

Date: 11:31 PM CDT, 07/05/2018

From: Urban Knaves of Grain Communications <communications@knaves.org>

To: Kevin <woj@kiltedhopbrewing.com>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - June 2018 🍺🍺🍺



Knaves Knews

UKG... Because home is where great beer is brewed!

June 2018

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Abbess - **Eileen Uchima**

First Lady / Head Penguin -

Welcome Address



Hail Knaves!

Well, we have one meeting on our new day behind us now. Summer meetings do tend to be a bit on the small side, so hopefully the low attendance was because of vacations. Don't forget, we are now meeting on the third Tuesday of the month due to scheduling difficulties at Alter Brewing. The space (and house beer) is definitely great so I hope that the day change has not inconvenienced too many of you. That said, our July meeting will be on Tuesday, July 17. The board has discussed doing the announcements a little earlier so that we have a bit more time afterwards for socializing

Mike Uchima*Master of Coin - **Darrell*****Proksa***Communications Minister -***Kevin "Woj" Wojdak***Chaplain of Education -***Andy Day***Sister of Events Planning -***Luann Fitzpatrick***Minister of Tournaments -***Jeff Landers***Retired Abbot - **Chuck Fort***Newsletter Contributions

Ed Bronson - Photography

Mike Uchima - Photography

**Communications
Channels**

ukg.slack.com

Click here to request an invite

from a Board member.

and special activities...like July's BBQ themed competition! In case you haven't heard, we are having a barbeque sauce and sides competition. Make up a batch of your favorite beer-infused barbeque sauce or a cookout-themed side dish, the club will provide the meat, plates, etc. The only catch is that you must be willing to share the recipe! Please let us know via Slack or email what you are bringing so that we can plan the meat accordingly. Arrive by 7:30 so that you can get your entries set up and have time to grab a beer before announcements at 7:45.

By the time you read this, we will probably know the UKG medal count from Nationals in Portland. Good luck, congratulations, or better luck next year, whichever is appropriate!

If you aren't one of the lucky club members in Portland, I hope that you are able to participate in the first-ever Church Street Brew Meet on June 30. It's hard to pass up an opportunity to brew in the company of other homebrewers, especially when you are being supplied with free wort! See the calendar on the UKG website for more details.

As we go to press, we are still working on a location for July's tech session. If you have any ideas of a venue for this and future tech sessions, please let us know.



ukg-

subscribe@yahoogroups.com

ukg@yahoogroups.com

(Membership requires approval)

Editor's Note:

*Most images in the newsletter
can be enlarged to see further
detail. Simply click on the image
and it will open into a new
window.*

On August 18 we will be joining the good folks of CHAOS for their Brew BQ Homebrew Club Fest. We had a great time last year and are looking for volunteers to share a batch of beer for this event. Remember, UKG does reimburse for ingredients for beers brewed for fests. Just let us know if you are interested.

We also have plans for a summer picnic (probably in July) in the works, so stay tuned for details. Watch the calendar and check email and Slack for this and other announcements.

Slainte,
Eileen

P.S. Please remember that this is *YOUR* club. Your suggestions are always welcome! Please consider contributing a short article or photos for the newsletter, a suggestion for a Tech Talk, or a Social Night venue idea. Email [**Knews@Knaves.org**](mailto:Knews@Knaves.org).

Welcome to Our New Members!

- None at this time.
-

July Meetings and Events

- *Thursday, June 12th @ 7:30 p.m.* - Tech session - Topic: Sour Beer Blending
Location: TBD
- *Tuesday, July 17th @ 7:30 p.m.* - Club Meeting, Alter Brewing, Downers Grove.
Special event: Beer-Infused BBQ Sauces and Side Dishes competition.

For more details on these events, see below or the **Club Calendar on the website**.

Tech Sessions

Recent Past:

Thursday, June 14th @ 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED.

Upcoming:

Thursday, July 12th @ 7:30 p.m. - Sour Beer Blending
Location: TBD

Elections

There are three elected positions within the club each with a 1 year term. They are:

- President
- Treasurer
- Communications Officer

Every year, the club as a group elects to keep the current officers in place or nominates new individuals for the positions. Club elections take place every year with nominations at the May meeting and voting at the June meeting.

