



BURP NEWS

The Official Newsletter of
BREWERS UNITED FOR REAL POTABLES

"Insert Quote of the Month here."

January 1998

Inside:

Brewing Stouts
MCAB Announcement
Candidate Statements
And MORE!

The Burp News • 1401 S. Edgewood #477 • Arlington, VA • 22204-4939 • newsletter@burp.org

BURP swarms upon Chicago Real Ale Festival

By Andy Anderson, *Real Ale lover.*

A large contingent of BURP members attended the 2nd Real Ale Festival in early November. A grand total of 11 BURPers managed to make it to the Windy City: Tom & Colleen Cannon, Bill & Christie Newman, Bill Ridgely, Wendy Aaronson, John Robinson (in the middle of a cross-country drive!), Dan Litwin (with his B&G beers), Marty Wilde (our Oregon member), Greg Kitsock, and Andy Anderson.

The Real Ale Festival pays homage to the English traditional style of ale commonly referred to as "cask conditioned: or "real" ale. This is the tricky and fickle style of beer where the conditioning to serve is the hard part, while the brewing is rather simple. Anyway, no sermons today, whether by plane, train, or automobile, the swarms of BURPers descended upon the River West Brewpub where the 3-day Festival was held.

The party rock-n-roll BURP van containing Tom & Colleen, Bill, Wendy, & myself took 2 days (and quite a few beers) to reach the site. Along with us was 5 gallons of real ale as the BURP entry in the homebrew portion of the Festival. From John OGroats to Lands End (the two farthest points in Britain) is approximately 600 miles. From Washington, DC to Chicago is even further. After tasting the BURP beer after Sunday's judging, I think the appropriate name for that beer should have been "Andy's Agitated Ale." Cloudiness may be appropriate for a Belgian Wit, but not an English Special Bitter. But I want all you BURPers to know that at least our beer finished in the top 12. Then again, there were only 12 homebrew entries ...

The focus of the Real Ale Festival is commercial real ale. Just

slightly over 100 firkins were sitting on racks around the periphery of the 2nd floor of the River West Brewery. Some were hooked to beer engines while others were on gravity dispense. A firkin is one of the traditional styles of English casks and it can hold 9 imperial gallons of beer (that's just over 11 US gallons.) From what people told us, last year emphasized the English breweries, while this year was focused upon the new American versions of real ale. Only Fullers and Adnams represented England, but it's hard to find two better English breweries. The rest of all the ales came from various American breweries and brewpubs.

The entire festival consisted on three general tasting sessions, one specialized single-hop tasting, 3 lectures, and the homebrew competition. The lecturers could all trace their routes back to England, but only one of them still lives there. They were Roger Protz, editor of CAMRAs "What's Brewing", Alan Pugsley of Peter Austin fame, presently with Shipyard Brewing, and William Crisp of Crisp Malting. One of the main themes I distilled from the speakers is that cask-conditioned ale is an English heritage which must be honored and protected, while in the US it is rapidly expanding but still viewed mainly as a fad. It is much more common to find poor real ale in the US than it is to find a truly fine example.

I don't want to waste your time reciting all the winners from the contest as they have already been posted on numerous Web sites. However, the BURPers who were present in Chicago do want to salute the local brewers who won in Chicago. Dan Litwin won first place in British-style Bitters (the largest category) with Blue-n-Gold's "Union Jack", and Wild Goose Brewery won first place in Old Ale/Strong Ale/Scotch Ale with their Snow Goose.

Congratulations on two tasty ales!

What did we learn from this experience (aside from the fact that "Breath Right" strips don't stop snoring)? Cask-conditioned ale is spreading rapidly across the US, mainly at the brewpub level, but sometimes at the micro level. However, that which is served is not always "real ale"; sometimes, it is just unfiltered ale served at room temperature through a beer engine. Properly dispensing real ale is akin to the florist who slaves over his orchids to make them bloom at just the right time. (... uh-oh, it's getting pretty thick around here.) We also learned that it may not be real ale, but if you transport a Corny of beer 750 miles, you had better filter and force carbonate it or else it will be anything but bright. What else did we learn? Listening to lectures early in the morning after a heavy evening session is quite tough - but then again, we already learned that lesson in college.

