

Date: 06:01 AM CST, 01/26/2024**From:** Urban Knaves of Grain Communications <communications@knaves.org>**To:** Kevin <woj@kiltedhopbrewing.com>**Subject:** Knaves Knewsletter - January 2024 Edition

Knaves Knews

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

January 2024

*** 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](#)

Welcome Address



Hail Knaves!

Happy National Hot Sauce day to y'all! There truly is a holiday for everything! I do enjoy a good hot sauce though. Some of my personal favorites are Truff (black truffle infused) and Bravado's Pineapple Habanero. For those who don't enjoy things that are a little spicy, Happy National Polka Dot day instead.

Our Annual Winter Brew-In was quite well attended this year although only three beers were brewed (all without incident), but a substantial group showed up to socialize and cheer on those who were brewing... Tim, Mike and Woj... all on electric systems. Mike's wheat beer has had its

Proksa

*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>

cranberries added and continues to bubble happily in the basement.



Our January monthly meeting was also very well attended in spite of the sub-zero temperatures that we all suffered through this past week. We even had a couple of surprise visits from friends that we don't see often... Calvin Rowland and Rich Janevicius! It was great to see both of them and to have them hang out at Bubblehouse with us... (BTW, my voice is back).

We are slowly working our way through our Holiday Brew Roulette beers and all have been quite tasty so far! I eagerly anticipate the rest and am looking forward to more chatter on Slack about these beers as people drink theirs! It's been a bit quiet lately...

MORE BREWING COMPANY

Brewery Social Sundays are back! A group of us gathered at **More**

Brewing in Bartlett on Sunday, January 21st. I hadn't been to that location before and greatly enjoyed the food, the beer, and the company. I'm always impressed with the variety of brews at **More** and was happy to finally go to a brewery offering a large selection of dark beers... six stouts, a black IPA, a barrel-aged porter, a Dunkel, and a brown. I greatly enjoyed both my taster flights and my grilled cheese!

On Saturday, January 27th, we will open registration for the **26th Annual Drunk Monk**

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.

Challenge. Please be sure to register early so you don't miss out. The competition always fills fast and, this year, we do not plan to increase the entry limit so, don't snooze on this one.

Our Winter Train Crawl is coming up on February 24th. Tim and Woj have planned a great day for us so make sure that you save the day (or at least part of it).

As always, keep an eye on the calendar and Slack for updates on meetings, social activities, DMC, etc. If you have anywhere that you would like to suggest for a future social night, or a tech topic which you would find interesting, please post to Slack or email the Board.

See you all at the next meeting and have a great Beer Can Appreciation Day!

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 for January
-

UPCOMING on the Calendar

January

- **Saturday, January 27th @ 9:00 a.m.** - Registration for the 26th Annual Drunk Monk Challenge opens. Signup EARLY!

February

- **Sunday, February 18th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** - Social Sunday at **Nik & Ivy's Brewing** in Lockport.
- **Tuesday, February 20th @ 7:30 p.m.** - UKG Monthly Meeting, **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle
- **Saturday, February 24th starting about Noon** - 29th Annual UKG Train Crawl. Open to family and friends. Details below and on the UKG Calendar.

March

- **Sunday, March 3rd @ 9:30 a.m.** - Drunk Monk Challenge Unpacking and Sorting Party. Lot of volunteers needed and fun to be had.
- **Tuesday, March 5th @ 6:30 p.m.** - Weeknight judging session for the Drunk Monk Challenge @ Church Street Brewing, Itasca. Judges and Stewards needed.
- **Wednesday, March 6th @ 6:30 p.m.** - Weeknight judging session for the Drunk Monk Challenge @ Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora. Judges and Stewards needed.

- **Thursday, March 7th @ 6:30 p.m.** - Weeknight judging session for the Drunk Monk Challenge @ Church Street Brewing, Itasca. Judges and Stewards needed.
- **Friday, March 8th @ 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.** - Three judging sessions for the Drunk Monk Challenge @ Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora. Judges and Stewards needed. Help at one or more sessions.
- **Saturday, March 9th @ 8:30 a.m.** - Main day of Drunk Monk Challenge 2024 judging at Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora.
- **Tuesday, March 19th @ 7:30 p.m.** - UKG Monthly Meeting, **Bubblehouse Brewing**, Lisle
- **Sunday, March 24th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** - Social Sunday at **Penrose Brewing**, Geneva.

More events and happening coming in the next edition.

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

29th Annual Winter Train Crawl

UKG PUB CRAWL

Please join us for the 29th UKG Train Crawl! We'll return to Chicago's West Loop and West Town neighborhoods this time. We'll be cruising on the Pink line

this year so, make your way downtown and catch the Pink Line to Ashland, Then, it's a short 4 min walk to Kaiser Tiger. All of our stops this year are within walking distance of each other.

