



# BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the  
**BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES**

"Anyone can drink beer,  
but it takes intelligence to enjoy beer."  
-- *Stephen Beaumont*



Beth Madden, Editor  
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**November 2007**

4305 Vermont Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22304



**November Meeting – Real Ale Festival  
At the Ridgely-Aaronson Residence  
Rockville, MD  
17 November 2007  
12:00 - 6:00 PM**

**December Meeting - Holiday Banquet  
and Holiday Beer Competition  
At Lyon Park Community Center  
Arlington, VA  
11 December 2007  
6:00 - 10:00 PM**

**January Meeting  
Strong Ale Competition  
Date and Location TBD**

## **Koch's Corner**

*By Kathy Koch, Fearless Leader*

November is here and, for us, that means Real Ale! Even though the stores are already filled with December holiday colors, music and merchandise, we have our priorities in order and will celebrate a highlight of the BURP year on November 17, the Real Ale Festival. BURP members have brewed their ales, primed their kegs and are delivering their precious cargo to the serving porch of **Wendy Aaronson and Bill Ridgely**. Milds, Bitters, Porters, Stouts, Scotch Ales and other entries will be there for sampling and learning about the real ale processes. All we need is you to join us.

While you are anticipating and, finally, enjoying the delicious offerings of your fellow members, this is the time to give some serious thought to choosing which BURP office you'd like to run for. November is the month for officer nominations for the annual elections at our December holiday gathering. Being an officer is a great way to contribute to the club and get to know our fabulously talented and interesting members. If you'd like to run, get the word out and we'll get your hat in the ring. We need you and when you take on any job, the members are great about helping you accomplish it.

Please submit all articles for publication in either plain text or Microsoft Word format to the e-mail address above. 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](mailto:membership@burp.org).

Speaking of all the help you get as an officer, let me take this opportunity to thank all of the members who volunteered their home for our monthly meetings, most recently **Bud and Helen Hensgen** in October. For November, **Bill and Wendy** have invited us into their home for our Real Ale Festival for many years now. Not only have they custom configured their porch for authentic serving of our kegs from members' handpumps, they work with us the entire week ahead of the meeting, allowing pre-meeting deliveries of the kegs for proper conditioning.

Our December meeting venue is again the community center in Arlington, graciously coordinated by President Emeritus **Steve Marler**. Now, we need you to step forward to help land a location for our January 2008 meeting. January is a tough one to plan, because we need a place to get out of the weather. Please help out your next President by volunteering to arrange our January location.

I'm looking forward to tasting your real ales and your fantastic food contributions on the 17<sup>th</sup> and hearing about what holiday and midwinter beers you are working on now. See you on the porch.

## And the Y's Have It

*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.***

### RESULTS

A picture perfect day in October in Arlington and a rout by the men in the battle of the sexes IPA competition. With a total of 11 entries, there were 9 Y teams and 2 X teams. The men pulled a clean sweep winning first, second, and third. We ladies were truly swept away, shut-out, slam-dunked. Ah but we'll live to brew another day. The winners were:

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Place - **Mel Thompson, Ed Bielaus,** and **Yancy Bodenstein**, Category 14B (American IPA), Beer name [No Name]
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – **Bud Hensgen** and **Mark Hogenmiller**, Category #14A (English IPA), Beer name- **AbraCadabra**
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – **Mark Hogenmiller, Bud Hensgen, Steve Marler** and **John Foulkes**, Category #14B (American IPA), Beer name – **XIPA**

Thanks to all who entered, and an especially big thanks to our judges, **Wendy Schmidt, Mike Horkan, Brian Matt, and Colleen Cannon.**

The 2007 competition year is coming rapidly to a close, but we have a few fabulous, fun, and adventurous competitions to go. Namely....

### NOVEMBER COMPETITION: REAL ALES

BURP's annual Real Ale Festival is one of the highlights of the brewing/drinking season and has possibly the most Real Ales of any festival. Don't miss this fun event. Thanks to **Andy Anderson** and **Rick Garvin** for spearheading the Real Ale competition this year. Read other articles in this newsletter for more information on the Real Ale Competition and Festival.

