



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

“Inspiring bold John Barleycorn,
What dangers thou canst make us scorn!”

Robert Burns, Born Jan 25, 1759



Beth Madden, Editor
madfox@comcast.net

January 2007

4305 Vermont Ave
Alexandria, VA 22304



January Meeting
American Ale Competition
Gaithersburg, MD
Saturday, Jan 13, 2007
1:00 - 6:00 PM

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

March Meeting
Dan McCoubrey Memorial
Stout Competition
McLean, VA
Saturday, Mar 17, 2007
1:00 - 6:00 PM

Hoppy New Brew Year

By Kath Koch, Fearless Leader

This is my first message as your new President and I'd like to thank you for your support and encouragement so far. I am excited about 2007 and hope you are too. As you can see in this newsletter, your new officers are busy getting 2007 off to a great start. The December meeting/holiday celebration, presided over by a brightly attired **Santa Marler** was a great finale for our 2006 leadership team. Santa got lots of help from our great members in running the holiday beer competition, carefully overseeing the elections and setting up and taking down the celebratory feast. Thanks to everyone for the great food and yummy beer.

We kick off our new brew year in the lovely McCathran Hall, and thank **Pete Ryba** for his help in making the arrangements. Our competition for the January 13 meeting will feature American session beers, with the winning beer becoming eligible for entry in the February AHA club only competition in California. Read more on the competition and future ones to come from our co-ministers of culture elsewhere in the newsletter.

Last year BURP members had much success in competitions far and wide and many members have qualified to submit entries to the national Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing (MCAB). Congratulations to all who qualified. Of course, one of the premier qualifying events for MCAB is our own Spirit of Free Beer coming this spring. It's time to start planning your brewing

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.

schedules to ready your entries for lots of categories. Check our libeery list for materials to help you get going. Just ask **Mel Thompson** to bring what you want to a meeting.

Yes, the new brew year is here and your new brew will be just the thing to getting off to a great start. A few years ago a brewing enthusiast encouraged all his brewing friends to make at least one new years resolution related to brewing. Borrowing (okay stealing) his idea, I'd like to suggest we all try to make a new years/new beers resolution. It's a fun idea and limited only by your own creativity. Here are some thoughts to get you to start considering a new years/new beers resolution:

1. Brew a style you've never tried before;
2. Help a new brewer learn a new brewing skill'
3. Enter more competitions;
4. Volunteer to judge at meetings;
5. Write an article for the newsletter
6. Build a new piece of equipment; or
7. Anything brewing related that comes to mind.

Let's get the year started well with a fun gathering on January 13. See you there.

Hoppy New Year from Your Mistresses of Malt!

By Jamie Langlie and Jeanie Osburn,
Co-Ministers of Culture

The purpose of BURP's 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.

First, thank you for your vote of confidence in electing us as BURP's 2007 Ministers of Culture. We also appreciate the work of our out-going MOC, **Bud Hensgen**. We look forward to working with you towards a successful year of Club competitions. We welcome your ideas and feedback ... please feel free to share your thoughts on Club competitions with us throughout the year.

As we ring out the old year, thanks once again, to everyone who helped with 2006 competitions.

Over 50 individuals judged, stewarded or otherwise supported BURP's monthly competitions, several on multiple occasions. Many more pitched in for the SoFB. This year, we will continue to recognize monthly judges and stewards with free raffle tickets and a special drawing at the December meeting. [MOC Jamie Langlie held a special drawing to recognize the work of the 2006 Judges and Stewards, with the winners being **Mike Horkan** and **Mark Hogenmiller!**] We'll be sending a solicitation for judges soon – it would be great if more judges were signed up prior to monthly meetings, rather than having to twist arms for volunteers on site. We're also open to holding some competitions off-line from meetings to encourage additional judges to participate.

Spirit of Free Beer (SoFB)

Planning for our 2007 SoFB is underway. Dates and location will be publicized soon. Volunteers are needed for several tasks. Additional info will follow.

