

Date: 02:21 PM CDT, 05/04/2023

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

To: Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - April 2023



Knaves Knews

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

April 2023

*** 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](#).

Save \$5 with our **Promo code: Urban-Knaves-of-Grain**

Contents

- Welcome
- New Members
- Calendar
- Photos
- Competitions
- Financials
- Brewery Review
- AHA Membership
- Club Schwag

Board of Directors

Abbess - [Eileen Uchima](#)

First Lady / Head Penguin -

[Mike Uchima](#)

Master of the Coin - [Darrell](#)

[Proksa](#)

Master of Coms - [Kevin](#)

Welcome Address



Hi y'all!

Long time, no Knews. It's been awhile since the last Knewsletter because life gets in the way for all of us! I hope all is well for those that are

showing up to meetings and social events regularly or,... only sporadically. Of course, you get the most out of your club by participating in as many things as possible.

Since the last Knewsletter, we have had the Holiday party, the Drunk Monk Challenge Competition, multiple monthly meetings, social outings to Two Hound Red, Brother Chimp, Wolfden, Black Horizon, and Art History. We've gone on a trip to a comedy showcase at Elmhurst Brewing, as well as a brew-in and the annual

"Woj" Wojdak

Chaplain of Education -

Ray Nonnie

Brother of Events

*Planning - **Tim Devitt***

Minister of Tournaments /

*Drunk Monk - **Dan***

Acheson

Monk at Large - Tom

Hayosh

Monk at Large - Dave Fetty

Monk at Large - Curt

Czapski

*Retired Abbot - **Chuck Fort***

Contributions

Mike Uchima - Photography

Woj - Photography

Ed Bronson - Photography

**Communications
Channels**



ukg.slack.com

[Click here](#) to request an invite

from a Board member.



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

Train Crawl. Hopefully, you have participated in some of these great events! There's more where that came from!

I hope many of you plan to celebrate Big Brew Day this Saturday, May 6 in some way. The club will be brewing up at Church Street Brewing in Itasca, where a Helles wort and yeast will be provided free of charge. Bring your brew rig and join in the fun. All are welcome whether you choose to brew or not.

Our meetings at BubbleHouse continue to be well attended. If you haven't made a meeting lately, consider joining us for our next meeting on Tuesday, May 20. Before our bottle share, we will have a brief business meeting, including announcements of upcoming activities and nominations for club officers. As always, if you would like to join the board and be more of a part in planning how the club moves forward, please let me know. The June meeting will include our annual election of officers, and more info about other summer activities.



Keep your eyes open for more details on summer fun events for UKG. Possible events include the CHAOS summer BrewBQ, brew pub visits, a possible brew-in and likely some other surprises.

As always, keep an eye on the calendar and Slack for updates on meetings, social activities, DMC, etc. If you have anywhere you would like to suggest for a social night, or a tech topic which you would find interesting, please post to Slack or email the Board.

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.

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 brewery review, 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!

- Jim Scalzo - Lombard
 - Jay Garnett - Bolingbrook
 - Patrick Roach - Downers Grove
 - Dave Hoppert - Aurora
 - Chris & Heather Gill - Lisle
 - Joe Skiles - Carol Stream
-

UPCOMING on the Calendar...

May

- **Saturday, May 6 @ 9:00 a.m.** - **Big Brew Day 2023** at Church Street Brewing, Itasca. Join the club and other guests from around the area as we all gather to brew together at Church Street. Every attendee will be provided with 5 gallons of Church Street "Heavenly Helles" base



wort to build on...90% Best Malz Pilsen Malt, 5% Munich, and 5% CaraPils - 1.048-1.050 SG. Boil it up as is or add to it to make something completely different. Simply bring your gear for boiling your wort or bring a heat resistant vessel to take wort home if you'd rather finish yours at home. But, join us for a great time!

- **Tuesday, May 16th @ 7:30 p.m.** . UKG Monthly Club Meeting at **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle. Topics include club officer nominations.
- **Sunday, May 21st @ 2:00 p.m.** Sunday Social at Solemn Oath, Naperville.

June

- **Tuesday, June 20th @ 7:30 p.m.** - Monthly Meeting at **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle. Topic: Election of Club Officers.

