

BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

"To clink glasses of a freshly made, seasonal beer, preferably in a pub or garden, with friends and perhaps new acquaintances, is a ritual that makes every participant feel good. We may not rationalize this at the time, but it gives us a sense of place in our common community and our time in the tides of life on earth. This is a way to value beer and treat it with respect."

-- Michael Jackson



Beth Madden, Editor
madfox@comcast.net

September 2007

4305 Vermont Ave
Alexandria, VA 22304



September Meeting - Oktoberfest
All German Styles
Brandywine, MD
22 September, 2007
1:00-6:00 PM

October Meeting - BURP Battle of the Sexes
IPA Competition
Arlington, VA
13 October, 2007
1:00-6:00 PM

November Meeting – Real Ale Festival
Real Ale Competition
Gaithersburg, MD
17 November, 2007
1:00-6:00 PM

Koch's Corner

By Kathy Koch, Fearless Leader

It's late September and the brewing season begins in earnest. Have you teamed up with friends to brew your October entry for our "Battle of the Sexes?" Are you planning your recipes for your real ales for November? Is this the year for you to brew your first real ale for the competition?

Congratulations to all who helped make the 20th anniversary MASHOUT another success. If you are interested in a commemorative 20th anniversary T-shirt they will be available at the September meeting. Embroidered short sleeve knit polo shirts and long sleeve denim shirts will also be available at the meeting. The polo shirts are navy blue and the denim is light blue. Both feature a multicolor embroidered BURP logo, are 100% cotton and will sell for \$20-22, depending on size. Quantities are limited so if you can't be at the meeting, you might want to ask someone to get one for you.

We will be celebrating German beers and accompanying food at our Oktoberfest meeting on September 22. Jim and Linda Rorick are hosting us on their spacious grounds. There will be plenty of

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.

room for a polka or an animated "Chicken Dance" opportunity. Plan to join us for a rousing round or two of "Ein Prosit." Bring some wonderful food (no German credentials required—*Wir liebe alles.*) and share your some of your homebrew—the "liebe alles" goes here too.

Herzliche, Ihre Kathy Koch

MASHOUT, Oktoberfest, and More

*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.

MASHOUT RESULTS

Once again, MASHOUT was marvelous! So many excellent beers, so little time! This year's competition was for Categories #6D, American Wheat & Rye and #15A, Bavarian Weizen. Winners were:

- ❖ 1st Place - **Rick Croop**, Category #15A (Hefeweizen), Beer name – *Triskaidekaphobiale "13"*
- ❖ 2nd Place – **Jim Kelly**, Category #6D (American Rye), Beer name- no name
- ❖ 3rd Place – **Brian Dueweke**, Category #6D (American Wheat), Beer name – *Wolverine Wheat*

Thanks to all who entered, and an especially big thanks to our judges, **Jim Wagner, Keith Chamberlin, Brian Matt.**

Note: Because the MASHOUT contest included entries from other clubs, it does not count towards BURP's BOTY competition.

SEPTEMBER COMPETITIONS: GERMAN BEERS AND BOCKS

BURP's annual Oktoberfest celebration will, once again, feature (Surprise!) **German beers!** We will have two separate competition tracks in play during the September meeting.

- The first track will be a **popular choice "beauty contest" that includes all German Styles, with kegs preferred**, but not required. Winners will be determined by attendee balloting. This won't count towards BOTY, but the winners will receive accolades and some especially spiffy ribbons.
- The second track will be for **Bock Beers, Category #5** [#5A – Maibock/Helles; #5B – Traditional; #5C – Doppelbock; #5D -- Eisbock] <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category5.html>

Beers will be judged from bottled entries by standard procedures and will count toward BOTY. [1 entry per subcategory; 2 plain, brown, 12-oz bottles with plain caps; a removable paper label identifying the brewer's name, beer style and category number, and the beer name.]

HELP, PLEASE → Judges are needed for the Bock beers. Many palates make for quick work. Contact Jamie at Jamie@langlie.com or Jeanie at brewbub@verizon.net to volunteer.

OCTOBER COMPETITION = BURP BATTLE OF THE SEXES → IPA

If you start now, there's still time to brew for the October Battle of the Sexes!

The style is **India Pale Ale, #14A – English; #14B – American; #14C -- Imperial** <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category14.html>

Rules:

- Teams will be composed of 2 - 4 same-sex brewers.
- Entries will be judged according to standard BJCP procedures, with bottled entries.
- Winning will count toward BoTY, with all members of the prize-winning brewing teams awarded BoTY points.

- To determine whether the women's or the men's teams claim overall victory, 4 points will accrue to the 1st place team, 3 points to the 2nd, and 2 point to the 3rd. The sex with the highest point total will be declared the overall winner.



Battle of the Sexes Challenge Underway! Time to BREW! BURP Ministrix of Culture, **Jamie Langlie** and **Jeanie Osburn**, with new BURP member **Terri Fisher**, prepare to pitch yeast for their Battle of the Sexes beer. The English IPA kicked off with vigorous fermentation and now is happily flocculating in secondary. The ladies had a great time brewing together and expressed high expectations that their entry will hold its own in the October competition.

Always Seeking Judges

BURP has quite a number of BJCP-qualified judges, and we need your help at the monthly competitions. If you'd like to volunteer at any time, please contact your Ministers of Culture. We also encourage novices to judge with our BJCP judges. It's a great learning experience.

