



Next Meeting – Oct. 14

As usual the meeting will be held at Dirty Nellies in October. Probably be some pumpkin beers being passed around. Anyone bringing home brew bring 5 bottles or the equivalent, while everyone else, \$5. See you at 7:30 PM

October Meeting Agenda:

1. Opening Comments
2. Beer fest Recap
3. Guest Introductions
4. Fall Pub Crawl
5. Brew-in?
6. Committee Reports
7. Equipment Check-out
8. Picnic
9. Christmas Party

Upcoming Club Events

Tuesday, Nov.11 – Monthly meeting, Dirty Nellies in Palatine, 7:30 PM. Smoke Flavored/Wood Aged Club Wort contest.

Tuesday, December 9 – Club Wort Christmas Party. Location TBD. 7:00 PM start.

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Sept. 2014 Club Meeting

It was back to Nellies after last month's road trip, but unfortunately in the main performance room as President Craig Ranshaw chickened out on having our meeting on the patio due to weather concerns.

Craig started the meeting by congratulating the Club on sweeping the latest Twin Lakes Home Brew Contest. Craig got 3rd with his Marzen, Matt Rakowski 2nd with his Brown Ale, and Jim Holbach in 1st with (guess what?) Snapperhead.

It was announced that Andre Lukatsky had brewed his winning beer at Mickey Finns. Leftover from the brew was a bunch of Warrior 17% AA hops that were available to members for the taking (see, it pays to come to meetings).

Brad Griffin had 2014-2015 membership cards for those who hadn't gotten them already.

Guests included Dan, a Craig recruit, who had just started brewing and Dave Sherman, Valerie's husband.

Craig asked Elliot Hamilton about any brew-in plans. Elliot said that he had put out a feeler but no one bit. Craig jokingly asked if we could do a Saturday AM brew-in before the picnic.

Next was the Club Wort Marzen competition. Louis Foler brought in and described the calibration beer. There were 2 entries, and Mark Procter just edged out Craig Ranshaw. Jim Smetana talked about the upcoming Saturday Club Wort picnic. There were 41 members coming. He said not to fear for the weather as there would be tents available for shelter (see following story).

Next on the agenda was the Lake Zurich beer fest on October 10th and 11th. Craig and Mark have been working with the organizers. Hours were

5:00-9:00 on Friday and 2:00-6:00 on Saturday. There were 17 volunteers from the Club to help, but more were welcome. Cost would be \$40 for 20 3-oz pours, but Craig was confident that the tickets would not be too closely enforced. He did warn everyone about the Lake Zurich police enforcement habits, so get a designated driver. The Club was not going to be an official part of the fest as Craig felt that we had no problems growing organically, and too many members would present meeting and brew-in problems.

I read the latest bank statement in Asten Rathbun's absence - \$1,435.40.

There were no reports on either equipment or the library as there were no new acquisitions.

Paul Lange talked about our usual January pub crawl, and said he could possibly be enticed to organizing a November one if there was enough interest. He was going to wait until the October meeting to gauge interest.

Craig then told the members about the AHA Club insurance offer. For \$3.50 per member annually, the Club would share a \$1million/\$3 million policy with other Clubs. Paul said that the pricing was good, but since everyone shared the policy, one bad club could eat it up. Based on expected cost of \$250, the Club voted to sign up. Next came a discussion of whether the dues should be increased. It was felt that major equipment purchases were behind us, and so the only big annual expenses would be for the picnic and Christmas party. Craig's opinion was that we could always increase the amount that members pay for the party if it looked like the treasury was going to be short at the end of the year. The members agreed and voted to keep the dues at \$20 annually for the present.

The Beer Club Book Club didn't have a meeting place, but I said I would email everyone with the schedule of who had hosted in the past and we could make a decision.

What's Brewing Supply is hosting a learn to brew day on November 1 and was looking for volunteers.

Vince talked about the hop exchange he had emailed everyone. Craig was the only one who had brought hops.

Club Picnic – Sept. 13

On September 13 we should have been worrying about keeping the beer cold, not keeping our bodies warm. After a miserable, wet Friday and a cloudy morning the sun started breaking through the clouds as I arrived at Jim Smetana's house for the 2014 Club picnic.

Jim's house was perfect for the picnic. He had a spacious deck with plenty of room for most of the attendees to gather, drink and eat, and a back yard for corn hole and jenga playing. Speaking of jenga, I've never seen a set that large. You had to give it a lot of space when it tumbled down.

There was beer aplenty, with 4 kegs being tapped, numerous growlers of home brew and plenty of commercial beer. Roger Santagato and I had no problem with beer cup confusion as we showed up with our official Club Wort beer steins with our names on them.

A lot of members brought appetizers which provided a good base for the beer. Bill Morgan's bacon loaf was truly a masterpiece. When it was time for the main course, pulled pork, Italian sausage and brats miraculously appeared along with a selection of member's salads and desserts. There was food aplenty for all the gluttons in the crowd.

Vince Donohue provided after-dinner entertainment in the form of his camera-carrying electric drone. After a wait to get the software straightened out the propellers started rotating and up it went. It was pretty cool looking at the video feed of the deck and backyard, and then the neighborhood as he zoomed it up and away. Hopefully it can be downloaded on the Club website.

As the backyard got into the shade we started noticing the outside temperature that was

descending into the 50's. That's when Jim lit the fire pit and a bunch of people gathered chairs around the inviting flames. My designated driver (wife Christine) showed up at 7:30 PM and I left the remaining members to enjoy the evening. Many, many thanks to Jim & Nancy Smetana for being the wonderful hosts and doing all the work to make this a successful event.

Beer Club Book Club – Sept. 26

Vince Donohue lives about 2 miles from my house yet I spent at least 10 minutes looking for his house as reading numbers in the dark was a little tough. We were introduced to Vince's in-laws, but since they only spoke Japanese there wasn't a lot of interaction between them and the Club.

The discussion about *High Tide in Tucson* by Barbara Kingsolver started about 8:15 PM as the four of us who had read it – Jason Kopeny, Rick Jackson, myself and Linda Shannon – gathered in Vince's front room leaving the non-readers to enjoy the appetizers and beer. There was some disagreement about the amount of political views that crept into some of her essays, but I think we all agreed that her other writings about her life made for fascinating reading.

As part of future meetings Linda Shannon proposed that we do a little writing of our own (no doubt inspired by the book) and read them at the meetings. It was decided to think it over and re-visit it next meeting.

Speaking of next meeting it will be hosted by Cindy Ranshaw and take place the beginning of January.

