

Date: 10:09 AM CDT, 10/26/2023

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

To: Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - October 2023 Edition



Knaves Knews

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

October 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

Abess - [Eileen Uchima](#)

First Lady / Head Penguin -

[Mike Uchima](#)

Master of the Coin - [Darrell](#)

[Proksa](#)

Master of Words - [Kevin](#)

Welcome Address



Hail Knaves!

Welcome to Fall! I hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy. I have officially survived to another birthday...now if I can make it through

another gloomy fall and another cold and snowy Illinois winter that will TRULY be something to celebrate! I have officially consumed my first spiced beer and pumpkin muffins of the season. I have also enjoyed quite a few of the Oktoberfest beers at our local breweries. It seems like most of the area breweries have stepped up their collective Fest bier game.

Since our Septe mber meeting, we've had a couple of enjoyable outings. Our September

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



Sunday Social at

Riverlands Brewing was

well attended with some really solid beers.

Our October Sunday Social offering was at **Fox Republic Brewing Co.** in Yorkville. Brewer Ken McMullen (formerly of **Hopvine Brewing**) took the group for a tour before I arrived (late due to teaching again). Since it was Sunday, **Foxes Den Meadery** was also open. Ken took me over there to introduce me to mead maker, Rico Bianchi. Rico and I chatted for awhile and I got to try a flight (plus one) of his available beverages. The Montmorency Cherry still mead was wonderful, and at 13% will carry well into the fall if they don't run out. Most of their meads are session meads at about 6%. These are served lightly carbonated and chilled. The black currant and Concord grape with vanilla was particularly enjoyable. Currently, the Meadery is only open on the weekend as Rico is the only employee and still works his 9-5, too. I hope they see enough business to be able to grow in staff and in hours!

Communications Channels



ukg.slack.com

[Click here](#) to request an invite from a Board member.

 [Groups.io](#)

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

Our October meeting at **Bubblehouse Brewing** was fun, as always! Competition wins were announced (check elsewhere in the Knewsletter for those) and upcoming events were discussed. Great beer and companionship was shared, although the group was a bit smaller than usual. Our November meeting will be held at Bubblehouse on Tuesday, November 21. This is the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week but, please try to make it out.

November's social event will be held on **Learn to Homebrew Day**, Saturday, November 4. We will be having a brew-in at Ray Nonnie's home. Please show up with your brew rig, a friend or two who would like to learn, or even just with some

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.

beer to share to enjoy companionship and be social. Sunday Social brewery visits will take a break until after the holidays.



Don't forget to sign up if you are interested in the annual holiday beer exchange. The time to brew is here since our party will most likely be on December 19th. Watch the calendar in case a change needs to occur if we can't find a room for that date.

We will be holding a board meeting before the end of the month, so watch for some calendar updates in the near future. If you have anywhere that you would like to suggest for a future social night, please post to Slack or email the Board (ukgofficers@knaves.org). This could be a brewery, beer bar, restaurant with a great tap list, or something totally different (anyone up for *Rocky Horror Picture Show*?) It would be great to get some non-board input. We would love to know what you, the members, want!

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!

- Dan Hayosh - Naperville
-

UPCOMING on the Calendar...

November

- **Saturday, November 4th @ 9:00 a.m.** - AHA Learn to Home Brew Day - Brew-In at Ray Nonnie's house, 817 Dugout Trail, Carol Stream. See further details on the club [Calendar](#).
- **Tuesday, November 21st @ 7:30 p.m.**
- Monthly club meeting at Bubblehouse Brewing, Lisle.

December

- **Tuesday, December 19th @ 7:30 p.m.** - UKG Meeting and Holiday Party at Location - TBD.

For more details on any of these events and directions and/or map links, see the [Club Calendar on the UKG website](#).

Social Sunday

Social Sunday on October 15th at **Fox Republic Brewing**, 101 Hydraulic Ave in Yorkville. Brewmaster Ken McMullen, a longtime friend of the UKG and formerly of Hopvine Brewing, opened this new brewery and taproom in July 2023.





Competitions

Competition Wins

October 7, 2023 - Spooky Brew Review, Itasca, IL

- **Dan Acheson**
 - 2nd Place Bos, 1st Place - “Cysurana” - M4C: Experimental Mead - Mead, Cider, Sour Table
 - 3rd Place, “Give it a year...#meanbrews” - 26B: Belgian Dubbel - Strong Beer Table
 - 3rd Place, “Brett projects are fun with mango” - 28C: Wild Specialty Beer - Smoked, Spice Table
- **Joe Skiles**
 - 3rd Place - “Simtra IPA” - 21A: American IPA - IPA Table
- **Kevin Wojdak**
 - 2nd Place, “Kiwi Kin” - LSX5: New Zealand Pilsner - Regional and Hybrid Beer Table
 - 2nd Place, “Steam Punk” - 19B: California Common - British Style Beers Table

