



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES
1981-2006 *Silver Anniversary*

“While beer brings gladness,
don't forget that water only makes you wet.”

Harry Leon Wilson



Bill Ridgely, Editor
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December 2006

15 Harvard Court
Rockville, MD 20850



December Meeting
Holiday Banquet and Holiday Beer
Competition
At Lyon Park Community Center
Arlington, VA
Tuesday, Dec 12, 2006
6:00 - 10:00 PM

January Meeting
American Ale Competition
Date and Location
To Be Determined
(Watch BURPlist for Updates)

February Meeting
Scottish Ale Competition
Ijamsville, MD
Saturday, Feb 24, 2007
1:00 – 6:00 PM

Marler Mash

By Steve Marler, Fearless Leader

Year End Round Up

Our 25th Anniversary celebration is now drawing to a close. At the beginning of the year, I set an ambitious agenda for the club in order to make this a special year. Though we did not get to everything on this agenda, I believe we had a good year. I hope that you think so too.

Of course, the success of our year is the result of the time, dedication, and hard work of the membership. Those people who volunteer to become officers and those who volunteer to host meetings, coordinate events, and are there to help out deserve our thanks.

For me, one of the highlights of the year was our anniversary party and crab feast in September. It was great to hear about the history of the club and have some of BURP's founding fathers there to celebrate with us. To prove that history is prolog, at the Real Ale Festival, two of our early members (**Howard & Emily Michelsen**) were in attendance and looking to buy brewing equipment during the silent auction. What will the future hold?

How about the great beer that our members brewed this year! The year started off with **Ed Bielaus** being crowned champion of the *8th Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing*. Despite **Andy Anderson's** retirement, we still had more entries into the Spirit of Free Beer (SoFB) than we have had the last couple of years. We also had a great showing of BURP brewers in the American Homebrewers Association's National Competition. Eight members came home with medals.

Please submit all articles for publication in either plain text or Microsoft Word format to the e-mail address above. **Do not include graphic files.** 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.

What about **Wendy Schmidt**? She is the Queen of Beer, having won the Queen of Beer competition in October. And could there have been a more poetic way to end the last competition of our 25th Anniversary year than with **Tim Artz** winning the Real Ale competition? A former BURP President who started the SoFB, the Spirit of Belgium, and helped coin our catch phrase 'Free Beer'.

Yep, I would say that we had a good year, and I am glad that I was a part of it.

This month, we have our annual Holiday Party. It is our chance to celebrate this year and look forward to next year as we select new BURP officers. I have faith that the membership will select people who will look to the past as they set the initial agenda for the start of our next 25 years of perusing more and better home brew.

Meeting Place Needed

It is usually the responsibility of the outgoing President to secure the BURP meeting places for the first couple of months of the year. We have February taken care of. We are working on a potential spot for January but would like a back up. The January meeting usually needs to be indoors. So if you have a house or have access to a community center that can fit 40 or so people and would like to host, give me a call (703) 527-4628 or shoot me an email (marler@burp.org). We also need a place for March.

If you are interested in hosting a meeting other than January or March, let me know and I will provide the information to the new President.



Brothers & Sisters in Beer

By Jamie Langlie, Co-Minister of Culture

Happy Hoppy Holidays!

The purpose of BURP monthly competitions is to further the art and science of homebrewing by providing

thoughtful feedback to Club brewers and by developing a cadre of well-qualified, educated judges.

Mel Thompson Reigns as 2006 Brewer of the Year!

Congratulations to **Mel Thompson**, who cruised to the winner's circle as BURP's **2006 Brewer of the Year!** Mel accrued an impressive 39 points on his way to the top, bolstered by several medals at the 2006 Spirit of Free Beer. **2nd Place** goes to **Ed Bielaus** with 13 points, and **3rd Place** to **Christine Johnbrier**, with 12 points.

Other contenders with double digit point counts include: **Rick Garvin** (11) and **Wendy Aaronson & Bill Ridgely** (10). Members with 5 – 9 points include: **Mark Hogenmiller** (9), **David Todd** (8), **Ty Ming** (8), **A.J. deLange** (7), **Bud Hensgen** (7), and **Bob & Betsy Kepler** (6).

Kudos for all for your efforts! Looking forward to seeing your entries in 2007.