Brewer of the Year

Congratulations once again to **Mel Thompson** our 2006 BURP Brewer of the Year (BOTY) and all other members who placed in competitions last year! Start planning now to become the 2007 BOTY. For the 2007 BOTY competition, the point awards are:

- **Designated Monthly Competitions:**
 - 1st Place = 3 points
 - 2nd Place = 2 points
 - 3rd Place = 1 point
- **Spirit of Free Beer:**
 - BOS = 3 points
 - BOS 2nd = 2 points
 - BOS 3rd = 1 point
 - 1st Place/Style Category = 3 points
 - 2nd Place/Style Category = 2 points
 - 3rd Place/Style Category = 1 point

2007 BURP Competitions

**** = Counts toward BOTY**

**January → Category #10, American Ale: A. Pale; B. Amber; C. Brown. BJCP style guidelines at: <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category10.html>

(Winner will represent BURP at the Feb. AHA Club-only competition for *Low Gravity/Session Beers*)

**February → Category #9, Scottish Ale: A. Light 60/; B. Heavy 70/; C. Export 80/. BJCP style guidelines at:

<http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category9.html>

(Winner will represent BURP at the March AHA Club-only competition for *Scottish Ale*)

**March → Category #13, Stout: A. Dry; B. Sweet; C. Oatmeal; D. Foreign Extra; E. American; F. Russian Imperial. BJCP style guidelines at:

<http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category13.html>

**April → Extract Beers, All Ale Categories.

(Winner will represent BURP at the May AHA Club-only competition for *Extract Beers*)

May (Chili Cook-off) → Best Beer with Chili. Judging by popular choice.

**May/June → Spirit of Free Beer.

**June → Category #16C. Saison and #16D. Biere de Garde. BJCP style guidelines at:

<http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category16.html>

** July → Category #1. Light Lager: A. Lite American Lager; B. Standard American Lager; C. Premium American Lager; D. Munich Helles; E. Dortmunder Export. BJCP style guidelines at:

<http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category1.html>

August (Mashout) → Wheat Beers: #6D; American Wheat; #15A. German Wheat.

**September (Oktoberfest) → All German Styles. Kegs preferred. Judging by popular choice EXCEPT FOR BOCK BEERS. Only Bock Beer entries, Category #5, will be judged and will count toward BOTY. BJCP style guidelines at:

<http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category5.html>

(Winner will represent BURP at the October AHA Club-only competition for *Bock Beers*).

**October (Battle of the Sexes) → Category #14, India Pale Ale (IPA): A. English IPA; B. American IPA; C. Imperial IPA. BJCP style guidelines at:

<http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category14.html>

**November → Real Ale.

December → Holiday Beers. Competition details TBD. Judging by popular choice.

AHA First Round Competition

In 2006, BURP submitted a record number of entries to the AHA National Homebrew Competition. We hope to continue with a strong showing for this activity, which helps to garner club points toward the AHA *Club of the Year*. Stay tuned for updates in the coming months.

BURP Monthly Club Competition Guidelines

- Contestants are limited to 1 entry per subcategory.
- Contestants must submit **2 bottles** per contest entry.
- Bottles must be standard competition style: 1) Brown glass; 2) 12 oz.; 3) No labels; 4) Nondescript, plain bottle caps.
- Bottles must be identified with removable paper labels with: 1) contestant's name; 2) beer style & category number; 3) beer name.
- Rules for Real Ale and other special competitions will be published at least 2 months prior to these contests.

BURP to be Well Represented at MCAB IX

BURP will again be subsidizing entries in the prestigious Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing. This illustrious competition, also known as the "**Ed Bielaus** Invitational," is open only to those who have taken a first place medal in one of the qualifying competitions. If you took a blue ribbon at Spirit of Free Beer, you should have been contacted by the organizer.

Flipping through the list of qualifiers I see a who's who of BURP's best brewers: **Wendy Aaronson** and **Bill Ridgely**, **Scott Bickham**, **Ed Bielaus** (9 categories), **Keith Chamberlin**, **AJ DeLange**, **Christine Johnbrier** and her boy, **Mark Hogenmiller**, **Bob and Betsy Kepler**, **Bill and Christie Newman** and **Mel Thompson**. I bet there's more out there.

By Pho Ming Hedd

So, not only will BURP pay your shipping, we'll pack your beer for you. If you get your beer to me by Saturday February 10 I will pack it and ship it on February 12 for an arrival before the deadline of February 16. If you need forms or more information, email me at rgarvin@garvin.us. Remember, you don't have to enter the same beer or the same sub-category. Enter great beer and win best of show - be cool like **Ed**, the 2006 MCAB VIII best of show winner.

