



# BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the  
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

Check  
burp.org for  
the latest in  
official  
information.

"Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk.  
That will teach you to keep your mouth shut"  
*Ernest Hemingway*

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**January 2004**

328 Cool Breeze Court  
Pasadena, MD 21122



## Garvin's Grist

*By Rick Garvin, Fearless Leader*



**January Meeting**  
**Pale Ale Competition**  
**Saturday, January 17, 2004**  
**1:00pm**

**February Meeting**  
**Scottish Ale Competition**  
**Date, Time and Place**  
**To Be Announced**

Happy Brew Year! I rang the year in with Cantillon Lou Pepe Geuze 1998. A sour start to a sweet year! I'm looking forward to a big BURP year. The competition calendar is heating up. January will be the always-competitive American Pale Ale competition. In March we'll be enjoying our competition stouts along with a big bowl of Dan McCoubrey Beef Stew. Ahh, BURP traditions - Chili competition, MASHOUT, Oktoberfest, Real Ale Festival – who is going to organize all of this? The new BURP officers!

January is election time for the 2004 officers. We have a great slate of folks running; some of them running for a second, third, or (Wendy?) tenth term. Thanks go to our outgoing officers. **Tom Cannon and Betsy Kepler** did a great job at carrying a very large workload as the Kulture Klub. **Sweet Christine Lewis** caps two years as Newsletter Editor with her final issue. She was able to save BURP over \$3,000 across the last two years with the conversion to a 98% electronic newsletter. We'll be putting her to work in other capacities! **Bob Kepler** is passing the torch as Minister of Propaganda after two years. The rest of the crew is trying for another term. We'll see if **Cerveza Crowe** and her humans can keep up their frenetic pace! **Janet and Pat** are packing for Jamaica as I

write this and will not be at the January meeting – drink a Red Strip for us! **Paul and Jamie Langlie** are going for Minister of the Web – thanks for your responsiveness this year! And our very prosperous Minister of Prosperity (Treasurer), **Kathy Koch**, will be stepping up again. I personally appreciate Kathy's quick turn around of expense checks and her stewardship of our growing bank account. **Wendy Aaronson** is running for Minister of Education for the ninth or tenth time. I look around competitions and see a lot of BURP judges Wendy has trained over the years. I'm looking forward to getting our next set of BURP examinees seated in front of a BJCP exam. Ahem, I need to re-take the exam to see if I can finally get the Master pin.

With the schedule filling up how can you participate? We have not nailed down all of the meeting dates. If you are interested in hosting BURP, especially if you live in Washington or Maryland, please let me know.

2004 is going to be a big planning year for Spirit of Belgium IV. Once we get the new officers settled we will be having a SOB IV organization meeting in the February/March time frame. I'll be meeting with the past organizers prior to that to work on some ideas and gather lessons learned. There are many leadership opportunities open for those that want to contribute to an internationally recognized conference. Let me know about your interest.

I'll see you next at the January meeting at **Joyce and Peter Long's** house in Clifton. I'll be getting primed for a trip to London and Dover for the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales the first weekend in Febrewary. Just doing my part to support Kentish Microbreweries!

Cheers, Rick



## BURP Elections 2004

### Vote in the BURP Elections 2004

It's time once again to vote for BURP officers for the upcoming year. There are two ways you may cast your vote for the candidate of your choice:

1) Vote online – Simply go to <http://burp.org/elections/2004>, read the candidate statements, and then vote using the handy online ballot. You'll receive an e-mail notification that your vote has been registered and counted.

2) Vote at the Jan 17 BURP Meeting – There will be paper ballots at the January meeting along with a ballot box. Voting will take place during the first 2 hours of the meeting. After this time, votes will be tallied, and results will be combined with the results from the online ballots.

Election winners will be announced and introduced after the ballots have been tallied. All BURP members are encouraged to vote. Best of luck to all of those running for office in 2004.

### Fearless Leader (President)

**Duties:** Coordinates BURP activities with other officers. Makes announcements at meetings. Represents BURP to the public. (Which means that you can send articles to your relatives, who will do almost anything to avoid telling their neighbors what you do for fun.)