Education Update

*By Tom Cannon
Co-Minister of Education*

Happy Oktoberfest!!!

When you think of Oktoberfest, one might think of cool weather and hot bratwurst, but most BURPers think of beer (Duh!).

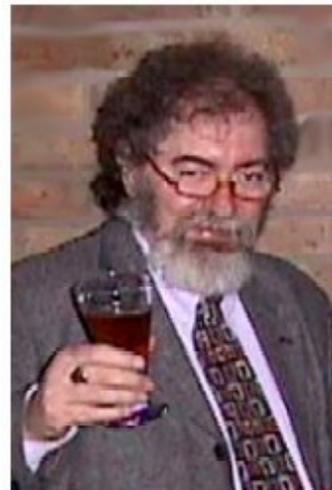
What is there about beer and Oktoberfest? Well, that's like what's asking what is there about beer

and Germans, and, in particular, Bavarians? The Germans may not be the biggest beer drinkers per capita (I believe the Czechs hold this honor), but I doubt any culture is more passionate about beer and Oktoberfest is the culmination in their celebration of beer.

Since we are celebrating German Beer at this month's BURP meeting, your co-Ministers of Education will be discussing the history and development of German beer along with a tasting of a couple of different styles. Since the meeting is in a remote location and we expect people to have scattered arrival times, we will start the discussion at 2:00. See you there! Prost.

The Beer Hunter - BURP Remembrances

Compiled by Bill Ridgely



Michael Jackson, the Beer Hunter, passed away on Thursday, August 30, 2007. The BURP Club and its members enjoyed a very long and happy relationship with Michael over the years. He often told the story of his first and only attempt at homebrewing - at the home of BURP founding father **Dan**

McCoubrey in the early 1980's. Michael was a keynote speaker at the 3rd BURP *Spirit of Belgium* conference, and he routinely made appearances at BURP meetings whenever he was in our area.

Several BURP members provided remembrances of Michael on the DC-BEER e-mail discussion group. I'll reproduce these below (with the permission of the writers) and then follow with a few other personal recollections, including my own:

Jim Busch (from DC-BEER, Aug 30, 2007)

I'm glad that I can say I have several stories that involve MJ and do consider him to be a major motivation in my love of all things good about beer.

Back in the 90s, we had a local brewpub that was planning to open in northern Virginia, and the proprietor happened to reside in a large mansion-type residence in Potomac, MD. He had arranged for Michael to attend a gathering at his home and also invited our local homebrew club BURP to come along. I asked then brewmaster of Old Dominion, **Ron Barchet**, to also come along and join the fun. Lots and lots of folks wanted MJ to try their homebrew and comment, and he was of course very gracious in doing so in a way only Michael could - never a harsh or mean word despite how raw some of the recipes must have seemed. He did seem quite fond of that Millennium Barley Wine that Ron brought, though.

Anyway, as the evening progressed, we all got a little more loose. Autographs were being asked for and supplied when one of the more gregarious BURP women folk decided to one up the rest and ask Michael to sign her breast, which he seemed quite pleased to do. This led to another one, and the third female to be autographed was/is my longtime partner Liz. To this day, I think Liz is still surprised that she had the gusto to do this, and for many years after, whenever I ran into Michael, I would always remind him who I was by saying "You know, you signed my girlfriend's breast at that BURP event back in the 90s"! And he always reacted the same, instantly red faced and flummoxed but also knowingly in on the tale. And to think, to this day I never had MJ sign any of his books that I own, but I can be happy in that he has shared a certain breast that is close to my heart too! (The breast signing event became somewhat legendary when it was picked up and published in the UK's *What's Brewing* magazine. It was subsequently repeated at least one time more in a UK event if I remember correctly. Quite a memory for sure, and BURP was there to make history!).

The second tale takes place a few years later but still in the 90s. I happen to be in Brugge on a beer hunt, and I happen to be packing a certain hard to find bottle of Hansens Kriek that is oozing out of

my backpack. I find myself around 4 PM at 't *Bruges Beertje*, of course, and join Michael at the bar where we proceed to both have our note books open and enjoy sampling Daisy's wonderful selection of libations. I mention this oozing bottle problem I have, and we proceed to share it right there at the *Beertje*. Just seemed natural, but imagine doing something like this in a US bar or one in Germany....

A little while later, Daisy says to me, "Michael and I are going out to dinner. Would you like to join us?" Well, duh. So we head out to a local restaurant of Daisy's choosing and proceed to have a wonderful meal that could not have been more enjoyable in the food, the beers, and the conversation. We were all becoming old friends by then. MJ really liked to eat if you ever had the chance to see it, and he devoured his Bouillabase and was ready for dessert. When asked, I passed on dessert which was met by serious disapproval by MJ and the retort that you cannot grow up to be a "big" beer hunter by skipping dessert!

When dinner was over, we walked Michael back to his hotel since he was pretty tired from travel and deadlines. Daisy, on the other hand, was on a rare off night, so we ended up heading out to another bar for many more drinks and tales that are best for another story.

The last time I got to have a chat with Michael was at *Victory's* 10 year anniversary dinner in 2006. I'll never forget how pleased he was with the glass of Harvest Pils that we gave him on arrival and how his eyes really lit up on that one. He was already showing great signs of Parkinsons at that time too, but he persevered with great dignity.

