“Decanters, friendship, lots of fun; Ft. Mitchell is the place to come!!”

- Ron Merritt, Great Lakes Beam Club
Reminders

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

As in past years, the IAJBBSC will be accepting non-perishable food items or paper products to donate to charity. Bring your donations to the designated collection table in the vicinity of the Registration and Credentials areas at convention. Forget to bring an item, CASH will also be accepted. All donations will be presented to a food pantry in the Ft. Mitchell area.

COSTUME / BANNER PARADE

Remember to bring your club and/or district banners to convention for the parade into the opening business meeting on Monday morning. Don’t forget to plan a costume for you and your fellow club members to wear as you join in the parade. Because we will be at the Drawbridge Inn, the theme for this year’s parade will be medieval.

CONVENTION DOOR PRIZE Donations

At each convention we look to the membership and clubs for donations to be added to the items that the International provides for the door prizes to be given away prior to the meetings.

We all enjoy receiving a nice prize for being in attendance at these meetings, so we are suggesting your donations be decanters, go-withs, or other Beam or Wade items you would enjoy receiving.

There will be a collection site at the convention for you to bring your donations. However, we would appreciate a note from you prior to the convention stating what your donation will be. Please send your information regarding your donation to: Joe Miller, 2897 Brangus Lane, Cookeville, TN 38501.
It is hard to believe this will be my last article before our 36th Annual Convention, June 18th at the Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. “Will you be there?”

I hope everyone kept track of those deadlines. Hotel reservations, 5/27/2006 — after this date reservations are subject to availability — forms were in the February and March issues of BATW. (Note: if a problem should arise, reservations must be cancelled 72 hours prior to your scheduled check-in.) 2006 convention package deadline was May 16th; I hope you got your package reservation in before you had to pay the $25.00 late fee. I know it does happen as I goofed and had to pay the extra fee one year — expensive lesson.

District meetings are now only a memory and a great memory at that. I wasn’t able to attend as many as I would have liked, but my thanks to each district for all the hard work in hosting these functions. At this writing we have a new District Director in District VI. Welcome aboard to John Lochivski, past Illinois State Director. Thanks to the out going director, Virgil Stegall, for four years of service on the Board. The new Illinois State Director is Allan Kulikowski; I am certain that name is familiar as he was our International Secretary/treasurer 2001-2005.

As in the past, our convention will not be “Just Business.” We will enjoy some “fun time.” On Monday evening the “Alte Kammeraden Band” will entertain us for our listening and dancing pleasure in the hospitality room. This 5-piece band will be playing a variety of music including some German tunes. Wear your German attire to add to the atmosphere; you may also win a prize for “Best German” attire.

Tuesday evening along with hospitality will be “The Knights Quest for the Golden Decanter.” Isn’t that an intriguing program? Look for clues and be the team finding the sought after “Golden Decanter.” Let’s all plan on joining the Quest. Yes, this will replace the carnival night but Past President Ron Merritt is the leader of the Quest so I am certain it will be a highlight of our convention.

Remember to pack your costume along with your club and district banner to participate in the Banner/Costume Parade at the opening of our 2006 convention.

Information was published in the May BATW regarding tours available for your Wednesday enjoyment, as our election will be held Tuesday afternoon. Check out the tour information: much to see in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Or how about a riverboat luncheon cruise? You can enjoy listening to a Dixieland banjo player and partake of a wonderful lunch while you cruise up the lazy river to see the sights. “All aboard!”

A request has been received in the International office. “Do we have any Beamers that speak Russian?” A gentleman was interested in Jim Beam and asked if we had such a member. His name is Sam Bigun; phone number 310.289-1915. If you or someone you know is interested, give him a call.

Until we meet in Fort Mitchell, “Don’t just smile, BEAM”!

