



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

*The church is near, but the road is icy.
The bar is far away, but I will walk carefully.
--Russian proverb*



Beth Madden, Editor
madfox@comcast.net

January 2008

4305 Vermont Ave
Alexandria, VA 22304



**January Meeting
Strong Ale Competition
Gaithersburg, MD
Saturday, January 26, 2008
1:00-6:00 PM**

**February Meeting
Porter Competition
Ijamsville, MD
Saturday, February 23, 2008
1:00-6:00 PM**

**March Meeting
Stout Competition
Arlington, VA
Saturday, March 15, 2008
1:00-6:00 PM**

***2008 Meeting and Competition Schedule
is Available on the BURP Website***

BURP Welcomes 2008! Boost Brewing – No Excuses!

*By Co-Fearless Leaders
Jamie Langlie & Alan Hew*

Another year, with more free beer ... and chili, brats, BBQ, sweet corn, smoked salmon, turkey, hummus, pot stickers, stilton, venison, salads, tarts ... There's no end to the gustatory delights that our talented BURP members can conjure. A pinch of daring, dash of competition, and a heaping cup of camaraderie are the recipe for fun and a great year ahead. We also want this to be the year where all of our members make a conscious effort get in touch with BURP's roots and **BREW**. We encourage you to be creative and to engage your friends – share recipes, taste each others' beers, build your own equipment that would make Rube Goldberg proud. Just do it!

Thank you for electing us as your 2008 Co-Fearless Leaders. We are looking to **you** and our fellow officers for ideas and energy to support our Club's activities. Volunteer opportunities, both large and small, can be tailored to fit a niche in your schedule, for example:

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.

- Serve on planning committees for Spirit of Free Beer, MASHOUT, the AHA Conference, Spirit of Belgium, etc.
- Host a monthly meeting or special event
- Judge/steward for BURP competitions
- Teach/mentor new brewers
- Share beer-related travel tips and samples from exotic locations
- Plan bicycle trips, pub crawls, and other adventures
- Build bridges to other brewing clubs, locally, nationally, and around the world
- Add content to the BURP website, be it through blogging, posting recipes, or otherwise sharing your brewing expertise and ideas with the community

Our BURP Executive Committee has been hard at work developing the 2008 Club calendar to include, among other activities:

- Meeting dates, locations, and competition styles
- Spirit of Free Beer
- Club participation at the National AHA Conference in Cincinnati in June
- Annual activities: MASHOUT; Real Ale Fest; Holiday Party -- Add a pub-crawl? BURP at the Nationals?
- Judge support and education, with study sessions for the BJCP exam
- Brewer support activities
 - Group grain and hop buys
 - Possible brew store delivery
 - Equipment exchange and construction
 - Education

- Exploring the possibility of mounting another *Spirit of Belgium*

Please feel free to contact us with your ideas and questions – we welcome your feedback. We'll provide regular updates and additional information on events and volunteer opportunities in the next newsletter, on the BURP website, and via the BURPlist. Stay tuned for further developments.

Appreciation for a Job Well Done

Heartfelt thanks to Kathy Koch and the 2007 Officers for all of their hard work and dedication to the Club this past year. A hearty toast to all of you!

- Alan and Jamie

Happy New Year from the Ministry of Culture

*By Wendy Schmidt and Bruce Bennett
Co-Ministers of Culture*

First, thank you for electing us as BURP's 2008 Ministers of Culture. We look forward to a successful year of Club competitions; the officers have planned a variety of styles and competitions throughout the year and hope you will find them very enjoyable.

As we ring out the old year, we would like to say many thanks to all who helped with the 2007 competitions. Over 50 individuals judged, stewarded, or otherwise supported BURP's monthly competitions, several on multiple occasions. This year, we will continue recognizing monthly judges and stewards with free raffle tickets and a special drawing at the December meeting. One change this year, we are requesting three bottles per entry for

monthly competitions so that after each competition, there will be a chance to get a sample from the top finishing beers. This year we are also including AHA club competitions into our monthly meetings as much as we can. The BURP calendar on line shows the monthly competitions for 2008, so please take a look -- hopefully your brewing schedule can coincide with our competitions. We will also be posting a table on-line with the 2008 Monthly competitions along with when AHA club competitions will also be judged and which competitions will count toward Brewer of the Year (BOTY).