**Campaign Statement: Candidate Rick Garvin (Incumbent)** – It has been a great BURP year as Fearless Leader. With so many people pitching in it has not been a strain to be a BURP officer. I had so much fun that I'd like to do it again? Why? The BURP calendar tends to be pretty well lined up by the time new officers are elected. In 2003 the departing officers had left things well in order and I had to concentrate on executing the plan. For 2004 the Fearless Leader gets to do the plan with the officers. My goal as Fearless Leader for the 2004 plan is to maintain BURP's great traditions of more and better Free Beer and prepare for a big event in 2005 - Spirit of Belgium IV. Cheers, Rick.

### Minister of Enlightenment (Educator)

**Duties:** Organizes several educational sessions about brewing techniques or particular styles. Sets up yearly preparation courses for the BJCP exams. Holds pre-meeting commercial beer

tastings to assist club members hone style recognition skills.

***Campaign Statement: Candidate Wendy Aaronson (Incumbent)*** - I want to be Minister of Enlightenment because you voted me into this position years ago and now it is who I am. I am Minister of Enlightenment for Life! My business cards reflect this. Even though I did squat to enlighten anyone last year, no one can compete against me, because I have charmed everyone into believing that they are learning more about beer all the time. So, vote for me!

In all seriousness, I'm running for this important office because it gives me an opportunity to learn. I have noticed a few new faces in the club, so this could be the year to have a BJCP Exam Preparation class. Although everyone has evaluated the course very favorably and the course graduates have always achieved passing exam scores, I know some individuals who are very interested in the course have not signed up because of the 15-week commitment and metropolitan area traffic. I plan to reformat the course and create local study sessions to enlighten a larger audience and thus get more votes in my pocket for next year. I strayed away from educational sessions during the meetings because it seemed like there were too many competing things that people were easily distracted. However, I think this is very unfair especially to individuals who want to learn more about brewing and beer styles, but their time for outside activities related to this hobby is limited to a monthly meeting. Therefore, I will have a 30-45 minute educational session at some of the meetings. Last year, Tom and Betsy created a few fun competitions that brought teams together to brew great beers and provide lots of beer for the monthly meetings. I would like to expand that concept to an educational project that will, at a minimum, result in a BURP newsletter article and probably a publication in Zymurgy. Areas to explore include yeast profiles and first wort hopping. Beer made as part of these projects can be consumed at the meetings.

So, a vote for me is a vote for FREE BEER!

### **Minister of Culture (Competition Organizer)**

***Duties:*** Runs monthly club competitions and writes articles about styles for the BURP News. Orders ribbons for contests. Recruits the competition organizer for the Spirit of Free Beer.

***Campaign Statement: Candidates Mel Thompson & Dave Pyle*** - would like to jointly serve as Minister of Culture and we seek your endorsement at the ballot box.

I made the mistake of making some suggestions to **Tom Cannon** regarding one of the monthly competitions in 2003. Tom said, "Well, you run for the Minister of Culture, I'll vote for you."

So, with one guaranteed vote from Tom, I agreed to run as long as someone with years of illustrious service to BURP and experience with the Spirit of Free Beer would run with me.

Dave Pyle stepped forward and, with his guidance and experience, we hope to have another successful year of club competitions and even more FREE BEER. Now, if you prefer to vote for someone else, I have absolutely no problem with your choice and I will assist that person(s) with the club competitions. Just keep in mind that this someone will need to garner at least 2 votes to surpass the in-the-bag vote from Tom for the Team of Mel and Dave.

Cheers! Mel

### **Minister of Truth (BURP News Editor)**

***Duties:*** Edits the BURP News and gets it to you in time for you to know when and where the next meeting is. Solicits articles and people to be meeting reporters. Serves as BURP's Secretary for its official functions.

***Campaign Statement: Candidate Bill Ridgely*** - I have been roped into, er, ahem, nominated for the esteemed position of BURP Minister of Truth, i.e., newsletter editor. I'll be willing to take on this responsibility with the usual caveat - I refuse to write the whole thing. I'll continue to contribute my BURP historical column, but I'll need help from the membership to provide interesting and eclectic articles each month. It would be nice to receive a

few 1st person accounts of brewing experiences and adventures. I'd also like to receive travel reports from those visiting great beer locations or attending beer festivals (hint to the group leaving soon for England). I'd also like to bring back the practice of having a guest writer each month report on the previous month's meeting. Finally, I insist on the Minister of Enlightenment getting off her duff and contributing regularly.

