

**Date:** 09:20 AM CDT, 04/04/2018

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

**To:** Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

**Subject:** Knaves Knewsletter - March 2018



# Knaves Knews

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

## March 2018

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### Board of Directors

*Abbess* - **Eileen Uchima**

*First Lady / Head Penguin* -

**Mike Uchima**

*Master of Coin* - **Darrell**

### Welcome Address



Hail Knaves!

Well, we have all officially survived the Drunk Monk Challenge (DMC) for 2018!

Whether this was your first DMC or your twentieth, I hope that you faired well with any entries and (more importantly) had a great time. My entries didn't do as well as I had hoped but I had a great time judging some excellent meads and ciders...and only a couple of not-so-good ones.

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to all who helped, whether you judged, stewarded, ran back and forth to the cooler, collated papers...we couldn't

**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.

do this without you! I have judged numerous competitions in the area and I will say that DMC runs very smooth compared to some of them. Special thanks go to Andrew Day for once again making sure that everything is accomplished in a timely manner and that all of the "i"s are dotted and "t"s are crossed.

I'm certain that several of you also answered the call to help at BOSS's competition, the Charlie Orr Memorial Cup. That is always a fun competition to judge and the folks at BOSS always help with the DMC, too.

Next in line is the first round of the National Homebrew Competition (NHC) taking place April 18-21 at Nevin's Brewing in Plainfield. If you haven't signed up to help yet, be sure that you do. It is difficult to get enough bodies for three competitions in just over a month. That's a lot of beer to drink, but somebody has to do it!

With all of the competitions going on right now, it looks like the UKG calendar needs a bit of updating. Make sure that you check back later if you ever notice that some info is missing. Also, be certain that you check the Slack channel, email, and Facebook. I guess that I will go make some friendly reminders that life goes on after the DMC.



ukg-  
subscribe@yahoogroups.com  
ukg@yahoogroups.com  
(Membership requires approval)

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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.*

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)**.

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## Welcome to Our New Members!

- Stephan Newman, Batavia
- 

## April Meetings and Events

- *Thursday, April 12th @ 7:30  
p.m.* - Tech Session -  
Knightsed Knaves Cup  
Kickoff - Saisons, Location:  
TBD
- *Saturday, April 14th @ 7  
p.m.* - Social Night at TBD.
- *Sunday, April 15th @ 11 a.m.* - NHC First  
Round Unpacking Party at Nevin's Brewing,



Plainfield.

- *Wednesday, April 18th, Friday, April 20th and Saturday, April 21st* - Judging of NHC First Round Entries at Nevin's Brewing, Plainfield. Times: TBD
- *Wednesday, April 25th @ 7:30 p.m.* - Alter Brewing, Downers Grove - Monthly meeting with Pre-Meeting Tech Talk: Barrel-Aging and Blending.
- *Saturday, May 5th @ 8:30 a.m.* - American Homebrew Association (AHA) Big Brew Day, Two Brothers Tap House, Warrenville.

For more details on these events, see below or the **[Club Calendar on the website](#)**.

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## **Tech Sessions**

### **Recent Past:**

None scheduled for March due to the Drunk Monk Challenge.

### **Upcoming:**

Thursday, April 12th @ 7:30 p.m. - Knighted Knaves Cup Kickoff - Saisons. Location: TBD.

Written by Andy Day

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## Social Night

*Past - None scheduled for March due to the Drunk Monk Challenge*

Saturday, April 14th - TBD

Written by Kevin "Woj" Wojdak

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## Big Brew Day - May 5

In 1988, May 7 was announced before Congress as National Homebrew Day. The American Homebrewers Association (AHA) created AHA Big Brew as an annual event to celebrate National Homebrew Day around the world. AHA Big Brew is held each year on the first Saturday in May.

For the last so many years, the UKG has celebrated Big Brew Day brewing at Two Brothers Brewing in Warrentville. Two Brothers founders, Jim and Jason Ebel, were members of the Urban Knaves of Grain before going Pro.

It's an open event where Two Brothers generously provides each brewer with 5-8 gallons of free starter wort and each brewer can be as creative as he or she wants to be with that wort. We all congregate in the brewery and setup our own

burners and equipment for the day. We take the wort and boil our creations on site. Two Brothers also provides us with a yeast sample from their supplies. So, overall, it's a great day for all.

**Time:**

8:30 a.m. to approx. 2:00 p.m.

