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

To: Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - May 2023



Knaves Knews

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

May 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



Hi y'all!

Happy unofficial summer! It's a beautiful, sunny, 80 degrees today and summer activities seem to be kicking into high gear.

It sounds like Big Brew day on May 6 was a great time for those who were able to attend. Thanks so much to Church Street Brewing for hosting and providing wort. I'm eager to start tasting some of the bevies that were concocted that day.

This month also saw several Knaves judging and/or winning at BOSS' Charlie Orr Memorial Cup Competition. I think it's very important for as many of us as



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>

possible to participate in our local competitions.

The people we help today will be those who help us make the next Drunk Monk Challenge a success.

Our recent social events have been a lot of fun. First, on May 21st we met at Solemn Oath in Naperville for a beer or two. Their new A-frame huts get quite warm when it is sunny so we were inside. The beer at Solemn Oath is always well-made, but I do wish they had some more non-IPA choices!

On May 27th, Ray Nonnie hosted a screening of Elton John's 60th birthday concert at his house. The video was great with a lot of Elton's hits but also quite a few lesser known songs. It gave the feeling that Elton chose what HE wanted to play, not just what was expected from him. Ray's incredible surround sound system made me feel like I was actually at a concert but, without having to pay stadium prices for the beer!



We have another opportunity to get together to socialize coming up on Sunday, June 4th.

We will be gathering at Obscurity Brewing and Mead Hall in Elburn. The brewery and the mead hall are two separate buildings, so watch for details of where we will be and when. Food there is barbeque-focused and highly recommended. **Ream's Meat Market** is down the street and also a recommended stop (bring a cooler to take home your purchases). See the club calendar for more details.

Our June club meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20th. This meeting will feature officer elections and the kick-off of a new Knighted

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.

Knave Cup challenge competition. Our club home, Bubblehouse in Lisle, is going to be open to the public on Tuesdays this summer. If they get a crowd, we will be in the party room, which is certainly large enough to hold us. Remember, there is additional parking in back if the lot looks full when you arrive.

Woj just started a new channel on the club slack. It



is the “#brewbq” channel and it is for all things to do with the upcoming (August 19) CHAOS BrewBQ. If you haven’t been to the BrewBQ previously, get that day freed up on your calendar and come...you will not regret it! It is a homebrew-only beer festival, where we all get to geek out over fellow homebrewers’ creativity and show off our own creations...and it’s free! Even if you can’t make it, please consider sending a beer along with someone else so that UKG can represent. More details are on the calendar.

Keep your eyes open for more details of summer fun events for UKG. Possible events include a summer party, brew pub visits, a 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.

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 May
-

UPCOMING on the Calendar...

June

- **Sunday, June 4th @ 1:00 p.m.** - Sunday Social at **Obscurity Brewing and Craft Mead**, 113 W N St in Elburn.
- **Tuesday, June 20th @ 7:30 p.m.** - Monthly Meeting at **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle. Topic: Election of Club Officers and announcement of next Knighted Knave Cup competition.
- **Sunday, June 25th @ 2:00 p.m.** - Sunday Social at **Goldfinger Brewing**, 513 Rogers St in Downers Grove.

July

- **Saturday, July 8th @ 9:00 a.m.** - UKG Brew-In at **Tim Devitt's** house, 1675 Whispering Oaks Dr in West Chicago. Bring your own equipment and brew a beer, or just come and observe. Bring food for grilling

afterwards.

- **Sunday, July 16th @ 2:00 p.m.** - Sunday Social at **Nik & Ivy Brewing**, 1026 S State St in Lockport.
- **Tuesday, July 18th @ 7:30 p.m.** - Monthly Meeting at **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle.

August

- **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.

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

Social Sundays with Tim



Sunday May 21st Solemn Oath Brewery Visit

by Tim Devitt

We had a few members stop by and we were very surprised with the beer selection. The selections our club members drank were a Lager, a cream ale, a barleywine, and an imperial stout. Solemn Oath had a lot of IPA's and DDH (Double Dry-Hopped) IPA's on tap many more than any of us thought would be available. Additionally, they have hard seltzers which seemed to be a big seller for them.

The outdoor space is nice with the look of a wooded outdoor area. The structures they have, unfortunately, are not very friendly in the warm sun however, they do have several picnic tables for congregating as a group.

No one attending from the club went over to the "Go brewing" section of the menu which are the non-alcoholic selections at the brewery.

Here are a few pictures from the day:





Solemn Oath Brewery,
1661 Quincy St, Naperville

Board Member Elections

There are three elected positions within the Urban Knaves of Grain homebrew club each with a 1-year term. They are:

- President
- Treasurer
- Communications Officer

Every year, the club as a group elects to keep the current officers in place or nominates new individuals for the positions. Club elections take place every year starting with nominations at the May meeting and finishing with voting at the June meeting.

Our current club officers and nominees for 2023-2024 are:

- **UKG President** - Eileen Uchima
 - Responsible for conducting the meetings.
 - Represents the club in an official capacity contacting breweries and vendors for club activities and events as needed.