I last saw Michael at Falling Rock in Oct of 2006, and the effects of the disease were most evident. It's amazing to read his last column and realize just how in tune he was with his time and place in this world. What a fantastic individual that gave so much to all of us beer and whiskey lovers.

Tim Artz (from DC-BEER, Aug 31, 2007)

Many years ago when the AHA Conference was in Manchester, NH, I found myself in the hotel elevator with Michael Jackson. He inserted a key

card to go to the penthouse level of the hotel and mentioned that it was nice to have such things paid for by the Discovery Channel folks. I asked him about some of the unusual homebrews he had tried during the week. He mentioned that he really expected in New England to see more homebrews made with maple syrup, and he wanted to try some maple syrup beers. I replied that I had some Maple Syrup Old Ale in my room, and I would fetch a bottle and meet him back in the ballroom. I tracked him down with my bottle, and his eyes widened when he tasted the beer. He commented on the sherry notes and then was swamped by others getting him to try their brews. Several times throughout the evening, I would turn around, and there he was with glass extended looking for another sip.

The Manchester conference hotel did not permit us to have hospitality suites, parties in rooms, or even consume alcohol outside of the ballroom. Each evening was a ritual of shuttling beer from rooms to the ballroom. One night, my future wife and I ended up staying up til sunrise with the Chicago Beer Society guys, **Kinney Baughmann**, and **Greg Noonan**. When I finally went to turn in, two young women in hot pants, hip boots, and halter tops jumped in my elevator to go up. They produced a key card for the penthouse suite, and rode up. I thought, "Hmm....Discovery Channel account."

The next day, we barely made it out of bed for the luncheon where Michael Jackson was the keynote speaker. I nearly fell off my chair when his first words were, "Just a few hours ago, I learned that lust is much better than love!"

Fast forward a few years, and there was my wife as one of those being signed at the previously referenced brewpub kickoff in Potomac. Somewhere there are pictures.....

Tom Cannon



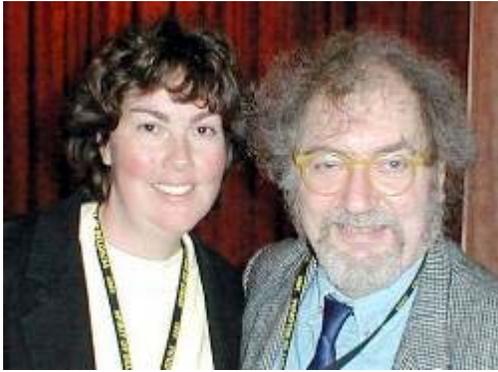
Michael Jackson at the BURP reception held at the Dominion Brewery, May 1999. Shown are Bill Ridgely, MJ, and Jim Dorsch (reception organizer). Wendy Aaronson & Bruce Bennett are in the background

Over my years as a beer geek and judge, I've run into Michael dozens of times. There was the beer reception BURP hosted at the Dominion Brewery in 1999. Of course, the usual BURPers were there, most with homebrew that they were dying for Michael to try. Some hounded him to taste their beers, but the Dickheads (**Cannons & Crowes**) just stood by our keg of Ordinary Bitter, and sure enough, Michael stopped by for a taste. He tasted it and smiled, and that was enough for me. Somewhere there is a picture commemorating that smile. Wish I could find it!

In 1995, Michael was a guest at the first round AHA Nationals judging in Chicago. At the banquet, the Chicago Beer Society featured beers brewed by selected members and other guest homebrewers. The kick was each beer had to have a box of breakfast cereal in it (sound familiar?). Michael dutifully went around and tried each one (I remember there were around 20, some pretty straight forward, some like Abbye de Raison Bran, others with Sugar Pops, etc) and during his talk at the end, he had something good and fairly meaningful to say about each one.

And then there were the multiple times he spoke at the Brickskeller and at the National Geographic. He didn't make it to the National Geographic this year. Word was that there was a conflict in Philadelphia at another event. Garret Oliver was there instead and gave a nice talk, but when it was over, I remember thinking that, even with the numerous digressions Michael was known for, I really wished he had been there. I still find it hard to believe we won't see him there again.

Bill Ridgely



Colleen Cannon and Michael Jackson at BURP's 3rd Spirit of Belgium Conference

I have many remembrances of Michael Jackson, including the pleasure of picking him up at the Brickskeller and driving him to the home of **Chuck & Helen Popenoe** for a BURP meeting many years ago (our conversation during that trip resulted in an article published in *Barleycorn* called "Driving Mr Jackson").

And yes, my partner **Wendy** was the "gregarious BURP woman" who proudly instigated that breast signing escapade some years back (and yes, there are pictures somewhere).

One of my fondest recollections, though, is of BURP's 3rd *Spirit of Belgium Conference*, held in 2001. This was the famous "pissed off **Colleen Cannon**" conference, so named because Colleen was angry about the poor selection of Belgian beers in the DC area and decided to organize the conference as a protest. Michael Jackson was the keynote speaker at this conference and got a lot of mileage from Colleen's story.

As with all SOB conferences, one of the main events was the Belgian-style homebrew competition. Wendy and I had brewed a couple of beers to enter, but while digging around in the back of our fridge one day, I discovered four bottles of an Oud Bruin that **Tim Artz** and I had brewed for the 2nd *Spirit of Belgium* competition in Feb 1996. The beer had not scored particularly well at that competition, and it didn't strike me that it might be that much better nearly 5 years later, but on a whim, I decided to enter the same beer in the 2001 event.