On behalf of all the BURP members who attended the 2nd Annual Real Ale Festival in Chicago, let me say that it was an extremely enjoyable experience.

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MCAB Qualifying Styles Announced

By Louis Bonham, Houston Foam Rangers

The Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing (MCAB) is pleased to announce the eighteen styles that will be featured at the first MCAB. These styles will be featured at each Qualifying Event, and first place winners in each Qualifying Style at each Qualifying Event will be invited to compete in that style at the MCAB.

In keeping with its stated purpose of having a small, high quality national competition, the MCAB Steering Committee has decided to go with one substyle from each of BJCP categories 1-18. The committee expects that the substyless will rotate year-to-year within each category.

The 1999 MCAB Qualifying Styles are:

1.Pre-Prohibition Lager (BJCP Category #1(d)). 2.Munich Helles (BJCP Category #2(e)).

3.American Wheat (BJCP Category #3(b)).

4.Ordinary Bitter (BJCP Category #4(a)). 5.Scottish Export 80 (BJCP Category #5(c)) 6.American Pale Ale (BJCP Category #6(b)). 7.India Pale Ale (BJCP Category #7)

8.Dusseldorfer Altbier (BJCP Category #8(a)). 9.Oktoberfest/Maerzen (BJCP Category #9(a)). 10.American Brown (BJCP Category #10(d)). 11.Barleywine (BJCP Category #11(d)).

12.Munich Dunkel (BJCP Category #12(a)). 13.Doppelbock (BJCP Category #13(c)).

14.Robust Porter (BJCP Category #14(a)). 15.Dry Stout (BJCP Category #15(a)).

16.Bavarian Weizen (BJCP Category #16(a)). 17.Tripel (BJCP Category #17(b)).

18.pLambic (BJCP Category #18(b)).

At present, the following competitions have formally accepted the MCAB's invitation:

Boston Homebrew Competition
Bidal Society Competition
BURP Spirit of Free Beer
BUZZ-Off
Dixie Cup

So, start your kettles! The first

Cannon Fodder

By Tom Cannon, Lame Duck.

Happy New Brew Year! Hope you all got some brewing done over the holidays, or are getting ready to start in the new year. We always kick off our brewing year in January with a batch of Stout to get ready for the competition in February (the one I really want to win every year). Last year we brewed close to 150 gallons of beer and I'm hoping we can do at least as well this year.

1998 looks like a busy year for BURP. We are still working toward a pub crawl in early '98 and Wendy is getting ready to stage a BJCP exam this spring, which means get signed up for the exam preparation course. We are again, planning to begin planning a third Spirit of Belgium. If we can get some momentum up, we could actually see this happening in 1998. We already have a date and place for our sixth Spirit of Free Beer and we have meeting sites scheduled through August's MASHOUT. We hope to build upon the success of last years Real Ale Competition. There will be a chili competition, and a crab feast. The bottom line, of course, is that there is lots to do, which means we need lots of volunteers.

Most importantly, we will be holding our annual elections at the January meeting. Fortunately (for you) I'll be vacating the position of Fearless Leader, but I would like to say that it has been fun heading up this club for the past year. The meetings and beer have all been great, and the annual events have been top notch thanks to all the folks that have helped put them together. BURP has become one of the most active homebrew clubs in the country and I have enjoyed fearlessly leading you for the past year. Time for elections, though, and we have some outstanding candidates for offices this year. Once again, Bob Cooke will be running for Libeerian, Bill Ridgely will be running for Minister of Propaganda, Dan Brown will be running for Minister of Truth, Wendy Aaronson will be running for Minister of Education, and Lynn Ashley will be running for Minister of the Web. For soon to be vacant positions, we have Steve Marler running for Minister of Finance, Jay Adams running for Minister of Culture, and Mark Stevens running for Fearless Leader. Remember, elections are at the January Meeting at Blue and Gold, so remember to vote early and vote often!

