



# BURP NEWS

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

"Malt does more than Milton can  
To justify God's ways to man."

– A.E. Housman, British Poet

Check  
[burp.org](http://burp.org) for  
the latest in  
official  
information.

Jamie Langlie, Editor  
(301) 933-3081  
E-Mail: [langlie@burp.org](mailto:langlie@burp.org)

**July 2000**

10812 Newport Mill Road  
Kensington, MD 20895



- August 5**      *Montgomery County Fair Judging  
Gaithersburg, MD*
- August 6**      *National Homebrew Day Judging  
Baltimore, MD*
- August 11-13**      *MASHOUT, Rocky Gap, MD*
- September 16**      *BURP Meeting, Pat & Janet Crowe's*

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Countdown Begins for BURP's Third  
Spirit of Belgium, January 13-14, 2001

*A Celebration of Belgium and Belgian-Style Beers*

Check out the latest scoop inside! For more info  
contact: [sobinfo@burp.org](mailto:sobinfo@burp.org)

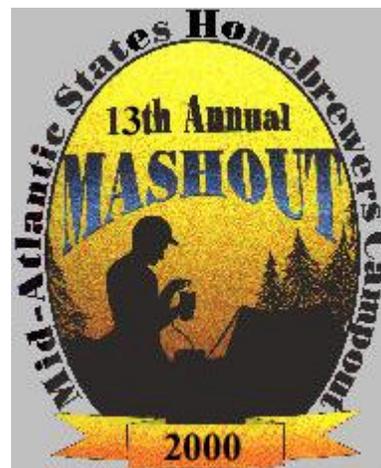


## **July BURP Meeting Crab Feast & IPA Competition Saturday, July 22, 2000**

The July meeting is at the home of John Esperolini in  
Vienna, Virginia. See directions on the last page.

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**BEER FACT:** *Before thermometers were invented,  
brewers would dip a thumb or finger into the mix to  
find the right temperature for adding yeast. Too cold,  
and the yeast wouldn't grow. Too hot, and the yeast  
would die. This thumb in the beer is where we get the  
phrase "rule of thumb".*



## **MASHOUT 2000 Is Almost Here!**

Preparations are well under way for the Mid-Atlantic  
States Homebrewers CampOUT, better known as  
**MASHOUT, August 11-13**. See registration form  
inside. Additional information at [www.burp.org](http://www.burp.org)



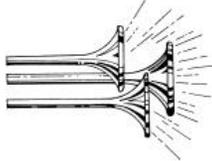
## **BURP EDUCATION UPDATE**

*Wendy Aaronson, Minister of Enlightenment*

**BJCP EXAM RESULTS:** CONGRATULATIONS to  
the individuals who took the BJCP exam. 16 people  
took the exam, and everyone passed! Also, all retakers  
improved their scores to permit them to go to the next  
level. Many thanks to the instructors who taught our  
preparation class. Results like this truly make the time  
spent in putting this course together worth it.

**BELGIAN BEER CLASS:** To prepare judges for the Spirit of Belgium Competition, scheduled for January, 2001, BURP will hold a 4-5 week class that focuses on Belgian beers. Meetings will be held on a weeknight, beginning in late October or early November. Details will be provided in next month's newsletter.

**JULY COMMERCIAL TASTING:** There will be no commercial tasting of IPAs at the July meeting.



## Dittmann's Dispatch

*John Dittmann, Fearless Leader*

Crabs. Scurrying everywhere, but mostly into the pots for BURP to enjoy. BURP's annual Crab Feast ushers in the summer. The club supplies tables, chairs, and most importantly, crabs, while Alison Skeel is bringing her hammers. The meeting is at John Esperolini's House in Vienna, VA. Our club competition for July features **India Pale Ales**. What better way to celebrate a July day than with crabs and IPA?

I fear crabs may be especially expensive this year. As a result, BURP will be asking for donations from those who eat the crabs. Please give an amount commensurate with what you eat. We are trying to conserve the BURP bank account in anticipation of Spirit of Belgium expenses, so the treasury will thank you for your contributions.