Stops for this Train Crawl include:

- **Kaiser Tiger** — Craft beer bar with lots of taps, 1415 W Randolph at Ogden. This is the lunch stop.
- **Great Central Brewing** — 221 N Wood, is a big contract brewery with a taproom that serves a few of their own branded beers plus some they make for other breweries.
- **Midwest Coast Brewing** — 2137 W Walnut, a brewery taproom serving around 17 draft and canned beers.
- **Forbidden Root Restaurant and Brewery** — 1746 W Chicago Ave. This is an unique brewery specializing in beers with nontraditional ingredients, from fruits and spices to unusual grains, plus an eclectic food menu. This is the dinner stop.
- **Goose Island Taproom** — 1800 W Fulton, This is the taproom alongside Goose's production brewery (and huge warehouse full of BCS barrels).



At the end of the day, or when you're satisfied, walk 8 min back to the Ashland Pink Line station from Goose Island. Make your way to Union Station if you took the Metra into town. BNSF trains depart at 6:40pm, 8:40pm, 10:40pm, and 12:40am.

Join up with the Crawl at any point, leave whenever you like, and pay as you go. No reservations necessary, just show up! Transportation cost: \$7 for a Saturday-only Metra day pass and \$2.25 for each Pink Line ride.



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).

The [competition website](#) is updated.

Dates to remember:

- **Entry, judge, and Steward Registration opens this Saturday, January 27th @ 9:00 a.m. Don't wait. We expect it to fill up fast!**
- **Entry Drop-off Deadline** : March 1st by 5:00 p.m.
- **Entry Sorting Party:** Sunday, March 3rd @ Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora. We run this day like a well-oiled machine and it goes fast so we can enjoy lunch and a pint afterwards.
- **Judging Dates:**
 - **Tuesday, March 5th @ Church Street Brewing, Itasca** starting at 6:30 p.m.
 - **Wednesday, March 6th @ Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora** starting at 6:30 p.m.

- **Thursday, March 7th @ Church Street Brewing, Itasca** starting at 6:30 p.m.
 - **Friday, March 8th @ Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora** with three sessions starting at 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
 - **Saturday, March 9th @ Two Brothers Roundhouse, Aurora** - The main event with just two judging sessions, Best of Show judging, our raffle, fun and the awards ceremony!
-

Competitions

Competition Wins

January 20, 2024 - Square Kegs Winterbrew, Chicago, IL

- **Brent Anderson**
 - 1st Place - "Oud Brent" - 34B: Mixed Style Beer - Historical and Specialty Beer Table
- **Greg Ellwanger**
 - 2nd Place - "Tuba Wine" - 22C: American Barleywine - Strong American Ale Table
 - 3rd Place - "Gobble Gobble MF" - 21C: Hazy IPA - Hazy IPA Table
- **Joe Skiles**
 - 1st Place - "Coffee Milky McStouterton" - 30A: Spice, Herb, Vegetable Beer - Spice Beer Table
 - 2nd Place - "Milky McStouterton" - 16A: Sweet Stout - Dark British Beer Table
 - 3rd Place - "Team America" - 18B: American Pale Ale - Pale American Ale Table
 - 3rd Place - "The Colonels Side Hustle" - 27: Historical Beer Kentucky Common - Historical and Specialty Beer Table

Midwest Homebrewer of the Year (MWHBOY)**The 2023 Midwest Homebrewer of the Year Winner:****Dan Acheson****(And, repeat winner after winning in 2022!)**

Top UKG member standings on the 2023 circuit as of December 31, 2023.

- Dan Acheson - **1st**
- Joe Formanek - 9th
- Dave Fetty - 35th
- Joe Skiles - 46th
- Jim Silverstein - 63rd
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak - 129th
- Jay Kash - 147th
- Greg Ellwanger - 150th
- Ray Nonnie - 261st
- Mark Niemczewski - 261st

Master Homebrewer Program***Circuit of America 2023 Standings***

(As of December 31, 2023 - **BOLD** indicates rank in top 10. Top 10 in Circuit of America win awards.)

- Dan Acheson - **3rd**
- Joe Skiles - 182nd
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak - 386th
- Jay Kash - 556th
- Ray Nonnie - 563rd
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak / Noah Wojdak - 721st
- Kevin "Woj" Wojdak / Jeff Knepper - 724th
- Mark Niemczewski - 724th

***Master Homebrewer Program Lifetime Rankings***

- **Dan Acheson** - Grand Master V Brewer plus 4 x Silver Stars, 12 x Bronze Stars, LORD OF LAGERS, CIDERMASTER, JACK OF ALL

TRADES



- **Kevin "Woj" Wojdak** - Master Brewer plus 1 x Silver Star, 3 x Bronze Stars, JACK OF ALL TRADES



