## PUBLICATIONS FROM YEARS PAST, NOW DIGITIZED... By Randy Karasek

Our beer can collecting hobby has had numerous publications over the years, with the 1970's and early 1980's producing an abundance of information. In addition to core books such as Beer Cans Unlimited and the Beer Cans Collectors Bible, did you know:

- The first Rustlings appeared February 1984, in an undated eight-page newsletter.
- The Rusty Bunch has published 250 individual Rustlings by seven editors: Pete Johnson 17 issues (#1-17), Ron Greenblatt 34 issues (#18-51), Phil Stayman 71 issues over two terms (#52-82 and #133-172), Tom Chegash 3 issues (#83-85), Ed Welter 47 issues (#86-132), Chris Taylor 15 issues (#173-187) and our current editor Kevin Dooley 63 issues (#188-250) and counting...
- Beer Cans Monthly first appeared July 1978, renamed to the bi-monthly Brewery Collectibles in 1982, quietly ceasing publication May 1984.
- That the paper in the following pictures represent over 5,800 pages of Rustlings, 1,897 pages of Beer Cans Monthly, and 440 pages of Brewery Collectibles:





Now a few more questions regarding these publications:

- Were you collecting in July 1978 or February 1984, and aware these publications even existed, so were able to acquire all of the published issues? And if you were, did you keep your subscriptions current and actually save a complete set?
- Can you find articles such as the Beer Cans Monthly "Can Spotlight", picturing the three cans New Yorker Ale, Beer, and Half and Half in less than a second? I sure can. How about looking at BCM, July 1982, page 11.
- Can you quickly find every one of Dick Adamowicz's "Trash to Treasures", or Gene Rose's "Did You Know", or every Andy Galamba "Rustoon", or all articles that you personally submitted? Again, in just seconds?

What if I told you that large stack of beer can collecting magazines/newsletters, over 8,100 pages of priceless (and some not) information covering our collecting past, has now been digitized into the following three CD set, or soon to be single DVD?

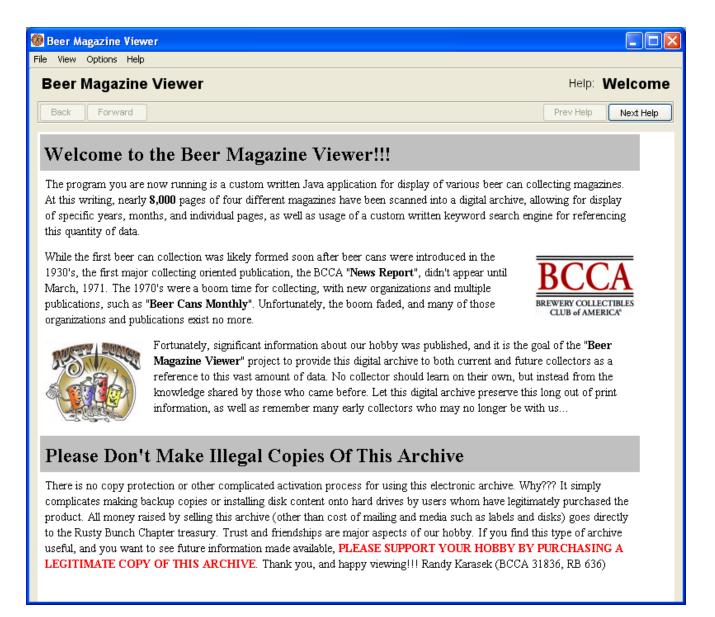


That's right, over the past 2005 I have scanned <u>each and every page</u> of the hardcopy newsletters and magazines into electronic format, cleaned up each individual JPEG page (e.g. rips, staples, some alignment) with Photoshop, "edited in" some color photos to replace grainy black and white, and wrote a custom Java viewer application with the ability to view individual pages, table of contents, and thumbnail images of each magazine cover. Also included is a custom written keyword search engine to search by any reference, title of article, or author of an article. All packaged with a professional setup/install process, able to run on Windows XP/2000, Mac X, or Unix workstation platforms!!!

Would you be interested in purchasing this digitized package, able to electronically view and search all of Rustlings, Beer Cans Monthly, and Brewery Collectibles? What type of price would you think fair for the Rusty Bunch Chapter to sell such a product? Remember, many individual monthly issues would cost you \$2 or more if you wanted to photocopy the printed material, if you can even find some of these long out-of-print originals.

