



# BURP NEWS

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

**"FREE BEER!!!"**  
-everyone



Rich Sampson, Editor  
[newsletter@burp.org](mailto:newsletter@burp.org)

**April, 2015**

[www.burp.org](http://www.burp.org)



**April Meeting**  
**Spirit of Free Beer**  
**Awards Ceremony &**  
**Drink the Leftovers**  
**SUNDAY, April 26**  
**Rockville, MD**

**May Meeting**  
**BURP Chili Cook-Off**  
**May 9**  
**Fairfax, VA**

**BURP Bike Ride**  
**May 16**  
**Northern Virginia**

## Em's Elucidations

*By Emily Michelsen, Fearless Leader*



Welcome to April!! We are finally getting warmer weather, making it easier for those of us who brew outside. We had great weather for the March meeting and our annual stout competition. **Bob Andres** provided his Community Center for the meeting. **Howard Michelsen, Bill Ridgely, Alison Skeel and Ralph Bucca** got together and made

Dan McCoubrey's Irish Stew for the meeting. We had a great turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

April has been very busy with the Spirit of Free Beer Competition. April 26<sup>th</sup>, **Sunday** will be the next meeting at **Dan Rozman's**. It will be the one meeting of the year that you do not have to bring any beer to share. Everyone will be able to taste all 497 beers, ciders and meads that are entered in this year's SOFB competition. Please remember to bring plenty of food to share. Please keep May 16<sup>th</sup> open on your calendars for the next BURP bike ride. The tentative plan is to ride to [Oselot Brewing](#), [Lost Rhino](#), [Old Ox Brewing](#)



Please submit all articles for publication in either plain text or Microsoft Word format to the e-mail address abc for articles is 2 weeks before each scheduled BURP meeting unless otherwise indicated. Changes to members' should be sent to [membership@burp.org](mailto:membership@burp.org).

and [Beltway Brewing](#). The details about the route and times will be published in next month's newsletter.

There is also the Big Brew Day on May 2<sup>nd</sup> which is sponsored by the Maryland Guild and held at *Maryland Homebrew*. There is more information about this later in the newsletter. This is a good chance to get out and meet other brewers, see their setup, and have a fun day brewing.

I am taking the Guild BJCP class and learning more about brewing each week. A big part of the class is the knowledge that is shared between the members of the group. It has been a lot of fun and I recommend it to anyone who wants learn more about our craft and hopefully judge beers. We can always use more judges. Our class meets on Sundays, so I will miss the next meeting. You all will just have to taste all those great beers for me.

See you next month. Remember the meeting is **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**.

## BURP's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spirit of Free Beer Awards Ceremony & "Drink the Leftovers Meeting"

By Bill Ridgely  
SOFB Organizer

By the time you read this, BURP's 23rd Spirit of Free Beer Homebrew Competition will be history. The 497 entries will have been evaluated at Beltsville's *Old Line Bistro*, and the winners will have been announced on the competition website at <http://sofb.brewcomp.com/>. On **Sunday, April 26** in Rockville, MD, all BURP members are invited to the monthly club meeting which will serve two special purposes. First, awards and prizes (donated by a *very* generous array of over 50 sponsors – see <http://sofb.brewcomp.com/sponsors>) will be handed out to the winners of the competition. Second, all of the leftover bottles of beer from the competition will be made available for your tasting enjoyment. Therefore, this meeting is a "bring no homebrew" meeting as all beer will be provided as a reward for your support of the club. As always, however, you are asked to bring "more food than you

can eat" as you will work up a powerful hunger enjoying all of these fine beers.

**\*Special Request\*** - Many coolers will be required to keep these beers cold over the course of the meeting. If you provide a cooler (pre-filled with ice) and fill it with leftover competition bottles, you will be rewarded for your generosity by being allowed to take home any beer that remains in your cooler at the end of the meeting. And yes, you can refill your cooler from remaining stock if there are beers still available at the conclusion. So please help us out and take home some FREE BEER!

There will also be an educational component to this meeting. BURP's 2014 Fearless Leader (and Grand Master Beer Judge) **Tom Cannon** will conduct a tutored tasting of competition beers using examples taken from the SOFB leftovers. So come and learn a little about the various styles of beer, mead, and cider evaluated at this competition, and see if you can pick out the same subtle differences noted by the judges.