As far as the technical makeup of the newsletter, while it would be nice to have a more graphics-intensive format, I want to continue to keep the file size relatively small for downloading (now that over 90% of the club receives the newsletter electronically). My experience? I was BURP newsletter editor in 1988 (and boy, was word processing primitive in those days). I was also editor pro tem on several occasions, in particular when editor **Erik Henchal** was called away to the Gulf War (1990-91) and on several occasions when editors **Paul & Jamie Langlie** were called out of town. Vote for me, 'cause if you don't, no one else gonna do it.

### **Minister of Propaganda (Membersip Chairman)**

**Duties:** Serves as BURP'S point of contact with folks who are interested in joining. Maintains the club membership database and electronic newsletter notification e-mail list. Prints the labels for your newsletter, membership cards, and renewal notices.

**Campaign Statement: Candidates Jim & Linda Rorick (team)** - St. Arnold has inspired us to run for the office of Minister(s) of Propaganda. In our many years of BURP membership (since 1995 by our best recollection) we have enjoyed the many benefits of membership, including education, camaraderie, and the tasting of many a fine ale and lager from the BURP brewers. We believe that, like St. Arnold, we can preach the benefits of beer, especially when consumed within the BURP congregation. We believe that all beer brewers can benefit from association with fellow brewers and that BURP is the best organization of brewers. Our goals are to (1) maintain and grow the BURP membership by providing information and support to current members and sponsors, and (2) preach the ways of BURP and St. Arnold (with his never

empty mug of beer) to those worthy of membership. If elected, we will strive to fulfill the duties of Minister(s) of Propaganda to the best of our abilities and the bottom of our mugs.

### **Minister of Finance (Treasurer)**

**Duties:** Knows where the money comes from and where it goes. Maintains the BURP bank account. Participates heavily in financial forecasting issues, such as "can we afford to front the money for T-shirts, glasses, and openers." Makes reimbursements when presented with appropriate receipts.

**Campaign Statement: Candidate Kathy Koch (Incumbent)** - Fellow Burpers, I humbly come to you to ask for your vote to accept my service as minister of prosperity for "one more year." Careful management of the Club's assets indeed does lead to prosperity in more than the simple "bottom line" way. It is our actual financial soundness which allows the club to plan ahead with confidence for our signature events—MCAB, SOFB, SOB, holiday parties, special meeting events and the like. Because we reliably have the funds to advance for those events, our hard working members consistently execute successful club activities. It also enables us to keep our library of reference materials up to date, to support educational activities and to keep membership dues at a low rate.

If elected, I pledge to continue to do my best to assure fiscal soundness and prompt payment of all of our obligations. I'd also like to invite any members who think they might be interested in the future to step forward and start learning more about the job so future transitions go smoothly and new faces bring ideas and contributions to the club.

### **Minister of the Web (Webmaster)**

**Duties:** Administers [burp.org](http://burp.org) Maintains the web site. Creates new pages for upcoming BURP events and updates the web pages. Keeps the BURP Calendar current. Custodian for BurpList and BURP's administrative internet mailing lists. Maintains the @burp.org email aliases.

**Campaign Statement: Candidates Paul & Jamie Langlie (Incumbents)** - Thank you for your support this past year! We have revamped

and upgraded many of the site's functions using VB Script for building calendars, competition and scheduling pages, and the "Brewer of the Year" page. The photo gallery has begun to take shape, and the newsletter archive has been re-organized. Lessons learned from working on the MCAB and SoFB registrations will help us to develop new online registration procedures for future BURP competitions. An online membership database is also under development.

With the support of "Team Langlie," including Stein and Kai, we have all of the technical and artistic capabilities needed to keep the site running smoothly. Your ideas are always welcome, because bottom line, the website is only as useful (and fun) as your contributions make it.

### **Minister of History (Libeerian)**

***Duties:*** Maintains the BURP Libeery, a great resource, which is underutilized. Receives newsletters from clubs all over the country, which is pretty interesting. Sends the BURP goon squad after people who have not returned Libeery material.

