



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

*This is grain, which any fool can eat, but for which
the Lord intended a more divine means of
consumption... Beer!*
-Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves, Friar Tuck



Larry Koch, Editor
newsletter@burp.org

December 2010

9510 Bruce Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901



WHAT'S BREWING

BURP Holiday Party
Wednesday December 15, 2010
Winter Warmer

January Meeting
Alexandria, VA
Saturday January 22, 2011
IPA and English Pale Ale

Febrewary Meeting
Washington Grove, MD
Saturday February 12, 2011
Bock

March
Stout

April
TBD

Fearless Leader Notes

By Robert Stevens

The holiday season is upon us and I am excited. In addition to the great parties and drinking good beer with friends, this is my last Fearless Leader newsletter article. I know you are all disappointed but the New Year is the time of rebirth and new ideas. So, out with the old (me) and in with a new Fearless Leader, who has new ideas. But, before I go, a couple of things.



The Real Ales at the November meeting were extremely tasty this year. Being particularly partial to milds, I made sure I tasted them all. The milds were all very different including the one that tasted like it was force carbonated. We would not have had the chance to enjoy these real ales though, without the efforts of a lot of folks. First group we need to thank are the Real Ale brewers who took the time to brew a beer that can go sour in a matter of days. Thanks to **Bill Ridgely** and **Wendy Aaronson** for hosting the meeting and Bill and **Larry Koch** for weatherizing the back porch to accommodate the beers. **Alison Skeel** and the Cellarmen did a great job conditioning the beers, and **Tom Cannon** organized the Real Ale Competition.

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.

As with the Real Ale meeting, there were a number of individuals who were responsible for BURP activity this year. I'm sure I have missed some folks so I apologize up front for any omissions but, I do want to recognize the people who helped make this year such a success. They are:

Meetings Hosts

January	Pete Ryba
February	Jennifer & Chris Sewell
March	Christine Johnbrier & Rick Garvin
April	Jude Wang & Alan Hew
May	Christina Wren & Dan Allers
June	Gretchen & Jay Nogle
July	Nancy Cosier & Bruce Bennett
August	Helen & Pops Popenoe
September	Jamie and Paul Langlie
October	Emily & Howard Michelsen
November	AaronRidge
December	Steve Marler

Officers

Fearless Leader	Robert Stevens
M o Prosperity	Mark Hogenmiller
M o Culture	Wendy Aaronson/Colleen Cannon
M o Enlightenment	Tim Artz
Membersip	Jamie Langlie
Newsletter	Larry Koch
Libeerian	Bill Ridgely

Newsletter

Mel Thompson
Andy Anderson
Charlie Pavitt
The Officers

Bus Trip

Dona Lee
Steve Marler
Robert Stevens

Non Profit Research

Jim Hanson

Mashout

Pops Popenoe
Jeanie Osburn
Bob & Kathleen Warriner
Jamie Langlie
Mac McEwen

Web Content

Robert Stevens
Matt Pyle
Bill Ridgely
Paul Langlie
Stein Langlie

Lambic Blending

Dave & Becky Pyle

Hop buy

Alan Hew
Steve Marler
Robert Stevens

Cider event

Tim Artz
Mark Hogenmiller
Dave & Becky Pyle

Maryland Guild liason

Christie Newman

Real Ale

Tom Cannon
Alison Skeel
Bill Ridgely

SOFB

Chris Sewell
A.J Delange
Terri Fisher
Tom Cannon
Steven Marler
Robert Stevens
Trish Koch

Mitch Pilchuk
The Judges and Stewards

As much as I enjoy the real ales at the November meeting, I enjoy the BURP Holiday Banquet just as much. The holiday banquet is geared toward great food. Everyone is encouraged to bring food made with beer. I am always surprised and appreciate the wonderful flavors of these dishes. So, this is your chance to be creative and see what you can cook with beer.

Although you're encouraged to vote for the BURP officers online (it makes the counting the votes a lot easier), you can vote by ballot at December holiday meeting. No Officer positions are contested this year but remember, there are write-in and hanging chads. Seriously, show your support for the new officers by voting. I hope I'm followed by a Fearless Leader who can build a stronger and better BURP. Talk to them about how you can help out next year.

Have a nice and safe holiday and I hope to see you at the BURP Holiday Banquet.

