

# BOSS Newsletter

September 2020

Scott Pointon, Editor

We are dedicated to the art of crafting and quaffing fine beers through the sharing of ideas and experiences, the advocacy of brewing as a hobby, and the responsible consumption of beverages containing alcohol



**Brewers of South Suburbia is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation**

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# August Meeting @ ByWay Brewing

In August we experienced a small return to normalcy by having an in-person meeting for the first time since March. This was also the first time that BOSS has met at ByWay Brewing. The meeting opened with a free draft beer from ByWay, and each paid-up club member received one pound of Chinook hop pellets courtesy of Steve Kamp and Steve Sikorski! Although there was no raffle or guided tasting, we were able to see the brewery and share beer with friends we have not seen since the start of the pandemic. Lots of home brew was shared, along with a glass raised in farewell to our friend Jerry Sadowski, a longtime BOSS member, past club president, and multiple award winning home brewer (Jerry is relocating to Michigan).



**Thank you to Dick Van Dyke for arranging this meeting. Special thanks go out to Dave Toth and the entire ByWay team for treating us like rock stars and for providing a great space for us to socially distance while still being social.**

# September 19<sup>th</sup> - The Annual BOSS Club Picnic

It's that time again BOSSers! A day of great food, fellowship, music, and beer is just what we need right now! If you like good beer and fun with friends you really need to come to this picnic.

**Naturally, this year we are making a few changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those changes include:**

1. No tap box this year. It will be too hard to socially distance if we are all hanging around the tapbox all day...and you know we all would if it was there. Thus this year the club will be providing canned/bottled commercial beers from our brewery friends. Those beers will be in coolers stationed at various locations around the picnic grounds. We ask that you always take full beers from the coolers (i.e. don't open a beer, pour half in your glass, and then leave the half full can behind). You can always split a beer between friends. Also be mindful that these beers are there for all to enjoy, so only take what you intend to drink at the picnic.
2. We are starting the picnic a bit later this year (kickoff is at 3:00pm) and thus skipping lunch. Because of this late start, picnic setup will occur on the morning of the picnic instead of the night before.
3. Dinner will be provided by Mike "the pig guy" Snedden with his impressive BBQ rig and crew. We are shooting for dinner being served around 5:00pm.
4. The ever-popular bonfire will happen at dusk.
5. As always, bringing and sharing homebrew is encouraged, however if you bring homebrew to share you will need to handle dispensing it yourself (i.e. there will not be any CO2 or taps available to use on site). Bottling any homebrew you want to share that day is probably the safest option anyway.



**Please note that we are striving to make this a safe event. To that end the following COVID-19 prevention measures are being taken this year:**

- There will not be an inflatable jumpy house or a piñata at the picnic
- We will also skip the bbq sauce contest, salsa contest, and bags tournament too
- Attendees should practice safe social distancing and wear masks when appropriate
- Hand sanitizer stations will be set up around the picnic grounds
- Everyone should use a new cup for each beer and refrain from drinking from another's cup
- Attendees should refrain from shaking hands, hugging, making out behind the barn, etc.



**When in doubt, try to stay at least two Beatles away from other people!**

### Picnic Attendance

Steve and Amy Kamp have once again graciously agreed to host the picnic at their Evil Horse Farm in Beecher, IL (see event info below). If you plan on attending you need to RSVP right away by [following this link](#). *Everyone is encouraged to bring a tent and camp out overnight if they desire, but breakfast the next morning will not be what it usually is due to the need to socially distance ourselves.*

### Setup/Teardown

During the week leading up to the picnic we need volunteers to go out to Steve's to help make the place ready for the event. Saturday morning is when the tents need to be set up and Sunday is tear-down day. Let Steve Kamp know directly if you are able to help with any of this by [sending him a message](#).

### Stuff Needed

We are always looking for the following items to make the picnic a better experience: lighting, tables, camp chairs, and a few pop-up tents. If you have any of these items please consider helping out the club by loaning their use for the picnic. If you plan on bringing any of this stuff, it would be best if you could drop it by Steve's farm on Saturday morning before the picnic if possible. We are also in need of volunteers to staff the BOSS admission tent for 1 - 2 hour time slots. If you are willing to volunteer, [click here to let Club President Mark Westmeyer know asap](#).

