



# RED EARTH BREWERS

## BREW NEWS YOU CAN USE

SINCE 2010

JANUARY 2024



RE  
RED EARTH  
Brewers

Merry Christmas!

2023  
BREW OF THE YEAR  
Chad Mefford

2023  
MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
Full of Naughtiness Award



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## JANUARY 2024

### Happy Hour:



*ANTHEM BREWING CO.*

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024

6:30-9PM

### Monthly Meeting:



*Roughtail Brewing*

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024

(No Commercial Beers)

7-9:00 PM

## **NEW NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

*Meetings To Stay On 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's; \$5 Membership Discount  
Welcome High Plains Draughters*

Food, fellowship and fun were all on the agenda at the 2023 REB Annual Christmas Party and December Monthly Meeting and what a resounding success it was!

Special thanks again to the Events Committee, headed by Andrea Potter. Chris Hurt and Nigel Dunham for smoking the brisket and pork and our very special guest Amber Hinkle, Executive Director for the Oklahoma Craft Beer Association, for giving us some unique insights into the state of craft brewing in Oklahoma.

As well as the fun, we had to mix in a little business. A ballot vote was held to propose moving the monthly meeting days to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month or keep it where it is currently. That vote tallied up 33-23 to keep the meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. So, no change to meeting days.

It was also announced that an annual membership discount will be given beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you sign up or renew during this two-week timeframe you can save \$5 on your annual dues making it only \$30 during this discount period.

You may also be interested to know; we have welcomed 15 legacy members of the High Plains Draughters (HPD) into our ranks. This former homebrewing club was active in the metro through 2016 but have recently disbanded and the REB Board struck a deal to assume the assets of HPD in exchange for memberships for the 15 HPD members.

Welcome all; and Happy New Year!



## Hot Off The Prez

Hello Red Earthers!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
What a remarkable year it has been!

With 2023 behind us, it's time to lace up our boots and make 2024 an even BETTER year!

As you all know, we've had some wonderful initiatives that were started in 2023 and I am keenly looking forward to seeing how we continue to take these plans and put them firmly into place.

Our new standing committees have hit the ground running with the Events Committee pulling off what I think was the BEST Christmas Party we have ever had. Much thanks for their hard work and dedication.

The Education Committee is hard at work as well; lining up new BJCP classes and community events to start spreading the word throughout our local community as well as through the competition circuit by getting new judges the training they need to succeed.

These BJCP judges are vital for us to grow our comp. Plus, they gain valuable experience and insight in being able to help other homebrew clubs throughout the country with their comps.

Competition Coordinator, Sean McCanne, is also doing a bang-up job with his committee as they prepare several internal and external competitions for the club; namely REB's 2024

Spring Brew-Off which has been accepted as the newest High Plains Circuit competition.

For those who may not know, the High Plains Circuit (HPC) is the main group of competitions that REB belongs. This inclusion gets us closer to the coveted HPC Homebrew Club of the Year Award. This recognition puts us in the running to become the highest-ranking homebrew club in the country.

In June, an initiative was created to focus on our Club of the Year goals. There is a Facebook group and chat group for all members who are interested in entering and growing our comp and our status. Search for the Facebook group titled "**REB Competition Coordination**" and ask to join.

These are just a few of the many exciting things we are looking forward to this year. Please stay tuned here for more news and exciting announcements as we carry the club to new heights in 2024.





## REB EXPLORING RESTRUCTURING

### *To c3 Or Not To c3; That Is The Question*

Navigation of non-profit organizations can be confusing and a little convoluted. Understanding all of the intricacies of maintaining the club can be daunting.

Due to such, REB president John W. Smith, along with the REB Board have been actively exploring how best to serve the club into the future.

Currently REB is recognized by the IRS as a 501c7 organization. While this designation has served us well; in order to grow in the future, it requires a close examination of our club's needs.

One of the issues we face is actually due to one of the club's biggest successes: REB's Spring Brew-Off is growing and that success is leading to some growing pains.

Under the 501c7 structure, the club is limited on how much revenue can be generated from sources OUTSIDE of the club. This includes, entry fees from competitors throughout the country shipping entries to SBO.

According to IRS 501c7 rules, REB cannot generate more than 35% of gross revenue from

outside of our own membership without paying taxes. And while you may ask, "Why not just pay the taxes on the excess?" If we continue to generate more revenue than our 35% cap, it can jeopardize our non-profit status as the IRS could step in and no longer deem the club a 'for-profit corporation'.