So, this is it. Finally, the last edition of Cannon Fodder. Thanks for all the support over the past year. We've had some good times and some great beers. In the last twelve months I've drunk Bavarian Wheat beers in Milwaukee with Andy, British Bitters in Chicago with Bill and Wendy and Bill and Christie, experienced the AHA conference (with many beers) with a bunch of BURPers (Jay, Arlene, Bill, Christie, Mark, Andy, Pat, Janet, Keith, Jim, Linda, Alan, Scott, and John), and been to 35 breweries and brewpubs with my lovely First Lady, Colleen. In addition, I've had many beer drinking experiences with Dave and Becky, Brett, Steve and Theresa, Greg and Tina, and Dona and Woody. I'm looking forward to starting over again in '98. See you at Blue and Gold on the 18th and we'll start all over again. Cheers.



QE's will be the Boston Homebrew Competition (and, if they accept, the Kansas City Brew Meister's Competition) on February 20-21. A complete list of QE's and contact persons for each, calendar of MCAB events, list of Qualifying Styles and the text of the BJCP Style Guides for each will soon

be available at the MCAB website: <http://hbd.org/mcab>

Questions or comments regarding the MCAB can be directed to Louis K. Bonham at lkbonham@phoenix.net, or at 713.222.9944.

Candidate Statement for Fearless Leader

By Mark Stevens, Minister of Culture.

I would like to throw my hat in the ring to run for Fearless Leader. If elected, I would follow a path similar to that which Tom Cannon has fearlessly led us along this past year: I would continue to emphasize homebrewing roots and continue to work at making BURP's events successful and fun. I would like to see Spirit of Belgium take off this year, to see some growth in Spirit of Free Beer, to see the BJCP judge training sessions take off, and to have a good time doing it all.

Minister of the Web Candidate Statement

By Lynn Ashley, BURP Minister of the Web.

I would like to announce that I am a candidate for re-election as BURP's Minister of the Web. I am asking for you to elect me based on what I have accomplished in the past year and on the promise of future refinement and expansion of BURP's internet resources.

Since my election last February, I have expanded BURP's web site into a multi-page resource which provides information to thousands of internet visitors, from BURP members to interested brewers from around the world. Additionally I maintain @burp.org email aliasing for members who actively conduct club business and have recently created this internet mailing list for BURP members.

A partial list of the resources to be found on burp.org include:

- A complete and up-to-date calendar of local brewing events,
- A comprehensive listing of contest winners both for BURP Club Competitions and for open local competitions.
- Timely announcements of BURP events including all BURP meetings, the Sprit of Free Beer, the BURP Belgium Bicycle Tour, MashOut, etc.
- Photo reports of BURP meetings and other events.
- A comprehensive list of local homebrew suppliers.

Candidate Statement for Minister of Finance

By Steve Marler, Hopeful Candidate

I WANT TO start small
CLIMBING THE BURP POWER TREE.
For Minister of Finance I ask your support;
On January 18 I HOPE you will agree.

NEITHER Money Nor investments HAVE I;
math and economics, YES, but not a business degree.
But I CAN make deposits and SUPPLIES I CAN BUY,
and take your money, AS WELL, interest free.

Beyond the prescribed duties,
I have another reason for answering this call.
I want to be more involved in BURP;
to help make it the best home brew-club of all.

The January meeting is at Blue and Gold;
come have lots beer and cast your vote.
Seriously, consider all candidates, YOUNG AND OLD;
and if you choose Marler I promise not to gloat.

- Beer style guidelines for BURP contests.
- Links to other brewing related web sites.
- Beer Humor.
- A list of the publications in the BURP Libeery.
- and much more!