December Holiday Beer Competition

Our December meeting marks the return of the ever-popular Holiday Beer Competition. This is an open competition for a wide range of holiday styles from around the world. For a more in depth look on the subject of world-wide holiday beers, please see *Biere De Noel, Weihnachtsbier, and Other Holiday Beer Traditions from Around the World*, an excellent article by former MOC **Mark Hogenmiller** in the July 2005 BURP News. As usual, judging will be done by popular choice, and the results do not count towards BOTY. Entries will be accepted in both kegs and bottles (must check in a minimum of 6 bottles). Check-in will begin at 5:30 P.M.

Special Thanks to Judges

Bud, Tom C., and I want to offer a special **THANK YOU** to all of the BURP members who took time out from meeting mingling and made way in their busy schedules to judge or steward for our club competitions this year. BURP is known for its superb corps of judges, and our monthly events and SoFB offer ample opportunities for interested members to learn and grow their judging skills. To honor those who've helped in 2006, we'll have a special **Judges' Prize Drawing** at the Holiday Banquet from the names of everyone who has judged or stewarded for one of our monthly BOTY Club Competitions. Much appreciated, judges!

January and February Competition Schedule

January 2007 competition will be for **Category #10, American Ale: A. Pale, B. Amber, C. Brown.** The winner will go on to the Feb. AHA Club Only Competition for Low Gravity/Session Beers (OG < 1.045). Complete BJCP style guidelines are at - <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category10.html>.

February 2007 will be **Category #9, Scottish Ale: A. Scottish Light 60/, B. Scottish Heavy 70/, and C. Scottish Export 80/.** The winner will go on to the March AHA Club Only Competition for Category #9, Scottish Ale. Complete BJCP style guidelines for 9A, 9B, and 9C are at - <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category9.html>.

Join Your Fellow BURPERS for the Annual Potluck Holiday Banquet Tues, December 12!

By Bill Ridgely

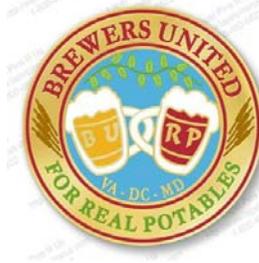
The December BURP meeting will be our Annual Potluck Holiday Banquet. This fabulous feast will be held at the Lyon Park Community Center in Arlington, VA on Tuesday, Dec 12. Doors will open at 4:30 PM for those who wish to help set up and decorate. Festivities will begin at 6:00 PM, and we ask that everyone be out of the facility by 10:00 PM. As always, volunteers are needed to help with decorating, setup, and cleanup following the banquet. If you would like to assist, please contact Holiday Banquet Coordinator **Steve Marler** at marler.stephen@dol.gov.

As with previous banquets, everyone should plan to bring a dish of their choice. In past years, there have been a wide variety of appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, and desserts. We hope this tradition carries on. It has also been a longstanding tradition to use beer in dishes if at all possible, so be creative. Try to provide enough food for at least 6-8 people. All dishes should be prepared ahead of time as much as possible. However, there are full kitchen facilities available for our use at the Center, so if you need to finish or bake something onsite, you will have that capability. Electrical outlets and power strips will also be available for crockpots and hot plates.

In addition to great food, the holiday banquet is always a showplace for homebrewed holiday beers. This year will again feature a Holiday Beer competition. All in attendance will have a chance to vote on their favorite beer, and ribbons will be awarded to the winners. While kegs are preferred (so everyone will have plenty of holiday cheer to imbibe), bottled beers are also welcome in the competition.

The other featured event will be the election for BURP's 2007 officer corps. Election of officers can be done online at the BURP website, but for those lacking web access, paper ballots will be available at the meeting. Officer candidate statements are printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The holiday banquet is always one of BURP's premier events and an opportunity for you to show off both your cooking and brewing skills. Don't miss the fun. Join your fellow BURPERS for a feast to remember!



BURP Lapel Pins Soon to be Available

Looking for the perfect holiday gift or a nice BURP keepsake to exchange with newfound friends on your beer travels? The club has ordered beautiful BURP logo cloisonné lapel pins that will be for sale to all club members for \$3.00 each. It is hoped the shipment will arrive by the holiday banquet on the 12th, but if not, a notification of availability will be sent to the BURPlist.

