



Website – clubwort.com or .net

February 2014

## Next Meeting – Feb. 18

Yes, we will be a week late going back to Durty Nellies for our next meeting as Nellies will be hosting the band Man Man on our usual meeting date. For all those with a Belgian Dubbel (18B), now's your opportunity to compete head to head for the Club Wort Top Brewer trophy. See you at 7:30 PM with your 5 bottles of home brew or \$5.

### February Meeting Agenda:

1. Guest Introductions
2. Brewery Tour Recap
3. Chili & Beer Potluck
4. Book Club
5. Beerfests – 4/26 & 5/3
6. Education Presentation
7. Committee Reports

## Upcoming Club Events

Tuesday, Mar. 11 – Monthly meeting, Durty Nellies in Palatine, 7:30 PM.

Tuesday, Apr. 8 – Monthly meeting, Durty Nellies in Palatine, 7:30 PM.

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## Jan 2014 Wild Onion Trip

It was a cold and windy night as I drove up Pepper Road and turned into the Wild Onion parking lot. Entering the place I was directed to the bar area where a number of members had started drinking Onion's offerings. I couldn't help but notice that a lot of the glasses were the same design and held the same colored liquid. Yes, everyone wanted to taste Snapperhead, Jim Holbach's recipe that had been brewed by the Onion brewers. We finally moved into the back room and, around 7:50 PM Craig got our meeting underway.

Craig first explained that John Kainz was sick so there would be no tour. Onion is building a 50 barrel brewery, and will retain the old equipment to do their specialty beers.

There were 2 guests. Rich has been brewing for a year, getting more and more into it, so his wife told him to join our Club. Jeff was brand new, having only brewed a kit bought from What's Brewing? Supply.

Jim talked a little about brewing his beer, saying that they wound up two pounds short of Citra hops.

I talked about the upcoming January 17 meeting of the Beer Club Book Club. There was still time to read the book, or see the movie with a young, hot Julie Christie. We would meet at 7:00 PM on Friday, Jan 17 at my house.

Just as Craig announced that Paul Lange was not in attendance to talk about the pub crawl, in walked Paul. The January 25 crawl was almost scheduled, with stops at Local Option, Revolution, and North Town Café. Pickup was 10:00 AM at Nellies followed by Pfingsten and Willow for Paul's friends. Food would be a problem as Local

Option's food didn't start until noon, and North Town didn't have food. Paul made sure everyone was aware of the no puking rule – if you puke, you're never invited back to a crawl.

Dave Banks talked about the Chili-Beer Potluck gathering at his place on February 15. He had confirmation from 15 individuals already. He felt his electricity would be up to the challenge of all the crock pots. Admission price was homemade chili and beer to share.

Asten Rathbun gave the Treasurer's report. The cash balance was approximately \$200. It was estimated that the party cost \$600, and we had bought the new mill and chiller.

Craig then talked about how great the Christmas Party was – everyone had a good time.

Elliot Hamilton said that the new mill had been used for Jim Thommes's recent brew, and it passed with flying colors. The old, not-so-good mill would probably be auctioned off, although most people didn't think it was worth anything. He once again praised the new Duda Diesel chiller for its efficiency.

Randy Drumtra pledged that an up-to-date library list would be posted to the website. He will be disposing of old, out-of-date books. He asked for suggestions for acquisitions.

Craig then proposed that the remainder of the Treasury balance be used to purchase grain which would be stored at Elliot's house and sold off to brew-in participants. I objected to the Club getting into a retail business since Nancy has her business, and I was afraid we would be stuck with non-useable grain. I was in the minority as the motion passed overwhelmingly.

Interest was expressed in doing a 6-pack bottle exchange next meeting. Someone mentioned that Embroidme in Schaumburg, where our Club Logo was available for clothing addition, was closing. Craig was going to see if we could get possession of

our logo's file so we wouldn't have to pay to have it done again at another location.

## Beer Club Book Club – Jan 17

Another snowy Friday night, but then again, in this winter every Friday is snowy. As members came in I asked if they could leave their shoes by the door and everyone was cool with it.

I had two coolers filled with snow that the members filled with their beer, and a table with appetizers that was soon covered with a cornucopia of food.

Final attendance was 9 members and 1 guest (my wife), with 7 of us participating in the discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury starting at 8:00 PM. It was a lively give and take, and I ended the hour by passing out a copy of a news report from a few days earlier that talked about the library of a Lebanese priest being burned. Laura Procter suggested that anyone who had a library copy of the book return the book with the story tucked inside. The next book was chosen – *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau – and Linda Shannon agreed to host the Book Club.

The night was far from over, however, as we continued to eat and drink, repairing to my basement for lively games of foosball, ping-pong and pool as we were serenaded by my record player.

## Pub Crawl – Jan. 25 2013

For the winter of 2013-14 it was a mild day – shining sun and 20 degrees - as the bus arrived at the Jewel parking lot on Willow & Pfingsten. A not-quite filled bus then proceeded east to the Edens and south into the city as Paul Lange got the drinking going with a couple of brews.

We arrived at Local Option at 11:15, and I hit the bar as fast as possible to get a beer before the two hippie-looking bartenders got overwhelmed with orders. I was surprised how many taps were filled

with Local Option branded beer, and so figured I'd stick with their beer as this must be the reason Draft magazine rated them in the top 100 bars in the nation. They seemed to specialize in obscure styles, as I had a Schmetterling Gose, a Voku Hila, and split a Polish-style oat beer called The Monarchy Grodziskie. The kitchen opened at noon, and a lot of finger-food seemed to be consumed in the hour before departure.

Next stop was Northdown Café at Lincoln and Ashland, with their Scandinavian beer specialization. Roger Santagato and I opted to check out Fizz down the block, which didn't have the beer selection but had cheaper food. I figured a 3-cheese macaroni topped with chorizo and Italian sausage would provide a good base for the day's drinking. After walking to an old favorite bakery across the street, Dinkels, I rejoined the bus group.

We left Northdown and pulled up in front of a warehouse on Kedzie that a lot of people were entering. The Revolution Taphouse was a revelation. I can't believe I had never known about this gigantic, Spartan area with tons of people, free popcorn, a window overlooking a large brewery (23 fermenters) area, and a multitude of taps specializing in bourbon barrel beers. Thank goodness Paul was in the know, as it was a great place.

The final stop for the bus was Links Tap Room in Wicker Park. I took advantage of it being across the street from Reckless Record Store and bought a \$2 LP. I tried to stop in at Piece around the corner, but was repelled by the crowds, so made my way back to Links to enjoy the 36 lines and 4 cask-conditioned beers.

Paul got us back on the bus and home as promised. Once again, Paul proved he is the Master of the Pub Crawl. Thanks a lot, Paul.

## Club Wort Beer Contest

Note the style guideline numbers (and letters) after each beer. You can check at [www.homebrewersassociation.org](http://www.homebrewersassociation.org) to get the style info.

May 2014 – English Pale Ale (8)

August 2014 – Oktoberfest/Marzen (3B)

November 2014–Smoke-Flavored/Wood-Aged (22)

## Classified Section

Three-pound (1 Quart) containers of honey; Cost is \$8.00; Contact Elliot Hamilton at [elliioth@m11.net](mailto:elliioth@m11.net)