



December, 2025

# BARON MIND



beerbarons.org

The Monthly Publication of the Beer Barons of Milwaukee Cooperative

## President's Letter

Happy Holidays everyone!

It's December! We gather for a special night of camaraderie and good cheer. A time to enjoy the things that matter to all of us, friends, food and beer! Remember that we'll be meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the third Wednesday of the month. The meeting will start at **7:00 pm**, one half hour earlier than normal.

But, before we begin the festivities, we need to conduct a little club business. We will need to hold our officer elections. Although every position will be addressed. Five of those positions must be filled with different members. (Vice President, Treasurer, 2x - Member at Large, and Social Media) If you're interested in supporting the club, please consider running for one of the available positions. A gold card is provided to all board members for the year. All voting must be completed before we enjoy the wonderful food provided by Clifford's. Please bring a dish to pass.

My thanks to all the officers this year. You did a great job!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there. We'll have a great time!



Prost!

Jim

## Upcoming Events

- [12/17/2025 7:30 PM December General Meeting and Board Elections](#)
- [1/7/2026 7:00 PM January Board Meeting, Lakefront Brewery](#)
- [1/28/2026 7:30 PM January General Meeting, Off Flavors, Clifford's Supper Club](#)
- [2/4/2026 7:00 PM February Board Meeting, Location TBD](#)
- [2/7/2026 5:00 PM Fond Du Lac Brewfest, Fond Du Lac County Fairgrounds](#)
- [2/21/2026 6:00 PM Food & Froth, Milwaukee Public Museum](#)
- [2/25/2026 7:30 PM February General Meeting, Clifford's Supper Club](#)



December Holiday Party and Elections



January Meeting Featuring BJCP Sensory Training

"I only take a drink on two occasions – when I'm thirsty and when I'm not."

-Brendan Behan

## Vice-President's Update

Happy Holidays  
Merry Christmas  
Gruß vom Krampus

As a reminder for the holiday party, **NO FOOD UNTIL ALL POSITIONS ARE FILLED!**

January is off flavor night and swap meet.

That is all.

## Treasurer's Report

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Last Months Attendance: | Membership:           |
| Gold Card Holders: 39   | Total: 127            |
| Member Attendees: 31    | Gold Card Holders: 50 |
| New Members: 5          |                       |
| Total: 75               |                       |

Thought of the Month: It has been 2 years as treasurer already.

Thanks,  
Rand

## Member at Large Update

- 1) Fond Du Lac Brew Festival** (<http://www.fondybrewfest.com/>)
  - Saturday February 7th - 3:00 to 7:30 at the Fond Du Lac Fairgrounds Expo Center
  - theme "Red, White and Brew"
  - \$100 prize for best booth
  - 25 home brew clubs signed up
  - Fifth Ward Brewing (Oshkosh) for winning beer
- 2) Food and Froth at the Milwaukee Public Museum**
  - Saturday, February 21 6:00-9:30

Additional Notes :

- We have been registered for both events
- We will be looking for members to sign up at the Christmas Party to donate beer, meads, ciders for both events.
- We could use another volunteer server for Fondy Fest and need two or three people to volunteer for Food & Froth.
- Members can bring their kegs to the January meeting and can arrange for pickup with Tim Rupnow, Roger Dunbar or Bob Hansen
- Unless agreed upon otherwise, kegs will be used for both events are returned at the February meeting

Brew your own Beer, Wine, Mead, or Kombucha

**TRUEBRÜ**  
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## A Look Back at Some of 2025's Events







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](http://www.cliffordsfinefood.com)**

**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.



MEET THE

# SPIKE FLEX



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 temps, carbonate, pressure transfer and more in this 304 stainless steel fermenter! Ditch that carboy. It's time for a FLEX!

[SPIKEBREWING.COM/FLEX](http://SPIKEBREWING.COM/FLEX)

## 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.

## Club Links

Website: <http://www.beerbarons.org>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/beerbaronsMKE>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BeerBarons](http://www.facebook.com/BeerBarons)

Brewlog: <http://www.beerbarons.org/brewlog>

Midwinter Brewfest: <http://www.twitter.com/MidwinterHBC>

IO Group: <https://beerbaronsofmilwaukee.groups.io/>

## 2025 Board Members

President: Jim Sowinski

Vice-President: Kyle Manderscheid

Treasurer: Rand Lindner

Secretary: Jason Otto

Sergeant at Arms: Mike Sande

Member at Large: Erik Carlson

Member at Large: Tim Rupnow

Social Media: Andrew Grove

Contact the Board via email at:

[officers@beerbarons.org](mailto:officers@beerbarons.org)

Or in writing at:

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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.