



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES



"I had this beer brewed just for me. I think its the best I ever tasted. And I've tasted a lot. I think you'll like it too."

Billy Carter

Larry Koch, Editor
LKoch@burp.org

Febrewary 2010

9510 Bruce Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901



February Meeting / American Ale
Fort Belvoir, VA
Saturday, 27 February, 2010
1-6 PM

March Meeting / Stout
McLean, VA
Saturday, 13 March, 2010
1-6 PM

April Meeting / Extract and Praise Hops
College Park, MD

SoFB
May 2010
Location and date TBD

Brewing in the Snow

By Robert Stevens, Fearless Leader

Unless your brewing equipment has frozen as **Paul Langlie's** did, the blizzards of 2010 have been a great time to brew. You could just stick your wort out in the snow to cool it. The resulting alien looking yard circles though might be the talk of the neighborhood. I brewed twice while home due to the snow. Hopefully, you have gotten a



couple of brew days in too before the Winter Olympics started. As the Olympic competition heats up (for an Olympics that may not have any snow maybe that was a bad choice of words) do not forget the February BURP monthly meeting and competition.

Thanks to **Pete Ryba** for arranging the January BURP meeting at the Washington Grove Municipal building once again. Also **Bill Newman's** and **Wendy Aaronson's** help in setting up the facility and providing the supplies were greatly appreciated.

Please submit all articles for publication in either plain text or Microsoft Word format to the e-mail address above. Deadline for articles is 2 weeks before each scheduled BURP meeting unless otherwise indicated. Changes to membership records should be sent to membership@burp.org.

On January 5th the new BURP Officers held their first meeting. In order to increase the communication and coordination between the officers, they decided to meet about every other month before the BURP monthly meetings. The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled to occur before the March meeting. The rest of the time the club's business will be conducted by email and phone. Since we are all planning to taste some great beers, the BURP officers asked **Bill Ridgely** to assume the duties of the BURP Secretary for the rest of the year. His duties will be to document our meetings and remind us of what we have done, plus organize the club's official papers and procedures so we can find them.

Since last year's hops are beginning to arrive from Europe, we are looking into another club hop buy. As soon as we have additional information about available hops and their costs, we will let you know.

The Web Content Work Group's initial meeting was earlier this month. The work group currently consists of **Paul Langlie, Matt Pyle, Larry Koch, Bill Ridgely and yours truly**. During the meeting we talked about what BURP.org should look like in the future and what we should change now. **Bob Kepler** did some nice research last year. His research indicated that the CO2 page as the most frequented viewed BURP.org page by far. If you Google CO2 and Maryland, Washington DC, Alexandria or Arlington, the first listing returned by the search is the BURP CO2 page. Building on this information, the Work Group decided to start updating the CO2 and the other pages while long term plans are being made.

Remember BURP is only as strong as the club's member's involvement and there are lots of ways to get involved. The most important way of course is to brew and bring your beers to the meetings. If you have not brewed for awhile, brew with a friend. **Colleen Cannon** and **Wendy Aaronson** have developed some interesting monthly competitions for you to enter, and SoFB is not too far away. We could also use some additional computer tech type people to work with the Web Content Work Group, and the SoFB Work Group is being formed. If you have any additional

ideas on how you would like to get involved in BURP, let us know.

Be careful and safe while traveling, and I hope to see you at the Fort Belvoir Community Center on the 27th.

Robert

January Meeting Report

By Trish Koch, Special Assistant to the Editor

The BURP meeting on January 23rd was held at the Washington Grove Community Center in Gaithersburg, MD. This is a great venue for a meeting. The main room is big with lots of space for tables holding food and beer, and for sitting and relaxing with friends. The interior is very comfortable, and with pleasant temperatures the outside entry way provided space to get some fresh air while sampling beers.

This meeting had two competitions to be judged. The club competition was Strong Ale, including Old Ale, English Barleywine and American Barleywine. The judges filled out score sheets to give feedback to the brewers. **Mel Thompson**, 2009 Brewer of the Year selected this category for the first competition of 2010. Mel certainly knows his strong points; he won third place with an American Barleywine and first place with his English Barleywine. **Joe Federico** placed second with an Old Ale. Nice to see all three styles represented in the winner's circle.