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**Checklist of Things To Bring To Convention**

- [ ] International membership card
- [ ] Confirmation card received from International office
- [ ] Hotel room reservation confirmation
- [ ] Your completed Medical Registration Form(s)
- [ ] Medications, if needed
- [ ] Your credit card and/or sufficient cash
- [ ] Donations for the food drive
- [ ] Donations for the door prize drawings
- [ ] Donations for the Teen/Youth Raffle
- [ ] Your ‘want list’ of items to buy at the bottle show
- [ ] Club banner for Banner Parade
- [ ] Costume(s) for the Banner Parade
- [ ] Items for Club Projects
- [ ] German costume(s) for Monday evening’s hospitality
- [ ] Items for Twi-light Madness
- [ ] Camera
- [ ] Extra hangers for your clothes
Hi You All, I’m Back Again!
By George Finch, Vice-President

Not to beg, but I certainly hope your local club has renewed all your members; plus maybe gained one or two. Remember those special items for maintain or gain would be a great addition to your club inventory. Maybe your club didn’t receive the blue or yellow Hot Rod — so the special edition Hot Rod would be great and when you “maintain,” you win one. Even more special would be to “gain” and receive the special color truck identical to our convention decanter. Talking to the International office, I understand the memberships are still coming in, slowly. At this writing only 91 clubs have renewed their charter and the total membership is down in numbers. While on the subject, there are still 1932 Ford Street Rods (2006 Membership Item) ready to roll down your street — so get those orders in before it is too late.

District meetings are now history and as in past years, Beamers are always such great hosts, whatever area you may be in. It is great to see everyone. You know in the Beam world there are no strangers, just a friend you haven’t been introduced to yet.

Linda & I did set up at several district meeting bottle shows. Maybe we didn’t make a lot of cash but it’s always a pleasure to see a smile on a Beamer’s face as they decide which wind chime, suncatcher, key chain, etc., to purchase or just stop by for a short visit to catch up on the latest news. Here’s hoping to see you again, to catch up on the latest news at our 36th International Convention in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, in June.

“You haven’t seen anything yet!”
Keep Smiling and Keep Beaming!

MEET DISTRICT 6’S NEW DIRECTOR

Hello Fellow Beamers,

My name is John R. Lochivski, but everybody in District 6 knows me simply as “BIG JOHN.” At this year’s District 6 Meeting, I was elected District 6 Director.

I worked in the steel industry for 37½ years. During those years, I worked every job in the scheduling office. When I retired, I was scheduling a Production Unit. I am currently working for a commercial baking company in Crown Point, Indiana, as an Inventory Assistant.

I became interested in collecting when my father would bring home Jim Beam bottles from the tavern where he worked.

I joined the Dreamer Beamers Club in 1986, but did not attend my club’s meetings until 1988. I attended my first District 6 Meeting in 1989 and have not missed a meeting since then. I was on the committee for our 10th and 15th birthday parties, as well as membership chairman for many years. I am currently club president. For the past four years I have been District 6 Door Prize Chairman. And for the past nine years I have been Illinois State Director.

I have been to eight International Conventions, and have worked on the Credentials and Door Prize Committees.

As District 6 Director I will work with your International Board to keep this organization strong. As Mr. Spock from Star Trek would say: May our hobby “Live Long and Prosper”!
They said it couldn't be done…. They said nobody would come…. But once again, like pulling the magic rabbit out of the hat, Connecticut Specialty had an incredible Christmas Party and a record number of people attended. We may be small but we are mighty. We had 77 people attend.

There were over 300 raffle prizes, Christmas poker, and gifts for wearing your nametags and for wearing your Santa hat.

Those guests who stayed for the following day’s “Brunch on Us” were treated to surprise bags in their rooms and some good old-fashioned night fun at the Stony Hill Inn — CT State Director Brenda Getchell and District 10 Treasurer Allan Getchell were the driving force for a “once again” achievement that all the naysayers pooh-pooh away.

A grand prize was given to the member who brought the most non-member guests: Doris Reimer of CT Specialty brought 17 new, potential members. She received a weekend stay, dinner included, for the Stony Hill for the upcoming year.