Rick Garvin

rgarvin@garvin.us

mobile: 703-629-4671



BURP Lapel Pins Now For Sale

The new BURP lapel pins have arrived and will be available for purchase at the January BURP meeting. About ½ of the 200 pins ordered were sold at the holiday banquet, so they are going quickly.

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.

Pins are being sold for \$3.00 each. Just bring cash or a check payable to BURP to the meeting. If you can not make the meeting but would like to purchase one or more pins, please contact **Bill Ridgely** at ridgely@burp.org or 301-762-6523.

BURP Holiday Party Notes

The annual BURP Holiday Party saw the assembled BURPers cramming themselves into the Lyon's Park Community Center in Arlington – this loud and spirited crowd, determined to disturb the peace of the good Burghers of Buckingham. Your humble author got the job of writing this review by the time-honored tradition of stealing the instructions from the hand of **John Gardiner**, last seen lying under the dessert table, a crust of Key Lime Pie still trapped in his beard... So, it's all his fault. Good Key Lime Pie, though.

As befits such a stellar assemblage of brewers, there was some phenomenal beer available; some of it wrapped around some very good food. The bacon wrapped breadsticks vanished quickly. The French Christmas Pie surrendered without a fight. There was Christmas Pork with Figs, Pork with Duvel, Reindeer Balls (no wonder Rudolph talks funny), two Flemish Stews (Kriek & Brooklyn Stout), a Stout Beef Stew (or was that what it did to the waistline?), Chicken with Kolsch, Greek Eggplant, Pork in Cider, and Aji de Gallina, just to name the ones that I could read the labels.

There was one lonely salad, weeping softly to itself as it hid in a corner.

The desserts! Chocolate, cream cheese, sugar, eggs, more chocolate, fruit (who let that in here?!?), more chocolate, and sprinkle with nuts. How can you go wrong?

The Beer! There were eight entries in the Christmas Beer Contest:

- 1) Winter Warmer
- 2) Winter Warmer Holiday Swill
- 3) Pumpkin Wit (those pumpkins, always telling jokes! <bu-dum-dum! Swish!>
- 4) "X1"
- 5) Bourbon-Maple Porter
- 6) Doppelbock
- 7) Barley Wine (aka, the BURP 25th Anniversary Brew)
- 8) Belgian Poperinge Hommelbier

And a supporting cast of hundreds. Never forget the support staff folks...

And the results of the judging were: Numero Uno Extra Special, the BURP Anniversary Brew – in fact, it was so good the judges gave it its own reward. First Place (ordinary) went to the Holiday Swill, Second to the Doppelbock, Third to the other Winter Warmer. If you want to know who actually brewed these, in future you'd better get someone with a better memory for names to write up the event.

Swirling around the festive tables, a few familiar faces – **Bud Hensgen**, just back from Disney World Mockva wearing a hat that appeared to read "Tittkopf", but that's Cyrillic translated by someone who thinks they remember the Greek Alphabet from freshman year when he rushed Iota Felta Thi.

Pops Popenoe was dapper as ever, disguised as an English Lit professor in tweeds and turtleneck, out to pick up some impressionable students.

Bob Kepler, whose name tag seemed to read "Pooh".

Bill and Alison, stuffing that ballot box like a Christmas Turkey.

President Santa called the meeting to disorder, and was promptly ignored by most of the crowd. Those who paid attention got special recognition:

- The Officers in total – a big round of applause, mostly for putting up with **President Santa** all year.
- The BURP Hosts (which read something like "Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice")
- The Spirit of Free Beer Organizers (or was the applause for Free Beer?)
- **AJ, Larry, Bob, Andy, Rick, Bruce, Gordon, Paul, Jude, Alan, Dona, Nell, Robert**, and the usual suspects for producing great beverages the whole year long
- Newbies of the Year **Mike and Winnie**
- And a big round of applause to **Bill Ridgely**, the guy who gets it all done.

Then the election results:

Ministry of Web: **Paul & Stein Langlie**
Ministry of Truth: **Beth Madden**

Ministry of Propaganda: **Christine Johnbrier**
Ministry of Prosperity: **Larry Koch**
Ministry of History: **Mel Thompson**
Ministry of Enlightenment: **Wendy Aaronson & Tom Cannon**
Ministry of Culture: **Jamie Langlie and Jeanie Osburn**
And the Fearless Leader: **Kathy Koch**

Then the Annual Brewer Awards! There were 50 Judges and Stewards this year, which means BURP is more efficient than the US Senate Judiciary Committee (no stretch there). Special awards went to **Mike Horkan** and **Mark Hogenmiller**, and the Master's Competition in the second ring was being fought to a decision by **Marler v. Anderson**, neither one willing to throw in the towel just yet.

