



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

*"A little bit of beer is divine medicine."
-- Paracelsus, Greek physician*



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December 2007

4305 Vermont Ave
Alexandria, VA 22304



**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**

**February Meeting
TBD Competition
To be Announced at December Meeting
Date and Location TBD**

Holiday Greetings!

By Kathy Koch, Fearless Leader

We will gather to celebrate the season on Tuesday, December 11, in Arlington in the lovely community center we have used the last couple of years. If a few of you are able and so inclined, we could use some Santa's helpers to arrive a bit early and help us set up and make things festive. Extra decorations, strings of lights, extension cords, etc. always come in handy.

Our November meeting in celebration of great homebrewed Real Ale was again a huge success. We had 49 homebrewed real ale kegs entered into our 11th annual Real Ale Competition. Kegs in competition mean kegs for fellow members to enjoy. Thanks to all who brewed your delicious ales. This was the year for lots of entries from four traditional real ale styles. Of the 49 kegs, 10 were milds, 9 ordinary bitters, 9 special bitters and 9 ESBs. Of the 4 beers receiving recognition in the competition, 3 were milds.

All of those beers were kept at proper temperatures for conditioning and serving thanks to some extraordinary efforts by **Bill Ridgely** and **Larry Koch**. Larry wrapped and secured massive sheets of heavy duty plastic around the entire

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.

serving porch (cellar). This improvement helped mitigate the usual, but undesirable, swings in temperature while the beers conditioned on the porch during the week. **Bill** monitored the cellar temps during the week and cranked up a powerful propane heater when necessary to keep things as even as possible. Judges at the competition praised these efforts as the beers were being poured at optimal serving temps. Thanks **Bill** and **Larry**.

Many others are needed to make this competition one of the best of its kind put on by a homebrew club. **Bill Ridgely and Wendy Aaronson** graciously opened their home for this well attended event. This year, **Andy Anderson** was the overall competition coordinator, and **Rick Garvin** served as judge coordinator. Then there are the judges, stewards, cellarman staff, and the dedicated, super-speedy glass washer. The brewers and all of these folks make this one of BURP's signature events of the year. Thanks to everyone.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on December 11. This meeting is known for the creative and scrumptious food contributions and some tasty and interesting holiday beers. It will be our election meeting as well. Many thanks to all the members who agreed to stand for election. I urge you to read their statements, vote and support our 2008 officers in the coming year.

This club owes its success to all of the big and small things our members do each and every month. Some of these things we see, but equally important are the quiet and largely anonymous contributions of so many of you. I've had a great year working with all of you. I've especially enjoyed meeting and welcoming our many new members in 2007. You make us a stronger and better club. As we elect our new officer team, I know you all will continue to be there with your great ideas and helping hands for our future endeavors. Let's get brewing for the New Year.

Happy Hoppy Holidays!

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

The purpose of BURP monthly competitions is to further the art and science of homebrewing by providing thoughtful feedback to Club brewers and by developing a cadre of well-qualified, educated judges.

Mel Thompson and Ed Bielaus Reign Supreme as 2007 Brewers of the Year!

Congratulations to **Mel Thompson and Ed Bielaus**, who crossed the finish line together as BURP's **2007 Brewers of the Year!** Each accrued an impressive 25 points on his way to the top. **2nd Place** goes to **Rick Garvin** and **Christine Johnbrier**, with 16 points each, and **3rd Place** to **Bill Ridgely** and **Wendy Aaronson**, with 8 points each.

Other contenders with significant point counts include: **Bud Hensgen** (7), **Mark Hogenmiller** (7), **Keith Chamberlin** (6), **Joe Gherlone** (6) and **Steve Marler** (6). A total of 30 BURP brewers earned points toward BOTY this year. A more detailed listing, together with BOTY historical background, can be found at the BURP website under "Competitions."

Kudos for all for your efforts! Looking forward to seeing more of your entries in 2008.