***Campaign Statements: Candidate Cerveza Crowe (Pat & Janet also) (team)*** – Books? Those are large dusty coasters for our beer, right? Wait. I said that last year. Last year? Wow the year did fly by. As our second term as BURP Libeerian what did we accomplish? Last year the BURP library got a new warm comfortable home up off the floor on dry shelves. We had two books borrowed. We added a number of books from donations and one purchase. Check out our new Belgian beer cookbook!

As Libeerians we will faithfully carry out our duties as BURP officers. We are also looking to build upon the previous year's work, by updating and posting the catalog on the BURP Web Page to reflect the current collection. We will also develop a lending form to be available on the Web page. Our goal is to increase accessibility, stir more interest and encourage lending for the BURP Library.

Please vote for us in this election. Thank You.

## **2004 New Beers Resabrewtions**

*by Tom Cannon*

Happy New Beer to all BURPers! What a year 2003 turned out to be. Despite evidence that homebrewing has, again, dropped off, we got a lot of brewing done last year! Spirit of Free Beer numbers were down significantly, but we had plenty of beers at our monthly competitions, including lots kegged beers at the Real Ale Competition and BURP Oktoberfest.

So what does 2004 have in store? I would guess we're all thinking ahead this year planning on what we would like to brew and when. I polled a number of our more serious homebrewers to find out what, exactly, are our New Beers Resabrewtions for 2004. Here's what I got....

### **Kathy Koch:**

Get a roundtuit.  
Get extra ones to share.  
Get extra refrigeration to make lagers.  
Take more Fridays off.

### **Keith Chamberlain:**

Break the 100 gallon limit for 1 year's worth of brewing.  
Make a witbier for the summer.  
Have 3 entries in the SoFB for IPA!  
Win homebrewer of the year. Hey everyone needs a goal and heating up the competition is one way to get the club to make better and better beer!

### **Tom and Colleen Cannon**

Brew a Stein (Stone) Bier with the Keplers.  
Win the damn competition (Real Ale Competition) I started!

### **Mike McGuire**

My main brewing goal for 2004 is to brew for all of the BURP club competitions (I guess so he doesn't have to judge in them!). Not sure if I'll meet the goal but I should do better than usual! Depending on the competition schedule this may force me to brew some styles I've never tried before, and it should get me some good judging feedback every month of the year. A specific style goal is to brew my first rauchbier.

**Steve Marler**

To win the damn competition (BURP Brewer of the year) I started.

**Wendy Aaronson**

My New Beers Resabrewtion is to brew a lambic or Oud Bruin with the mixed strain culture that has been sitting in our basement for the past 3 or 4 years. It started from the dregs of all the lambics we consumed at a tasting at the Pyle's house.

**Bill Ridgely**

My resabrewtion is to finally hook up and use the counterflow chiller we bought last year. This means purchasing a pump and finally learning something about plumbing. Would also like to brew an oatmeal stout, a style we've never brewed before.

**Rob Hanson**

First, the obvious: Brew more! and the corollary: Brew more with friends.

Finally plan, start and then finish the projects that make me say "D'oh!!" every time I brew.

Siphon a little of my brewing allowance each month for the draft beer serving and glassware collection cabinet I'm dreaming of in my dining room (no promises on when *\*that\** will be finished).

**Mel Thompson**

My goal this Winter is to convert all kettles (4 kettles for double batches) to 1/2 inch stainless fittings (2 to go) and fabricate several new false bottoms.

**Andy Anderson**

What a scary concept. To have goals makes me feel quite nervous. That means I either have to accomplish them, or come up with an excuse as to why I quit. I prefer to set the bar as low as possible. So, with a great deal of trepidation, let me put forward these resabrewtions for 2004:

1. Make a style of beer I've never made before. (Of the 79 BJCP sub-styles, I still have 24 that I've never made ... but do I really want to make "Light American Lager"?)

2. Drink a style of beer I've never drunk before. (That will be a tougher task, as all 24 from #1 have been tried ... so maybe a Michelob Ultra? ... or not)

3. Win a ribbon with an extract beer.

4. Make a palatable beer with over 12% ABV.

5. Drink a beer while making a batch ... nah ... it'll never happen.

**Bob and Betsy Kepler**

Brew two styles of beer we haven't brewed before (Barleywine and Steinbier).

