



The Official Newsletter
of the
Kuykendahl Gran Brewers
Homebrew Club

Volume 17 — Issue 10
October 2011

Belgian Blowout



October 8, 5pm
Mark Rogerson's
17706 Garnercrest Dr.
Houston, TX 77095

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Edicts From The Czar

Herb Baker — Czar@TheKGB.org

Creetings, comrades. Finally, it's October! The time of year where there are more beer events than you can shake a stick at. We got our own Belgian Blowout™, Dixie Cup, various Oktoberfests at Saint Arnold, Southern Star, and The Woodlands, Greek Festival, County fairs, my wife's birthday, and many others.

Speaking of the Belgian Blowout™, it's coming up on October 8. Don't know if you will be reading this before or after the BBO, but we have or had a lot of Belgian beers, many of them you cannot get here in the USA.

The Dixie Cup is right around the corner. Judging is going on now and will continue until the event itself, which is October 21st and 22nd. They could use your assistance so pick a time and help out. Also, don't forget the barleywine breakfast at the Dixie Cup on Saturday morning, the 22nd. The Czar has many hard to find barleywines that will be consumed that morning, so don't miss it.

Also, Comrade Don has arranged a private tour of the new Karbach Brewery just for the KGB. Tour will be on Sunday, December 11, from 1pm to 3pm. Tour will be limited to 25 to 30 people, cost would be \$5 per person. What a deal! Four beers for \$5! Since Karbach is a sponsor for the Houston Food Bank, we are asking all attending members to bring a canned good item to donate. More details to come, so mark your calendars.

Don't forget the Homebrewer's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4 at the Oddfel-

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Ruble Collector's Report

Phillip Kaufman — RubleCollector@TheKGB.org

Comrades! Elections are approaching. No. Not for President of The United States. For Czar and other important posts. Elections are held in November and if you do NOT attend you may be drafted, comrades. It has been known to happen. We need a few good men and women to continue The KGB tradition. Position open, is the Czar (really, this is the easiest position, sort of like the President of The United States. Delegate). OK, bad example. A better example is being Herb Baker. Show up. Drink beer. And delegate. The most important function is the Big Batch Brew Batch competition and getting raffle items for your's truly to rraaaffllle. This money goes back into the club and allows us to keep the membership fee a low \$20 per year per member. And to charge only \$5 per meeting. Cheap. Very cheap.

On a personal note: Rhonda and I are off to Germany for a week stating October 31. Yes I will be working but Rhonda will be have vacation time. Be sure that no rubles will be spent on this trip. Germany only takes Euros. Plan to have some stories as we return safely.

Had a great TURNOUT AT Ray's Brew It Yourself. Beautiful weather. And AC. Plenty of beer. And lots of pizza. Thanks to Joanie for ordering. And yes we had plenty of beer and pizza. And if you showed up, it cost only \$5 bucks a person. Speak of deals?

Dixie Cup: They need help. No experience necessary. OK Rhonda and I won't be there because we are off on a bike ride to Arkansas with a group. For God's sake, if you have never been to the Dixie Cup, please go. I have been for the last 10 to 15 years. Can't remember exact-

(Continued on page 2)

Membership Update

Newals

Matthew Hommel

Craig Gentry

Mike Barber

Daniel Trujillo

Renewals

Sofia Martinez

Robert Chan

Joe and Lori Perjak

Robert Andrews

Donna Browning

Edicts From The Czar

(Continued from page 1)

low's Lodge in the Heights. We have the place from noon to 5pm. This is where your Czar, that's me, turns over the real power of the KGB to the new Czar. You don't want to miss this, especially with all the Holiday beers that will be there.

ELECTIONS are coming up, so get ready to elect a new Czar, yeah!! Also, we will have openings for Commissar Brewski, General Secretary, and RC, even though the result is a foregone conclusion. RC for Life Phil! All this will be done at soon to be has been CB Don Sajda's house for the November meeting. The Puppet Master will rule!

Well, that's all for now.

Cheers.

Czar Herb



Ruble Collector's Report

(Continued from page 1)

ly the number of years I have attended. But go, and have fun. And attend the most important awards ceremonies.