This meeting also selected the Brown Ale to go forward in the AHA Club Only event. I was fortunate to judge this event with **Bill Newman** and **Ed Bielaus**. Bill encourages his co-judges to really think about what we will experience in the beers presented. He asked what we are looking for in these beers in aroma and flavors, what would make a good example of the style, and what would detract from the beers presented. Ed is just so darn beer-smart it is a pleasure to drink beer with him. Ed can detect very subtle aromas and flavors in the beer, and he helps his co-judges recognize them. There were six entries in this competition,

four Milds and two North England Browns. We had to pick the best example of Brown Ale but did not need to fill out score sheets. This made the judging go fairly quickly. We tasted each sample quietly, and then discussed their attributes. We determined which one was best. Our final decision was unanimous, and **Mel Thompson's** Mild moved forward. A very strong Honorable Mention went to **Paul Langlie's** Mild. I encourage all judges, and potential judges, to volunteer to judge the club competitions. It is a rewarding experience.

I met a few new and potential members this month. **Sean and Mel** came as guests of **Alan Hew** and **Jude Wang**. They don't brew now, but have been thinking about it and enjoyed talking to the home brewers. **Paul Bell**, who joined BURP in the last year, brought his American Ale. It was brewed with home grown hops for half the hop bill, and was very tasty.

Naomi Feist is turning into a top notch salesgirl selling her Girl Scout Cookies. She also drew the raffle ticket numbers. After distributing many good prizes, Naomi drew **Laura Cole's** number for the grand prize.

A good time was had by all.

Trivial Beer-Suits

By Charlie Pavitt

More of the gospel according to Stephen Herrod Buhner in *Sacred and Herbal Healing Beers*: What we call cassava is known to the Jivoran people of northern Peru and eastern Ecuador as manioc. The Jivoro make two types of beer from it, nihamanchi for normal purposes and sangucha shiki for the sacred. Both are examples of beers traditionally brewed by women through, as some of you have experienced, a process including chewing the grain in order to mix it with saliva.



The mythical genesis of manioc beer is analogous to that of so many other indigenous varieties. In one version, the virgin daughter of a great chief was with child, a gift from Earth Mother who, in a dream, told the daughter that the child was to bear a sacred gift for the people. The sacred child was a girl named Mani. Despite apparent good health, Mani suddenly died. The distraught people tended and watered her grave, from which a never-before-seen type of plant began to grow. It flowered and then fruited, and birds of all types came to it, ate the fruit, and became intoxicated. After the plant died, the people dug it up, only to find a "large and wondrous" root. They learned not only to make food from it, but also a sacred beverage that made their souls fly like the birds that had eaten the fruit. The plant was given the name "mani oca" (house of the transformation of Mani). In a second, Earth Mother gave her child, Manioc, to the people in order to help them when they were hungry; Manioc taught the people how to grow the plant and brew from it.

The Jivaro believe that all plants have souls, and those souls make plants characteristically male or female. Plants must be tended by those of the same sex, and, as manioc is female, so must be its tenders. Given its sacred functions, the brewing of sangucha shiki is a ceremonial process. A feast in honor of the slayer of an enemy is an example. The slayer's wife, with help from the priestess, prays to the manioc and then uproots the first plant, with the other women harvesting the others. For half of the roots, women boil and then chew them into a paste; the other half is roasted over a fire and then cut open and filled with saliva, manioc bark, and mold from earlier fermented roots. The paste and roasted roots are combined, hung to dry, chewed by the women. Then the real fun begins.

Wooden pins and leaves cut from a tree and punctured are ceremoniously formed into a sieve inside a large jar by the shaman and slayer's family. The jar is then filled with the roasted root/paste combination, and its "essence" is allowed to drip into the jar for two days and nights. The resulting liquid is consumed on the third morning as part of a sacred ceremony. By so drinking, the people in Buhner's words (page 116) "take themselves into the 'house of transformation

of Mani' and thus partake of her essence directly," in so doing allowing Mani to remain intimately involved in human affairs.

BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

Compiled By Bill Ridgely

20 Years Ago, Feb 1990

The February 1990 BURP meeting was held at the home of **Cheryl Bedard** in Silver Spring, MD. The major item on the agenda was the 6th Annual BURP Stout Competition, preceded by a tasting of commercial stouts (and one porter). Porter was included in the tasting as a precursor to stout, and the one selected was chosen by **Mark Weiner** of *Berose Liquors* as the best American interpretation of traditional London porter - Blackhook Porter from Seattle. Dry stout was represented by Guinness and Sierra Nevada, sweet stout by Mackeson, and imperial stout by Samuel Smith and the late great Grant's. The competition had the most entries of any club stout competition before or since - 31 total! Judging was diligently done by a single 5-member panel consisting of **Jim Busch**, **Chuck Popenoe**, **George Rivers**, **Dick Roepke**, and **Ralph Semler**. The winners were finally selected after an exhausting afternoon of deliberations. **Rob Brooke** (a new member who had only been brewing for 2 months) took 1st with his dry stout. Second went to longtime member **Phil Hugill**, and third went to meeting hostess **Cheryl Bedard**. The specific styles for 2nd and 3rd were not reported in the newsletter. One other highlight of the day was **Alex Kampf's** "Four Week Surprise Ale", the first offering in the club's new "Brewer of the Month" program, where a selected member would brew a beer to be consumed at each meeting. This was a very light (1.026 OG) but nicely hopped ale brewed from dry malt extract, crystal malt, and dark brown sugar. It was tasty and very poundable. Sixty people showed up for the meeting, a large crowd to be comingled in one medium sized rec room, but everyone had a great time. And Cheryl's hot tub in the back was made available for all those so inclined.

The Fe-BREW-ary 1990 issue of BURP News was another winner from editor **Erik Henchal**. There were two excellent travelogues - one by **Steve Lerch** on a tour of *Thomas Kemper Brewing* in Poulsbo, WA (which had just opened in an old meat packing plant using castoff dairy equipment in its brewhouse), and one by **Logan Perkins** on the beer scene in the Rocky Mountain State (CO), where he had recently moved. While there were many great beer bars in CO at that time, there were still relatively few craft breweries other than *Wynkoop* in Denver and *Boulder* in, um, Boulder. A couple of startups had just opened in Breckenridge and Fort Collins, but Logan had not yet had a chance to check these out. The technical side of the newsletter was covered by Erik's alter ego **Otto Gemutlichkeit** (the retired but very talkative German braumeister). Otto's first column covered the possibility of reusing dried yeast (His answer - only **John Gardiner** would consider such a thing!). Finally, new BURP Prez **Bill Ridgely** published the results of the first survey of BURP membership. Some interesting tidbits - there were 3 commercial airline pilots in the club at that time, and a seeming majority of respondents to the survey were either scientists, engineers, or computer programmers. Of 73 respondents, 61 indicated they were homebrewers, and of these, the majority (43) were all extract brewers. Seventeen of the 61 said they had been brewing for a year or less. Average number of batches per year was 7, but one respondent said he brewed 45 times in the last year (that averaged to nearly 4 batches each month)!

10 Years Ago, Feb 2000

The February 2000 BURP meeting, held on Tues, Feb 15 at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Ft Washington, MD, featured the annual Dan McCoubrey Memorial Stout Competition. A meeting report was never posted for this event, and there are no photos on the BURP website, but I do recall at least 3-4 judging tables evaluating the competition stouts, with each table sending one or more entries to a best-of-show panel. At least the results were recorded - the "Dickheads" brewing team (**Tom & Colleen Cannon & Pat & Janet Crowe**) took 1st place with a dry stout; **Dave Belman** took 2nd with a sweet stout, and **Ralph Bucca** took 3rd with a sweet stout. My only other recollection of this meeting was a discussion

concerning whether the Jaycee Center was going to continue being a viable meeting location with the impending construction of the new National Harbor just down the hill from the facility.

The other event on BURP's calendar for February was the BJCP exam, given at the *Brew America* homebrew shop on Feb 26. Thirteen people had taken the exam prep course organized by Enlightenment Minister **Wendy Aaronson**, and the exam was proctored by **Tom Cannon** and **Rick Garvin**. Consensus was that everyone who took the exam was going to pass, and Wendy commented that the prep class had the best instructors of any she had been involved in.

The February 2000 issue of BURP News was the first edited by new Truth Minister **Jamie Langlie**. Jamie did a great job of putting together 10 full pages of great writing. Culture Minister **Bruce Bennet** kicked off the issue with an excellent article on the history and characteristics of stout and its various substyles. Bruce also made a last call for the club's upcoming hop buy. Sixteen varieties of hops were on offer, at an average cost of \$5 per pound (When was the last time you saw *those* prices!). **Andy Anderson** provided the "Recipe of the Month", a 1st place Scotch Strong Ale recipe from the 1998 Spirit of Free Beer. The recipe was from good BURP friend **Peter Garofalo**. And finally, **Jim Dorsch & Bill Ridgely** co-contributed a historical piece on what they considered the low point of the BURP Club, the club's showing at the 1991 National Homebrew Conference in Manchester, NH, where instead of serving homebrew on Club Night, all BURP could muster was old oxidized Gold Cup Lager that had been dry hopped as an "experiment". This embarrassing event finally kicked the club into gear to do better, and with the help of hard charging members like **Tim Artz** and **Rick Garvin**, BURP was finally brought into the modern age. The culmination was BURP's showing at the 1995 National Homebrew Conference in Baltimore, where club member **Rhett Rebold** took "Brewer of the Year" honors, and BURP tied for runners-up (with the Foam Rangers of Texas) for "Homebrew Club of the Year".

