



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)

Hope everyone enjoyed all the festivities over the last few weeks. The Home Brewers Christmas party at St. Arnold Brewery was a great success. We all need to thank Brock and everyone at St. Arnold for providing such a nice setting for the party. As always a good way of thanking them would be to go out and buy some St. Arnold beer. Right now the Winter Stout would be my suggestion. Great food and great beer was had by one and all at the Christmas Party. St. Arnold beer inside and a huge variety of home brew and commercial beers (including some Devine Reserve #1) in the parking lot. It would be very interesting to



The officer transition meeting included Minister of War Bryan Pickett, Czarina Merry Condon, MOT Jamie Knapick, General Secretary Peter Rosales, former Czar and podcast guru Brian Ellis, RC Tim, MOP Andy Dyer, Commisar Brewski Robb Wahlstrom, Jonathan Goudy, Czar Ed Condon and Scott Teeter.

know just how many different beers were served that day. I for one seemed to have lost

count about mid afternoon. We collected \$177, and mass
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Spud Fest



Sunday,
January 15th
@ 12:00 PM

The Brew Stop
16460 Kuykendahl
Rd. Ste. 140
See map at
www.thekgb.org

RUBLE COLLECTOR'S REPORT

BY TIM WHITE (RUBLECOLLECTOR@THEKGB.ORG)

The newly elected 2006 and outgoing 2005 officers of the KGB met in December to discuss the past year, the traditions, the regular meetings, and some not-so-standard meetings as well as officer responsibilities. Your Ruble Collector (RC) reported on the financial solvency of the club (improved for the second consecutive year) and when the balance was reported as being in the black, the RC was a very popular guy... The iron fist of this RC will continue for one more year; however, I am serving notice now, the RC will

not be seeking reelection in 2007, three years is enough.

My goal for the year is to continue to streamline the functions of the RC in doing the financial tracking of the KGB as well as learn to utilize the membership features on the KGB website. I've struggled over the past several months with the "new look" of the website; but, I continue to improve and with that I'll be sure

(Continued on page 3)



Recognize any brewers??? Just another day of brewin' for the Czar, RC, and CB.

EDICTS FROM THE CZAR

(Continued from page 1)

quantities of food and toys for the Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM). I delivered it all to NAM and felt very good seeing the gratitude they expressed. I think they were a little surprised when I told them it was from home brewers and their brew clubs. I want to express my gratitude to all the brew club members and the independent brewers who were at the party and donated so generously.

One other order of business that took place at the party was the change of officers. Not a lot of change this year at the KGB but it is now official, Robb Wahlstrom is the new Commissar Brewski. CB Robb has some great ideas for the BOM. He knows and appreciates some of the finest beers known to be brewed and I am sure we will all be pleased with the BOM's this coming year. The other change of officers this year was an appointed position of Minister of War. I am pleased to announce that Comrade

Bryan Pickett has accepted the position and will carry the title of MOW in 2006. MOW Bryan will lead us into the battles of the home brew competitions around the USA and coordinate the various competitions at the KGB meetings throughout the year.

Do you all realize the 2006 Big Batch Brew Bash is only six months away? This year the style is Imperial IPA. That is by chance the same style as our KGB Double Agent competition this year. These beers will be judged sometime in May hopefully before the SteakOut meeting. MOW Bryan will have further details and signup sheets at the Spudfest meeting on

Membership Benefits

- **NEW - Tomball Welding** - Show your KGB ID and exchanging your CO2 tanks for a price of \$7.00 for a 5 lb. bottle. (tax included) Located on Hwy 249 across from Hughes Propane.
- **Hughes Propane** - Show your KGB ID and pay per gallon price not per tank. At this time 20 pound tank costs \$11 per gallon that is about \$9.00 at the per gallon rate. (Hughes Propane in Decker Prairie only)
Joe Blows - Show your KGB ID and get case prices for import and micro brewed beer.
- **BJ's at Willowbrook** - Show your KGB ID and get Happy Hour Prices on all of BJ's Brewhouse beers any time of the day or night.
- **The Brew Stop** - Brew 10 gallons of beer leave 5 at the Brew Stop take 5 gallons home. You bring the propane Ken will supply the equipment and ingredients (except for your carboy).

NOTE: To receive a membership card, see RC Tim at any meeting.

January 15th at noon at the Brew Stop. I have already brewed a couple of test batches, one is not first place quality and the other is still in the primary. Can't have enough Imperial IPA's around for me so am surely going to look for a partner for the Double Agent to get another

one brewed. The 3rd annual Super Bowl Brewln (SBB13) may be a good time to brew that one. SBB13 will be held the Saturday before the Super Bowl. Details for this event will also be presented at the Spudfest. RC Tim has some special things planned for the brewers so try to attend.