The Future: More of the same

As in the past, primary attention will be given to the BURP Calendar of events. Also, high priority will always be given to listing the competition results of BURP winners.

As burp.org matures expect to see enhancements in the appearance and operation of the site. Refinements will result in a site with more visual appeal while still maintaining the small page size needed for fast download.

Expansion is planned for both existing and yet-to-be- created pages. Major attention will be given to updating and expanding the Links page.

Within the next year I would like to begin working with BURP members who excel in various technical brewing areas to develop pages on burp.org where they can publish their articles.

Thank you for your past support and please vote to re-elect me as BURP's Minister of the Web.

Candidate Statement for Minister of Culture

By Jay Adams, Minister in waiting.

The Minister of Culture position will be of particular importance this year, because BURP will have two major competitions, Spirit of Free Beer and Spirit of Belgium. In addition, Spirit of Free Beer should be even more exciting in 1998, because it has been designated as one of the ten qualifying competitions for the Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing. The monthly club only competitions are also critical to the success of BURP, and I plan to continue them and add style or troubleshooting workshops prior to many of these competitions. I feel that I will have adequate time to devote to this position, as I have recently ended my lengthy tenure in Government service. I also plan to work closely with Mark Stevens who has done an outstanding job in this position. I will rely heavily upon the volunteers who are responsible for the success of BURP as a homebrew club.

Competition Notes

By Mark Stevens, Minister of Culture

The January club contest will be pale ales, so get your entries to me early at the meeting. Also, if you want to judge, see me early. The winner of this contest is eligible to go on to the AHA Hail to Ale club-only competition. Acceptable styles are English-style ale, American-style ale, American amber ale, or American wheat.

The February club contest style will be stout, so get them fermenters cranking! Style notes are elsewhere in this issue. Once a new Minister of Culture is elected, the contest schedule for the rest of the year can be set, but you should expect a pilsner contest in April or May.

Elsewhere in the region, War of the Worts is January 17 in Lahaska PA. Info is available from Alan Folsom, folsom@ix.netcom.com

BURP Finances

By Doug Kruth, Lame Duck.

BURP Cash Flow Report
12/1/97 Through 1/7/98

Category	12/1/97- 1/7/98
Inflows	
Mashout '97	14.00
Interest Earned	4.23
Membership +	285.00
Promo +	17.00
Total Inflows	320.23
Outflows	
Membership -:	
Gifts	73.19
Total Membership -	73.19
Newsletter	268.36
Total Outflows	341.55
Overall Total	-21.32
Balances	
Checking	2805.82
Savings	610.42
Payable	9.03
Receivable	39.00
Net Worth	3446.21

Brewing Stouts: February Club Contest

By Mark Stevens, Minister of Culture

Next month is time for the Dan McCoubrey Stout Contest—traditionally BURPs largest club contest of the year. The winner can also go on to compete in the AHA Stout Bout club-only competition.

Again, I havent seen the 1998 AHA club-only style guidelines, so I assume, based on last years guidelines, that the eligible styles for the Stout Bout will not include oatmeal stouts or russian imperial stouts, although these styles are certainly eligible for the BURP contest, so bring em on!

You can enter your stout in any of five subcategories: Irish-style dry stout, foreign stout, English-style sweet stout, oatmeal stout, or Russian imperial stout. Here are the basic style profiles used in the AHA guidelines: Irish-style dry stout: OG 1038-1048, 30-40 IBUs. Foreign stout: OG 1052-1072, 30-60 IBUs. Sweet stout: OG 1045-1056, 15-25 IBUs.

Oatmeal stout: OG 1038-1056, 20-40 IBUs. Imperial stout: OG 1075-1090, 50-80 IBUs.

