

# THE BLUE GRAY BREWSLETTER

Editor - Deborah Lorenz

Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## WELCOME TO the 33<sup>rd</sup> B--I--G SHOW!!

It's that TIME again!!!! TIME for the Beer! TIME for the room to room! TIME for the annual exchange of awesome cans and breweriana! TIME for the poker games, TIME for the beer tastings, the whiskey tastings and the ladies wine tasting! TIME for the Full Bottle exchange and the Banquet! It's time for the ladies Friday Mexican with Margaritas! It's TIME for friends from all over the country to get together again, some who haven't seen each other since last year! Drum roll, please! It's TIME for the *really* BIG Show!!!

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

We are happy to say that *Brandon Skaal* from DC Brau BC will be one of our *guest Banquet speakers* this year and the second speaker will be a surprise.

Be sure as you walk around this year, trading, buying, conversing and just plain drinking beer, to *introduce yourself 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.*

Brews to you!  
*Rayner Johnson*

*Room - to - Room Trading all day and all night from Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>!*

*The Hospitality Room is open 24 hours a day, beginning on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. and ending at noon on Sunday.*

*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 and remember, **you** are responsible for your own behavior **and** that of your guests.*

### TRADE FLOOR TABLES

**On Thursday around 10 or 11 a.m., as soon as the tables arrive, we will be setting them up.** This is staffed by the Richbrau and Rusty Bunch Chapters but **ALL are invited to help.** Please do NOT just take a table to set it up for yourself. These tables will be available on Thursday and Friday so that the collectors in the other Hotels can participate in the room-to-room trading. The tables are **ONLY** for collectors **not staying** in the Ramada Inn and those in 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 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 inside rooms (open to the Atrium of the Ramada).

### BEER LUNCH

*Capital Ale is hosting* an incredible Beer Lunch. See more details on Page Two! You won't want to miss this!

### THANK YOU CHARLIE BACON

Rayner and the Blue Gray Show Committee would like to thank Charlie Bacon for all his hard work. Charlie attended many shows before he got roped into handling the registration for the Big Show. After 25 years of handling this awesome responsibility, he is turning over the reins to Rayner. Over the years, registration for the Blue Gray Show became a bigger and bigger responsibility. Thank you for all that you do and have done, Charlie Bacon. You are appreciated!

## THURSDAY'S CAPITAL ALE LUNCH WITH BEER PAIRING

The Ale House is located in Historic downtown Fredericksburg at 917 Caroline Street. It is an upscale-casual dinner house that features 62 craft and import beers on draught and over 300 selections of bottled beer. It is a 10 minute drive (5.12 miles) from the Ramada. ***This year a four course lunch is paired with 8 or 9 beers at The Capital Ale House.*** Tickets include transportation via Fredericksburg Trolley between the motel and the Ale House. There is room for about 35 on the trolley, but more can attend the lunch. The cost for the lunch including the trolley is \$30.00 per person.

***The menu for the event is as follows:*** 1) Spent grain pizza topped with a Pea Pesto, Feta, Roaster Tomatoes and Red Onion. 2) Beer Bread, Cheese and Strawberry Salsa. 3) Low country Boil of Crawfish, Mussels, Clams, Potatoes and Corn on the Cob with Jalapeno Cornbread. 4) Beef Short Ribs, BBQ Beans, and Roasted Apples. 5) Kentucky Derby Pie. ***There will be a Welcoming Beer and a Beer Paired with each course.*** We will be meeting in the lobby at 11:45 and will be returning around 2:30 p.m.

***Rayner is crossing his fingers that he can attend this himself!***

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***HEY LADIES! Love Margaritas??*** Meet in the lobby at the front door on Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. and walk or ride down to Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant for margaritas and chips and some lunch!

