

Date: 10:01 PM CST, 03/08/2018

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

To: Kevin <communications@knaves.org>

Subject: Knaves Knewsletter - February 2018



Knaves Knews

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

February 2018

We sincerely apologize for the late delivery of the newsletter for February. All of the activities surrounding the DMC have pushed schedules back and out of whack. You may find a few dates, etc. in the newsletter that have already passed. Some effort was made to catch and remove those. Thanks for your understanding.

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Welcome Address



Greetings, and welcome to Drunk Monk season! Hopefully, your beers are entered and ready to go or even already dropped off at one of our drop-off sites

(depending when the newsletter goes out). If you haven't dropped off yet, be sure to thank the establishment and consider making a purchase while you are there. None of the shops receive anything (other than your business and our

Abbess - **Eileen Uchima**

First Lady / Head Penguin -

Mike Uchima

Master of Coin - **Darrell**

Proksa

Communications Minister -

Kevin "Woj" Wojdak

Chaplain of Education -

Andy Day

Sister of Events Planning -

Luann Fitzpatrick

Minister of Tournaments -

Jeff Landers

Retired Abbot - **Chuck Fort**

Newsletter Contributions

Ed Bronson - Photography

Mike Uchima - Photography

Communications Channels



unending gratitude) for being a drop-off site. Some of them even have to deal with receiving beers for multiple competitions, and keeping them sorted and safe while business goes on as usual. Having the cooperation of these shops is essential to a smoothly-run competition.

If you haven't signed up to judge or steward yet, please take a minute to do so. We are one of the largest competitions in the area and need a full staff of unpackers, judges, stewards, runners, collators, etc., etc., etc. If you have never attended the Drunk Monk Challenge (DMC) competition before, come on out for the day and see us in action!



The March calendar on the UKG website is jam-packed with competition-related dates, but not much else. We do not have a Tech Session or Social Night in March due to the DMC. So...really, you NEED to come to the Drunk Monk! If that isn't enough social activity for you, you can also sign up to help at BOSS's **Charlie Orr Memorial Cup** later in March. Our March club meeting will be held the last Wednesday of the month as usual.

This past month, we had our annual UKG Train Crawl. The First Lady and I had another commitment later in the day but managed to

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



ukg-

subscribe@yahoogroups.com

ukg@yahoogroups.com

(Membership requires approval)

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.



make it to the first stop at [Lagunitas Brewing](#). We enjoyed good food, good beer, and

great company. I'm certain that those who continued on for the rest of the crawl had a fabulous time. I'm looking forward to a complete report (probably elsewhere in this newsletter).

Today, I taught the latest additions to our family of brewers, my son and his girlfriend, how to properly power-wash a batch of beer bottles. They are preparing to bottle a batch of strawberry cider later tonight. You can never have too many brewers in the family, and therefore, you can never have enough clean bottles. I'm looking forward to having someone else perform the less fun...but certainly very necessary...brewing tasks now and then. Now if I could just teach the dog to clean a brew kettle!

Slainte,
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 suggestion for a Tech Talk, or a Social Night venue idea. Email Knews@Knaves.org.

Welcome to Our New Members!

- Scott Detlie, Batavia
 - Kevin Drees, Aurora
-

March Meetings and Events

- *March 10 @ 8:00 a.m. - The 20th Annual UKG Drunk Monk Challenge Homebrew Competition, Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora*
- *March 28 @ 7:30 p.m., Alter Brewing, Downers Grove - Monthly meeting.*

For more details on these events, see below or the **[Club Calendar on the website.](#)**

Tech Sessions

Recent Past:

February 8th, Skeleton Key Brewing, Woodridge
"Judging and Stewarding Techniques and Tips and How Competitions Work"



CANCELLED due to unsafe weather conditions.

Upcoming:

None scheduled for March due to the Drunk Monk Challenge.