Other Activities Into 2023

- **August**
 - CHAOS BrewBQ - August 19th

For more details on any of these events, see the **Club Calendar on the website.**

Photos



MOONLIGHT
MEADERY
RAZZ
WHAT SHE SAID
RASPBERRY SESSION MEAD
SEMI-SWEET AND SPARKLING
16 UNICES 8.5% ALC. BY VOLUME

MOONLIGHT
MEADERY
STILETTO
LIMITED RELEASE

MOONLIGHT
MEADERY
KURTS APPLE PIE
EQUORON BARREL AGED 6 MONTHS





Knighted Knave Cup Competition

During the February UKG monthly meeting, the bi-annual Knighted Knave Cup competition was judged. The beer style for the February competition was **American IPA (non-hazy)**.

There were four entries: Dan Acheson, Tim Anderson, Mark Niemczewski and Mike Uchima

The entries were judged by: Kevin Drees, Dave Fetty and Mike Kimble

Competition coordination: Ray Nonnie.

The results are:

- **1st Place: Mark Niemczewski**
- **2nd Place: Dan Acheson**
- **3rd Place: Tim Anderson**



Congratulations to Mark for his 1st Place American IPA. Mark's name is being engraved on a legend plate to be added to the trophy. Mark will be able to display the trophy in his home until the next Knighted Knave Cup competition.

The comments from the Judges were that all of the entries were done very well... not a bad beer in the bunch.

Picture of the Day

I don't know why but this photo just tickled me. The Cellar Master for the DMC keeps track of all of the entries for the competition in the "beer cooler".

I had a couple entries in the High Plains Drafters **8 Seconds of Froth** Competition in Cheyenne, Wyoming and their Cellar Master posed with the entries in the cellar.

I think they take the "cellar" idea really serious in Wyoming!



High Plains Drafters



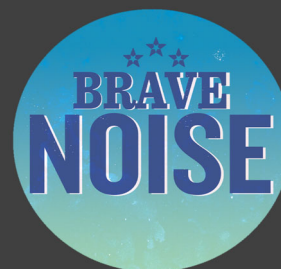
12 minutes ago ·

Beers are boxed and in the cellar. Current entry count is 434. Best of luck to all our entrants. Many thanks to all our volunteers today. Without their efforts, we cannot get all these beers judged.



Brave Noise Movement

We have all heard about sexual harassment issues in the local (and not so local) brewing industry, and this group is trying to do something about the problem. This is a collaboration with a goal: A safe and discrimination-free industry. Pro-brewers and homebrewers alike can register on the website to pledge their support for this movement. After registering, you will receive a copy of the Brave Noise recipe to brew in support. Check out Brave Noise at bravenoisebeer.com



Competitions

Competition Wins

May 2023 - National Homebrew Competition (NHC) Chicago Region First Round Results

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st Place - Pale Malty European Beer
 - 2nd Place - Pale European Beer
 - 2nd Place - Fruit Beer
 - 2nd Place - American Wild Ale
- **Joe Skiles**
 - 1st Place - Dark European Lager
- **Joe Formanek**
 - 2nd Place - Irish & British Stout
- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak**
 - 1st Place - European Sour Ale

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in first round all have the opportunity to send their brews to the FINALS in San Diego where it's a best of the best competition from all 9 regions around the country.



February 2023 - **Knighted Knave Cup**, Lisle, IL - American IPA (Not Hazy)

- 1st Place - Mark Niemczewski
- 2nd Place - Dan Acheson
- 3rd Place - Tim Anderson

Other Competition Wins

January 21, 2023 — **Winterbrew**, Chicago, IL

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st Place - “Barrel Projects Are Fun” - 28B: Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer - American Wild Table
- **Brent Anderson**
 - 3rd Place - “Pandemic K” - 5B: Kolsch - Pale Bitter European Table
- **Mike Kimble**
 - 1st Place - “Winter Snow Cat” - 30A: Spice Herb Vegetable - Spice, Herb, Vegetable Table

February 4, 2023 — **Midwinter Homebrew Competition**, Milwaukee, WI

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st Place, BoS - “Bill Boyer’s Super Secret Cider” - C1A New World Cider - Standard Cider / Perry Table
 - 1st Place - “Daadee Ma’s Apple Chai” - C2E Cider with Herbs/Spices - Specialty Cider / Perry Table