Now go out there, brew some beer, and come to a meeting. And bring a friend.

Comrades-my glass is empty and time for bed. Stay cool and pray for rain.

Ruble Collector Phillip- For Life!



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This was a trip I had wanted to do for a long time now and it was worth every moment. It took me 37 days, a total distance of about 7,500 miles and went through 15 states. It's an experience that just by reading books and magazines cannot come close to it. There is so much more that America has to offer, well at least for me, because I have not travelled to those areas until now. I must say, there are a lot of other places to live and a better quality of life, if only there were jobs that we could live on...



So, let me start with the places I visited. The 15 states started with, of course, Texas, then New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas. I spent more time in Colorado because of its colorful landscape and farming/fruit orchards. Oregon, Washington, Idaho panhandle and Montana have breathtaking pine forest with rolling hills and mountains. Missouri and Arkansas were great for my fishing adventure and having the mountains as my picturesque backdrop with the morning fog on the cool white river was breathtaking. I lucked out on the weather as there was no rain until the last couple of states and even then it was not as hot and humid as Houston is.

Along the way I also visited a couple of hop, vineyard and fruit orchard farms. I actually stayed on a couple of hop farms and volunteered my hands on mechanical and farming skills. The first one was Rising Sun Farms out in Paonia, Colorado. The owner is Mr. Glen Fuller and he has a small to medium size acreage of organic hops. I spent about a week there and by the time I left, he was harvesting his crops and helping other farms processing their hops because he has the hop processing machine.

Another farm that I also assisted is the Rocky Mountain Hops, out in Palisade, Colorado. This is also another organic hop farm but they were harvesting their crops manually. They had some of the largest Chinooks hop cones I have seen so far measuring about 3" fresh from the bines. There are also other farms around that area like the Hippie Chicks where they were also harvesting around the time I left Colorado. Most of the farms in Colorado are about 3 – 4 years old and some are even younger. This is definitely a growing industry especially with certifying it organic. While I was around the area, I saw lots of peach orchards. The peaches were very good, as I took a bite, the juices just drip off my chin, just like drinking peach juice.

Anyway, as I was on the roll to find out more into hops farms, I decided to head to the Pacific Northwest, an area that has been producing hops commercially for generations. One of the commercial farms that are doing pretty well is Jackson Hop Farm around Wilder, Idaho. If I remember correctly, he

has about 700 acres and growing. As I drove to the processing plant, there were fields after fields of hops of different varieties. The processing plant is huge with 2 main buildings, one for stripping the hops off the bines and another one for drying and packaging. Another commercial hop plantation is Crosby Hops Farm which is in Woodburn, Oregon. This farm has been running for about 5 generations and they sell directly to hop brokers and to craft breweries.

Another large commercial hop growing area is the famous Yakima Valley. I was also able to visit Hops Direct in Mabton, Washington. I got a private tour, just at the right time when they were busily harvesting. While I was there one of the machine parts broke down and they were trying to repair it. I noticed that it is very important for the operation to be continuous. This is really a speedy harvest and time waits for no man. I was told that because of the large acreage, such harvest will last for several weeks running 24 hours a day. There are other large scale hop growers out there but it was time for me to continue on with my adventure. And of course, I could not miss the famous Washington Apples, where many of the orchards were also harvesting. Just plucking a couple from the trees is definitely making it worth being there. They were juicy and crunchy; nothing compared to that what you get from the grocery store around here.

All right, enough about farms and orchards. Let's get down to breweries. There are some awesome breweries out



there and it would take me forever to name all those where I have been. However, sometimes it is just not about the beer at the brewery but the whole experience. In Paonia, there's a brewery called Revolution which is a slightly smaller version of Petrol Station. They have a back yard and a front porch, where most of the clients are like a family. Also, they make affordable craft beers at \$3.00 a pint on the weekends. Another brewery was Whitstrand brewery in Washington (Yakima Valley) where I met the GM for Rogue brewery. While I was there, there was an interesting talk about wet hops brewing

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Comrades! Your Puppet Master CB has formulated an invasion plan on the new Karbach Brewery. Mark your calendar for Sunday December 11, from 1-3. The KGB will invade the brewery drink all their beer, ravage their women and will enjoy a bounty of food. The brewery will be ours and we shall annex it!