Oh, one other thing. If you are looking for the special holiday gift for the special person, think about a BURP hat or other BURP merchandize. They will be available at the banquet.

Join Your Fellow BURPERS for the Annual Potluck Holiday Banquet Wed, December 15!

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, December 15th. 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@burp.org.

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 crockpots 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 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!

From the Ministry of Culture

By Wendy Aaronson and Colleen Cannon,
Co-Ministers of Culture



A purpose of BURP monthly competitions is to encourage a brewer to advance their brewing skills either by improving recipe formulation and technique based on objective feedback from score sheets or by experimenting with styles they have never brewed. A competition promotes education and the availability of great tasting home-brewed beer at meetings.

The November competition was of course the Real Ale Competition. As always, **Tom Cannon** did a

fantastic job in leading this effort, and cellarman and registrar **Bill Ridgely** made sure that beers were presented to the judges in the best condition. Tom recruited 24 judges and six stewards. **Alison Skeel** washed glasses. The weather cooperated with temperatures dipping into the low 40's so that beers were served at 55 even though the afternoon temps reached mid 60's. There were 46 beers, and all were winners based on the number of kegs that were emptied on Saturday. The first place went to **Team Aaronridge - Wendy Aaronson** and **Bill Ridgely** for an Ordinary Bitter. Second place went to the **Cannon/Crowe Team - Tom** and **Colleen Cannon** and **Pat** and **Janet Crowe** for a Strong Mild. Third place went to **Mel Thompson** for his Mild. Many thanks to Tom, Bill, Alison, judges and stewards. A special thanks to all of the brewers who contributed time and beer to make this the best club competition and special event, and congratulations to the winners. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing 25 beautiful beer engines dispensing the best real ales on this side of the Atlantic.

December Competition is Winter Warmer

The last competition in 2010, the December monthly competition will be a popular vote contest for Winter Warmers. Winter Warmers should be hearty, well balanced and have legs, but most of all, be good beers. This competition is open to kegs, growlers, bottles, etc. and will not count towards BoTY points. Beer Advocate (<http://beeradvocate.com/beer/style/47>) describes winter warmers as "...Big malt presence, both in flavor and body. The color ranges from brownish reds to nearly pitch black. Hop bitterness is generally low, leveled and balanced, but hop character can be pronounced. Alcohol warmth is not uncommon. Many English versions contain no spices, although some brewers of spiced winter seasonal ales will slap 'Winter Warmer' on the label. Those that are spiced tend to follow the "wassail" tradition of blending robust ales with mixed spices. American varieties many have a larger presence of hops both in bitterness and flavor."

Upcoming Monthly Competitions

Fire up your kettles for the New Year and make a resolution to whip Mel. In January, there will be two competitions. The first is Category 14 - India

Pale Ale. This includes English IPA, American IPA, and Imperial IPA. Style guidelines can be found at <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/style14.php>. Also, you can view recipes at <http://www.brew-monkey.com/recipes/recipesbycat.php?id=14>. The other competition is English Pale Ale. This is Category 8, and it includes Ordinary, Special, and Extra Special Bitter. The style guidelines can be found at <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/style08.php>. The winner of this category will be sent to the AHA Club-Only competition. Brewer of the Year points go to all entrants and to the winners of the IPA competition.

In February, we will have a Bock competition. This is Category 5 and it includes Maibock/Helles Bock, traditional Bock, Doppelbock, and Eisbock. The style guidelines can be found at <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/style05.php>.

In March, we will have a Stout competition. Style guidelines can be found at <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/style13.php>. For recipe ideas, there are several books in the BURP library. Contact **Bill Ridgely**, and he will bring these to the December meeting.

Brewer of the Year (BOTY)

Mel Thompson did it again and took first place with 68 points. Second place is awarded to **Team Aaronridge** with 46 points. Third place is awarded to **Mike Evans** with 29 points. In 2010, we also have Divisional winners. In the Individual Division, first is **Mel Thompson**, second is **Mike Evans**, third is **Calvin Perilloux**. In the Team Division, first goes to **Team Aaronridge**, second goes to the **Cannon/Crowe Team**, third goes to **Team Langlie**. In the New Brewer Division, first goes to **Howie** and **Emily Michelsen** and second is **Spenser Roydon**.

