilled at the prospect of having a brain trust to draw upon in an effort to satiate my quest for knowledge. The first official meeting was held in April and Dean Doba was elected as Czar. This was very convenient, as Dean had to leave the meeting early, so electing him in absentia was the only proper thing to do. Brian Holm served as VP and Sean held down positions as Treasurer/Editor. The membership list for May 1994 listed the aforementioned persons, myself, Tom Barnhart, Art Boethel, Pierson Camp, Richard Coggings, Rodney Conley, Don DeVille, Dave Diehl, John Eckersley, Marc Lindsey, Bruce Murray, Jose Rodriguez, Ismael Schmidt, Jim Schulte, Rick Sobelman, Bill Wambangh, Amos Welder, and Paul White. As of this writing, there are seven original members still active in the club. Early meetings were anything but organized. Essentially, some of us showed up on a given Sunday morning at the shop and drank beer all day. Dean did his best to bring some order to the chaos by providing guidance and an occasional tech presentation, but the overall lack of enthusiasm shown by the majority of the group proved to be too strong. A core of six or so hardy individuals seemed to be the mainstay and lifeblood of the club, strong-willed, but too few to really accomplish much of substance, so we just kept meeting and drinking beer.

John Donaldson joined the group in the second or third month of its existence, and I chose him as my personal mentor (a recommendation I'd make to any of you who truly want to learn more about the craft of brewing). John's élan was a welcome breath of life, but still proved no match for the dismal club meeting turnout and participation. It wasn't long afterward that the core group was about all that was left of the club. The VP never made it to a meeting after the first one, so a new position was created, Vice President of the Month, and the joke was that whoever's turn it was to be VPOM would have to follow suit and not attend the meeting that month. Oh yeah, I forgot to mention, that same VPOM was what we now call Commissar Brewski, he was supposed to bring the beer! Newsletters were sporadic at best during the first year, certainly no more than four or five issues total, I can only find two. We were going nowhere, the membership was dwindling quickly, people were just disappearing, never to be heard from again.

Along about August of 1995, I had decided I was going to let my membership lapse when it came time for renewal and I said so to John. By now, we were a group of about four to five who showed up on a given Sunday morning to drink beer all day. Dave Diehl had taken up the gauntlet and was producing a very nice, albeit small newsletter. Of course he only had himself and Czar Dean as contributors on a regular basis. Yes, Dean had been re-elected to a second term, no one else would do it and he didn't want to see it fold.

Collectively, we thought that maybe we could get more participation if we could get some folks interested in brewing for a competition, so we put out the word that we were going to make a run at the Wisconsin State Fair's competition. Interest grew, people brewed, bottled and delivered their beer to the shop for shipment en masse. Unfortunately, that's as far as the beer ever got. Seems, someone neglected to put it on the bus, so the small amount of momentum we had generated, quickly faded. Why bother! It looks like it's time to cut and run.

It was September 1995 or there about, and we still had the beers that never made it into competition, so a mini-competition was hastily arranged. We put out the word once again and a goodly portion of our small group assembled at the now defunct Market Square Brewpub for a judging. Scott Birdwell, John, and a few others served as judges for the event, while the rest of us sat by and drank the very first public tasting of a fledgling microbrewery's amber ale. It was a hop bag of a beer, and to my taste, quite delicious. You would know that brewery by the name of Saint Arnold. It went very well except for the near decapitation of two of the judging staff. A ceiling fan, whirling lazily along, decided to test the theory of self flight and immediately pancaked to the floor about three feet from the table where Scott and John were toiling away. Got everyone's attention! In the aftermath, the core members reflected there might yet be hope, especially with the Dixie Cup right around the corner.

We went to the Dixie Cup and made a little noise, won a couple of ribbons, but it was readily apparent that we needed more members if we were to have any chance at survival. To that end, we decided to stage a couple of brew-ins in front of the shop on Saturday mornings. I can tell you from personal knowledge that no single other thing we've ever done has been as rewarding in terms of sheer numbers of new members. The first brew-in was successful, but the second one was gigantic. We set our sites on securing a specific number of devotees and refused to allow people to leave the shop until they gave us their money. Isn't that right Doug Spencer? You don't believe me, just ask John about the two members who paid their dues and never showed up for a single meeting. They were just happy to escape with their lives. We were on a roll!

I would point to November 1995 as the turning point for the KGB as a club. The meeting that month was at Marc

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Watch Out, Austin!