February 4, 2023 — **SNAFU Winterfest**, Las Vegas, NV

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 3rd Place - “Super Secret Cider” - C1A: New World Cider - Ciders Table
 - 3rd Place - “Modest Bastard” - 22A: American Strong Ale - Strong Ales Table

- **Kevin & Noah Wojdak**
 - 3rd Place - “Can’t Wait to see where this Gueuze” - 23E: Gueuze - Wild and Experimental Beer Table

February 18, 2023 - **Kansas City Biermeisters 40th Homebrew Competition**, Kansas City, MO

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st Place - “Piwo Winfieldiskie” - 17A5: Piwo Grodziskie - Smoked Beer Table
 - 3rd Place - “Hopfenweiss” - 34B: Mixed Styles - Specialty Beer Table

February 25, 2023 - **Sweetheart’s Revenge**, Kansas City, MO

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st Place, BoS - “Bill Boyer’s Super Secret Cider” - C1A New World Cider - Standard Cider and Perry Table
 - 1st Place - “The Wise Ram” - 10C: Weizenbock - German Wheat Beer Table

March 3, 2023 - **America’s Finest Homebrew Competition**, San Diego, CA

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 2nd Place - “Keines Deutches Porter” - 8B: Schwarzbier - Dark European Lager Table
 - 2nd Place - “What Happens When Rams Eat Wheat” - 10C: Weizenbock - German Wheat Beer Table
 - 2nd Place - “Not Your Bitter Mother-In-Law” - 11B: Best Bitter - British Bitter Table
 - 2nd Place - “Barrel Projects are Fun” - 28B: Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer - American Wild Table
 - 3rd Place - “Daadee Ma’s Apple Chai - Fall Edition” - C2E Cider with Herbs/Spices - Speciality Cider and Perry Table

March 4, 2023 - **IBU Open**, Des Moines, IA

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 2nd Place - “A Helles By Any Other Name” - 2A: International Pale Lager - Pale European Beer Table
 - 1st Place - “Duchesse du Winfield” - 23B: Flanders Red Ale - European Sour Ale Table
- **Dave Fetty**
 - 2nd Place - 26D: Belgian Dark Strong - Strong Belgian Ale Table

March 4, 2023 - **Ocean State Homebrew Competition**, Providence, RI

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 2nd Place - “Super Secret Cider Recipe” - C1A: New World Cider - Standard Cider and Perry Table
- **Dave Fetty**
 - 2nd Place - 3D: Czech Dark Strong - Czech Lager Table
 - 2nd Place - 14C: Scottish Export - Scottish and Irish Table

March 11, 2023 - **Peach State Brewoff**, Tucker, GA

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 2nd Place - “Keines Deutches Porter” - 8B: Schwarzbier - Amber Dark European Table
 - Honorable Mention - “Barrel Projects are Fun” - 28B: Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer - European / American Sour Table
- **Dave Fetty**
 - 1st Place, HM BoS - 20C: Imperial Stout - Imperial Stout Table
 - 3rd Place - 14C: Scottish Export - Scottish and Irish Table
 - 3rd Place - “Saison 12” - 25B: Saison - Belgian Table
 - 3rd Place - 27A2: Kentucky Common - Historical Table

March 12, 2023 - **Drunk Monk Challenge**, Aurora, IL

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st Place, BoS - “Piwo Winfieldiskie” - 17A5: Piwo Grodsizkie - Smoked Beer Table

- 1st Place - “Keines Deutes Porter” - 8B: Schwarzbier - Dark European Lager Table
- 2nd Place - “Double Phantasmagoria” - 22A: Double IPA - Speciality and Double IPA Table



