

THE ALUMINUM BOTTLE CANNOISSEURS NEWSLETTER  
BCCA AT-LARGE CHAPTER #169

# THE CABOTTLE TIMES

April 2026

vol. 19 issue 1



**BUD  
LIGHT**



**-ABC-**

**Aluminum Bottle CANnoisseurs**

**Chapter 169 of the  
Brewery Collectibles Club  
of America**

**Established 2007**



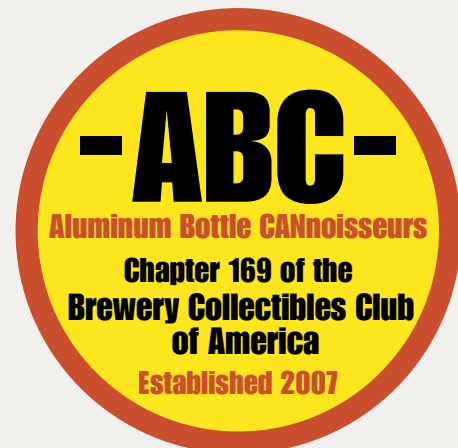
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## About the cover

This issues cover was designed by Carter Stahl. It features multi-colored Bud Light Bottles hidden in springtime grass. A fun surprise left for the adults by the Easter Bunny.



# MEET YOUR OFFICERS



**Tom Fay**  
President



**John Doran**  
Vice President



**Mike Fritz**  
Secretary



**Dave Vitale**  
Treasurer



**Carter Stahl**  
Newsletter Editor

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Joe Germino**



**Joe Hobaugh**



**Dave Vogl**



# MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

All of us in this group have the same common denominator, we all collect aluminum bottles. Each of us started at some point with our quest for some or all aluminum bottles. Some collect all the graphic art numbers. Some use the 5 foot rule. (if they look different from 5 feet way, to be used primarily for Redemption, non-redemption and 3.2 bottles.) Some collect sports bottles. Some collect by brand or by brewer but ultimately, we all have the same passion.

So, what I am asking is for everyone to share their passion with all our members. Tell us what your favorite bottle is. How did you get started collecting and why aluminum bottles. Do you collect just your favorite team or do you collect just unintended (or loser bottles.) Do you collect domestic, international or both.



# MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each quarter we try to put together a newsletter for everyone to enjoy along with being informational. All of us have information from our part of the country or globe that others could use or help answer questions about collecting. How many times have you heard I did not know that or is that why it is done that way.

So, if each member could take a small portion of their time and share a story, information, a new bottle release or even a picture we would be very appreciative.

Our NEWSLETTER EDITOR really needs your help and support!

Thank you for your time and future correspondence.

Thank YOU!  
PREZ Tom.



# EDITORIAL

**NEWSLETTER  
ADDITIONS  
WANTED!**



Please send your **submissions, photos, columns, and important news** for a chance to be featured in the next newsletter!

**SEND TO**

**Carter Stahl**

"The Cabottle Times" Editor

**[cbs010209@outlook.com](mailto:cbs010209@outlook.com)**

**-ABC-**

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# CHAPTER UPDATES

## Membership

The ABC chapter currently has  
138 members.

Welcome to all of our NEW 2025  
Members!

## Website

The ABC chapter website gallery now lists  
over 5000 bottles. If you run across a bottle  
not currently entered, or have a better  
picture of a bottle, please contact Mike Fritz

**Mike Fritz**

drfritz@hotmail.com

(573) 690-5684



**Visit Website Here**



[www.abcchapter.com](http://www.abcchapter.com)

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## On the road with the ABC Chapter

The ABC traveling Road Show will  
be in Green Bay, WI  
at the TITLE TOWN Show On April  
24<sup>th</sup> & April 25<sup>th</sup>  
& next at the GATEWAY CHAPTER  
Swap A RAMA show  
June 5th & 6th! Stop by and see  
us!

CANvention 55 is September 3-5,  
some hotel reservations are  
still available and Registration is  
now open! Hope to see YOU  
there!

More info for CANvention will  
follow in the next Bit's & Pieces!