**Euro Tour de BURP: Prague to Vienna**

Part 2 – A Brief History of Czech Beer and Brewing

*By Bill Ridgely*

"I suppose that drinking beer in pubs has got a good influence on the behavior of Czech society, because beer contains less alcohol than for example wine, vodka or whisky and therefore people's political chat in pubs is less crazy." Vaclav Havel, 1995.

The Czech Republic rates many beer-related firsts – first in per capita beer consumption, first beer brewing textbook, first beer museum, first pilsner-style beer, and first president to write an absurdist play based on his experiences working in a brewery (see above).

Today, we think of the Czech Republic primarily as the birthplace of Pilsner beer, the world's most popular beer style. However, records indicate that beer was brewed in the Czech lands since at least the 9th century and possibly earlier. Cultivation of hops in Bohemia was chronicled as early as 859 AD, and the first export of hops was noted in 903 AD. The earliest mention of beer production is found at the Břevnov monastery, where the local Benedictine monks were making beer and wine in the year 933. The first historical document directly relating to beer production is the foundation charter for the Vysehrad church, dating from 1088. In this document, the first Czech king, Vratislav II, decreed that his estates should pay the church a hop tithe for the brewing of beer. The first recorded brewery was built at Cerhenice in 1118,

although nearly all beer at that time was brewed at home or in monasteries because of an official ban on brewing dating from the early 11th C. Some believe the brewery at Cerhenice was actually more of a cooperative malt extract plant, producing wort for cooperative members to finish at home.

In the 13th century, King Wenceslas I convinced Pope Innocent IV to revoke the 200-year old order banning the brewing of beer, and this could explain why he forever after became known as Good King Wenceslas. The king also exhibited an appreciation for the prized Bohemian hop by ordering the death penalty for anyone caught exporting the hop rhizomes to a foreign country.

In 1265, the town that is today České Budějovice in southern Bohemia was founded by King Přemysl Otakar II and given a license to brew. Shortly afterward, in 1290, a similar license was granted to 260 families in the town of Plzen in western Bohemia. Early on, beer was primarily home brewed for the consumption of the local burghers, but it became so popular that it was soon being sent to the surrounding areas of both towns. By the middle of the next century, beer brewing had become a commercial industry, and, with increasing complexity, brewing and malting became separate trades with their own guilds. Buildings, too, became specialized at this time, with separate facilities being devoted to brewing and to malting.

The Renaissance (15th C) became the high point of both Czech culture in general and the beer industry at that time. Czech beer and ingredients (Moravian 2-row barley and the famous hops from the Zatec region) were being exported widely, especially up the Elbe River to Germany, where the Saaz hop was prized in the Hamburg hops market. By the early 16th C, the beer industry contributed well over 50% of total income to Czech towns with medium to large sized breweries. In the brewing town of Rakovník, the figure was close to 90%.

Unfortunately, as was often the case in the last millennium, war would rear its ugly head and devastate Czech culture in all of its aspects. During the Bohemian phase of the Thirty Years War (1618-21), the Czechs were defeated and subjugated by Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II. Beer was still being brewed but was no more than a commodity,

used at one point to pay off a Swedish army to prevent the plunder of the town of Kutna Hora. Because of its subsequent ties with the Empire, the Czech brewing industry came more and more under the Empire's auspices based in Vienna. It wasn't until the 19th C that Czech culture began its long reawakening from centuries of decline.

This is where the story of Pilsner beer begins. The industrial revolution, begun in England in the late 18th C, had already brought many changes in the techniques of commercial brewing, resulting in a more consistent product. Two major events, however, made the world ready for an entirely new style of beer – the isolation of lager yeast strains and the mass production of clear glassware.