## FRIDAY NIGHT PIZZA PARTY

Friday night, be sure to get in line for the Pizza Party! Tom Chegash will be there to ensure the line is orderly and that you each get a share of great pizza. Be nice, or the ***Pizza Dude*** might make you go to the end of the line and wear a "dunce" cap or make a "citizen's" arrest! The line forms on the second floor of the Ramada outside the Hospitality Room at the Registration desk at 8:00, 9:00 p.m. and at 10:00 p.m. ***Don't forget to grab your pizza and head down at 9:00 for the Photos and Award Ceremony at the Back Bar!***

## MICROBREW FULL BOTTLE/ CAN EXCHANGE

The annual Full Bottle Trade takes place Saturday morning 8:45-9:45 a.m. in the meeting room down the

hall from the hotel restaurant. Bring 6 to 24 bottles of bottles or cans of fresh micro-brewed beer to trade. You **MUST** be in the room and ready to trade at 9 a.m. sharp. Latecomers always miss the good stuff. Learn more about this event at the Blue Gray registration table or see Jim Plant in room 226

## WINE GODDESS WINE TASTING

Debbie Eib will be holding her 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 appetizer to share.

## BANQUET INFORMATION

Be sure and stop by the Blue Gray Registration Desk if you have not signed up for the Banquet on Saturday night yet. The food will be delicious, the conversations will be great, and the drinks will be cold. Brandon Skaal of DC Brau BC will be one of our guest speakers.

## BLUE GRAY WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

If you are looking for show information, go to [www.bluegrayshow.com](http://www.bluegrayshow.com). The Blue Gray show website is updated on a regular basis by web master, Mark Benbow. Also, did you know we are also on ***Facebook?***

## MERRY BOCKSTERS/RUSTY BUNCH RAFFLE

Hello Fellow Friends and Collectors! ***We are excited to announce that we are hosting a Two Chapter Raffle this year with all proceeds going to a good cause.***

We are raffling all two special cans coming from Dan Morean of Breweriana.com! Tickets are \$10 each and every ticket is good for both cans. Tickets are available at Chapter Tables. Drawing date to be announced, either Friday or Saturday, depends on how fast the tickets sale!!!!

Separate of this event, wanted to announce last year's winners of the Merry Bockster's Super Raffle #3: First Prize can was a Trommers Bock OI won by Kevin Schockling, BCCA #33687, Second prize went to Mike Hearn who won a Meister Brau Bock Flat and third prize went to Dave Reed who won the Valley Brew Bock Flat. ***So Support a Good Cause & get your tickets now!***

## HEY WILL, CAN YOU REPAIR MY CAN!?

*Will Hartlep* brought along his can repair and lidding equipment this year. So you might want to bring your can projects to him in room 114.

## HUNGRY?

**The Garden Terrace Restaurant** at the Ramada Inn will be offering Breakfast on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. In addition, there is a **great** Breakfast available at the **Waffle House** a short distance from the hotel.

There will be a **Hotdog Stand** available on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from noon to 3:00 p.m., near the Back Bar displays..

**Hooters Restaurant, the Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant and Ruby Tuesdays** are just a short walking distance away.

**The Blue and Gray Brewing Company is only 4.83 miles (9 minutes) away** where you can enjoy great lunches and dinners at **Lee's Retreat Brew Pub**, including kid's meals. **Stop at the registration desk to get a stickered rack card. Take it to the Brewing Company and get a choice of a free pint glass or a set of 4 bottle labels when you "dine in" at the Brewery.**

### BLUE & GRAY BREWING COMPANY

*Regularly scheduled retail and free tastings* on Wednesdays 2-6, Fridays 3-8pm, Saturdays 10-1 (Free Tours on Saturday!) Lee's Retreat Brew Pub open on site and is a great lunch or dinner stop. PLEASE ASK FOR OUR BEERS WHEREVER YOU GO! The Blue & Gray Brewing Co. opened in Fredericksburg on March 17, 2002. Before that, Fred Red Ale and the Blue & Gray Classic Lager were brewed at other microbreweries in Virginia. We listened to customer input and perfected our recipes before we opened in Fredericksburg. Blue & Gray Brewing Co. now offers Falmouth American Pale Ale and Stonewall Stout for a total of four flavors year round. *We also offer Spiced Winter Ale for Thanksgiving through February and Chocolate Raspberry Stout for February.*

