

THE BLUE GRAY BREWSLETTER

Editor – Deb Lorenz

February 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 2008

WELCOME TO THE 29TH 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 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!*

We are proud to present **Bob Tucker** – the man behind **Tupper's Hop Pocket Ale** as our Guest Speaker at this year's Banquet!

As you walk around this year, trading, buying, conversing and just plain drinking beer, be sure to introduce yourselves to the many micro-brewery representatives in attendance and thank them for continuing to make the Hospitality Room one of the best in the East or the West.

As always, 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. 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 Board Room and see the Jersey

Shore Chapter's display. I saw their display at the Suffern "New Show" and they graciously accepted my arm twisting to put on a display here. For the past three years, John Bain put on an incredible "Back Bar" Display but due to personal issues that needed his attention, he had to put it on hold this year. We look forward to seeing next year's Back Bar Display and if you would like to show off a great breweriana item you have next year, get in touch with John. In the meantime, stop by and enjoy the "Joisey" Shores's Display.

Brews to you!

Rayner Johnson

New Roof – No Leaks!

We are pleased to share with you the great news that the Hotel has replaced the roof this year on the main building and the back building, so we should not have any leaks this year which is always a plus!

Room To Room Trading all day and all night from Wednesday, February 13th until Sunday February 17th! Yippee and all that stuff!!!!!!

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

HUNGRY?

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. The Terrace also offers Lunch and Dinner.

There is good bar food available at Muggsey's Bar in the Ramada. Muggsey's opens at 4:00 p.m.

Hooters Restaurant and the Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant is just a short walking distance away.

JERSEY SHORE CHAPTER DISPLAY

By Joe Paczkowski

The Jersey Shore Chapter will be presenting a display of New Jersey cans and breweriana at the Blue Gray show this year. The display will be available for viewing starting Thursday evening and continuing through Saturday afternoon. The display will be located in the "Board Room" on the main floor. This is the same location that normally houses the fabulous "Back Bar" display conducted by John Bain.

This will be an encore presentation of the display. It was conceived, planned and constructed last year and was presented in the Chapters hospitality room at the "New Show" at Suffern, NY back in early October. The driving force behind developing a display was in celebration of our own Joe Germino's rise to the BCCA Presidency. While in attendance at the show, Ray Johnson approached us mentioning the void as the "Back Bar" was taking a year off. He offered us an opportunity to present an encore performance. How could we say no. Please be our guest and celebrate with us. Cheers!

The JSC contributors

Al Aprea #10480, Alan Paschedag #21104, Dee Lander #22244, Jim Mitchell #1546, Joe Germino #24997, Joe Paczkowski #26294, Joe Podsiadlik #8371, Joe Radman #6898, Mark Crane #15584, Mark Oleske #21046, Paul Dodge #10130, Steve Pawlowski #1168, and last but not least the contributor and fine carpenter who designed and constructed the state of New Jersey can display, Doug Perry #16387.



BLUE GRAY BREWERY TOUR

All "tourists" should be in the front of the main lobby on **Thursday at 4:00 p.m.** The Brewery is opening just for us so please be sure to buy some beer and merchandise. *Anyone is welcome to go, just pay for your tour at the Blue Gray Registration desk!*

SAT MORNING - 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 annual 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 hors d'oevre to share. Any questions, see the Wine Goddess President, Debbie Eib!

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! YaHoo!



SOME GOOD THOUGHTS

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 couple of them!

6/26/07 – John Smoller – Best show anywhere. Hat's off to Ray, Charlie, Robert, John, Chris and all the others that work so hard to make a show a success. Nice site, easy to navigate. Can't wait for Feb., '08!

1/1/08 – Doug Groth – Really is the BEST show on earth. Especially if you are trading cans. Even if you can only stay for one day, IT'S WORTH IT!! Don't Delay!

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 **Bob Tucker** – the man behind **Tupper's Hop Pocket Ale**. So don't miss out on this great opportunity to show the committee how much the show meant to you!

