

Date: 06:48 PM CST, 12/18/2021

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

To: Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - December 2021



Knaves Knews

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

December 2021

*** Claim the Urban Knaves of Grain (UKG) as your club when you signup for the AHA (American Homebrewers Association). By using the links in this Knewsletter, your AHA dues payment helps UKG through funding kicked back from the AHA. Click our club link to [Join or Renew with the AHA](#).

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Board of Directors

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First Lady / Head Penguin -

[Mike Uchima](#)

Master of the Coin - [Darrell](#)

[Proksa](#)

Master of Whisperers -

[Kevin "Woj" Wojdak](#)

Welcome Address



Merry Christmakwanzakah and Happy Festivus, Knaves! If I have left out your particular favorite Winter-Solstice-adjacent holiday, I apologize. I hope that everyone is healthy, not too stressed, and enjoying some special holiday festivities, gatherings, and brews!

Our annual holiday party is coming up. We are gathering this Tuesday, December 21 at Two Brothers Roundhouse in Aurora. Plan to arrive around 6:30 p.m., grab a drink at the bar, and follow the signs to the party. Bring your significant other, your Beer Roulette six-pack, and of course your beer, mead, or cider to share. There will be a brief business meeting, food starting around 7:00, and our usual bottle share. Most people do tend to bring something a little



Chaplain of Education -

Andy Day

Brother of Events

*Planning - **Tim Devitt***

Minister of Tournaments -

Jeff Landers

Monk at Large - Tom

Hayosh

Monk at Large - Dave Fetty

Monk at Large - Ray

Nonnie

*Retired Abbot - **Chuck Fort***

Contributions

Mike Uchima - Photography

Ed Bronson - Photography

Communications Channels



Click here to request an invite from a Board member.

 **Groups.io**

<https://groups.io/g/ukg>

Editor's Note:

Most images in the newsletter can be enlarged to see further detail. Simply click on the image

special to this party... aged barleywine, favorite mead, bourbon-barrel RIS...you get the drift. See the calendar for more details.

Our October meeting at Orange and Brew Bottle Shop had a great turn out. We were lucky that the weather was favorable that night for some of us to be outside since Marty Nachel was teaching a class inside. Our November meeting was at Pollyanna in Roselle, a place that the club makes use of frequently for Tech Sessions, mini-judgings, etc. A good time was had by all as usual.



A virtual meeting of the DMC committee was held and the planning progresses. We are currently planning an in-person competition for 2022 but need to remain flexible at this point. It's a little early to know for sure but, we are keeping our fingers crossed. Registration will begin at the end of January; check the calendar for important DMC-related dates.



Our November Social Night / Tech Session outing to Omega Yeast was fabulous with many Club Wort members joining us. It is truly

amazing to see how far they have come in just a few short years! Our stop at Lake Effect Brewing, just around the corner from Omega was fun. It was not so much a tour as a one-sided bottle share. I think most (if not all) of us grabbed some to-go beers there! Mike and I had to duck out early, so missed out on dinner and more brews at Old Irving Brewing. We plan to make it there at some point.

and it will open into a new
window.

Since December
combines our monthly
meeting and Social Night
into the Christmas party,
we will not be getting
together again as a whole
group until our January club meeting on Tuesday,
January 18th at Ike and Oak Brewing in
Woodridge. If you haven't been there before, I
recommend coming early and having some
dinner before the meeting. I have never been
disappointed with anything...food or drink...that I
have had there. I'm particularly fond of their mac
& cheese as well as the white stout. Check the
calendar for details on the meeting and on a
virtual evening with Sierra Nevada on January 21.
This BOSS sponsored event sounds fascinating!



As always, keep an eye on the calendar and
Slack for updates on meetings, social activities,
DMC, etc. If you have anywhere that you would
like to suggest for a future meeting location or
social night, or a tech topic which you would find
interesting, please post to Slack or email the
Board. We will be having a board meeting after
the holidays to plan meetings, etc. for the next
few months.

Sláinte!

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 Woj
at Knews@Knaves.org or email Eileen directly
at President@Knaves.org.

Welcome to Our New Members!

- None
-

UPCOMING on the Calendar...

December

- **Tuesday, December 21st** - Time: 6:30 pm,
Location: Two Brother's Roundhouse, Aurora, IL -



Join us for our annual Holiday Party combined meeting and Social Night.

This will be an in-person event in one of the upstairs party rooms at Two Brothers. A Taco buffet will be provided. We'll be running our Christmas Beer Roulette beer exchange that night (explained elsewhere in the Knewsletter). You are welcome and encouraged to bring homebrew to share. When you get there, buy a beer at the bar to get the evening started.

