



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

"Beer—my only weakness" H. Simpson

Check
burp.org for
the latest in
official
information

Delano DuGarm, Editor
No Phone, No Pool, No Pets

No Fixed Address

January 2000

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January 22	BURP Meeting & Pale Ale Competition at Joyce & Peter Long's, Clifton, VA, 1:00 PM
February 15	BURP Meeting and Dan McCoubrey Memorial Stout Competition at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center, Ft Washington, MD
February 26	BJCP Exam in Northern VA (Place to be Determined), 9:00 – 12:00

Delano And Katy DuGarm To Start A Satellite BURP In Minnesota

By Steve Marler, Fearless Leader

Beer Ye, Beer Ye. The words may still be heard at BURP meetings and related events, but they will no longer sound the same. Katy accepted a job offer from a small computer company in Wisconsin. Katy and Delano left Monday, January 10 for Minnesota where they will be residing.

As many of you know, the DuGarms have been talking about moving to the mid-west for some time now, but as time passed, many of us disregarded the possibility. Their departure from the Metro Washington area will leave a huge void in BURP. Both Katy and Delano were very active members of BURP. Katy held the position of Libeerian in 1994 and 1995. Delano was Minister of Culture in 1995 and Minister of Truth in 1999. They were frequent attendees of BURP meetings and always volunteered to help in some way with the Spirit of Free Beer competition. Also, nobody could light-up Mash-out port-a-pots like Katy and Delano. Delano, a.k.a. Adjunct Boy, had many stories written about him in addition to having brewing articles published, both of which helped to bolster BURP's reputation. Delano was one of the first to brew 100 + IBU IPAs and brought the Swartzbier style to the attention of the home brewing community by winning numerous ribbons, which eventually drove people to brew this once forgotten style in order to compete against him.

BURP will sorely miss Katy and Delano. We wish them the best of luck. Free Beer!

BURP News is the official newsletter of Brewers United for Real Potables. BURP is dedicated to promoting homebrewing. Annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for couples. If you care about the beer you drink, join BURP. Please submit new memberships, changes of address, and corrections to BURP, 15 Harvard Court, Rockville, MD 20850. Articles for the BURP News should be delivered on diskette or paper to the Editor. Microsoft Word or text format is preferred.

Marler Madness

By Steve Marler, Fearless Leader

My last Marler Madness column. All right, stop your cheering. I admit that it will be nice to not have to meet a deadline for submitting an article every month. However, I did enjoy being Fearless Leader over the past year, and appreciate the complements that I have received. It was nice to have my term end with some great events.

The highlight in November was the BURP Real Ale competition/festival. We broke last year's record of 29 entries with 34. Of the 34, 2/3 of them had a score of 30 or above. If you were not there, you missed some great beer. This competition was supposed to be the last to determine the Brewer of the Year. Or so I thought. Mike Megown took 1st place with his Ordinary Bitter. Andy Anderson was right on his tail taking 2nd place with his Mild. The surprise third place winners (being that I won 3rd place for the last two years) were Larry Koch and Alan Hew for their Ordinary Bitter. Interesting how the lower gravity British Beers took all the prizes. Make a note for next year's competition. Anyway, with Megown getting 3 more points and Anderson with an additional 2, that created a tie for the Brewer of the Year Award. So what to do? Can you say Brew-off? January BURP meeting. Be there.

Special thanks goes to Tom Cannon for all the work he did to make sure the Real Ale competition was a great success. Tom put in a lot of time and energy to ensure a high quality competition and a fun meeting the next day. Bill Ridgely also did a great job as cellar master as well as hosting the competition and meeting with Wendy Aaronson. Of course, we can't forget Bob Dawson who set up the bar area for the hand pumps. What kind of Real Ale event would it be without that? Again, thanks to all who helped make the Real Ale competition and meeting a great success.

In December we had the annual Holiday Party which had a great turn out and lots of beer for all. We also had BURP's first (and last at least for the next 1000 years) millennium Champagne competition. Bob Kepler and Betsy Kliks and I tied for 1st place, and Ralph Bucca took 2nd place. All of the BURP members who contributed to the events and meetings of the last year were recognized and given a little token of appreciation. We couldn't do it without all of the great volunteers! Thanks again to Bill and Wendy for organizing the Holiday Party. It is always one of the best events of the year.

At the January meeting we will have the BURP elections and the Pale Ale competition which kicks off the 2000 BURP Brewer of the Year competition. I hope to see you there.