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Otter malt**

Once again I am approaching the press deadline for my article so have to hurry and get this sent to MOT Jamie. I am truly looking forward to some new and exciting things with the KGB in 2006. As always I want to encourage experienced brewers to offer their assistance to the new brewers of the KGB. On the other hand to you new brewers don't be afraid to ask for help with your brewing, there is always someone around that would be more than happy to brew with you. Bottom line is that it is all about beer and the more we brew the more we can enjoy the fine results.
Cheers!



RUBLE COLLECTOR'S REPORT

(Continued from page 1)

to get the membership records as accurate as possible.

Basic Brewing Radio (www.basicbrewing.com) recently interviewed Comrade Brian Ellis and published the interview on the internet. The interview was a "talk radio" format and intended for download onto a portable MP-3 player or i-Pod. This podcast was specifically focused on homebrew clubs and of course, Comrade Brian spoke about the KGB, the club's origin, his leadership in the club as well as some of his successes in brewing competitions. Be sure to check out the website and listen to Comrade Brian's interview as well as the other

programs the host, James Spencer, has compiled. When you get a chance, other podcast websites recommended for the home brewer are:

- Basic Brewing Radio – www.basicbrewing.com/radio/
- Craft Beer Radio – www.craftbeerradio.com
- Beer Cast Brew – www.beercastbrew.com
- Big Foamy Head – www.bigfoamyhead.com
- Pacific Brew News – www.pacificbrewnews.com

Oh, and the financial picture of the club is bright. A report will be issued at the end of January showing our expenses for 2005 as well as the comparison against 2004. Bottom line... we're spending our rubles to the benefit and enjoyment of the Comrades of the KGB.

A closing reminder... as a Comrade in good standing of the KGB, you are entitled to



Instantly the hydrometer shot out and knocked out one of HCB Don's eyes. Tasha and HBC Don are considering suing the hydrometer manufacturer. Damn those devices should be rated for at least 1.250 OG.

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!



The brewing team of Tasha and HBC Don have finally crossed the fine line of genius or insanity. The price was rather high as you can see that the hydrometer was placed in an estimated 1.200 OG wort.



Visit us on the internet
<http://www.saintarnold.com/saintarno>



Ask for us at your favorite Houston pub, restaurant, grocery, or liquor store.

Amber Ale
Kristall Weizen
Brown Ale

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NOTES FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

BY PETER ROSALES (GENERALSECRETARY@THEKGB.ORG)

How to make a Mash Rake (Cheap)

One of the simple pleasures a person can derive, in addition to the great beer, from home brewing is crafting useful tools for use in the brewing process. One easy and useful tool to make is a Mash Rake. Sure, a long handled plastic or stainless steel spoon will work but the "I made this" factor adds a dimension not

encountered from a trip to the LHBS or restaurant supply store.

Here is how I converted a couple of pieces of dowels and scrap wood into a Mash Rake. Any location that sells hardwood dowels can provide almost all of the needed parts to build the rake. Lumber Stores, Home Improvements Stores, and even Wal-Mart are sources. I purchased my dowels during an excursion to Wal-Mart. I picked up two 3/4

by 36 inch and one 3/8 by 36 inch dowels for under \$4.00.

Tools needed:

- Saw
- Drill (Drill Press works best)
- 3/8 inch Drill Bit
- 3/4 inch Drill Bit
- Measuring Tape
- Piece of 1 X 2 scrap for the handle
- Wood Glue
- Clamps

The design is fairly simple, cut two 8 inch pieces off of one of the 3/4 inch

dowels. Cut three pieces each 4 inch long from the 3/8 inch dowel.

Drill 3/8 inch holes

completely through the remaining (uncut) 3/4 inch dowel. One hole 3 inches from the end, the next at 5 inches and the final one at 7 inches.

