



# BURP NEWS

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

"Do not cease to drink beer, to eat, to intoxicate thyself, to  
make love, and to celebrate the good days"

*Ancient Egyptian Credo*



Beth Madden, Editor  
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**December 2009**

4305 Vermont Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22304



**December Meeting – Holiday Party  
Winter Warmer Competition  
At the Lyon Park Community Center  
Arlington, VA  
Wednesday, 16 December, 2009  
6:00-9:00 PM**

**January Meeting  
Strong Ale Competition  
Washington Grove Community Center  
Gaithersburg, MD  
Saturday, 23 January, 2010  
1:00-6:00 PM**

**February Meeting  
Location & Competition TBD  
Saturday, TBD February, 2009  
1:00-6:00 PM**

## Rambling with Andy

*By Andy Anderson, Fearless Leader*

This is it! It's finally here! My last column as Fearless Leader! In talking with several previous Fearless Leaders, a common theme was running-out-of-ideas-to-write-about in the last few months of their terms. Fortunately, that problem has never plagued me, as I always find plenty of balderdash upon which to pontificate (remember the "bologna" column?). But, the other reason I'm so happy "it's finally here", is because the December meeting is my second-favorite meeting of the year. While it doesn't have the 40-50 kegs of Real Ale as November provides, it does see some incredible food. My mouth is salivating as I type ... uh-oh, I just slimed my keyboard.

The December meeting will be on Wednesday, 12/16, at Lyon Park Community Center in Arlington. For those who are new to BURP, what November is to Real Ale, December is to beer cuisine! So start getting those creative dishes ready. We managed to reserve it an hour earlier than usual, so we can start the festive prep work for the space as early as 5 PM that day.

Before I forget, I want to thank Bill and Wendy for hosting the November Real Ale meeting at their fine house. The weather gods smiled on us to avoid the deluge from 2008, and it was a very fine day. Congratulations to **Steve Marler** on his winning Mild, as well as to the other winning brewers including **Mel Thompson**, the team of **Bill and Christie Newman**

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).

and **Gregg Weisz**, and the team of **Tom and Colleen Cannon and Pat and Janet Crowe**. Interesting. You know what the common denominator was in all of these winning beers? Low alcohol. The winning beers were a Mild, a Scottish 60/-, and two Ordinary Bitters. But they were all tasty beers.

The December meeting, aside from eating to our hearts' content, is also when we finish voting on people for BURP Offices. By the time you read the newsletter, the electronic voting system should be up on [www.burp.org](http://www.burp.org). I encourage you to vote on-line, but for you traditionalists (i.e. Luddites), there will be paper ballots at the Lyon Park Community Center. There are no contested offices this year, so there should not be any issues with voting problems. On the other hand, I am acting as the Election Commissioner, so there's always the possibility of irregularity (voting, not constipation).

This year is rapidly coming to a close. I really want to thank my fellow officers for all the fine work they did this year: **Robert Stevens, Tim Artz, Christine Johnbrier, AJ Delange, Bill Ridgely, Beth Madden, Jamie Langlie, Paul Langlie, and Bob Kepler**. I never would have lasted the year without all of your help and support. Gee, it's easy being Fearless Leader when your fellow officers pick up the slack ☺

In the meantime, go brew a beer!

Cheers, Andy

## From the Ministry of Culture

*By A.J. deLange and Christine Johnbrier,  
Co-Ministers of Culture*

As we approach the December meeting (at which we don't basically have to do anything but enjoy ourselves), it seems appropriate to use this, our last BURP Newsletter column, to say "Thanks" to all those of you who made the competitions this year as good as they were. Special thanks, of course, go to those who put in lots of hours and did lots of dirty jobs to make SOFB a big success, but we also need to remember those who gave up their socialization opportunities at the monthly meetings to judge at those competitions. And, of course, we need to recognize that if members didn't brew the beers that were entered in the contests, there wouldn't have been any. So thanks to them too.

We look forward to lending the benefits of our experience (and our labor) to Colleen and Wendy and hope that they will find this Ministry as rewarding as we did.