I think we have done some fun things this year, and hope that I lived up to my campaign promises. I am encouraged to see that John (when elected) will continue some of the things that I started. Like Tom Cannon, I will not fade away and instead will remain very active in BURP. Old Fearless Leaders never die, they just stand around and drink.

BURP Education Update

By Wendy Aaronson, Minister of Enlightenment

BJCP Exam Preparation Class & Exam: The BJCP class, or at least the technical and tasting part, is over. We have had tremendous discussions from Tom Cannon, Jim Rorick, Robert Stevens, Bill Ridgely, Jim Busch, A. J. Delange, Delano Dugarm, John Dittmann, Steve Marler, Randy Paul, Colleen Cannon, Mike Graham, and Andy Anderson. The class is enthusiastic and dedicated to becoming better at evaluating beers and taking the exam. At the last count, all 13 were planning to take the exam. Many members of the class are already practicing by judging in the monthly club competitions. Many thanks to the instructors. Without their commitment to educating our membership, we would not have the quality of club that we are proud to belong to.

The BJCP exam will be held on February 26 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Tom Cannon will be the proctor and it will be held in northern Virginia. The exam will cost \$45. The BJCP class is continuing with focussed study and practice sessions during January and February. If you are interested in taking the exam or participating in the study sessions, please call me at 301-762-6523 or e-mail me at aaronson@burp.org.

January Education Session - Hops: Rather than have a commercial tasting of pale ales at the meeting on January 22, I thought it would be appropriate and fun to discuss hops, the ingredient that distinguishes this style. Dave Pyle, BURP's hop expert, will talk about hops and provide hop teas for everyone to smell and taste. There will also be a mystery hop tea and a contest to pick the variety. Don't miss this opportunity to expose yourself to hops. We'll begin the session at 12:45 pm.

January Competition – Pale Ale

January's BURP meeting will feature a pale ale contest - the first event in the Year 2000 "BURP Brewer of the Year" competition. Appropriate style descriptions are

given below. Those wishing to enter the contest should bring two bottles for judging. Those wishing to judge should contact competition organizer Bruce Bennett (e-mail btbennet@erols.com or phone 703-594-3344).

Note: **British pale ale** has been moved to Cat 4 in the BJCP style guidelines ("Bitter & English Pale Ale") so will no longer be included in this contest.

Cat 6A - American Pale Ale

An adaptation of the original British style, but reflecting a penchant for slightly greater strength and more hops and also the different flavors and aromas of domestic malts, hops, yeasts, and water supplies.

Ingredients: Pale ale malt, typically American two-row. Light to medium crystal malts. American hops, often the citrusy ones such as Cascade, Centennial and Columbus, but others may also be used (e.g., Brewer's Gold or Willamette). Water can vary in sulfate content, but carbonate content should be relatively low.

Vital Statistics : OG: 1.045-1.056
IBUs: 20-40 FG: 1.010-1.015
SRM: 4-11 ABV: 4.5-5.7%

Commercial Examples: Sierra Nevada Pale Ale, Dominion Ale, Great Lakes Burning River Pale Ale.

Cat 6B - American Amber Ale

In the past, this category used to be part of American pale ale. American amber ales differ from American pale ales not only by being darker in color, but also in having more caramel flavor and usually being balanced more evenly between malt and bitterness.

Ingredients: Pale ale malt, typically American two-row. Medium to dark crystal malts. American hops, such as Cascade, Centennial, Brewer's Gold, Columbus and Willamette, but others may also be used. Water can vary in sulfate and carbonate content.

Vital Statistics : OG: 1.045-1.056
IBUs: 20-40 FG: 1.010-1.015
SRM: 11-18 ABV: 4.5-5.7%

Commercial Examples: Big Time Atlas Amber, Bell's Amber, Mendocino Red Tail Ale, Rhino Chaser's American Amber Ale, St. Rogue Red Ale, North Coast Red Seal Ale.

Cat 6C - California Common Beer

An American original. A bottom-fermenting yeast is used to ferment the wort at ale-like temperatures in long shallow pan-like vessels. The use of caramel and crystal malts gives this style a coppery color along with a malty body balanced with a pronounced Northern Brewer hop bite and aroma. Similar in many ways to an American

pale ale.

Ingredients: Pale ale malt, American hops (usually woody, such as Northern Brewer, rather than citrusy), small amounts of toasted malt and/or light caramel/crystal malts. Lager yeast, however some strains (often with the mention of "California" in the name) work better than others at the warmer fermentation temperatures (55 to 60F) used (some German strains produce excessive sulfury character). Water should have relatively low sulfate and low to moderate carbonate levels.