On the day of the competition, things were proceeding smoothly when a cry of "Gusher!" went up from the table judging Belgian Sour Ales. While I wasn't certain which beer this was, when I heard that it was an Oud Bruin, I had a bit of a clue. Strangely, though, the beer received high marks from the judges and ended up going forward to the Best of Show round.

The BOS judges included MJ as well as Belgian beer importer Don Feinberg and several BJCP Grand Master judges. Toward the end, the Oud Bruin was still on the table, and Jackson was pushing hard to give it the 1st place ribbon. He kept commenting on how much it reminded him of "a rare Oud Zottegems" and how difficult it must be to create a beer that complex as a homebrew. In the end, though, the BOS was finally awarded to a lambic brewed by local homebrewer **Brian St Clair**, and what turned out to be our Oud Bruin took 2nd place. Afterward, Michael went out of his way to tell Tim and me how much he really wanted our beer to win.

There is still one bottle of that beer remaining, now in Tim's refrigerator. Perhaps this would be a good time to bring it out and toast the man who thought so highly of our humble well-aged creation.

Colleen Cannon

My first "introduction" to Michael Jackson was when Tom showed me his *Beer Hunter* video series back in the early 90's when we were first dating. Having not traveled much outside of the US before then, some of those places such as "U Fleku" in Prague and the Trappist monasteries in Belgium seemed so foreign and exotic to me that I made up my mind right then and there, that we must go there and experience it for ourselves. There were two things that really impressed me about Michael. One was that through his travels and writings, these rare and exotic beers that no one outside of their regions of origin had heard of before, are now accessible to anyone with a keen enough interest to seek them out. Not to mention, the effect this exposure has had on our own domestic brewers, makes me wonder how different the craft brewing industry in this country would be, if not for Michael's influence. The other thing that never ceased to impress me was how well he could taste

and describe a beer, with always some surprising and wonderfully mouthwatering descriptions (I remember him describing Hercule stout at the SOB Belgian tasting as "licorice candy, dusted with ginger"). Also, as Tom mentioned, the breakfast cereal homebrew dinner in Chicago, where he described every single beer, not just his favorite ones, or a few of the more clever ones, but each and every one, and he described them as though he truly enjoyed something about each one.

I think tasting beer with him and listening to his descriptions over the years has really shaped how I think about judging beer. There are times when I experience something I think of as a "Michael Jackson moment." Those are the times when I find myself in a brewery or pub in a foreign country that is one of those featured in the *Beer Hunter* video series, or when I'm tasting or judging a beer and I surprise myself by discovering an unanticipated flavor or aroma that goes amazingly well with the basic style or taste of the beer. Michael was a good friend to BURP, and even though he met so many new people everyday, and was surrounded by beer enthusiasts everywhere he went, he never seemed to forget a face. I have been surprised more than once that he would recognize me at a crowded tasting event and take a moment to ask how we were. I can think of no one who single-handedly had so much influence on a global industry such as brewing, and did so not by grandstanding or being an "activist", but merely through writing and speaking descriptively and lovingly about beer.

Jim Dorsch

I don't have a single great story about Michael. What I remember is the uncommon connection this great man had with all of us ordinary folks, and his uncommon kindness.

I was a writer on his two CD-ROMs for Discovery. I cranked out a lot of words for these projects, on a decidedly junior level, yet he would tell people we had collaborated. He said many nice things about me to crowds at the Brickskeller, and you'll find in his writings this mention of me as his occasional collaborator. He was generous that way.

I agree with **Marty Jones**, who wrote recently that Michael was always keen to chat with folks about

their interests, not just his own. Like Marty, I drove Michael around a few states on his "iron liver" tour, collecting tasting notes and information for his guide to American breweries that never was published. We chatted about all manner of things, from woman problems to where he might buy a pair of socks.

Michael was proud of his accomplishments and wanted the recognition he deserved. But he wasn't arrogant, nor was he conceited. He came from a working class family, and he never forgot that. Perhaps that's why he let so many of us into his world. He had a personal touch that made each of us feel that he was our friend.

I miss him very much.

(You can read many other nice remembrances of Michael as well as his very poignant last column (dated Aug 22, 2007) at the All About Beer website - <http://www.allaboutbeer.com>).

(Also, Michael's last interview (with Daniel Shelton of Shelton Bros Importers, recorded on Aug 7) can be viewed on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLoHW7qjU>).

Many thanks to all of the BURPers who contributed to these remembrances!

20 Years and Still Going - A MASHOUT 2007 Review

By Ben Schwalb & Bill Ridgely

We hope you were able to see MASHOUT turn 20 this year. There were some special surprises in addition to the normal array of events.

Several members of the MASHOUT Planning Committee arrived on Wednesday to do some preliminary site preparation, including setting up the new check-in station shelter. This needed to be done because attendees began arriving fairly early on Thursday morning.

By Thursday afternoon, a lot of attendees had already arrived, setting up their tents, sharing their beer, joining with old friends and making new

ones. The weather was very warm and pleasant. Keg Row steadily grew with kegs both commercial and homebrewed (many contributed by the Chesapeake Real Ale Brewers Society (CRABS) out of Baltimore).

"Camp Belch", the campsite hosted by **John Esparolini**, **Scott Schabilon**, and **Brian & Gail Matt** hosted a "margarita and taco bar" happy hour Thursday afternoon, featuring margaritas prepared on John's new battery powered "margarita whacker". A short time later, CRABS featured about ten different kinds of chili at their Second Annual MASHOUT Chili Cook-off.