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## CANvention 54 Meeting Minutes

### Aluminum Bottle CANnoisseurs

#### Eighteenth Annual Meeting; September 11, 2025; Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Tom Fay opened the meeting at 4:55 pm by greeting everyone and introducing all the officers and Board members in attendance.

#### **Officers in attendance:**

Tom Fay #92 – President  
John Doran #240 – Vice President  
Brad Ambruso #007 – Sec/Treasurer  
Joe Hobaugh #069 – Board Member  
Joe Germino #004 – Board Member

#### **Tom also introduced:**

Carter Stahl #276 – Newsletter Editor  
Mike Fritz #198 – Minutes Taker

Brad read the minutes from the 2024 Business Meeting at CANvention 53 in Little Rock.  
Motion to accept – Joe Germino #004, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Hobaugh #069  
Approved unanimously.

Brad gave the treasurer's report. The current balance of chapter accounts is: \$2,194.60.  
Motion to accept – Bob Renforth #001, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Germino #004  
Approved unanimously.

Brad reported we now have 132 members, including 6 new members and 2 re-joins. All members are now lifetime members.

Brad proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws to split the Office of Sec/Treasurer to separate Secretary and Treasurer positions. The Secretary will be responsible for taking meeting minutes and maintaining the chapter roster. The Treasurer will maintain records of the chapter's treasury.

Motion to accept – Bruce Gregg #003, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Larry Sampson #073  
Approved unanimously.

Brad proposed changes to the Bylaws to indicate there will be no annual dues. All current members are lifetime members. New BCCA members will pay a one-time \$20 fee to join, Non-BCCA members will pay a one-time \$25 fee to join, re-joins will be \$20.

Brad read Section 1 of the old Bylaws and the proposed Bylaws.  
Motion to accept – Joe Hobaugh #069, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Germino #004  
Approved unanimously.

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## CANvention 54 Meeting Minutes

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Tom announced that Brad Ambruso, our current Sec/Treasurer is resigning. Brad is not upset with anyone, but desires more time for travel.

Brad nominated Mike Fritz #198 for Secretary and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Joe Germino made a motion to accept the nomination by acclamation, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Joe Hobaugh. Approved unanimously.

Brad nominated Dave Vitale #241 for Treasurer and asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Joe Germino made a motion to accept the nomination by acclamation, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bob Renforth. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Gregg asked how the website will be handled in the future. Joe Germino, one of our website administrators, reported that we receive a lot of posts that go to “spam” and must be approved by the administrators to be posted. There is also a lot of “spam” produced by the Chinese that needs to be blocked.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Bob Renforth asked if there was any progress on chapter shirts. Tom proposed using a one-color logo to save costs. Members would be able to order a shirt and have it delivered directly. Bob said he obtained 5-color printing on chapter shirts for \$14.95/ shirt with a min. order of 35. Tom asked Bob to provide the information for the source of the shirts. We will consider whatever would be the best deal for chapter members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Joe Germino reported that we are selling raffle tickets and bottles at our table in the lobby near the trade floor. Tom reported that there is a sound system available on the trade floor that we should use to announce our raffles and our table location. Tom asked for help to sit at the chapter table. The table cost us \$40 this year but the meeting room ended up being free.

We need article for the Newsletter. Send your articles to Carter Stahl.

We need someone to take over as Webmaster for our Web page. Brad will continue until December 2025, and is available to assist with the transfer to a new page.

Tom announced that Danny Bora can provide us with resources to have Zoom Meetings at no charge. We plan to have 1 board meeting each quarter.

Tom asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Joe Germino #004, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bob Renforth #001

Approved unanimously at 5:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Fritz #198, Secretary