Spirit of Free Beer (SoFB)

Planning for our 2008 SoFB is underway. Dates and location will be publicized soon. Volunteers are needed for several important tasks. Right now we are tentatively looking at 10 May since the SAVOR event in DC is scheduled for the 16 and 17 of May.

Brewer of the Year (BOTY)

Congratulations are in order once again to **Mel Thompson** and **Ed Bielaus**, our 2007 BURP Brewers of the Year (BOTY)! Mel is a repeat BOTY winner, having won the 2006 competition on his own. With our winter weather being ideal for brewing, and our schedule of competitions set, we need brewers to start up their kettles and brew some beers to topple Mel and Ed this year! And congratulations to everyone who competed and placed in our competitions last year. The rules and awarding of points for the 2008 BOTY are the same as in past years. To recap:

- Designated Monthly Competitions (please see the BURP website for Monthly Competition Schedule)
 - 1st Place = 3 points
 - 2nd Place = 2 points
 - 3rd Place = 1 point
- Spirit of Free Beer
 - BOS = 3 points

- BOS 2nd = 2 points
- BOS 3rd = 1 point
- 1st Place Style/Category = 3 points
- 2nd Place Style/Category = 2 points
- 3rd Place Style/Category = 1 point

January 2008 Monthly Competition and AHA Club Competition

As announced in the December BURP newsletter, the January competition is Strong Ales (Category 19, all subcategories: that's Old Ales, English Barleywine, and American Barleywine). These are fine beers to have on a cold winter's day. (Below are brief excerpts from the BJCP on-line style guidelines for Strong Ales, for more in-depth information and statistics, please go to:

<http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category19.html>.

The BJCP on-line guidelines describe Old Ales as "An ale of significant alcoholic strength, bigger than strong bitters and brown porters, though usually not as strong or rich as barleywine. Usually tilted toward a sweeter, maltier balance. 'It should be a warming beer of the type that is best drunk in half pints by a warm fire on a cold winter's night.' – Michael Jackson." Perhaps some of the more familiar commercial examples are Theakston Old Peculier, Young's Winter Warmer, and Fuller's 1845.

English Barleywines are also described in the BJCP styles guidelines as "The richest and strongest of the English Ales. A showcase of malty richness and complex, intense flavors. The character of these ales can change significantly over time; both young and old versions should be appreciated for what they are. The malt profile can vary widely; not all examples will have all possible flavors or aromas. Usually the strongest ale offered by a brewery, and in recent years many commercial examples are now vintage-dated. Normally aged significantly prior to release. Often

associated with the winter or holiday season." Commercial examples of these beers include Thomas Hardy's Ale and Young's Old Nick.

And as is the case with many American versions of English style ales, the emphasis is on the hop character. As BJCP states, "The American version of the Barleywine tends to have a greater emphasis on hop bitterness, flavor and aroma than the English Barleywine, and often features American hop varieties. Differs from an Imperial IPA in that the hops are not extreme, the malt is more forward, and the body is richer and more characterful." Commercial examples include Sierra Nevada Bigfoot, Rogue Old Crustacean, Anchor Old Foghorn, and Victory Old Horizontal.

And as a bonus for the month of January, we are including the AHA club competition for Dark Lagers (Category 4). In addition to the winner going forward to the AHA club competition, the first, second and third place winners for this competition will also accrue points towards the BOTY in 2008. Dark lagers include Dark American Lager (category 4a), Munich Dunkel (category 4b), and Schwarzbier (black beer) (category 4c). Information and statistics for this category can be found on-line at <http://www.bjcp.org/styles04/Category4.html>.

So there you have it, two categories of beers (six subcategories to choose from) to enter at January's meeting. But if you don't have a beer to enter this month, that's ok, you can taste these delicious styles by volunteering as a judge at the meeting!

So Long, and Thanks for All the Beer

*Outgoing 2007 Co-Ministers of Culture
Jamie Langlie and Jeanie Osburn*

It was a very good year with many brews offered for monthly competitions and willing judges to give the feedback everyone needs to continue to improve on their brewing techniques. Holding with tradition, the December holiday meeting provided a people's choice for brews and the winners were:

1st place- **Mel Thompson**, Bock; Beer name - Big Butt Bock
2nd place- **Max Green**, Holiday Spiced Ale; Beer name - Care Package Ale
3rd place- **AJ & BURP**, Barleywine; Beer name - no name

In addition to the prizes and ribbons for the December winners, we also had the privilege of honoring our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Brewer of the Year finalists with ribbons and gift certificates for the top dogs. The standings for BOTY for 2007 are:

1st place - **Mel Thompson** and **Ed Bielaus** with 25 points
2nd place - **Rick Garvin** and **Christine Johnbrier** with 16 points
3rd place - **Wendy Aaronson** and **Bill Ridgely** with 8 points

This is a who's who of BURP brewers. These individuals consistently brew wonderful beer and bring that beer to share with the club. We are all very grateful for their expertise and generosity! Don't be shy. Bring your brews in to be judged. You'll get excellent feedback, and who knows, maybe you'll be the 2008 BOTY!