November's meeting brings nominations for BURP officer positions. Nominate yourself; nominate a friend. Don't be shy. BURP is a great club with an impressive number of BJCP certified judges, terrific energy, and dedication to good brew. Be part of the action; be a BURP officer!

### DECEMBER COMPETITION = BURP HOLIDAY HOOTENANNY

Let your muse run wild for the December popular-choice competition. Anything goes (no Steve, no more insect beer, please!) Since the December competition is by popular vote, it does not count toward BOTY.

### JANUARY COMPETITION = STRONG ALES

This year we instituted what we hope will become a tradition and that is to let the BOTY from the previous year choose the style for the January competition. Our 2006 BOTY was **Mel Thompson**, and Mel has chosen Category #19, Strong Ales, 19A - Old Ale, 19B - English Barleywine, 19C - American Barleywine, <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category19.html>. Since this is a big beer, you may want to dig back into your stash and pull out one of those strong ales you've set aside waiting for the opportunity to wow your friends and the judges.

### 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.

## Recipe Corner

*By Tom Cannon, Co-Minister of Education*

Last month, the "BURP Battle of the Sexes" was dominated by the Unfairest Sex, and the winning beer was brewed by the team of **Yancy Bodenstein, Ed Bielaus, and Mel Thompson** with their American IPA. Mel has a long history of brewing excellent hoppy ales, and word from the competition was that this was a good one. I'm not sure what an "Ahtanum" hop is, though!

American IPA

Recipe for 10 gallons:

Grain:

14# Maris Otter pale malt  
 10# Briess 2-row pale malt  
 1# Carapils  
 12 OZ Crystal 20  
 6 OZ Crystal 60  
 Mash 90 minutes at 152 F

Hopping Schedule:

1 OZ Columbus 60 min.  
 1 OZ Amarillo 60 min.  
 1 OZ Ahtanum 60 min.  
 1 OZ Cascade 40 min.

2 OZ Cascade 15 min.  
 1 OZ Cascade 2 min.  
 2 OZ Cascade dry hopped in secondary

Yeast White Labs WLP 001- 1000 ml starter finished with Irish moss in boil and gelatin when kegged.

OG - 1.072

FG - 1.014

Thanks to **Mel Thompson** for providing the recipe and congratulations on another win. I'll be happy to drink your IPA anytime!

### Education Announcement

As we all know, the November meeting will be the tenth anniversary BURP Real Ale Festival. As usual, **Andy Anderson** and **Tom Cannon** will be doing their best to provide some education on what Real Ale is and isn't in at the start of the meeting. Remember, the meeting starts at high noon and this is also when the Real Ale Discussion will begin.

See you there.

## BURP 2007 Real Ale Competition

Announcing the 11<sup>th</sup> BURP Real Ale Competition to be held in conjunction with the 17 November BURP meeting at **Bill and Wendy's** house in Rockville. Thanks to our brewers, this competition has become (likely) the largest Real Ale Competition in the US!

For those who have not participated in the past, this is a keg-only competition with entries accepted in the various British ale categories. But it should be noted that since this is a contest based upon a process (Real Ale) rather than a specific style, the judges will be instructed to focus more on the beer's Real Ale qualities rather than just its adherence to any specific style sub-set. All entries must be naturally conditioned and will be served by hand pump without the assistance of any extraneous gas.

This year's contest will be a little different than in previous years, as **Tom Cannon** is taking a one-

year hiatus from organization duties this year.

**Andy Anderson** will be responsible for the overall organization of the contest including Steward Selection, while **Rick Garvin** will be the Judge Coordinator.