December Holiday Beer Competition

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

Special Thanks to Judges

We want to offer a special **THANK YOU** to all of the BURP members who took time out from meeting mingling and made way in their busy schedules to judge or steward for our Club competitions this year. BURP is known for its superb corps of judges, and our monthly events and SoFB offer ample opportunities for interested members to learn and grow their judging skills. To honor those who've helped in 2007, we'll have a special **Judges' Prize Drawing** at the Holiday Banquet from the names of everyone who has judged or stewarded for one of our monthly BOTY Club Competitions. Much appreciated, judges!

Cheers to the Real Ale Crew!

Once again, the BURP Real Ale competition and meeting was a huge success thanks to our intrepid organizers, **Andy Anderson**, **Rick Garvin**, and **Bill Ridgely** (with **Tom Cannon** as an important consultant). We thank you for another job well-done. Special recognition goes out to all of those members who contributed as judges, stewards, dishwashers. See additional coverage of the event in other sections of this newsletter.

January Competition

The January 2008 competition will be for **Category #19, Strong Ale: A. Old Ale; B. English Barleywine; C. American Barleywine**. Complete style guidelines can be found at: <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category19.html>

For this competition, **brewers may submit more than one entry per subcategory**. Furthermore, we are requiring that **3 bottles be entered** so that the extra bottle can be shared with other attendees. We also would encourage folks to retrieve some of their older old ale masterpieces from the cellar for everyone to savor. Cheers!

Recipe Corner

1st Place at this year's Real Ale Festival went to **Wendell Ose** for his Mild Ale "Nick's Mild II". Congratulations to Wendell on a very fine ale!

English Syle Mild Ale

Recipe for 6 gallons.

Grain:

- 7.0 lb UK Muntons Mild Ale Malt
- 10 oz US Briess Crystal Malt 80
- 6 oz UK Muntons Chocolate Malt
- Mash 1.5 Qts/Lb and rest at 153F for 90 min.

Hopping Schedule:

- 1 oz Styrian Goldings (5% AA) @ 60 min.
- 1/2 oz Fuggle (4% AA) @ 30 min.
- 1/2 oz Fuggle UK (4% AA) at knockout

Additional Tip: 1 WhirlFloc tablet (Irish moss) for the last 30 min. (for settling protein).

Yeast Used: 1318XL London III from Wyeast

Priming Sugar: 2 oz. Fructose or Sucrose per 5 gallons

O.G.: 1.037-38

F.G.: 1.010

Wendell's special notes for cask ale:

- Isinglass fining after beer is carbonated leaves more yeast suspended during conditioning.
- Alltech Allfine Powder™ reconstituted with cold water (or beer) takes 2-3 day to dissolve and must be refrigerated.
- Allfine @ 1/10 gram/gallon equals ¼ tsp/5 gallons added to 3/5 oz. cold water. Once powder has dissolved, stir into 4 oz. beer before adding to cask. Evenly distribute finings (roll cask).
- Finings added to 50F beer 5 plus days ahead of judging.

Meeting Report - Real Ale Festival, November 17, 2007

By Trish Koch

"Beautiful day, great crowd, wonderful beer! Cheers!" **Jamie Langlie's** comments pretty much sum up the 11th BURP Real Ale Festival. It was a day to celebrate all that is good in Real Ale. And when it comes to Real Ale, it's all good. The day

was sunny and cool. With over 150 members and guests attending, this was one of the most well attended BURP meetings I can remember. The ales available that day were some of the finest that the members of BURP have brewed to share with everyone. There was the usual assortment of fine food available to enjoy with the beer. Featured items included a roast turkey compliments of **Alison Skeel**; elk and turkey meatballs from **Janet Crowe**; cheese soup from **Jamie and Paul Langlie**; and venison stew from **Mac and Diana MacKwen**. The great food really enhanced the flavor of the beers.

Because there are so many entries in this competition, the judging is done the night before the festival. **Rick Garvin** coordinated the judging on Friday evening. 24 judges got together to taste and critique the entries. Each ale was evaluated by four judges who had to provide their judging experience and British travel credentials to **Rick** in order to be selected for the honor to judge this competition. From the 49 entries, the final best of show ales were selected. Interestingly, three of the top four awards went to milds. Of the ten milds entered, **Wendell Ose's** won first place, third place went to **Mark Hogenmiller's** mild, and **Mel Thompson** and **Ed Bielaus** took the cellar man's choice award for their mild. Second place for the event went to **Bill Ridgely** and **Wendy Aaronson's** Brown Porter. **Roland Hall**, who entered a Special Bitter, commented that the judging feedback was very helpful, and he felt it was a valid assessment of his ale.

