



THE KGB FILES

The Official Newsletter Of The Kuykendahl Gran Brewers Homebrew Club

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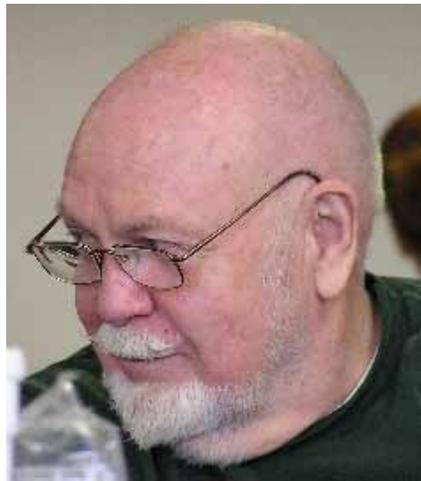
EDICTS FROM THE CZAR

BY ED CONDON (CZAR@THEKGB.ORG)

The 22nd annual Dixie Cup is now behind us. The KGB took home 7 medals, the Best of Show and tied for third place overall in the competition.

Congratulations to all the winners and to all of you that put in entries under the name of the KGB. This was one tough competition, 1022 total entries this year. Out of all those the Czar didn't take squat, guess I need to start brewing with some of the winners to pick up a few pointers. And how about Comrade John Donaldson for bringing home the Best of Show for the second year in a row, with the help of fellow brewer John Gonzales that is... Way to go Comrade John. Please see our web site www.thekgb.org for all the KGB results. I was

very proud of all the support our members gave to the



Just Fred. No caption needed.

Foam Rangers to help pull off this event in such good fashion. I especially want to thank all of you that helped

out with the Fred Tasting. With the help of several of our comrades and the Foam Rangers, we got an eight coarse beer and food pairing served in pretty good fashion. I didn't hear a lot of complaints but did hear a lot of compliments on how well things went. Once again thanks for your help.

There is only one more official meeting of the KGB this year. This is the meeting known as our Smorgasbeerd or could easily be named Commissar Brewski gone wild. As of this writing there is about two and a half weeks until the meeting and from what I hear from Jonathan he has blown the beer budget for the KGB. Well it isn't that bad but I know he is getting an excellent

(Continued on page 2)

Smorgasbeerd & Label Contest



Saturday,
November 12th
@ 7:00 PM

HBC Don Sajda
25106 Bovington Dr.

See map at
www.thekgb.org

RUBLE COLLECTOR'S REPORT

BY TIM WHITE (RUBLECOLLECTOR@THEKGB.ORG)

The Great American Beer Festival (GABF) was a huge success for our friends at St. Arnold Brewing capturing two medals, a silver for their Summer Pils and a bronze for the Amber Ale... way to go Brew Crew! And speaking of St. Arnold Brewing, get ready for Devine Reserve No. 1, a barley wine style beer that is about to hit the shelves here in Houston. The specs on the beer (ok, and a hint on where to shop for it) are original gravity of 1.099 (my guess is former Czar Don Sajda was consulted during recipe formulation) with a finished gravity of 1.027 resulting in a

big body, hoppy, intensely malty beer with 9.3% alcohol by volume. With only about 1,300 six packs brewed of Devine Reserve No. 1 (the neck label will change from 1 to 2 for the next batch of whatever is selected) they will go very fast. My guess is the cost per six-pack will be about \$13... but the value, PRICELESS! Does anyone doubt that there will be some Divine Reserve No. 1 to taste at the

next KGB meeting?? Be there on November 12th!!

(Continued on page 3)



The KGB had an outstanding turn out this year at the Dixie Cup.

EDICTS FROM THE CZAR

(Continued from page 1)

assortment of exotic "Big Beers" lined up for the meeting. HBC Don will be premiering his new nitrogen system with his award winning Buffalo Chip Imperial Stout, a Robust Porter, and a special keg of the KGB 10th anniversary beer, same beer given to the volunteers at the BBBB this past year. This should not be missed. Besides a lot of big beers to drink, there is more. What better goes with a lot of "Big Beers" at a meeting than a lot of food? We will have an assortment of Brats and sausage with sauerkraut, potato salad, and HBC Don will fix up a good helping of the now famous "Bruce Ross Red Cabbage". To help defray the cost of all this we are asking for a \$10 donation, \$4 BOM \$6 food. If you have a favorite dish that would compliment this menu please

feel free to bring it along. But there is more to the meeting than just beer and food; we will also be having the annual label contest. This year there is no particular theme. This year's winning label will be put on the hand out beer for the volunteers at next years Big Batch Brew Bash. The winner will also provide the recipe for beer that will be brewed by the officers to hand out at the BBBB. One more thing the winner will also have the option of helping the officers brew the beer (guaranteed it's not all work and will be a lot of fun). If that's not all to fit into one meeting there is also some minor business to take care of. The election of officers for 2006 will be held by secret ballot. See the web for candidates. So please come and participate in what is usually the biggest meeting of the year.