Regardless of our numbers, we continue to persevere – our friendships are too strong to let go of.
Dedication and Achievement Awards

Each year since 1979, specially made Jim Beam fox decanters have been presented as Dedication and Achievement Awards at our annual convention. They have been awarded to deserving Beamers who have been chosen on a state and district level, as well as on an International level. This year the voting procedure has been changed. First International’s eleven district directors voted on the resumes submitted, and the fifteen semi-finalists were then submitted to voting by the International’s Executive Officers and Past Presidents. The top seven vote-getters received the awards.

This is the seventh and final of a series of articles that spotlight each of the worthy Beamers who received one of these awards at the St. Louis Convention. The following resume is exactly as was read when the award was presented:

Our last award goes to a Beamer who has been a member since 1978 and has attended twenty-three conventions in twenty-six years. She was a founding member of her club, and has been on the club’s board for many years, including acting as club president. She has made club seat covers and vests for her club members. For more than twenty years she has attended all her own district meetings and many outside of her district as well. Internationally she has served on the Banner Parade Committee for many years, and always tries to participate in the parade herself. Her club considers her a most valuable member. We are pleased to present this award to Mickey Staab of St. Bernard Swinging Beamers.

Note Received From A Beamer

03/23/06

Hi,

I’m Marian Vitone, affiliated to the Buckeye Beamers Jim Beam Club. Last weekend I went on a bus trip to Springfield, Illinois, via historical Route 66. We stopped at many noteworthy attractions but the outstanding one was the stop at the Hall of Fame in Pontiac, Illinois. We spent at least a half hour there, as there was so much to see. In a showcase I spotted a plaque with Angelo Aggelopoulos’ picture on it. He was installed in the Hall of Fame in June of 2005. As you remember, he was the president of our Association many years ago. I think he was president two times. [Actually it was three times: 1978, 1982 and 1998.] His liquor store was in Wilmington, Illinois, on Route 66. I thought Jim Beam members would be happy to know this and perhaps visit the museum one day.

Jim Beam member since 1975 – helped start the club in Las Vegas, NV.
Sincerely, Marian Vitone
DISTRICT 6 MEETING
Contributed by Allan Kulikowski, Chicago Club Secretary

The District 6 Meeting was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, during the first weekend of April. There were 104 registered attendees. This is a view of some of them.

International VP George Finch manning his bottle show table.

These smiling faces belong to bottle dealer and MN State Director Garm Elder and International Product Development Chairman Ron Dommershausen.

Winners of the Newsletter Contest were Rubber Capital Club Editor Barbara Merville, 3rd place; Chicago Club Editor Allan Kulikowski, 2nd place; and Great Lakes Club Editor Kathy Mancini, 1st place. Shown here (L to R) after accepting the awards presented for the contest are Allan Kulikowski, Kathy Mancini and standing in for Barb Merville is Rubber Capital Club President (and International Secretary/Treasurer) Allan Hiscox.

District 6 officers shown here are (left to right) former Treasurer Judy Dremann, former Director Virgil Stegall, newly elected Director John Lochivski and newly elected Treasurer Kathy Mancini.

District 6 Director “Big John,” is shown here with two of the seventeen Beamers from other districts who joined in the festivities, International President Cecil Gillingham and International Executive Administrator Shelia Gillingham.
By no means have I ever considered myself any type of authority regarding Regal China or any of the various items it produced over the years. However, I have observed a rather large assortment of Regal China products during my 32+ years as a Beamer. And since becoming your editor four years ago, I’ve often thought that when space permitted within the pages of BATW I’d use the opportunity to share some of my more unusual observations with you. Although I can’t provide any documentation or undisputable facts about the items discussed in this article, I can at least make you aware of the existence of these items and offer what little information I have been able to learn about them.