The pins are 1" in diameter, gold plated, and have a butterfly clutch on the back. Each comes in its own poly bag. The final pin design is reproduced above.

If you are interested in purchasing pins, please contact **Bill Ridgely** at ridgely@burp.org or 301-762-6523.

In Memoriam – Joe Golfer, Co-Owner of Cairo Liquors

By Bill Ridgely

It is with sadness that I report the passing of **Joe Golfer**, co-owner (with **Howard Aaronson**) of Cairo Wine and Liquors near Dupont Circle in DC. Joe was afflicted with kidney cancer and passed away on Nov 23 at the age of 54. He is survived by his wife Anne, two children (Adam and Lauren), a brother (Larry) and a sister (Miriam).

Cairo has been a major supporter of BURP for many years. Joe and Howie opened the business in 1986 and began sponsoring prizes for club competitions very early on. Joe attended the 5th Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing (MCAB-5) which was sponsored by

BURP several years ago and held in the DC area. He had an abiding interest in the homebrewing hobby and had expressed interest in learning how to brew on a number of occasions. Joe was a wonderful person with many friends and admirers both in his own community and in the business world. He will be greatly missed.

The BURP Club has made a contribution to the Montgomery General Hospital Health Foundation in Joe's honor.

2007 BURP Real Ale Competition Wrap Up

By Tom Cannon, Real Ale Competition Coordinator

Congratulations to BURP for pulling off another successful Real Ale event. This year we had 49 entries (plus a keg of Victory Brown Ale, not part of the competition but a welcome addition thanks to **Jim Busch** and the good folks at *Victory Brewing Co*). Although we were down two entries from last year, this is still an impressive number.

The beers were judged Friday night before the meeting by some of the best judges in the club. 75% of the entries received a score of 30 or above, which means that these beers were considered by the judges as, at least, very good.

The Best of Show judges were **Wendy Aaronson, Colleen Cannon, Betsy Kepler, and Wendy Schmidt**. They selected the following winning beers:
 1st BOS – **Tim Artz** – Extra Special Bitter (ESB)
 2nd – **Mark Hogenmiller** – Ordinary Bitter
 3rd - **Mel Thompson** - Brown Porter



The Real Ale Competition BOS panel hard at work (Photo by Bill Ridgely)

The "Cellarman's Choice" award is given to the best beer as chosen by the Stewards and those working on the porch serving the beer. This year's award went to **Calvin Perilloux**. His Mild was chosen as the

Cellarman's Choice, and he was awarded the coveted mash paddle.

All of the beers were available for drinking at the BURP meeting the next day and, as always, the turnout was probably the best of the BURP year. I hope you all enjoyed the beers and the event.

And now, for the thanks. First, thanks to **Bill and Wendy** for hosting the event for the 8th year. This BURP meeting could not happen without them, and we all owe them our thanks. Next, thanks to the judges and stewards for the competition. Friday night at the Aaronridge pub can best be described as "organized chaos". If it wasn't for our diligent group of judges and our crack team of cellermen and women, we wouldn't be able to get the beers judged and out of there in time for the BURP meeting the following day.

Most importantly, thanks to the folks who provided the beer and the beer engines for the event. It's clear that we couldn't do this without them. 49 beers is impressive enough, but how about all of those beer engines? I don't think there are too many other homebrew clubs who could pull off an event like this.

And lastly, thanks to all of those who attended the Saturday meeting and helped out emptying all of those kegs. Remember, the competition is fun, and it helps to get the beers there, but this event is for the membership. I hope you all continue to support this event. Next year, after all, is our tenth anniversary!



A Random Observation on the BURP Real Ale Festival

*By Brian "Stillwater" Strumke
 (Photos by John Esparolini)*

A crisp fall day was the perfect setting for the Annual

BURP Real Ale Fest, graciously hosted by **Bill & Wendy**. As I am a Baltimore native, my only experience with BURP in the past has been a blurry two years of the notorious MASHOUT. This year, I was luckily able to tag along with some fellow CRABS members (**Dan & Ben**) to attend this intense tribute to real ale. A friendly greeting from the front of the house paved the way to the back yard where my eyes fixed on a long table filled end to end with copious amounts of delicious foods ranging from an intensely decadent chocolate cheese cake (probably the BEST I have ever had), fresh roasted turkey, comforting soups, an array of cheeses, breads, veggies, and other meats and crock pots filled with love. I was immediately drawn to the food, as I thought it was proper to lay down a base before partaking of the tippie as the day was young.