Friday brought spectacular weather as people steadily trickled in. The check-in station sold two different MASHOUT 20th anniversary T-shirts, created by resident artists **John Esparolini** and **Kevin "Poker Guy" Brezler**. **Pops Popenoe** rode around in his "bush buggy", which he put together in the 1960s. There was bike riding, volleyball, music, and excursions to Rocky Gap State Park. The now legendary 24X7 poker game began in earnest under a flowing (and well lit) canopy.

And, of course, there was beer. Keg Row filled with about 40 kegs, including commercial offerings from Blue Point, Brewers Art, Clipper City, Dogfish Head, DuClaw, Franklin's, Front Street, Gordon Biersch, Growlers, Mountain State, the Wharf Rat, and Wild Goose (aka Flying Dog). Brewers Alley in Frederick contributed 2 cases of their newly-bottled Pilsner, which served as the beer for the check-in station volunteers. Scores more kegs were scattered around the field. There were even some beer engines. All in all, more than 100 kegs graced Popenoe Mountain.

For this year's now legendary "Firkin Friday", DuClaw brewers **Jim Wagner** and **Bo Lenck** tapped a firkin of Venom IPA double dry-hopped with Amarillo hops. It was served from a beer engine. As the cask was drained, the CRABS (of which Jim and Bo are members) presented **Pops** and **Bill Ridgely** with commemorative bottles of two versions of the club's Imperial Stout, one bottle conditioned and the other aged in a bourbon cask.

The night was crisp and beautiful. It was clear, and we could see thousands of stars (not to mention dozens of kegs). The presence of resident astronomer (and telescope owner) **Bill Prewitt** was keenly missed on this night. Bill was recovering from a serious illness and unfortunately couldn't make MASHOUT this year

The great weather continued on Saturday. The annual MASHOUT homebrew competition (this time for wheat beers) was held in the morning. Congratulations to winner **Rick Croop** of CRABS. About the same time as the competition, BURPers **Gordon Goeke** and **Bill Ridgely** led a bike ride on the new section of the Alleghany Highlands rail trail between Cumberland and Frostburg. The group of 15 or so convened at the mid-point of the ride in Frostburg at the *Draft Zone* for lunch (excellent pizzas and cheesesteak sandwiches) and beers (22 offered on draft) before heading back. On the mountain, the fun continued with volleyball, poker, and trips to the state park for swimming and hot showers. A go cart even showed up this year, and many people had a chance to take spins around the campground.

In the afternoon, CRABS held their annual Big Beer Tasting, which featured more than 30 beers, including 5 that were paired with food. Included in the tasting was the bourbon-casked imperial stout brewed as a club project.

The Saturday night banquet featured both beef and pork barbeque prepared by BURPer **Rick Garvin** and his awesome cooking (and meat pulling) crew. In addition, there was corn on the cob, fresh tomatoes brought by **Bob Dawson** from South Carolina, baked potatoes, onions, and roasted garlic, and dozens upon dozens of dishes brought by attendees. Awards were given out at the end of the meal for the winners of the homebrew competition and the annual Popenoe Mountain Pub Quiz. The latter was won by the Quizenators team consisting of **Bob & Kathleen Warriner**, **Bags & Liza Howard**, and **Alison Skeel**. They answered 42 out of the 60 questions correctly. A special presentation was also made to Pops on the occasion of his 75th birthday, which just happened to occur that same day. **Kevin Brezler** presented Pops with a framed version of his t-shirt logo showing Pops flying over the MASHOUT

campground trailing a "20th Anniversary MASHOUT" banner. Finally, it was down to the barn to listen and dance to great blues music from the Tom Principato Band, hired especially for the 20th anniversary MASHOUT. There was music around the campfire as well, as folks played into the wee hours.

The Sunday morning MASHOUT breakfast was wonderful as always, with eggs, bacon, pancakes, scrapple, sausages, Orval cheese, sour ales and barleywine. The weather was cloudy, but the rain held off until after most people had eaten and packed up.

We are once again indebted to **Pops and Helen** for graciously offering us the use of their property, which has been a perfect MASHOUT site for more than a dozen years. Don't miss MASHOUT next year when it turns 21, and we can all drink legally!

Photos from MASHOUT
Courtesy of John Esparolini



CRABS President **Joel Galihue** commiserates over a beer with **Rick Garvin**



Saturday night supper by the glow of the campfire



Liza Howard checks in BURPers **Robert & Anne Stevens**.



The CRABS (with appropriate headgear) host the Saturday afternoon "Big Beer Tasting"



Bags Howard and **Pops Popenoe** play that funky music.



The all-weekend poker game, still going after all these years.

MASHOUT 2007 Thank You

*By Bill Ridgely
MASHOUT XX Coordinator*

The 20th anniversary MASHOUT was another resounding success thanks to the hard work of many people. This year's event was the earliest sellout ever, with the 200th registration submitted fully two weeks before the event!

I'd like to recognize all of the folks who contributed significant time and effort to the event. Many thanks to:

* First and foremost, **Chuck and Helen Popenoe** for once again allowing us to take over their wonderful mountaintop property for the weekend (and Chuck in particular for coordinating preparation of the field and facilitating delivery of port o' pots).