**Picasso Pitchers**

I first noticed a white one of these unsymmetrical pitchers being offered as a Bingo prize in the hospitality room at the Memphis Convention. Then a few more were offered as raffle prizes at the St. Louis Convention last year — most of those were white as well, but I also saw a couple of them that were a medium shade of brown. Although they are unmarked, I was told that they were indeed Regal China. They stand approximately 9¾” high, 9” wide (side to side) and 4¾” from front to back.

When I asked Shirley (Sumbles) VerBrugge about them recently, she verified that “about 12 to 15” of them were in the big inventory lot that the International Association purchased from Regal China. She added that the reason they are called “Picasso pitchers” is because that is what was written on the boxes when the IAJBBSC got them from Regal China. She verified that she had only seen the two colors, too, and believes that they were samples that were never put into production.

I sent photos of a white one to Regal China’s former designer, Dave Nissen, and asked him if he could provide any information about them. Dave promptly called me and advised that he was not at all familiar with them; which is no doubt a good indication that they were created after he left Regal China in 1978.

Although everyone I’ve asked doubts that Pablo Picasso was in any way connected to the creation of the pitchers, they should still be a fairly rare and desirable collectible to a Regal China collector.

**One-Piece Salt & Pepper Shakers**

These somewhat comical shaker “sets” come in a wide variety of subject “pairs” but they are molded to their base and are thus actually one piece. The holes for shaking out their intended contents are located on the far ends of the unit, instead of on the top as expected. They stand approximately 4” high, 4½” wide, and 2” through (front to back). They are marked on their undersides with “Copyright © C. Miller” as shown in the final photo. Dave Nissen advised me that these Regal China shakers date back to the 1940s. He said they were made right after World War II, probably 1946. I purchased them via eBay.

**Gold Creamer & Sugar Set**

This attractive Florentine gold set, which dates to the 1950s, has the same textured finish as did the Royal Gold Diamond decanters from 1964 and the series of water pitchers released in 1975. Each piece stands less than 3” high (with lid removed from the sugar bowl), and is approximately 5” wide, including the handle(s). Dave Nissen designed them and, although they are unmarked, they are indeed Regal China. I found them at a flea market a few years ago and recognized them from pictures I had seen.

**Monkey Banks**

Most longtime Beamers are familiar with these banks as they are pictured in the *A Regal Collection of Jim Beam Go-Withs* books that the late Betty Honeyman compiled and
NA TRIVIA

Norden, BATW Editor

edited for the IAJBSC back in the 1980s, and they were also featured in a BATW article in July 1993. However, that BATW article states that the ones with pink jackets are slightly smaller than the others due to their “being glazed and hot painted”, which would cause some shrinkage. That may well be; but based on my own observations, I believe the smaller ones are smaller because they were created from a different master mold! A careful comparison will disclose several subtle but discernable mold differences between the smaller ones and the other ones, including the ones with the lamp feature. But the most distinguishable difference between them lies in the mold marking itself. On the smaller ones the © C. Miller is engraved into the jacket. Marking embossed out and is below the jacket. Marking engraved into the jacket. On the other ones, [1] the order of the marking is reversed with C. Miller above the © symbol and [2] it is embossed OUTWARD below the bottom of the monkey’s jacket. Both styles date back to the 1950s, and typically have white, flat, unfinished bottoms with an elevated area surrounding a cork or stopper.

During our years of shopping flea markets and antique shops, my husband and I acquired half a dozen monkey banks. We’ve kept five of them in our collection because of variations between them. Only one is the style with the engraved marking; it is indeed slightly smaller than the others, and its jacket is pink and under glaze. The other four are slightly larger and all feature the embossed marking: one has a “cold painted” red jacket; the 2nd has a glazed pink jacket (and a non-typical bottom with three molded ribs crossing it); the 3rd lacks a painted-on jacket and is glazed over a solid brown; and the 4th has a “cold painted” red jacket and the lamp features. I was curious enough about those variations that I showed the larger pink one with the embossed marking to Dave Nissen when my husband and I visited him at his home early last year. Dave said then that although the bank I showed him was a nice copy, it wasn’t made by Regal China. He said later that two of his children still have some of the original monkey banks that Regal China produced. After double-checking with them, Dave verified to me that their banks are both the smaller style with the marking engraved into the jacket. While I was drafting this article, my husband and I made a special trip to Dave Nissen’s home again to show him all five of our monkey banks and discuss them with him.