In order to prevent this, it requires us to do one of two things: 1. Generate more revenue from membership to raise our 35% gross revenue cap; or, change our designation to a 501c3 charitable organization designation, which in essence can raise our fundraising abilities up to \$50,000 annually without requiring complicated tax reporting.

While the change to a 501c3 won't affect our day-to-day club business in a noticeable way, it can be very impactful to our future income generation capabilities.

As a full-blown charitable organization, not only can REB raise more funds for operations and programs, we can become a bigger asset to our partner organizations (breweries,

homebrew shops, restaurants, etc...). Contributions of donated prizes, brewing class space and even meeting space are not currently tax deductible to our partners; under the new designation these things can become a charitable donation for these businesses creating a wonderful benefit for their profitability.

This will also bring REB on-par with many of our sister homebrewing clubs. KCBM, Central Arkansas Fermenters and FOAM are all 501c3s.

With the pro's of changing designation, there is one con. Everyone knows that when dealing with the IRS nothing comes free. There are legal and filing fees associated with the change. However, the good news is we only have to pay these fees once. Once the designation is approved it becomes a simple function of annual tax reporting from that time forward.

More details about the restructuring plan will be presented at the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at Roughtail Brewing. If you would like to learn more, please plan to attend this very important meeting.

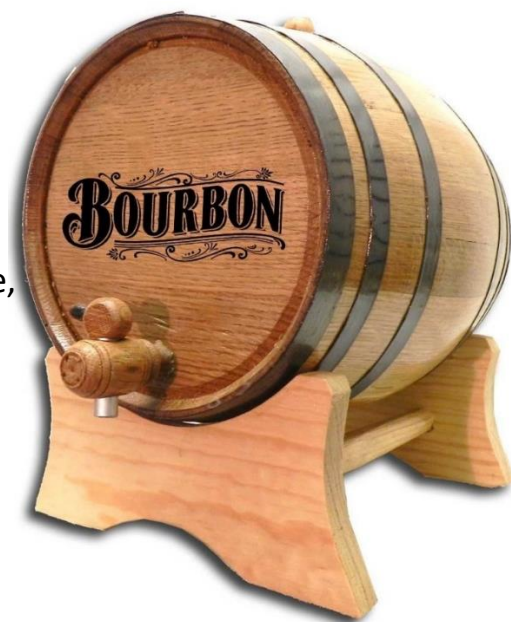


# COMPETITION CORNER!

## BBAP DEADLINE EXTENDED

In an effort to make sure everyone has a chance to participate, our deadline for the Bourbon Barrel Aged Project (BBAP) has been extended. Sign up today and brew a non-adjuncted Imperial Stout for entry into this fun competition.

Entries will be judged by our most recent BJCP trainee class and winners will be presented at the February meeting at 405 Brewing in Norman. So, get those kettles hot and brew your Stout today! Entry deadline for turning in will be February 13<sup>th</sup>.



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## NEW YEAR, NEW BREW - LAGERPALOOZA

The 2024 New Year New Brew (NYNB) is upon us and this year's theme is **LAGERPALOOZA!** Brew up your favorite lager on (or around) New Year's Day and be prepared to bring your entry to our March meeting. Member's choice voting will decide the winner and we've heard there will be a special surprise for the winner!

Many members are opening up their brewhouses to guests on New Year's Day. Find NYD brew events on Facebook on the **Red Earth Brewers Members Page**. Feel free to attend or bring your equipment over to brew at one of the event locations, or brew at home; either way, it will be a fantastic day filled with what we're sure will be some fantastic beers.

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

2024

# January



## January 1<sup>st</sup> is National Hangover Day

Do you aim to ring in the first day of the New Year the right way – hungover, with the blinds closed, regretting your decisions from the previous night! Many folks will do just that. Here at REB we encourage safe and responsible drinking. Please don't drink and drive! Call an Uber, or another REB member if you need a ride!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year, New Brew – Lagerpalooza	2 Bluebonnet Entries Open @8am	3	4 Happy Hour Anthem Brewing 6:30-9pm	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Monthly Meeting Roughtail 7-9pm	17	18	19	20 Baltic Porter Day
21	22 REB Board Meeting 7-9pm	23	24 National Beer Can Appreciation Day <i>First Canned Beer Was Produced This Day January 1935</i>	25 Drop-Off Deadline For KCBM & Bluebonnet 5:30pm @The Brew Shop	26	27 Shipping Deadline For Bluebonnet Brew-Off
28 Shipping Deadline For KCBM	29	30	31			