The first was accomplished jointly by Anton Dreher in Vienna and Gabriel Sedlmayr in Munich, friends who collaborated in the discovery that a bottom fermenting yeast strain could be isolated from the mixed strain then in use throughout Europe. The first beers brewed using the new yeast appeared in both cities in 1841, and barely a year later, in 1842, a pot of it was smuggled into Pilsen by a Bavarian monk. While Dreher focused on the production of an amber lager and Sedlmayr a darker Munich version, the combination of lightly kilned Moravian malt, spicy Saaz hops, and extremely soft water in Pilsen resulted in the creation of a very pale, highly bittered beer. The lagering (cold conditioning) process settled out solids, smoothed and rounded the flavors, and made the new beer style look good in the new clear glassware.

By the 1880's, thanks to the research of Pasteur & Hansen, techniques were established for isolating pure yeast cultures, making lager beers even cleaner and more consistent. This, along with refinements in refrigeration technology, started lager beer (and in particular Pilsner-style beer) on its way to becoming the premier beer style brewed throughout the world. Pilsner eventually evolved into several sub-styles, including those using adjuncts to lighten body and flavor. By the early 20th C, the lager revolution was in full swing!

Next Time – Czech beer today.



## Betsy and Tom's Kulture Korner

### December Cereal Brew-Off Recap:

Thanks to all the brewers who brewed for this competition and provided us with lot of great beer for the Holiday Banquet. The Holiday banquet featured the final team brew-off for 2003. This time the challenge to BURP's brewing teams was to use set ingredients AND a box of breakfast cereal. BURP supplied the base ingredients for a 5- gallon batch of beer. These ingredients were 8# Pale malt, 1# Light Munich malt, 1# Crystal malt, 2 oz. each of Chinook, Northrn Brewer and Saaz hops, and a yeast of the brew-team's choice. The brew team could have added up to 1 pound additional ingredients and must have added 1 container of breakfast cereal.

You can see from the variety of styles entered, that the brewers had fun with this challenge. It appears to have been quite a successful brew-off, too, with 15 beers entered and every beer getting "best beer" votes. In fact, the final tally was quite close among the top beers. Since there were no score sheets to provide feedback to the brewers, we had a Christmas elf make brief notes on each beer. We've included those notes with a list of the brewers, their beers and the cereal they used.

### BURP's December Brew Off Teams, Beer Name/Style, Cereal Used and "elf" notes:

Entry # 15--Jay Russ & Mike McGuire, Cocoa Puffin' Porter, Cocoa Puffs. "Chocolatey-licious!"

Entry # 3--Bob & Betsy Kepler & Tom & Colleen Cannon, Abbaye Deux Skoeps Dubbel, Kelloggs Raisin Bran. "Raisiny character and a sense of humor!"

Entry # 12--Nick Steidl & Dave Pyle, Rauchbier, Honeynut Cherrios. "Mmm, smokey, honey nuts!"

Entry # 1--Mel Thompson, Pete Ryba & Paul Langley, Holy Day Dubbel, Trader Joe's Organic Mango Passion Fruit Granola. (**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**). "Subtle Belgian character, interesting mix of mango and passionfruit."

Entry # 8--Ralph Bucca & Howard Wellman, Bitter, Luca puffed cereal. "The Luca gods made this bitter creamy!"

Entry # 6--Bud Hensgen, Mark Hogenmiller, Christina Wren & Herb Rose, Mighty Merry Christmas Spiced Ale, Cream of Wheat. "Has the creamy texture and spicy flavor of a bowl of hot cream of wheat with maple syrup."

Entry # 10--Steve Marler & Robert Stevens, Ghost of a Christmas Past Porter, Cocoa Puffs . "Chocolatey sweet porter."

Entry # 9--Steve Marler & Robert Stevens, Santa's Dream Cream Ale, Corn Pops. "Corny and sugary taste make a good cream ale and evokes memories of Sugar Corn Pops."

Entry # 4--Andy Anderson & Kathy Koch, Hoppy Holiday Pale Ale, Post Shredded Wheat (**1<sup>st</sup> Place**). "Nice hoppy punch!"

Entry # 14--Alan Hew, Clint & David Derricotte, IPA, Oatmeal. "Interesting juxtaposition of creamy oatmeal and bitter hops."

Entry # 13--Alan Hew, Ty Ming & Pat Macy, Sweet Stout, Cocoa Pebbles? (**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**). "Great real ale, excellent condition and flavor with a punch."