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## Treasurers Report

| ABC Chapter Income and Expense |  |           |            |       |  |            |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|------------|-------|--|------------|
| Date                           | Description of Transaction               | Debit (-) | Credit (+) | Type  | Remarks                                    | Balance    |
| 9/8/25                         | Carryover balance from Brad Ambruso      |           |            |       |  | \$2,199.60 |
| 9/8/25                         | Bottle Sales Convention - Milwaukee      |           | \$700.00   | Cash  |  | \$2,899.60 |
| 9/8/25                         | 50/50 Raffle - Convention                |           | \$205.00   | Cash  |  | \$3,104.60 |
| 9/8/25                         | Hourly Raffles - Convention              |           | \$145.00   | Cash  |  | \$3,249.60 |
| 9/8/25                         | Metal Signs - Convention                 |           | \$20.00    | Cash  |  | \$3,269.60 |
| 9/8/25                         | Big Raffle - Convention                  |           | \$254.00   | Cash  |  | \$3,523.60 |
| 9/15/25                        | Bottle Sales Post Convention - Milwaukee |           | \$105.00   | Cash  |  | \$3,628.60 |
| 9/15/25                        | Memberships                              |           | \$125.00   | Cash  | New and Renewed Memberships                | \$3,753.60 |
| 11/11/25                       | Bottle Sales - Belleville                |           | \$93.00    | Cash  |  | \$3,846.60 |
| 11/13/25                       | Motion Clydesdale Neon                   | \$284.01  |            | Debit | For Big Raffle 2026 Convention Minneapolis | \$3,562.59 |
| 1/12/26                        | Adjustment                               |           | \$0.34     |       |  | \$3,562.93 |
| 1/12/26                        | New Checks                               | \$31.79   |            |       |  | \$3,531.14 |
| 1/31/26                        | Bottle Sales - Ozarks Show               |           | \$42.00    |       |  | \$3,573.14 |
| 2/18/26                        | Donation                                 |           | \$320.00   |       |  | \$3,893.14 |
| 3/17/26                        | Windows Hosting Deluxe Renewal           |           | \$407.76   |       |  | \$3,485.38 |
| 3/21/26                        | Bottle Sales - Luck of the Irish         |           | \$156.00   |       |  | \$3,641.38 |
| 3/21/26                        | Donation                                 |           | \$450.00   |       |  | \$4,091.38 |

Above is the updated financial report from our treasurer Dave Vitale

## IN REMEMBRANCE

This week, THE ABC Chapter was made aware of the passing of **Larry Sampson, ABC #73** from Burnaby, Canada. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during the time.

# "READING A BEER CAN IS IN THE NUMBERS."

ANHEUSER-BUSCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER "FOCUS ON ST. LOUIS" NOVEMBER 1988 VOL. 11 NO. 11

The numbers are ink-jet coded in the domed bottom of the can (as well as on some A-B bottles). This means ink, via tiny jet streams, is used to record a series of dotted numbers that represent packaging information.

On the can bottom is a 10-character code that includes the date, place and even the time of day when the product was packaged. Occasionally this is an 11-character code. Regardless, the code utilizes the Julian calendar.

The first three digits are the day of the year beer was packaged. In the example, the date, 032 is February 1 because that is the 32<sup>nd</sup> day of the year.

The fourth number is the last digit of the year of packaging, The examples year number is 8 for 1988.

The fifth character is the A-B brewery's code. The example's can, packaged in St. Louis, is coded S. The other A-B breweries' code numbers are as follows:

H – Houston

W – Williamsburg

N – Newark

C – Columbus

F – Fairfield

L – Los Angeles

J – Jacksonville

B – Baldwinsville

T – Tampa

M – Merrimack

FC – Fort Collins

The next two numbers identify the can line. St. Louis can line numbers are usually in the 60s.

The next space is usually blank, although some A-B breweries use it for a special printer's code.

The last two numbers indicate the 15- minute period of the day in which the beer was packaged. There are 96 fifteen-minute periods in each day. The example's 01 means the beer was packaged between midnight and 12:15 am. – the first 15 - minute period of the day.

That's it – in 10 digits or less, you can tell exactly when and where an A-B canned product was packaged. Of course, due to the age of this article there may have been possible changes.

# **WEBMASTER** **WANTED**

Prior to CANvention, Our secretary/treasurer/webmaster **Brad Ambruso** announced his resignation. He ensured us it was nothing anyone did, he just wants to spend more time with his family and spend time traveling. We would like to offer Brad our sincere thanks for his 17 years of service to the ABC Chapter!

With that being said, starting in January 2026, **WE NEED A NEW WEBMASTER!**

If you are interested and have website experience, please contact

**President Tom Fay**  
**tfay90918@hotmail.com**

# Bottled Success!

## Coca-Cola and Mountain Dew bottles take the stage at the Luck O the Irish show in Covington, KY



Over St. Patrick's Day weekend, ABC Newsletter Editor Carter Stahl attended the Luck of the Irish show in Covington. A passionate collector, Carter is always on the lookout for unique finds—especially items related to Coca-Cola and Mountain Dew, which make up a large part of his growing collection.