2011 BURP Officer Candidate Statements

Fearless Leader Candidate:

Mel Thompson



I was going to talk about how almost perfect BURP is. How it is nearly a Utopian Society like that envisioned by Sir Thomas More five centuries ago and that there is little I'd like to change. Actually, there are a substantial number of things I'd like to change. But... people really don't like change. So, for my own survival and not to stir up animosity, I have scaled

back my wishes for change and in reality, intend to concentrate on having fun as the main focus. Really, having fun is the reason I homebrew and the reason I'm a BURP member. It always has been my main focus. So why do anything to change that?

So, what small things would I attempt to change or like to accomplish in 2011? Not much, but I think the following is worth considering:

- I'd like to follow up on Robert's efforts to get younger and newer brewers more involved. We see

a lot of new brewers come to a meeting, then never see them again. We could consider strategies to provide for their needs so that they want to return and actively participate. This is a homebrewers' club and we need to put more emphasis on homebrewing at our monthly meetings and at other events. Also, many of us are aging and in a short few years will need the younger brewers' assistance with the physical requirements of brewing. Who's going to run the brewery in the BURP assisted living facility if not the younger brewers. We older brewers need to make sure that our knowledge is passed along so that we will always have good beer right up to the very end of life.

- I'd like to see communication improved from the officer corps to the membership. It has been my impression that important decisions are made without the input of the membership. Maybe the general membership would just as soon leave the decisions to the officers, but I would like to verify what you want from the officers.
- BURP is probably the most affluent homebrew club in the nation. I'd like to explore BURP sharing its wealth with some relevant charities so that BURP, as a group, contributes to the betterment of the community. I know as individuals many of you give

generously to various charities and I applaud you for it. I'd like to see BURP, as a club, do the same. Wouldn't it be great to donate ½ of the raffle money at a given meeting to a relevant charity. It's quite possible that members would buy more raffle tickets if they know the proceeds are going to a meaningful cause.

- And speaking of relevant charities, I also support the Treasurer-elect's statement that the treasury should support homebrewing to the fullest extent possible. BURP is first and foremost a homebrewers club and everything reasonable should be done to encourage and support homebrewing.
- Mostly though, I just want to have fun. Homebrewing is fun and consuming our creations is fun (Free Beer!!!). Sharing our creations is fun. Sharing our knowledge and garnering knowledge from fellow brewers is fun. So, first and foremost, BURP should emphasize having fun (responsibly of course). This is a club based on a hobby. Hobbies should be fun. If enough of us help with the various activities such as Spirit of Free Beer, the Real Ale Fest, pub crawls, the monthly competitions, cleaning up after meetings, etc., then everyone has fun. The work needs to be shared. Your officers will be soliciting your help and your ideas and solutions. Please respond positively.

So, either vote for me or don't. But, if elected Fearless Leader, I ask for your support throughout 2011. I plan to brew a lot of beer and have an inordinate amount of fun in 2011 and look forward to sharing the good times with all of you.

Cheers, Mel

Minister of Prosperity Candidate: Mark E. Hogenmiller



I ask you to support me to continue as the Minister of Prosperity. My mission this year is to ensure that BURP gets a better Return on Investment (ROI) on its monetary assets. Many times I am asked how is BURP investing its funds? Some members believe that placing our money in an interesting bearing account is the best thing we can do. In these

days of 0.35% savings accounts, I disagree, that is not a ROI. What I mean is using the funds to better the

goals and objectives of the club, even if it means not making money on the event, project or party. Most all of the funds come from Membership dues and raffles, so the funds should be used for and returned to the membership. I encourage every BURP member to step forward and help the club "invest" the funds. Do you want to coordinate a beer dinner, host a beer style blind tasting, organize a pub crawl, build a 15 tap station for MASHOUT, or set-up mini conference on homebrewing? These are the ways to get an ROI on BURP's assets. If re-elected, I will work with the officers and membership in finding more ways for us to obtain an ROI even greater than last year.

Minister of Membeersip Candidate: Howard Michelsen

Unfortunately, some BURP Propagandist caught me at a weak moment, and I allowed myself to be bulldozed into running for MemBeerSip Chairman. Please vote for the other guy, if at all possible, because: if you vote for me, I promise (political promise that is) to improve the BURP membership database, as well as keep it up to date, encourage our reluctant members to share their email address and phone numbers so as to facilitate member interaction between meetings.