Dave shared the following about the origins of the monkey banks. He said he did not design them, but he did contribute to their design. He said Mr. Cravitz (owner of Regal China when the monkey banks were produced) showed him a plaster mock-up for the monkey banks one day and said that he wasn’t entirely pleased with it and asked Dave to rework it for him. Dave was leaving for Florida the following day, so he took it with him and returned two weeks later with the reworked monkey that was put into production. He said that most of the changes he made were to the monkey’s head and the upper portion of the mock-up.

Here is the interesting part… After examining all five of our banks, Dave declared that only the smaller one with the engraved marking was made by Regal China in Antioch, Illinois! He said that Regal China wouldn’t have normally made or used a second master mold and offered this possible explanation for the variation monkeys with the embossed marking: There was a fire at the old factory (circa 1954) and Regal China may have marketed out the project because they still had contract orders to fill. He said that perhaps a second mold was made in the aftermath of the fire so that production could continue. He suggested that another company (probably in Ohio) produced the larger monkey banks with the embossed marking for Regal China.

Dave pointed out two additional differences between our lone monkey bank with the engraved marking and the others. First, it has C-41 etched into its bottom surface, whereas none of the others have anything like that. Dave explained that Regal China routinely used such a series of letters and numbers for production control. Plus he pointed out the noticeable weight difference between that one bank and the others. It is definitely lighter in weight, and not just because it is smaller but also because it is made of finer china (Regal China). And, although I’ve heard other collectors speculate that the solid brown monkey banks were never released that way — that they started out with “cold painted” red jackets that somehow peeled away over the years – for some as yet unexplained reason, our solid brown monkey is noticeably heavier than any of the others. (Could it have been produced at a third location?)

But, as Dave noted, whether or not they were made at the factory in Antioch, all of the monkey banks are old enough and unique enough to have a place in the collectors’ market.

If any of you have questions about older Regal China items, you may send photos of them to Dave and he said he would be happy to provide answers to the best of his ability. Send them to: Dave Nissen, 397-1st Street, Antioch, IL 60002.
The District 5 Meeting was hosted by the Belle City Club in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, during the weekend of April 6-9. There were 123 registered attendees, including 13 from outside District 5. Many of them are shown here, attending the business meeting.

Some of the district officers seated on the dais during the business meeting were (L to R): IA State Director Ken DeMarce, District Historian Frank Schwenn, ND State Director Larry Berreth and MN State Director Garm Elder.

At the microphone is District Director Beth Hellwig and seated beside her are the rest of the district officers (L to R): District Secretary Sally Joosten, WI State Director John Hellwig and District Treasurer Tom Schneider.

The host club provided a serve-yourself luncheon in the hospitality room after the Saturday business meeting. A sizable group lingered afterward to watch an old video of the Beauty Contest from the 1992 St. Louis Convention.

The B’Gosh Club was well represented as their entire membership roster was in attendance – 100% attendance is a noteworthy accomplishment not usually achieved by any club. (It no doubt helped though that they currently have only eight members in their club.) Seated (L to R): Ivan Craig, Sr.; Elaine Craig; Ivan Craig, Jr., and Joyce Carrick. Standing: Elaine Olson, Chris Carrick, Lynn Loeper and Mike Loeper.

Donations of canned goods and cash were collected for charity. All donations, plus any leftover hospitality room food, was delivered to the Love & Charity Mission, a food kitchen for the less fortunate in Belle City’s home area of Racine, Wisconsin. District 5 increased the cash donation to $250 and Belle City’s Membership Director Ron Schenkenberg (far right) is shown here presenting the check to representatives of the mission in its basement chapel.
Banana Benders Turns Twenty-Five  
Submitted by J. Crane, President

In March 1981 a group of people got together to form a Jim Beam Bottle Club. John Anderson was elected our 1st President and Patricia Anderson our 1st Secretary — a position she still holds today.