And the final note: The December competition style will be, as it has been for years, Winter Warmers, which is a pretty broad category that generally means high octane (so be careful) and spices. The competition is not formal – BURPers in attendance will select the winning beer, by popular vote, from the beers they have been sipping all evening. In other words, any beer you bring to the meeting is in the competition. Bottles of various sizes and shapes, growlers, jugs, kegs, jockey box setups, etc. are all fine ways to bring your entry, but keep in mind that space is somewhat at a premium.

Cheers!

## Join Your Fellow BURPers for the Annual Potluck Holiday Banquet Wed, December 16!

The December BURP meeting will be our Annual Potluck Holiday Banquet. This fabulous feast will be held at the Lyon Park Community Center in Arlington, VA on Wednesday, Dec 16. Doors will open at 5:00 PM for those who wish to help set up and decorate. Festivities will begin at 6:00 PM, and we ask that everyone be out of the facility by 10:00 PM. As always, volunteers are needed to help with decorating, setup, and cleanup following the banquet. If you would like to assist, please contact Holiday Banquet Coordinator **Steve Marler** at [marler.stephen@dol.gov](mailto:marler.stephen@dol.gov).

As with previous banquets, everyone should plan to bring a dish of their choice. In past years, there have been a wide variety of appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, and desserts. We hope this tradition carries on. It has also been a longstanding tradition to use beer in dishes if at all possible, so be creative. Try to provide enough food for at least 6-8 people. All dishes should be prepared ahead of time as much as possible. However, there are full kitchen facilities available for our use at the Center, so if you need to finish or bake something onsite, you will have that capability. If you do use the kitchen facilities, we ask that you clean up after your dish is ready. Electrical outlets and power strips will also be available for crock pots and hot plates.

In addition to great food, the holiday banquet is always a showplace for homebrewed holiday beers. This year will again feature a holiday Winter Warmer beer competition. All in attendance will have a chance to vote on their favorite beer, and ribbons will be awarded to the winners. While kegs are preferred (so everyone will have plenty of holiday cheer to imbibe), bottled beers and growlers are also welcome in the competition.

The other featured event will be the election for BURP's 2010 officer corps. Election of officers can be done online at the BURP website, but for those lacking web access, paper ballots will be available at the meeting. Officer candidate statements are printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The holiday banquet is always one of BURP's premier events and an opportunity for you to show off both your cooking and brewing skills. Don't miss the fun. Join your fellow BURPers for a feast to remember!

## BURP Election 2009 Online Voting Open!!

Voting will be on-line from Wednesday, December 2 through Tuesday, December 15 at <http://burp.burp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1000> (login required). Members also will have the option of casting a vote using a paper ballot at the December meeting on Wednesday, December 16.

BURP offices are:

- Fearless Leader (President)
- Minister of Culture (Competition Organizer)
- Minister of Enlightenment (Organizes Seminars, Classes, Workshops)
- Minister of History/Libeerian (Manages the Club Library and Historical Records)
- Minister of Finance (Treasurer)
- Minister of Truth (BURP Newsletter Editor)
- Minister of Propaganda (Membership)

The BURP Officer position descriptions and candidate statements are as follows:

### **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).

### **Candidate: Robert Stevens**



**Candidate Statement:** I have been a BURP member for 15 years and previously served as Minister of Finance and Co-Minister of Culture. Although BURPers share a common interest in homebrewing, BURP has over the years become

much more than a club of homebrewers. It has become a vibrant community of friends. While maintaining the club's home brewing roots, BURP members need to channel this vitality to accomplish the club's goals. In order to help the members work cooperatively together, I have decided to run for the position BURP Fearless Leader.

First of all, I would like to thank some of the current BURP officers for their service. **Paul Langlie, Christine Johnbrier and Beth Madden** have for a number of years put their heart and soul into making BURP run effectively. **Andy Anderson, A.J. Delange and Bob Kepler** also have been vital to BURP running smoothly this year. Since these Officers will not be returning next year, this coming year will definitely be a transitional year. The difficulty in filling the Newsletter editor position is just one example of how we are already feeling this void.

In an attempt to compensate for the departing officers, one of my main focuses this year will be creating new opportunities for the BURP members to become involved in the club's activities. We are a creative and interesting lot. BURP is a member-run club, and we do our best work when we pool our talents together. I will encourage the officers to develop work groups to assist them to conduct the club's business. By doing so, the officers can expand the club's activities and functions. It also will provide the manpower to make sure the club continues to provide the high quality competition and educational events that BURP is known for and BURPers expect. So think about how you would like to help, because I will be asking.