* "King of the Grill" **Rick Garvin** for his great work preparing the meat for the Saturday night barbeque and organizing the cooking and meat pulling team. Both beef and pork were featured at MASHOUT this year, making the job even more challenging.

* **Bob and Kathleen Warriner** for once again coordinating the MASHOUT Check-In Table. And thanks also to all those who volunteered their time to man the check-in table over the weekend.

* **Alan Hew** (along with able assistant **Rod Rydlun**) for coordinating commercial sponsors for this year's event. There was an abundance of tasty beers for the thirsty crowd, and a fair number of brewers showed up as well. Thanks also to those who picked up donated kegs.

* Culture Ministers **Jamie Langlie** and **Jeanie Osburn** for coordinating the annual homebrew competition.

* **Bob Cooke** for making two kegs of non-alcoholic soda for the event and for conducting "water procurement runs" to Rocky Gap State Park.

* **Jamie Langlie & Mac McEwen** for their "3rd Annual Popenoe Mountain Pub Quiz". A fun time was had by all answering some whimsical and, in many cases, difficult questions.

* **Chris Ames** of Maryland Homebrew for contributing prizes to both the homebrew competition and the pub quiz, and **Bob Frank** of The Flying Barrel for offering discounts to any MASHOUT attendee who stopped by his shop on the way to the event.

* My lovely and talented partner **Wendy Aaronson** for coordinating both the Saturday dinner and the Sunday breakfast.

* **Gordon Goeke** for helping to organize and lead the Saturday bike ride along the Alleghany Passage Trail.

* **John Esparolini & Kevin Brezler** for creating the designs for this year's two anniversary t-shirts. And special thanks to Kevin for contributing the special presentation version of his design that was given to **Chuck Popenoe** for his 75th birthday.

As always, I'm sure I've left some people out here, so please accept my apologies if you are one of them. So many people help with this event that it's hard to keep track of everyone. A general "thank you" goes out to all of those who helped set up and take down the facilities and helped with food prep on Sat evening and Sun morning.

Finally, thanks to all those who served on the MASHOUT Planning Committee. I hope we can all get together and do this again next year!

Cheers, Bill

Beer Education at MCAF 2007

By Calvin Perilloux

This year the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair's (MCAF) homebrew competition was bigger than ever, with over 100 entries for the first time, but one thing that a lot of us homebrewers don't realize is that there is an educational component to the MCAF. For homebrew, cider, and mead, the Best of Show judging is held separately from the first round, on a Saturday evening and is open to the public as an educational experience on beer styles.

Instead of several judges huddled together at a table, hopefully free from distractions as they ponder and argue about the beers, at MCAF the best of show judges are seated at tables facing the audience. Yes, an audience! There are 30 or 40 seats set out for anyone who wants to attend and watch the best beers being selected. What was that old saying about watching sausages being made? Well, for homebrew, it's not quite as tough – for the audience, that is. But for the judges, you do need to know your styles.

The judges were a mix of professional brewers and high-ranking BJCP judges. **Jim Busch** from Victory Brewing and Jason Oliver from Gordon Biersch represented the pro side of it; **Phil Sides** and **Calvin Perilloux** represented the BJCP side of it.

For the educational component, as each of the 24 beers is brought out, one of the judges pontificates on the nature of the style: the history, the ingredients, what characteristics we should find in this beer. Other judges chime in to add relevant points. Each beer gets about 2 minutes. For new brewers or people interested in beer styles, this is an excellent way to hear about styles from people who know them well, and questions from the audience are answered as well.

As this goes on for an hour, the beers are piling up as **Trish Koch** and **Wendy Aaronson** bring them out. Each judge ends up with 24 of them in the end, so we have nearly 100 clear plastic cups of beer spread across the long table. During the process of describing the beers, the judges have taken notes on the beers, and once the last beer (and cider and mead) is brought out, the judging begins in earnest, and this is where the real "Best of Show" brutality starts.

Keep in mind that each of these beers on the Best of Show table is top in its category, but somehow the judges need to winnow the list, so even with a top-notch beer, minor faults can throw that beer off the table. The judges banter back and forth about things like "lack of carbonation", or "faint lingering soapiness" in beers that you'd otherwise be quite happy to drink in a pub. Their goal, though, is not to insult the beer or the brewer, but to concentrate on the handful of beers on the table that are nearly defect-free.

In the end, with audience members looking on curiously at the four judges who are hurling insults about the very best of the best beers, the selection of the top four are made. OK, we'll admit, there's actually no "hurling of insults" at this point. Instead, once the list is down to half a dozen, it becomes a matter of balance, style, and how well made a beer is. At this stage, even though the top four are selected, it could almost be considered a "crap shoot" because any one of these remaining beers (or mead and cider) is so well made that you would indeed be extremely happy to have a pint of it in your local pub.

If you do plan on attending the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair next year, consider taking some time out on Saturday evening for the Best of Show beer judging. And bring a friend who is interested in beer styles, so you both can learn a bit more about beer -- while the wife and kids go off to watch the pig races!

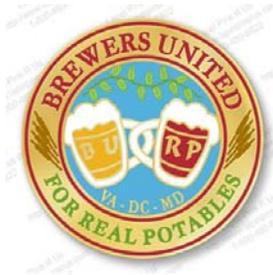
General Announcement

By Kathy Koch, Fearless Leader

BURP's longtime friend, Norman Yow, of Norm's Beer and Wine in Vienna, Virginia, has come to a difficult fork in the business road. In order to stay

competitive and continue to provide the excellent selection and personal service we value as beer lovers, he is changing the way he will continue support his friends at BURP.