I will strive to encourage promising homebrewers or those who have an interest in learning to brew to join BURP. And, of course, annoy, pester and harass any BURP member(s) caught at a meeting without a name tag.

So, my friends, if there is someone else running, please vote for him/her, otherwise vote for me (I guess) (if you must).

Howard

Ministers of Propaganda Candidate: Bill Ridgely and Matthew Pyle

Bill and Matt respectfully submit their names as co-nominees for the BURP Propaganda Ministry. This is a newly constituted Ministry which consolidates several roles performed in the past by multiple individuals. In effect, the Propaganda Ministry will be responsible for all club communications, including officer meeting minutes, procedures, and best practices, maintenance of the club's corporate standing, care and maintenance of the content of the club website, coordination of the club Facebook page, production of the monthly newsletter

and maintenance of the li-beery. As such, this job can not be handled by one or even two people. This Ministry truly will be a team effort. Initially, our plan is for Bill to assume responsibility for the basic secretarial duties (meeting minutes, corporate status, etc). Bill will also continue in his role as club li-beerian and archivist. Matt will assume responsibility for the club website, being in effect, our Webmaster for routine content updates. He will also chair the Web Content Committee, which will continue to make decisions regarding the content and structure of the club website. Other members of the committee, which was established this year, include 2010 Fearless Leader **Robert Stevens** as well as our web host, **Stein Langlie**, and our website content expert, **Paul Langlie**. **Larry Koch**, the club's current Newsletter Editor, will also be a full fledged member of "Team Propaganda" by continuing to produce the newsletter on a monthly basis for 2011. We also plan to continue the club's foray into social networking by helping guide the evolution of the club's Facebook page, created in 2010 and administered by **Eric Wolfe**. We are very grateful to this team of volunteers for helping us to fulfill our mandate to the club.

Now, in addition to all of this dry business stuff, we plan to have a lot of fun this year brewing beer and enjoying the camaraderie of this wonderful organization. And we really will need the help of everyone in the club to provide ideas and suggestions to improve the ways that we communicate. Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers will be in every newsletter. And there will continue to be a "web suggestions" link on the BURP website for your ideas, suggestions and yes, criticisms. Please help us to keep things lively and, most importantly, fun. We thank you all for the opportunity to be of service to this club.

Ministers of Culture Candidate: Wendy Aaronson & Mike Evans

The second and third place Brewers of the Year for 2010 decided to team as Ministers of Culture to stack the deck and create BOTY rules that will knock Mel Thompson out of the top slot in 2011. We love to brew, and we have discovered that entering competitions makes one a better brewer. We hope we can motivate you to brew and enter, too.

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 amounts 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?

Wendy Aaronson and Mike Evans!

Minister of Enlightenment Candidate: Tim Artz



I am running once again for the position of Minister of Enlightenment.

Because of difficulties in lining up volunteers and a general lack of interest in some of the classes that were requested, I have so say we fell short of meeting BURP's educational goals.

We had some educational workshops (most notably the Pyle's Lambic blending session), organized another cider event, and learned about various other brewing topics.

In the coming year, I will once again be looking to you, the members of BURP for ideas and energy so support an educational agenda that best meets our common desire to brew better beer.

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 BURP-ers. Two keys to a successful BURP educational program: your desire to learn, and your willingness to pitch in and share what you know.

BURP 10 and 20 Years Ago

Compiled By Bill Ridgely

20 Years Ago, Dec 1990

As it had for many years previously, the BURP Club held an annual holiday banquet in Dec 1990, once again at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Fort Washington, MD. This year's event was particularly joyous, however, as the club celebrated the return of Newsletter Editor **Erik Henchal** from his overseas assignment in support of Operation Desert Shield and longtime BURPer **Bob Wright** from his 5 month ordeal as a "guest" of the Iraqi dictator. It was great having both of these guys back in the fold, and the beer and food both seemed to taste better under the circumstances. The event began early with a decorating party coordinated by BURPer **Dick Roepke**, whose handmade table arrangements really added to the festivities. The beer began flowing early as well. All of the club's "Brewers of the Month" for 1990 were asked to bring a 6-pack of their creation. This resulted in a nice selection of Free Beer for the event. Alas, December BOTM **Joel Spencer** could not make it, so his contribution (a holiday Strong Ale) was pushed forward to January. As it turned out, there was so much homebrew brought to the meeting that a large number of bottles were collected at the end and used for a blind "Name the Beer Style" competition held at the January meeting. Following the excellent potluck dinner and nomination of club officers for 1991, keynote speaker **Bob Tupper** gave a well received slide show on unusual commercial brews and brewing methods. At last, awards were presented to outstanding BURPers by the outgoing President (your humble compiler). The festivities ended with the raffle, in which everyone present received a free gift courtesy of the club's many friends and commercial sponsors (*way* too many to acknowledge in this brief column). On a personal note, I was humbled to receive the club's first "Brewer of the Year" award for accumulating the most points in monthly club competitions over the course of the year. I had initiated the program as President but didn't expect or intend to be the winning brewer. The BOTY program was not carried forward into subsequent years but was finally reconstituted in 1999. It has remained a fixture of the club ever since.