Entries will be accepted at **Bill and Wendy's** house, beginning Sunday, 11 November. A minimum of two gallons of beer is required in the keg for each entry. Three or Five gallon Cornelius kegs with standard pin or ball lock fittings are the most readily used form of keg, but if you wish to submit a Sanke or a Hogshead of Real Ale, please be our guest :-). It is recommended that all entrants submit their kegs a few days before the competition in order to allow the beer to settle and clear, but entries will be accepted right up until the time of the competition. Our crack team of BURP cellermen/women will adhere to any conditioning directions given them, but in the event that no directions are given, we will do whatever we believe to be best for the beer. We are asking entrants to please provide only the gas-in fitting for their keg entry (2-Pin fitting for Pin Lock kegs, or, "G" fitting for Ball Lock kegs). Use a piece of string to tie the fitting onto the top of the keg. In addition, it is advised that you put your name or initials (or any other identifying symbol) on the fitting to facilitate its return in case it is separated from the keg. We will do our best to insure that fittings are returned to their owners after the competition. The competition will be held Friday, 16 November during a closed-judging session, but all of the remaining beer will be available for tasting at the BURP meeting on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Because of the quantity of Real Ale available for Saturday's meeting, the November meeting will not require members to bring beer.

In order to allow each entry to be on long enough for club members to try all of the beers, the November meeting will begin at 12:00. There will be an educational session starting at noon primarily focused on tasting beer with some typical Tom & Andy Real Ale Rants (TARAR) included. **Tom and Andy** will also be available to answer any questions about real ale after the education session is over. However at 2 PM we will ask that all people leave the porch so that we can switch all the kegs and get new beers on tap as soon as possible.

### Pull Your Own

Yes, you read correctly. At the Real Ale meeting you will be able to pull your own pint. Here is your opportunity to pretend you are a British bartender as you pull forth the beer through the beer engine into your glass. OK, I'd better stop this article now; I'm beginning to drool on the keyboard. See you Saturday!

### Beer Drinkers of the World Unite

Sunday Dec. 2 at 3 PM, author and self proclaimed "Beer Activist," Chris O'Brien will appear at the Shirlington Library in Arlington, VA to talk about his book "Fermenting Revolution: How to Drink Beer and Save the World."

The Lecture is free. Following the lecture there will be a book signing across the street at the new Busboys and Poets in Shirlington Village. Some of the beers discussed during the Author Talk will also be available for purchase at Busboys following the lecture. The beers that will be available have not yet been confirmed but more information will be available at the November Real Ale contest.

The Shirlington Library is located at 4200 Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA 22206. Directions can be found at [www.arlingtonva.us/library](http://www.arlingtonva.us/library)

For more information please contact **Ann-Marie Dittmann**, Shirlington Library Public Programs Specialist, at [amdittmann@arlingtonva.us](mailto:amdittmann@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-0322.



## 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.

## BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

*Compiled By Bill Ridgely*

### 20 Years Ago, Nov 1987

The Nov 1987 BURP meeting was held at the Baltimore home of **Hal Gomer** and hosted by **Joe Gold**, at that time the U.S. representative of England's *Young's Brewery* (Joe subsequently went on to a successful career as a professional lacrosse player, a career that ended with his induction in the Pro Lacrosse Hall of Fame). BURPers remember Joe best, though, for creating the Young's Army, a large and congenial group of Young's devotees scattered throughout the Baltimore and DC areas. For this meeting, which was opened to the combined forces of BURP and the Young's Army, Joe provided not only a wonderful selection of fresh Young's products (including Ram Rod and Special London Ale as well as the renowned Old Nick Barleywine). He also contributed some great Belgian beers, including all of the Chimay products, Duvel, Hoegaarden White, and Hoegaarden Grand

Cru. **Bob & Ellie Tupper** also brought some commercial beers (including one from China that, alas, no one in the room could finish). BURPers countered with an incredible array of homebrews in every style imaginable, more than had been seen at many past meetings. In the end, as reported by Secretary **John Gardiner** in his meeting report, BURP won the "BURP Brigade vs Young's Army" battle. In his usual inimitable fashion, John reported that "General **Joe Gold** was soon to meet his Waterloo, and we were about to kick the Young's Army in their Bonapartes". Several homebrewers from other clubs ended up joining BURP at this meeting, including one **Rick Garvin**, who contributed a well received Frambozen to the festivities.