Notice that while stout is often thought of as a big beer, the Irish style dry stouts are often quite low in starting gravity and in alcohol. It is still, however, a full-flavored beer. The Irish style dry stouts have a sharp, dry, bitterness from roasted barley. This dryness is often likened to the flavor of roast coffee. While hopping levels are fairly high, the hops are generally used primarily in the boil. Aroma and finishing additions are probably not a good idea. Think Guinness.

Foreign stout is basically a big version of Irish-style dry stout with higher gravities and higher hopping rates.

Sweet English-style stouts are really not very big beers either, although the residual sweetness might lead you to believe otherwise. Some brewers achieve this sweet flavor by adding lactose, giving rise to the labels Milk Stout or Cream Stout. Think Mackeson.

Oatmeal stouts are known for their smooth creamy mouthfeel. They are sweet stouts and are typically

made with about 5% oats in the mash—more than that will be difficult to work with given the tendency of oats to cause stuck mashes. Oatmeal stouts should be lightly hopped—no more than 25 IBUs. Their flavor profile should be one of complex maltiness, with some caramel and perhaps some nuttiness. Chocolate tones are acceptable.

Imperial stouts are big beers that straddle the line between stout and barleywine. They are malty and sweet with lots of chocolate, coffee, caramel, and other malt flavors. Although the AHA guidelines give a top end of 1090, many homebrewers can attest to the fact that these recipes can often top 1100. The beer may sometimes taste slightly burnt, or have other very complex flavors: sherry and raisin are a couple of descriptors that I often hear applied to this style. The hopping rates will need to be fairly high to balance the sweetness, often at levels of anywhere from 50 to 100 IBUs. Like barleywines, alcoholic character may be evident in these big beers, as will other yeast by-products, such as fruity esters.

Ray Daniels (in Designing Great Beers) claims that basic stout recipes are easy: for the Irish-style dry stout, use 90% pale malt, 10% roasted barley to a gravity of 1042, then 45 IBUs of hops at the start of the boil. Daniels does provide other details....while homebrewers use roasted barley in virtually every substyle of stout, its use is less ubiquitous in commercial recipes, which often use black or chocolate malt. For hops, English varieties like Goldings are obvious choices, although Daniels notes that in his analysis of NHC second round recipes, an awful lot of successful homebrewers deviate significantly, some even using Chinook!

DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT?

Write for the BURP News!
Authors, with or without talent needed immediately to pen informative and creative articles about Homebrewing! See Page 3 for details. You could be famous someday!

Best of the (other) Newsletters

By Bob Cooke, *BURP Libeerian*

The Aleing Sailors Brew News (Annapolis, MD) describes an attempt to rescue a "Lambic-like" beer by adding a package of cherry Kool-Aid and calling it Kriek. The only assessment of this experiment (that was printed in the newsletter) was "interesting." The newsletter also carried the following essay on natural selection:

A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo, and when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole-improving the overall speed and health by regular culling of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can operate only as fast as the slowest brain cells. As we all know, excessive intake of alcohol kills off brain cells, but naturally it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker cells, constantly making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. [Please note that the BURP Libeerian has one very fast brain cell-oops, it just got culled too.]

The Homebrewers of Philadelphia and Suburbs (HOPS) featured a Greek theme at their December meeting. While togas were optional (does that imply hypothermia for those opting to forego the toga?), spinach-phylllo pie and moussaka were definitely present. The meeting announcement indicated possibilities for babaganoush, hummus, pitas, olives, feta, kasseri, pepperoncini, baklava or pastitsio.

In The Brewsletter Urquell, the Houston Foam Rangers brag of their success in recapturing the Dixie Cup championship this year, defeating challenges from the North Texas Homebrewers and the Central Florida Homebrewers. By way of some creative logic, however, the Foam Rangers claim to have always won the homebrew contest. Since Texas law limits the sharing of homebrew to private club events, the Rangers grant short-term membership to all attend-

ees at the Dixie Cup competition. Consequently, all winners are members of the Foam Rangers.