Written by Andy Day

Social Night

Past - February 10th @ Starting at Noon

23rd Annual UKG Train Crawl

Urban Knaves of Grain
23rd annual train crawl, Saturday February 10th

<p>1. Take BNSF Metra to Western Ave. to arrive at 11:24 AM</p> <p>Walk north on S. Western Ave to 16th street and head west walking two blocks. Lagunitas is the large building on the left.</p> <p>12:00-2:00 Lunch at Lagunitas 2607 W. 17th Street</p> <p>This place is like Disney World for beer lovers so be ready for a lively taproom offering beer tastings, pub food, a retail store, and regular live music.</p> <p>Walk one block south on Washtenaw Ave. and then walk west on 19th street two blocks to S. California Ave. Walk south for 1 ½ blocks to the California Pink line station and take it heading east to the loop (Washington). Get off at Ashland and walk north on Ashland 7 blocks to W. Hubbard</p>	
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Replacing Social Night this year was our annual Train Crawl. This is a long time favorite event of the club and attended by a good crowd of diehards and newcomers to the event. This year's crawl featured visits to three Chicago breweries and two great craft beer bars:

- **Lagunitas Brewing** - Start the day with lunch and a good base.

- **On Tour Brewing** - Winner of two 2017 GABF medals plus *Very Small Brewery of the Year* award!
- **Great Central Brewing** - A contract brewer with a taproom. Brew for *Begyle, Kinslahger, Maplewood, and Warpigs*
- **Kaiser Tiger** - Our dinner stop with 24 taps and a bacon-oriented menu. Same owner as Paddy Longs.
- **Bottom Lounge** - EXTRA CREDIT / Alternative dinner stop - A live music venue with 16 beers on tap.



Our day started off great with lunch at **Lagunitas** . The UKG members present were spread out across three tables (...sacrifices to the beer gods for Train Crawl day). We had about a dozen UKG folks and spouses/girlfriends there. (Mike Uchima took the above pictures and is not in the pics.)

After a delicious lunch and several beers and checking out Lagunitas massive operation, we continued on our way to **On Tour Brewing**. It was a short train trip on the pink line and then a few blocks walking and we were there. On Tour was my favorite stop of the day. They had a delicious Doppelbock on tap as well as several other nice hearty brews. They also had a local restaurant guy

selling upscale tacos. The name of the taco place slips my mind (...I wonder why?).



After On Tour, our crew ambled over to **Great Central Brewing**. They had a nice selection of about 20-25 of their beers and other contract brews they work with on tap. We all grabbed beers and then tried to congregate around a common area until we could get a table. In the pic at left, "like father, like son", Woj and Noah ordered beers at two ends of the bar and ended up with the same Hefeweizen. LOL



We trekked en masse to our last stop **Kaiser Tiger** after awhile and enjoyed our dinner stop. Kaiser Tiger was an interesting place with good German foods, bacon-oriented dishes, and other fun foods. They had a healthy beer list and a nice outdoor garden and ice curling. We couldn't try the curling as it required an early booking but we had fun watching other drunk people try to do it and hanging outside around the fire pit. I was a little foggy at that point and never made it to the EXTRA CREDIT stop. I'm hoping some of the die hard UKG'ers made it to the end.

Join us next year as we embark on the 24th Annual UKG Train Crawl!

Written by Kevin "Woj" Wojdak

Competitions

Competition Wins

February 16-17, 2018 - Midwinter Homebrew Competition from the Beer Barons of Milwaukee

- **Brad Ramsey:**
 - 1st - New World Cider
- **Jay Kash:**
 - 2nd - Cyser
- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak**
 - 1st - "Thhpptpt Raspberry Traditional" Sweet Mead
- **Jeff Landers:**
 - 1st - "Last Year's Pils Scored an 11.5" Czech Pale Lager
 - 1st - "Hasselhoffen III" Vienna Lager
 - 2nd - "I like Turtles" American Wheat

February 15-17, 2018 – Kansas City Bier Meisters Annual Competition.
KCBM, Kansas City, MO

- **Jeff Landers:**
 - 1st for his "NEIPA's Are Gross" Doppelbock
 - 1st for his "Golden Eye" British Golden Ale
 - 2nd for his "Fancy Pants II" Munich Dunkel
 - 3rd for his "Stella" International Pale Lager

Upcoming Competitions

- March 10, 2018 - **Drunk Monk Challenge** – One of the most competitive homebrew competitions in the country is celebrating its 20th Annual Competition.
 - Sponsored by UKG



- March 24, 2018 - **Charlie Orr Memorial Chicago Cup Challenge** from BOSS - Crest Hill, IL.
 - Registration February 10 until March 10.
 - One of the better local comps to judge or steward
 - All volunteers can stay for rather nice dinner during the awards ceremony. Typically a well known professional brewer will give a talk about beer and brewing. In the past, Jim Cibak, head brewer at Revolution Brewing and John Mallet, head brewer at Bell's Brewery have been featured guest speakers
- April 14, 2018 - **Wizard of SAAZ** from Society of Akron Area Zymurgists, Akron, OH - Registration now open 1/24 through 3/30/2018
- **National Homebrew Competition** (NHC), First Round Judging - April 6-22, 2018
- **Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Circuit Competitions**

Contributions by Jeff Landers

Drunk Monk Challenge



This year will be the 20th Annual UKG Drunk Monk Challenge (DMC) and it will be held on Saturday, March 10th at the Two Brothers Roundhouse in Aurora.