I just returned from a trip to the Midwest and am sorry to report I have no beer tales. A family reunion and family visits left us little time to explore the beer scene. I did pick up some interesting items in a beer store, but the downside was I have not had time to put a lot of time into this dispatch.

BURP has a full schedule ahead. Next up is MASHOut August 11-13, on Popenoe Mountain. I hope to see many of you at this thirteenth-annual gathering. Remember to bring your Kolsch, Alts, and Wits for the club competition. I hear that there will be new t-shirts this year. Bill Ridgely has a full update elsewhere in this newsletter.

Following Mashout, in September, is Oktoberfest in Annandale. I certainly hope there are a lot of Festbiers lagering out there. In October comes the clone contest. Let's see who can brew the best clone of SNPA.

## Spirit of Belgium 2001 Planning and Organization Continues at a Fevered Pitch

*Bill Newman, The SoB SOB, [newman@burp.org](mailto:newman@burp.org)*

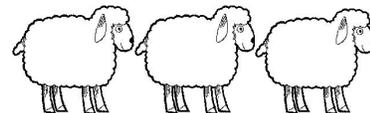
The planning and organization committee charged with making BURP's Third Spirit of Belgium (January 13-14) a HUGE success has made great progress in achieving some key milestones for this fun event. After several meetings with long lists of tasks, BURP is finally starting to see good things happening.

Tim Artz, the godfather of Spirit of Free Beer AND Spirit of Belgium, has volunteered to rekindle his contacts for imported Belgian beer for both the tasting and banquet.

We have great support from the local brewing community, too. Apparently, Belgian-style beers are popular with the professionals, too! We have firm commitments from the following: Jeff at Rockbottom, Barnaby at Rock Bottom, Favio at Richbrau, Nick and Jeff at Sweetwater, and Bill Madden at Capitol City Brewing. Other breweries expressing interest but not yet firm include Victory, Dominion, Native and Stoudt's.

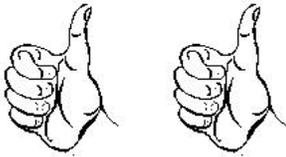
And, (drum roll please) Michael Jackson is on board! Michael will do what he does best which may include any of the following: keynote speech, Belgian beer tastings, local Belgian-style beer tastings, judging, and panel discussions.

Note that exciting events like these will only happen because we *make* them happen. It requires a lot of work. To lend some mussel (ah, de Moules), to help keep those Belgian cheese wheels rolling, and to help stretch a dubbel into a tripel; please contact SoB überfrau Colleen Cannon or send email to [sobinfo@burp.org](mailto:sobinfo@burp.org)



## BURP Beer Clone Contest

The **Year 2000 BURP Beer Clone Contest** will be held in conjunction with our **October meeting**. For this contest, BURP brewers will attempt to match the characteristics **Sierra Nevada Pale Ale**.



## Ray Daniels Promotes Spirit of Belgium

[The following is excerpted from an article titled “**A Great Firkin Festival: An Interview with Chicago’s Own Ray Daniels**” by Fred Eckhardt in the June/July 2000 *Celebrator Beer News*. This article was brought to our attention by BURP’s own Martin Wooster.]

Chicago beer writer Ray Daniels, the recently appointed editor and publisher of the American homebrewer’s magazine *Zymurgy*, is also the director and organizer of the Chicago Real Ale Festival 2000. In addition, he is one of this country’s true experts on the archaic beer-management style known as cask-conditioned beer. In reference to cask ale, Eckhardt proceeds to ask Ray Daniels: “Whatever made you do this?”

**Ray Daniels:** The BURP guys did a Belgian weekend six or seven years ago, and that was probably the coolest combined homebrew-commercial thing that anybody had ever done in the United States. I didn’t make it there, but I heard about it, and some of our Chicago guys said, “Hey, wouldn’t it be cool to do one of those for British beers? Oh, yeah, a real ale festival.”

Thus, the birth of the Chicago Real Ale Festival sponsored by the Chicago Beer Society, was attributed to BURP.