Throughout the year, many BURPers take their time from food, fun, and conversation to assist with the competitions by judging. Without the judges, BURP could not have the monthly

competitions. To express our gratitude to the judges, the Co-Mistresses of Culture drew two names for bottles from Jamie's stash as a "thank you". The lucky winners were Colleen Cannon and Bud Hensgen. Thanks to all who took the time to judge. You're simply the BEST!

As we leave our post as Co-Ministers of Culture, we wish all the best to the new Co-MOCs, **Wendy Schmidt** and **Bruce Bennett**. Please assist them by judging and offering constructive suggestions.

Mazaltov!

Enlightenment Corner

*By Wendy Aaronson and Tom Cannon,
Co-Ministers of Enlightenment*

BJCP EXAM PREPARATION CLASS BEGINS FEBRUARY 24: This class is designed for those individuals who have some technical knowledge, but need to work on beer styles, judging, and test-taking. All students are encouraged to take the BJCP exam which we hope to schedule in April or early May. We have an outstanding success rate, even if a student is an extract brewer. There will be 6 sessions. The class will be held on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 pm. The location is to be determined. Ideally, the location will be at a student's home inside the Beltway or not too far outside, such as Rockville. The cost depends on the number of students; however, it is usually no more than \$40. Due to the level of effort and time commitment, we only schedule the class when we think there is sufficient interest. Many folks have expressed a willingness to take the class and exam so this is a good time. Besides, the BJCP has a really cool tasting kit that is free if we have a class and schedule an exam. If you want to take the class, don't miss this opportunity! To register for the class, please send a message to aaronson@burp.org or call me at 301-762-6523 in the evening before February 1.

BLIND TASTING AT THE JANUARY

MEETING: How good are your tasting skills? How well can you distinguish between closely related beer styles such as porter and stout? Take the challenge at the January meeting. Participants will taste and identify the style of 6 commercial beers. Style descriptions will be provided. Extra points will be awarded to identifying the correct brewery. The individual with the most points will win a nifty prize. The tasting will start at 1:15 pm and is open to the first 20 participants.

December Meeting Report "Let Us Brew"

(Sung to the tune of "Let it Snow!")

By Colleen Cannon

Oh! The election campaign was frightful
The debates were so incite-ful
and since we've no choice any-hoo
Let us brew! Let us brew! Let us brew!

Now you had to get there early
to give the competition beers^{1,2} a swirling
for the first keg to kick, they say
was IPA! IPA! IPA!

When the ballots were finally cast
the on-line votes where were they?
Were they captured by terrorists³?
Pa-ra-no-i-a!

Steve Marler was dressed as Santa
red suit with white fur trim
and the kiddies' delight turned dim:
Oh! It's HIM!, No it's him, oh it's him

They say BURPERs know how to eat
lots of food with or without meat
plus dessert, what a glorious feast
beans and stews and roast beast!

The new members of 2007
say that BURP is just "beer heaven"
Here's a message from President-elect Hew⁴:
"Let us brew! Let us brew! Let us brew!"

Notes:

1. The Holiday Beer competition results:
Third Place: BURP 25th Anniversary Barleywine (Host brewer AJ Delang)
Second Place: Holiday Spiced Ale (Brewer Max Green)
First Place: Beer # 2 [??] (Brewer Mel Thompson)
2. BURP 2007 Brewer of the Year was Mel Thompson
3. This is a joke. It is not meant to imply that any member of BURP or its esteemed officers resembles or behaves like a terrorist in any way.
4. See page _ for complete election results.

December BURP Meeting Photos

Unfortunately, the December photos were not available at the time of publishing. However, they will be posted on the web.