The Arizona Society of Homebrewers (ASH) held an Octoberfest on October 25 at the Tempe Kiwanis Park. In apparent homage to state and local laws, the Octoberfest was a "free, private, members only party." Friends, family, and loved ones were allowed to purchase prorated memberships for \$5 each after the September meeting, but membership payment could not be accepted at the Octoberfest.

ASH also provides us with the following bits of philosophy:

Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut. —Ernest Hemmingway

He was a wise man who invented beer. -Plato

Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy. -Ben Franklin

Not all chemicals are bad. Without chemicals such as hydrogen and oxygen, for example, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer. -Dave Barry

Our customers enter optimistically and leave misty optically. -Sign on a bar

The man who called it 'near beer' was a bad judge of distance. - Philander Johnson/Luke McLuke, Cincinnati Enquirer

Social reformer Lady Astor ended a lengthy temperance speech: 'I would rather commit adultery than drink a glass of beer.' A voice from the crowd bellowed back: 'Who wouldn't?'

My grandmother is over eighty and still doesn't need glasses. Drinks right out of the bottle. -Henny Youngman

A Note from the BURP List

By Bill Ridgley, *Minister of Membership*

I received a note the other day from BURPer (and fellow bicyclist) Bill Shirley who recently moved to Texas. He'd love to hear from BURP members interested in the Texas beer scene. He can be reached by e-mail to bshirley@shirl.com or snailmail to 725 East 8 1/2 Street, Houston, TX 77007. His phone number is 713-861-3153.

The BURP Calendar

By Lynn Ashley, *Minister of the Web*

January 1998

Sat, 17th War of the Worts Homebrew Competition, Al Folsom, Lahaska (Bucks County) Pa.

* Sun, 18th Noon, BURP Meeting, ELECTIONS & Pale Ale Competition, Arlington.

- Sat, 31st Last Chance Saloon Beer Tasting / Meet the Brewer, Columbia, MD, \$25.

February 1998

* ???, ??th BURP Meeting (Stout), Oxon Hill, Maryland ** Date TDB **

- Mon, 23th 18:00 (6pm), Scotch Whisky Seminar, Grand Hyatt, DC, \$20, John Hansell, 800 610 MALT.

March 1998

* Sat, 07th BURP Meeting, Clifton, Virginia.

Sat, 28th Trash VIII Homebrew Competition,, Pittsburgh, Penn, beerevents@ralph.pair.com.

[Ed. Note: This calendar is maintained electronically at <http://www.burp.org/calendar.htm>]

Candidate Statement for Minister of Truth

By Dan Brown, *Minister of Truth*.

Against what's probably my better judgement, I offer my name as a candidate for the BURP Minister of Truth for 1998. I've enjoyed the challenge and the results this past year. My life is hectic and, while we've had more than one month (this one included) where the newsletter is being sent at the last minute, I haven't yet failed to get things done before the monthly meeting. I'm sure that my life isn't going to get any less busy, especially since I've recently become engaged to Cynthia Bernard, and she and I will soon be moving into a new residence together.

I would like to propose that, if there's anyone at all interested in assisting me, and or learning about doing the newsletter, perhaps with an eye towards taking over next year, they speak up, and run, either for the office itself, or as a co-officer. I'll be more than happy to pass the quill pen and printing press.

Directions to the January Meeting

Blue and Gold Brewing Company
3100 Clarendon Blvd Arlington Va. 22201
703-908-4995

Take 66 East to Exit 71, Glebe Road and Washington blvd. Take Washington Blvd east to Hiland road.
Blue and Gold will be on your left, across the street from Clarendon Grill.

GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERS

Bring more beer than you drink; bring more food than you eat. Find the name tags and put one on. Sample (i.e., drink a small quantity of) other people's beer 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.

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. Nonalcoholic beverages should be available at BURP meetings for your drinking enjoyment. Homebrewed soda makers are encouraged to bring their products to meetings.

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