February Membersip Update

By Jamie Langlie, Minister of Propaganda

BURP's membersip numbers remain steady and strong, with a total of 229 members. What's quite remarkable is that 114 of these come from the *Family Membership* category. One of BURP's unique characteristics always has been the co-ed nature of our Club activities. I'd venture to guess that we have more active brewing and BJCP couples than almost any other home brew club in the country. Even many non-brewing spouses and significant others enjoy our gatherings! Yes, we're a community of beer geeks – but we're so much more! We're also gourmet cooks, artists, campers, marathoners, bee keepers, bicyclists, book lovers, and world travelers, among other things. The bottom line is that it's GREAT to be a BURP Member!



Which brings me to a sales pitch. You know what's great about BURP, the brewing advice and support we can offer new members, together fellowship and camaraderie. Just share that with curious folks you meet at the homebrew supply store or your local pub. Invite them to a meeting. New blood and fresh ideas help keep our Club healthy into the future. Recruit a new member today!

On another note, we're close to having PayPal up and running to accept membership and dues payments. Within the next couple of weeks, I'll send out a notice to let you know we're operational.

Thanks to all of those who have renewed their memberships during the past month!

Hop Notes from the Li-Beery

By *Bill Ridgely, Minister of History*

I received an e-mail from **Mike Horkan** of Mid-Atlantic Brewing News alerting me to the new full-text electronic version of the paper now available on the web. I believe Mike sent the info to BURPlist, but I wanted to make sure it got into the newsletter, so here is the information as provided by Mike:

Go to <http://www.brewingnews.com>. Once there, click on the Mid-Atlantic Brewing News front page (or any of the other six papers). Once on that page, in about the middle right hand part of the screen, you will see the pages of the current issue flipping back and forth on a computer screen. Click on the red line above that screen stating: **New! Click to see MABN's online edition.** If you move your mouse across the blue bar at the top of the next screen, you can see all of the different features of this software package

- Thumbnail - Shows a small thumbnail of each page
- Content - Lists each story in the current issue and what page it is on
- Advertisers - Lists each advertiser in the current issue and what page they are on. Of course, with these two features, you can go down through each list and click on a story or advertiser which will take you right to the page that story or ad is on
- A Zoom Bar - Letting you adjust the page size percent from 110-400%
- A Search capability - To look up topics covered in the issue
- A Share capability

Once you are on a story, you can click on the headline of the story to bring up a more easily readable and printable format of the story. And for all of the advertisers that have a web address in their ad, you can click on the web address in their ad to take you directly to that advertiser's web site.

The online issue is pretty impressive, so be sure to check it out when you get a chance.

The contents of the BURP li-beery are available anytime for your perusal at <http://burp.burp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=414>. If you would like a book loaned to you, just let me

know, and it will be delivered to you at the next BURP meeting. And, as always, if there is a book that you feel should be added to the collection, please contact me.

If you are planning to brew a specific beer style and need some guidance, I may be able to help you with an appropriate publication. My contact info (for articles, books, or recipes) can be found in the officer's box at the end of the issue.

Cheers, Bill

BURP Prosperity Report

By *Mark E. Hogenmiller Minister of Prosperity*

First off thanks to **Steve Marler** for attending the historic Blue & Gray show held at the in Fredericksburg, Virginia this past weekend to obtain raffle prizes for 2010. Also a special thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes this past month.



Due to the sensitive nature of the Treasury reports and the newsletter being in the public domain, Treasury Reports are now posted to the BURP Website in the Members Only Document section.

BURP members are reminded that all expense submissions must include details. Required details are date, exact amount, detailed item description, any special circumstances, and name of person to be reimbursed. Event coordinators should maintain a spreadsheet for their project. Correspondence can be sent to me at treasurer@burp.org.

From the Ministry of Culture

By Wendy Aaronson and Colleen Cannon
Co-Ministers of Culture

A purpose of BURP monthly competitions is to encourage a brewer to advance their brewing skills either by improving recipe formulation and technique based on objective feedback from score sheets or by experimenting with styles they have never brewed. A competition promotes education and the availability of great tasting home-brewed beer at meetings.