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, Jan 1988

Two main events were featured at the first BURP meeting of 1988, held at the home of **Katherine Long & Tom Vogl** in Silver Spring. First was the election of officers for the new year. Founding BURP member **Ralph Bucca** assumed the club Presidency after serving in several other officer positions over the years. **Phil Hugill** and outgoing President **Rod Rydlun** were elected as co-Presidents in Charge of Vice. **Bill Ridgely** took over Secretary & Newsletter Editor duties from the inimitable **John Gardiner**. (**John** was subsequently elected to the new un-official office of Membership Chairman, which primarily involved printing mailing labels for the newsletter). **Don Kaliher** became the club Li-Beerian, and **Duane Fraver** won re-election as club Treasurer.

Concurrent with the balloting for new officers, the club held its first competition of 1988. The annual stout competition had already become the club's largest and longest running contest, so it was a perfect occasion for the club to step up to the next level of formal judging. Coordinator **Rick Garvin**, having already gained his credentials as a recognized judge by the AHA and the HWBTA, organized the event and officially registered it with the AHA. This required sponsorship by a recognized homebrew shop, and founding BURP member **Bob Frank** of the *Flying Barrel* in Frederick came through for the club. Bob even drove down from Frederick to serve as a judge. **George Rivers**, a long time BURP member who would subsequently become editor & publisher of *Barleycorn*, the area's first true "brewspaper" (and who was also a AHA/HWBTA credentialed judge) took the third seat at the judging table. The 23 entries were all evaluated using the official 50-point judging scale still in place for sanctioned homebrew

competitions. Three categories were included - Irish (Dry) Stout, Sweet (Milk) Stout, and Imperial Russian Stout. The report published in a subsequent BURP News provided considerable information on the winning beers but failed to mention the categories in which they were entered. Second and third place were decided by a taste-off since the aggregate scores were very close. The winners (with aggregate scores shown) were: 1st place, **Steve Lerch** (43); 2nd place, **Phil Hugill** (39.5); 3rd place, **Hugh Barnes** (39.8).

Once again at a BURP meeting, kegs were in ascendancy. As stout was the theme this month, three kegs of the brew (from **Don Kaliher**, **Blaine French**, and **Crawford Griffith**) were provided, but two other kegs of unspecified homebrew were brought by long time members (and ex-officers) **Hank Rupprecht** & **Joel Spencer**.

There was no January issue of the BURP News as it was a transitional period for the publication.

10 Years Ago, Jan 1998

The January 1998 BURP meeting, Pale Ale competition, and nomination of officers was held at the *Blue N Gold* brewpub in Arlington, VA. Owner and BURP supporter **Dan Litwin** hosted the event, which took over the entire mezzanine level of the brewpub. Outgoing Culture Minister **Mark Stevens** ably handled the club competition, rounding up seven judges to evaluate the large number (exact count unreported) of entries. The results were: 1st place, **Delano Dugarm** (APA); 2nd place, **Dave Pyle** (Amber Ale); and 3rd place, **Richard Latture** (IPA). Nomination of officers for 1998 went off without a hitch as there were no contested positions. However, there was one glitch nobody had planned for. Fearless Leader candidate **Mark Stevens** announced that he was moving out of state so was forced

to remove his name from contention. Exiting Fearless Leader **Tom Cannon** graciously threw his hat into the ring once again to provide continuity. New officer candidates for 1998 included **Steve Marler** (Finance Minister) and **Jay Adams** (Culture Minister). Elections were scheduled for the February meeting.

A highlight of the meeting was a keg of Swartzbier co-brewed by **Delano Dugarm** & **Dan Litwin**. The beer, named "P-61 Black Widow", resulted from Delano's taking first place in the Amber and Dark Lager category in the 1997 Spirit of Free Beer competition. His prize was an opportunity to formulate and brew the winning recipe at the *Blue N Gold* pub. The beer tasted great and was much appreciated by all those present.

The January issue of the BURP News featured an extensive report by **Andy Anderson** on BURP's participation in the Nov 1997 *Chicago Real Ale Festival*. While the club's entry in the homebrewed real ale competition failed to place, two local professional brewers took prizes at the event. *Blue N Gold's* **Dan Litwin** took first place in the English Bitter category with his "Union Jack", and the Eastern Shore's *Wild Goose Brewery* took first place in the Old Ale/Strong Ale/ Scotch Ale category with its "Snow Goose". The entry categories for the first Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing (MCAB) competition were announced in the newsletter, courtesy of competition organizer **Louis Bonham**. While the competition itself was not scheduled until 1999, the 18 entry categories would be used in each of the five qualifying competitions, one of which was BURP's Spirit of Free Beer. Culture Minister **Mark Stevens** contributed a good overview of Stout and its various sub-categories for the upcoming club Stout Competition, to be held in February. Rounding out the newsletter was Li-Beerian **Bob Cooke's** "Best of the (Other) Newsletters", featuring tasty tidbits from the many club

newsletters on BURP's newsletter exchange. Some fun beer quotes from the Arizona Society of Homebrewers highlighted this month's column. An example - "My grandmother is over 80 and still doesn't need glasses. She drinks right out of the bottle" (from Henny Youngman).