**T**he KGB is about to invade your city and we plan to drink it dry. As of press time we are planning to meet at the Brew Stop, Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup>. We shall board our luxurious charter bus at 11:00 am and head for the historic invasion of Austin's Brew Pubs. Of course we'll need to stop half way to visit the now open Brenham Brewery. There are still a few prime seats left on the bus. So if you want to be a part of this KGB historic event contact the Commissar Brewski (email: [Commissar-Brewski@TheKGB.org](mailto:Commissar-Brewski@TheKGB.org)) as soon as possible.

### Pub Crawl Itinerary

10:15 am	Load bus at the Brew Stop 16460 Kuykendahl
10:30 am	Leave for Brenham
12:30 pm	Arrive at Brenham Brewery, 100 1 <sup>st</sup> Street
02:00 pm	Leave for Austin
04:00 pm	Arrive at Draught House, 4112 Medical Pkwy.
05:15 pm	Leave for downtown locations
05:30 pm	Arrive at Lovejoy's, 604 Neches also Copper Tank 504 Trinity.
07:00 pm	Pick up Group at Lovejoy's head to Bitter End
07:10 pm	Drop off at Bitter End, 311 Colorado also Gingerman
08:30 pm	Pick up at Bitter End head back to Houston.

## A Blast From The Past

*(Continued from page 6)*

Linsey's house and for some reason I can't explain, old members, new members, and non-members just kept coming. We filled his house, we filled his garage, it was incredible. The recruiting had worked and folks were actually participating. John had jokingly told all the new recruits that it was imperative they bring a case of beer to their first meeting as a token of respect for the elders. I suppose it struck a cord, because Carl Scott arrived, case in hand. Expensive beer, a proper homage! That single meeting seemed to galvanize us. Hope sprang anew.

Our numbers had grown, it was December 1995, Saint Arnold was hosting our first Christmas party, and the turnout was excellent. Dave Diehl had plied John Donaldson with Salvator and John, in his severely altered state, agreed to take on duties as newsletter editor for six months. Dean, nearing the end of his second term as Czar, announced the 1st Annual KGB Brew Challenge for March 1996. Matt Feinberg walked away with the First Place ribbon that year. We were showing real promise.

Elections rolled around and a new regime took over. New positions of authority were created and the folks who filled them were as follows: John Donaldson - Czar; Matt Feinberg - General Secretary; Carl Scott - Treasurer; Bruce Murray - Commissar Brewski; and I became editor of the newsletter. John, Dave, and I worked our tails off and we begat t-shirts for the club. Carl worked his tail off and we became bona fide via a checking account in the name of the KGB. June 1996 brought us to our first club-run open competition, the "KGB Big Batch Brew Bash". It is so named because we needed to refer to it as something and no one else offered a suggestion. I shoulder the blame for that tongue twister. Although we didn't win the top prize, that honor went to the Foam Rangers, we did take three of the five ribbon places. The 1st Annual "KGB BBBB" was an unqualified success.

It dawned on us that the reason we now had money in the bank (thanks to Carl) and were seeing better and better turnouts at the meetings, might just have to do with the fact that we were dynamic, constantly innovating and pushing

folks to become involved. It was summer 1996 and time for another brew-in aka recruitment drive. We did and we signed still more of you on. It was nearing time for the Dixie Cup, so we began overtures to the Foam Rangers to take advantage of one of their perennial luminaries. As a result, October 1996 brought you the 1st "Fundamental Fred", starring Fred Eckhardt and a host of volunteer members attending to details. We again journeyed to the Dixie Cup, but in larger numbers, and we won more ribbons and made more noise. By this time, the club was bigger than any single person, the flywheel had turned over and it had become self-sustaining. Great sighs of relief all around!

December brought us back to Saint Arnold for Christmas, with a party opened up to the homebrew club community as a whole, 'A Gathering of the Clans'. It was decided that we would pass the honor and burden of providing for the Christmas gathering amongst the local clubs, allowing us all to experience the joy of just attending without having to deal with the details of entertaining a larger and larger group each year.

The 2nd Annual "KGB Brew Challenge" was this past March 1997, and Tom Bickell took top honors. Elections once again brought us our current slate of rulers for the proletariat. I gave up duties as newsletter editor, only to resume them once again when we were left high and dry. In this short year, we've re-ordered t-shirts, secured pint glasses and mugs emblazoned with the club crest (way to go Brian), grown our numbers, staged an invasion of the stronghold of the oldest and largest homebrew club in the city, grown our bank account, hosted a second "Fundamental Fred", entered the Dixie Cup in force, and won more ribbons, made more noise and received due notice from our peers. The "KGB" has arrived!