The work behind the scenes makes it all look deceptively simple. In reality, the set up began almost a week early, with a plastic wind barrier erected on the porch, wooden shelves put in place for the hand pumps and space heating set up to keep the ales at the optimum cellar temperature. Kegs were delivered in the days before the festival and set out on the porch for proper stillage prior to the event. On Saturday afternoon, 25 beer engines were chock-a-block on the back porch, ready to serve the ales. New members and regulars were gobsmacked with the great selection and variety of ales available. With so many to sample only half could be offered at a time. Members enjoyed pulling their own pint or half; everyone felt like the landlord at their local, pulling pints and having a

natter with each other. At precisely 2 PM, the porch was closed as **Andy Anderson**, coordinator for the event, and his crew changed over the taps to the second flight of ales (ta, gov'ner). As soon as the switchover was complete, people returned to try the next round. **Andy** commented that once his duty of switching over the taps was complete, the beer tasted damn good!

A graduate student from American University was filming the meeting for a class project. He interviewed many members and attendees to get their opinions and personal experiences with home brewing, professional brewing, real ale and beer in general. He hopes to submit the final film to a competition, and also wishes to have a private showing for BURP members.

Attendees at the meeting were in the spirit of the day. **Scott Schabilon** observed "49 ales, and no frowns". His authentic kilt, British cap and sweater certainly had him looking the part of a satisfied punter in the local pub. Many others wore their finest British caps and sweaters to keep warm through the afternoon. **Greg Kitsock**, beer writer for the Washington Post, felt this was the finest collection of Real Ale outside the UK. He found all the ales to be of excellent quality, and did not find a bad beer in the offerings. **Greg** commented that he enjoyed tasting so many low alcohol beers with great taste.

As the afternoon turned to evening, members kept arriving to sample the ales and inside the **AaronRidge** residence, the crowd was having a real knees-up with the live music and dancing. I don't know how late the "meeting" went on, as I left soon after dark. Many thanks to **Bill Ridgely** and **Wendy Aaronson** for hosting this meeting. We all had a great time!

Editors note: Greg Kitsock's column in the Washington Post on Wednesday, 5 December, 2007 will feature beer and BURP's 2007 Real Ale Competition. Please be sure to pick up your copy of the Washington Post on 5 December.

November BURP Meeting Photos

Courtesy of Pat and Janet Crowe



The "Barrelhouse Brawl" band.



Stacey DiMaria , Janet Crowe and Fred Seymour.



Betsy Kepler, Scott Schabillon and Becky Pyle.



BURP Elections to be Held This Month

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

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

The BURP Officer positions are:

Fearless Leader (President)

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

Co-Candidates: **Jamie Langlie and Alan Hew**

Elect Alan and Jamie → Boost Brewing – No Excuses!



Candidate Statement:

We are seeking your vote to be BURP's 2008 Co-Fearless Leaders.

Together, we have over 30 years of experience as BURP members. In fact, we joined the Club within months of one another, after first meeting at the BURP recruitment table during a DNA Productions Beer Festival at the Washington Hilton in 1992. Since then, we can hardly imagine life without BURP and our homebrewing friends.

Jamie has been a BURP officer for 8 years (Ministers of Culture, Web, and Truth). She also

has served as a board member or president for many volunteer and professional organizations. Relevant example: As President of the Monterey Institute of International Studies student government, 1990-91, she championed an appropriation to found a Homebrew Club to brew for happy hours and other events. (The Club ran for nearly 8 years until an overzealous dean of students decided that it was "inappropriate.") Both Jamie and Alan are beer travelers and have a strong desire to connect with other clubs, local, national, and international.