- **Greg Ellwanger**
 - 1st Place - “Definitely Not Fosters” - 21C: Hazy IPA - Hazy IPA Table
- **Jay Kash**
 - 1st Place - “Ice Cider” - C2D: Ice Cider - Specialty Cider and Perry Table
- **Mark Niemczewski**
 - 2nd Place - “Hops in Mouth” - 21A: American IPA - IPA Table
- **Ray Nonnie**
 - 2nd Place - “Tmarve Pivo” - 3C: Czech Dark Lager - Dark European Lager Table
- **Jim Silverstein**
 - 2nd Place - “Baltic Holiday” - 9C: Baltic Porter - Porters Table
 - 1st Place - “Ag Stein Hopwall” - 21A: American IPA - IPA Table
 - 3rd Place - “Ag Stein Flanders” - 23V: Flanders Red Ale - Sour Ales Table
 - 3rd Place - “St. James the Strong” - 26D: Belgian Dark Strong - Monastic Ale Table
- **Kevin Wojdak & Jeff Knepper**
 - 2nd Place - “Cluster Bock” - 6C: Dunkles Bock - Bocks Table

March 18, 2023 - **Bluebonnet Brewoff**, Fort Worth, TX

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 3rd Place - “Not Your Bitter Grandpa” - 11C: Strong Bitter - Strong Pale English Beer Table

April 1, 2023 - **Cascade Brewers Cup**, Woodinville, WA

- **Dan Acheson**

- 1st Place - “Keines Deutches Porter” - 8B: Schwarzbier - Dark Euro Table
- 3rd Place - “Modest Bastard” - 22B: American Strong Ale - American Strong Table
- 2nd Place - “Cherry Chocolate Flanders” - 29B: Fruit and Spice Beer - Fruit Beer Table

- **Dave Fetty**

- 1st Place - 26D: Belgian Dark Strong - Dark Strong Belgian Table
- 2nd Place - “Saison 12” - 25B: Saison - Pale Strong Belgian Table

April 1, 2023 - **World Cup of Beer**, Alameda, CA

- **Dan Acheson**

- 2nd Place - “Double Phantasmagoria” - 22A: Double IPA - Speciality and Double IPA Table
- 2nd Place - “Jeff’s Vienna” - 7A: Vienna Lager - Amber European Beer Table
- 2nd Place - “Luck ‘O The Somethin’” - 15A: Irish Red Ale - Scottish and Irish Ale Table

April 14, 2023 - **Boot Brew Fest**, Eunice, LA

- **Dan Acheson**

- 2nd Place - “Keines Deutches Porter” - 8B: Schwarzbier - Amber Bitter European and Schwarzbier Table



April 15, 2023 - **ASH Cactus Classic**, Tucson, AZ

- **Dan Acheson**

- 1st Place, BoS Cider - “Daadee Ma’s Apple Chai” - C2E Cider with Herbs/Spices - Cider Spiced and Specialty Table
- 2nd Place - “Isaria Spalt SMASH” - 27A1: Kellerbier - Pale Malty European Lager Table
- 1st Place - “The Dark Goat” - 6C: Dunkles Bock - Amber European Beer Table
- 1st Place - “Keines Deutches Porter” - 8B: Schwarzbier - Dark European Lager Table

- 3rd Place - “Phantasmagoria” - 21A: American IPA - American IPA / Double IPA Table
- Honorable Mention - “Deal With The Devil” - 25C: Belgian Golden Strong Ale - Belgian Ale Table

April 22, 2023 - **Siciliano’s Homebrew Competition**, Grand Rapids, MI

- **Dave Fetty**

- 3rd Place - 3C: Czech Dark Lager - Table 3
- 2nd Place - 14C: Scottish Export - Table 7

April 23, 2023 - **Who Brews It**, Wichita, KS

- **Dave Fetty**

- BoS, 1st Place, ProAm Winner - 27A2: Kentucky Common - The American 1 Table
- 2nd Place - 14C: Scottish Export - The English 1 Table

April 15, 2023 - **Eight Seconds of Froth**, Cheyenne, WY

- **Dan Acheson**

- BoS Cider/Mead, 1st Place - “Something from the Fall of ‘22” - C1A: New World Cider - Standard Cider Table
- 1st Place - “Keines Deutches Porter” - 8B: Schwarzbier - Dark European Lager Table
- 3rd Place - “Herbal Joe’s Best Bitter” - 11B: Best Bitter - Pale and Amber British Beer Table
- 3rd Place - “Chai Cyser” - M3A: Fruit and Spice Mead - Spice and Specialty Mead Table

- **Kevin & Noah Wojdak**

- 3rd Place - “Can’t Wait to See Where this Gueuze” - 23E: Gueuze - European Sour Ale Table

Midwest Homebrewer of the Year (MWHBOY)

Top UKG member standings on the 2023 circuit as of April 27, 2023.