In March 2006, we celebrated our 25th Birthday Party with 34 people — past and present members — attending a buffet luncheon.

We produced a small commemorative crock for the occasion, with raffles and door prizes drawn on the day. From all reports, everyone had a good time.

Secretary Patricia Anderson, first President John Anderson and current President Joan Crane cutting the birthday cake.

| Views of the special commemorative crock that the club produced. |

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**COMMENTS MADE IN THE YEAR 1955**  
Submitted by Patrice Bricker, District 1 Historian

1. “I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it’s going to be impossible to buy a week’s groceries for $20.”
2. “Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won’t be long before $2000 will only buy a used one.”
3. “If cigarettes keep going up in price, I’m going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.”
4. “Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?”
5. “If they raise the minimum wage to $1.00, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.”
6. “When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage.”
7. “Kids today are impossible, those duck tail hair cuts make it impossible to stay groomed.”
8. “I’m afraid to send my kids to the movies anymore. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying ‘damn’ in Gone With The Wind, it seems every movie has either ‘hell’ or ‘damn’ in it.”
9. “I read the other day where some scientist thinks it’s possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.”
10. “Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for $75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn’t surprise me if someday they’ll be making more than the President.”
11. “I never thought I’d see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.”
12. “It’s too bad things are so tough now a days. I see where a few married woman are having to work to make ends meet.”
13. “It won’t be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.”
14. “Marriage doesn’t mean a thing anymore, those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat.”
15. “I’m just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.”
16. “Thank goodness I won’t live to see the day when the Government takes half our income taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Congress.”
17. “The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.”
18. “There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly $15.00 a night to stay in a hotel.”
19. “No one can afford to be sick anymore; $35.00 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.”
20. “If they think I’ll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it.”
Several people have been asking me in recent years when I was going to include an article in BATW about my hobby of collecting and competitively showing model horses. As this is the last issue before convention, and I have little interest in continuing as editor after convention, this is my last chance to include such an article and still have editorial control over its contents myself. So obviously, it is now or never.

My interest in horses started the summer I was 13 when I became the owner of a real horse. He was a registered pinto, a black and white tobiano gelding. Around that same time, my parents gave me a Christmas present of a model horse. (It contained a nightlight feature — how garish is that?) I didn’t know it yet then, but that model horse was the first of many more to come. By the time I graduated from high school, I had accumulated three more — two were also Christmas presents and one (a black and white pinto) I had purchased myself. I still have all four of them, over 40 years later.

Sometime around 1980 I noticed a small cabinet of model horses on display at a local library. I located my four models that were then stored in the attic, fully intending to donate them to the person who owned the models I had seen at the library. Just until I had time to contact that person, I set those models in a shelf unit we had in our rec room. I suppose nostalgia set in or something, because I thought they looked rather nice in that shelf unit and I never did get around to making that contact call. Within the next couple of years, I purchased a few more pinto model horses and even started subscribing to a periodical, Just About Horses, (JAH) published by the best known manufacturer of model horses, Breyer Molding Company.

Then while we were staying at the Galt House during the 1987 Beam Convention, I spotted another Breyer pinto horse in the gift shop of the hotel. I asked my husband to buy it for me, he did, and my horse collection really started snowballing after that. (Notice that it can all be blamed on my husband for me, he did, and my horse collection really started snowballing after that. (Notice that it can all be blamed on my husband for taking me to that Beam convention and buying me that horse.) My entire “herd” at that point totaled to less than two-dozen models, still mostly pintos. My husband’s next mistake was offering to move some of his Beam bottles from the display shelves in one corner of our family room so that I could have more space to display my model horses. Today my herd numbers over 2,500 models and they not only fill up all the shelves in one corner of our family room so that I could have more space to display my model horses. Today my herd numbers over 2,500 models and they not only fill up all the display space in our family room, they have also spilled over into other rooms of our house as well. I collect all colors now, but still prefer pintos.