Alan became a CAMRA-Certified Bar Manager in 1997, one of the first Americans to earn this distinction. (Currently, there are only about 50 CBMs in the U.S.) He received his cellarman training at the Great British Beer Festival. His certificate qualifies him to manage CAMRA-sanctioned festivals. One of the ideas he would like to pursue as Fearless Leader is to partner with other local clubs to mount a CAMRA-sanctioned Real Ale Festival, possibly in Baltimore. Alan is passionate about getting all BURPers involved with brewing and enjoying both the process and the results. He would propose that in addition to the "serious" monthly competitions, we have more fun/beauty contests, like "weird beers," Iron Brewer, no hops, etc., and have a Real Ale served at every meeting.

Our combined strengths would serve BURP well during what we believe is a time of transition. It is critical to bring new ideas and talent into the pipeline to continue to grow and thrive. We need to value and utilize the talents and ideas that all of our members add to the organization. BURP can be justly proud of its history of support for novice and journeyman brewers through its excellent education and judging programs. We're very fortunate to have a number of the Nation's most experienced, well-regarded judges and brewers among us. In short, we have much to offer prospective members.

There are times when some of us can get a bit too serious and forget that one of BURP's greatest strengths is the camaraderie and **FUN** we have together. Where else could you find such an intelligent, interesting, and eccentric bunch of folks to commune with? We've got avid athletes,

amazing artists and musicians, true techies, travel junkies, trivia wizards, polyglots, gourmands, culinary masters, talented authors, military and civilian careerists, singles, long-partnered, parents with young families, retirees with grandkids, romance and intrigue...

If elected, we will work with our fellow officers and members to:

- ***Respect and value the talents and ideas that all members contribute to BURP – and have FUN!***
- ***Recruit new and seasoned members to volunteer for Club activities, such as:***
 - Serving on planning committees for Spirit of Free Beer, MASHOUT, Spirit of Belgium, AHA Conferences, etc.
 - Hosting a monthly meeting
 - Judging/stewarding for BURP competitions and helping other clubs when needed
 - Teaching/mentoring new brewers
 - Sharing beer-related travel tips and samples from exotic locations
 - Planning bicycle trips, pub crawls, and other adventures
 - Building bridges to brewing clubs, locally, nationally, and around the world
- ***Develop a 2008 - 2009 Event Calendar to include:***
 - Meeting dates, locations, and competition styles
 - Spirit of Free Beer → determine date and event chair
 - Club participation at the National AHA Conference in Cincinnati in June
 - Annual activities: MASHOUT; Real Ale Fest; BURP at the Nationals Day; Oktoberfest; Holiday Party -- Add a pub crawl?
 - Judge support activities, such as study sessions for the BJCP exam
 - Brewer support activities
 - Group grain and hop buys
 - Brew store delivery
 - Equipment exchange and construction
 - Education

- Convening a committee to work on the next *Spirit of Belgium*, aiming for 2009
- **Manage the Club's administrative, legal, and financial business effectively and efficiently:**
 - Hold regular officers' meetings
 - Complete the process for the Club's non-profit incorporation
 - Plan for prudent use of funds in the Club's healthy treasury account
 - Investigate our legal status re Club events. For example, is there a need to purchase some type of liability insurance?
 - Review and update the BURP Charter/By-laws as needed
 - Re-evaluate and update descriptions of officers' duties
 - Establish protocols for the BURP Website to more clearly delineate technical, policy, and content management responsibilities
 - Encourage officers and members to explore/use our existing web-based capabilities, such as blogs, the electronic membership list, officer forums, etc.
 - Convene an advisory group of officer alumni, and focus groups of members, particularly new ones, to think strategically about how to successfully navigate into the future
- **Facilitate stakeholder dialogue on topics related to competitions and judging:**
 - Open discussions re relationships with AHA, MCAB, The Free State Homebrew Guild and other organizations
 - Evaluate the Club's Brewer-of-the-Year criteria and if warranted, propose changes to take effect in 2009
 - Support on-going BJCP education and testing efforts to increase and improve the Club's corps of judges
 - Encourage more BJCP qualified judges to help with monthly competitions
 - Work with the Minister of Culture to get input from officers and members on styles and types of monthly competitions – for example, should we try to coordinate our schedule to coincide with the AHA Club-only comps? Should BURP consider hosting one of these comps in 2009?