The weather has finally broken into Brewing Weather. It is once again time to start thinking of holding some Brew-Ins or just start brewing together to pick up little tricks of the trade. I have brewed over 150 batches of beer and still learn something new every time I brew with another person. The reason I bring this up and it may seem a little early to mention, but the KGB has a big event coming up next June, the Big Batch Brew Bash. Now is the time to at least start perfecting the brew for the BBBB, Imperial IPA. To go along with this the KGB will be holding Double Agent judging of an Imperial IPA at the May meeting next year. Find your partner for that ASAP. If you are an inexperienced brewer (a brewer that has brewed less than 3 all grain brews on your own) find an experienced brewer and vice versa then start brewing. As an extra

incentive to brew that perfect Imperial IPA and make note, it is not set in stone yet, but Brock at St. Arnold Brewery may brew a mini batch of winning recipe at the BBBB. I think we all know Brock well enough that he would not brew just an average beer; it would have to be "The Best". So with this in mind get brewing.

Well the Czar is still recovering from the Dixie Cup and the writing creativity is running low, as if I have ever had any. Actually MOT Jamie has already given us a two day grace period on the news letters and I don't want to be late with this. With Jamie still in a wheel chair I don't want to make things any more difficult for her than I have to. Until the next meeting, if I don't see you before Keep on Brewing.

JOIN THE PARTY!

Single one year membership \$20 Family \$35

Single two year membership \$35 Family \$60

Payable in cash or personal check (made payable to **KGB**). Give completed form to a club officer along with your dues, or mail to The KGB Homebrew Club, c/o The Brew Stop, 16460 Kuykendahl Suite 140, Houston, TX 77068 (**DO NOT SEND CASH**). Paid membership entitles you to full club benefits, including a monthly newsletter, 5% discount on equipment and 10% discount on supplies at the **Brew Stop**, discounts at other local establishments and much more.

_____ Single one year (\$20) _____ Family one year (\$35) _____ Renewal

_____ Single two years (\$35) _____ Family two years (\$60) _____ Update my Information

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RUBLE COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The GABF is held annually in Denver, Colorado and for the second consecutive year it coincided with a "business trip" your Ruble Collector (RC) had to make to the Denver area... coincidence or beerdoggle???, you decide.

There are several very impressive things about the GABF. One is the volunteer effort required to pull it off. The volunteers come from across the country and join teams for setting up, pouring, cleanup and tear down. What's in it for the volunteers, well free admission to the festival when they're not working their shift, and for those pouring beers, an opportunity to share either their knowledge of the beer from personal experience or from a briefing given by the brewery representative.

The other thing that sticks out in my now hazed mind is the organization of the event. The hall is organized by region of the country and there is a subset organization by style of beer... if that wasn't anal retentive enough, one of the vendors at the event was a geographic information systems (GIS) company that would chart out your course of breweries (of which there were almost 400 to pick from) and the individual flavors/ styles (1,600 beers). Yes, the RC had a very well intentioned plan and managed to make it from the map guy to the first microbrewery pouring Oktoberfest and the map was history! Keep this in mind for a beerdoggle of your own next year.

And the KGB repeats winning

the BEST OF SHOW at the Dixie Cup. Congrats to Comrade (former Czar) John



Some bearded bald guy horns in on the St. Arnold Army photo op at the GABF... ok, I think it might be Randy Mosher, author of

Donaldson. For those regular readers of the RC's article, Comrade John also took first place for his entry of the Steam beer we brewed together during the 20-gallon brew day in late July. Well, that day has been trumped with a brew day from hell... 30 gallons brewed on one beautiful Saturday in early October!! We brewed three, ten-gallon batches of IPA, German Hefe, and Belgian blond each of which are fermenting in five-gallon carboys with a different strain of yeast. Oh, that wasn't all we did that day, we also counter-pressure bottle filled 20 gallons of Altbier and Steam! A special thanks to the other members of the brew crew that day

including Comrades Mark Gerding and his son who was home on leave from military duty, David Studer, and former Minister of War, Wes Powell. By the way, Wes' efforts on brewing the last ten gallon batch were

awesome... he sure can brew; but, I question his beer judging skills, just kidding... Wes is the consummate beer aficionado!