- Setup - 8:30-ish
- Wort distribution - 9:00-10:15
- Yeast available - 10:30-11:00-ish
- Pizza lunch - 11:30-ish



*Reminders:*

- This is a manufacturing environment... closed-toe SHOES and SAFETY GLASSES are required.
- There is no longer a homebrew shop on site so you must bring in any extra grains and hops.
- Wort, cooling water and yeast are supplied, we are responsible for other ingredients and supplies (burner/propane, hops, garden hoses and fittings, chillers, etc)
- You will be transferring your beer home when it is completed, bring a PLASTIC fermenter or bucket for transport. NO GLASS.

Possible Wort Base Recipe from the *Prairie Path Ale*:

- 85% 2-Row
- 11% Carahell
- 4% Vienna

12.5 Plato (1.049 OG) - Pre-Boil: The gravity varies so be prepared to adjust your recipe on the fly, if needed.

## Competitions

### Competition Wins

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 - Babble Brew-Off

#### Brad Ramsey:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “USA Light Lager” American Light Lager

#### Jay Kash:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Barrel-Aged Belgian Golden Strong
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his English Bitter

#### Alex Larson:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his “Baby Haze NE IPA” Fruit Beer

#### Kevin "Woj" Wojdak:

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “My Alter Ego” Doppelbock

#### Brian Beatty:

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “Right Hand Again” Sweet Stout
- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his Strong Bitter

#### Alex Sliz:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “Cascade Pale Ale” American Pale Ale

### March 10, 2018 - Drunk Monk Challenge

**Jay Kash** stole the show by winning 7 medals:

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his Czech Pils
- 1<sup>st</sup> for his Berlinder Weisse
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Raspberry Berliner Weisse
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Ordinary Bitter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Tropical Stout
- 2<sup>nd</sup> with Co-Brewer Dave Collinge for their Double IPA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his Applewine

**Gene Sladek:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his Marzen

**Darrell Proksa:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Czech Amber Lager

**Jay Bakula:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “He’s Fallen On The Ice.... It Cracks” Eisbock

**Andy Day:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Apricot Sour
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “OB Mead 2017” Dry Mead



**Steve Newman:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “Chimp Monk” American Brown Ale

**Alex Sliz:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “Citrazilla IPA” American IPA
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “Daaaaaaaaaaaang” American Amber Ale

**Dave Fetty:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Trappist Single
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “Saison #10”

**Kevin "Woj" Wojdak:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “If You’re Got The Thyme, I’ve Got The Honey” Sweet Mead
- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his “Ugly Christmas Sweater 2016” English Barleywine

**Alex Chambers and Paul Holder:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “No Smoking Jacket Required” Rauchbier
- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his “The 13<sup>th</sup> Degree” Belgian Dark Strong Ale

**Joe Formanek:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his “Four Tsarinas” Imperial Stout
- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his “Cathy’s Cyser”

**Brian Beatty:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his “Trappist Mead” Sweet Mead

**Jim Anderson:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “Jimbo’s Pretty Good Hard Cider – With Blood Orange”

**Mike Kimble:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> in the Menace of the Monastery for his “Midnight Love Machine”  
Belgain Dark Strong
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “No Haze NE IPA” Specialty IPA

**Jeff Landers:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Menace of the Monastery for his “NEIPA’s Are Gross”  
Doppelbock

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018** - **Charlie Orr Memorial** Cup Challenge.

**Jeff Landers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his Munich Dunkel
- 3<sup>rd</sup> for his “Tripled Hopped, Cold Filtered – Brewed The Hard Way”  
American Light Lager

**Mike Kimble:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “Island Time” Tropical Stout

**Alex Chambers:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “Don’t Wee Your Pants” Wee Heavy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “No Smoking Jacket Required” Rauchbier

**Andy Day:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “Multi-Grain de Garde” Alternative Grain Beer

**Felipe Carmona:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> for his “Barrel Aged Covfefe” Specialty Wood-Aged Beer