There was no BURP newsletter produced in November. The contents of the combined October-November newsletter were covered in my last column. **John Gardiner** spent November working on the first ever BURP Yearbook, which was to appear in December.

### 10 Years Ago, Nov 1997

November's meeting was held at a commercial location in Southern MD, Harrington on the Bay, a very nice facility with harbor views. It was also a rare Sunday meeting, so the combination of reasonably long travel distance and competition with the Redskins game kept the crowd a bit lighter than usual. Those who attended, however, had a great time sharing homebrew and great food. As with all BURP meetings, a homebrew competition was held. The style was English Bitter - separate from the Real Ale Competition held the previous month. The November competition was held to select BURP's entry in the upcoming AHA "Bitter Mania" club-only competition. There were 11 entries in BURP's contest, judged by **Wendy Aaronson**, **Lynn Ashley**, and **Alison Skeel**. Third place went to **Tom Cannon** for his Ordinary Bitter, second to **Andy Anderson** for his Special Bitter, and first to **Mike Megown** for his ESB.

Several BURPers also attended the Chicago Real Ale Festival that November, carrying **Andy Anderson's** keg of Special Bitter to the homebrewed Real Ale Competition held as part of the event. While Andy's beer didn't take a prize,

the BURPers who attended had a great time at the festival. Most worked as volunteers, pulling beers for the masses. The homebrew competition was only held one year, but BURP subsequently accepted the mantle of "largest homebrewed real ale competition and festival in the world" with its own event held each November thereafter.

The November issue of the BURP News contained an interesting article by **Abner Oakey** on how he met and poured his homebrew for a diplomatic delegation from the Kyrgystan parliament. The members were so impressed, they asked for Abner's copy of Papazian's guide to homebrewing so they could return it to their country and have it translated into Kyrgyz. While there was no follow up on this from Abner, BURPer **Ralph Bucca** traveled to Kyrgystan nearly 10 years later to teach home crafts to the population there. Perhaps Ralph recalls seeing the Kyrgyz edition of Papazian on the bookshelves of Bishkek. In addition to Abner's article, **John Dittmann** provided an update on the proposal for a new invitational "Master's Championship of Amateur Brewing" competition planned for late 1998 or early 1999. **Jude Wang** contributed an article about the trip she and **Alan Hew** took to the 1997 Great British Beer Festival, which featured an incredible array of over 300 cask ales, 40 ciders and perries, and 100 foreign beers. Alan and Jude had a great time working as volunteers pouring Belgian, Dutch, and French beers at the foreign beer bar. On the technical side, **Bret Wortman** wrote an excellent introduction to yeast culturing. Finally, **Jim Dorsch**, in his monthly "Whole BURP Catalog", introduced BURPers to some new offerings from area brewers, including Dominion Black & Tan, Sam Adams White Ale, and Brewery Hill Caramel Porter from Pennsylvania's Lion Brewery. Recent releases of some popular annual products included Rogue's Dead Guy Ale (in the silk screened bottle for Halloween), Mexico's Noche Buena holiday beer, and Saranac's "Twelve Beer of Christmas" holiday pack.

## BURP Prosperity Report

*By Larry Koch, Minister of Prosperity*

### Current Financial Position

### BURP Treasury Summary

As of 4 Oct, 07	\$20,605
New receipts	\$1,487
New expenses	\$1,954
As of 7 Nov, 07	\$20,138

Go to BURP.org for details on the BURP Treasury including separate worksheets with details of SoFB and MASHOUT.

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*

This month we welcome new members **Terri Fischer & Nathan Caldwell** of Oakton, VA; **Jay Haegele** of Leesburg, VA; and **Mitch Pilchuk** of Sterling, VA.

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](mailto:membership@burp.org) and I'll see that your info is updated.

### CURRENT MEM-BEER-SIP STATS:

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS: 261  
 FAMILY: 76 (x2) 152  
 INDIVIDUAL: 85  
 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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