

THE BLUE GRAY BREWS-LETTER

Editor – Deborah Lorenz

Happy Valentine's Day!!!

February 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th

Welcome to the 28th Annual Blue Gray Show!

Once again the Blue Gray Show Crew and hosts welcome all of you to the Biggest Breweriana Show in the East. Our hosts this year include: The Capital 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! If you are new to the Show, inside this newsletter you will find all the information you will need to enjoy the show and attend some of the fun functions that go on throughout it. I want to reiterate here that due to the State Liquor Laws, **it is absolutely necessary that you wear your Badges at all times.**

Once again, the Hospitality Room will be open 24 hours a day, beginning on Wednesday at 12:00 noon and ending at Midnight on Saturday night! So be prepared to savor the taste of many different microbrews that change constantly. I want to personally thank all of our contributors including the breweries, microbrew pubs and our attendees who bring some all the way from home! What you do is so appreciated and such a major part of the success of this show! 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. To keep the quality of the Room to Room consistent, these tables are *ONLY* for collectors *NOT* staying in the Ramada Inn and for those in the *backside of the back building, all odd number rooms from 301-341 and from 401-441*. On Saturday, the tables are open to *ALL* collectors except those who have Dealer Rooms.

Be sure and stop by the "Back Bar Display". This is the fourth year that John Bain has set it up and this year you will not only get to see some nice, rare breweriana, but you will also be able to vote for your favorite. We look forward to welcoming all of you to our banquet where you will enjoy a great Guest Speaker, as well as meeting various microbrewery representatives that will be attending. Be sure to thank all of them for continuing to make the Hospitality Room one of the best. If you haven't signed up for the Banquet yet, be sure and do so now at the Registration area.

We can't wait to see and talk with all of you and we wish you good times, good conversation, exciting

trading & collecting and, most of all, we hope you enjoy our great beers and hospitality.

Brews to you!

Rayner Johnson

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. Having an outside room, I love that we can bring our dog!

Hungry?

There is a great breakfast buffet available each morning at the *Garden Terrace Restaurant*. Lunch and/or dinner is also available there! *Muggsey's Bar* is a favorite and opens at 4:00 p.m. You can get the usual tasty bar food there.

Hooters Restaurant is just a short walking distance away from the Ramada. There are some folks at the show who like to eat dinner there on Thursday night.

The Pancho Villa Mexican Restaurant is a short walking distance away also. If you feel like you would enjoy some good Mexican food and margaritas, this is the place for you!

In addition, there are several motels and restaurants in the area if you are in the mood to explore, so ENJOY!!

Don't forget, though, that complimentary donuts are available each morning in the Registration area and reserve your stomachs on Friday night for complimentary Pizza!

Most important, don't forget to sign up for the Banquet on Saturday!

The Back Bar Display!

A special breweriana display entitled "The Back Bar" will make its 8th semi-annual run at "Blue Gray 2007".

"The Back Bar" is presented by NABA/ECBA member John Bain. The Display will feature rare, premium-quality lighted breweriana of 1930's to early 1950's vintage. Numerous lighted signs, clocks, lamps and neons have been selected from the collections of many participants from around the country. The display will be at the Main Boardroom.

In addition, there will be a new and exciting event: a Best of Show contest. Everyone who comes to the Blue Gray Show will be eligible to vote for their favorite item. Awards and prizes will be presented to the winner, 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up

The Display will be open and available for viewing on *Thursday, 2/15*, from 8:00 in the Evening to midnight; *Friday, 2/16*, from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 pm. *Saturday, 2/17*, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 2/17, from 11:00 a.m. to noon – There will be a Group Photo and Awards and Prizes for the Winners of the Back Bar Best of Show Contest will be handed out. Be sure to spend some time enjoying the history of breweriana in these fine displays.

Margarita Madness Chapter

Last year was the first year we got together as a group for no other reason than to enjoy some Margarita's. Although there were only six of us, we had a good time. This year, we are hoping to add to the group. If you like Margarita's and fun, meet us on Friday at High Noon at Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant! Call Deb Lorenz (That's me!) on my cell phone at 412-708-9267 if you would like to walk over as a group! If you don't like Margarita's but like Mexican Beer, come on over with us. This is open to guys and gals!

Pizza Night

Bring Your Appetite on Friday the 16th at 8:00 p.m. because it is Pizza Night. Complimentary Pizza provided by The Show Sponsors! Be sure to get in line as 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!

Quote of the Day: "If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with bull shit"

-Bud Hundenski

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 a fresh micro-brewery beer from your area

to trade. Minimum required is a six pack and the maximum is a whole case! I'll be bringing some of my favorite, Stout's Scarlet Lady Ale! Here's to hoping there is any left to trade!

Wine Goddess Chapter Wine Tasting

This is for the *LADIES* only! The Wine Goddess Chapter, hosted by President, Debbie Eib, will hold their Saturday Afternoon Wine Tasting at 1:00 p.m. in the Garden Terrace Restaurant. All ladies are invited to attend. This year's theme is "Wear a Hat Day". Bring back the days of old with a Vintage Hat. Just bring a bottle of wine and an appetizer to share. This is a great event, ladies! Don't miss out on it.

Do you know your Blue Gray History? Think so? Take the quiz below and find out!