Carter also presented and sold a variety of rare Coca-Cola and Mountain Dew finds on the trade floor, drawing interest from fellow collectors and enthusiasts alike. He is pictured on the right at his table, where his unique selection and passion for collecting were on full display.



Also showcased on the left were a series of Mountain Dew Green Label Art bottles, offered for sale in their original acrylic display cases. Each bottle includes collector information on the back, adding to their authenticity and appeal. These distinctive pieces highlight the creative collaboration between Mountain Dew and contemporary artists, making them especially sought-after by collectors.

On the right, a striking Mountain Dew Green Label Art display with spinning holder added a dynamic touch, allowing the artwork to be viewed from every angle.

The rotating stand highlighted the creativity behind the Mountain Dew series, making it a standout feature of the table.

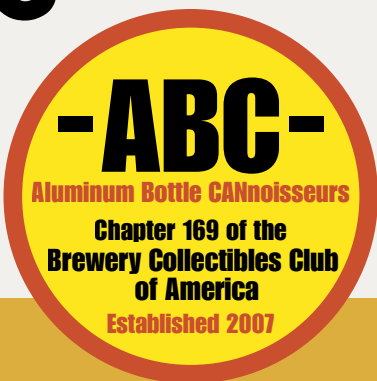
Accompanying the display was a limited-edition, never-opened Coca-Cola promotional set, preserved in pristine condition and highly appealing to serious collectors.



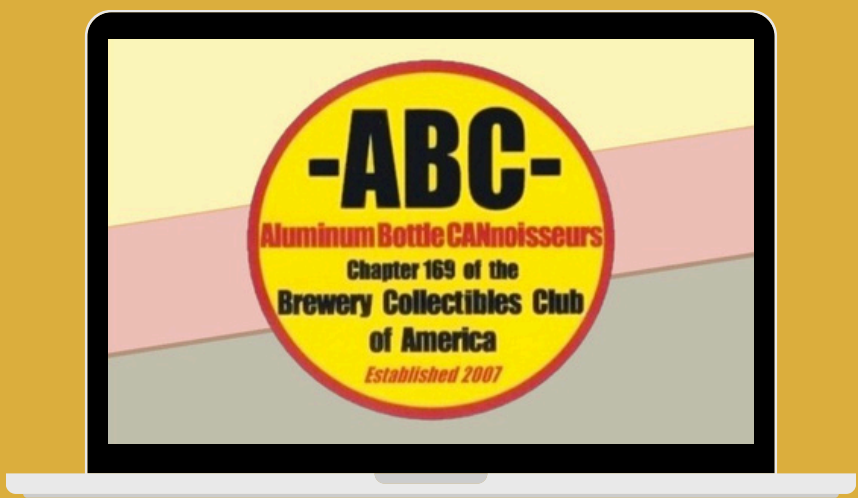
Pictured on the left, Carter Stahl is joined by his grandmother, Bette Fay, who shares in his enthusiasm for the hobby. Bette Fay noted that Carter's soda collectibles bring a refreshing perspective to the collecting world, giving fellow enthusiasts something fresh and exciting to discover.

Carter added that he will be attending Swap a Rama on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2026 in Florissant, MO with all of his soda collectibles for display and sale!

# THE ABC CHAPTER IS ONLINE!



Find us on your phone, tablet, or computer!



Visit Website Here



or search [www.abcchapter.com](http://www.abcchapter.com)

# ARE YOU ON THE MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK?

**The ABC Chapter offers  
a MEMBERS ONLY group  
on Facebook!**

This group offers exclusive  
member only trading, member  
connection, and important  
messages!

**JOIN NOW**



# BUDWEISER RELEASES VINTAGE CINCINNATI REDS CANS

Get ready for Opening Day with a sip from Budweiser's new nostalgic beer cans.

Anheuser-Busch, maker of Budweiser and other beverages, is celebrating the national beer brand's 150th anniversary and America's 250th birthday by releasing limited-edition, vintage-inspired MLB team cans, just in time for the season opener March 26.



