

Date: 06:57 PM CST, 11/30/2023

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

To: Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - November 2023 Edition



Knaves Knews

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

November 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!

Happy fall and Happy Holidays to everyone. I feel like 2023 is rushing to a close already! I'm a summer girl and my favorite holiday is

Halloween, so we're already past the best part of the year and the best holiday in my book...it's all downhill from here.

November was light on social activities with only the very lightly-attended **Learn to Homebrew Day** brew-in at Ray Nonnie's house. Look for Sunday brewery socials to pick up again after the holidays.

And speaking of the holidays...our annual Holiday

*Master of Words - **Kevin***

***Wojdak** ("Woj")*

Chaplain of Education -

Ray Nonnie

Brother of Events

*Planning - **Tim Devitt***

Minister of Tournaments /

*Head Drunk Monk - **Dan***

***Acheson** ("Friar Dan")*

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>

party at Two Brothers Roundhouse is on for Tuesday, December 19! Arrive at 6:30 PM, grab a beer from the bar and follow the signs up to the Stout Room. We will have dinner, a brief meeting and our usual social time with bottle share. Significant others are warmly invited to attend. We will also have our Holiday Beer Roulette Brew Exchange (see details elsewhere in the Knewsletter). Please note that we need a count for both the beer roulette and the meeting itself (so that we have enough food for all) so PLEASE take the time to respond on the appropriate spreadsheets. It will help the evening to progress in a smooth manner if we know how many to expect for both dinner and roulette.

Stay warm and see you all at the Holiday Party!

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!

- Mica Zaragoza - Downers Grove

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.

UPCOMING on the Calendar

December

- **Tuesday, December 19th @ 6:30 p.m.** - UKG Meeting and Holiday Party at Two Brothers Roundhouse, one of the upstairs rooms, Aurora, IL

January

- **Tuesday, January 16th @ 6:30 p.m.** - UKG Monthly Meeting, Bubblehouse Brewing, Lisle, IL

More events and happening coming in the next edition leading into the new year.

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

Christmas Brew Roulette

It's time to play "Christmas Brew Roulette"!

We'll do the Roulette exchange live at the Club Holiday Party at Two Brothers Roundhouse on December 19th. You still have time to brew or get something together.



Basics

Bring a 6-pack of your beer, mead, or cider to the exchange and leave with a mixed

6-pack of your fellow UKG member's brews to enjoy over the holidays. 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 on the sign-in sheet.

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 random 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.

The exchange will take place Tuesday, December 19th at our Annual UKG Club Christmas Party. If you cannot make it to the party but still want to participate, make arrangements with a fellow UKG friend to bring your beer.

If you're interested in participating, please post your intentions to the Google doc at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oF6TCge3BgnAUEiyAtE8oC8B8ssm3N31PiJbGP_M5qU/edit?usp=sharing

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. It's simple and fun!



Drunk Monk Challenge

Our annual UKG club competition is coming up in March...the **26th Drunk Monk Challenge!**

We'll need lots of help as always, so if you'd like to be on the Committee, please get in touch with Dan Acheson via Slack or email (djacheson@gmail.com).

We'll have our first committee meeting in December. We'll also get the competition website updated soon, but for now, here are a few important dates are below:

Entry Deadline: 3/1/2024

Entry pickup around Chicago: 3/1 EOD - 3/2

Entry Sorting: 3/3, Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora, IL

Judging Dates: 3/6, 3/8, 3/9 (main Judging) - Two Brothers Roundhouse

Competitions

Competition Wins

October 28, 2023 - Hoppy Halloween Challenge, Fargo, ND

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 3rd Place - "Aloha Lehua" - M1A: Dry Mead - Traditional Mead Table

- o 3rd Place - "Winfield Ate Her" - 9A: Dapplebock - Bock Table

- **Dave Fetty**

- o 1st Place - "OI 63" - 22C: American Barleywine - Strong Ale Table
- o 2nd Place - 20C: Imperial Stout - Stout Table

