

# THE BLUE GRAY BREWSLETTER

Editor – Deb Lorenz

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

## WELCOME TO THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BLUE GRAY SHOW!

Once again the Blue Gray Show Committee and hosts welcome all of you to the biggest breweriana show in the East. Our hosts this year include: the Capitol City Chapter, the Richbrau Chapter, The Rusty Bunch Chapter, The BCCA, The Sports Can Chapter and NABA. We look forward to seeing all of the same faces and the addition of many new ones to this year's show. We welcome each and every one of you to the Show!

We welcome **Jason Oliver from Gordon Biersch Brewing** of Washington, D.C. who will be this year's guest speaker on Saturday at the Banquet and we thank him for his kind acceptance of our invitation.

Our guest speaker this year was to have been Gary Heurich of the Heurich Brewing Company but due to personal and business circumstances, he was unable to make it. There will also be other micro-brewery representatives in attendance, so be sure to thank all of them for continuing to make the Hospitality Room one of the best.

Again, this year we are setting up tables in the Hotel Lobby on Thursday and Friday so that the collectors in the other Hotels can participate in the room-to-room trading. In the past, everyone was using the tables and we seemed to lose a little from the room-to-room. We want to bring back the room-to-room as it is a large part of the show. This year the tables are for **ONLY** collectors **not** staying in the Ramada Inn and those in the **back side of the back building, all odd numbered rooms from 301-341 and from 401-441**. Collectors in the main building and on the front side of the back building will have their room open for the room-to-room trading. So **check out all of the outside rooms!** On Saturday, the tables are open to **ALL** collectors **EXCEPT** those who have Dealer Rooms (inside the Atrium of the Ramada).

We have brought back the **Brewery Tour on Thursday** this year! Just show up and pay!

On Friday night, be sure and **get in line** for the **Pizza Party!** Tom Chegash will be there to ensure the line is orderly and that you each get some great pizza. Now, be nice or the **Pizza Dude** might make you go to the end of the line and wear a "dunce" cap or something.

Be sure to stop by the "Back Bar" Display. This is the third year John Bain has set it up and you'll get to see some nice, rare breweriana. If you would like to show off a great breweriana item you have next year, get in touch with John. He is normally around the display area.

The BCCA Tab Top book photographers will be here throughout the show and the BCCA Board Meeting is on Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m.! It is open to all BCCA members. Again, we want to wish everyone a great time great trading, great conversation and, oh yeah, great beer!

Brews to you!

Rayner Johnson

### TAB TOP CANS FOR PHOTOS NEEDED

The BCCA Tab Top Book is well under way and the hope is that it will be ready and available for sale at the upcoming BCCA Convention being held in **CANSAS CITY, MO!** **Tom Hull and Kevin Burrus** will be here throughout the show letting their "*magic*" fingers do the "*shooting*" of those special cans that are still needed to complete this "*awesome*" book! They need lots of assistance with *eastern* cans so help them out and bring your unusual variations or unknown tab cans to be photographed and added to the book! They ask for your patience while photographing as each and every can is *very* important to them! **Remember, the book is not complete without your can!** The cans will be photographed in the Jackson Room on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

*Room To Room Trading all day and all night from Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>! YAHOO!!!!!!!!*

*Please wear your Badges at all times as this is a private party and people that do not have on Badges will be asked to leave. This has to do with the State Liquor Laws*

THE "BACK BAR" DISPLAY

When visiting the Blue Gray Website and checking out the guest books, there were a lot of positive things being shared out there. Here are a few of them!

2/28/05 – Steve “Beercanman” Gordon – Another awesome, Blue/Gray! Thanks to Rayner, Charlie, Larry, Michelle, Phil, Tim, and all the other folks who helped make it run so smoothly! It was great seeing all my beer can friends, especially my fellow Rusty Bunchers. Start the count down to Blue/Gray 2006!

10/15/05 – Eric Poole, Enola, PA – The History of the Blue Gray really brought back some pleasant memories (great job, Dee!). I was there at the first one and attended all but a few. Lots of good times had and good friends made. Hope to make it down in 2006.

10/31/05 – John & Vi Wysocarski – The greatest Beer Show on the East Coast, maybe the world! Thanks to Rayner Johnson & Staff & of course, the hotel staff.

2/8/06 – Pete Lewnes – Great job guys! This marks the 17<sup>th</sup> year I will be attending and setting up for this show. Wouldn't MISS IT and there isn't another one LIKE IT! Have made a ton of friends and even lost a couple over the years. Keep up the good work and look forward to seeing you all again!

### BANQUET INFORMATION

Be sure and stop by at the Blue Gray Registration Desk if you have not signed up for the Banquet on Saturday night yet. The food will be guaranteed delicious, the conversations will be great, the drinks will be cold and the Guest Speaker will be **Jason Oliver from Gordon Biersch Brewing** of Washington, D.C. So don't miss out on this great opportunity to show the committee how much the show meant to you!