According to a press release, the Cincinnati Reds' team cans feature Budweiser's anniversary insignia, the team's wordmark on the front and a unique, vintage illustration that includes the Reds' classic logo, colors and uniforms.

The cans are available in participating markets wherever Budweiser is sold.

In honor of the 2026 season, Budweiser is also launching the Bud 150 membership club, which gives 150 fans a pre-loaded Mastercard and opportunities to score tickets to MLB special events, including the All-Star Game and the World Series. Additional information can be found on the Budweiser website and social media pages



# RANCH BEER DIP

*This Beer dip combines all the best things for party food: a creamy dip, ranch dressing, lots of cheese and, of course, beer. What else could you possibly need?*



PREP TIME  
**5 MIN**



SERVINGS  
**3 ½ CUPS**

## Instructions

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, beer and dressing mix until smooth. Stir in cheddar cheese.

Garnish with green onions and more cheddar cheese on top

Let dip sit in refrigerator for 2-5 hours before serving to marinate

### Notes:

- Storage: This dip can be stored in an air tight container in the refrigerator for 3-5 days

## Ingredients

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 -3/4 cup beer of your choice
- 1 envelope ranch dressing mix
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- Dipping Items  
(Pretzels,Chips,Crackers, Veggies, Bread etc

# ADVERTISING

# NEW ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY FOR ABC MEMBERS

ABC Members , We are excited to announce a new advertising opportunity for our membership!

**ABC members will now be able to send in bottles that they NEED.** These bottles will be listed in our quarterly newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE – IF THE TEMPLATE IS NOT FOLLOWED, **YOUR LIST WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED**

Example

## Aluminum Bottle Wish List:

I am looking for the following aluminum bottles:

Anheuser World Select 660126 Silver/Green Non Redemption  
Budweiser Fiesta 500958 Non Redemption  
Budweiser White Bowtie 501769 Non Redemption  
Budweiser FIFA Rise as One 502395 Japan  
Budweiser FIFA Rise As One 502395 Malaysia

If you have any of these for purchase, please contact me.

David Vitale ABC #241  
[dlaoevit@gmail.com](mailto:dlaoevit@gmail.com)

Email Wishlists to Carter Stahl  
[cbs010209@outlook.com](mailto:cbs010209@outlook.com)

You are only able to send in FIVE (5) bottles per newsletter

# NEW BOTTLES

**BUD  
LIGHT**®

**St. Patricks Day  
Bottle**

**#594262**

**HAPPY  
ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY**



**BUD  
LIGHT®**

**University of  
Kentucky -  
Basketball**

**#504266**



# Aluminum Bottle TINTACKERS

-Bob Renforth #001

Like most of you who have been collecting aluminum bottles as long as I have, know there was quite a bit of advertising for them during early production. Unfortunately, just like the bottles, advertising has also slowed down. Way back in the day (2008) we used to call the advertising pieces "Cabottle Go-With's". We even had a column in newsletter for a short time which began in the May-July 2008 edition.



I still collect advertising pieces when they become available, and my favorite are tin tackers with aluminum bottles on them. I've been able to acquire several of them at different shows, by word-of-mouth, and on on-line auctions.



I believe the first one I picked up was the Iron City "Pittsburgh Nation" sign, followed by the "Catalyst" sign from 2006, which I believe is pretty rare. Naturally, the AB signs are more plentiful, but once in a great while I'll find a Miller sign. The Coors Light sign is the only one from that brewery that I've seen. The newest one I have is the "Sabe Miller Time" which is dated 2023. This tells me that there is hope for more to come.



