

The Potomac Pontil

The Potomac Bottle Collectors Serving the National Capital



February 2003

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Meeting February 25th

Annual Banquet: We will meet promptly at **7:30 PM** for our annual awards banquet, where we will announce the winners of the contests held at the January meeting. The club will provide a main dish. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass, but we will feed all who show up.

January Meeting

Our annual contest featured a good variety of acquisitions. The top photo here features the candidates for *Shard of the Year*. These include two otherwise unknown DC bottles as well as pontiled and colored pieces.

Entries for *Collector of the Year* are shown at right. These items were accompanied by some interesting stories. One lucky club member bought the Tippecanoe bottle at a thrift store for \$5. The Mason jar is one of only two unbroken examples known that bear a picture of the American flag, but the amber flask may be even rarer. This local Base Ball House flask is not listed in our bottle book, and no one at the meeting knew of another one.



Meetings: 8:00 PM on the last Tuesday of each month in the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816.
President: Matt Knapp Vice President: Henry Fuchs Secretary: Jim Sears Treasurer: Ken Anderson
Pontil: Jim Sears (email: searsjim@usa.net, PH: 703/243-2409) & Andy Goldfrank (email: amg_sticky@yahoo.com, PH: 202/588-0543)
Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/potomacbt/bottle2.htm> Maintained by Peter Rydquist: pshraug@aol.com

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Intelligence sources informed me that the First Lady of the Potomac Bottle Club is interested in launching a war with the Baltimore Antique Bottle Club. I am unclear as to the reasons for this bellicose attitude but I can tell you that ours is a peaceful club. Although we are surrounded by forces, such as Delmarva on our eastern flank, York to the north, Pittsburgh to the west and Potomac and Richmond to the south, we have never threatened war with any club, we are not imperialistic, and we desire to exist in peace.

Make no mistake about it, we would be a formidable opponent to conquer. True, the average age of our membership is 78. But if you drop the oldest 2 members from our ranks, the average age then becomes 41. Moreover, we have an arsenal that is unparalleled by most clubs: our members have Baltimore torpedoes, fire grenades, poisons, and a wide array of demijohns and stoneware. Even more imposing, we have apple parers—quite the unique weapon in a bottle club.

In the unlikely event we would lose such a war, our foxhole diggers are prepared to go back and fill all the holes they created, leaving behind only the shards from their efforts and a few common beers. In addition, our members who continuously lose out on the eBay front are willing to place their unlimited unspent resources in a vast war chest.

To avert a war, I invite the Potomac's First Lady and others carrying your flag to join the legions of inspectors and visit our Essex palace on March 2. Our members, along with allies from over 25 states, the District of Columbia and 3 foreign powers, will occupy over 300 positions.

Everyone will be able to seek out and inspect tens of thousands of vessels of glass construction. All items will be on the table in clear view of the inspectors; nothing will be hidden under the tables. Any damaged or reproduced vessels must have full disclosure or there will be a material breach of the contract.

Led by our illustrious commander, **Col. Robert F. Ford, Jr.**, our palace will be well organized, fully staffed, secured and efficient. The palace gates will be opened at 0800 hours to all those who wish to examine and procure these vessels of glass



construction. We'll even tell everyone what his or her vessels are worth. And Col. Ford will strongly enforce the doctrine of no parking on the grass so that we can keep the palace for years to come.

In the end, we will prevail. I'm inspired by my war hero and fellow president George Washington, who said, "I agreed to what?"

Best wishes during these turbulent times,

Steve Charing
Commander-in Chief
Baltimore Antique Bottle Club

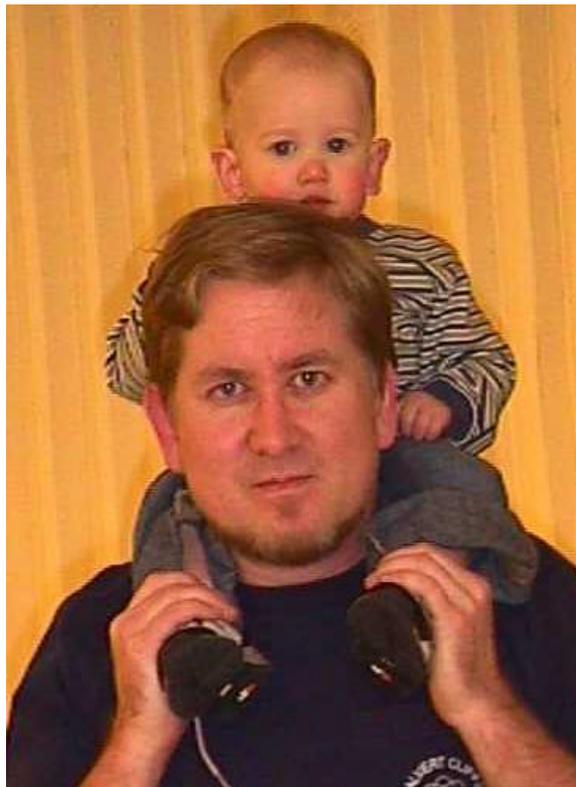
Editor's note: The Potomac response to Charing's outrageous charges can be found on page 3 in the form of our State of the Club Address.



Baltimore leader **Steve Charing** (at right in photo) plots with **Col. Ford** during a secret conference in June 2002.