The vote took place at the June meeting and all three of the current club officers were reelected. They are:

- UKG President - Eileen Uchima



- Treasurer - Darrell Proksa



- Communications Officer - Kevin Wojdak ("Woj")



Competitions



Nationals Finals

June 30th - NHC Finals, Portland, Oregon

Dave Fetty - 3rd place for his Saison



Other Competition Wins

June 9th - 24th Annual Boneyard Brew Off from BUZZ, Urban IL

- Kevin Wojdak - 2nd place for his “Jucy Juice Adult Drink Box” NEIPA

June 16th - **BUZZ Off 24** from BUZZ, West Chester, PA

- Kevin Wojdak - 3rd for his “Wow! That’s Big Cider!” New World Cider

June 19th - Urban Knaves of Grain Knighted Knave Cup, ***Best of Big Brew Day 2018***

- Kevin Wojdak - Won by a landslide with his “Jucy Juice Adult Drink Box” NEIPA

June 23rd - **A Walk on the Wildside (Results)** from Special Hoperations, Tampa FL

- Jeff Landers with Tom Hayosh
 - 1st for his “Tom Hayosh Hates American Lite Lagers” Sour Barrel Aged Tripel
- Kevin Wojdak with the UKG Cabernet Franc Barrel Brewers.
 - 3rd for his Cabernet Franc Barrel-Aged Belgian Tripel



Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Standings

UKG is leading the way with 2 members in the top 2!!!

- Jeff Landers is in 1st place
- Jay Kash is in 2nd place

Upcoming Competitions

- July 14th, 2018 - **Indiana State Fair Brewer's Cup** from Brewers of Indiana Guild, Indianapolis, IN. Registration May 27 thru June 15, 2018. - **MWHBOTY qualifier**
- July 14th, 2018 – **2018 Ohio Brew Week Homebrew Competition**. Registration now through June 29, 2018
- July 21, 2018 **For What It's Wort** from the Association of Bloomington Normal Brewers, Bloomington/Normal, IL Registration now through July 7, 2018
- July 27th, 2018 - **German Fest Stein Challenge** from Beer Barons, Milwaukee, WI. Part of the German Festival in Milwaukee. All German Beer Styles Only. Registration June 1 thru July 13, 2018. - **MWHBOTY qualifier**
- **Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Circuit Competitions**



Contributions by Jeff Landers

Knighted Knave

Knighted Knave Judging at June Meeting

“Big Brew Day 2018”

With the shuffling of schedules, we judged the next round of the Knighted Knave intra-club competition. This round of the competition didn't focus on a single style as it often does, instead this time we judged all beers made from

the same starting wort according to whatever the end style was. Everyone was very creative with the base (Prairie Path) wort, we had beers ranging from several IPA styles, all the way to a coffee stout.



All 15 judges sampled all 8 entries, so we used a LOT of cups but we were able to find a winner. All of the beers were evaluated in a Best of Show format where each beer is judged as what is the best example of what it is supposed to be. Each judge then votes for their top 3 beers, 1st gets 3 points, 2nd gets 2 points and 3rd gets 1 point. We had a tie for 3rd place, just one point behind 2nd, so we had some competition, but the Cup Winner ran away with it with 26 points (10 points ahead of 2nd).

Congratulations to Kevin "Woj" Wojdak for his winning NEIPA! He will be awarded the Knighted Knave Cup at the next meeting and the next round of the Cup will be announced later this year!

Festivals

The UKG participates in several festivals throughout the year. Our 2017 participation involved pouring our homebrew at 3 different events in Lake Zurich, Lombard, and Racine (WI) bringing more awareness about our brewing and the club to the community. This year, we have the following events already in the works:

- **August 18, 2018 - CHAOS Homebrew Club Fest** - More details to come later.

- **September 15th, 2018** from 3-6:30 p.m., **Great Lakes Brew Fest**, Racine, WI - Four club members attended in 2017 and poured 9 beers and a cider. We had some of the best homebrew out for the day.

Signups for this one include *Woj* and *Noah Wojdak* so far. Email Festivals@knaves.org to join in the fun.



If anyone has a suggestion for an event we should participate in or if you're interested in signing up for one of them, please email Woj at Festivals@knaves.org.