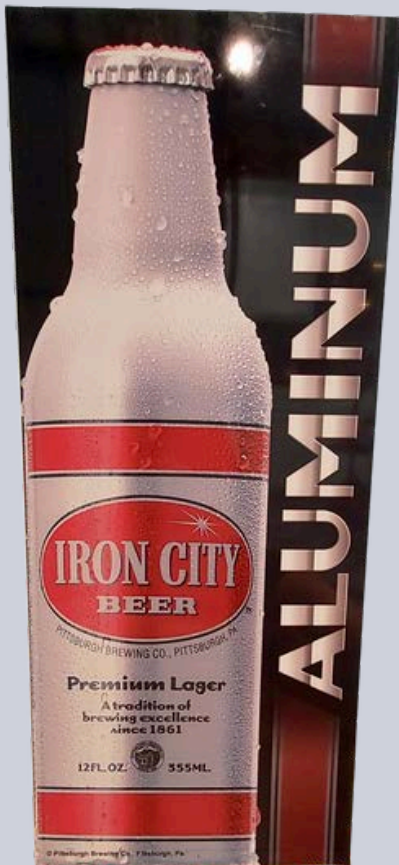
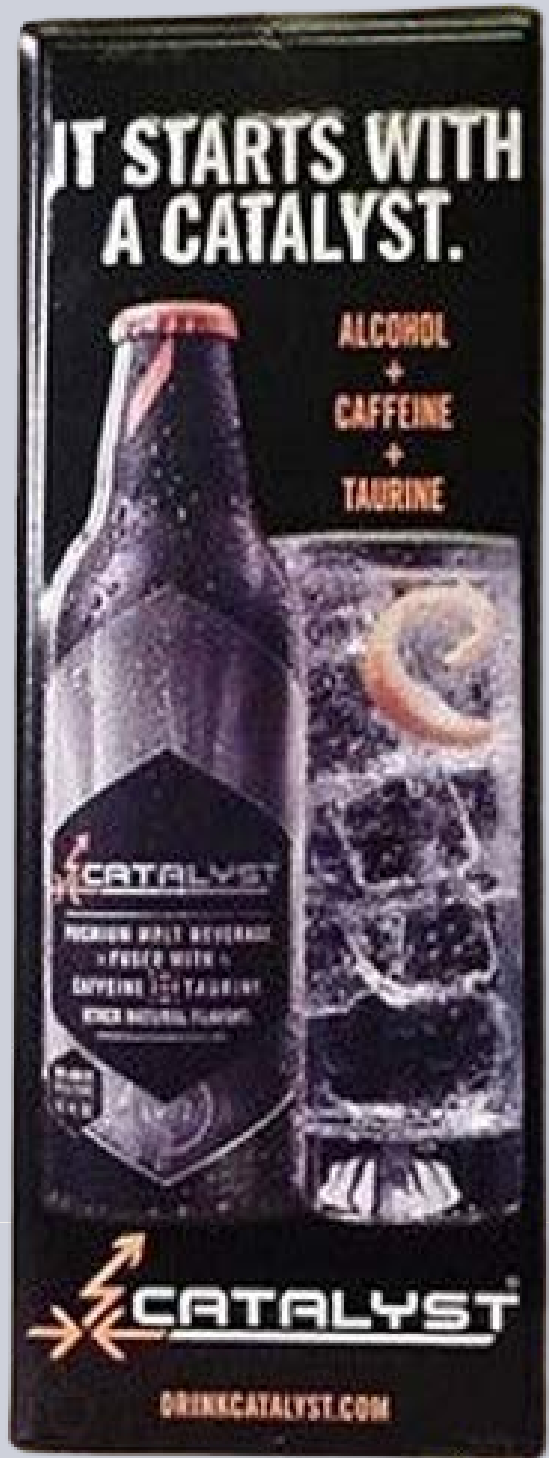
I know there are others out there, as I missed a few nice ones at auction. There are other tin tackers of different brands or commemorative bottles (Bud Select, B/L UFC etc.) that do not show the bottle, but in my opinion the sign must display a bottle on it to be a true aluminum bottle tin tacker.



If you see or know the whereabouts of others that are not shown here, please feel free to contact me with any info on them. In our hobby, word of mouth is very helpful.

There are always new things to add to your collection, you just have to look for them.