But in the main ring, *Brewer of the Year* was **Mel Thompson**, 1st Runner Up **Ed Bielaus**, and 2nd Runner Up **Christine Johnbrier**. Congratulations to all the participants!

Then the moment everyone was REALLY waiting for, the free stuff! Larry got mugged by all those last-minute rafflers surging for tickets – there was a staggering array of prizes.

All in all it was a very successful and enjoyable event!



Our *Trivial Beer-Suits* columnist **Charlie Pavitt** needs one more month off but promises to return in the Feb edition of BURP News.

BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

Compiled By Bill Ridgely

20 Years Ago, Jan 1987

As mentioned last month, BURP was undergoing some turmoil at the beginning of 1987. Election of new officers was on the agenda for the first meeting to be held Jan 27, but the meeting was postponed due to a snow storm (a bad omen if there ever was one). It was finally held a week later (on Feb 3) at the *Wide World of Wine* in the District. A blind tasting of contract-brewed beers was the theme of the meeting (*New Amsterdam* and *Dock Street* were picked as favorites), but nomination of new officers unfortunately fell a bit flat. Only one volunteer stepped forward - **John Gardiner**, who offered his services as new club Secretary and BURP News editor. Nominations for the other officer positions were postponed until the February meeting as no one else came forward to serve. The club was truly struggling at this point, and as outgoing President **Dan McCabe** said in the newsletter published after the meeting, "If the members of BURP are not willing to take a turn at performing the tasks of running the club, then the club will cease to exist". It was time for some new blood to bring a heartbeat back to BURP, but it would require two more months before things would finally settle into place.

10 Years Ago, Jan 1997

The first BURP meeting of the New Year was held on the 18th at the *Clipper City Brewing Co* just outside the beltway in Baltimore. It was a bitter cold day, but owner and head brewer **Hugh Sisson** warmed up the crowd in his hospitality room with copious samples of his products. Hugh also gave tours of the facility (along with his recently-hired assistant and BURP member **Robbie Zev Ludwick**). *Clipper City* had opened a year earlier (in Dec 1995) and was about to move into the realm of contract brewing for a limited number of customers (Today, contract brewing represents about half of all beer brewed at the facility). An additional theme of the meeting was a Pale Ale competition. There were 14 entries judged onsite. Winners were **Keith Chamberlin** (3rd with an American IPA), **Jim Busch** (2nd with an American IPA) and **Lynn Ashley** (1st with an English Special Bitter).

January's BURP News contained some interesting historical tidbits. First, Fearless Leader **Larry Koch** announced that the club was considering holding its first Real Ale Festival sometime in 1997. Next, an article by **Jonathan Feist** on "How to Enjoy Awful Beer" was so popular that it was subsequently placed on the BURP website, where it has remained to this day (in the "Articles" area at <http://burp.burp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=389>). An announcement that BURP would begin creation of a "BURP Guide to DC-Area Beer" began what would eventually become an online DC Beer Guide (now available on the DC-Beer Wiki at http://www.brauhaus.org/brwiki/index.php/DC_Beer_Guide). And finally, BURPer **Lynn Ashley** proposed the establishment of a formal BURP Minister of the Web position to take care of all aspects of the recently-established BURP website. Lynn subsequently ran for the position in the 1997 election and became the club's first official webmaster.

And this wasn't all. There was even more great writing in the issue. **Colleen Cannon** defended her local establishment, the *Blue and Gold Brewpub*, after the less-than-glowing review in the DC Metro Pub Crawl report published the month before. In the travelogue dept, **Sergio Cerda** reported on the brewpubs of San Diego, and in the

technical dept, **Ben Schwalb** discussed the advantages of fermenting in glass carboys instead of plastic buckets.



BURP Prosperity Report

By Larry Koch, Minister of Prosperity

Current Financial Position

Previous Balance – 02 Dec 06	\$20,116
Income	\$563
Expenses	\$1,437
Current Balance –	\$19,242

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 Christine Johnbrier, Minister of Propaganda

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.

Hop Notes from the Libeery

By Mel Thompson, Minister of History

The BURP Libeery is open 24/7 for your reading and research needs. If you wish to check out a book, contact Mel Thompson at sonofthomp@comcast.net prior to the monthly meeting and your request, if available, will be delivered.