Collecting model horses was only the beginning … in 1989 I entered a model horse show for the first time. Model horse shows are not just buying and selling like is done with bottles at a bottle show. Instead model horse shows are judged competitions, requiring entry fees and some expensive equipment — just like at shows for real horses. And although the size of the models and equipment may be scaled down when compared to real horses, the competition can be just as tough and the judging just as biased as can be encountered at real horse shows. The models judged to be the best at model horse shows typically win ribbons and/or other awards, just as real horses can do at their shows. The good thing about model horses though is the owner doesn’t have to muck stalls, transport feed or worry about shots, colic and things of that nature.

There are two distinct types of model horse shows: live shows and photo shows. Live shows require actual attendance, while photo shows only require mailing in photos of the models you wish to enter in the competition. I’ve never gotten involved in photo showing; I only live show my models. Live shows are usually held in hotel ballrooms, church halls, banquet halls, or wherever space can be found to accommodate a large number of tables. One eight-foot table is customarily provided for each exhibitor attending a show. Each exhibitor claims that table as their own space as they unpack and prepare their models. There are sometimes tables available at live shows for vending as well. Plus there needs to be adequate space to accommodate several single rows of tables that are used as “arenas” for presenting models during the judging process. Those tables need to be fully accessible from both sides so that the judges can scrutinize the models, as needed.

Model horse shows are typically divided into separate divisions for china models, resin models, plastic models, and customized models. I only collect and show original-factory-finish plastic models. Within the divisions at a show, there are typically performance showing and halter showing. Performance showing requires props to help the exhibitor replicate a freeze-frame moment in the life of a real horse … clearing jumps, pulling a wagon, working cattle, or perhaps just walking a trail. Performance competition is further split into individual groupings, called “classes,” so that certain subjects only compete against similar subjects. I used to compete in performance classes but had to give it up because my aging back no longer tolerates all the necessary bending down over tabletop “arenas” to tweak entries.

Halter showing is split into specific breed type categories — such as Stock, Light, Spanish, Gaited, Draft, Pony and Other. And then there are sub-categories within each breed type. For instance Stock Breeds are usually split into separate classes for Appaloosas, Paints, Quarter Horses and Other (Stock Breeds). Depending on how large the show is, there may
also be further splits, by gender.

Each class is judged by an individual judge who compares each model entered in that class against all the other models entered in that class. One model will be determined to be the best entry and it will be awarded 1st place. The second best entry will receive 2nd place, etc. The number of total entries in a class can vary; I've seen some classes with more than 100 entries. Some shows award ribbons only to 5th or 6th place and other shows award them all the way to 10th place. It is customary for all 1st and 2nd place winners in each class to be called back to the arenas after each sub-category has been judged so that the judge can select a champion and reserve champion (runner-up to the champion). In turn, champions and reserves are customarily called back to the arenas again so that an overall (or grand) champion and reserve can be selected for that division at the end of the show. I usually show between 60 and 85 of my models in halter classes per live show that I attend. I've gained enough knowledge and experience over the years that my models routinely win dozens of ribbons, including some of the top awards, at each show.

The judge judges the models on either breed standards or on collectability, depending on the particular rules for each show. Most shows have the judging done by breed standards – and as crazy as it sounds, some models are more conformationally correct for a specific breed/type of horse than are other models. Color correctness counts too, as does a clean, flaw free entry. Collectability is judged on age, rarity and condition of the model.

In the real horse world, most people specialize in a single type or breed of horses. In model horses, both the exhibitor and the judge need to be well informed on many breeds of horses.