**Jamie and Alan → Good for What Ales You!
Thanks for Your Vote!**

Minister of Enlightenment (Education)

Duties: Organizes educational sessions about brewing techniques or particular styles. Sets up yearly preparation courses for the BJCP exams. Holds pre-meeting commercial beer tastings to assist club members in honing style recognition skills.

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

Candidate Statement: In 2007, the Enlightenment Team of Wendy Aaronson and Tom Cannon conducted enlightenment sessions at the monthly meetings. We conducted an extract brewing demonstration in the spring and an all-grain brewing demonstration in the fall. Both beers were entered into the club competition and received good evaluations. We would like to build on our successes of 2007, but enlightening a diverse and geographically separated club of this size is a challenge. How do we ensure that new brewers get support to improve their skills in brewing and evaluating beer and provide an environment of discovery for the advanced brewer? How can we plan programs around busy schedules and Beltway traffic? We are open to ideas.

In 2008, we want to focus on beer evaluation and preparing for the BJCP exam. Quite a few new members in the past several months have expressed interest in taking the BJCP exam. We also want to have a few refresher sessions for current BJCP judges. The style guidelines have changed. We do not want you to be on a flight with one of the new styles and be caught unprepared. In addition, we want to explore new

techniques. We are fortunate that there are quite a few adventurous brewers in BURP who would be happy to talk about their experiences. Look for these sessions during the monthly meeting.

We are excited to be a team and do more in 2008. We look forward to providing programs to meet the needs of our diverse membership.

[Tom and Wendy's photos were not available at the time of publishing]

Minister of Culture (Competitions)

Duties: Runs monthly club competitions and writes articles about styles for the BURP News. Orders awards for contests. Recruits the competition organizer for the Spirit of Free Beer or does it himself/herself. May organize trouble-shooting corner at meetings.

Co-Candidates: Wendy Schmidt and Bruce Bennett



Candidate Statement: As Ministers of Culture we will work hard to run the monthly competitions and diligently perform the duties of the ministry of culture throughout the coming new year.

We look forward to providing quality competitions that will be enjoyable for all involved. We plan to have at least one special competition as we have had in the past (Battle of the sexes, VA vs. MD, etc.) as well as synching a few monthly competitions with AHA club competitions.

[Bruce's photo was not available at the time of publishing]

Minister of Truth (Newsletter)

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

Candidate: Beth Madden (Incumbent)



Candidate Statement: A vote for me is a vote for truth (or at least something that closely resembles it

each month), justice and the American way.

I have enjoyed working with the newsletter over the last year and I would welcome the opportunity to continue in this role. BURP is one of the greatest home brew clubs in the country. Our membership is very proactive in AHA and BJCP, and our brewers continually receive recognition for the efforts at both regional and national levels. We have a large membership covering a wide variety of professional disciplines. Each brings its own unique style and perspective to the art of brewing. In the next year, I would like to continue to tap into this expertise and include even more of the BURP spirit in the BURP News publication.

Minister of Propaganda (Membership)

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

Candidate: Christine Johnbrier (Incumbent)



Candidate Statement: Yes, I'm running for Minister of Propaganda again this year. Why? Because no one else is crazy enough to run.

BURP is the biggest home brew club in the country and it keeps getting bigger. During 2007, the percentage of new members who joined after inquiring about club membership was 31.9%! . That was almost 3 times more than the previous year. We are currently at 267 members strong. I will continue to spread the word about BURP and the benefits of membership. We'll get that number to over 300 in 2008.

Vote for me!

Minister of Finance (Treasurer)

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

Candidate: Larry Koch (Incumbent)



and final term. We look forward to your support and another year of my support of BURP.

Candidate Statement: It is my opinion that any club with a treasury of \$20,000 should have a new treasurer at least every two years. Having said that, we accept the nomination and would be honored to serve as your Minister of Prosperity for a third

Minister of the Web (Web Page)

Duties: Administers Burp.org. Maintains the web site. Creates new pages for upcoming BURP events and updates the web pages. Keeps the BURP Calendar current. Custodian for BURPList and BURP's administrative internet mailing lists. Maintains the @Burp.org email aliases.