= **BURP Entrepreneur**

***Editor’s Note:*** This month, we begin a series of articles about our BURP entrepreneurs. As many of you are aware, we have several club members who have started small businesses, based on their love of good beer and a strong desire to support the homebrewing community. The BURP News does not ordinarily accept business advertising, so this series is designed to provide our loyal club business owners with an opportunity to tell you about themselves and to solicit your support. Please let me know if you, or someone you know, should be included here. Thanks.

## *Mid-Atlantic Brewing News* by Jim Dorsch, Co-founder

*Mid-Atlantic Brewing News* came about in the spring of 1999. Bill Metzger, Greg Kitsock, and I were sitting in a Phoenix hotel room bemoaning the loss of *BarleyCorn*, the beer paper that had served the Mid-Atlantic since late 1990 and had recently stopped publishing. Metzger published three beer papers -- *Southwest Brewing News*, *Great Lakes Brewing News*, and *Yankee Brew News*. Bill wondered out loud if someone in the Mid-Atlantic region might be willing to be his partner in a paper in that area.

A month or two later, I called Bill, and we determined that we would move ahead with the new paper. Our first move was to hire Greg Kitsock as our editor. We called on our friends to get us off to a good start. Ray Daniels wrote the first homebrew columns; Michael Jackson kindly provided some words for the first issue.

We are now in our second year, and the paper is settling into a comfortable personality. We liked what *BarleyCorn* had done, but we thought that success for us would come from emphasizing basics such as local news reporting. We temper that with as much inanity as possible.

We hope you enjoy our paper. It’s published bimonthly and is available free at most better-beer outlets. A six-issue subscription is \$17, payable by check, MasterCard, Visa or AmEx. Our address is POB 20268, Alexandria, VA 22320-1268. You can also subscribe by credit card at: <http://www.brewingnews.com>



Mention your BURP membership when you subscribe, and I’ll sell you one-year (6-issues) of the *Mid-Atlantic Brewing News* for \$15 instead of the usual \$17. No, it’s not going to put your kid through college, but two bucks will buy you 40 minutes of long-distance on one of those 10-10 numbers.

## Wanted: Judges and Stewards Montgomery County Fair 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Homebrew Competition

*Steve Lichtenberg, Judge Coordinator*

The Montgomery County Fair 4th annual Homebrew competition will be held on Saturday August 5, 2000. We are asking all interested judges and stewards To join us for this fun filled day of judging and entertainment. While the fair officially starts on August 11, the open judging is being held in advance in order to allow most of the areas judges to participate in the competition judging and still attend MASHOUT the weekend of the 11th.

We appreciate the help of all interested judges and stewards, and we will be working hard again this year to have a wonderful event. Last year we judged ~100 entries and expect the same number again this year.

For additional information, interested parties can contact either *Bill Lawrence, Competition Organizer*, at [billyl@erols.com](mailto:billyl@erols.com) or myself, *Steven Lichtenberg, Judge Coordinator*, at [slichten@mnsinc.com](mailto:slichten@mnsinc.com)

The Best of Show competition will be held during the fair on the evening of August 11, so we can publicize our hobby and educate as many people as possible.

Again, thank you for your interest and for volunteering to help us. I look forward to hearing from all of you.



**Bike and Beer in Europe**  
*Craig Somers*

A great bike and beer adventure is being planned for the first two weeks in October of the year 2000. We'll cycle a 420 mile triangular route through three countries linking three of the key beer cities in Europe: Brussels,

Dusseldorf and Amsterdam. Our grand finale will be in Antwerp at the finest festival in Belgium - *The 24 Hours of Beer*.

There is no financial commitment due now. However, a response from anyone interested in this trip would be appreciated. Participation will be limited to no more than twelve persons. For more information, please contact:

- *Craig Somers* at 202-224-5957 (weekday evenings) or e-mail: [craigsbike@burp.org](mailto:craigsbike@burp.org)
- *Bill Ridgely* at 301-762-6523, or e-mail: [ridgely@burp.org](mailto:ridgely@burp.org)



### AHA "Best of the Big Brew" National Homebrew Day Finals August 6, in Baltimore *from Bill Ridgely*

This is forwarded for any judges who may wish to participate. BURP did not participate in the "Big Brew," so we don't have an entry. However, the competition is close by in Baltimore, and it could be fun to be a judge or steward.