Bob Renforth  
ABC001



# JOIN THE ABC CHAPTER

**The ABC ( Aluminum Bottle CANnoisseurs)  
is an at-large chapter in the BCCA for  
members that collect aluminum bottles!**

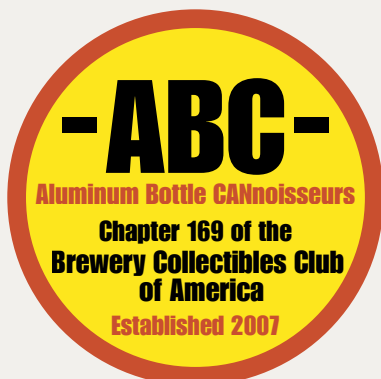
**Members get to meet with other collectors  
to buy/sell or trade amongst each other.  
Members also get exclusive access to the  
ABC facebook group to buy and sell!**

**JOIN  
TODAY**

**Become a LIFETIME MEMBER**

BCCA Members :  
Pay one time fee of \$20

Non Members :  
Pay one time fee of \$25



**Please consider sending the membership form to prospective members, friends, family, or people you make often transactions with!**



**PLEASE PRINT**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS**  
**ALL FEES ARE TO BE MADE WITH US DOLLARS \$\$\$**  
**YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PAYING ABC**  
**CHAPTER DUES EVER AGAIN!**

If you are a BCCA member it is a 1 time, lifetime fee of \$20  
\_\_\_\_\_ BCCA # \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a returning ABC member it is a 1 time, lifetime fee of \$20  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are NOT a BCCA member it is a 1 time, lifetime fee of \$25  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE make ALL checks payable to the ABC Chapter.**

**If you mail, Remit to:**

**ABC CHAPTER  
C/O Dave Vitale  
3514 Bonsai Court  
St. Louis, MO 63129, USA**

## BCCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Annual Individual Membership Dues

- \$45 US Residents
- \$55 Canada and Mexico
- \$65 All Other Countries

### Annual Family Membership Dues

- \$10 each additional family member
- Family memberships are available to persons related to current BCCA members in good standing*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ / /  
D.O.B.

Spouses Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt./Suite

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province/Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type

- U.S. Resident
- Canada/Mexico
- Other Country \_\_\_\_\_
- Family

### Payment Type

- Cash
- Check
- Visa
- Mastercard

\_\_\_\_\_ Card Number

**Total Amount** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Name on card/Signature

BCCA, 747 MERUS COURT, FENTON, MO 63026 - 636-343-6486 - BCCA@BCCA.COM

**WWW.BCCA.COM**

# JOIN THE BCCA HERE

The ABC (Aluminum Bottle CAnoisseurs) is an at-large chapter of the BCCA (Brewery Collectibles Club of America)

The BCCA is a club with over 3,000+ members all interested in all things brewiana!

## BCCA MEMBER BENEFITS

Registered BCCA members get a number of benefits including:

### Welcome Package

New Members receive a welcome package containing labels, crowns, coasters, etc.

### Membership Roster

A printed booklet of all BCCA members and contact info

### Exclusive Content

BCCA members receive an issue of the award winning magazine "Beer Cans and Brewery Collectibles" along with exclusive web content

### Membership Number

Each BCCA member gets a special number to identify them.

### CANvention

BCCA members have the right to attend CANvention! The largest trade show of the year with over 1,000 members in attendance

**Family Memberships  
Also Available!**

# HOW DO I JOIN THE BCCA?



Go to **bcca.com** or  
contact the **BCCA**  
**world headquarters**  
to join!