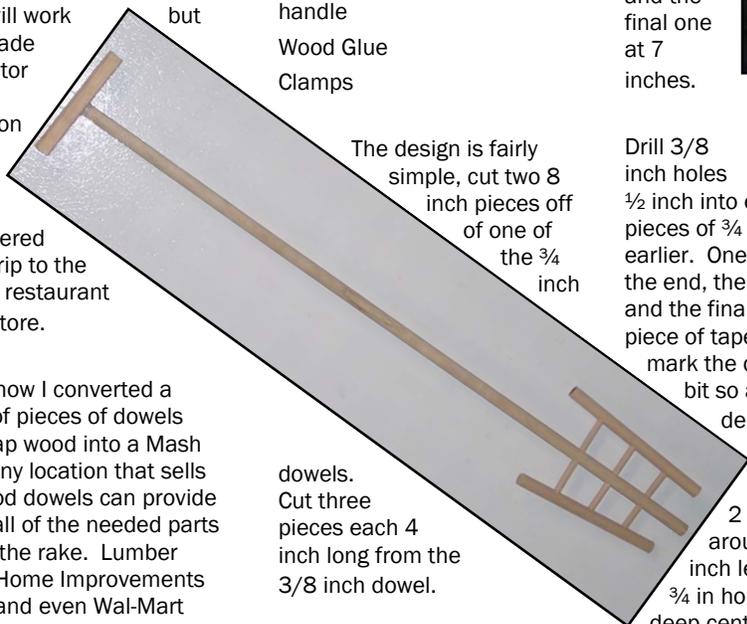
Drill 3/8 inch holes 1/2 inch into each of the 8 inch pieces of 3/4 inch dowel cut earlier. One hole 2 inches from the end, the next at 4 inches and the final one at 6 inches. A piece of tape can be used to mark the depth on the drill bit so as not to go in too deep.

I had a piece of 1 X 2 pine scrap laying around so I cut a 6 inch length and drilled a 3/4 in hole about a 1/2 inch deep centered from each of the ends to form the handle.



Robb and Andy taken at a rare moment when they weren't dropping their sample glasses...

Assembling the rake is a matter of putting the cut and drilled pieces together to form something that looks similar to the photo. A small dab of wood glue in the holes drilled into the shorter 3/4 inch stock pieces and the handle will secure everything nicely, use clamps to hold while glue sets. MOT Jaime will have one of these shortly. Enjoy and Happy Brewing!



Ad Rates

| Ad Size | No. Of Issues | Rate |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| 1/4 page | 1 issue | \$ 15 |
| 1/4 page | 3 issues | \$ 40 |
| 1/4 page | 12 issues | \$ 120 |
| 1/2 page | 1 issue | \$ 25 |
| 1/2 page | 3 issues | \$ 65 |
| 1/2 page | 12 issues | \$ 190 |

Please contact the editor to place an ad, or for more information. Ad fees must be pre-paid. All ads include a complimentary newsletter during the subscription period. We reserve the right of

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BEER OF THE MONTH

BY ROBB WAHLSTROM (COMMISSARBREWSKI@THEKGB.ORG)

Greetings Comrades! It was great to see those of you that were able to make it to the St. Arnold's Christmas party. There were lots of great people and great beer to be found. First of all, let me say that I feel very honored to have been elected the KGB's Commissar Brewski for 2006. Although I feel excited to take on this task, I am also nervous following HBCB Jonathan's great presentations last year.

After much thought and contemplation (plus a few beers) with HBCB Jon, I have

decided to change things up a little and will be covering regions of the world for this year's BOMs. Since there are so many wonderful breweries around the world, I think this will be a nice change. My goal is to let new members, as well as older KGB comrades, try some unique beers from different regions of the world.

Since the United States is so large, I will split it up into two halves- the Western US and Eastern US. The West US region will include North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and all

states west of those states. Everything east of the aforementioned states will be included in the East US region BOM. January's BOM will focus on the Western United States. Beers from Stone Brewing Co., Avery, Rogue, North Coast, Sierra Nevada, and, of course, St. Arnold's will be included in January's BOM.

One thing I will keep going for the BOMs is a palate cleanser for our Czar Hop-Ed. Just one over-the-top hoppy beer will be featured to refresh your palate (or maybe ruin it). If you are planning on

traveling this year and would like to pick up some gems for future BOMs, please let me know where you are traveling to so we can arrange to get some beers which are not available for sale here. Another helpful hint for travelers is to check out Beer Advocate or Beer Fly before you go. I have found this very useful when I am traveling and looking for great beer. Well, that about covers it for now. I hope to see you all at the January meeting. Till then cheers and happy 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

Name: _____ Significant Other: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Birth Month: _____

OVERHEARD IN THE WAR ROOM

BY BRIAN PICKETT (MINISTEROFWAR@THEKGB.ORG)

As a new officer with the KGB, I will be upholding the finest values and morals of my predecessors... No, that does not mean that I will be putting off my job until next month! Seriously, to better serve my position I must analyze exactly what "Minister of War" means. After prolonged

bers know any competition information that may be of interest. Your beer will never have the chance to prevail if it is not entered into the right competition, the right way, by the right date. In steps the "Minister of War"...

This past week, I had the opportunity to walk through the Two



With a wad of rubles in the coffers, the RC was very popular with the comrades... shown here with MOT Jamie Knapick, Czarina Merry Condon and Comrade Jennifer Wahlstrom

consideration (and a few beers), I have defined war as: The conflict between entities to the point where one must prevail. So how does that pertain to my position? I have a duty to make sure all mem-

bers know any competition information that may be of interest. Your beer will never have the chance to prevail if it is not entered into the right competition, the right way, by the right date. In steps the "Minister of War"...



