



BARON MIND



December, 2023

beerbarons.org

The Monthly Publication of the Beer Barons of Milwaukee Cooperative

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Happy holidays everyone! Another year has come and gone and its again time for our December meeting. Just a reminder it is Wednesday, December 20th starting at **7pm sharp**. First order of business will be to fill the 2024 board as always. Then we will be enjoying the rest of the night with a nice hot Chicken dinner from Clifford's with a small new surprise. Prices did go up with Clifford's this year, so it will be \$10/person, for everyone.

Remember this is a pot luck style dinner for everything else, sides, desserts, etc. We just ask that you don't bring any hot food that needs electricity. We will be providing an array of beers but welcome any homebrew Kegs as well. Finally, don't forget about the raffle, as it supports the club and will have quite a few good prizes this year! I hope we all enjoy the meeting and make sure to have safe plans to get home.

I've had a great year and hope to continue supporting the club next year. See you all soon.

Joseph Wichgers

VICE-PRESIDENTS UPDATE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Belgian night was a huge success and I hope everyone learned something, or at least just enjoyed some of the brews.

But that's gone as we eagerly await our next meeting with dinner and drinks and raffles, so bring cash! And remember, no food until the board positions are filled (including the new social media chair) so get your stump speeches ready.

I am also excited for the January meeting where we will continue the history of Milwaukee beer with our very own Dave Campbell and a vertical of some of the more well-known beers of the era. We are also bringing back the swap meet for those of you who upgraded gear over the holidays.

Lastly, I am still taking names for the club's first (as far as I can tell) homebrew mead night, but I have to cut off the sign up by the Feb meeting. We provide 12 lbs of honey, you make it into 3 tasty gallons for our May meeting. Please contact me if you have any questions or want to be added to the list.

Here's hoping the only dark, coal substance in your stocking is a holiday stout,

Kyle Manderscheid



TREASURERS REPORT

As of November 30, 2023, the following is the treasurers report from Robert Hansen:

Club Account \$5,139.36

Pay Pal Account \$1,434.59

We have 122 members to date.



PLEASE SUPPORT

Clifford's Supper Club

Friday Fish Fry

Weddings, Rehearsal Dinners, Baptisms, Birthdays,
Showers, Anniversaries, Funerals and Family Gatherings

Wed. Karaoke Wally's 65 Cent Wings
Karaoke Every Wed, Fri, & Sat – 9:30 pm

Clifford's offers the use of their banquet room to the Beer Barons at a reduced rate. Our support will show our appreciation.

10481 W. Forest Home * Hales Corners
(414) 425-6226 * www.cliffordsfinefood.com



SERGEANT AT ARMS

It's time for elections this month. We seem to have a lack of people willing to step up. Let me share my own experience as an officer.

I'm not a home brewer, just an "aficionado." Three years ago, our outgoing president asked me to run for Sergeant-At-Arms. That job has become mainly concerned with our serving equipment at meetings, as well as providing equipment for the various events we attend. I had no experience with the equipment and had to learn in a crash course from the previous Sergeant, along with the ongoing bits of information I have learned along the way. I accepted this job because I have been a member for over 10 years, and it was time to take my turn in giving something back to the club for all the great times I've had as a Baron. I filled the 2-year term and got a second term last year when the position was still vacant.

It's been a great run as Sergeant, with another year to go. I've gotten to know lots of our members whom I otherwise only knew casually. All in all, a great experience!

We have a faithful and talented core of past officers who have carried the ball for many years. They can't be expected to keep doing this while lots of other members -- many who have been Barons for a long time -- do nothing. We all enjoy the great times we have with our club, but it's always been about us taking care of us. We need you to step up and serve your fair share. Oh, and you'll also have lots of fun doing it!

Don't hide in your chair when nominations are taken. If everyone does that, well, then there's no Beer Barons. Time to be that guy or gal who keeps the line moving. Special talents not required, only the willingness to keep a great thing going. You can do this!

Sergeant John

FIRST OFFICERS MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR

IT'S A NEW YEAR: The first Officers Meeting of 2024 will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd at The Drunk Uncle, 1902 S. 68th Street in West Allis beginning at 7:00 pm. It is on 68th and Burnham. All Barons members are invited to attend and this bar definitely has a flavor for every taste.



ITS TIME FOR THE **CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY** ONCE AGAIN.