May 6th was National Homebrew Day when many homebrewers made the same recipe, Nearly Nirvana American Pale. Those homebrew clubs that choose to so can select one, best-of-club entry to submit for a national competition.

The Cross Street Irregulars are hosting the National judging for the *Best of the Brews*, on August 6th. If entries are consistent with past contests, there should be about 35-50 entries of 2 bottles each. This is an AHA sanctioned event so that points earned will count towards BJCP certification.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested, please contact the competition coordinator, Richard Truelove by telephone at 410-323-5279, or e-mail at: [rtruelove@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rtruelove@worldnet.att.net)



## For the Good of the Order

### Thanks

To everyone who sent me an AIDS Ride pledge, thank you. Not only did your kindness allow me to have an amazing, unforgettable, life-changing four days, it positively affected the thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS in the DC metro area. I'm possible, not impossible! -- *Anna Le Mon, Rider #2074, Washington, DC AIDS Ride 5*



### Letter to the Editor

Jamie,

Fantastic couple of issues! I saw John Esperolini mentioned; I know his sister Susan here in Portland!

I sure miss the chance to get to the MASH-OUT at Chuck and Helen's, but you might pass on something to them:

When talking to Michael Jackson at our Rose Festival event several years ago, I mentioned that we'd met at a BURP meeting around '85 at the Popenoe's home. He asked, was Chuck still putting together ultra-light planes in his basement? Obviously, it made an impression!

I sure wish our OBC had as many diverse activities at BURP does; we seem to be called on to judge

constantly. AHA calls on us to run the regionals each year, and it comes at a time when there are events up and down the Willamette Valley, so it drains our resources. Any BURPers heading our way would be welcome to judge with us.

As an editor, I'm frustrated that there's so little stuff submitted beyond winners' names and styles. I should note, however, our Collaborator project, between OBC and Widmer Brothers, continues as a pretty unique effort.

Cheers.

Donald Lief, Editor

*Oregon Brew Crew News*

### BURP Officers

Office	Officer	Phone/E-mail
<i>Fearless Leader</i>	John Dittmann	(703) 256-4033 <a href="mailto:dittmann@burp.org">dittmann@burp.org</a>
<i>Minister of Enlightenment</i>	Wendy Aaronson	(301) 762-6523 <a href="mailto:aaronson@burp.org">aaronson@burp.org</a>
<i>Minister of Culture</i>	Bruce Bennett	(703) 594-3344 <a href="mailto:bennett@burp.org">bennett@burp.org</a>
<i>Minister of Truth</i>	Jamie Langlie	(301) 933-3081 <a href="mailto:langlie@burp.org">langlie@burp.org</a>
<i>Minister of Propaganda</i>	Bill Ridgely	(301) 762-6523 <a href="mailto:ridgely@burp.org">ridgely@burp.org</a>
<i>Minister of Prosperity</i>	Ralph Bucca	(410) 257-0022 <a href="mailto:bucca@burp.org">bucca@burp.org</a>
<i>Minister of the Web</i>	Lynn Ashley	(703) 522-5308 <a href="mailto:ashley@burp.org">ashley@burp.org</a>
<i>Libeerian</i>	Wendy Schmidt	(703) 866-0752 <a href="mailto:schmidt@burp.org">schmidt@burp.org</a>

### Editor's Corner

**Jamie Langlie, Minister of Truth  
(and trusty Co-minister, Paul)**

The happy news for this issue is that both Paul and I passed our BCJP exams! Thanks, again, to Wendy and our intrepid instructors. We're looking forward to the Belgian beer class this fall.

The next *BURP News* will be a joint August/September issue. Deadline for submissions is **Friday, September 8**, so we can get your newsletter to you prior to the Saturday, September 16, meeting at the home of Pat and Janet Crowe.

We need volunteers to chronicle BURP meetings for the *News*. Keep those articles and ideas flowing our way!