January

- **Tuesday, January 18 @ 7:30 p.m.** - UKG Club Meeting.
Location: **Ike & Oak Brewing**, Woodridge
- **Friday, January 21 @ 7:00 p.m.** - BOSS Brew Club Sierra Nevada Beer Tasting

event via Zoom. Evening with Sierra Nevada guided beer tasting and storytelling with Ken Grossman, founder of Sierra Nevada Brewing.

A beer list will be provided and you will purchase them on your own.

Other Social Activities Into 2022

- **February** - UKG Annual Train Pub Crawl. Destinations TBD and map and directions to be provided.
- **March 12th - 24th** Annual Drunk Monk Challenge (DMC), Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora, IL
- **April** - Social Night at Ike & Oak, Woodridge, IL

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

Christmas Beer Roulette

In 2020, we had a dozen members play "**Christmas Beer Roulette**" and we had a lot of fun doing it. So, we're playing again in 2021!

Given the 2020 situation we had, we held an outdoor gathering and, while it was chilly, we had heaters and plenty of beverages to keep us warm. For 2021, we'll do the exchange live at the Club Holiday Party at Two Brothers Roundhouse.



Basics

Bring a 6-pack of your Christmas beer, mead, or cider to the exchange and leave with a mixed 6-pack of your fellow UKG member's Christmas brews. A key will be

distributed after the gathering so it's not a complete mystery what 6 brews you have in your 6-pack.

The How-To Explanation

On our designated meetup day, each participant club member brings a 6-pack of all of **"one" style** of their Christmas or other Special beer, mead, or cider to the party. At check-in, you sign in and note the beverage name and description of what you brought.

To facilitate anonymity and make this a mystery for everyone, Woj will assign your 6-pack a number and give you a note with your number so, you can claim your pack at the end once all mixed 6-packs have been created. Your bottles will also be assigned a number and the plan is that you go home with a set of completely random bottles with none of your own and no doubles.

You share brews with fellow club members at the gathering while the packs are organized.

When all participants have checked in, we'll use a random number generation program to select brews to fill the 6-packs making sure to not include the brewers own brew in his/her pack. The more brewers we have participating, the more random the 6-packs will end up.

After all packs have been created, we each grab our 6-pack and continue to socialize.

Hopefully, you're already planning your brews for the holidays and are willing to share a 6-pack with your fellow club members.

Location to be determined but date will be Tuesday, December 21st at our Club Christmas Party to make our exchange. If you cannot make it but want to participate, make arrangements with a fellow UKG'er to bring your beer.

If you're interested in participating, please post your intended brew to the Google doc at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13m22qFDfpifCvR9dLsbO1y7eE4vmkJ3Q/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114182463129453868547&rtpof=true&sd=true>.

The more people who play, the more beer variety we'll have and the more diverse our 6-packs will end up. So, bring a 6-pack of your brew and join the exchange.

Event Photos

Pictures from our November Social Night / Tech Session tour of Omega Yeast,

Beer tasting at Lake Effect Brewing and Dinner at Old Irving Brewing Co. - Click the image below to see the whole gallery.



Competitions

Competition Wins

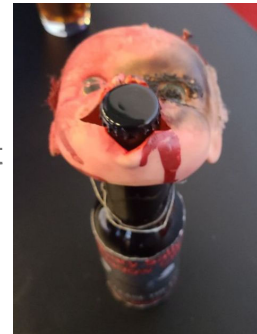
October 4, 2021 — **Brixtoberfest** 2021, Brookfield, IL

- **Dave Fetty**
 - 1st place for 3B: Czech Premium Pale Lager - European Beer Table
 - 2nd place for 27: Historical Beer - British and Australian Ale Table
 - 3rd place for 1C: Cream Ale - American Lager and Cream Ale Table
 - 3rd place for 16B: Oatmeal Stout - Stouts, Porters, and Smoked Beers Table
- **Brent Anderson**
 - 1st place for "Bitter Blimey" - 11B: Best Bitter - British and Australian Ale Table
 - 3rd place for "Pandemic Haze" - 22A: Double IPA - American and Double IPA Table

- **Tom Dennis**
 - 3rd place for "St Thomas Dark English Barleywine" - 17D: English Barleywine - Strong Beer Table
- **Mark Niemczewski**
 - 3rd place with Co-Brewer Kaci DeLong for "Beta Dredge" - 21B: Specialty IPA - Specialty IPA Table
- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st place for "Beer Party" - 4B: Festbier - Pale Malty European Lager Table
 - 3rd place for "Franken mein Liebling" - 7C: Kellerbier - European Beer Table