The combined Nov-Dec 1990 issue of BURP News was fully reviewed in last month's historical column.

10 Years Ago, Dec 2000

BURP's first year of the new millennium ended as it had for many years past - with the annual potluck holiday banquet at the Oxon Hill Jaycee Center in Fort

Washington. Once again, a veritable cornucopia of great dishes, mostly prepared with beer as an ingredient (including the desserts) was spread out on the banquet table. And an equally incredible array of homebrews was available for the thirsty masses. Following supper, there was a slide show of the recently completed first Euro Tour de BURP bicycle trip, which brought back fond memories for those of us who participated. While anticipation for the upcoming Spirit of Belgium Conference was high, BURPers were still duty bound to nominate club officers for 2001. The vote for the new administration would be delayed for a month due to the conference, which would be held in lieu of a regular January BURP meeting. But the club was on a roll as it moved into its gala 20th anniversary year.

The December 2000 issue of BURP News devoted quite a few pages (8 in all) to the upcoming Spirit of Belgium 2001, including the full schedule, agenda, and homebrew competition entry information. There were still a few tickets available, but the conference would be declared a sellout not long after the holiday banquet. Highlighting the non-SoB portion of the newsletter was **Steve Marler's** review of the 2000 BURP Real Ale Competition and Fest and **Cathi Sypkens'** great story on being a "beer widow" to husband **Ben Schwalb**. Cathi's wonderfully dry sense of humor permeated the article. She felt there was no real problem with a non-beer loving woman having a successful relationship with a total beer geek. As she wrote in the article, "Look at Hillary and Bill Clinton: she won a Senate seat in New York, and he likes to have sex with ... wait a minute, this is a poor illustration."

Matthias Trum at Churchkey

By Craig Somers

Matthias Trum delighted rauchbier fans with his new oak smoked bockbier at Churchkey www.churchkeydc.com on 17 November 2010. The classic beechwood smoked marzen, urbock, weizen and lager beers also accompanied smoked pork sausage, Franconian potato soup and Bamberger Onion dishes prepared by Schlenkerla chef Wolfgang Theil, who is traveling with Matthias on their current DC - Philly - NYC tour. Instead of the smoked meat taste achieved using beechwood, the oak smoked barley imparts a very pleasing layered pure smoke flavor. According to Matthias, his

brewer ancestor with a lopsided gate who locals referred to as Schlenkerla, was likely injured in an accident handling barrels. Schlenkerla could be ill tempered and enforced strict rules in his pub, evicting noisy persons or those who held hands. His pub was only for serious drinking! The dinner audience learned about the historical significance of smoke in beer from Matthias' references dating back to Egyptian and Summerian brewing. Churchkey will receive ten kegs of oak smoked Schlenkerla plus kegs of the lightly smoked lagerbier. Kegs of marzen, urbock and weizen rotate on the Churchkey beer menu, and oak smoked was online on 17 Nov. So rejoice ye in the new creation from the maestro of smoke.

Andy's European Beer Journal: English Beer Festivals

By Andy Anderson



In the September BURP Newsletter, I described my experiences working at The Great British Beer Festival. While that is a fun festival, it really is quite abnormal for beer festivals in England. The 2010 GBBF had 67,000 customers and sold around 30,000 gallons of beer, cider, & perry, while the average regional CAMRA festival may offer on average only 50 ales.

In the course of a year, CAMRA puts on the Summer beer festival (GBBF) and a Winter festival. However the individual regional CAMRA districts put on their own festivals as well. For 2010, this was a total of 152 regional festivals. There are also countless other non-CAMRA ale festivals put on by local communities, civic societies and/or pubs.