If you have read the presidents report, you will know that the Barons Annual Fun Time Christmas Party will be held promptly after a short meeting which begins at 7:00 pm to elect several new officers for the next year. Food will be served so bring your appetite and a dish to pass if you can. *(Nothing that needs heating by electricity please.)* All information is in the President's Report.



Announcing the 2024 Midwinter Homebrew Competition

Hello fellow Home Brewers!

We are very pleased to announce the fifteenth annual Midwinter Home Brew Competition will be taking place on February 2nd and 3rd, 2024 in Milwaukee, WI. This competition is also a circuit qualifying event for:

- [Midwest Home Brewer of the Year](#)
- [Master Homebrewer Program's Circuit of America](#)

The competition will be limited to 500 entries however we will consider upping that limit depending on how many judges register to participate. We will also require 3 bottles per an entry.

As in years past we will be judging to the BJCP guidelines, this year making the switch to the 2021 version. We will also continue to make every effort to have all entries judged by at least 2 BJCP Beer, Mead, or Cider Judges, Professional Brewers, Professional Mead Makers, or Professional Cider Makers.

Participant, judging, and steward registration for the competition will be coordinated through the web site at <http://www.midwinterhbc.com>. Registration will open on December 22nd, 2023 however entries will be accepted at ship to and drop off locations January 5th through January 19th. Shipped entries should be sent to North Pillar Brewing Co. in Waukesha, WI.

Please be sure to verify the deadline date and time for the drop off location you plan to use. There is a specific time and date listed for each site and most deadlines are at least a week before the January 19th registration and shipping deadline. Also please remember that this competition takes place during the winter months. We strongly advise that participants take into consideration weather conditions to avoid issues associated with entries freezing and delays associated with blizzards or polar vortexes. Entries that arrive late will still get a score sheet with feedback from judges, but they won't be eligible for placing or winning prizes.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place awards will be issued for each category. Each award will consist of a medal and a prize. Beer Best of Show, Mead Best of Show, and Cider Best of Show will receive engraved barrel head awards.



The majority of judging is scheduled to take place on February 2nd & 3rd, 2024. No results will be made public until all judging has been completed, but we will be providing updates on the site as to the progress we're making.

We'd like to let everyone know up front that we will not be doing any kind of awards ceremony. Why? Those of you who have entered our competition in the past know that our primary focus is to provide entrants with good, quality feedback from at least 2 BJCP ranked judges or industry professionals. In order to do that we have to treat them to some fun so they come back year after year. So when judging concludes, we shift over to post competition festivities mode. Results will be published Sunday February 4th and an email will be sent to participants when posted. Awards will be mailed out within a week of judging completion.

Additional details can be found on the competition website, Facebook, and Twitter pages. Information regarding judging and stewarding opportunities can be found on the Volunteers page at <http://midwinterhbc.com/volunteers>. Please pass this information on to your fellow home brewing friends and direct any inquiries to the Contact page on the registration page at <http://midwinterhbc.com/contact>

Thanks and best of luck to all that enter! - Bruce Buerger / Competition Coordinator

BIG thanks to Andy and Cheryl Hemken for allowing us to store our club trailer on their land at:

Hemken Honey Co.

W229 S7120 Guthrie School Rd., Big Bend, WI
Business phone: 262-662-2843

Visit their website for information on their products and where to find them: <http://www.hemkenhoney.com/>



We are a family owned Honey Producer in Big Bend, WI.

We promote the art of beekeeping and benefits of using local honey through education of consumers, new beekeepers, school groups and community programs.

In 1996 Andy started with 2 beehives, he currently admits to 500.

After 30 years of safety and ergonomics consulting, he followed his passion and made beekeeping his full time career.

Cheryl came along for the ride.