BLUE GRAY QUIZ

1. The First Blue Gray Show was held in what year at what hotel?
2. True or False: The Blue Gray Show is held at this time of year, every year to celebrate Valentines Day?
3. There have been many changes over the years as the show progressed, dozens of show helpers, thousands of show participants, and four different show locations. For 28 years, however, there has been one constant. What or who is it?
4. In 1985, the show was moved for one year only to Richmond, VA to celebrate what, and what name was it promoted as? What was the name of the hotel it was held at? How many collectors and guests attended and who was the keynote speaker? What collecting club actively supported it?
5. In 1987, Dee Lander, Tom Stemetzki, Chris Eib and Mike Daniels all joined together to find a new location for the show which turned out to be the current location. What was the date of the first show held here and what was the hotel's name? Dee Lander was elected President of the Capitol City Chapter in what unusual manner that year?
6. The same year that the first show was held here, two things happened. What was the legend that began and what world event was held here?
7. The Friday night Pizza night became a tradition in the early 1990's. How many pizzas were ordered then and how many does it take to feed the masses on Friday night now?

8. In the 1990's other sponsors began to join the show. What BCCA Chapter was the first new sponsor to join?

9. In what year, did the hotel's name change to the Ramada Inn? Rayner continues to have a great relationship with the hotel. What is the comment he likes to make about the contract he has with them?

10. What historical event occurred at the Blue Gray in 2004 at it's Silver Anniversary that involved the BCCA, ECBA, ABA and NABA?

11. What was the first year the Blue Gray Brewsletter arrived on the scene?

12. The morning donut tradition which now numbers at 1000 is coordinated by who?

13. Flyers, mailings and registration is currently coordinated by who?

14. The Hospitality Room Manager or the "guy in charge of keeping the beer on tap" is who?

15. Will we be here again next year?

Good Thoughts . . .

When visiting the Blue Gray Website and checking out the Guest Book, there were some more good things being said out there:

1/26/07: *Keith Bryant* – "Simply the best show around, for the beginner to the advanced collector. If you don't leave with additions to your collection, you spent way too much time in the Hospitality Room!"

11/21/06: *Tom Muller* – "Great show. I only live 30 miles from the hotel, but stay 3 nights, with all the beer, trading, and just talking with people, who has time to go home? For the past 7 shows I have added about 100 coasters to my collection."

11/03/06: *Jon Benedict* – "My registration will be in the mail tomorrow. Have not missed this show since 1989. Gotta see it to believe it."

5/12/06: *Robert Keasey, Jr.* – One of the BEST shows that anybody could attend! Thanks Ray, Charlie and the rest of the people that make this show a success."

2/27/06: *Brian Cooley* – GREAT SHOW!! I will try to never miss this one again. A little cooler than Phoenix, AZ, but the BEERS helped a lot! Keep up all the good work and hope to be back next year. Big B

2/21/06: *Al Aprea* – "Great Show!! Still recovering from sampling 10% beers late at night.

2/12/06: *Robert Anderson* – "AWAY I GO – SNOW OR NO SNOW! THIS IS ONE GREAT SHOW!"

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1980 – Drafty Howard Johnson's in Fredericksburg
2. False – President's Day Weekend (but hey, the ladies wouldn't mind celebrating Valentines Day)
3. That would be Rayner Johnson – Thanks Ray, We love you!
4. The 50th Anniversary of the Beer Can; "The Party – Where it all Started"; the John Marshall Hotel; more than 350 traders and 175 guests; The Keynote Speaker was Charlie Scruggs from the American Can Company; The BCCA.
5. February 27, 1988; The Holiday Inn; While he went to the bathroom, they voted him in.
6. The Friday Night Fights Legend and The World Series of Poker.
7. What started out as a 10-pie surprise has grown into a monster event of over 100 pizzas!
8. The Rusty Bunch Chapter who continue to have a strong presence at the show.
9. 2000; "Every year, is the first year, of our new 5 year contract".
10. The first time that all four presidents sat down and had a meeting together.
11. 2005
12. Robert & Ann Fondren. 13. Charlie and Ann Bacon
14. Jon Fisher
15. Damn Straight!

Pst! What's Happening at the Blue Gray?

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

- 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room
- All day: Room to Room Trading

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

- Trade Tables Available **ONLY** for registered participants staying in the Howard Johnson's (or other hotels) as well as those staying in the ODD numbered rooms in the back section of the Ramada Inn (301-341, 401-441. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room
- 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. - Come see the "Back Bar Display" of classic lighted beer signs in the Main Boardroom!
- All Day: Room to Room Trading

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

- Trade Tables Available **ONLY** for registered participants staying in the Howard Johnson's (or other hotels) as well as those staying in the ODD numbered rooms in the back section of the Ramada Inn (301-341, 401-441. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room
- 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. - Come see the "Back Bar Display" of classic lighted beer signs!
- All Day: Room to Room Trading
- 12:00 High Noon – *Margarita Madness* at the Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant
- 3:00 p.m. – NABA Board of Directors Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. – Pizza Night – Bring Your Appetite!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

- **Trade floor open to all!** (Except Dealer Inside Room Occupants)
- 9:00 a.m. - Full Bottle trade in Banquet Room. Please bring some fresh microbrewery beer from your area to trade. Minimum one six-pack, maximum one case. (Must be 21 years or older!)
- 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room
- All Day – Room to Room Trading
- 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Come see the "Back Bar Display" of classic lighted beer signs!
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (noon) - Group Photo Awards and prizes for the Back Bar "Best of Show" Contest Members.
- 1:00 p.m. – *Wine Goddess Chapter Wine Testing*: Meet at the Hotel Restaurant. For the Ladies, Wear a Hat Day! Bring back the days of old with a vintage hat. Bring one bottle of wine and an appetizer to share.
- 3:00 p.m. – NABA Board of Directors Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. – Banquet
- 9:30 Rusty Bunch Meeting and Table Takedown

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

- Bragging rights and Count Down to Next Show!

Truly the best way to end this year's Brewsletter and show couldn't be said any better than in this comment from the Guest Book.

"Best Show in the World. It's a drag to re-join your Life when it ends. Thanks guys, once again"

-Bill Beverly