### BLUE GRAY SHOW WEBSITE

Again, a special thank you to **Mark Porambo** for his excellent job creating and updating the Blue Gray Website. You enabled us all to know what was going on and kept our excitement up with all the information at our fingertips. In addition, without all the information that you provided, this Brewsletter would not have been possible.

### 2005 ALL-TIME HIGH BLUE GRAY

Last year the Blue Gray was Rocking! The show was at an all time high for good times! With over 30 states being represented, and with multiple collectors representing Canada, Denmark and Germany, we had a fantastic turnout and some very cooperative weather.

### GOT QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding the show, ask the people who know: Anyone at the registration desk will be glad to head you in the right direction. Ray Johnson, John Fisher, Robert Fondren, and Chris Eib can answer any questions regarding the show and its activities. Charlie

Bacon can answer any of your questions regarding registration. Mark Porambo can answer any of your questions regarding the website.

### MICROCOSM CHAPTER TABLE

Rumor has it that Alan Paschedag will be hosting a table for the Microcosm Chapter. This is an exciting BCCA Chapter currently still being formed that will be all about collecting microbreweriana. So look for the table, sign up and become a member of this exciting chapter!

### TABLE REMINDER

Just a reminder once again regarding the table policy here at the Blue Gray. On Thursday and Friday the **ONLY** people who can use the tables on the trade floor are those staying at other hotels, those that are staying in the Ramada in the back side of the back building which are the odd numbered rooms from #301-#341 and #401-#441. Collectors in the main building and on the front side of the back building will have their rooms open for the room to room trading. **So check out all of the outside rooms!** On Saturday, the tables are open to **ALL** collectors **EXCEPT** those who have dealer rooms (inside the Atrium of the Ramada).

### A THANK YOU IS NEEDED

At this time I would personally like to thank Rayner Johnson, the Blue Gray Committee, our hosts, and everyone who donates beer, sets it ups, registers guests, in fact, everyone who gives something of themselves to set up this show. A thanks to all of the hotel staff who go out of their way to ensure that we have a great time before, during and after the show. I think sometimes it is too easy for us to find fault with the little things that occur during a show. Instead of the “What have you done for me lately” attitude that we can sometimes harbor, how about “What have we done for anyone to help set up any show?” A chapter show? A National Show? Anyway, what I am trying to say is *please don't take everything for granted*. Thank someone who helps you or does something for you this week at the show. You might just make their day. Thanks Everyone! - Deb Lorenz

### WE WANT YOUR PICTURES!

It would be great to have a really interesting highlights page on the Blue Gray Website for people to look back on and remember how much fun and how prosperous or great it was! If you have any good digital pictures taken at the show, please forward them on to Mark Porambo at the Blue Gray website email address!

### SPECIAL EVENT AT THE SHOW?

For next years newsletter, please let Deb Lorenz know if you are celebrating a special event, anniversary, retirement, birthday, etc and I will include your special news! Email me at [Irishdkl@comcast.net](mailto:Irishdkl@comcast.net).

A special breweriana display entitled "The Back Bar" will make its sixth semi-annual run at "Blue Gray 2005". The display will feature rare, premium quality, lighted breweriana of 1930's to early 1950's vintage. Twenty-eight lighted signs, clocks, lamps and neons have been selected from the collections of twenty-one (21) participants from around the country. Some of these items will even be offered for sale or trade by their owners. In addition, a custom compilation of original Dixieland, swing and jazz recordings from the Big Band era of the 1930's and 1940's will play while the display is running. The display will be at the main boardroom on:

**Thursday - 2/16 from 8:00 p.m. til midnight;**  
**Friday - 2/17 from 10 a.m. - midnight and**  
**Saturday - 2/18 from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

"The Back Bar" is presented by NABA member, **John Bain**, of New York. Collectors interested in participating can contact John at [the-back-bar@earthlink.net](mailto:the-back-bar@earthlink.net)

### BREWERY TOUR

This year the Brewery Tour is back and is sure to please all of you "tourists"! All "tourists" should be in the front of the main lobby on **Thursday at 8:00 a.m.** The bus will drop you off at the **Brewmasters Castle** which is the Christian Heurich Mansion. Although the mansion does not have any breweriana displayed, it is well worth seeing on its own! From there you will walk to the **BRICKSKELLER** Restaurant where you will have a great lunch! But on your way to the Brickskeller, you won't want to miss the opportunity to stop by the **D.C. Hot Restaurant** located at 2004 P Street, NW. **Rick Simmons** has his great Coca Cola Collection on display there. You can also see a great display of D.C. License Plates. Then off to lunch! After lunch you will take a walk to the **Woodrow Wilson House** which includes a display of the History of Brewing in D.C. The best part of it all is that the total cost of the tour is only **\$18.00!** *Anyone is welcome to go, just pay for your tour at the Blue Gray Registration desk!*

### FULL BOTTLE TRADE

For those of you who enjoy tasting and trading new "brews" in the bottle, don't miss out on the Full Bottle Trade on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Banquet Room. Bring your fresh micro-brewery beer from your area to trade. Minimum required is a six-pack and the maximum is a whole case.

