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

To: <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - August 2023 Edition



Knaves Knews

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

August 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**

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Board of Directors

Abbess - [Eileen Uchima](#)

First Lady / Head Penguin -

[Mike Uchima](#)

Master of the Coin - [Darrell](#)

[Proksa](#)

Welcome Address



Hail Knaves!

I hope that everyone is having/had a wonderful summer full of fun. I know the kids are all back to school but, it is always very hard for me to go back to a fall mindset and the current weather is supporting the fact that it is still summer!

Since our last Knewsletter went out while we were in Hawaii, I feel like it's been awhile since I wrote this and I truly appreciate that Woj covered for my article while we were away!

Our August club meeting was a little smaller (and I hear that the July meeting was smaller still) but, that is on par for the summer. BubbleHouse

Master of Coms - **Kevin**

"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.

 **Groups.io**

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

deciding to be open on Tuesday for the summer hasn't been a problem but, we'll see what they decide going forward and how that affects us.

Our August 6 Social Sunday at **Ike & Oak** **Brewing** was very well attended...we just kept adding more tables. I always enjoy their patio and the food there is great. I'm partial to their white stouts too!



The CHAOS Brew BQ was a fun time as always, with sooo many great beers, meads, and ciders to try. Thanks for doing your part to make our booth a success. And special thanks to Dan Acheson for taking the challenge of brewing the beer for the Throwdown. It was no surprise that his beer brought home the gold for UKG...too bad we didn't have it with us to sample. That probably means more for those of us who show up to the September meeting! (hint, hint)

This Saturday, August 26 from 3-11PM, long-time club member Joe & Cathy Formanek will be hosting a summer party. Along with UKG members, Joe's family and friends will be there allowing us to share our beer with a few extra folks. Bring a dish to share, beer, and a lawn chair or two. The weather is supposed to be great for an outdoor party! There will also be a slots tournament with fabulous prizes on Joe's vintage slot machines.

Our Fall Train Crawl will be held on Saturday, September 16. Look elsewhere in the Knewsletter or on the calendar for more details. Whether you plan to make a day of it, or only have time for one or two stops, join us!

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.

Our next club meeting will be at BubbleHouse on Tuesday, September 19. Along with our usual bottle share we will be judging the latest of our Knighted Knave Cup challenges: Pre-Prohibition American beers. Make sure that you bring enough of your entry (Pre-Pro Porter, Lager, California Common or Kentucky Common) for everyone to get a taste so that you might get your name on our travelling trophy.



By the way, if you are interested in learning to make mead, or just looking for some

tips to up your mead game, I will be teaching “Mead Making Basics and Beyond” at Skeleton Key Brewing on Saturday, September 9. We will sample some varietal honeys and several types of mead while learning the basics of making mead including info on adding fruit and spices to your concoction. I have taught this class multiple times and it has always been a hit. Sign up is posted on the [Skeleton Key website](#) in the “Classes” tab! Hope to see some of you there.

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.

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!

- None in August
-

UPCOMING on the Calendar...

August

- **Saturday, August 26th @ 3:00 p.m.** - Joe and Cathy Formanek's Annual Summer Bash at 184 Brookwood Lane West in Bolingbrook. Bring a dish to share and/or homebrew.

September

- **Saturday, September 16th @ 12:00 p.m.** - Fall Pub Crawl - See below for further details from Tim Devitt.
- **Tuesday, September 19th @ 7:30 p.m.** - Monthly Meeting at **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle.
- **Sunday, September 24th @ 2:00 p.m.** - Social Sunday at **Riverlands Brewing**, 1860 Dean St Unit A in St. Charles

For more details on any of these events and directions and/or map links, see the **Club Calendar on the UKG website**.

Social Sundays



The club enjoying another Social Sunday afternoon at Ike & Oak Brewing in Woodridge on August 6th

CHAOS BrewBQ 2023

Dan Acheson takes home the Gold in the BrewBQ Invitational Throwdown!