October 16, 2021 — **Spooky Brew**, Itasca, IL

- **Ray Nonnie**
 - 3rd place for "Rebel Radio" - 24A: Witbier - Wheat Beers Table
- **Jeff Landers**
 - 3rd place for "Juice Box Hero Pils" - PRX5: New Zealand Pilsner - Pale International Beer Table
 - 3rd place for "2015 Schwartzbier" - 37A: Smashed Pumpkin - Spooky Beer Table
 - 3rd place for "I Froze My Lager Again? "natty" Ice" - 34A: Clone Beer - Specialty, Fruit, & Wild Beers Table
- **Mark Niemczewski**
 - 1st place for "Barrel Aged Coffee Stout" - 33B: Specialty Wood-Aged Beer - Wood Aged Beers Table
 - 2nd place with Co-Brewer Kaci DeLong for "Tropical Fruit Salad" - 27A1: Gose - Sour Beer Table
- **Tom Dennis**
 - 2nd place for "St Thomas Barleywine" - 17D: English Barleywine - Strong British & American Beer



October 30, 2021 — Hoppy Halloween Challenge, Fargo, ND

- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak**
 - 1st place for "The Dregs" - C1B: English Cider - Cider and Perry Table
 - 2nd place with Co-Brewer Noah Wojdak for "Kick 2020 In The Ass" Quad - 26D: Belgian Dark Strong Ale - Belgian Strong Ale Table
- **Jeff Landers**
 - 3rd place for "I Drink My Beer In A 40 Oz'er In A Paper Bag - Malt Liquor" - 34A: Clone Beer - Specialty Beer Table

November 13, 2021 — 30th Annual Charlie Orr Memorial Chicago Cup Challenge, Tinley Park, IL



- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st place for "Beer Party" - 4B: Festbier - Pale Malty European Lager Table.
- **Jeff Landers**
 - 1st place for "X" - 19A: American Amber Ale - American Ale Table
 - 1st place for "Show Me Your Kitties" - C2D: Ice Cider - Cider and Perry Table
 - 2nd place for "The Anti-NEIPA, Cause Haze Kills" - 21B: Specialty IPA - American & Specialty IPA Table
 - 2nd place for "Greg's Athletes Foot" - 28C: Wild Specialty Beer - Specialty & Wood-Aged Beer Table
- **Mark Niemczewski**
 - 3rd place for "Beta Dredge" - 21B7: New England IPA - New England IPA Table
- **Dave Fischer**
 - 1st place for "Flanders Red" - 23B: Flanders Red Ale - Sour Ale Table

December 11, 2021 — [Happy Holidays Homebrew Competition](#), St. Louis, MO

- **Jeff Landers**

- 2nd place for "We've Been Trying To Reach You About Your Car's Extended Warranty...." - 11B: Best Bitter
- English Pale Ales Table

- 3rd place for "We've Been Trying To Reach You About Your Car's Extended Warranty...." - PRX5: New Zealand Pilsner
- Pilsner Table

- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak**

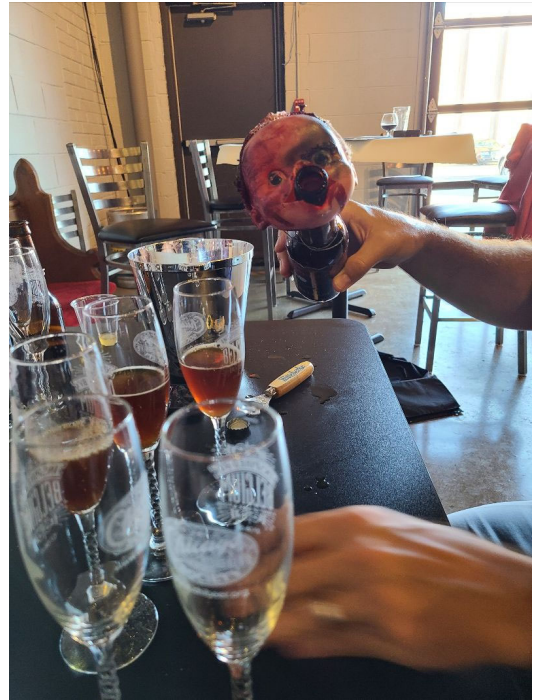
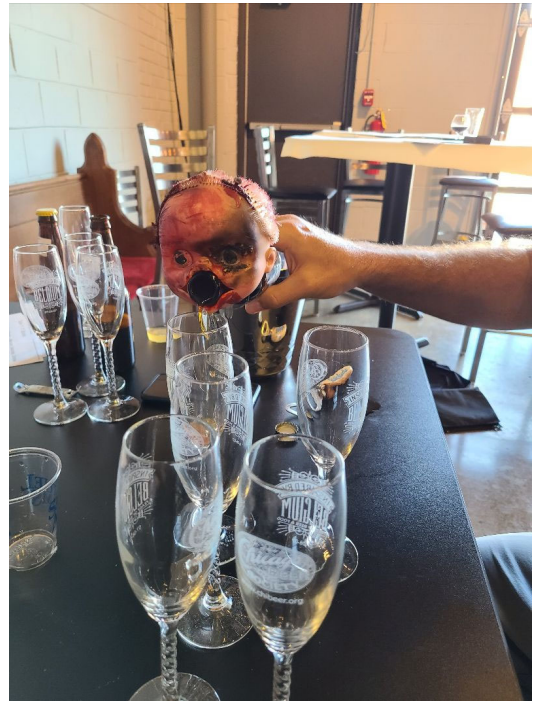
- 3rd place for "Chewing The Honeycomb"
- M1B: Semi-Sweet Mead - Traditional Meads Table