Entry # 2--Bill Ridgely, Wendy Aaronson & Alison Skeel, Zalig Kerstfeest (Flemish for Merry Christmas) Belgian Pale, made Hodgson Mill Cracked Wheat Cereal. "Refreshing beer, sparkles across the tongue."

Entry # 5--Keith Chamberlin, Ken Carter & Alan Hew, Raisin Brantastic Belgian Brown, Post Raisin Bran. "Raisiny character with alcohol warming."

Entry # 7--Christian Layke, Dan Praeger, Amy Cassara, Abbey May, & John St. John, Amy's Undoing Saison, Quaker Oatmeal. "Amy must be a saucy one because this beer is spicy!"

Entry # 11--Becky Pyle & Terri McEuen Steidl, Belgian Pale, Cranberry Almond Crunch. "You could taste the cranberries and it has a nice Trappist character."



## January Club Competition: America Pale Ales

### Pale Ale

*"Oh Beer! O Hodgson, Guinness, Allsop, Bass!  
Names that should be on every infant's tongue!"*

Charles Stuart Calverley

When tracking beer history, the Pale Ale Style is one of the most difficult to nail down. It's easy to point to Burton as the nexus of Pale Ale development, but it's hard to work this in with the development of pale ales as early as 1630 in London. In addition, the very term "Pale Ale", in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was a double misnomer. The beers were hardly as pale as those coming from the continent, and the term Ale, at the time, referred to fermented beverages that did not use hops. Hardly a good description for amber, often quite hoppy beers!

The foundation of the beer style is the grain used. Before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, cheap, brown malt was the standard for the beers being brewed, including the Porters and Stouts, which were popular at the time. Paler malts could be produced, but they were expensive. The difficulty of using the brown malts was that it often took a great deal of aging before the beer would become generally drinkable, and this caused problems for all but the largest of the breweries. Paler beers

using pale malts were being produced, but they cost more and were reserved for "the gentry" because, not only were they paler, but they were also clearer and this was a character in beer that was beginning to become prized.

So here's where we are. We have the largest breweries making a majority of the beer (porter) using inferior malt, while the smaller breweries are starting to switch over to more expensive pale malts to support a small market for expensive, clear, pale beer. Hodgson, in London, was the leading producer of paler beers including practically owning the export market (highly hopped, stronger beers to India). But here's the kicker. The large breweries are making lots of money and are reinvesting into better brewing equipment (this is about the time the thermometer and hydrometer were being introduced into the brewing world). One result from this reinvestment spending is the discovery that better malting techniques actually produce malts that are more efficient and therefore not really more expensive. So, say goodbye to Porter and welcome Pale Ale!

Meanwhile, up in Burton, the brewers were producing beers for export to the Baltic. The canal system afforded easy access to ports on the north coast of England. War with France and increased tariffs caused a shift in interest from supplying dark beers to the Baltic and Russia to the lucrative export of beer to India. And what they wanted in India was Pale Ale, particularly big, hoppy Pale Ale! Also started producing Pale Ale in Burton in 1822 and was soon followed by Bass. And while they were making money exporting beer, the tastes at home were changing and Pale Ale was becoming popular at home. Of course, since these beers didn't have to be transported, they didn't have to be quite so strong and bitter. What was becoming apparent as well is that the hard water in Burton was particularly suited for these relatively highly hopped, paler beers. Bass built their second brewery in Burton in 1853 and a third in 1863. Since the pale ale coming out of Burton was considered the finest in the country, London brewers Charrington and Ind Coope also set up breweries in Burton. While exported beer continued as part of their business, a vast majority of the beer produced was for English consumption.