So, the beer. Yeah, there was some beer - something to the tune of 26 hand pumps (something I never thought I would see) and 50 rotating kegs, all English style ranging from hoppy to not-so-hoppy ESB's, to dark Porters, flavorful Milds, and easy drinking "Ordinary" Bitters. Blame me now, for I did not note much as to which beer scaled higher in my eyes, for I was allowing myself to be engulfed in the good times and friendly vibes circulating the grounds that day and besides, the premieres were acknowledged through the competition held the day prior. Now, I am familiar with real ale, living in the beer friendly town of Baltimore where one can find a cask without too much searching and also attending regular meetings of the SPBW, which keeps my Real Ale cravings satisfied, but this was my first time presented with only traditional English styles. Therefore, my approach to this event was much different than most, for my background relies heavily on brewing and partaking of Belgian and American style beers. So I started my rounds with some bitters to ease into this from the ground up. From there I went on to the ESB's, and then the darker ales so as not to overwhelm my taste buds and still be able to enjoy the subtleness of these mild mannered session ales. Although having admitted that I did not take note of specifics on too many of the offerings, I must point out that I did find a personal favorite towards the end of the second session, **Rick Garvin's** ESB. Now, I may get slammed for this but what do I care, the beer had an obvious Brett infection, but to me this was a true English experience. I know that Brett is not an acceptable trait for an ESB according to BJCP guidelines, but were not all traditional English Ales from wooden casks subject to at least some level of Brett and other wild yeasts? In today's world of sanitation capabilities, I know infections are quite avoidable, but we also have draft systems so that hand pulled pints are no longer necessary, but we still use them! Why? Because we as humans like tradition, and we don't always agree that the latest technology is the best method to live by. So Rick, whether you meant for

that infection or not, it worked in my eyes and took me back to "Olde England", although you're probably not going to see any ribbons for it.



And the band played on ...

Other than the great beers and succulent foods available, the live musical jam in the living room kicked the party up yet another notch. A crafty pianist and **Pops** rotating from fiddle to ukulele (is that what that was?) seemed to be the foundation, while other musicians came and went, including a woman in a red sweater playing acoustic guitar and singing, which I quite enjoyed. I unfortunately did not make it to the end of the event, as we were off to the MALT meeting that evening where I met my demise after a session of left over Turkey Shoot beers. As this is just my humble take on the day's festivities, I suspect that most of the attendees shared in my enjoyment and appreciation for the work put in to make such an event happen. I would like to extend thanks to BURP for having me as a guest, and I look forward to attending next year (if I'm still allowed).



Tom Cannon & Andy Anderson, the BURPers who started it all

Apologies for Any Inconvenience

Recently, **Mel & Dee Dee Thompson** and **Larry & Trish Koch** attended the Nottingham, U.K. real ale

festival. It was advertised as serving 400 real ales. All of us were disappointed that, in actuality, there were only 399 as the Cumbrian Brewery's *Claife Crier* ale was not available. We hoped that the "supplier" was able to resolve the problem in a satisfactory manner.

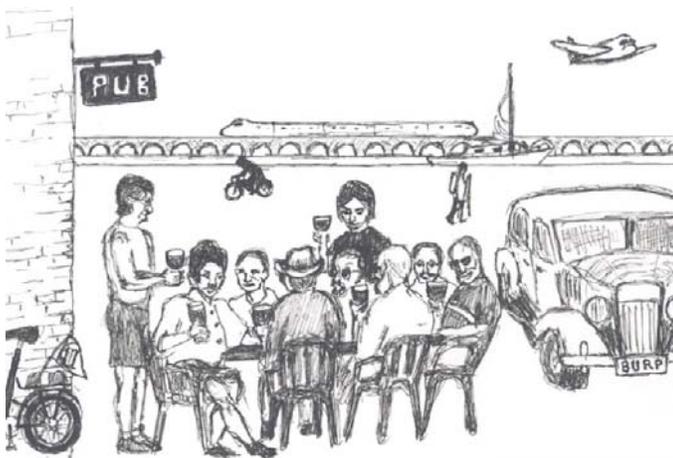


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RYDler

Q. How long has San Francisco's Anchor Brewing Co been producing its *Our Special Ale* for the holiday season?

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Wanderings

By Craig Somers, Cyclemeister

The August 2006 tour in Europe began with a week in Bamberg, which is a heavenly site for those who praise