November 5, 2023 - **Mazer Cup International**, Kansas City, MO

- **Dan Acheson**

- o 3rd Place, "Not Dundeeds Honey Brown Braggot" - M4A: Braggot - Braggot Table

November 11, 2023 - **OBC Fall Classic**, Portland, OR

- **Dan Acheson**

- o 1st Place - "A Lil' Lactose 'L Do Ya'" - 16A: Sweet Stout - Dark British Table

November 18, 2023 - **New England Regional Homebrew Competition**, Manchester, NH

- **Dan Acheson**

- o BoS Cider, 1st Place - "Cidurana" - C4C: Specialty Cider - Specialty Cider Table
- o 2nd Place - "Ode the Schlenkerla in Autumn" - 34B: Mixed Style Beer - Specialty and Alternative Beer Table
- o 2nd Place - "Cysurana" - M4C: Experimental Mead - Specialty Mead Table

- **Dave Fetty**

- o 2nd Place BoS, 1st Place - 27A6: Pre-Prohibition Porter - Standard American Beer Table
- o 2nd Place - 26D: Belgian Dark Strong - Monastic Ale Table
- o HM - 4B: Festbier - Czech and European Lager Table

November 18, 2023 - **Foam Cup**, Tulsa, OK

- **Dan Acheson**

- o BoS Cider, 1st Place - "Cidurana" - C4C: Specialty Cider - Cider with Herbs/Spices and Perry Table

- 1st Place - "London Calling" - 27A4: London Brown Ale - Brown British Beer and London Brown Ale Table

Midwest Homebrewer of the Year (MWHBOY)

Top UKG member standings on the 2023 circuit as of November 28, 2023.

- Dan Acheson - **1st**
- Joe Formanek - 7th
- Dave Fetty - 30th
- Joe Skiles - 39th
- Jim Silverstein - 53rd
- Jay Kash - 126th
- Greg Ellwanger - 139th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak - 227th
- Ray Nonnie - 231st
- Mark Niemczewski - 231st

Master Homebrewer Program

Circuit of America 2023 Standings

(As of November 28, 2023 - **BOLD** indicates rank in top 10. Top 10 in Circuit of America win awards.)

- Dan Acheson - **3rd**
- Joe Skiles - 175th
- Jay Kash - 547th
- Ray Nonnie - 554th
- Kevin Wojdak / Noah Wojdak - 708th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak / Jeff Knepper - 711th
- Mark Niemczewski - 711th
- Kevin Wojdak - 1108th



Master Homebrewer Program Lifetime Rankings

- **Dan Acheson** - Grand Master V Brewer plus 2 x Silver Stars, 10 x Bronze Stars, LORD OF LAGERS, CIDERMASTER, JACK OF ALL TRADES



- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak** - Master Brewer plus 1 x Silver Star, 2 x Bronze Stars



- **Joe Skiles** - Recognized Brewer plus 2 x Bronze Star



- **Greg Ellwanger** - Novice Brewer



Upcoming Competitions of Note

- **Happy Holidays Homebrew Competition** (MWHBOY)
 Judge Registration: Opens 11/13/2023
 Entry Registration: Opens 11/13/2023
 Judging Dates: 12/7-12/10/2023
- **Winterbrew**
 Judge Registration: TBD
 Entry Registration: TBD
 Judging: 01/20/2024
- **Midwinter Homebrew Competition** (MWHBOY)
 Judge Registration: TBD
 Entry Registration: TBD
 Judging Dates: 2/2/2024
- **KCBM 41st Annual Homebrew Competition** (MWHBOY)
 Judge Registration: Opens 12/2/2023
 Entry Registration: Opens 12/2/2023
 Judging Dates: 2/17/2024

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**.
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

Club Work Shirts

UKG Club Work Shirts are charcoal gray Dickies brand work shirts with the club logo over the left chest pocket and the full Drunk Monk vinyl transfer on the back. Names and/or Home Brewery names may be customized onto the shirts as well. The shirts run roughly \$45-\$50 each.



In order for club work shirts to be ordered, we need to have a minimum order of 4-6 shirts. If you have interest in ordering a club workshirt, please drop Woj a line so he can add you to the list.

Drop Woj a line at marketing@knaves.org to let him know you need a shirt.

LogoUp.com Merchandise

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