Co-Candidates: Paul & Stein Langlie (Incumbents)



Candidate Statement: Stein Langlie (11+ years professional web application programmer) and Paul Langlie (25+ years professional mainframe programmer plus web experience) bring a lot of programming

power to the BURP organization. Visit WebArbor.com for Quick Links to our references and qualifications.

In addition to the duties defined by the Minister of the Web job description, we will continue to promote collaboration by enabling BURP officers, BURP members and the larger-brewing community to participate on the Burp.org website. We will continue to offer a high-level of support in response to BURP members' needs. We will also continue to offer the following features, and have plans for more:

- **Membership:** Officers, BURP members and the public all Register for an account. We (webmasters) allow these accounts to

act as different Roles with differing levels of access to the website. For example members have access to members-only areas including a personal blog, the public can participate in the public forums, and officers each have their own web page that they can maintain. A comprehensive list of current members will continue to be available to all due-paying members.

- **Event Support:** Online registration for BURP events will continue to expand. We will continue to build forms and reports to support SoFB, Mashout and others.
- **Search:** We will continue to support a search feature for the Burp.org website, including search for the forum and members-only areas. All 2007 BURPList messages have already been archived, and searchability is coming in 2008.
- **Anti-virus and anti-spam:** Dues-paying members may have an alias on the Burp.org domain. For instance webmaster@burp.org is an alias that forwards messages to the current webmaster and stein@burp.org forwards to Stein Langlie. In 2007 over 1,000,000 spam messages were captured by the email server, as well as many virus-laden messages. We will continue to maintain a high level of e-mail service in 2008.
- **Surveys:** We will build surveys in 2008 for "market research" and to build a better web presence. Custom surveys, and event-driven surveys are available on request.
- **Fun:** We will strive to make the website both enjoyable and informative.

Paul and Stein have been BURP members for nearly 15 years, and home-brewing for nearly 20 years. We enjoy brewing the beer almost as much as drinking it.

Candidate: Max Green

Candidate Statement: First, I believe that the Broadway show Avenue Q had it right with respect to the Internet – it's for porn! But between sessions of looking for Jessica Simpson nipple shots, I like to look around for homebrew recipes to see what

others put in their American Pale Ales or Oatmeal Stouts. Oddly enough, this is the key thing missing from the BURP website.

Second, since the Internet is all about sex, I'm down with this GoDaddy.com thing. The thought of hot chicks maintaining servers that run my web site is just plain HOT. A bikini clad vixen... changing out Disk One to Disk Two.... loading the latest security patch on what could be "our" web server... ohhhhh...Sends chills down my spine. I propose BURP move our web site onto their servers - We'll be hip and guarantee connectivity online 24/7/365.

That's it in a kernel - Vote for Max! Unless you want the terrorists to win....

Minister of History (Liberian)

Duties: Maintains the BURP Libeery, a great resource, which is underutilized. Receives newsletters from clubs all over the country, which is pretty interesting. Sends the BURP goon squad after people who have not returned Libeery material. Writes interesting articles based on libeery resources for BURP newsletter.

Candidate: Bill Ridgely**Candidate Statement:**

I am honored to be nominated as BURP's 2008 Minister of History & Liberian. I feel that I'm uniquely qualified because:

* I've been serving on an informal basis as club historian and archivist for several years now. In addition to writing a monthly column for the BURP News on the history of the club, I've been collecting and organizing club photographs and

artifacts with the eventual goal of digitizing as much of the material as possible.

* I've served as club libeerian before and have served in other officer positions, most notably Fearless Leader on three occasions and Minister of Truth (newsletter editor) four (three of them consecutive). I also served as Minister of Propaganda (membership) for over 10 consecutive years.

* I'm likely the only candidate for BURP libeerian who actually has a master's degree in Library & Information Science (U. MD, 1975).