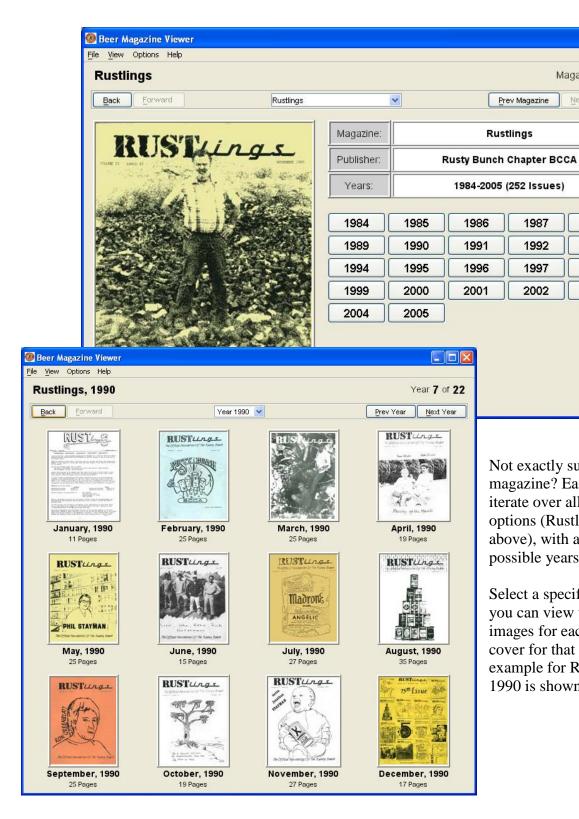
Current plans are to release version 1.0 of this product spring of 2006 (search keys must still be generated for earlier Rustlings issues), with evaluation copies already distributed to a small number of Rusty Bunch members. My thoughts are to sell the entire package in the \$25-30 range (which would include shipping), with all net profits (gross proceeds minus cost of media, labels and shipping) donated to the Rusty Bunch Chapter treasury. Frankly, with the number of man-hours invested in scanning, editing, and programming the setup and viewer applications, \$25-30 is ridiculously cheap!!!

Distribution of this product, final packaging, as well as any licensing issues will be discussed at Blue/Gray 2006. If interested, find me there and lets chat or perhaps view a demo. Or, if you have questions, suggestions, or comments on packaging, licensing or pricing, you can contact Randy Karasek at <a href="mailto:archive@therustybunch.com">archive@therustybunch.com</a>. The next few pages show some sample screen shots. Happy viewing...  $\odot$   $\odot$ 



This is the initial welcome screen to the viewer. This welcome screen, help topics, and information about the viewer are all written in HTML and displayable in basic browser format. However, the Beer Magazine Viewer is not a web browser, but instead a custom written Java application with knowledge about the data it is showing. It is possible to select a specific magazine, year and month, or to navigate around browsing for content of interest.

Note: There are no plans for any copy protection on the CD's, or any other complicated activation process. We may have some simple, optional registration (e.g. name and an email address) so you can be notified of new versions or updated data CDs, but again, it will be purely optional. This is a <u>hobby</u> and simple trust that most collectors will contribute to the chapter for value they will receive.



Not exactly sure which magazine? Easy. You can iterate over all available options (Rustlings shown above), with a list of all possible years displayed.

Magazine 5 of 5

Next Magazine

1988

1993

1998

2003

Prev Magazine

1987

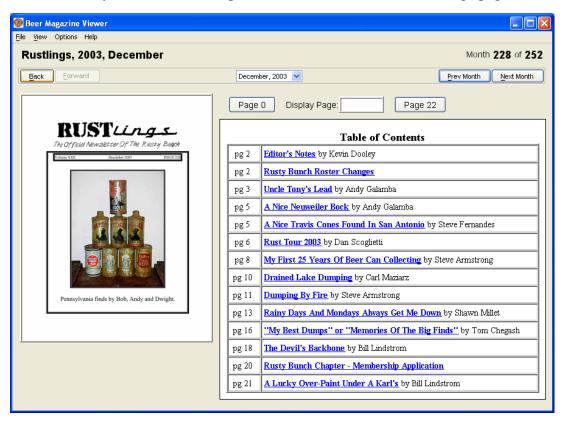
1992

1997

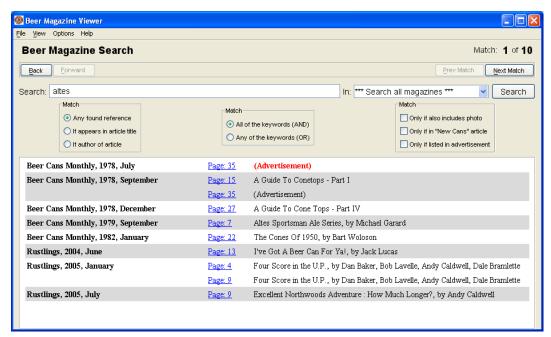
2002

Select a specific year and you can view thumbnail images for each magazine cover for that year. An example for Rustlings, 1990 is shown to the left.

Clicking on a given thumbnail cover page will display more info for that specific month; a larger cover picture, ability to enter a specific page number, or a hyperlinked table of contents where you can click on a specific article to view the JPEG image pages.



Not sure in which magazine/year/month/page a given article resides? Easy again, just type a few keywords into the search engine and let the viewer find matches for you!



If you aren't looking for anything in particular and just want to read some great articles, use the "Featured Articles" window. Interested in new cans and what month/year they were first mentioned, use the "New Cans / Recent Issues" window.



And finally, everything comes with a user-friendly setup process. Just insert any of the disks into a Windows XP/2000 environment and follow simple on-screen instructions!