Beginning October 1, 2007 the BURP discount will no longer be available. He will be increasing his support of our Spirit of Free Beer competition as well as contributing to our raffles and is open to other ideas. He will continue his discounts on quantity purchases such as case discounts and will be glad to explain those discounts if you have questions. We appreciate both his past and future support.



BURP Lapel Pins and Titanium Bottle Openers Available

The club recently received a new order of 200 beautiful BURP lapel pins, suitable for wear at all beer functions (and, they make great gifts for beer travelers). 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.

In addition to the lapel pins, a new order of 100 BURP titanium bottle openers arrived just before MASHOUT. Some were sold at the event, but there are plenty left. The openers are the small "claw" style, designed for easy attachment to a key ring. We guarantee this opener will last a lifetime. The price of \$8.50 per opener is very reasonable considering the cost of titanium has skyrocketed over the last year.

Just bring cash or a check payable to BURP to the next BURP meeting for the pins and openers you would like to purchase.

Trivial Beer-Suits

By Charlie Pavitt

This month's beer-suits begins with a report by Greg Kitsock in the August 29th Washington Post on some governmental goings-on that should be of interest to all serious beer people. Apparently, the Tax and Trade Bureau, part of the U. S. Treasury Department, regulates all alcoholic beverage packaging, and has made a proposal that "serving facts" be included in a panel on all alcoholic beverage containers. The panel would include alcohol content by volume, calories, carbohydrates, fat, protein, serving size, and servings per container. This is of course a radical reversal of the previous federal policy of keeping the customer ignorant. Kitsock makes the point (which I disagree with; see below) that ignorance didn't matter so much when pretty much all that was available was Coorsweiser alcoholic seltzer water in two strengths, "3.2" and 5% "full strength." Happily, times have changed and we now have true variety, but, according to Kitsock, it took two court cases to allow alcohol and calorie content to be labeled, the first brought by Coors and the second by Rheingold. The Brewers Association is apparently in general support of the proposal but is concerned with the manner in which the labeling is accomplished; the proposal would require the "box" form common among foods, which would take up a lot of room, and the Association would prefer a linear-form list. The Tax and Trade Bureau is open until October 29th for public comment. If you wish to read the details, go to http://www.ttb.gov/beer/beer_rulemaking.shtml and open Notice No. 73 for the proposal. To comment, go through the provided link, click Health and Consumer Safety and then Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Firearms, and you will find another copy of the document and the comment site. Supposedly one can read all previous comments, but I couldn't find them.

Just to editorialize (what, me stating an opinion? Never!!): I know this is entirely unrealistic, but not only would I like to see this information on every beer can and bottle, I would also like to see a list of all included ingredients. Then, people could read the list of the 70 or so additives to Coorsweiser alcoholic seltzer water, and perhaps decide that their health interests are better served

elsewhere. Which is why it did matter even when there was far less variety to choose from.

On to other issues: the May 2007 Scientific American's "Antigravity" column, written each month by Steve Mirsky and entitled "Ale's Well with the World," relates Mirsky's experience at a February lecture at the New York Academy of Sciences by Charlie Bamforth, the Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Brewing Science at the University of California at Davis (is this endowed position A-B's only positive contribution to beer?). The content of Bamforth's talk was apparently new to Mirsky but would not be to us; the role of beer in the beginning of agriculture and urbanization, its health benefits. There was one point that was new to me about the MBT compound (3-methyl-2-butene-1-thiol) responsible for skunkiness. Some people are able to smell it at levels as low as .04 part per trillion; in Bamforth's quoted words, "These poor people would have been able to detect a tenth of a gram of MBT distributed throughout the balloon of the airship Graf Zeppelin II." Mirsky seconds Bamforth's sympathy, but I wonder if it would be useful to have some of those folks around to help judge at a homebrew competition.

And finally; a toast to Michael Jackson. I'm sure most of us have had our MJ experiences; mine included two tastings at the University of Pennsylvania at least 15 years ago. I will never forget how he spent so much time describing the beers we were sampling that he'd fall way behind schedule and have to give short shrift to the last few as the audience belted them down. Mine also include watching the Beer Hunter series and, in particular, the one featuring the gourmet beer dinner, which surely was inspiration for the annual GABS Beer Dinner (and probably lots of others around the world), and the two MJ books we own, the coffee table "Beer" and somewhat more technical "Great Beers of Belgium." In our separate ways, we were all touched by him. The polka song begins "In heaven there is no beer"; I sure hope that's wrong in his case.

BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

Compiled By Bill Ridgely

20 Years Ago, Sep 1987

There was no official BURP meeting held in September 1987 since host **Bill McLaren** was forced to postpone at the last minute. Fortunately, there was an alternative event already on the schedule. BURP members were given the opportunity to tour the large Heileman Brewery in Arbutus, MD (suburb of Baltimore) with Head Brewer **Peter Sowa**. This regional brewery, which no longer exists, was at the time the largest commercial brewery in the area. It produced not only the popular National Bohemian brand but a number of other brands under the Heileman umbrella. Over 50 BURPers attended the exclusive 4-hour tour, which featured an extensive lecture by Peter on the processes involved in brewing at the large industrial level (including a 10-page illustrated handout describing all steps required - example, "Malt and adjunct grains are received in covered hopper cars and unloaded via a pneumatic conveyor system"). Following the tour, BURPers held the monthly club meeting in the brewery tasting room. Copious quantities of food and homebrew were provided to accompany the fresh samples of Natty Boh provided by the host. At the conclusion of the event, Peter generously gave the club three large boxes of hop pellets (Cascade, Cluster, and Hallertauer) and offered free fresh yeast to anyone who wanted it.