We held two competitions in January. There were 13 entries in the Strong Ale Competition; seven Old Ales, two English barleywines, and four American Barleywines. Many thanks to the entrants: **Mel Thompson, Mike Horkan, Steve Marler, Alan Hew, Tim Weil, and Joe Federico**. Also, many thanks to our outstanding panel of judges, **Tom Cannon, Dave Pyle, Steve Marler, and Rick Garvin**. Mel took a first place with his '07 English barleywine. Judges described this beer as having a caramel sweetness with enough hop bitterness for balance and a clean smooth flavor. Mel also took third with his '09 American barleywine. This beer had a lot of American hop character; citrusy and resinous. Joe Federico took second place with an Old Ale. Joe did not plan to enter this beer until we convinced him to do so. Judges described this beer as being malty with a dark fruit flavor and caramel overtones. Leftover beers will be available at the February meeting. There were six entries in the English Brown Ale competition; four milds and two northern English brown ales entered by Steve Marler, Mel Thompson, Mike Evans, Mark Hogenmiller, and Paul Langlie. Many thanks to our expert judges, Ed Bielaus, Bill Newman, and Trish Koch. They selected Mel's mild to represent BURP at the AHA club only competition at the end of February.

The February competition will be American Ale (BJCP Cat 10). For styles guidelines, see <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/style10.php>. You will need 2 bottles for the BURP competition. The first place winner will represent BURP in the AHA Club-Only Competition held in April. If selected,

the brewer will need to provide 2 more bottles. BURP will cover entry and shipping for the AHA Club-only competition.

The March competition will be Stout (BJCP Cat 13) For style guidelines, see <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/style13.php> Bill Ridgely will bring books containing stout recipes to the February meeting. Also, you can view recipes at <http://www.brew-monkey.com/recipes/recipesbycat.php?id=13>

We have a change in the schedule for April. We will still have the Extract beer competition. Any style is acceptable, but it can only be made with extract and specialty grain. This is a BOTY competition and the winner will represent BURP in the AHA Club-only competition in May. "Praise Hops" is a beer that highlights the aroma and flavor of a single hop variety. We will specify the hop variety and BURP will provide it to the brewers who will commit to entering their beer in the competition. We are moving the "Praise Hops" competition to October in order to distribute hops via the BURP Hop Buy in April, and give the brewers more time to formulate recipes and/or experiment with the specified hop style.

Brewer of the Year (BOTY)

As mentioned in the January newsletter, each of the brewers who enter in a competition will receive at least one BOTY point. Here is the breakdown for points: First Place = 4 points; Second Place = 3 points; Third place = 2 points; one or more entries into competition = 1 point.

This year, brewers must choose a division to compete in. These divisions are: single brewer, team (2 or more), and new (15 months or less)/extract brewer. At the time of your first competition entry (or before your second entry, if you already competed in January), you must declare which division you are in for the year. You cannot earn points as both an individual and a team member. For example, Wendy decides she is an individual brewer and enters a beer that takes second. She also brews a beer with Colleen, who is a member of Team C. They enter a team beer which takes a first. They have to decide before

entering that competition whether that beer will compete as a "Wendy" beer or a "Team C" beer. The four points will be applied to one or the other, not both. A team of two or more brewers will accrue points for beers brewed by any member of the team, as long as it is specified as that team's beer upon entry into the competition.

Spirit of Free Beer (SOFB)

Planning for SOFB is in a very early phase. We are looking into a possible location now, and we are looking at either May 15 or May 22 as possible dates. We would like to organize a committee to manage prizes. We are also looking for someone who can promote the competition. If interested, please contact us.

Artz's Craft: Enlightenment Update

By Tim Artz, Minister of Enlightenment

(Editor's note: Mr. Artz is on assignment and we expect his return in time for the next issue of *BURP News*.)

From the Ministry of Truth

By Larry Koch

As our March meeting is only two weeks after the February meeting, the March edition of *BURP News* will be very abbreviated. It is likely to contain little more than What's Brewing, Meeting Report and directions. That being the case, there will be plenty of room for your submissions. Let me hear from you!



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BURP Doxology

*Praise BURP from whom beer blessings flow,
Praise BURP ye brewers here below,
Praise BURP above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise barley, hops and yeast the most
Aaaaaaaaaa, Drink!*

Al Lowry, 1994