A full wrap-up of this year's competition will appear in the May issue of the [BURP News](#). We'll look forward to seeing you all at the April meeting!

## From the Ministry of Culture

By Dan Bremer & Bob Rouse  
Co-Ministers of Culture



*The purpose of BURP monthly competitions is to encourage brewers to advance their brewing skills by improving recipe formulation and/or technique based on objective feedback from score sheets or by experimenting with styles they've never brewed. Competitions promote education and the availability of great tasting homebrewed beer at meetings.*

**March Competition:** Our ever-popular Dan McCoubrey Memorial Stout competition drew in 18 entries, which is pretty impressive for a single category. Out of all those entries, first place went to

**Mel Thompson and Bill Ridgely** for a Sweet Stout, 2nd place went to **Bob Andres** for a Russian Imperial Stout, and 3rd went to **Matt Pyle** for an American Stout. Congrats to the winners, and thanks to all who entered and volunteered to help with the judging and competition.

**April:** no competition. Free beer!

**Looking Ahead:** May will be the traditional Chili competition (as well as Best Beer with Chili), and June will be the non-German Lagers competition originally scheduled for April.

## From the Ministry of Enlightenment

By Wendy Aaronson & Mike Reinitz  
Co-Ministers of Enlightenment



Your Ministers of Enlightenment have been busy doing double duty & helping out with Spirit of Free Beer, so this will be a brief (well, very brief) article. At this month's meeting, we'll be trying something new with the leftover entries from SOFB. For those that are interested, we'll be choosing a few entries to taste and review as a

group. **Tom Cannon**, a Grand Master BJCP judge, will help walk us through the tasting, and we may even compare our findings to the scoresheets from the actual competition.

And of course, we will also have another Brewer's Corner this April. If you have a beer that you're looking for feedback on outside of the monthly competition, bring a bottle or two to share at the Brewer's Corner...it can be any style!

As always, if you have suggestions for future education activities, please email us at [Enlightenment@BURP.org](mailto:Enlightenment@BURP.org).

## BURP Prosperity Report

By Thomas Sords, Minister of Prosperity



### Charity of the Month – April 2015

The charity for **April** will be the [Air Warrior Courage Foundation](#), with 50% of the raffle donations going to them! From their website:

Since 1970, during the Viet Nam War, the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots

Association (RRVA) has provided scholarship assistance to the surviving dependents of U.S. military personnel killed-in-action, missing-in-action, prisoner-of-war or killed while performing aircrew duties in a non-combat aircraft accident; and, more recently, families of association members. Nevertheless, it became clear that other philanthropic, civic and patriotic programs were necessary in order to achieve the RRVA's guiding principles of Pride of Patriotism and Defense of the Constitution.

Therefore, in 1998, the Air Warrior Courage Foundation (AWCF) was formed by the membership of the RRVA. This action was taken in recognition of problems being increasingly faced by active, retired and/former members of the U.S. military, their families and our nation at large.

**Merchandise News** - We still have the following available:

BURP Euro Style Stickers - \$1 (buy one for all of your cars and kegs)

BURP Titanium Bottle Openers (last a lifetime) - \$10.00

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](mailto:prosperity@burp.org).

## MemBeerSip Update

By Dan Rozman, Minister of MemBeerSip



Several members have expressed concerns that they can't make meetings because of family/ child obligations on Saturday. The April meeting will be on **Sunday April 26th**. Hopefully this will help with conflicts from soccer and other events.

We are also looking at ways to make some of the meetings more family friendly. While this is a beer group we recognize that there are times that people who like to attend the meetings can't because of childcare needs. Please send me suggestions on ways that we can accommodate those who would like to attend. Perhaps, some of the meetings could be near a playground or other more kid friendly locations. Of course the parents would still be responsible for watching their kids. This could be a balancing act but we would like to find ways to be more inclusive. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