* I've been told by incumbent libeerian **Mel Thompson** that he plans to leave the libeery on my doorstep whether I win the election or not. If I don't win, I don't plan to give it back. :-)

Like Mel, I also plan to encourage BURP members to utilize the resources of the libeery and supplement the collection with new titles as they are made available.

So vote for me, and I'll set your mental synapses free!

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.

Don't Toss Out the Slop

By Wendy Aaronson

Did you know that at least 1-2 pints of beer have to be cleared from the beer engine line when you switch from one keg to another during the Real Ale Competition? When you have 50 beers to clear, gallons of beer are discarded - or NOT.

From the demented minds of **Jim Kelly** and **Wendy Aaronson**. The recipe below is a scaled down version of the one prepared from 4 gallons of slop.

Slop Soup 4-5 servings

2 1/2 qt beer or 6 bottles of beer*
 2 celery stalk, sliced in thirds
 1 carrot, sliced in thirds
 1 bay leaf
 1/4 teaspoon peppercorns.
 2 cups sliced onions, save the skins for the broth
 1/2 cup butter
 1 Tablespoon brown sugar
 2 Tablespoons ruby port
 salt and pepper to taste
 1 cup grated Gruyere cheese
 1 cup croutons

*A low alcohol, malty beer is best because the hop bitterness will be concentrated when the beer is reduced. A dark mild is best. Scottish ales and Southern English brown ales are also good.

Reduce beer to 2 qt or less. This will take around 45 min to an hour. Use a large pot and watch carefully. When beer begins to boil, it is very foamy and can easily boil over. Skim the foam as it forms and discard. This is bitter, so you want to remove it. After around 20 min, add the onion skins, celery, carrot, bay leaf and peppercorns. Continue cooking to reduce. Melt butter in another pot. Add onions and cook over medium-low heat until light golden around 10 min. Add the brown sugar and cook until caramelized around 10 min. Add the port and remove from heat. Strain broth. Discard the vegetables. These will be bitter from

the hops. Add caramelized onions to the broth and continue cooking uncovered over medium heat for another 15-30 min. Add salt and pepper to taste. Place croutons in soup bowl. Add the soup and sprinkle with cheese.

BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

Compiled By Bill Ridgely

20 Years Ago, Dec 1987

December once again brought BURPers to the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Ft Washington, MD for the annual holiday potluck and celebration. While there was great food, as always, beer was the real highlight of the event. **Phil Hugill** led off the festivities with his challenging "Guess the Commercial Beer" competition. Phil presented 20 empty commercial bottles with labels completely or partially removed. BURPers then had to guess the name of each beer. **Howard & Emily Michelsen** and **Steve Paul** tied with 16 correct answers. Twenty people in all scored at least some correct answers, and Phil brought full bottles of each beer, presenting one to each of the twenty winners. The leftover commercial beers from the club's June tasting were also brought by the **Michelsens** and **Fred Dörner**. But the commercial beers didn't trump homebrews by a long shot. BURP brewers brought out their best, including some unique offerings. These included **Steve Paul's** porter made with liquorice and molasses, **Roger Allers'** coffee stout, and **Rick Garvin's** wonderful Frambozen, first introduced at the Young's Army BURP meeting the previous month.

While club members contributed many wonderful food dishes, several giant food trays filled with meats, cheeses, spreads, and dips were purchased using club funds. It had been a good year for the treasury, and the outgoing officers decided to reward the membership for their continuing support. At the end of the meeting, nominations were taken for the 1988 officer corps, with elections scheduled to be held in January.

BURP Secretary **John Gardiner** outdid all of his previous efforts by producing the first ever BURP News Yearbook in December. The yearbook was a full 14 pages in length and included a BURP membership roster, highlights of the year's

activities, a nice article on the origins of BURP by charter member **Ralph Bucca**, a treasurer's report, and all of the usual features that club members had come to expect (President's Column, Recipe of the Month, the Frugal Brewer, and more). The Yearbook concluded with a listing of all of the club's sponsors and contributors and, on the back cover, a holiday card from the club's officers. It was a bravado final act from the BURPer who took the club newsletter to a whole new level.