So how did we get American Pale Ale? At first, British Ale was produced and consumed in the US due to British influence. Post Revolutionary War, however, as the British influence waned, the European immigrants began producing beers and these were based on the continental lagers that they preferred. Ale production was pretty much confined to the British Isles. After brewery consolidation as a result of prohibition, Balentine was, practically, the only major (regional, actually) making traditional Ale. Other breweries were making ale styles, but usually with lager yeasts. Micro brewers began, primarily on the West Coast, making ales because they were cheaper to produce with less conditioning time than the mass produced lagers. The New Albion brewing company, considered the first of the new wave of micro brewing, began with the production of pale ale, in the British style, but with American hops and grain. The Mendicino Brewing Company grew out of the ashes of New Albion and continues to produce ales. Sierra Nevada, of course, produced highly sought after pale ales. The original Anchor beers used lager yeasts for all of their products until they did a specialty for the Bicentennial called Liberty Ale. Since these were the first micro-brewed beers in the US, they become the standard for the style, that is, made primarily with US grown grain and hops but brewed in the traditional English style. The most significant difference from British Ales is that the Americans tended to like their beers big and our Pale Ales were usually stronger and much more bitter than the beers being produced in the UK.

The January club competition is our traditional Pale Ale Competition. We are accepting beers in BJCP category 6 (American Pale Ale) in the following styles: American Pale Ale, American Amber Ale, California Common. Two bottles required for entry. Good luck! See last month's newsletter or the BURP website for BJCP style guidelines for American Pale Ales and next month's Scottish Ales.

### February Competition: Scottish Ales

These are the Scottish Ales in BJCP Category 5. We will not be accepting Wee Heavies.

## BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

*Compiled By Bill Ridgely*

### **20 Years Ago, January 1984**

Election of BURP officers in the "Year of Orwell" took precedence at the Jan 18 meeting. Following the presentation of recommendations from the Election Committee, nominations were taken from the floor, and the new officers were elected immediately afterward. **Dan McCoubrey** was elected BURP President. Other new officers included **Phil Angerhofer** (Executive VP), **Hank Rupprecht** (Secretary), **Bobby Bauer** (Treasurer), **Dan McCabe** (Activities Chair) and **Bob Klothe** (Parliamentarian). A new post was also established for BURP's longtime jester **Ernie Weissenborn**. Ernie was officially appointed as the club's "Chairman of Perverse & Perverted Humor". Outgoing treasurer **George Burgess** reported that the treasury at the beginning of the New Year consisted of \$235 and 28 BURP t-shirts.

Following the election, **Charlie Rusk**, VP of John I. Haas, Inc (the major hops distributor in the country) gave a presentation about the hop growing industry in the Yakima Valley.

Potables at the meeting were provided by **Bobby Bauer**, who brewed a batch of his 1982 AHA-championship heavy dark beer.

### **10 Years Ago, January 1994**

The 1994 election of BURP officers took place at the January meeting at **Bruce & Polly Goldman's** house in Alexandria. Since there was only one candidate (or candidate team) for each post, there were no losers in the election. **Tim Artz** moved up from Minister of Culture to Fearless Leader. **Wendy Aaronson** segued from Fearless Leader to Minister of Education. **Rex White** became the new Minister of Culture, and **Katy Dugarm** became the new Li-beerian. **Larry Koch**, **Bill Ridgely**, and the **Feist/Goldman** team kept their old posts as Ministers of Finance, Propaganda (Mem-beership), and Truth (Newsletter) respectively. The pale ale contest held at the meeting was won by **Robbie Zev Ludwick**.

The January issue of the BURP News featured Part 3 of **Jim Busch & Phil Seitz's** "Beer Hunting in Belgium" series, with the focus on a tasting of aged Belgian ales (including a reputed 25-year old Orval) and some general observations on the Belgian beer scene. **Jim Dorsch**, in his monthly "Whole BURP Catalog", reported on the rapid growth of two area breweries (Baltimore Brewing and Old Dominion) as well as the buyouts of two long-established brewing companies (G. Heileman and The Lion) by larger companies with no experience in the beer business. On a sadder note, Jim noted the recent passing of Bud Light spokesdog Spuds Mackenzie (who was actually a female named Honey Tree Evil Eye). Spuds was approaching her 10th birthday at the time of her demise.

## Editors' Corner

*By Sweet Christine Lewis, Minister of Truth*

**Articles for the February issue of the BURP News are due whenever the new Minister of Truth says so.** Seriously, as this is my last newsletter as the Minister of Truth, I would like to thank all those who made my job easy. Ok, ok....so I had to prod, beg and plead with some of you for your articles on times. Best wishes to the incoming editor. I look forward to seeing all of you as a civilian at future BURP meetings. FREE BEER!!

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