beer. The final week of August turned out to be a fine time for a visit since that is when the annual Bamberg City Fest occurs. Outstanding kellerbiers from outlying villages were served in ceramic mugs with some poured directly from wooden barrels at stalls set up along the streets. These are flavorful unfiltered "real lagers" brewed with generous amounts of noble hops that seem to dance around on your palate. The northern province of Bavaria called Franconia with 250 or so remaining breweries is where the typical beer is kellerbier, which may either favor the flavor of the malt or the hops, depending on the brewer's preference. Every village in this farming region had at least one brewery, and the greatest concentration of breweries in the world is still here, but sadly they are disappearing rapidly - around a hundred have closed since 1980. A brewing tradition that has passed from father to son for several generations ends when sons are lured into more prosperous careers elsewhere or when large breweries squeeze the small ones out of business. However, Franken land with Bamberg at its center and a hundred brauereien within a ten mile radius of the city is mecca for the beer pilgrim. Go to beer heaven especially to drink the fabulous kellerbiers, but there is so much more here to enjoy since the greatest variety of locally brewed beer styles (rauch, swartz, braun, pils, marzen, weiss, bock and others) in Germany are found in the Franconian culture which honors and preserves its heritage. So have you tasted kellerbier before? **Rick Garvin & Christine Johnbrier** have dispensed their superb kellerbier at the Chili Cookoff and at MASHOUT, but if you missed it, then try *Tupper's Hop Pocket Keller Pils*, which is fashioned in this style. Franconia is ideal for bicycling since it is laced with a network of paved trails, and frequent local trains have an entire car to accommodate bikes if you need a lift. Check out this website to learn more:

<http://www.franconiabeerguide.com>



BURP Elections to be Held This Month

The time has come to elect new officers to serve as leaders of BURP for 2007. Position descriptions and candidate statements are below. Voting may be done online or by paper ballot at the December meeting. To vote online you **must be registered on the BURP website**. The web address for online voting is:

<http://www.burp.org/elections/2007/>.

The BURP Officer positions are:

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). Initiates and coordinates major BURP activities (conferences, festival participation, etc).

Candidate: Kathy Koch

Candidate Statement: Thank you all for the nomination to be the next leader of this wonderful homebrew club. We all owe so much to the many members who have given so much time and effort in the last 25 years as officers, volunteers, brewers, mentors, and friends.

I truly enjoy my membership in this great club and, if chosen as your next leader, I will do my best to carry forward into the next year the characteristic strengths of the club. Each of us, no doubt, values different things about our participation in BURP. I'll mention just a few that I'd like to focus on in our 2007 activities.

The key to everything we are and do as a club is our membership. We are a collection of talented, creative, varied and fun individuals. People make the club work, and we have some of the best. Visitors and new members discover this quickly, and equally as quickly begin adding their own contributions to our meetings, competitions, education and other activities. Our members volunteer their homes for meetings, brew tasty beer to share, organize activities, work at being careful beer judges and help us learn more about beer styles and brewing techniques.

We only need to look to our name to come to my second focus. We are Brewers. Whether we are novices or experienced, use extract or all grain, love lambics or lagers or brew barley wines or bitters, BURP is about using our brewing skills to produce good beer.

Finally, in addition to its wonderful people and great beer, BURP is characterized by its rich history. The 2006 celebration of our 25th anniversary reminded us of all the great homebrewers and homebrews that have come before. Many of our members bring to the club experiences from the "early days" of make-do equipment and hard to locate ingredients. They worked

with each other to build up the club and its traditions and are still giving to us today.

People, Beer, History. If elected to be your next leader, those are the strengths of the club I will do my best to maintain and build upon. I can only do it with the enthusiastic participation of each of you. I look forward to working with all of you.

Minister of Enlightenment (Education)

Duties: Organizes 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 in honing style recognition skills.

Co-Candidates: Wendy Aaronson and Tom Cannon (Incumbents)

Candidate Statement: The main reason we want to run again for Co-Ministers of Enlightenment is that we never got our picture taken together for the web page (and published).