10 Years Ago, Dec 1997

If the annual holiday banquet, once again held at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center, featured as many different dishes and beers as mentioned by meeting reporter **Bill Newman**, it was a glutton's delight. As had become a tradition by now, many of the dishes were made with beer, and the variety of offerings was amazing - bratwurst in homebrewed old ale (**Paul & Jamie Langlie**), jerk chicken with Brooklyn Black Chocolate Stout (**John & Anne-Marie Dittmann**), African fire stew made with brown porter (**Wendy Aaronson**), smoked oyster log made with Steeple Stout (**Alison Skeel**), and many others. And that didn't even include the desserts (like **Wendy's** stout & bourbon pie). In the beer department, BURPers once again outdid themselves. There were at least 10 kegs brought to the event, featuring beers both strong (**Keith Chamberlin's** strong Belgian ale) and sublime (**Jim Busch's** altbier made as a Victory Brewing "test" batch). Commercial holiday beers also filled the tables, including Blue Ridge Hopfest, Great Lakes Xmas Ale, Dominion Tripel, and a wide variety of great Belgian ales. The banquet ended with another holiday tradition, a giveaway of lots of free goodies in the form of a raffle (everyone present got a ticket). The goodies included books, bar towels, glassware, malt extract, and a grand prize (won by **Bob Cooke**) of a case of assorted Great Lakes beers.

The front page of the December 1997 [BURP News](#) featured a nice photo of **Alan Hew** preparing a keg of Tupper's Pils for the November meeting. Culture Minister **Mark Stevens** led off the issue with an overview of pale ale and its various sub-styles in preparation for the January club competition. Mark also reported on the proposed first Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing

(MCAB) competition, which would require a brewer to take a top style prize in any of 10 qualifying competitions to enter. BURP's Spirit of Free Beer had just been selected as one of the 10 qualifying competitions. **Bret Wortman** continued his primer on yeast culturing, this time addressing the use of basic yeast starters. Web Minister **Lynn Ashley** updated the club on his recent enhancements to the Burp.org website. Libeerian **Bob Cooke**, in his "Best of the (Other) Newsletters" column, provided helpful tidbits from brew clubs on the BURP newsletter exchange, including a fun "How You Just Might be a Homebrewer" from an Arizona contributor. An example - "You measure beer in gallons while your friends still measure it in 6-packs". Finally, **Jim Dorsch's** always entertaining "Whole BURP Catalog" provided details on a number of holiday beers already or about to be released, including Blue Ridge Snowball's Chance, Pyramid Snow Cap, Redhook Winterhook, Widmer Winternacht, and the 1997 edition of Sam Adams Triple Bock (which had been laid down in oak casks since 1995 and was selling for \$100 a case). Jim also announced the first "GABF on the Road", which was scheduled to be held in Baltimore on May 15-16, 1998.

BURP Prosperity Report

By Larry Koch, Minister of Prosperity

Current Financial Position

BURP Treasury Summary

As of 7 Nov 07	\$20,138
New receipts	\$994
New expenses	\$41
As of 1 Dec 07	\$21,091

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 **Mary Tobin** of Silver Spring, MD; **Michael LaPlante** of Springfield, VA; **Ken Jucks** of Gaithersburg, MD; **Scott Moore** of Woodbine, MD; **Jeff Hancock and Marisela Rodela** of Olney, MD; and **Ryan Detweiler** of Washington, DC. Also, a special welcome back to **Mike Detweiler** of Woodbine, MD.

Please keep your contact information up-to-date....most importantly, your email address. If you are not receiving an electronic notification each month with the newsletter link, that means 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: 267
 FAMILY: 78 (x2) 156
 INDIVIDUAL: 87
 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 prior to the December meeting, contact **Mel Thompson** at sonofthomp@comcast.net 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 the BURP membership for their contributions to this newsletter over the last year. Thanks also to all of the BURP officers for contributing regular columns as well as proofreading/critiquing the final product prior to its release. These good folks are all volunteers, and their efforts on behalf of the club should be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all at the holiday banquet as well as all of the great BURP events in store for 2008.

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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