Last year, the club focused on re-incorporating BURP and revising BURP.org. I would like to finish these projects next year. We need to complete the applications process so BURP can become a non-profit social club. This is not only important for liability reasons, but currently, BURP is limited in how it can manage its financial assets. The incorporation committee also discussed a number of organizational changes. I would like to try out some of these suggestions, such as an Advisory Committee, to determine if any of them have any merit. **Paul Langlie** has decided to concentrate on the technical side of BURP.org, and a new work group will focus on revising the content of BURP.org, so we will not be electing a Minister of the Web at this time.

Since BURP is a homebrewing social club, it is meant to be fun. I will work with the other Officers and Club Members to create and maintain interesting events so we can enjoy ourselves and our friends. Thanks for your vote, and I look forward to having a great year working with you.

**Minister of Culture (Competitions)**

**Duties:** Runs monthly club competitions and writes articles about styles for the BURP News. Orders awards for contests. Is the competition organizer for the Spirit of Free Beer, but may recruit someone for this job. May organize trouble-shooting corner at meetings.

**Candidates:** Team of **Colleen Cannon** and **Wendy Aaronson**



**Co-Candidate Statement:** We love to compete and we love to have fun while competing even if it means dragging our butts out of bed at 4 am and jumping into

brisk 64 degree lake water, bicycling over a mountain and running a course that has a 10% grade. So, who is better qualified to be Ministers of Culture?

Our goal is to increase the number of brewers who enter competitions, expand the judge pool, and boost volunteerism. Besides competitions that adhere to BJCP guidelines, we will include several no-style competitions that encourage teamwork, creativity and great tasting beer. To expand the judge pool, we propose judging some of the competitions off-line, using taste panels, and bribery. We will seek your input on ideas that will make competitions fun, encourage more homebrewing and increase participation. Our biggest challenge will be Spirit of Free Beer (SoFB). It may look like the competition runs by itself, but that's because a huge amount of leadership and work are necessary for it to be successful. Volunteer for the SoFB team and we guarantee that it will be a fun and rewarding experience.

So, who are you going to vote for? Team Cannon/Aaronson!

**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.



**Candidate: Tim Artz**

**Candidate Statement:** I am running once again for the position of Minister of Enlightenment. I set some ambitious goals for the past year, and for the most part, those goals were achieved.

We had some scientific workshops, instituted what we hope is an annual cider event, and learned about gadgets, advanced brewing, and mead-making.

In the coming year, I will once again be looking to you, the members of BURP, for ideas and energy to support an educational agenda that best meets our common desire to brew better beer. Some ideas are already coming in, and we already have the next session planned for January. It will be a Lambic blending session with **Dave Pyle**. This is for serious folks who will be making their own wild-fermented beers. See me to sign up for this class. Attendance will be limited.

Also, I have written several times about a Sake class. This was an idea that several folks brought to me when I made a club survey early last year. So far, the number interested in this class is very low. That's OK, I will still forge ahead!

I hope to receive your vote for Minister of Enlightenment, and I will count on you all to step forward to share your ideas and know-how with your fellow BURPers. Two keys to a successful BURP educational program: your desire to learn, and your willingness to pitch in and share what you know.

**Minister of History (Libeeryan/Historian)**

**Duties:** Maintains the BURP Libeery, a great resource, which is underutilized. Sends the BURP goon squad after people who have not returned Libeery material. Writes interesting articles based on libeery resources for BURP newsletter. Maintains the club archives and serves as de facto club historian.

**Candidate: Bill Ridgely**

**Candidate Statement:** I am honored once again to be nominated as BURP's 2010 Minister of History & Libeeryan. The work on the club li-beery is at least partially done - the collection has been paired to the



most essential volumes and periodicals, and the li-beery page on the BURP website has been fully updated. Now, I need to update some of the aging volumes in the collection and add a few new books (with the approval, of course, of next



year's officers). I think I can do this with a very reasonable budget. My growing list of proposed purchases includes some of the CAMRA beer travel guides, completion of the Brewers's Assn beer style series, several homebrew recipe books, and update of some classic homebrewing technical books. And as always, I encourage BURP members to utilize the resources of the li-beery and recommend new titles.