Financials

Annual Dues

If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please click one of the links below to pay them online.



As communicated in prior newsletters, annual membership renewal dues are now **\$20**.

New members joining after July 1st pay **\$10** for the remainder of the year. Renewal will be \$20 for the next year.

Cash or check payable to "UKG" will be accepted at club meetings by Darrell Proksa.

You can also remit dues via PayPal on the UKG website at <http://www.knaves.org/member.html> or click the link below.

[Click here to Pay Now.](#)

Questions about dues? Please contact Darrell at treasurer@knaves.org.

Member News

This section is for members making the news or who have been highlighted in the news lately.

Nothing new to report.

Written by Kevin "Woj" Wojdak

Club Schwag

LogoUp.com Merchandise

We have an account at LogoUp.com for making UKG club logo embroidered

shirts, hats, bags, and a whole lot of other cool products. The merchandise is top quality and you can even get a club logo on name brand products such as Nike, Izod, or Under Armor. There are no minimums for orders and we can place an order anytime. Go to LogoUp.com and pick out items you want. Then, email Woj at marketing@knaves.org with your item numbers and colors and he'll coordinate placing the order with you.



UKG Bottle Labels

We have 4 sets of UKG bottle labels available for immediate sale. The labels are vinyl, reusable, write-on labels and are available in Charcoal Gray or Brown. Labels come with a front-facing label and neck label. Labels may be written on with grease pencil for easy reuse. Each set of 12 labels is \$7.50.



PAID Products to Pickup - Contact Woj!

- Michael Flack - 24 Bottle Labels

UKG Work Shirts

Our official UKG work shirts are Charcoal Gray Dickies brand work shirts with the club logo over the left pocket and a full back transfer of the woodcut graphic on the back. Optionally, you may get your name and/or homebrewery name embroidered over the right pocket.



Club work shirts orders are placed by special order with our vendor and custom made to order. We place a new order 1-2 times per year and need to order so

many shirts to make the order happen. Contact Woj at marketing@knaves.org to get on the list for the next order.

Club woodcut graphic T-Shirts are also ordered at that time.

Questions about Club Schwag or interest to buy anything? Please talk to Woj or email him at marketing@knaves.org.

Knowledge Share



Tour of a Vanilla Farm

By Mike and Eileen Uchima

In early May, Eileen and I spent a few days in the Kona area (Western coast) of the Big Island of Hawaii. (No, we didn't see any lava, but we felt the magnitude 6.9 earthquake which preceded most of the volcanic activity!)

One of the interesting things we did while we were there was tour a small vanilla farm, *The Vanillerie*, just outside town. JR, the farm manager, was very



friendly and personally gave us a private tour of the facility, explaining in great detail how vanilla farming is done.

What we call vanilla beans are actually the seed pod (fruit) of the vanilla orchid, a tropical vine. The farm we toured grows them under large open structures which are covered with shade cloth to simulate the vanilla orchid's native habitat, the shady understory of the rain forest. New vines are propagated via cuttings, and can take several years before they start to produce fruit.

Each individual flower on the vanilla orchid must be pollinated by hand to ensure that a fruit is produced; this is done by using a toothpick to transfer the pollen from the anther to the stigma of the blossom. Since each blossom is open for only a day or so, JR must check every day for new blossoms to pollinate, using stilts to reach the highest ones.



Since the vanilla fruit do not all ripen at the same time, picking must also be done frequently, and by hand. But wait, there's more – growing and picking the fruit is only half of the process!

When picked, the fruit is soft and green – not at all like the vanilla beans you normally see for sale. Proper curing to develop the characteristic aroma and flavor is a month-long process involving multiple steps of heating, drying, and aging the fruit in a controlled temperature and humidity environment.

The tour was a fascinating glimpse into an industry I



previously knew nothing about. I also understand now why real vanilla is – ounce for ounce – the second most expensive flavoring in the world,



after saffron. (It also isn't helping that the vanilla harvest of the world's largest producer, Madagascar, has been far below normal for 2 out of the past 3 years.)

Something to think about the next time you have vanilla ice cream, or add vanilla to a specialty ale!

Contact **Mike** or **Eileen** with questions.

Contact us.

If you have any ideas for content for this newsletter, please send them to **Knews@Knaves.org**.



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