I've arranged a private tour just for KGB members. Most likely we will need to limit it to 30 members. There will be a small cost involved (most likely \$5 RC plus 1 canned food item for the Houston food Bank, now who has the power?). For this you will get an upgraded Karbach brewery pint glass (very nice glass), plenty of beer and food.

More details will come out soon.

Puppet Master CB Don



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with the head brewer. There's a trick or a process depending on the hops condition and on how to use them, there are methods to tone down those grassy or green apple characteristics. Anyway, before I leave the brewery talk, I just wanted to say that the visit to Goose Island Brewery is always a pleasure, and while I was there, the Seibel Institute was running a class with Ray Daniels as the instructor. Of course, I had to say hello to him and he remembers the homebrewers down in Houston from the last Dixie Cup.

I have to say that if you enjoy the outdoors, this trip is definitely for you. One of my favorite sports/hobby is fishing but I have always done casting, not fly. Since lots of streams and rivers here offer good fishing on fly, I thought what a better opportunity to get my hands on some fly fishing. Well, it was not as simple as I thought it would be, there are lots to learn. My first try was on the white river just after the beaver dam in Arkansas catching rainbow trout. After seeing most anglers catching fish, I knew I was doing something wrong. So, after chatting with some friendly and helpful anglers, I finally caught one myself and that was my dinner. It is not just fishing but there are lots of other outdoor activities to do. Oh, and before I forget, Yellowstone National Park is not to be missed. I got to see a bison close up, and I mean close... it was almost 15 feet away from me! It probably weights about 2,000 lbs... and I was also about 30 feet away from an adult elk showing off his antlers.

Now in Houston, I am still dealing with the heat and I hope by the time you read this, the weather will be more pleasant for brewing and outdoors activities. Also, this will be my first time trying the Belgian Blowout™, so I'll let you know how the outcome is in the next newsletter. Dixie Cup will also be in October, and if you want to help out with stewarding or judging, you get to taste some awesome (and some not so awesome) beers. In addition, while I was on the road, the bourbon barrel filled with imperial stout started leaking again. Thanks to Ray (Brew-It-Yourself) for letting us know about the leak, the contents were quickly drained out by Don and Jonathan.

We will still need to age and condition this beer but I think it will be an awesome beer in years to come... if we can resist from drinking it for now.

As I travelled to places I often mention our club and there's always a good response being a homebrewer. I even brought some of my homebrew to give out to breweries and pubs. If you happen to be in Hot Springs, Arkansas at a German pub called Brau Haus, mention that you are from Houston and my name. The bartender is Bert; you might get a free pilsner! Ok, my English Barleywine is getting too warm and it's at its last ounce. So, go try some beers out there on your own, and you might just have more, or not...

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KGB Calendar

(Updated 7-Oct-2011)

Event	Date <small>(Article due date)</small>	Location	Style or Region of the Month	KOM
Belgian Blowout™	Sat Oct 8 5PM	Mark Rogerson 17706 Garnercrest Dr	Belgiany Goodness	Dare to dream!
Dixie Cup (No October Meeting)	Oct 21-22	See dixiecup.crunchyfrog.net		
November Meeting Smörgåsbeerd	Sat Nov 12 5PM (Oct 28)	Don Sajda 25106 Bovington Dr.	Bigguns	
Samichlaus Day	Tue Dec 6	Don Sajda 25106 Bovington Dr.	Samichlaus (duh)	
Homebrewer's Christmas Party	Sun Dec 4 (Nov 18)	St Arnold Brewery 2000 Lyons Ave		

Next month we will delve
Into twenty-twelve
Till then, shut up all your cryin'.

Go make some homebrew
And drink a few, too.
Be glad our calendar's not Mayan.

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Enlist!

in the

KGB

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Correspondence and inquiries can be sent to the KGB via email to the Czar at Czar@TheKGB.org, or the newsletter editor at MinisterOfPropaganda@TheKGB.org.

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