I take great personal pride in being a member of our club and thank each of you for your contributions. You are the reason we are viewed as the little club that can (actually, not so little these days). I'm not at liberty to discuss them, but I've heard rumors that bigger things are coming, *we're going to make more noise and make real waves!*



# The Brewpub Chronicles

by Donald Sajda (CommissarBrewski@TheKGB.org)

Once in a blue moon our beloved state legislature actually does something right. Well, this past September 1st a law was finally changed to allow a Texas brewpub the right to sell beer for off premise consumption if the establishment sold spirits. In a nutshell the brewpubs can now sell growlers to go if they also serve mixed drinks. Of course I can't help but take advantage of this every chance I can get.

Recently I had the opportunity to go to Dallas for some training for my job. What a break knowing that I could visit two brewpubs close to my hotel. We made a beeline north on Interstate 45 and arrived at **Big Bucks Brewery** at 12:30 Sunday afternoon. Big Bucks Brewery is part of the mega complex that is anchored by the **Pro Bass Shop**. It's a dream come true; the largest sporting goods store in the world, a great steak house, and a healthy selection of some tasty fresh beer all under one roof.

What a treat to be able to walk into a brewpub and see a list of 10 beers on a chalkboard. The board gives you info on the starting gravity, alcohol by volume, IBUs of hops, and a short description of the beer. So much beer to drink, so little time. I opted for a pint of their seasonal **Pale Bock**. This was an excellent choice, very sweet and malty with faint hop bitterness. At 5.9% abv this was one of their strongest beers on tap. My friend Mike went with the **Sweet Stout**. This was a nice stout that had a very strong roasted flavor. Both of us were pleased with our choices. This Sunday the Dallas Cowboys were playing on the road. When this happens the game is broadcasted live by a local radio station that broadcasts from the brewpub. One of the commentators was none other than all time great Dallas Cowboy, Charlie Waters. Everyone at the bar was given a raffle ticket to win prizes and a chance to go into the money booth. We stayed nearly three hours and finally they called Mike's number. He entered the booth and displayed great skill by scooping up \$22, not enough to pay the bar tab but it put a good dent in it.

The best is yet to come. On Sunday through Wednesday Big Bucks will fill the growler for only \$4! Now the growler does cost \$4 but they are refillable when you come back.

What a deal for 64 ounces of good beer. I bought 3 growlers filled with the **Pale Bock**, and one with their hoppy **IPA** for the Czar. The brew had 58 IBUs of hops, and was not for the faint hearted. Mike got Sweet **Stout** and the **Porter**. At 3:30 we were off to the hotel to start our training.

Luckily our class finished early and we headed to dinner at 8:00 pm. Only 4.3 miles away located at 5500 Greenville we find the original **Two Rows Brewery**. As I head towards the bar I notice the beer chalkboard and guess what's on tap? Yes, it's the famous Bronze medal winner, Imperial Stout that won acclaim at last years **Greater American Beer Festival**. Now, I really think I've died and gone to heaven. After indulging in a few half pints of this nectar the Head Brewer, **Mike Kraft** came over. He noticed that I really enjoyed this beer and asked me if I liked barley wines? "Is the Pope Catholic?" I thought to myself. Mike told me he had one keg left of a special **Barley Wine** he brewed over two and one half years ago and offered me a glass. What a treat, this had an incredible taste. Lots of very malty, very hoppy, complex tastes. One of the finest examples of American Barley Wine I have tasted. Mike was a very gracious host. He even went into details about the makeup of his barley wine. It started at 25 Plato (sg: 1.107), finished at 5.5 Plato (sg: 1.022) and was made with American Two Row, Munich, Crystal 60, and Wheat malt. Columbus was the bittering hop, and Mike used cascade and centennial for dry hopping. My mouth watered the whole time as we spoke about this special batch.

I finished the night enjoying a fine steak sandwich that was smothered with red peppers, mushrooms and cheese. It also came with a side of fries. This was a new menu item that I had to try and was priced at \$9.99.