### SATURDAY NIGHT STAY

The rules state that you must stay over Saturday night to stay at the Ramada Inn.. So plan on staying! *All guests checking out early will still be charged*



The Back Bar Display is back again! In its 13<sup>th</sup> annual appearance at Blue Gray 2012, a striking arrangement of spectacular, early, lighted breweriana will be presented by John Bain and numerous other participants. There will be a Best of Show Contest with prizes and awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. The Back Bar lounge will be open playing lots great tunes from the Big Band and Swing eras of the 1930s to 1950s. Many early lighted signs and other breweriana will be offered for sale and trade in the lounge. So grab a beer or two (or three) at the hospitality room, and then head on over to the Back Bar for an eye-popping event.

#### Thursday February 16

- 10 am to Midnight: [Backbar Display](#)

#### Friday February 17

- 10 am to Midnight: [Backbar Display](#)

#### Saturday February 18

- 9 am to ?: [Back Bar Display](#)
- 10am: Deadline for voting for Best of Show for the [Back Bar Display](#)
- Noon: [Back Bar Display](#) Group Photo and award ceremony

In addition to the display, The Back Bar Lounge opens to all display participants and Blue Gray show attendees. The lounge features earlier lighted breweriana for display and sale, and a 1930s-style seating area for display participants and Blue Gray attendees. Relax and chat while enjoying a cold draft beer from the Blue Gray hospitality room; listen to popular music from the Big Band Era; or watch classic black and white movies.

“The Back Bar” is presented by ABA/ECBA/NABA member John Bain.

*Make your vote count! Don't forget the voting deadline is Saturday at 10:00 a.m.!*

## 33<sup>rd</sup> BLUE GRAY SHOW "HOPPY" HAPPENINGS!

### Wednesday - February 15<sup>th</sup>

24 Hour Hospitality Room opens at 1:00 P.M. - Room-to-Room Trading All Day and All Night through Sunday!

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### Thursday - February 16<sup>th</sup>

Complimentary Donuts and coffee are available in the morning from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

All day Room to Room

**11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Beer Lunch - Capital Ale Beer Lunch** - A 4- Course lunch paired with 8 or 9 beers. Tickets include transportation via trolley between the motel and the Ale House. There is room for about 35 on the trolley, but more can attend the lunch. Cost: (\$30.00 includes Trolley).

*John Bain's Back Bar Display returns through Saturday. Awesome breweriana!*

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### Friday - February 17<sup>th</sup>

Complimentary Donuts and coffee are available in the morning from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

All Day Room to Room

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

**10:00 a.m.** - Back Bar Display until midnight

**1:00 p.m.:** Margarita Madness - For you guys and gals, who are Margarita Lovers, meet in the lobby. Walk or ride to Pancho Villas Mexican Restaurant for 1 or 2 margaritas, chips and lunch!

**8:00 p.m.** - PIZZA Night with the Pizza Dude! Line forms at the registration desk by the hospitality room

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### Saturday - February 18<sup>th</sup>

Complimentary Donuts and Coffee are available in the morning from 8 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** - Trade Floor Open to All - **EXCEPT** - Dealer Inside Room Occupants

**8:45 a.m.** - Full Bottle Trade in the Banquet Room. Bring some fresh microbrewery beer from your area to trade. Minimum-one six pack, maximum-one case. (must be 21 or older). **Must be in room no later than 9:00 & ready to go!**

**1:00 p.m.** - Wine Goddess Wine Tasting - This is for the Ladies! Meet at the hotel's Garden Terrace Restaurant. Bring one bottle of wine and an appetizer to share. This awesome event is hosted by *Debbie Eib*.

**7:00 p.m.** - Banquet (One of our Guest Speakers is Brandon Skaal from D.C. Brau B.C.)

*Poker Games, Music Playing & Singing throughout the night*

**9:30 p.m.** - Table tear-down

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### Sunday - February 19<sup>th</sup>

Complimentary Donuts and coffee are available in the morning from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.!

Hospitality room closes at noon.

*Have a Safe trip home and see you next year!*