Actually, we think we have had a very successful year in terms of educating the club. By the time of elections, we will have finished our BJCP prep class and will have scheduled a BJCP exam for early 2007, in time for the participants to get their credentials for SOFB 2007. We have conducted an extract brewing demonstration and held enlightenment sessions that covered adulterated beers, real ales, and an overview of working with a cask. We've held one "misunderstood style" tasting session on the Dusseldorf Alt style.

Obviously, it's difficult to hold educational sessions at every BURP meeting, but during the more "routine" meetings, we would like to, once again, try some things that we haven't done recently or before. We would like to arrange brewing sessions with successful BURP brewers that could provide an opportunity for award-winners to divulge their brewing secrets.

We are excited to once again be a team and try to be more effective in 2007. We look forward to providing programs to meet the needs of our diverse membership. We hope you vote for us, but we are also asking for input. What would you like to learn about in 2007?

Minister of Culture (Competitions)

Duties: Runs monthly club competitions and writes articles about styles for the BURP News. Orders awards for contests. Recruits the competition organizer for the

Spirit of Free Beer or does it himself/herself. May organize trouble-shooting corner at meetings.

Co-Candidates: Jamie Langlie (Incumbent) & Jeanie Osburn

Candidate Statement: Team ***DoppelJ-LO*** (*Jamie & Jeanie Langlie/Osburn*) requests the pleasure of your vote to elect us as BURP's 2007 Ministers of Culture. We combine Jamie's experience in managing competitions with Jeanie's enthusiasm for being a first-time BURP officer. Our goal is to run smooth, warming competitions that are fair, fun, and a bit toasty. Like well-lagered bock, we're strong, slightly sweet, and full-bodied, but without harshness or astringency. Our legs are noticeable (on our bikes), and we frequently exude a light aroma of noble hops. We like to party ... but we're also serious beer geeks, committed to upholding and nurturing BURP's proud, 25-year tradition of quality hand-crafted brewing. If elected, we'll solicit and value your ideas and opinions regarding what works well and what could be tweaked to improve our club competitions. Vielen Dank!!

Candidate: Colleen Cannon

Candidate Statement: When asked why I want to be the Minister of Culture, all I can say is, it's about time. I've had my year off since being President of BURP, and even longer since I've performed in a leadership role in a major BURP event such as Spirit of Belgium or Spirit of Free Beer. I have always been one to step up to a challenge, and I think that "Minister of Culture" is one of the more challenging positions that BURP has to offer. In addition to being challenging, I firmly believe that the responsibilities of monthly competitions and Spirit of Free Beer are too important to be delegated in a hands-off manner or without the necessary planning and scheduling. That's not to say I won't be looking for help. I already have solicited some helpers, namely **Janet Crowe** and **Rick Garvin**, who have offered to help with monthly competitions, and of course, I'll need a committee of volunteers for SOFB. But when it comes to responsibility and accountability for these events, the buck stops here.

I remember a time when there used to be a sort of "how-to" manual that was handed off from one Minister of Culture to the next for the purpose of organizing Spirit of Free Beer. I intend to recreate that manual so that others won't find MoC such a daunting task. In addition, I plan to work closely with the "enlightenment" team to ensure our competitions are linked to educational events and we continue to apply our resource of BJCP-trained judges to important competitions. I also want to ensure our monthly

competition schedule provides a good balance of fun competitions, such as the "Iron Chef" and "Battle of the Sexes" type of competition we've had before, and BJCP style competitions worthy of competition for "Brewer of the Year." So, that's my statement. It's about time to take on the responsibility, and I'll make sure we have fun doing it. Cheers!

Minister of Truth (Newsletter)

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.

Candidate: Beth Madden

Candidate Statement: As Minister of Truth, I plan to uphold the already high standards established by the reigning "Inkslinger", Bill Ridgely. BURP is one of the greatest home brew clubs in the country. Our membership is very proactive in AHA and BJCP, and our brewers continually receive recognition for the efforts at both regional and national levels. We have a large membership covering a wide variety of professional disciplines. Each brings its own unique style and perspective to the art of brewing. In the next year, I would like to tap into this expertise and include even more of the BURP spirit in the BURP News publication.

Minister of Propaganda (Membership)

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 membership cards. Sends out renewal notices.