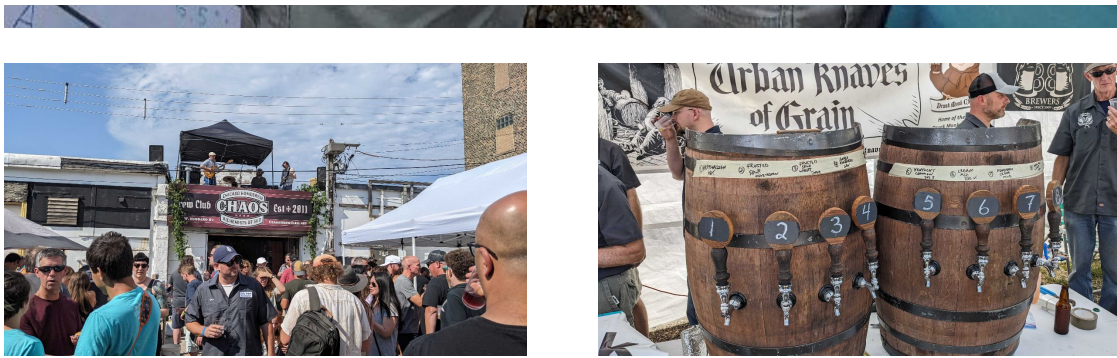
(click on any image to blow it up)



CHAMPION
CHAOS
Homebrew Invitational
Throwdown

- 2024 CHAOS
ABC Brewing
- 2023 South Street
Eppan Brewery
- 2022 BUSS
B&B Brew
- 2021 SUG
Eppan Brewery

KENTUCKY C MON 6.2%
IMP. CREAM ALE Joe S
PINEAPPLE CIDER Joe N
WOOD-AGED CIDER 5.8%
CIDER MIX



Fall Train Crawl

UKG PUB CRAWL

The UKG Annual Fall Train Crawl will take place on Saturday, September 16th with an approximate start time of 11:00 a.m.

Our scheduled stops for the day will be (click any of the names to see their website):

- **Ravinia Brewing** - The Lunch stop to build a base for drinking. The Chicago taproom location at 2601 W Diversey Ave, Chicago.
- **Metropolitan Brewing** at 3057 N Rockwell St, Chicago. BYO Food here.
- **Maplewood Brewery & Distillery** at 2717 N Maplewood Ave, Chicago.
- **Piece Brewing and Pizzeria** - Dinner stop #1 at 1927 W. North Ave. Chicago
- **The Perch Kitchen and Tap** - Dinner stop #2 if you'd rather eat later at 1932 West Division, Chicago. A partnership between 4 STAR restaurant Group and Finch Beer Co.



The schedule and timing for the day will be provided with the map which will be available for printing to keep you on track. It will be downloadable from the calendar or download map --> [here](#).

Knighted Knave Cup Competition

The newest Knighted Knave Cup Competition launched at the June club meeting. The style for this next club competition is **Pre-Prohibition beers** including Pre-Prohibition Lager (Category 27), Pre-Prohibition Porter (Category 27), Kentucky Common (Category 27) and California Common (19B). Judging is tentatively set for the September meeting.

Who's going to put their name on the cup next? Mark Niemczewski currently holds the cup for winning the last competition, American IPA. (Mark is ineligible to enter this round so someone else needs to claim the cup.)



Some highlights and history of the newest competition styles are:

- **Pre-Prohibition Lager (27 - Historical)** - A bitter and hoppy pale American adjunct lager, often with a robust, corny flavor profile, although more crisp and neutral-tasting versions exist.

History: An adaptation of continental lagers by immigrant German brewers in the mid-1800s in the US. Became most popular by the 1870s, but weakened in strength, bitterness, and popularity after Prohibition, and was largely replaced by Standard American Lager. Resurrected by homebrewers in the mid-1990s, but few commercial examples exist.

- **Pre-Prohibition Porter (27 - Historical)** - A historical American adaptation of English Porter by German immigrants using American ingredients, including adjuncts.

History: Commercially brewed in Philadelphia during the revolutionary period as an adaptation of English beer. Evolved later as German immigrants applied lager brewing methods during the second half of the 1800s. Prohibition ended most porter brewing in the US, except in a few regional Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states where it was most popular.

- **Kentucky Common (27 - Historical)** - A clean, dry, refreshing, slightly malty dark beer with high carbonation. Mild-tasting, with light toast and caramel flavors, served very fresh as a sessionable saloon beer.

History: An American original, Kentucky Common was almost exclusively produced and sold around Louisville, Kentucky from some time after the Civil War until Prohibition. It was inexpensive and quickly produced, racked into barrels while actively fermenting, and tightly bunged to allow carbonation in the saloon cellar. Before the style died, it accounted for about 75% of sales around Louisville.