## This Month in BURP History

Compiled By Bill Ridgely



**10 Years Ago (Apr 2005)** – The long-awaited BURP “Iron Brewer Challenge”, based on the popular Iron Chef TV series, was held at the home of **Bud & Helen Hensgen** in Arlington on a spectacular mid-April Saturday. Co-Culture Minister **Mark Hogenmiller**, decked out in his finest

beer bling, hosted the event, which pitted six carefully selected (i.e., they volunteered) BURP brewers against each other to brew a beer that uniquely focused on a key ingredient – honey. The resulting beers were certainly intriguing. They included a honey pale ale, a raspberry honey ale finished with oak chips, a honey maibock, a honey Flanders red ale, a honey Belgian brown ale, and a honey heather Scottish ale. BURPers had a chance to try all of the beers and vote on their favorites as the brewers regaled the crowd with boasts of their brewing prowess. Meantime, Mark and his assistant **Bill Newman** led a commercial beer tasting focusing on the then relatively unfamiliar Baltic Porter style. An interesting selection of little known beers from around the world were offered, including Baltika Porter, Sinebrychoff Finnish Porter, Utenos Porteris, Aldaris Porter, and, representing the U.S., Perkuno's Hammer (from the now-defunct *Heavyweight Brewing Co*). It was a very informative introduction to the style. By the end of the tasting, it was time to name the Iron Brewer champion of the day. Second runner-up was **Steve Marler** for his honey Flanders red. First runner up was **Bud Hensgen** for his raspberry honey ale. And the Iron Brewer champions were – the Dickheads (**Cannons & Crowes** along with **Dan Fapp**) for their delicious honey maibock.

The combined Apr-May 2005 BURP News featured some excellent examples of the whimsical stories that had become standard fare in the “foolishly funny” April edition of the newsletter. Reporter I. Ben Fibben opened with a profile on BURP Fearless Leader **Colleen Cannon**, who had just left the country to join the sisterhood and open the first

Trappist nunnery/brewery in Belgium. The following story featured a new Easter beer just released by the *Bodacious Brewing Co* of Las Vegas. Each bottle of this special brew contained a marshmallow peep floating at the top. There was more! You could read about a volcanic eruption that destroyed the MASHOUT site on Popenoe Mtn (the area was renamed Mt St Helen in honor of **Helen Popenoe**), a feature on **Chuck Popenoe** giving up his mart bolt" business to open a "brew your own" pub with long-time friend **Bob Warriner**, and an excellent review of the beer offerings at the *Duke & Puke Tavern* in Coalmine, KY by BURP "On the Road" reporter Al Kohaulik (The review included not only Coors but Coors Light!). The issue closed out with a true story by 3<sup>rd</sup> world traveler **Ralph Bucca** on his attempts to find a decent beer in Muslim N. Nigeria.

**15 Years Ago (Apr 2000)** – The April 2000 BURP meeting was held at the very scenic Potomac riverside property in Fairfax, VA hosted by resident **Nick Steidl & Terri McEuen**. The lovely park, with picnic tables and a nice fireplace, was very popular with the club back in the day. Nearly perfect weather graced the occasion this time, with sunny skies and warm temperatures. The meeting theme was Bavarian Weizen beers (plus Berliner Weisse). This was also one of the best meeting sites for food since many BURPers could bring items to grill onsite, and Nick arranged for fresh fish to be prepared and sold onsite by several local fishermen. The bales of hops for the annual BURP hop buy were also delivered at this meeting, giving club brewers a great opportunity to bury their hands (and faces) in mass quantities of fresh whole hops (and taking enough home to last most of the brewing season). While the number of entries and specific styles for the wheat beer competition were not reported, the winners were: 1st place, **Keith Chamberlin**; 2nd place, **Colleen & Tom Cannon**; and 3rd place, **Betsy Kliks & Bob Kepler**. Lot of great photos of the meeting can be seen on the BURP archival website at <http://www.burp.org/meetings/200004.htm>.

**20 Years Ago (Apr 1995)** – The April 1995 BURP meeting was held at the home of your humble compiler in Springfield, VA and featured the club's first (and I believe only to date) rauchbier competition. As **Steve Marler** wrote in his extensive meet-

ing report (It was Steve's 2nd BURP meeting, and editor **Bruce Feist** collared him for the task), the weather was exceptional, the range of beers was extensive, and the incredible array of grilled meats and veggies was first rate. The competition winners were: 3rd place to **Ralph Bucca** for his Smoked California Common, 2nd place to **Bob Cooke** for his Smoked Scottish Heavy, and 1st place to **Dave Pyle** for his Smoked Lager. A highlight of the meeting was both **Wendy Aaronson** and **Ralph Bucca** getting stuck in a large tree on the property attempting to climb a fixed rope using ascending gear. The April *BURP News* featured some of the best April foolishness ever published by the club, highlighted by a lengthy (and extensively documented) article by Kavey Atem Ptor, Ph.D on "Preventing Wild Yeast Infections". The theme of brewing gadgets was also thoroughly covered with articles on Toilet Sparging, Brewing with Your Shop Vac, and Building a Lawn Boy Grain Mill.