The September issue of the BURP News led off with President **Rod Rydlun's** monthly "BURP Banter" column, reviewing past events and announcing the club's future endeavors. Editor **John Gardiner** followed with his review of the August meeting and his typically pun-ishing "Frugal Brewer" column. This month's subject was hops ("Who "saaz" hops aren't an exciting topic? I've read "bullions" of words about them and still find them "eroica"). The "Recipe of the Month" was for *Bill's Pils*, winner of the August club Pilsner competition. **Phil Hugill** contributed an excerpt on the history of beer from Louis DeGouy's Gold Cookbook. Most interesting was an announcement for the 3rd Mid-Atlantic National Homebrew Competition, scheduled for October and sponsored by the HOPS club in Philadelphia, PA. The entry categories - Light

Beers, Amber Beers, Brown Beers, Black Beers, and Unusual Beers. Finally, the 100th BURP member, **Tom Pyle**, was welcomed to the club.

10 Years Ago, Sep 1997

Beautiful Lake Barcroft in Falls Church, VA was once again the setting for a BURP meeting. **Jim and Alice Davis** hosted at their lovely lakeside home on a perfect last day of summer. A dozen or so of the 60 BURPers present remembered to bring their bathing suits and took the plunge into the warm lake waters, led by a buff **Colleen Cannon**. Festbier was the theme of the meeting, and BURPer **Greg Griffin** conducted a tasting of 14 commercial interpretations of the style (including *Negra Modelo* from Mexico). This was followed by the club festbier competition, judged in the Davis's screened porch. Winners were announced just before the raffle and included **Bob Dawson** (3rd), **Gary Nazelrod** (2nd), and **Tom Cannon** (1st).

Because of the short time frame between the September and October BURP meetings, September's BURP News became a double (Sep-Oct) issue. Leading off was a review by **Ben Schwalb** of the 10th Annual MASHOUT held the previous month. Fearless Leader **Tom Cannon** then continued his extensive overview of cask conditioned real ale begun in the August issue, preparing club members for the 1st BURP Real Ale Competition to be held in October. This issue, Tom addressed the process of brewing and conditioning real ale and how it could be done by a homebrewer. Culture Minister **Mark Stevens** contributed an excellent overview of German wheat beer styles for the regular monthly club competition, also to be held in October. BURP's "Adjunct Boy", **Delano Dugarm**, addressed the subject of using malta (essentially, diluted and bottled unfermented malt extract, especially popular in Latin America) as a potential yeast starter. The experiment failed, likely because (Delano surmised) bottled malta probably contained a yeast inhibitor such as potassium sorbate. **Steve Marler** continued his travelogue on beer hunting in Hungary, begun in the previous issue. Finally, in his monthly "Whole BURP Catalog" column, beer news contributor **Jim Dorsrh** announced the first offerings from a new Belgian-style brewery recently opened in New York called

Brewery Ommegang, a project spearheaded by **Wendy Littlefield & Don Feinburg** of Belgian beer distributors *Vanberg & DeWulf*.

BURP Prosperity Report

By Larry Koch, Minister of Prosperity

Current Financial Position

BURP Treasury Summary

As of 5 Aug 2007	\$20,098
New receipts	\$3,091
New expenses	\$1,237
As of 15 Sept 2007	\$25,595

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://www.burp.org>.

Mem-beer-sip Update

By Christine Johnbrier, Ministrix 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 I don't have your current email address! Send your contact information to membership@burp.org, and I'll see that your info is updated.

CURRENT MEM-BEER-SIP STATS:

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS: 258
 FAMILY: 75 (x2) 150
 INDIVIDUAL: 84
 HONORARY: 24

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.

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.

Cheers, Mel

Editor's Corner

By Beth Madden, Minister of Truth

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this month's newsletter. As always, I invite anyone interested in submitting anything from a feature or general interest articles to travelogues, recipes, etc. to do so. Please send to madfox@comcast.net. Your fellow BURPers and I are looking forward to hearing from you!

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

Office	Officer	Phone/E-mail
Fearless Leader	Kathy Koch	(703) 256-4285 kathleenkoch@verizon.net
Co-Ministers of Enlightenment	Wendy Aaronson Tom Cannon	(301) 762-6523 aaronson@burp.org (703) 204-2256 cannon@burp.org
Co-Ministers of Culture	Jamie Langlie Jeanie Osburn	(301) 933-3081 jamie@langlie.com (202) 797-0511 brewbub@verizon.net
Minister of Truth	Beth Madden	(703) 751-2380 madfox@comcast.net
Minister of Propaganda	Christine Johnbrier	(571) 274-6217 cjbrier@garvin.us
Minister of Prosperity	Larry Koch	(301) 587-5293 tlkrk@verizon.net
Ministers of the Web	Paul & Stein Langlie	(301) 933-3081 paul@langlie.com support@webarbor.com
Minister of History	Mel Thompson	(301) 330-3578 sonofthomp@comcast.net