On the historian side of the equation, I plan to continue writing my monthly column for the newsletter. I also plan to start reorganizing all of the archival material (BURP newsletters, newspaper and magazine articles about the club, photographs) into a more coherent and usable collection.

I appreciate your vote and confidence in me as keeper of the BURP flame. Cheers, Bill

#### **Minister of Prosperity (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: Mark Hogenmiller**



**Candidate Statement:** I ask you to support me to be your next Minister of Prosperity. As our nation's President has asked for transparency and accountability in spending our tax dollars, I can provide the same with your membership contributions. I feel I can carry on the tradition that our previous club officers have done in bringing and maintaining discipline to the club's financial process. I

also believe the club officers should work together to provide a stimulus package, to reinvigorate the club's primary mission of better supporting the home brewing community with new ideas and opportunities to expand their horizons. This will be done in supporting your officers, while providing the checks and balance, which has allowed our club to prosper even in these times of bailouts.

#### **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: Jamie Langlie**



#### **Candidate**

**Statement:** If re-elected as your Minister of Propaganda, I pledge to continue to spread the good word about BURP far and wide and to

welcome newcomers into the fold. During my tenure in 2009, I organized a successful BURP/Worthog outreach booth at the NOVA Brewfest that brought several new members into the fold. Such events are great opportunities to teach people about our awesome hobby and to invite them to join BURP. I definitely would like to continue promoting creative membersip-related activities in 2010.

My most important goal for 2010 is to work with fellow officers to establish on-line payment capability at burp.org for dues and other Club activities. Other goals include to:

- Add a feature to the website that would make it easy for members to update their own contact information, as needed.
- Ensure that all members receive their membersip cards in a timely fashion.
- Increase member benefits by working with our BURP business sponsors to identify more savings opportunities for card-carrying members.
- Include new member profiles in the *BURP News* on a regular basis.

Your ideas for improvements are always welcome.

Thank you for your vote!

#### **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: Larry Koch**

**Candidate Statement:** I am honored to be considered for the office of Minister of Truth. My promise to BURP is to compile and deliver every issue of BURP News in the high quality to which we have become accustomed.

## BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

*Compiled By Bill Ridgely*

### 20 Years Ago, Dec 1989

The second annual BURP Holiday Banquet was held on Dec 14 at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Ft Washington, MD. Since the previous year's inaugural banquet had been held at a commercial establishment (Colonel Brook's Tavern in D.C.), this was the first potluck banquet, with BURP members providing all of the festive dishes (using the "made with beer" theme that has prevailed at all subsequent holiday events). Club VP **Dick Roepke** arrived early to decorate the hall for the season, and his handmade table centerpieces were deemed a real delight by all. As we have all learned over the years, great homebrewers also tend to be great cooks, and club members outdid themselves on this occasion to provide some fantastic main courses and desserts. Notable were the "Smoked Sausage Soup" contributed by **Roger Allers** and the memorable Rum Cake baked by **Emily Michelsen**. Following the meal, the club was privileged to receive an address by **Gary Heurich**, whose grandfather **Christian** was the operator of the last independent brewery in Washington, D.C. prior to the craft brewing revolution. The brewery was sited in Georgetown where the Kennedy Center is now located. Gary was about to embark on an effort to bring back his grandfather's flagship maerzen beer through his newly established *Old Heurich Brewing Co.* The beer was to be contract brewed initially, starting in early 1990, but Gary hoped to build a brewery of his own in the D.C. area in the near future (a dream which, alas, never became a reality). Following the talk, Gary autographed posters showing the original Heurich brewery downtown. Club business conducted at the banquet included presenting awards to members for club service over the past year, taking nominations for 1990 club officers, and accepting a proposal for a club "Homebrewer of the Month" program. The meeting concluded with an exceptional raffle, prizes being donated by many club sponsors and friends, including local homebrew shops, breweries, and beer emporiums.