October 7, 2023 - Sowers Cup, Lincoln, NE

- **Dan Acheson**

- 1st Place - “Bamburger Dunkles Bock” - 32A: Classic Style Smoked Beer - Odd Balls: Historical, Smoked, Specialty & Alternative Fermentables Table
- 3rd Place, “It’s Not Creamy Enough. Add Lactose” - 1C: Cream Ale - Standard American Beer Table

October 7, 2023 - **Arkansas State Fair**, Little Rock, AK

- **Dan Acheson**

- 1st Place BoS, 1st Place, “Give it a year...#meanbrews” - 26B: Belgian Dubbel - Belgian and Historical Beer Table
- 2nd Place, “errylicious” - C2B: Cider with Other Fruit - Cider Table

October 15, 2023 - **Brixtoberfest**, Willow Springs, IL

- **Dan Acheson**

- 1st Place - “Schwarzes Chokolade” - 30A: Spice, Herb, Vegetable Beer - Spice, Herb, Vegetable Beer Table
- 1st Place - “Bamburger Dunkles Bock” - 32A: Classic Style Smoked Beer - Amber Lagers Table
- 2nd Place - “Hanseatic Porter” - 9C: Baltic Porter - Dark Lagers Table
- 2nd Place, “Give it a year...#meanbrews” - 26B: Belgian Dubbel - Monastic Ales Table

- **Joe Skiles**

- 1st Place BoS, 1st Place - “The Colonel’s Side Hustle” - 27A2: Kentucky Common - Amber and Brown American Beer Table
- 3rd Place - “Simtra IPA” - 21A: American IPA - IPA Table

- **Kevin Wojdak**

- 3rd Place, “Steam Punk” - 19B: California Common - Amber and Brown American Beer Table

October 21, 2023 - **Merrimack Valley Homebrew Competition**, Lawrence, MA

- **Dan Acheson**

- 2nd Place BoS, 1st Place - “Inspired by New Glarus” - 28C: Wild Specialty Beer - Brett, Wild, and Sour Table

- o 2nd Place - “Duchesse du Winfield” - 23B: Flanders Red - Brett, Wild, and Sour Table
- o 1st Place - “A Lil’ Lactose ‘L Do Ya” - 16A: Sweet Stout - British Beers Table

October 22, 2023 - **Southern New England Regional Homebrew Competition**, New Haven, CT

- **Dan Acheson**

- o BoS Cider/Mead, 1st Place - “Cidurana” - C4C: Specialty Cider - Specialty Cider Table
- o 1st Place, HM BoS Cider Mead - “Something From The Fall of ‘22” - C4C: Specialty Cider - Standard Cider and Perry Table
- o 1st Place - “Duchesse du Winfield avec Cerise” - Fruit Beer Table
- o 2nd Place - “A Lil’ Lactose ‘L Do Ya” - 16A: Sweet Stout - Darker British Beer Table
- o 3rd Place, “Give it a year...#meanbrews” - 26B: Belgian Dubbel - Monastic Ale Table

Midwest Homebrewer of the Year (MWHBOY)

Top UKG member standings on the 2023 circuit as of October 24, 2023.

- Dan Acheson - **1st**
- Joe Formanek - 7th
- Joe Skiles - 33rd
- Jim Silverstein - 49th
- Dave Fetty - 100th
- Jay Kash - 117th
- Greg Ellwanger - 120th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak - 210th
- Ray Nonnie - 214th
- Mark Niemczewski - 214th

Master Homebrewer Program

Circuit of America 2023 Standings

(As of October 24, 2023 - **BOLD** indicates rank in top 10. Top 10 in Circuit of America win awards.)

- Dan Acheson - 3rd
- Joe Skiles - 148th
- Jay Kash - 493rd
- Ray Nonnie - 502nd
- Kevin Wojdak / Noah Wojdak - 650th
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak / Jeff Knepper - 653rd
- Mark Niemczewski - 653rd
- Kevin Wojdak - 1022nd



Master Homebrewer Program Lifetime Rankings

- **Dan Acheson** - Grand Master V Brewer plus 2 x Silver Stars, 7 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 2 x Bronze Star



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
- **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**](#)
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Happenings From the Club

On October 22, the Brixie's Homebrew Club organized a Cider buy from the [**Honey Hill Orchard**](#) out in Waterman, IL and invited UKG to attend and purchase cider if wanted.. The cider price was just \$7.00 per gallon for fresh pressed cider with no preservatives... perfect for brewing.

Several UKG members took Brixie's up on the offer and attended the event. The Honey Hill Orchard offered a nice blend of culinary apple cider and also had a few activities available for the family as well.

Thanks to Brixie's for inviting us!

If anyone still wishes to purchase cider this year, while the Honey Hill Orchard opportunity has passed, the Chicago Homebrewer's Group is still offering their annual cider buy through Bill Mason at \$8.00 per gallon. The cider buy is open to ALL Chicago area brewers. Click this link to order: [**Order Cider HERE**](#)

Bill purchases 275 gallon totes of cider from an orchard in Michigan and the cider has always been delicious.



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 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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