The largest of the regional festivals is at Reading in April, where they offer up to 500 different real ales. That is quite a bit larger than all the other regional festivals. Bath puts on a reasonably decent sized festival in October, and has been doing so for the past 33 years. This year they offered approximately 100 different real ales, ciders and perries. As local Bath CAMRA members, Kathy & I worked at the festival.

What follows are some of my thoughts on the experience.

Bath Beer Festival

The festival consists of one Friday evening and two Saturday sessions. All the beer is served through gravity dispense from firkins (9 gal) and kilderkins (18 gal). For the record, 9 UK gallons are about equal to 10.5 gallons US. All the firkins and kilderkins arrive on the Wednesday before the festival. Scaffolding is arranged so that the barrels can rest in stillage, with all dispensing simply by gravity. No beer engines are used at this festival. When you open the tap on the barrel, gravity is all that brings forth the beer.



Some of you may have noticed that there is a very short time period before the casks going into stillage (Wednesday afternoon/evening) & the opening of the festival (Friday evening). The organizers check the clarity of each cask quite carefully and only put them on when they are brilliantly clear. About ¾ of all the casks were ready to be served by Friday, with the remaining casks becoming available of Saturday. It was usually the stronger beers which needed more time to settle.

I asked the organizer if they asked for special "brite" casks (i.e. beer which had sat longer at the brewery before kegging to assist in dropping clear more quickly), but he said, "No". He said isinglass is important, and it is a key to shake up each cask before placing it in

stillage to make sure the isinglass is in solution so it can properly do its job of dropping the beer clear.

Serving the beer is a bit more low-key and less formally organized than at GBBF. The entire set-up of scaffolding and casks on stillage is placed along the length of one wall. The servers just spread themselves out along that length and generally serve the beers which alphabetically correspond to the area where they stand. At GBBF, you cannot drink behind the bar, and all beer must be properly paid for. At the Bath festival, things are a bit more relaxed. Let's just say I was feeling no pain by the time my Friday evening shift ended.

The venue for the Bath Beer Festival is the Bath Pavillion, which sounds nicer than it actually is. The Pavillion is a large one-room cinder-block building, whose aesthetics benefit after imbibing more alcohol. It is a building built upon the concept that "form follows function". All that being said, it is a pleasant beer festival. I would not necessarily travel from the US to Bath simply for this festival, but if you live in Bath, it would be a shame to miss it.

Non-CAMRA Festivals: Avon Valley Railway Bitton Beer Festival 2010

As I mentioned in the beginning of this article, there are plenty of beer festivals to be found through-out Britain that are not connected with CAMRA. These may be associated with a village or town, or a specific pub, or even with a social club. The Bitton Beer Festival is an example of the latter type.

The Avon Valley Railway is an historical (i.e. touristy) railroad operating some ancient trains over 6 miles of unused track out of the abandoned Bitton railway station, which is about 10 miles west of Bath. As there are many train enthusiasts (i.e. train spotters) in England, there is enough support to make this concept viable. For the last few years they have held their own beer festival in June for both fund-raising and social reasons. This year, because the previous events have been so well-attended, they also decided to hold one in November. I've a friend who works for British Rail, so he organized attending this event for us.

The beers were provided by breweries within the Gloucestershire Guild of Craft Brewers, the majority of which are all quite small breweries (down to 6 Bbl brewpubs). Seven breweries were present, and each provided 2 beers. The event was held on 13 November. So while BURP was having their November Real Ale event at Bill & Wendy's with 46 entries, I was attending a real ale festival with only 14 entries. (While the photograph shows 24 firkins, several of those were just extras of the original 14 beers.)



This was about as simple as you can get with a beer festival, but that didn't detract from the enjoyment of the event. Actually, we even had a celebrity present. Noel Edmunds, who is a TV presenter over here, was in attendance. But he was simply drinking with friends, as opposed to being in attendance in any official beer festival capacity.