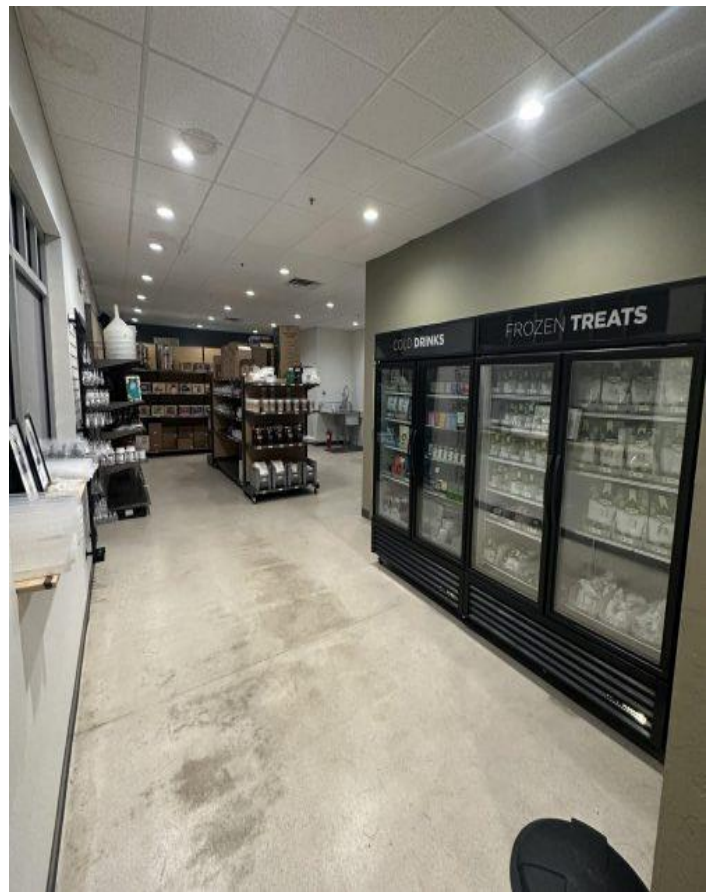
NEW HOME BREW SUPPLY COMPANY MOVES INTO SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Since Northern Brewer closed down, Another Home Brew Supply store has opened up in the New Berlin area by the name of Truebrü Homebrew Supplies. They are owned by Ryan Schram and Tyler Wallace, two great guys with the same interest as the rest of us.

The location of the store is 14260 W. National Avenue, New Berlin, WI 53151. Their telephone number is 262-788-0944 and email address is sales@truebru.com.

Let's welcome them to the area by giving them some of your business or just stop by and say HI!





**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A
GOOD BEER!**





MEET THE

SPIKE FLEX



4" tri-clamp with clear cap

Upgraded lid available - holds 15 psi

YOUR NEW SMALL BATCH FERMENTER

Spike is excited to bring small batch fermenting to another level that will open doors to quality, flexibility and functionality you can't find anywhere else. With all sanitary welded, 1.5" tri-clamp fittings and over 20 available accessories, you'll be able to control temp, carbanata, pressure transfer and more in this 30L stainless steel fermenter! Ditch that carboy. It's time for a FLEX!

SPIKEBREWING.COM/FLEX

CLUB LINKS

Website: beerbarons.org
Twitter: twitter.com/beerbaronsMKE
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Brewblog: beerbarons.org/brewblog/
Midwinter Brewfest: twitter.com/MidwinterHBC
World of Beer Fest: twitter.com/WorldOfBeerFest
www.facebook.com/WorldOfBeer Festival
IO Group:
<https://beerbaronsofmilwaukee.groups.io/g/>
BeerBaronsOfMilwaukee

2023 Board Members

President: **Joe Wichgers**
Vice-President: **Kyle Manderscheid**
Treasurer: **Robert Hansen**
Secretary: **Debbie Minger**
Sergeant at Arms: **John Bowen**
Member at Large: **Tim Minger**
Member at Large: **Roger Dunbar**

Contact the Board via email at:
officers@beerbarons.org

Or in writing at:
Beer Barons of Milwaukee Cooperative
P.O. Box 270012
Milwaukee, WI 53227

Beer Barons - Code of Conduct

Our goal is to improve our members' knowledge of home brewing and its enjoyment. Please show your respect and courtesy to the people you have elected to do the business of this club and the guest speakers that are graciously giving their time to come and put on a presentation for you by being **QUIET** during the meeting.

Nothing is to be removed from this room that YOU did not bring in (That means the club beers stay.) Please leave all un-opened beer for others to enjoy at other events.

NO outside food is allowed to be brought into the meeting that was not purchased at Clifford's Only exception is for snack items to enjoy with your beer

- Pretzels, popcorn, nuts
- Chips & dip
- Cheese, sausage & crackers
- Smoked or canned fish items

Please bring your own glass and clean up after yourself.

- Everyone must check-in with the treasurer, show your membership card, and pay your meeting fee to receive a wristband.
- Please put your wristband on your wrist (not on your glass/horn)

NO guns or weapons of any kind allowed in the meeting
NO SMOKING allowed in the building

Listen - Learn - Ask questions, someone will have the answer. Enjoy the meeting & guest speakers.

Baron Mind is published by the **Beer Barons of Milwaukee Cooperative**, a non-profit organization. If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, you can email it to the secretary or mail it to the club's mailing address.