Candidate: Christine Johnbrier

Candidate Statement: Hi, I'm Christine Johnbrier, and I'm running for Minister of Propaganda. It's been 3 years since I held an officer position (or is that propositioned by an officer?). I figure Jim & Linda may need a break, so what can I tell you? Someone caught me in a weak drunken stupor. So, as Minister of Propaganda, I'll show up at all the meetings, I'll slap a nametag on ya, I'll force people to join the club, and I'll send out the 'pay up or else' notices. Vote for me.

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 club memorabilia". Makes reimbursements when presented with appropriate receipts.

Candidate: Larry Koch (Incumbent)

Candidate Statement: I would be honored to serve as our club's Minister of Prosperity for a second year. In the coming year I would like to organize better accounting summaries for our major events. I ask for your support.

Minister of the Web (Web Page)

Duties: Administers 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.

Candidates: Paul & Stein Langlie (Incumbents)

Candidate Statement: Thank you for your support this year! We look forward to serving you again in 2007. With the support of "Team Langlie," including Kai, we have the technical and artistic capabilities needed to keep the site running smoothly. We will continue to upgrade the site, to be responsive to the Club's needs, and to collaborate with officers and special events committees to publicize BURP activities. Your ideas are always welcome! Of course, we are still working on the online beer-engine.

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. Writes interesting articles based on libeery resources for BURP newsletter.

Candidate: Mel Thompson (Incumbent)

Candidate Statement: A vote for Mel is a vote for literacy! The BURP Libeery is your personal library, complete with the latest books and publications to make your brewing and beer drinking experience extraordinary. I want to provide the service to you to make the Libeery accessible and convenient.

This past year I have announced the availability of books on BURPlist prior to each meeting and have brought a

box of relevant books to each meeting that I have been able to attend. And, those meetings that I was unable to attend (only a few – I hate to miss BURP meetings), I made arrangements to deliver book requests and pick up returned books via a surrogate. I sent out to all BURPlist subscribers an email attachment listing the complete Libeery inventory.

The result was a dramatic increase in the use of the Libeery by BURPers. In addition, my spouse, who is a reading teacher, has volunteered to teach non-reading BURPers to read in exchange for homebrew.

If re-elected, I will continue to shamelessly promote the Libeery and try to coerce you to read more Libeery books. I will update the Libeery with several new publications of beer and brewing significance. And, I will finally get around to writing some relevant book reviews for the newsletter or con you into writing reviews of the books you have read.

Thank you for your use of the Libeery this past year and for diligently, though not always promptly, returning the books you have borrowed. Vote for Mel! Libeerian. Cheers.



Due to holiday obligations, there will be no *Trivial Beer-Suits* this month. **Charlie Pavitt** will return in the next edition of [BURP News](#).

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Answer to Dec RYDler

A. The first edition of *Our Special Ale* was released in 1975. This year marks the 32nd release of Anchor's distinctive product. The recipe is different each year as is the tree displayed on the label.

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BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

Compiled By Bill Ridgely

20 Years Ago, Dec 1986

There was no BURP meeting held in Dec 1986, but the club was on the verge of a whole new era. BURP had just celebrated its 5th anniversary in Sep 1986, and several of the founding members – **Phil Angerhofer**, **George Burgess**, **Dan McCoubrey** – had sadly passed into history. But the club was now over 100 strong, and a new generation of enthusiastic and energetic homebrewers was about to take over the reins. The slate of officers elected in early 1987 would consist almost entirely of BURP members who had never served in leadership positions. New ideas were being brought to the fore, and the club was moving in exciting new ways. 1987 would be a watershed year and point the way into an exciting future for the club.

10 Years Ago, Dec 1996

The December BURP meeting and annual holiday banquet was held on the 17th at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Ft Washington, MD. Beside the usual potluck extravaganza, the meeting featured a Belgian beer competition. **Colleen Cannon** announced the winners in her wonderfully poetic "Night Before Christmas" themed meeting report:

"The judges all gathered in a corner after dinner,
And declared **Jim Caldwell's** Belgian Strong Ale the
winner,

Congrats also to **Doug Kruth** and **Andy Anderson** for
their brewing troubles,

They took second and third with their Trappist-style
Dubbels"

The club's growing interest in English real ales and the beer engines used to serve them also received a great deal of attention at the meeting. Six shiny new beer engines showed up, brought by their proud BURP owners along with tasty bitters and stouts to serve through them. Hmm, perhaps a future BURP meeting could be devoted entirely to homebrewed English cask conditioned ale served through beer engines. The concept was growing in the minds of many club members, especially **Andy Anderson & Tom Cannon**, who were already scheming about holding just such an event.