It's one of the biggest competitions in the country and we run a very efficient competition.

We have a lot of fun with our Raffle and Awards ceremony so be sure to try to make it out for the evening even if you can't help during the day.

This is our home competition and we need everyone's help to run it successfully. We'll need judges, stewards, unpackers, raffle ticket sellers, runners, swag collectors, scoresheet organizers, and more.

Our head competition organizer, Lead Monk, this year is Andy Day so, if you don't know how you can help, talk to him. And, if you have aspirations to become the Lead Monk at the DMC someday, talk to him about that too. Now's the best time to help and learn.

Judge and Steward signup started February 2nd on the registration website at <http://knaves.org/DMC/challenge/>.

The unpacking is a fun event held the weekend before the competition. That's the day we unpack all shipped entries, merge them with entries from our drop-off locations, and sort them all for judging. We usually get a great group of volunteers and crank through the lot quickly. Anywhere from 550 - 800 two-bottle entries come in so we process up to 1600 bottles of beer, meads, and ciders that day. Join us Sunday, March 4th for the unpacking.

Competition Judging:

Evening of Wednesday, March 7th (if needed)

Evening of Friday, March 9th - Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora

All Day on Saturday, March 10th - Banquet Room, Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora

Festivals

The UKG participates in several festivals throughout the year. Our 2017 participation involved pouring our homebrew at 3 different events in Lake Zurich, Lombard, and Racine (WI) bringing more awareness about our brewing and the club to the community. This year, we have the following events already in the works:

- May 11th and 12th, 2018 - **Lake Zurich Craft Beer Festival**, Henry J. Paulus Park from 5-10 p.m.



In 2017, four members showcased their brews on the Friday night of the event and had a great time meeting people and sharing beer. As the event covers two days, there's room for up to 8-10 participants from the club (4-5 each night). If you're interested in participating in an evening of the event in May, please contact Woj at **Festivals@knaves.org** for more information. All participants who are members in good standing (i.e. dues paying) receive \$30 reimbursement towards their materials.

- June 9th, 2018 from 1-5 p.m. - **7th Annual Mundelein Craft Beer Festival**, 300 Plaza Circle, Mundelein. UKG was invited to participate in this event as 1 of 5 participating Homebrew clubs.
- August 18, 2018 - **CHAOS Homebrew Club Fest**



- September 15th, 2018 from 3-6:30 p.m., **Great Lakes Brew Fest**, Racine, WI - Four club members attended in 2017 and poured 9 beers and a cider. We had some of the best homebrew out for the day.



If anyone has a suggestion for an event we should participate in, please email Woj the details at **Festivals@knaves.org**.

Financials

Annual Dues

2018 membership dues were collected at the January club meeting. If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please click one of the links below to pay them online.

As communicated in prior newsletters, annual membership renewal dues are now **\$20**.

Cash or check payable to "UKG" will be accepted at club meetings. You can also remit dues via PayPal on the UKG website at **<http://www.knaves.org/member.html>** or click



the link below.

[Click here to Pay Now.](#)

2017 Finances

Income - \$7,727

(Dues, DMC entry fees)

Expenses - \$7,794

(DMC, Tech sessions, Insurance, Website hosting, Club meetings)

Questions about dues? Please contact Darrell at
treasurer@knaves.org.

Member News

This section is for members making the news or who have been highlighted in the news lately.

No new member news this month.

Written by Kevin "Woj" Wojdak

Club Schwag

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.



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.

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 Bottle Labels

We have 4 sets of UKG bottle labels available for immediate sale. The labels are vinyl, reusable, write-on labels and are available in Charcoal Gray or

Brown. Labels come with a front-facing label and neck label. Labels may be written on with grease pencil for easy reuse. Each set of 12 labels is \$7.50.



PAID Products to Pickup - Contact Woj!

- Michael Flack - 24 Bottle Labels

Questions about Club Schwag or interest to buy anything? Please talk to Woj or email him at marketing@knaves.org.

Contact us.

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



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