### WINE GODDESS CHAPTER WINE TASTING

This is for the LADIES only! Sorry, guys, but really, there has to be something for the ladies! The Wine Goddess Chapter will hold their Saturday Afternoon Wine Tasting at 1:00 p.m. in the Garden Terrace Restaurant. All ladies are invited to attend. Just bring a bottle of wine and an hor d'oevre to share. This year the theme is crazy t-shirts so try and outdo everyone with yours. Any

questions, see the Wine Goddess President, Debbie Eib!

### MARGARITA MADNESS CHAPTER

Anyone interested in being a member of the Margarita Madness chapter? Since the Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant is in walking distance and because this editor loves Margarita's, I thought it would be fun to start a new tradition. Friday at noon, Margarita Madness. Let's meet at the Restaurant and make new friends! Everyone is welcome!!!! - Deb Lorenz

**Kevin Lilek** will be selling his **Instructional Cans Book** at the Show. This is the Ultimate and Most Complete book ever done on Instruction Beer Cans, a Must for any true collector!

### And my Great Grandfather is . . . . .

There are at least two men here today who are the grandsons of brewers who owned now defunct Breweries. **Dick Ober** is the great grandson of Charles F. Ober of **Ober Brothers Brewery** of Pittsburgh, PA and the great nephew of John Ober of **Eberhardt & Ober Brewing**. Currently Penn Brewing occupies the site of the E&O Brewery on the North Side of Pittsburgh. **Bill Burke** is also present. Bill is the great grandson of Peter A. Drury, of the **Abner-Drury Brewery** (formerly of D.C.). While Dick has attended more than ten Blue Gray Shows, this is Bill's first Blue Gray Show. We send out a special welcome to both of you! Come back again, Bill!

### MAN CANNOT LIVE ON BEER, ALONE or EAT'S ANYONE?

There is a great breakfast buffet available on Thursday through Sunday mornings at the Garden Terrace Restaurant at the Ramada Inn at a reasonable price.

Lunch and/or dinner is available at the Garden Terrace Restaurant. There is good bar food available at Muggsey's Bar in the Ramada which opens at 4:00 p.m.

Hooters Restaurant and the Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant is just a short walking distance away from the Ramada. A lot of people eat dinner at Hooters on Thursday. Why don't you plan on having some Margaritas this week at the Pancho Villa? See you there!

### HOTEL AMENITIES

Each room at the Ramada comes equipped with a coffee pot, ironing board, and iron. There is a swimming pool and exercise room for those who want to work out. The Business Center is available for clerical needs.

*The Hospitality Room is open 24 hours a day, beginning on Wednesday at 12:00 noon and ending at Midnight on Saturday night!*

SOME GOOD THOUGHTS

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

## **Wednesday – February 15<sup>th</sup>**

24 hour Hospitality Room opens at noon! – Room to Room All Day and All Night!

## **Thursday – February 16<sup>th</sup>**

24 hour Room To Room and Hospitality Room!

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. – BCCA Tab Top Book Committee Photos in the Jackson Room

8:00 p.m. – Midnight – The Back Bar Display in Board Room Window by “Ramp to Restaurant”

## **Friday – February 17<sup>th</sup>**

24 hour Room To Room and Hospitality Room!

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. – BCCA Tab Top Book Committee Photos in the Jackson Room

8:00 a.m. – Midnight – The Back Bar Display in Board Room Window by “Ramp to Restaurant”

Noon – Margarita Madness – Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant

1:00 p.m. – NABA Board Meeting (closed meeting)

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Sports Can Chapter Meeting

8:00 p.m. – Hospitality PIZZA night with the Pizza Dude! Bring your Appetites, don't overeat at dinner!

## **Saturday – February 18<sup>th</sup>**

24 hour Hospitality Room!

7:00 a.m. – Midnight – Trade Floor Open to All

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. – BCCA Tab Top Book Committee Photos in the Jackson Room

9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – The Back Bar Display in Board Room Window by “Ramp to Restaurant”

9:00 a.m. - Full Bottle Trade in Banquet Room

11:00 a.m. – BCCA Board Meeting in the Spotsylvania Room (open to all BCCA Members)

1:00 p.m. – Wine Goddess Chapter Wine Tasting – Hotel Restaurant

7:00 p.m. – Banquet with Guest Speaker Jason Oliver.

10:00 p.m. – Rusty Bunch Chapter Meeting!

## **Sunday – February 19<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 a.m. Next year – Bragging and Recovery