Vital Statistics : OG: 1.044-1.055
IBUs: 35-45 FG: 1.011-1.014
SRM: 8-14 ABV: 4-5.5%

Commercial Examples: Anchor Steam, Dominion Victory Amber.

BURP Election 2000 Campaign Statements

The election of BURP officers for the Year 2000 will take place at the January meeting. Campaign statements received thus far are printed below. All BURP members are encouraged to attend the meeting and Vote Early, Vote Often!

Candidate for Fearless Leader (President) – John Dittmann

I look with anticipation to the coming year. Whether this is the first year of the new millennium or the last year of the old millennium, all must agree it could be an exciting time to be a BURP member.

I am running for the position of Fearless Leader. This is a grand and storied position which has been held by many grand and storied leaders. Our last FL, Steve Marler, was one of these fine leaders. The Brewers Challenge events which Steve championed were a success and I propose to continue these events and allow them to grow. There are some ideas fermenting which may make the Brewers Challenge events even more interesting.

BURP is one of the largest and strongest homebrew clubs in the world. This is primarily due to the hard work of dedicated members. When I read about other clubs' lack of educational programs, either judge or brewer related, it shows me how strong BURP is. I look forward to helping keep BURP in such fine standing.

I hope you will show your confidence in me by electing me your Fearless Leader for 2000.

Candidate for Minister of Culture (Events Organizer) - Bruce Bennett

I have thrown my hat into the proverbial ring (er) for Minister of Culture (yes, Newman, I do understand it is something I am desperately lacking, and this is the only way culture can ever be associated with my humble self!). I have been assisting Andy for the last year with some of the Club competitions and SPIRIT of FREE BEER. I am a Certified BJCP judge, and I am actively judging.

I am volunteering for this job on a platform of five points of unconsciousness. The first point is to bring a good working relationship between the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Education. I feel that some of our best meetings have been where commercial tastings have been integrated with the club competitions. The second point is to provide new members and less experienced judges with increased opportunities to improve their judging skills by including them in the club competitions. The third point is to better utilize BURP senior judges in club competitions. The senior judges should be running the judging at the club competitions (one selected each month so no one is stuck every meeting running the competition) and assisting with the commercial tasting. The fourth point is to align our competitions with the AHA Club-Only Competitions. We have been poorly represented there in the past, and with the quality of brewers that are in BURP, we should be winning more often. The last point is to bring back SPIRIT of BELGIUM (Yes, Tom, MORE free beer) as a biannual competition.

Candidates for Minister of History (Libeerian):

Wendy Schmidt

I've been a member of BURP for two years and have participated in a number of BURP events. I would like to become more involved in the club and give back to the club a level of effort which I feel I owe. I have a few ideas for energizing the Libeery and making it more of use to club members:

1. Look into linking to other sources on the web which provide informational papers/articles online.
2. Provide more information at the BURP meetings for available libeery material, especially to coincide with that meeting's club competition and/or beer education class.
3. Increase the sharing/visibility of newsletters and info from other clubs within our club.

4. Obtain feedback from club members as to what type of material you would like to see in the libeery and how you would like to be able to access it. I think we have a great homebrew club, and I will do my best to keep it going strong in 2000.

Bob Kepler

I'm running for BURP Libeerian for many reasons. First and foremost, I'd like to replenish the faith lost in this office caused by the custodial neglect of Newman. Although I was impressed with the custom magazine rack he installed in his "porcelain library", I was dismayed to find many pages stuck together.

Secondly, I'm somewhat selfish and cheap. Betsy and I are both studying to take the BJCP exam this spring, and we could use the wealth and depth of brewing knowledge right off our shelf. I thought I could just drink a lot and pass the test. Wrong. Luckily the BURP Library stocks all the material on the BJCP reading list. And if you don't elect me and I barely pass the test, then it'll be YOUR fault if I score your beer a 12 and find "a hint of diaper in the nose".

But what's in it for you?, you ask. Well, here's what I propose to do if I'm elected BURP Libeerian. As an under-utilized resource, I promise to bring the BURP Libeery to the frontal lobes of the membersip by frequently reading through the material PERSONALLY and yanking out pertinent info to feed your heads. I will use the magical powers of the newsletter to submit frequent reminders of what books or articles are available to help you brew a winning beer in the following month's club competition.