See the [AHA Homebrew Competition Calendar](#) to find upcoming competitions to possibly enter.

- [Masters Championship of Amateur Brewing \(MCAB\) competition circuit](#)
- [Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Circuit Competitions](#)

The most interesting Spooky Beer Category entries in this year's Spooky Brew...



Financials

Annual Dues

Annual membership renewal dues are **\$20**.

Click the PayPal link below or mail a check payable to **"UKG"** to:



Darrell Proksa
128 Sherwood Ct
Downers Grove 60516

Click this link to pay your dues:

[Click here to Pay Now.](#)

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

Brewery Review

by Darrell Proksa



Fort George Brewery.

Astoria, OR

At the Northwest tip of Oregon is Astoria, a small touristy town a short distance from Fort Stevens State Park. It is located on the Pacific ocean at the mouth of the Columbia river. Where there are tourists, there are breweries... four in this town. The breweries are **Buoy Beer Company, Astoria Brewing, Reach Break Brewing,** and **Fort George Brewery.**

Three blocks up the hillside from the Columbia River basin in Astoria is the Fort George Brewery "campus" which occupies 2 large 1920's industrial buildings separated by a courtyard; also part of the brewery. One building serves primarily as the food service operation while the other contains the production brewery.

The restaurant building has multiple floors of seating as well as a rooftop and outside deck. The brewery building houses a small taproom separated from the fermenters and brewhouse by a makeshift rope line. There's virtually no seating in there as they assume you'll drink your beer in the adjoining courtyard.

Beers I sampled:

- **Barrel-fermented Pilsner** - Fruity, sweet, flat. Is this a lager or an ale?
- **Pale Ale** - 5.2% - hop forward. Bright hop character with clean bitter finish.
- **Red** - 6.2% - low hop character, predominant honey and caramel notes.
- **Stout** - 8.8% - toffee dominates, sweet finish. More like a Robust Porter.



Pluto Beer Gun

by Ray Nonnie



I was serving homebrewed Irish Extra Stout at a party recently when my picnic tap failed. Fortunately I brought a backup picnic tap but I've had a couple fail. Both picnic taps failed at the hinge pin which prevented dispensing beer.

In search of a picnic tap replacement, I came across the **Pluto Beer Gun**. It comes in two styles:

- Nylon exterior with stainless steel internals for under \$15.
- A stainless steel exterior and internals for under \$45.

I selected the nylon exterior style since I only use it when dispensing beer on tap remotely. The beer gun feels solid and there is an adjustable flow control valve.

Although I recently received it, I haven't had a chance to do a long term test. So far I am pleased with my Pluto which is a definite improvement over my picnic tap.

FYI, Torpedo Keg makes an all stainless steel picnic tap for \$25 but like the plastic picnic taps they do not have an adjustable flow control valve.



Join the AHA and Help UKG

(American Homebrewers Association)



Join the AHA Now

Every year, the UKG purchases club insurance through the AHA (American Homebrewers Association) to protect our club and its members from incidents that may happen during club events and activities.

One of the ways we lower the cost of the insurance is by having a certain percentage of UKG club members also be AHA members. Your support of the AHA lowers the cost of insurance for the UKG.

If you are already an AHA member but aren't sure whether you've claimed UKG

as your club, then click the following link to learn how you can [**Add Homebrew Club Affiliation**](#) to your AHA membership.

[**Click here for our Club's AHA Membership Referral Link**](#)

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**](mailto:marketing@knaves.org) with your item numbers and colors and he'll coordinate placing the order with you.



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.

Available for Immediate Purchase

UKG Woodcut Graphic T-Shirts

We have two (2) UKG Medium size charcoal gray t-shirts available immediately

for anyone. \$12 each.



Questions about Club Schwag or interest to buy anything?

Please talk to Woj or email him at marketing@knaves.org.

All items are sold at cost to club members except items which go through the LogoUp.com website which has their markup.

Contact us.

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



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