Speaking of Comrades who can brew, the RC ended the month brewing an American Pale Ale with Comrade and former Czar Brian (Boo) Ellis using the same award winning recipe we've used in the past... a great time brewing good beer with a class individual. Yes,

BooTee Brewing (Tee for Tim) is getting fired up and making plans to overthrow the J&J Brew Crew. Well, not really an overthrow of Comrade/Foam Ranger Jimmy Paige and his brewing partner, Jeff Reilly, just a shout-out of congratulations to two outstanding individuals who combine to be an incredible brew team that happened to dominate the medal ceremony at the Dixie Cup!!

A closing reminder... as a Comrade in good standing of the KGB, you are entitled to brew a "free" batch of beer at the Brew Stop on a monthly basis (talk with Ken for details www.brewstop.com and remember to bring propane). You also get cash discounts at BJ's Brewhouse, Flying Saucer and several other places. We have an incredible supply of shirts, glasses (pint and really cool 3 ounce Obreal sampling) and pottery mugs. Check out the website www.thekgb.org for prices and pictures!





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BEER OF THE MONTH

BY JONATHAN GOUDY (COMMISSAR BREWSKI@THEKGB.ORG)

Greetings Comrades!

So, here I sit again upon another month of beer-abundance. This has been an especially beerful month for me because we just came off of the Dixie Cup competition. Along with this, I felt the need to increase my odds of contracting carpal tunnel syndrome by taking the written part of the BJCP exam twice in two weeks. Since I am sure that my ranking comrades have already told you the stories of the Dixie Cup (the good, the bad, the staggering), I figure that I will take a minute of your time to talk a bit about the judging process...from Amature to Grand Master BJCP (well...sortof).

The first and most important thing that I want to mention is that it is only beer. Yea, some of us take this beverage very seriously, but it is still just a drink. Another important thing to note is that everybody's palates are different; so if you are picking up a "dry paper" taste when your judging partner is saying that is has a "sherry" taste...you can both be right. Both effects can be the result of introducing Oxygen into the process after the initial fermentation has taken place (BOM Topic in August). You don't have to know the reason behind the aroma or flavor you are experiencing, but instead all you have to do is describe what it is that you see, smell, and taste. With this information, the brewer can deduce what the underlying cause of the defect was for themselves.

Are you listening to this? What more can a person who appreciates beer ask for? You show up at the contest and say, "I like beer!" The

person behind the desk asks what kind of beer you like to drink, so you tell him. He pairs you with another judge. You drink beer, and describe what you see, smell, and taste on a score sheet. You get to drink free beer while providing valuable feedback to the brewer. Everybody wins!

Sounds great, eh? OK...well here is where the BJCP comes in. This is an organization that takes beer to a whole new level. So, here is the story of how you get mixed up into the world of true beer aficionado's (Cue the music)... You enjoy and appreciate beer, so you show up at a contest and drink beer. The more you drink and judge beer, the more you concentrate on your palate...eventually you think that you've got it tuned. You can drink beer, and talk trash with the best of those BJCP bozos. What the heck...you're feeling sassy and can handle anything. "I'll take that test"...it can't be so

hard"...it's just beer!" You put down your deposit and show up to take the test. The BJCP authority in charge of administering the tests wishes you a sincere "good luck" as he/she drops ten questions of sheer terror in front of you! Your pulse quickens and there is an immediate need for beer. Your mind clouds, but you know this stuff. "Describe the BJCP...why do you boil...formulate a recipe..." "Oh Sweet Baby Jesus what have I gotten myself into?" you say to yourself as you struggle for a commercial example of a (insert obscure beer style here). It's an extremely difficult test to master, and anyone that does well needs to know their beer backwards and forwards. Even if you don't score a 60, you get registered, and are considered an "Apprentice" level. This means that you can practice judging for as long as you want and accumulate judging points while you prepare to conquer the exam another day. If you don't take the test at all, your

judging points are only retroactive two years. I don't want to get into too many details here, but you can find information at www.BJCP.org if you are interested.

So, this month is the smorgäsbeerd. This is a fine meeting, and a bit of a blowout since it is the last KGB-only meeting of the year. The theme this year is alcoholic, so a designated driver is highly recommended. We will get to enjoy a keg of HBC Don's Buffalo Chip Imperial Stout (I am REALLY looking forward to this), and there appears to be one vicious BOM coming together. I'll give more details soon, but we're going to have to buy a bunch of raffle tickets to be able to charge \$4 for this one! Support your CB by generously supporting your RC!

See you soon! Prost!

CB Jonathan





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OVERHEARD IN THE WAR ROOM

BY SCOTT TEETER (MINISTEROFWAR@THEKGB.ORG)

Now that the weather has cooled off it seems like the perfect time to start brewing some great beer for next year's competitions. There are several events in the beginning of next year, and it is never too early to get your entries ready. The competition deadlines have a way of sneaking up on you.