**Joe Formanek:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> for his “Cathy’s” Cyser

**Upcoming Competitions**

- April 13-14<sup>th</sup> 2018 - **26th Spirit of the Free Beer Homebrew Competition** from the Brewers Untied for Real Potables (BURP), Beltsville, MD. MCAB qualifying competition. Registration now through April 5<sup>th</sup>,
- April 14, 2018 - **Wizard of SAAZ** from Society of Akron Area Zymurgists, Akron, OH.
- **National Homebrew Competition** (NHC), Chicago Region First Round Judging - April 18-22, 2018
- May 5<sup>th</sup> , 2018 - **MCAB XX Championship** from the Master Championship of Amateur Brewing, Milwaukee, WI – Qualifying brewers can register between 4/7 and 4/21. Register at this link (**registration**) if one of your 2017 brews won 1st place in a qualifying circuit competition. Check the official website for 2017 Qualifiers to find your name. If interested, Jeff Landers will be shipping/dropping off beer the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>, so if interested, send him an email.
- July 14th, 2018 - **Indiana State Fair Brewer's Cup** from Brewers of Indiana Guild, Indianapolis, IN. Registration May 27 thru June 15, 2018.

- July 28th, 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.
- **Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Circuit Competitions**

Contributions by Jeff Landers

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## 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:

- **May 11th and 12th, 2018 - Lake Zurich Craft Beer Festival**, Henry J. Paulus Park from 5-10 p.m.

In 2017, four members showcased their brews on the Friday night of the event and had a great time meeting people and sharing beer.



Lake Zurich has a People's Choice Homebrew Competition and Award each night with prizes from Perfect Brewing Supply for First, Second, and Third. As the event covers two days, there's room for up to 8-10 participants from the club (4-5 each night). If you're interested in participating in an evening of the event in May, please contact Woj at

**[Festivals@knaves.org](mailto:Festivals@knaves.org)** for more information. All participants who are members in good standing (i.e. dues paying) receive \$30 reimbursement towards their materials.

Signups for Friday, May 11th include *Woj, Chad Mason, Tom Hayosh, and Felipe Carmona.*

Saturday, May 12th is still wide open if you're interested in doing this event. Email **[Festivals@knaves.org](mailto:Festivals@knaves.org)** to join in the fun.

- **June 9th, 2018** from 1-5 p.m. - **7th Annual Mundelein Craft Beer Festival**, 300 Plaza Circle, Mundelein. UKG was invited to participate in this event as 1 of 5 participating Homebrew clubs.



We still have 1 or 2 openings for the Mundelein event.

Signups for this event include *Woj, Felipe Carmona, and Scott Detlie*. Email **[Festivals@knaves.org](mailto:Festivals@knaves.org)** to join in the fun.

- **June 9th, 2018** from 1-5 p.m. - **Tri-City Craft Beer Festival**, Lincoln Park, St. Charles. This event boasts 80+ beers and ciders and it is the first time we are participating in it.

Current signups include *Andy Day*. There is room for three or so more club members. Email **[Festivals@knaves.org](mailto:Festivals@knaves.org)** to join in the fun.

- **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* so far. Email [Festivals@knaves.org](mailto: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](mailto:Festivals@knaves.org).

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## Financials

### *Annual Dues*

2018 membership dues were collected at the January club meeting. 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**.

Cash or check payable to "UKG" will be accepted at club meetings. 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.](#)

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Questions about dues? Please contact Darrell at [treasurer@knaves.org](mailto:treasurer@knaves.org).

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## Member News

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

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The Woodford Reserve Barrel project being run by Ed Bronson and friends is progressing along nicely. Ed and a group of friends have purchased an entire barrel of Woodford Reserve bourbon and are going to be involved in custom blending what goes into the barrel. He and his friends have made the resulting special edition bottles available to their friends and to the UKG.

All bottles of this special custom blended Bourbon from the barrel have been claimed but Ed has setup a waiting list in case anyone pulls out or is unable to purchase their reserved bottle(s). Please contact Ed at [ed@bronson.org](mailto:ed@bronson.org) if you did not signup in time but would like to be added to the waiting list.

Current estimates have the bottle distribution taking place in early 2019.

Written by Kevin "Woj" Wojdak

## Club Schwag

### *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](mailto:marketing@knaves.org) to get on the list for the next order.

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

### *LogoUp.com Merchandise*

We have an account at [LogoUp.com](http://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](http://LogoUp.com) and pick out items you want. Then, email Woj at [marketing@knaves.org](mailto: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

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Questions about Club Schwag or interest to buy anything? Please talk to Woj or email him at [marketing@knaves.org](mailto:marketing@knaves.org).

## **Contact us.**

If you have any ideas for content for this newsletter, please send them to [Knews@Knaves.org](mailto:Knews@Knaves.org).



You are receiving this email because you opted into our mailing list.

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