Plus, let's face it. I'm a nice guy, and I show up at most all the meetings and I volunteer for MASHOUT meetings and such and I like to give back to the club and I love you guys (Tito.... a tissue please).

helpmehelpyou. help me help you. Help ME help You. HELP ME HELP YOU!!!

Candidate for Minister of Prosperity (Treasurer) - Ralph Bucca

As a BURP founding father, I feel obligated to run for an office that I have not yet occupied. As BURP Treasurer, I will run the club's finances just like my family's - \$ in, \$ out, sent to the right places. Any excess \$ will be spent on an appropriate charity such as SOMD (**Ed note** – BURP's favorite charity, "So Others May Drink").

**Candidate for Minister of Propaganda
(Membership Chairman) - Bill Ridgely**

Hi, I'm Bill Ridgely, and I'm running for the same office I've occupied for so long that I can't remember doing anything else. Actually, I'm having more and more trouble remembering anything, but that's another story. I would like to continue this "Groundhog Day"-like existence for another year. Why? Because the pain and suffering that come with the job are a near religious experience for me - kind of like stigmata but without the nails and blood. Also, as long as DOS emulation doesn't go away, I'll never have to learn how to use one of those new fangled 32-bit database applications. My old Model-T can still run like a bandit as long as I don't forget to back it up every 5 minutes or so ...

So vote for me, and enjoy those new puke pink, er salmon colored membership cards I'm sending out this year (It's getting so hard to find nice colors!).

**Candidate for Minister of Truth (BURP News
Editor) – Jamie Langlie**

If elected BURP Minister(s) of Truth, Paul and I promise to uphold the proud tradition of our illustrious predecessors: to promulgate a prescient publication, premier among its purported peers ... Paeans to porter, pilsner, piment, perry, and premium pale.

I have many years of editorial experience to draw upon, including six years as Editor of the award-winning "Global Network" newsletter of the American Society for Public Administration/Section on International and Comparative Administration. Being a successful newsletter editor requires perseverance to coax contributions from reluctant authors and ingenuity to fill pages with interesting "stuff" when original articles are scarce. [Never a problem with BURPers, to be sure.] Over the years, I have had great results on both counts. I also have learned that it is important to listen to your constituents and develop the publication to meet their unique needs. In short, if you want a quality newsletter, produced by folks who care about brewing and about BURP, vote for Team Langlie.

**Candidate for Minister of Enlightenment (Education
Coordinator) – Wendy Aaronson**

I am delighted to seek reelection for this office because it is so rewarding to plan programs that help our membership become better brewers and increase their knowledge of beer styles. All right, my motives are not that altruistic. I really want to improve my knowledge and drink a lot of different beers, so I can eventually

retake the BJCP exam and improve my score. Or perhaps, the real reason for continuing to want this office is that it is a great excuse to get together with a small group on a continuing basis to drink great beers.

In all seriousness, I had four goals for the past year. I'm happy to report that all four were achieved to a certain extent. The easy one was to change the name of the office to Minister of Enlightenment. However, the most notable achievements were conducting the BJCP Exam Preparation class that will undoubtedly result in adding 13 judges to BURP's cadre of BJCP judges and providing for an educational segment at a majority of the meetings. In the coming year, I want to follow through with the Reinheitsgebot Education Series. Robert Stevens and I have a seminar outline and commitments from a majority of the speakers. This will be an exciting in-depth exploration of ingredients and brewing processes. Each session will be presented by an advanced homebrewer and a professional brewer. In addition, I want to continue to have an educational segment at most of the meetings because many of our members do not have the time to attend programs outside of our scheduled meetings. Finally, as stated in last year's statement, BURP should continue to play a role in educating the community. We are fortunate that beer festival organizers and homebrew shop owners recognize BURP's knowledge and continue to seek our support. These individuals have been extremely supportive of our programs, so it is important that we accept their invitation to enlighten the community about this fun hobby.

**Candidate for Minister of the Web (Webmaster) –
Lynn Ashley**

If elected, I will continue to provide BURP with an effective and comprehensive web presence on the internet. As in the past, an up-to-date BURP calendar will be a priority. I will work with the Minister of Truth to continue the electronic BURP newsletter. I will encourage BURP members who publish technical homebrew articles to also provide them for publication on burp.org. And of course, @burp.org email aliases will continue to be available on a first-come first-served basis to all BURP members.

Please vote for Lynn Ashley to continue as your Minister of the Web. Thanks!

New Members

Welcome this month to **Michael Curtin** of Falls Church, **Kathleen Franck** of Silver Spring, and **Alan Munter** of Gaithersburg.