-
- **Treasurer** - Darrell Proksa
 - Manages the fiscal aspects of the club.
 - Reports cash flow at board meetings and annually through the Knewsletter.
 - Files any documents required to the State and Federal government.



- **Communications** - Kevin Wojdak ("Woj")

- Maintains and publishes the *Knaves Knewsletter*.
- Communicates through online and social media communications vehicles that are deemed necessary by the board.
- Liaison for organizational communications in general.
- Marketing for the club throughout the year.



If you wish to be considered for any of these positions, please speak to any of the current board members above.

Voting for these positions will be held at the June meeting.



Church Street Brewing hosted Big Brew Day this year and provided everyone with a starting 5-gallons or so of wort from their *Heavenly Helles* batch that day. Everyone then took the wort and created something new from it there that day or took it to-go to finish brewing at home.

A great time was had by all who attended. Of the attendees who brewed there, you'll be able to look for samples in upcoming meetings of Helles, Czech Dark Lager, Kolsch, American IPA, Saison, and more.



Competitions

Competition Wins

May 13, 2023 — Alabama Brewers Cup 2023, Birmingham, AL

- **Dave Fetty**
 - Best of Show - 26D Belgian Dark Strong
 - 1st Place - - 26D Belgian Dark Strong
 - 2nd Place - 3D Czech Dark Lager
 - HM - 14C Scottish Export

May 13, 2023 — **New England Brewing Company Homebrew Competition 2023**, Woodbridge, CT

- **Dave Fetty**
 - 2nd Place Best of Show - 20C Imperial Stout
 - 3rd Place Best of Show - 25B Saison
 - 1st place - 20C Imperial Stout
 - 1st place - 25B Saison
 - 2nd place - 26D Belgian Dark Strong

Midwest Homebrewer of the Year (MWHBOY)

Top UKG member standings on the 2023 circuit as of May 29, 2023.

- Dan Acheson - **1st**
- Jim Silverstein - 7th
- Joe Skiles - 55th
- Greg Ellwanger - 67th
- Jay Kash - 108th
- Mark Niemczewski - 116th
- Ray Nonnie - 116th
- Dave Fetty - 119th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak - 164th

Master Homebrewer Program

Circuit of America 2023 Standings

(As of May 29, 2023 - **BOLD** indicates rank in top 10. Top 10 in Circuit of America win awards.)

- Dan Acheson - **3rd**
- Jay Kash - 381st
- Ray Nonnie - 388th
- Kevin Wojdak / Noah Wojdak - 500th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak / Jeff Knepper - 503rd
- Mark Niemczewski - 503rd
- Kevin Wojdak - 781st



Master Homebrewer Program Lifetime Rankings

- **Dan Acheson** - Grand Master II Brewer plus 2 x Silver Stars, 6 x Bronze Stars

- **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

- **Indiana Brewer's Cup**
Entry window: Open now
Shipping: June 9 - 25
Competition date: July 8
Part of the Indiana State Fair. This is a great competition to judge at as out of state judges are paid \$100 for judging at least 2 sessions. The after party and awards ceremony is quite elaborate.



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.

Other Club News

A Growler Club for a Good Cause

by Brent Anderson

I wanted to share my story on how I have been able to increase the frequency of my brewing while contributing to a good cause. Our family has been involved with our children's school, **St. Joan of Arc** in Lisle since our daughter started Kindergarten in 2012. The school has an annual auction fundraiser each winter with the goal of generating funds to help cover costs of running the school. We are always looking for ways to contribute our time, talent, and treasure so, I thought there must be a good way to utilize my homebrewing hobby to support the school. In 2022, I decided to offer a "Growler Club" item for purchase at the annual school auction. Each winning bidder who bought into the Growler Club would receive 6 to 8 growler fills of my homebrew throughout the year. I had quite a good response for this silent auction item, with the eight (8) memberships offered selling out before the live auction even began.

I purchased custom printed 64 oz growlers with the school's logo for each

member of the Growler Club. For the first brew of the year, I filled each of the growlers from the tap in my basement and delivered the beer to their homes. For



subsequent beers, I texted the club members and had them come back to my house with their growler to have it refilled. This gave me an excuse to brew more frequently and gave me a way to help finish my beer to make room for the next batch. The Growler Club members often give me feedback on the beers and shared their growler with other parents in the community which I have found valuable and encouraging.



Back by popular demand, I offered up the Growler Club once again in 2023 as an item for the school auction. This time, the demand increased and the Growler Club was the first auction item to sell out... doing so within 90 minutes of the silent auction opening.

For this second year, I upgraded the custom growler to an insulated version. It has been a fun way to give back to the school raising almost \$5000 over the past two years while giving me an opportunity to brew more often and share my passion with other families in the school

community. I have tried to provide a variety of styles to the club members which, thus far, have included Irish Red, Witbier, American Pale Ale, Kolsch, Festbier, Fresh (home-grown) Hopped Ale, Habanero Brown Ale, American IPA, Belgian Dark Strong, Saison, and Barrel-aged Imperial Stout. I have been excited with the response from the school community with my Growler Club donation and would be interested hearing other ways members have used their hobby for a good cause!

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.

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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