### Here's everything else you need to know about the picnic:

**Date:** Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Evil Horse Farm - 1222 E Delite Inn Rd., Beecher, IL 60401

**Time:** 3:00pm - Picnic begins  
5:00pm - Dinner  
Dusk - BONFIRE!

**Phone:** 312-415-2337

**RSVP:** RSVP right away by [following this link](#).

**Driving:** From the East or West, take I-394 south until it becomes IL Route 1 (Dixie Hwy). Follow this through the town of Beecher to a point about 2.5 miles south of Beecher, then turn left onto Delite Inn Rd. The Evil Horse Farm is located 2.3 miles down, on the left hand side of the road. **There will be no parking available at the house next door (to the West) this year. Please park on the street in front of Steve and Amy's place!**

**Meeting Dues:** The costs to attend this special event have been simplified and are as follows -

- Kids (under 18) - FREE!
- Member - \$15 (for the member only)
- All Non-Members - \$25 each



## BOSS Fridays

Despite all of the recent doom and gloom, the BOSS members have pulled together to make our **BOSS Fridays** virtual events something really special. For those who didn't know, as a means to engage club members and to keep all of our spirits up during these trying times, the Board has launched a series of events via the online Zoom platform. So far all of these events have occurred on Friday nights. Those who have "attended" have been pleased with the content and everyone seems to be having a good time! Looking to the future, as we prepare for the possibility of in-person meetings once again these virtual events will move to every other week or so instead of every week.



### Here is a list of these activities, those recently past and those upcoming:

**June 26<sup>th</sup>:** *Southland Beer Tasting with BrickStone Brewing*  
(BrickStone beers were tasted/evaluated)

**July 10<sup>th</sup>:** *Southland Mead Tasting with Tom Sadowski*  
(Midwest Meadwerks meads were tasted/evaluated)

**July 24<sup>th</sup>:** *Southland Beer Tasting with Blue Island Beer Company*  
(Blue Island beers were tasted/evaluated)

**August 7<sup>th</sup> :** N/A – in person BOSS meeting at By-Way Brewing

**August 28<sup>th</sup>:** *Southland Beer Tasting with The Open Bottle*  
(an [assorted 4 pack](#) of beers from The Open Bottle will be tasted/evaluated)

**September 11<sup>th</sup>:** N/A – BOSS Competition is the next day

**September 18<sup>th</sup>:** N/A – BOSS Picnic is the next day

**Links to these Zoom events will be shared with paid up members via email.**

Are you a home brewer interested in hosting a Brewer Q&A? Are you a Pro Brewer (or know one) who wants to do a tasting of your beers? Are you a beer aficionado who would like to host a virtual tasting based on a particular style or category of beer? If so, [contact the BOSS Education Czar Ed Bove](#) and let him know!



## 2020-2021 BOSS Guided Tastings & Educational Topics

BOSS Meeting Month	Style
September	N/A – BOSS Picnic
October	Education – Brulosophy Triangle Test
November	Education – Chocolate Challenge
December	N/A – BOSS Christmas Party
January	9C – Baltic Porter
February	N/A – hopefully the Goose Island Trip
March	TBD



### BOSS Meeting Schedule for the Remainder of 2020

With the club having grown to the size that it has, the Board continues to work hard to locate appropriate places to meet. That being the case, here is a planned list of upcoming meetings:

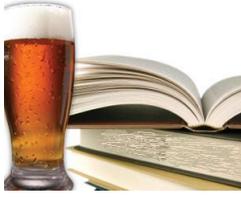
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – BOSS Picnic
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – @ Evil Horse Brewery
- November 6<sup>th</sup> – **TBD, possibly at Arrowhead Ales**
- December – BOSS Christmas Party at Rock Bottom Orland Park



### Hops for Health

The 2020 reboot of the BOSS competition is quickly approaching. If you entered beers, please get those ready for drop off soon. Entries may be dropped at any of the drop off locations starting Friday 8/21 and will continue to be accepted until Friday 9/4. If you are signed up to judge please follow through on your commitment. Remember, the profits from this competition will be donated to the Rush University Covid-19 response fund. Let's win the cup BOSS! [See more competition info here.](#)