Some have speculated it was a dark variant of Cream Ale, created by immigrant Germanic brewers who added darker grains to help acidity the local carbonate water.

- **California Common (19B)** - A toasty and caramelly, fairly bitter, standard-strength beer with an interesting fruitiness and rustic, woody hop character. Smooth and well carbonated.

History: American West Coast original, brewed originally as Steam Beer during the Gold Rush era. Large shallow open fermenters (coolships) were used to compensate for the lack of refrigeration and to take advantage of the cool temperatures in the San Francisco Bay area. Modern versions are based on Anchor Brewing re-launching the style in the 1970s.

Competitions

Competition Wins

August 6, 2023 — **Best of the Bay 2023**, Bellingham, WA

- **Kevin Wojdak - "Woj"**
 - 4th Place for "HANK's Place Cider 2022" on the Standard Cider and Perry (New World Cider, New England Cider, Cider with Other Fruit, Applewine) table.

August 12, 2023 - **Dominion Cup**, Richmond, VA

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 3rd Place - "Cidurana" - C2F: Speciality Cider & Perry - Cider Table

August 19, 2023 - Commander Saaz, Melbourne, FL

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 1st Place - "Keines Deutches Porter" - 8B: Schwarzbier - Dark European Lager Table

August 19, 2023 — Enchanted Brewing Challenge, Albuquerque, NM

- **Dave Fetty**
 - 1st BoS - 26D: Belgian Dark Strong Ale
 - 1st Place - 26D: Belgian Dark Strong Ale - Strong Ale table
- **Dan Acheson**
 - HM - "Neues Helles" - \$A: Munich Helles - Light Lagers and Pilsner table

Illinois Competitions ... By The Numbers...

Illinois BJCP-sanctioned competitions held in the past 12 months:

Drunk Monk Challenge (Aurora)	611 entries
Brixtoberfest (Willow Springs)	230
Charlie Orr Memorial (Tinley Park)	222
Wortapalooza (Long Grove)	192
Winterbrew (Chicago)	181
Carbondale Brewfest (Carbondale)	113
For What It's Wort (Bloomington)	91
Besleys/Perfect Brewing (Libertyville)	84
Big Muddy (Murphysboro)	46
Decembeer (Peoria)	33

Midwest Homebrewer of the Year (MWHBOY)

Top UKG member standings on the 2023 circuit as of August 11, 2023.

- Dan Acheson - **1st**
- Joe Formanek - 5th
- Jim Silverstein - 11th
- Joe Skiles - 51st
- Jay Kash - 79th
- Greg Ellwanger - 84th

- Ray Nonnie - 132nd
- Dave Fetty - 133rd
- Mark Niemczewski - 165th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak - 187th

Master Homebrewer Program

Circuit of America 2023 Standings

(As of August 11, 2023 - **BOLD** indicates rank in top 10. Top 10 in Circuit of America win awards.)

- Dan Acheson - **3rd**
- Jay Kash - 401st
- Ray Nonnie - 408th
- Kevin Wojdak / Noah Wojdak - 522nd
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak / Jeff Knepper - 525th
- Mark Niemczewski - 525th
- Kevin Wojdak - 812th



Master Homebrewer Program Lifetime Rankings

- **Dan Acheson** - Grand Master III Brewer plus 2 x Silver Stars, 6 x Bronze Stars, LORD OF LAGERS
- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak** - Master Brewer plus 1 x Silver Star, 2 x Bronze Stars
- **Joe Skiles** - Recognized Brewer plus 1 x Bronze Star



Upcoming Competitions of Note

- **Brixtoberfest 2023**

Entries: Now through September 29, 2023 - Limit 300 entries.

Judging: October 10-14, 2023 - Judge registration currently open.

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](#)

Happenings From the Club



Dave "Davenport" Fetty helping judge at the [First Coast Cup Homebrew Competition](#) on Saturday, July 15th in Jacksonville, Florida.

Financials



Annual Dues

Annual membership renewal dues are **\$20**.
New members pay just **\$10** to join through the rest of the year.

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**.

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.



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.*

Brave Noise Movement

We have all heard about sexual harassment issues in the local (and not so local) brewing industry, and this group, the Brave Noise Movement, 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 the Brave Noise Movement at bravenoisebeer.com. UKG supports the movement.



Contact us.

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



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