Although I live in Wisconsin, I have been a member of a model horse club in the Chicago area since 1991. It is Great Lakes Congress (GLC), now a 501c3 non-profit corporation, and it alone typically hosts eight or ten model horse shows per year. There are many other model horse shows held each year; and in addition to Wisconsin and Illinois shows, I've routinely traveled to Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky to exhibit some of my models. I've also competed at shows in Ohio, Missouri and California. Plus, I've judged at several different shows in six of those states.

Breyer Molding Company, makers of the best-known model horses, produced their first models in 1950. In 1990 they started holding an annual event they call BreyerFest. It is a 3-day event held in late July every year at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY. Thousands of hobbyists attend, some coming from far away lands. Last year there were approximately 4,000 ticket packages sold.

I've attended all of the KY BreyerFests, and even an extra one held in Pennsylvania in 1991. At Breyer's request, I've been a presenter at seminars there and I've routinely been a judge/staff member at the model horse shows they hold there. Breyer rewards those of us who they ask to “work” during BreyerFest with a wonderful “special run” model every year. They only make a set number of them, so naturally I'm willing and eager to do the tasks they ask of me in order to secure one of those special models. At their request, I've also written an article for their JAH magazine, supplied them with photos of some of my models for their catalog or magazine articles, and even loaned them vintage models from my collection so they could make castings to replace a lost or damaged mold.

My husband and I also had the thrilling experience of being included in The Premier Event that Breyer hosted in New Jersey in early 2002. It was limited to only 200 people, included a tour of their factory, and each of us had the privilege of receiving an exclusive, specially designed model horse.

The hobby also has an organization by the name of North American Model Horse Shows Association (NAMHSA). I served on its Board from 1998 through 2003. NAMHSA holds major annual event known as North American Nationals (NAN) where top placing models that have earned qualifying tickets at various approved shows around the US and Canada can meet at one big event to compete for national championships.

At NAN a panel of three judges independently judge each class and the scores they give the entries are tabulated and averaged by computer in order to determine the winners. There is no 1st, 2nd or 3rd place at NAN; instead the ten models with the best scores in each class each receive a Top Ten Award. The two models achieving the highest scores are then declared the National Champion and Reserve National Champion, respectively, for that class.

The Premier Event that Breyer hosted in New Jersey...
Photo Memories From 2005 Convention

Thanks to James Woods.
What memories will the 2006 Convention Bring?

Thanks for the Memories
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**Death Notice**

**Gay Lacy**  
Former Oregon Beaver Member

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**S.B.S.B. Pig Roast**

**September 15th & 16th**  
Meeting on the 17th

Food, Fun, Entertainment & Open Bar  
Kevin’s Famous Deep Fried Turkey  
Horseshoes, Swings, Fishing, Paddle Boating,  
Swimming, Hayrides, Poker & Corn hole Tournaments

**Friday Evening**

23rd Pig Out Birthday Party  
Dinner & Live Entertainment

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**Saturday Evening**

**Annual Duck Regatta No. 2**  
Theme: It’s Fiesta Time  
Dress Accordingly  
Raffle (150+ items)

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**Club Project**

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**June**

1   Deadline for Membership Maintain / Gain Contest; and/or for ordering convention packages.

16 – 23   36th International Convention, to be held at The Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, KY. (For hotel reservation form, see page 7 of the February or March issues of BATW.)

**September**

15 – 17   St. Bernard Swingin’ Beammers Pig Roast at “The Farm”, SR 123, Lebanon, OH. For further information see the ad on this page or contact Jody Wik at 513-683-5793.

22 – 24   32nd Annual Minnesota Fall Fest, hosted by Gopher State Club. For further details, see the ad on page this or contact Garm Elder at 952-898-5579 or email garmanelder5579@msn.com.

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**2006**
NURSES THREE – Barbara Morrison, Mary Kulikowski and Cindy Hiscox who have been the First Aid Coordinators at our recent conventions are hoping that all of you coming to the Ft. Mitchell Convention will remember to fill out the Medical Registration Form page that was in the May issue of BATW so that you can deliver it to them there. Don’t forget!