There is a good chance that I may never again see any of the 14 beers I drank at the Bitton Beer Festival. Why? The beers were all meant to be winter seasonal beers, so these are usually just one-off batches by the small breweries. That's not to say that they were especially good or poor, but rather that it was a pleasant experience to try beers I'll probably never see again. So, what have I learned from all this? I'm not sure, except that there are a lot of beer festivals in England. If you are planning a holiday over here, it might be worth your while to check ahead of time for any information concerning potential festivals in your area. (Here is the CAMRA link for their festivals: <http://www.camra.org.uk/page.aspx?o=events>)

Anyway, that's it for this month. If you have any follow-up questions, you can always reach me via email. Similarly, if you have ideas for columns, please drop me a line. In the meantime, I think it's time for another pint of research ☺

Cheers, Andy

Andybrews@gmail.com

Hop Notes from the Li-Beery

By Bill Ridgely, Minister of History



The most recent issue of [Brew Your Own](#) (Dec 2010) recently arrived in the BURP li-beery. The full contents of the issue as well as full text versions of several of the articles can be found at

<http://www.byo.com/stories/issue/list/issues/277-december-2010>. The lead article this month is "Rolling with New Belgium", an excellent overview of one of the most successful craft breweries in the country. Included with the article is a plethora of clone homebrew recipes for many of the beers made at *New Belgium*, including their flagship product, "Fat Tire Ale". My personal favorite article, however (being a student of indigenous beers and brewing practices), is by DC-area homebrewers **Mike Tonsmeire** and **Nathan Zeender** on the subject of Kvass, the low alcohol Russian staple. While this product, which uses stale bread as its primary ingredient, is becoming more difficult to find in Mother Russia, it is finding new life here in the states. Despite its low alcohol (0.5 to 2.5% ABV), Kvass contains a high level of carbohydrates and is considered a health drink as well as a hangover cure (important for vodka-loving societies such as those in Russia and Eastern Europe). Mike and Nathan provide an excellent primer on the beer as well as recipes for both the bread to use (Sourdough rye and Pumpernickel are recommended) as well as the beer itself. Rounding out the issue is a nice selection of holiday gifts for the homebrewer, all listing for under \$25.

The latest Oct-Nov issue of the [Mid-Atlantic Brewing News](#) is now available online in full text. Check it out on the MABN website at <http://www.brewingnews.com/mid-atlantic/>. Just click on the link for the "online edition". There is a good

article on the hard cider craze which features BURP members enjoying a great day of cider making this past September at the *Distillery Lane Ciderworks* near Frederick, MD (Your humble li-beerian is currently enjoying 10 gallons of this cider during the holiday season).

As always, the contents of the BURP li-beery are available anytime for your perusal at <http://brew.burp.org/Brewing/ClubLiBeery.aspx>. 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. And 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.

Cheers, Bill

BURP Prosperity Report

By Mark E. Hogenmiller Minister of Prosperity

Holiday Party – Look out for a special end of year Basket of Cheer and Door Prize raffle, bring extra money!

PayPal –It is successfully up and running for Membership renewal. Save time and postage renew your membership via PayPal, all members are encourage to use PayPal.

Merchandise News- We still have the following available:

BURP Lapel Pins - \$3 (make great exchange gifts while pub crawling)

BURP Titanium Bottle Openers (last a lifetime) - \$8.50

BURP Baseball Caps (Blue or Tan) - \$13.50

CLEARANCE SALE now \$10

See me at the next meeting to purchase merchandise.

Due to the sensitive nature of the Treasury reports and the newsletter being in the public domain, Treasury Reports are now posted at the member's only [BURP financial page](#) on the club's web site.

BURP members are reminded that all expense submissions must include details. Required details are date, exact amount, detailed item description, any special circumstances and name of person to be reimbursed. Event coordinators should maintain a spreadsheet for their project. Correspondence can be sent to me at prosperity@burp.org.

<i>BURP Doxology</i>
<p><i>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 Aaaaaaaaaa, Drink!</i></p> <p>Al Lowry, 1994</p>



2010 BURP OFFICERS

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<p style="text-align: center;">Designated Driver Program</p> <p>In its quest to promote the safe and responsible enjoyment of homebrewed beer, BURP is pleased to offer its Designated Driver Program. If you are a designated driver, you will receive complimentary door prize tickets. Note: Non-alcoholic beverages are not provided by the club. Please bring your own supply to club events.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Guide for New Members</p> <p>Bring more beer than you drink; bring more food than you eat. Find the nametags and put one on. Sample (i.e., drink a small quantity of) other people's beers and make constructive comments. Give other people samples of your beer. Chat freely with the first stranger you meet; that person won't be a stranger for long. Don't drive while intoxicated.</p>
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