BURP Prosperity Report

By Larry Koch, Minister of Prosperity

Current Financial Position

BURP Treasury Summary

As of 1 Dec 2007	\$21,091
New receipts	\$1,001
New expenses	\$875
As of 19 Jan 2008	\$21,217

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 **David Thomas** of Kensington, MD; **Christopher Loss** of Alexandria, VA; **Madonna McGovern & Robert Shaw** of Alexandria, VA; **Susanne & William Reid** of Manassas, VA; **Nathan & Cana Williams** of Cambridge, MA; **Aaron Brodniak** of Springfield, VA; **Michael Goodman** of Herndon, VA; **Joel Hutchison**

of Fairfax, VA; and **Lynne Cool & Rick Sommer** of Kensington, 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: 274

FAMILY: 80 (x2) 160

INDIVIDUAL: 90

HONORARY: 24

Web Update

By Stein Langlie, Minister of the Web

The website has 252 registered users! Of those 130 are burp members! Wow, we must be one of them "hi-tek" brew clubs! A couple folks have stepped up to contribute to the site. In particular **Bill Ridgely** has volunteered to help us keep a couple pages up-to-date: Next Meeting, Directions, Newsletters, homepage headlines, and the Libeery (in his role as libeerian of course). **YOU TOO CAN PARTICIPATE!** Please contact webmaster@burp.org if you want to become a content editor/contributor - *all members are welcome*. Don't forget that all burp members can create a personal blog (<http://burp.burp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=387>). If you have suggestions for new website content areas and/or want to contribute please contact us. **Coming soon:** the burplist in a private google group. If you want to beta-test the group (currently it is archive-only) let us know. PROST!

Hop Notes from the Li-Beery

By Bill Ridgely, Minister of History

The BURP Li-Beery is open under new management, and all club members are encouraged to utilize the vast resources provided by the collection. And - we don't shush our readers! Many thanks to my predecessor **Mel Thompson** for taking good care of the li-beery and keeping track of circulated materials. There are still a number of books loaned out from last year that have not yet been returned, and I'll be contacting people individually to get these back (Don't make me call out the BURP Li-Beery SWAT Team!). You know who you are.

I am in process of updating the information on the club website to reflect the books that have been added to the collection over the last 6 months or so. Your officer corps has been very generous in providing funding for the purchase of very valuable beer and brewing books, so please make use of these materials. The full list can be viewed at

<http://burp.burp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=414>.

If there is a book that you feel should be added to the collection, or if there is a book you would like to have loaned to you, please contact me at ridgely@burp.org. Requested books will be delivered to the next BURP meeting.

I also have plans to do an extensive weeding of old li-beery materials, especially old newsletters from other clubs. The only periodical I plan to maintain on a regular basis is Zymurgy, primarily because BURP receives a free subscription from the AHA. The vast majority of other periodicals, especially older ones, are rarely, if ever, used and take up a considerable amount of space in the collection.

I hope the li-beery continues to serve your needs and interests, and I will be at your service if there is an item you would like to have on loan.

Editor's Corner

By Beth Madden, Minister of Truth

Thanks to the BURP membership for their contributions to this newsletter in 2007. . 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
Aaaaaaaaaaaaa, Drink!
(Al Lowry, 1994)*

BURP 2008 OFFICERS

Office	Officer	Phone/E-mail
Co-Fearless Leaders	Jamie Langlie Alan Hew	(301) 933-3081 jamie@langlie.com alanhew@gmail.com
Co-Ministers of Enlightenment	Wendy Aaronson Tom Cannon	(301) 762-6523 aaronson@burp.org (703) 204-2256 cannon@burp.org
Co-Ministers of Culture	Wendy Schmidt and Bruce Bennett	703-866-0752 waschmidt@cox.net 703 594-3344 brucetbennett@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	Bill Ridgely	(301) 762-6523 ridgely@burp.org