The combined Dec-Jan issues of the BURP News marked the conclusion of the first year under the editorship of **Erik Henchal**. Erik thanked those who had contributed excellent articles to the newsletter, including such esteemed writers as **Jim Dorsch** and **George Rivers**, both of whom went on to bigger and better things in the beer writing world. The majority of the newsletter was

taken up by two comprehensive reviews of 1989 BURP happenings by the club's own "frugal brewer" and punster-extraordinaire **John Gardiner**. John's "Raise Your Stein to BURP '89" covered the gamut of activities beginning in January ("We elected oysters, shucked officers, and enjoyed beer tastings") and ending in December ("December's meet rounded out the year. Unfortunately, Howard had the same effect on Emily"). Yes, BURPer **Emily Michelsen** was pregnant with her 2nd child at the time. John's other article offered gracious kudos to the many folks who provided service and sponsorship to the club over the past year. The title said it all - "Heros, Sheros, and Berose" (the last being a nice shoutout to **Mark Weiner** of *Berose Liquors*, one of the club's most generous supporters over many years).

### 10 Years Ago, Dec 1999

BURP's annual holiday banquet was once again held at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Ft Washington, MD on Dec 8. As always, club members outdid themselves with copious quantities of great home-cooked food, with the majority of appetizers, main dishes, and desserts made with beer as one of the ingredients (Can you say "Chocolate Stout Cake"?). During the proceedings, the long-awaited "p-Champagne" competition, the last of Fearless Leader **Steve Marler's** special competitions for 1999, was judged by all attending. There were some excellent examples of sparkling wine presented, and the final decision was tough, but in the end, the winners were: 1st place, **Betsy Kliks, Bob Kepler, & Steve Marler**; 2nd place, **Ralph Bucca**; and 3rd place, **Steve Marler** (Do I detect a fix here somewhere?). Following the meal and competition, Steve presided over the "meeting" portion of the meeting, giving out some fine beers to those who contributed so much to the success of the club over the past year. Finally, nominations were taken for the first BURP officers of the new millennium. Sadly, longtime BURPers and 1999 newsletter editors **Delano & Katy DuGarm** announced that they would be leaving for a new life in Minnesota on January 10. Their many friends wished them well, and fellow BURPers **Jamie & Paul Langlie** graciously volunteered to take over newsletter editing chores in the upcoming year. Some nice photos from the holiday party can be seen on the BURP website at <http://burp.org/meetings/199912.htm> (love that big hair on **Colleen Cannon!**).

The contents of the combined Nov-Dec 1999 issue of BURP News were covered in last month's historical column.

## Hop Notes from the Li-Beery

*By Bill Ridgely, Minister of History*

The most recent issue of Brew Your Own (Dec 2009) just arrived in the BURP li-beery. The contents are displayed online at <http://byo.com/stories/issue/list/issues/268-december-2009>. One nice feature available on the website is an index to all recipes appearing in BYO in 2009. This could be helpful in preparing for the upcoming BURP (and national) competition season. If you see a recipe you'd like to own, just let me know, and I'll copy it for you from the appropriate issue. There's also an index to all articles appearing in the magazine over the last year. Again, I'll be happy to make a copy of any article you might like to see.

I also just received the latest issue of American Brewer (Fall 2009). While you can view the cover art for the issue on the magazine website (<http://www.americanbrewer.com/>), you cannot view the table of contents or any other info about the publication (making the website, alas, less than useful to anyone actually interested in the magazine). The theme of the issue is extreme brewing, and there are two good articles on the subject by editor **Greg Kitsock** and beer writer **Tom Schlafly**, plus an article on the marketing of extreme beers by **Bump Williams**. If you are interested in these articles or in seeing the whole issue, please let me know.

The contents of the BURP li-beery are available anytime for your perusal at <http://burp.burp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=414>. If you would like a book loaned to you, just let me know, and it will be delivered to you at the next BURP meeting. And, as always, if there is a book that you feel should be added to the collection, please contact me.

If you are planning to brew a specific beer style and need some guidance, I may be able to help you with an appropriate publication. My contact info (for articles, books, or recipes) can be found in the officer's box at the end of the issue.

Cheers, Bill

## Editor's Corner

*By Beth Madden, Ex-Minister of Truth*

Thanks to the BURP membership for their contributions to this newsletter. It has been a fun three years and I have enjoyed my time. I originally took this job as a way to become more involved with a great club with some fantastic people as members. Thanks to everyone for your support and for providing articles of interest.

This newsletter is a reflection of your talents and contributions. My successor, **Larry Koch**, is going to be a fantastic editor. I ask that you please continue to submit your ideas and articles to him for inclusion.

### *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 2009 OFFICERS

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