## BCCA WORLD HEADQUARTERS

747 Merus Ct  
Fenton, MO 63026  
United States  
**+1 (636) 343 - 6486**



**OR VISIT**  
[www.bcca.com](http://www.bcca.com)



**SCAN HERE**

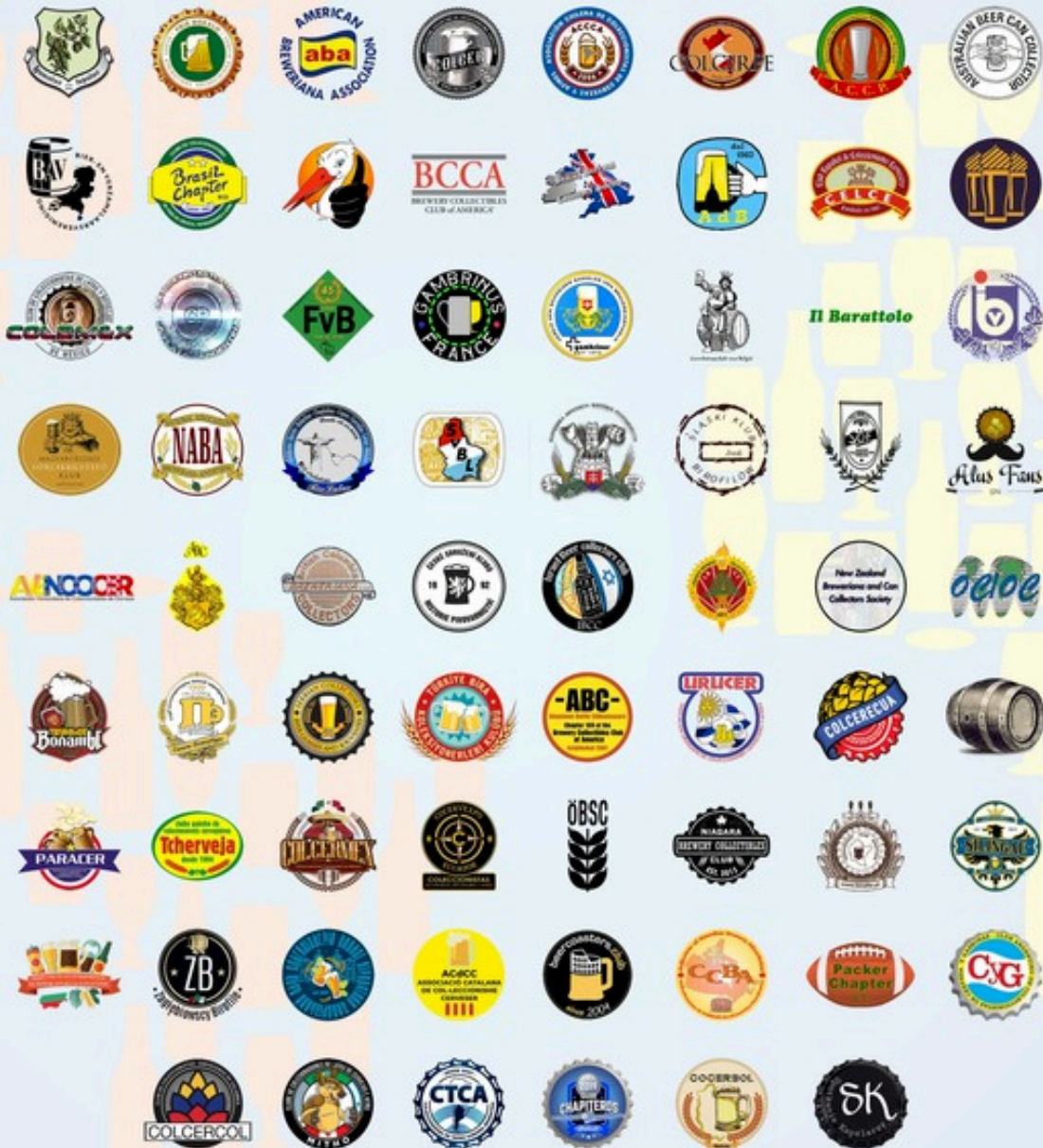
# ABC is proud to be a part of the BCWC

2025



2027

Brewery Collectibles World Convention



Beer collectors **clubs** working **together**

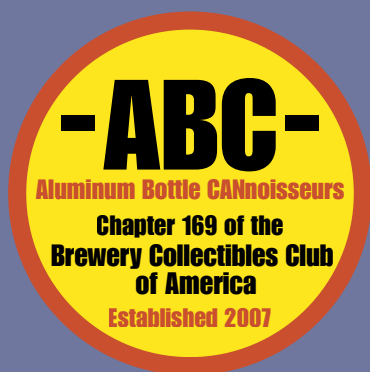
# THANK YOU!

## ABC Members,

Thank You for reading this edition of The Cabottle Times! Thank you for helping me make another great edition! If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to let me know!

You can contact me via email at

**[cbs010209@outlook.com](mailto:cbs010209@outlook.com)**



A white handwritten signature of Carter Stahl on a blue background.

**Carter Stahl**

Newsletter Editor



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WEBSITE**



**FOLLOW OUR  
FACEBOOK**