



June, 2026

BARON MIND



beerbarons.org

The Monthly Publication of the Beer Barons of Milwaukee Cooperative

President's Letter

It's June! Summer is in full swing. What a great time to be outdoors enjoying beer.

This month we welcome for the first time to the club meeting, Duesterbeck's Brewing Company. A wonderful brewery located west of Elkhorn, WI. Joining us from Duesterbeck's are owners Ben and Laura Johnson. Ben is also the head brewer. So come and listen to how they started a brewery in a red barn and sample some of their great beer.

Upcoming events:

- Great Taste of the Midwest, August 8th, Olin Park, Madison, WI
- Pretzel Fest 2026, July 5-7, Sheboygan Falls, WI
- Pretzel City Brewfest, September 26th, Freeport, WI

It'll be a great time!



Prost!

Jim

Upcoming Events

- [6/24/2026 7:30 PM June General Meeting, Clifford's Supper Club](#)
- [7/1/2026 7:00 PM Board Meeting and Social Hour, Bass Bay Brewhouse Beer Garden](#)
- [7/5/2026 to 7/7/2026 Pretzel Fest, Sheboygan Falls, WI](#)
- [7/22/2026 7:30 PM July General Meeting, Clifford's Supper Club](#)
- [7/26/2026 Milwaukee Brewfest](#)
- [8/8/2026 Great Taste of the Midwest, Olin Park, Madison, WI](#)
- [9/26/2026 Pretzel City Brewfest, Freeport, WI](#)



June Meeting Featuring Duesterbecks Brewing



July Meeting Water Quality for Home Brewers

"You can't buy happiness, but you can buy beer, and that's pretty close."

-Anonymous

Vice-President's Update

June 2026 Beer Barons of Milwaukee VP Report

Happy Brewing Barons,

Congratulations to Terry McDonald for winning the "Unique Ingredient" night in May, in which 16 people voted for his 'lavender beer'. In second place, we had a tie between Mike Sande, who brewed a beer using maple syrup, and Sam Lun, who brewed a batch using coffee. They each received 10 votes. Thank you to the other club members that brewed for this event and shared how they formulated their recipes. I hope you enjoyed tasting all the unique flavors, or at least were brave enough to try them all. Duesterbecks Brewing, located in Elkhorn, WI, will be presenting at our June meeting. Please welcome Laura and Ben Johnson, co-owners of Duesterbecks (pronounce Dooster-Becks, rhymes with rooster).

Fun facts about Duesterbecks:

1. One of their beers that we will be tasting – 'Bees Be Crazy Hefeweizen' is now on tap at American Family Field
2. Ben is also a dentist in Delavan, WI

Lastly, if you have a topic that you believe would be a good topic for one of our meetings, please come talk to me about it.

Live Life & Enjoy Beer! PK

Treasurer's Update

The club remains in a strong financial position through the first half of the year. While we do not publish accounting figures in public forums, printed financial summaries will be available at the next meeting for any member who wishes to review them.

We continue to maintain a dedicated reserve fund earmarked specifically for educational purposes. Our Vice President has been authorized to use these funds for targeted, high-value educational opportunities. We are currently working on something special for this year and will notify the membership as soon as we have secured the speaker.

To simplify operations and reduce costs, we will soon be consolidating all ancillary accounts into a single primary account. With modern accounting tools and the streamlined nature of the club's activities, maintaining one account will be more efficient and cost-effective moving forward.

We are also working to ensure that we have accurate email contact information for all active members. Please send an email to treasurer@beerbarons.org with your name and preferred email address. Even if you believe we already have it, this is a good opportunity to confirm the address you intend to use for club correspondence.

All membership cards should be fully caught up by the next meeting. If you have not received your card, please email me at the address above. We are exploring ways to use these cards in the future to streamline attendance tracking at meetings.

Finally, while we always appreciate cash payments at meetings, we do have a card reader available as a backup option. Please remember that the club incurs approximately a 3% processing fee on all credit card transactions.

Patrick K McHugh





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.



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.

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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

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

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

2026 Board Members

President: Jim Sowinski

Vice-President: Paul Karcher

Treasurer: Patrick McHugh

Secretary: Jason Otto

Sergeant at Arms: Mike Sande

Member at Large: John Bowen

Member at Large: Rand Lindner

Social Media: Elaina Sowinski

Contact the Board via email at:

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.