## BOSS Library



Steve Sikorski is the BOSS librarian. If you're interested in a particular brewing book, email Steve prior to the next meeting at [steveespambox2001@yahoo.com](mailto:steveespambox2001@yahoo.com). A complete (maybe) list of the BOSS Library holdings can be found at [www.bossbeer.org](http://www.bossbeer.org)

### Questions? Contact the Officers

Mark Westmeyer (President)	312-806-0127	<a href="mailto:dogacres@mac.com">dogacres@mac.com</a>
Steve Sikorski (VP)	561-426-3930	<a href="mailto:steveespambox2001@yahoo.com">steveespambox2001@yahoo.com</a>
Scott Pointon (Secretary)	815-351-9333	<a href="mailto:spointon2002@yahoo.com">spointon2002@yahoo.com</a>
Terry Frey (Treasurer)	xxx-xxx-xxxx	<a href="mailto:havefundad@comcast.net">havefundad@comcast.net</a>
Brandon Banbury (Past Pres)	630-631-7173	<a href="mailto:brandon.banbury@gmail.com">brandon.banbury@gmail.com</a>
Jim Todd (Webmaster)	xxx-xxx-xxxx	<a href="mailto:jtodd414@comcast.net">jtodd414@comcast.net</a>
Ed Bove (Education Czar)	815-474-3452	<a href="mailto:ebove@sbcglobal.net">ebove@sbcglobal.net</a>
Mike Morel (at large)	815-932-9906	<a href="mailto:m.morel@comcast.net">m.morel@comcast.net</a>
Kevin Pyle (at large)	xxx-xxx-xxxx	<a href="mailto:kevinpyle64@yahoo.com">kevinpyle64@yahoo.com</a>
Steve Kamp (emeritus)	312-415-2337	<a href="mailto:evilhorsebrewer@gmail.com">evilhorsebrewer@gmail.com</a>
Dick Van Dyke (emeritus)	xxx-xxx-xxxx	<a href="mailto:DVDsComp@msn.com">DVDsComp@msn.com</a>

### Newsletter Items

Since this newsletter is in electronic form and as such we don't have any space restrictions, I encourage all BOSS members to submit items for inclusion. Visit a brewery or great beer bar in your travels? Write up your impressions and send them to me. Digital pictures with captions are also welcome! Did you brew an outstanding beer recently? If you are willing to share the recipe, please do so and I will publicize it to our group. Got some news to share that affects home brewers in the BOSS area? Let me know about it. Send all those, or anything else you think would be interesting to me, Scott Pointon, at [spointon2002@yahoo.com](mailto:spointon2002@yahoo.com)



**Hey you. Yes you. You know who you are and it is time to pay your club dues! Didn't you hear that by not being a paid up member you are missing out on *BOSS Fridays*? Don't be like Spaulding. Join the club, be a cool kid!**

## BOSS Membership Information

We only accept membership payments via PayPal! Look for more details on our [website](#). Also, to help the Board plan for and purchase an appropriate amount of club premium items, from now on, if anyone joins after the picnic, new member or renewal, they won't be eligible to receive this year's club premium.

Annual dues for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 are **\$32**. Our fiscal year runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Payment any time between those dates constitutes membership until the following April 30<sup>th</sup>. So, anyone who has not paid for the current year will have "guest" status at meetings. There is no reduced rate for joining or renewing late in the fiscal year. If you have questions about paying annual dues, you can send an email to Terry Frey, BOSS Treasurer, at [havefundad@comcast.net](mailto:havefundad@comcast.net) and he will find an answer for you.

### Meeting Fees Reminder

Our standard *in-person* meeting fees are \$10 for members and \$15 for guests. Because we base how much food to have on hand from the number of RSVPs received, if you RSVP late or show up to a meeting without sending an RSVP by the deadline, you will be assessed an additional \$5 to attend the meeting.

## Quote of the Month

As an avid reader, writer, brewer, and drinker of beer I am quite fond of beer-related quotes. Here is this month's quote:

***"I have been advised by the best medical authority, at my age, not to attempt to give up alcohol."*** ~ W. C. Fields

Cheers and happy brewing!  
Scott