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



- **Greg Ellwanger** - Novice Brewer



Upcoming Competitions of Note

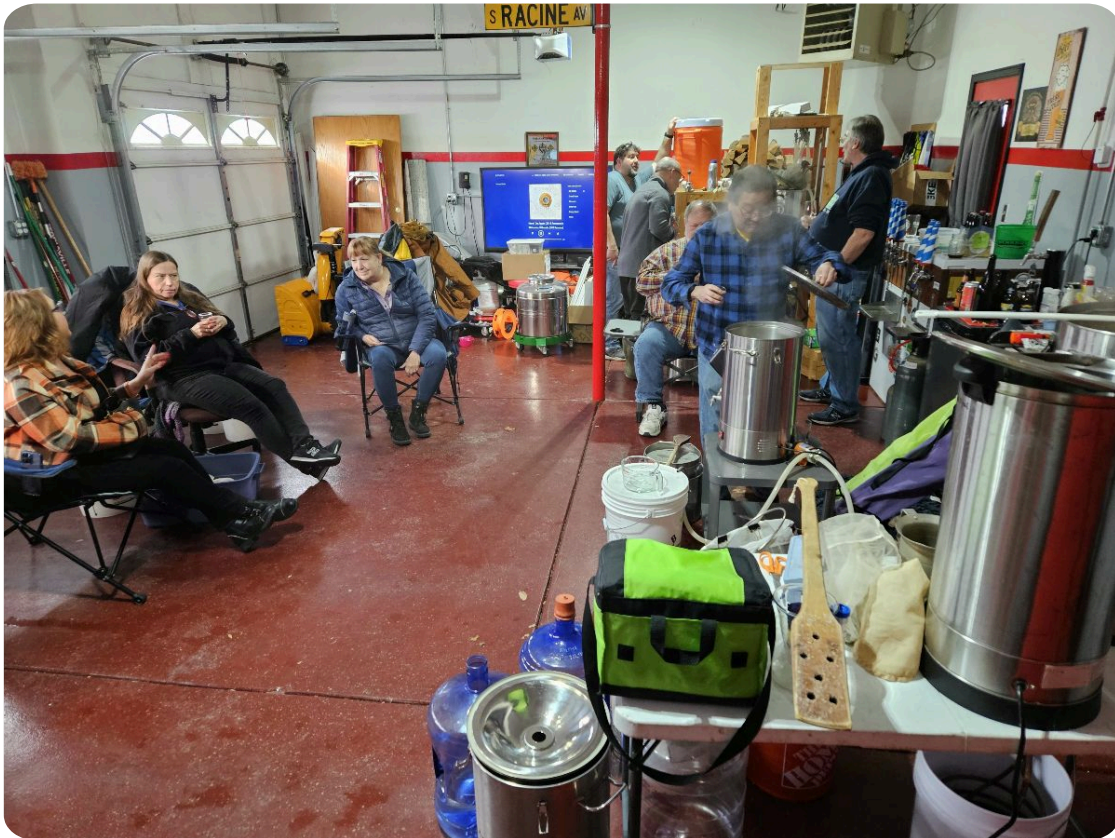
- **Midwinter Homebrew Competition** (MWHBOY)
 Judge Registration: TBD
 Entry Registration: TBD
 Judging Dates: 2/2/2024
- **KCBM 41st Annual Homebrew Competition** (MWHBOY)
 Judge Registration: Opens 12/2/2023
 Entry Registration: Opens 12/2/2023
 Judging Dates: 2/17/2024
- **IBU Open** (MWHBOY)
 Judge Registration: Open
 Entry Registration: Closed
 Judging Dates: 3/4 - 3/9/2024
- **Drunk Monk Challenge** (MWHBOY)
 Judge Registration: 1/27/2024
 Entry Registration: 1/27/2024
 Judging Dates: 3/5 - 3/9/2024

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](#)

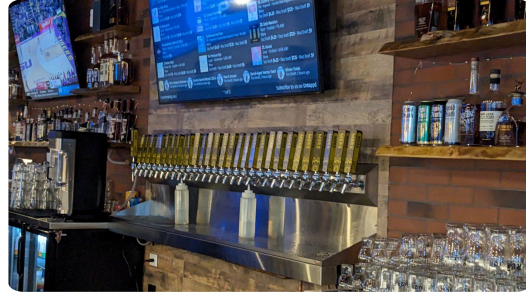
Social Events

Brew-In @ Tim's House





Social Sunday @ More Brewing



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**.

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](#)

Interesting European Glassware

By Kevin Wojdak



At the beginning of December, I had the distinct pleasure to take a vacation with my wife to Amsterdam and Bruges, Belgium. Over the course of our 11-day trip, I sampled a "little" beer... some from Holland and a lot from Belgium.

The thing that struck me was every single beer I tried from a different brewery

came in its own unique brewery glass. In America, we go to a bar or brewery and the beer is usually served in a generic glass or one from a different brewery... but, the overseas experience is a whole different ball game.

Looking at all this amazing glassware makes me almost want to up my game and have my own unique glass style for my brewery, Kilted Hop Brewing.

















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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