State of the Club Address

*The Potomac Bottle Collectors convened on Tuesday, January 28th to hear **President Matt Knapp** (shown below with a young supporter) deliver the annual State of the Club Address. Although most of those present somehow missed hearing this speech, **Secretary of the Pontil Jim Sears** faithfully recorded it and provides the following transcript.*



Members of the Federation, distinguished club officers, and fellow citizens, every year, by law, we meet to consider the state of the club. This year, we gather in this chamber deeply aware of the Baltimore show that lies ahead.

For centuries Baltimore has been amassing poisons, fire grenades, torpedoes, and other

dangerous bottles. Year after year, the Baltimore club members have gone to elaborate lengths, spent enormous sums, taken great risks to obtain and keep vessels of glass construction. But why? The only possible explanation, the only possible use they could have for these bottles is to dominate or attack.

Despite an ultimatum from the Potomac Security Counsel, Baltimore president Steve Charing has left Potomac diggers to seek rare bottles in waterlogged dumps and exceptionally deep privies. Now it is time for Baltimore to show exactly where it is hiding its bottles, to lay those bottles out for the world to see, and to relinquish them as directed.

Some have said we must not act until the threat is imminent. But if Baltimore is permitted to develop a nuclear device and start turning our bottles funny colors, all actions, all words and all recriminations would come too late. Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Steve Charing is not a strategy, and it is not an option.

The Potomac Bottle Collectors will ask concerned citizens to convene in Essex, Maryland on March 2nd to consider the facts of Baltimore's ongoing defiance of the world. Secretary of the Pontil Jim Sears will present information and intelligence about Baltimore's vessels of glass construction, its attempts to hide those bottles from diggers, and its links to terrorist groups.

We will consult with our FOHBC allies, but let there be no misunderstanding. If the Baltimore show does not offer an excellent selection of bottles for the gratification of our collectors and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to overthrow the Charing regime.



Odds & Ends

Peter Rydquist has reprinted a dozen copies of *Antique Bottles from the DC Area*. This will be the final printing of the current edition. Club members will have first chance at these copies at our February meeting.

Matt Knapp polled members about alternate meeting nights. The result was that Thursday would be just as good as Tuesday for most members. We always seem to be in conflict with AA meetings on Tuesday evening, and it remains to be seen whether Thursday would be better in that regard.

Mike Fasano sends his thoughts on the possibility of changing the meeting night: "Tuesday is my chorus night, and it is rare

John Krouse has agreed to bring refreshments for our March meeting. Please contact **Jim Sears** if you are willing to bring refreshments for a subsequent meeting.

Upcoming Area Bottle Shows

March 1 (9 AM to 3:30 PM) **Maryland Line, Maryland:** Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club's 15th Annual Show & Sale (Sat. 9 AM – 3:30 PM) at the Maryland Line Fire Hall, I-83 just south of the PA border, Maryland Line, Maryland. Info: **Larry Novak** PH: (301) 680-8910, email: cbic@clubs.insulators.com, web site: <http://www.insulators.com/clubs/cbic>

March 2 (8 AM to 3 PM) **Baltimore, Maryland:** Baltimore Antique Bottle Club 23rd Annual Show & Sale at the Physical Education Center, Essex Campus of the Community College, 7201 Rossville Blvd. Info: **Bob Ford** PH: (410) 531-9459, email: bottles@comcast.net.

March 9 (9 AM to 3 PM) **Tylersport, Pennsylvania:** The 9th Annual Bucks-Monts Bottle Show & Sale at the Tylersport Fire Co., Route 563, Tylersport, Pennsylvania. Info: **Claude A. Wambold**, 1837 Perkiomenville Rd., Perkiomenville, PA 18074, PH: (215) 234-8413, E-mail: arlene@netcarrier.com or **Gregory Gifford**, 832 Clover Dr., North Wales, PA 19454, PH: (215) 699-5216.

March 22 (9 AM to 3 PM, early admission 7:30 AM) **Raleigh, North Carolina:** Raleigh Bottle Club's 3rd Annual Show & Sale at the State Fairgrounds Holshouser Building, Hillsborough St. & Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, North Carolina. Info: **David Tingen**, P. O. Box 18083, Raleigh, NC 27619-8083, PH: (919) 848-4387, E-mail: RBC@antiquebottles.com, Web site: <http://www.antiquebottles.com/raleigh>.

April 27 (9 AM to 5 PM) **Harrisonburg, Virginia:** The Historical Bottle Diggers of Virginia 32nd Annual Show & Sale at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, U.S. Route 11 South (Exit 243 off I-81). Info: **Sommy Smiley**, 1025 Greendale Rd., Harrisonburg, VA 22801, PH: (540) 434-1129, email: lithaman1@yahoo.com

May 18 (9 AM to 3 PM) **Washington, Pennsylvania:** Washington County Antique Bottle & Insulator Club's 29th Annual Show & Sale at the Alpine Star Lodge, 735 Jefferson Ave. (I-70 exit 17), Washington, Pennsylvania. Info: **Russ Crupe**, 52 Cherry Rd., Avella, PA 15312, PH: (724) 345-3653, E-mail: heidirus@mlynk.com

August 10 (9 AM to 3PM) **Bethesda, Maryland:** Potomac Bottle Collector's Annual Show & Sale at the Washington Waldorf School, 4800 Langamore Rd. (off Massachusetts Ave. inside the Washington Beltway), Bethesda, Maryland. Info: **Jim Sears**, PH: (703) 243-2409, E-mail: searsjim@usa.net



Club member **Jeff Jones** continues to offer unusual local bottles on Ebay under the name **turddog**. The J.A. Duffy variation shown here remains to be listed in our *Antique Bottles from the DC Area*.