**25 Years Ago (Apr 1990)** – April 1990 was a \*very\* big month for BURP events, with 3 major gatherings on the agenda. The first was the monthly meeting, held on the 7th at the wonderful country estate of **Peter & Joyce Long** in Clifton, VA (always one of the club's most popular cool weather locations). Bockbier was the theme of this meeting, which featured your humble compiler's "Brew of the Month" offering of "Straight to Helles" Maibock. BURP's 2nd major event of the month was a 2-night (Apr 17-18) homebrew demonstration and tasting held at the famous *Brickskeller* near Dupont Circle. This was the first time BURP had held sway at one of **Bob & Ellie Tupper's** monthly tasting events, and a fine time was had by both club members who brewed for the event and the capacity crowd. The demonstration, as reported in the newsletter by **Jim Dorsch**, was conducted by your humble compiler along with his erstwhile assistant, Frugal Brewer **John Gardiner**. John, resplendent in a tuxedo, held up beer ingredients and stirred the pot while I gave a history of brewing and discussed the finer points of the homebrewing hobby. John then provided the "schtick" for the event when he changed into his beer keg costume, complete with a working tap at the appropriate level. My role was to play second fiddle to John as he regaled the crowd with stories of his "microbrewery" and "beer nuts" (You get the picture). For anyone with a masochistic bent (and a VHS video player), a

video tape of both nights of this show is still available in the BURP li-beery. The final event on the April calendar was a club tour of the recently-opened (Oct 1989) *Wild Goose Brewery* in Cambridge, MD on Apr 28. A good crowd showed up (with homebrew and munchies in hand) to take the tour personally conducted by brewmaster **Alan Pugsley**. Following the tour, Alan provided samples of two fine house brews and stayed to enjoy samples of the homebrews contributed by the club. At the time, *Wild Goose* was distributing 4,500 cases of beer each month to several locations in the District, MD, and VA. The facility eventually burned down (after moving operations to the then-*Frederick Brewing Co* in Frederick, MD).

**30 Years Ago (Apr 1985)** – BURP's first event for Spring 1985 was a tour of the Carling National (Tuborg) Brewery in Baltimore on Apr 7. Master Brewer **Peter Sowa** conducted the tour, answered many questions, and provided a nice array of samples. He also invited interested BURPers to attend the technical sessions of the Master Brewers Association of America annual conference scheduled for May. The April BURP meeting was held at the Ft Washington home of **Ralph Bucca** on Apr 20. Ralph conducted a mashing demo in his outdoor

greenhouse during the meeting. It was also decided at the time to hold all summer meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month, making it easier for members to plan their summer schedules.

***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***

## 2015 BURP OFFICERS

Office	Officer	Contact Information
Fearless Leader	Emily Michelsen	<a href="mailto:FearlessLeader@BURP.org">FearlessLeader@BURP.org</a>
Ministers of Enlightenment	Wendy Aaronson & Mike Reinitz	<a href="mailto:Enlightenment@BURP.org">Enlightenment@BURP.org</a>
Ministers of Culture	Dan Bremer & Bob Rouse	<a href="mailto:Culture@BURP.org">Culture@BURP.org</a>
Minister of Prosperity	Thomas Sords	<a href="mailto:Prosperity@BURP.org">Prosperity@BURP.org</a>
Minister of Membersip	Dan Rozman	<a href="mailto:Membersip@BURP.org">Membersip@BURP.org</a>
Ministers of Propaganda	Bill Ridgely & Robert Stevens	<a href="mailto:propaganda@BURP.org">propaganda@BURP.org</a>
Newsletter Editor & Social Media	Rich Sampson & Andrea Albersheim	<a href="mailto:Newsletter@BURP.org">Newsletter@BURP.org</a>

**Designated Driver Program**

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.**

**Guide for New Members**

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.

BURP News Editor  
211 E Oxford Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301

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