- Dan Acheson - **1st**
- Jim Silverstein - 8th
- Greg Ellwanger - 59th

- Jay Kash - 98th
- Mark Niemczewski - 107th
- Ray Nonnie - 107th
- Dave Fetty - 112th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak - 149th
- Joe Skiles - 165th

Master Homebrewer Program

Circuit of America 2023 Standings

(As of May 1, 2023 - **BOLD** indicates rank in top 10. Top 10 in Circuit of America win awards.)

- Dan Acheson - **3rd**
- Jay Kash - 366th
- Ray Nonnie - 373rd
- Kevin Wojdak / Noah Wojdak - 484th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak / Jeff Knepper - 487th
- Mark Niemczewski - 487th
- Kevin Wojdak - 758th



Master Homebrewer Program Lifetime Rankings

- **Dan Acheson** - Grand Master II Brewer plus 2 x Silver Stars, 5 x Bronze Stars
- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak** - Master Brewer plus 1 x Silver Star, 2 x Bronze Stars

Upcoming Competitions of Note

- **BOSS Charlie Orr Memorial (MWHBOY)**

Judge Registration: Open

Entry Registration: Closed

Judging Dates: May 13, 2023

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

- **Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Circuit Competitions**
 - **Master Homebrewer Program — Circuit of America Competition** - Drunk Monk Challenge represents Illinois on the Circuit. Top 10 winners recognized on the circuit.
 - **Circuit Competitions List**
 - **American Homebrew Association Competition Calendar**
-

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

LogOff Brewing

Rancho Cordova, CA

<https://logoffbrewing.com/>



By Eileen Uchima with edits from Mike Uchima

If you take a trip to the Sacramento, California area, you will find not just wonderful wine, but also a thriving craft beer scene. Mike and I were there to visit our daughter, Heather and her boyfriend, Mike Zuro, whom many of you know. We were treated to some great local wine, cider, and hard kombucha while we were there, too.

Probably my favorite brewery from my visit was Heather and Mike's local watering hole, **LogOff Brewing**. The vibe there is very neighborhood pub with some regulars showing up every evening. There is plenty of indoor and outdoor seating where you can watch the hummingbirds visit the many feeders. Inside, you find friendly staff, some pinball and board games, and many patrons with pooches in tow. No lawsuits there yet, banishing our furry friends!



The beers there were all quite good to excellent, with a strong variety. I visited in June and had the following (just to name a few):

- Walker, Texas Oranger - Citrus and vanilla wheat beer (very good, great vanilla notes)
- Ume Blossom – Japanese rice lager with tea and plums (excellent!)
- Hazy, Lazy Days – NEIPA with Citra and Mosaic (excellent)
- Dragon Fire – American Red Ale with great malt character (very good)

Mike visited in late October, and had:

- Dragon Fire (already mentioned above)
- Oktoberfest – nice toasty malt character, well-balanced
- Hopsweeper West Coast DIPA – Mike's a sucker for anything with Nelson Sauvin hops

In fact, I only had one beer there that I didn't love. There was a raspberry beer on tap (the name escapes me and it is not on the current tap list). The raspberry was somewhat aggressive and very candy-like.

Heather and Mike Z. were asked to guest brew there and made a Saison for the LogOff Anniversary bash. I got the privilege of naming the beer, given the rule that it HAD to be named for an 80's movie as that would be the theme for the party. Although I had to return home before the party, I did get to try the beer before they canned it..."Desperately Seeking Saison"!

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 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.



Because the shirt is custom made to order, the cost per shirt ranges from \$45 - \$50 depending on size needed and custom embroidery, etc.

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.

Available for Immediate Purchase

UKG Woodcut Graphic T-Shirts

- UKG Woodcut Graphic T-Shirt
(Charcoal Gray T-shirt with white and black vinyl design on Front)
Size: Medium
Only 1 left... just ask.
\$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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