Congrats to the KGB for a great turn out at the 22nd Annual Dixie Cup this year. The 8:30 a.m. Barley Wine tasting was exceptional. The technical presentations were insightful (even for 9 a.m.), and the guys from The Great Divide, and Dogfish Head were funny and inspi-



Czar Ed and HB Czar Don teach KGB members what drinking in moderation means to a homebrewer.

ration. The KGB brought home some impressive hardware including the back-to-back Best of Show win by comrade John Donaldson (with brew partner John Gonzales) for their Peach Fruit Lambic.

- ✦ 1st Place - California Common Beer - John Donaldson, Tim White, Mark Gerding, and David Studer
- ✦ 1st Place - Fruit Lambic - John Donaldson and John Gonzales
- ✦ 1st Place - English Barleywine - Dean Doba
- ✦ 1st Place - Fruit Beer - Donald Sajda
- ✦ 2nd Place - ESB/English Pale Ale - Dean Doba
- ✦ 2nd Place - Strong Scotch Ale - Wes Powell
- 3rd Place - American Barleywine - Wes Powell

Former comrade Simon Spiller took a 3rd Place in the California Common Beer. Visit

www.foamrangers.com for all the award information. Hope to see everyone there next year.

November 6th is AHA's teach a friend to brew day! Find a friend and teach them to brew! You might even get lucky and make them do most of the clean up!



Comrade/Waz Ed getting exited about Dixie Cup.

The 5th annual Big Beers, Belgians & Barleywines Festival in Vail, Co will be January 6 & 7, 2006. Entries are due by 12/31/2005. This competition is limited to specific BJCP categories including (but not limited to) Belgians, Strong Ales and Barleywines. Check out www.BigBeersFestival.com for more details. What a great way to start off the New Year!

tional "Olympics" of commercial beer is only held every two years and awards gold, silver and bronze medals in 81 categories. In 2004 they had 1,566 beer entries from 393 breweries representing 40 countries.



Mark your calendars now for the Bluebonnet. It will be March 17 & 18, 2006. Visit www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com for more details.



Just sitting around after a few early morning Barleywines.

The World Beer Cup 2006 will be in Seattle, Washington April 11-14. This interna-

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2005 KGB MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Description	Beer Region of the Month	Discussion/Beer Flavor of the Month	KOM
Sat. Nov. 12th @ 7PM	Don Sajda 25106 Bovington Dr.	Smorgasbeerd & Label Contest	Baltic Regions / Anywhere with strong beer	Alcoholic	HBC Don - Buffalo Chip Imperial Stout
Dec. TBA	St Arnolds Brewery 2522 Fairway Park Dr.	Houston Area Homebrewers Christmas Party	N/A	N/A	N/A

WHAT BJCP SAYS ABOUT ALCOHOL

What the BJCP has to say about Alcoholic beers:

Alcoholic

This flavor may be detected as a spicy, vinous character in the aroma and taste and is often accompanied by a warm or prickly mouthfeel. The simplest and most prevalent

alcohol in beer is ethanol, which is produced by the fermentation of glucose and other reducing sugars. Higher, or fusel, alcohols are usually present at sub-threshold concentrations, but elevated levels are associated with under pitching, low levels of dissolved oxygen prior to

pitching or low levels of free available nitrogen (FAN). These deficiencies force the yeast to metabolize fatty acids in the trub as a source of oxygen and carbon, producing a greater fraction of long chain alcohols. High gravity worts and high fermentation temperatures

also tend to increase the concentration of these higher alcohols through increased yeast activity. Alcoholic characteristics are desired in strong ales and lagers as long as they are not coupled with the solvent notes associated with elevated ester or fusel alcohol levels.



Czar and Czarina enjoy a few beers at BJ's.



Two time Best Of Show (BOS) Comrade John Donaldson shows off the equipment that he used to make his award winning beers.



MOT Jamie remembers what it was like to brew and can't wait to climb ladders in the brewing process.



Just sitting around after a few early morning Barleywines.



MOW Scott and former Comrade Simon sit and enjoy a cold one in the middle of the day.

Visit the KGB website at:
www.thekgb.org

THE KUYKENDAHL GRAN BREWERS
c/o 16460 Kuykendahl #140
Houston, TX 77068



Fine Print

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Newsletter Staff:

Jamie Knapick

Contributors:

Ed Condon, Peter Rosales, Scott Teeter, Tim White, Jonathan Goudy, John Donaldson

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Correspondence and inquiries can be sent to the KGB, c/o The Brew Stop, 16460 Kuykendahl Ste. 140, Houston, TX 77068. Telephone inquiries should be made to The Brew Stop at 281.397.9411, or the Czar at 281.259.9528 (H), or the editor at 281.744.3438.

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