The December BURP News was a dream issue for those who enjoy trip reports. In addition to lengthy recaps of the two BURP pub crawls held in November by the crawl organizers, **Andy Anderson** contributed an excellent article on the Poperinge Hop Festival he attended

(Poperinge is the primary hop growing region of Belgium and the source of the wonderful beer style called Hommel Bier, the hoppiest beer brewed in Belgium). Also in the issue, **Tom Cannon** reported on the trip he and **Colleen** took to the 1996 Great British Beer Festival along with several other BURPers. The trip included a side visit to the beautiful and ancient city of Bath, with its many fine pubs. At the GBBF, the group made a valiant attempt to sample all of the 310 real ales, 40 ciders and perries, and 180 foreign beers available – a tough but wonderfully tasty assignment. The final article in the Dec issue featured **Jonathan Feist's** beer tour of **Bruce & Polly's** basement, which consisted of over 40 different bottled beers and 7 draft, including several recent **Feist/Goldman** homebrewed products.



BURP Prosperity Report

By Larry Koch, Minister of Prosperity

Current Financial Position

Previous Balance – 08 Nov 06	\$19,294
Income	+ \$1,062
Expenses	- \$240
Current Balance – 02 Dec 06	\$20,116

BURP members are reminded that all expense submissions must include details. Required details are date, exact amount, detailed description of the item, any special circumstances, and name of person to be reimbursed. Event coordinators should maintain a spreadsheet for their project.

Spreadsheets and other financial data are available on the BURP website to registered users at <http://burp.burp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=438>.

Membership Update

By Jim & Linda Rorick, Ministers of Propaganda

This month, we welcome returning members **Howard & Emily Michelsen** of Davidsonville, MD.

Please keep your contact information up-to-date.....most importantly, your email address. If you are not receiving an electronic notification each month with the newsletter link, that means we don't have your current email address! Send your contact information to membership@burp.org, and we'll see that your info is updated.

CURRENT MEM-BEER-SIP STATS:

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS: 278
 FAMILY: 83 (x2) 166
 INDIVIDUAL: 91
 HONORARY: 21

December Website Update

By Paul & Stein Langlie, Co-Ministers of the Web

We won't have any problems with "chads" - so your vote is safe to cast online. Members who have created an account on the website can vote. If you still haven't done so, please register on the BURP website! All registered users can participate in the web forums, and BURP members can create a personal blog. To reach the blog area, navigate to the BURP homepage, and you will see a link in the left-column. Of course, you can also check out the 2006 Calendar and archived newsletters online. If you want to share a recipe with the world, the online forums or the blog are the perfect place. To view the membership list, you need to log in to the site. Only registered members can log in, but registration is free and easy. Online registration will allow you to keep your contact info current and view the online membership list. Visit <http://burp.org> and click "Register" at the upper-right corner of the screen. Cheers!



Editor's Corner

*By Bill Ridgely, AKA Johnny Inkslinger
 Minister of Truth*

This is my last issue of the BURP News, and it is with some sadness (but also a great deal of relief) that I pass the torch to a new Minister of Truth. A newsletter editor always hopes that people actually read and enjoy his or her work. I've tried to include not just news of interest

to the club but also features, travelogues, recipes, beer style guidelines, and the like. I've been very fortunate to have some great regular contributors, in particular my friend **Prof. Charlie Pavitt**. Charlie promises to continue his excellent and entertaining "Trivial Beer-Suits" column in future issues. Thanks also to all of the BURP officers over the last several years for contributing regular columns as well as proofreading/critiquing the final product prior to its release. These good folks are all volunteers, and their efforts on behalf of the club should be greatly appreciated.

Finally, thanks to my lovely and talented partner **Wendy Aaronson** for her encouragement and support over the years. After all, she's the one who got me into this (by nominating me for the office several years ago). Now, we'll no longer have to adjust all of our travel plans to BURP News deadlines.

I look forward to seeing you all at the holiday banquet as well as all of the great BURP events in store for 2007.

Cheers, Bill AKA Johnny

The 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)*

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