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

To: Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - July 2023 Edition



Knaves Knews

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

July 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](#)

Welcome Address



Hail Knaves!

Happy dog days of summer!

I'm filling in for Eileen since she and Mike are off on their trip to Hawaii. They'll be back in time for the August meeting so Eileen will resume her job then.

Summer is everyone's busy time and I'm no exception to the rule. It seems like we have activities planned for every summer weekend... months ahead of time. I can never fit everything I want to do in and also do all the yardwork summer brings.

We had our July club meeting last Tuesday night with a fair turnout for summer but less members

Proksa

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.



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

than our regular club meetings throughout the year. We look forward to seeing more folks out for the August club meeting but we were happy to see everyone that made it for July.

We launched the next Knighted Knave Cup competition at the June meeting. The styles for this round are Pre-Prohibition styles including Pre-Prohibition Lager, Pre-Prohibition Porter, Kentucky Common, and California Common. Details of the styles can be found later in the Knewsletter. Judging is tentatively set for the October meeting.



Upcoming in August is a Social Sunday event at Ike & Oak in Woodridge on August 6, our August club meeting on the 15th at Bubble House Brewing and then the CHAOS BrewBQ on August 19, and the Formanek Summer Bash on August 26.

The BrewBQ is an annual all homebrew beer festival put on by club CHAOS in Chicago. It's a well attended event by all the local homebrew clubs

and a chance to show off a bit among our homebrew peers. Bring out your best and sometimes unique beers to showcase. CHAOS puts on a good festival with free food and live entertainment. You can make a \$5 donation to get a commemorative glass but it's not required. The event takes place in the parking lot behind the CHAOS club house (2417 W Hubbard St, Chicago) and is fully tented for rain or shine. UKG



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.

will have our own table and our barrel serving system will be out for the event. It's a great big party and always a good time. The location has limited parking in the general vicinity of the club house and is also accessible via Metra train (Western Avenue stop).



On Saturday, August 26th starting at 3:00 p.m., Joe and Cathy Formanek are hosting their annual Summer Bash at their home at 184 Brookwood Lane West in Bolingbrook. They generously open their home to all of UKG as well

as their family and friends for the party. Bring a dish to share and/or homebrew. There's always lots of fun, games, good food, good friends and homebrew at the party.

Besides our meetings and Social Sunday events in September, Tim Devitt and Woj will be putting together the UKG Fall Train



Crawl. It's planned for September 16 so mark your calendar now and be on the lookout for the plan and map to come out sometime in August.

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.

Aloha! (Yes, that's Eileen's line but I stole it.)
Woj

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 June
-

UPCOMING on the Calendar...

August

- **Sunday, August 6th @ 2:00 p.m.** - Sunday Social at **Ike & Oak Brewing**, 6315 Main St, Woodridge
- **Tuesday, August 15th @ 7:30 p.m.** - Monthly Meeting at **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle.
- **Saturday, August 19th @ 2:00 p.m.** - CHAOS BrewBQ Annual All Homebrew Beer Festival at 2417 W Hubbard St in Chicago. This is an awesome all homebrew festival with free admission (... \$5 donation recommended but not required) and free food.
- **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 - Map TBD
- **Tuesday, September 19th @ 7:30 p.m.**
- Monthly Meeting at **Bubblehouse**
Brewing, Lisle.

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

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 October 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

July 8, 2023 — Indiana Brewer's Cup 2023, Indianapolis, IN

- **Dave Fetty**
 - Gold for his Category 27: Historical - Kentucky Common on the Other American Ale table.
- **Joe Skiles**
 - Silver for his 22C: American Barleywine named "Assassination Coordinates" on the Stong American Ale table.
- **Dan Acheson**
 - Bronze for 14B: Scottish Heavy named "What they don't wear beneath their kilts" on the Scottish and Irish ales table.
 - Bronze for 33B: Specialty Wood-Aged named "Maltz und Rum" on the Wood-Aged Beer 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
December (Peoria)	33

Midwest Homebrewer of the Year (MWHBOY)

Top UKG member standings on the 2023 circuit as of July 16, 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 July 16, 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 II 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

None at this time.

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



Thursday, June 1st - Dave Fetty along with brewers Brandon and Denver brewing a scale-up of Dave's Kentucky Common at River City Brewing in Wichita, KS.



June 17th - Dave Fetty assists with judging the Best of Show at the **Hot 'n Humid Brew-off** Homebrew Competition in Orlando, 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**](#)

In the News

Kevin Wojdak ("Woj") and Noah Wojdak made the news in the **Daily Herald** on July 5, 2023 for their 2023 National Homebrew Competition Win. See the full [**story here**](#).

UKG was also recognized in the article.



Club Schwag

LogoUp.com Merchandise

We have an account at [LogoUp.com](https://www.logo-up.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](https://www.logo-up.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.

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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