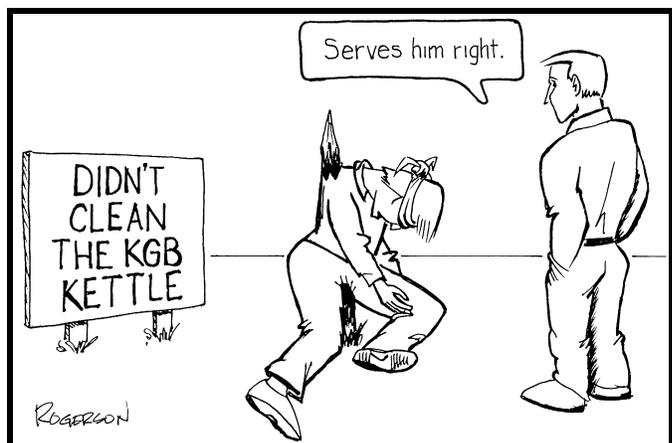
As I savored this fine combination of steak and beer I couldn't help but think about the **Big Batch Brew Bash**. If I hurried home, I could start brewing the barley wine with the information Brewer Mike Kraft had given me. The only thing I can't figure out is how could I age this batch for two and one half years in a period of only 6 months...



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½ page	1 issue	\$ 25
½ page	3 issues	\$ 65
½ page	12 issues	\$ 190

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KGB Justice — The Death Penalty  
Option #13: Impalement

Don't forget the Pub Crawl  
to Austin on January 26th!



The KGB's 2002 Schedule of Events (subject to revision)

(last revised 9 Jan. 2002)

By The KGB Staff

Next meeting!

Meeting (Article Due Date)	Location	Event	BOM	KOM
		Technical Presentation		Brewer
January 20 (January 7)	The Brew Stop	Pizza Feast & Special Election	Holiday Beers	
		Water Treatment 1–J. Donaldson		
February 16 (February 4)	Brian Ellis'	Fish Fry	APA, IPA & Brown Ale	The Battle of the Browns
		Water Treatment 2–J. Donaldson		Brian Ellis vs. Ken Rich
March 16 (March 4)	Czar Eric's	Chili Comp. & Brew Challenge	English Bitters & Pale Ales	English Bitter
		Kegging–Brian Ellis		Ed Howell & Joe Neal
April 20 (April 8)	Carl Scott's	Crawfish boil	Bocks	Belgian Tripel
		Grains–Carl Scott		Cody Clark
May 19 (May 6)	The Brew Stop	Steak Out	Lagers	APA
		Hops–Bruce Ross		Mark Rogerson
June 2 (May 20)	Saint Arnold Brewery	Big Batch Brew Bash		
July 21 (July 8)	The Brew Stop	Big-Ass Brew-In & Pot Luck Buffet	Pilsner	Steam Beer
		RIMS–Garrett Martin		John Donaldson
August 17 (August 5)	Pam Wall's	Salsa Competition & Pool Party	Belgians	Honey Hopper
		Sparging–Mark Rogerson		Al Jurica
September 22 (September 9)	The Brew Stop	Pizza Feast	Oktoberfest	Oktoberfest
		Bottling/Kegging		To be determined
October 18-19 (October 7)	Courtyard by Marriott	Dixie Cup		
November 16 (November 4)	Don Sajda's	Smörgåsbeerd & Label Competition	Smörgåsbeerd	Sajdachlaus Bier
				Donald Sajda
December ?? (November 25)	Saint Arnold Brewery	Homebrewer's Christmas Party		



# Join The Party!

Sign Me Up - I want to be a member of the KGB: (please fill in the form below as completely as possible. Be sure to indicate your preferences by checking the appropriate boxes.)

Membership cost is \$20.00 annually, or two years for \$35.00, payable in cash or by personal check (make payable to KGB). Give this completed form to a club officer along with your dues,

or mail to The KGB Homebrew Club, c/o The Brew Stop, 16460 Kuykendahl Ste. 140, Houston, TX 77068 (**DO NOT send cash**). Paid membership entitles you to full club benefits, including a monthly newsletter & 5% discount on most purchases at The Brew Stop.

One Year (\$20)     Two Years (\$35)     Renewal     Update my Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Significant Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Get newsletter via WWW\*

Homebrewing Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Opt out of receiving the newsletter in the mail and save the KGB some precious money



### Fine Print

#### Club Officers:

Czar	Eric Hendrix
General Secretary	Al Jurica
Ruble Collector	Al Jurica (acting)
Commissar Brewski	Donald Sajda
Minister of Propaganda	Mark Rogerson
Minister of War	Adrian "A.C." Cornelius

Newsletter Staff: Mark Rogerson

#### Contributors:

Eric Hendrix, Al Jurica, Donald Sajda, Ron Hamm, Mark Rogerson, Bruce Ross

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