2007 BLUE GRAY SHOW STATISTICS!

We had a fantastic show again in 2007. The show was at an all time high for good times! We had a great turnout and some very cooperative weather despite a snow scare at the beginning. Last year over 730 people registered, coming from 36 states (and DC) as well as three other countries. As you might expect, Virginia was first in attendance with 204, Maryland next at 97, Pennsylvania with 81. Rounding out the top five states were New York at 43 and Ohio at 25. The next five states in order of number of registered attendees: New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Florida and Michigan. There were also three other countries represented. Canada had 13 registered to attend, Britain and Denmark, 1 each. This doesn't include all the guests, family members, etc.

MARGARITA MADNESS!

Margarita Madness will be held on Friday afternoon at noon at Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant which is within walking distance. Kathy Johnson (Rayner's better half) is inviting everyone to join her this year and me for some Margarita fun! So plan on it Ladies! We'll see ya there! Meet in the lobby at 11:45 and we can all walk down together or just meet us there!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great regret that we share with you the news that Kathy, our waitress at the Garden Terrace Restaurant passed away last November. Kathy always provided such great service and a great smile. We'll miss you Kathy. May you rest in peace.

BCCA SALES TABLE

- Pat Cornils

Please welcome Doug Groth #11286, from Ohio, as the new BCCA Supply Chairman. He takes over for Art Zerby #7356 who successfully ran this important club function for almost a decade. Doug is here at the Blue-Gray show so stop by his table and give him hell, I mean, wish him well! He will have a limited quantity of BCCA books, Can-Totes and shirts available.

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 MEETING

The Microcosm Chapter will be holding a meeting during the show. See Roger Levesque regarding the details or look for information hanging in the Hospitality Room regarding. The Chapter is always looking for more avid collectors of anything "microbrewish" so show up at the meeting and sign up!

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 up, 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. 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

NEXT YEAR'S BLUE GRAY CELEBRATION!

We are so excited to remind everyone that next year's Blue Gray Show will be the 30th Annual Show! Look for some exciting "stuff" next year and be sure to plan on being there! Enjoy every moment of this year and mark your calendars for next year. You won't want to miss it!

BLUE GRAY "HOPPY" HAPPENINGS!

Wednesday – February 13th

12:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m 24 Hour Hospitality Room – Room to Room All Day and All Night!

Thursday – February 14th

Don't forget to wish your significant other a Happy Valentine's Day!

24 hour Room To Room and Hospitality Room!

1:00 p.m. Table Set up (Hosted by Richbrau Chapter) but **ALL** are invited and encouraged to help!

Tables are **ONLY** for registered participants staying in 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!**

Beginning today and throughout the show, Doug Groth will be present at the BCCA Sales Table and the Jersey Shore will have their "Celebrate Joe" Display available for review at the Board Room!

Friday – February 15th

24 hour Room To Room and Hospitality Room!

— Complimentary Donuts and coffee available in the morning on the tables!

Trade Tables are available **ONLY FOR "eligible" participants – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

9:30 a.m. – NABA Board Meeting

1:00 p.m. – BCCA Board Meeting (room TBA)

8:00 p.m. – PIZZA night with the Pizza Dude! Bring your Appetite!

Saturday – February 16th

24 hour Room To Room and Hospitality Room!

— Complimentary Donuts and coffee available in the morning on the tables!

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – 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 or older)

1:00 p.m. – Wine Goddess Chapter Wine Tasting – Meet at the hotel's Garden Terrace Restaurant. Bring one bottle of wine and an appetizer to share.

7:00 p.m. – Banquet with Guest Speaker Bob Tupper of Tupper's Hop Pocket

9:30 p.m. (approximately) – Rusty Bunch Chapter Meeting and table tear-down immediately thereafter!

Sunday - February 17th

— Complimentary Donuts and coffee available in the morning on the tables!

Start the countdown until the next Blue Gray!