We plan to purchase four new additions to the Libeery in the near future: Radical Brewing by Randy Mosher, Designing Great Beers by Ray Daniels, Brew Your Own British Real Ale by Graham Wheeler and Roger Protz, and Sacred and Herbal Healing Beers by Stephen Buhner. If there are any other relevant books that you think should be in the BURP Libeery, please make your recommendation to me, preferably by email - not at a meeting while I am in the middle of consuming free beer - you know, the memory thing...

If you don't see what you want in the Libeery list, let me know what you are looking for and I will try to locate it for you.

With the upcoming March BURP stout club competition, you may wish to check out the style book on Stouts which is available at this time.

Cheers, Mel

A Not Very Thorough Book Review of Brew Your Own British Real Ale (BYOBRA) by Graham Wheeler and Roger Protz

Review courtesy of Mel Thompson

This is an immensely valuable book for those of us that brew British-style real ales and compete in the BURP real ale fest each November. I've always wondered how the Brits are able to make such flavorful and aromatic beers of relatively low

gravity and resultant low alcohol levels. Attending real ale fests and pub crawling in the UK to search out these wonderful, poundable beers is one of most pleasurable endeavors I try to accomplish each year and it is important to get a thorough understanding of the nuances of real ales if we are to make and judge them. Each year, I learn more about them and, consequently, I believe, do a better job of making and evaluating them. But, how does one translate that practical experience of drinking them into making authentic and to-style real ales?

BYOBRA provides much in the way of technique to make real ales and 112 recipes for many of the actual beers we drink when we go to the UK. The book begins with a chapter on homebrewing and flows into chapters on grains and other fermentables, hops, water treatment, yeast, and brewing techniques. Pretty much what you get in more detail in [The New Complete Joy of Homebrewing](#) or other well written books on homebrewing.

Where this book shines is in the recipe chapters. There are chapters on Mild Ale Recipes, Pale Ale and Bitter Recipes, Porter and Stout Recipes, and Old Ale and Barleywine Recipes. Each recipe chapter begins with a history of the style that discusses how the beer began and how it has changed over its history to the present time. The recipes that follow the introduction to the style are recipes of actual beers that, for the most part, are available in the UK at this time. My only complaint about the recipes is that the author does not give the lovibond of the crystal. You will also have to adjust the amount of grain to coincide with the extraction that your system produces. Specific yeast is also not discussed as each brewery most likely has a house yeast, but it would have been nice if the author would have discussed the aroma and flavor nuances of the yeast.

In the chapter following the recipe chapters, key explanations are given to better explain the recipe formulation. The author notes that most of the breweries claim to use Maris Otter pale malt, but that there is not enough Maris Otter grown to provide enough for any but the small breweries and homebrewers, It is most likely that Paul's Malt or

Muntons or another of the large maltsters pale malt is used.

This is an excellent book for those interested in formulating some of the great British beers that have been drunk at a festival or in a pub in the UK. It has provided me with numerous ideas for recipe formulation and technique when I fire up the kettle to brew British-style real ale.

December Website Update

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

The 2007 election was a success – 47 members voted online! This year should be a good one with plenty of changes in store for the website. Plans include more collaboration with elected officers and a website redesign. 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 2007 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 Beth Madden, Minister of Truth

I hope the first BURP newsletter of the 2007 finds everyone recovering from their respective "holiday hangovers". I appreciate the vote of confidence in electing me as Minister of Truth. I am fortunate in that I actually inherited a well oiled machine thanks to my predecessor, **Bill Ridgley**.

As I put this newsletter together I am again reminded of how proactive our membership is in

AHA and BJCP. Our brewers continually receive recognition for their efforts at both regional and national levels. The BURP community itself is comprised of individuals covering a wide range of professional disciplines and interests. Each brings their own unique style to the art of brewing and/or beer appreciation. In the coming year, I would like to somehow tap into this expertise and showcase the breadth and depth of knowledge resident in our homebrew club. I invite any interested in submitting anything from a feature or general interest articles to travelogues, recipes, etc. to do so. Your fellow BURPers and I are looking forward to hearing from you!

Happy 2007!
Cheers – T.I.W.

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
Aaaaaaaaaaaa, Drink!
(Al Lowry, 1994)*

BURP 2007 OFFICERS

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