This is the end, beautiful friend. This is the end, my only friend, the end.....

ested in giving tours to any of our members who are interested and can be contacted at: dosrows@yahoo.com. The brewery and processes set up at Two Rows is focused on quality and excellence. The staff is very friendly and helpful and overall, I had a great time. If you get a chance, stop by there and see Kevin behind the bar for an excellent beer in a great atmosphere.

We will be introducing a new competition during the monthly meetings. I don't want to give too much away, since we will be introducing it during the January meeting. But, has anyone seen Iron Chef? How about Iron Brewer? It should be a blast! I am really excited about it and hope to see everyone at the next meeting!



Competition/Event:

Date of Event/Entry Deadlines:

Webpage or E-mail:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Peterson Brew Fest | 1-20-06 / 1-13-06 | curtis.clayton@peterson.af.mil |
| 2 nd Annual Homebrew Invite | 1-21-06 / 1-15-06 | www.firestonebeer.com |
| Meadlennium 2006 | 1-20-06 / 1-27-06 | bachian@juno.com |
| Anchorage Fur Rondy | 2-03-06 / 2-04-06 | keegan@gci.net |
| Boston Homebrew Comp. | 2-03-06 / 2-18-06 | bhc.wort.org |
| Best Florida Beer Comp. | 2-06-06 / 2-11-06 | www.dunedinbrewersguild.com |
| Kansas City Beirmeisters | 2-04-06 / 2-17-06 | www.kcbeirmeisters.org |
| War of the Worts | 2-11-06 / 2-18-06 | www.keystonehops.org |
| Transatlantic Showdown | 2-11-06 / 2-19-06 | www.hrbts.org/showdown2006.htm |
| Babble Brew-off | 2-18-06 / 2-25-06 | www.babblehomebrewers.com |
| World Cup of Beer | 2-25-06 / 3-11-06 | www.bayareamashers.org |
| Bluebonnet Brew-Off | 2-24-06 / 3-18-06 | www.bluebonnetbrewoff.com |

2005 KGB MEETING SCHEDULE

| Date | Location | Descption | Beer Region of the Month | KOM |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| Sun., January 15th @ Noon | The Brew Stop 16460 Kuykendahl Rd., Suite 140 | Spud Fest | West Cost USA | HBCB Jonathan—Masochator |
| Sat. Feb. 11th @ 3PM | Brian Ellis 18126 Delta Estates Ct. | Fish Fry | British Isles | Andrew Elliot—English Pale Ale |
| Sat. March 11th @ TBA | CB Robb Wahlstrom 17503 Pine Brook Trl. | Chili Cook Off | TBA | Czar Ed—Porter |
| Sat. April 15th @ 7PM | Carl Scott 6910 White Tail Dr. | Crawfish Boil | TBA | TBA |
| Sat., May 20th @ 3PM | TBA | 5th Annual KGB Steak-Out (All Houston area homebrew club members invited) | TBA | TBA |
| Sun., June 4th @ 12:00 Noon | St Arnolds Brewery 2522 Fairway Park | BBBB | N/A | N/A |
| Sun., July 16th @ Noon | The Brew Stop 16460 Kuykendahl Rd., Suite 140 | Brew-In and Pot-Luck Lunch | TBA | TBA |
| Sat., August 12th @ 7PM | TBA | Mexican Fiesta & Salsa Contest | TBA | TBA |
| September TBA | Scott Teeter | BBO IV | N/A | Who needs kegs when we have 70+ Belgian beers??? |
| Sat., Sept. 16th @ 7PM | TBA | Pizza Party | TBA | TBA |
| Sat. Nov. 11th @ 7PM | Don Sajda 25106 Bovington Dr. | Smorgasbeerd & Label Contest | TBA | TBA |
| Dec. TBA | St Arnolds Brewery 2522 Fairway Park Dr. | Houston Area Homebrewers Christmas Party | N/A | N/A |

CB Robb is working hard to fill spots for the KOM to correspond with the regions he has chosen. More information to follow.

Visit the KGB website at:
www.thekgb.org

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



Fine Print

Club Officers:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Czar | Ed Condon |
| General Secretary | Peter Rosales |
| Ruble Collector | Tim White |
| Commissar Brewski | Robb Wahlstrom |
| Minister of Propaganda | Andy Dyer |
| Minister of War | Bryan Pickett |
| Ministress of Tabloid | Jamie Knapick |

Newsletter Staff:

Jamie Knapick

Contributors:

Ed Condon, Peter Rosales, Bryan Pickett, Tim White, Robb Wahlstrom, 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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