

Ravenswood - Chicago 1993 - We initially mailed invitations to around fifty or sixty teams, including some we were fairly sure would not come (geographically remote) but wanted to invite anyway. Some people responded with "sorry we can't come this year, but keep us in mind for next year." Those responses are included with all the other materials in this mailing to you. No bets will be taken on whether these teams would come in 94, but you can make your own decisions about inviting them. Copies of our mailing list are enclosed with our other materials. Everybody on this list got the first mailing and we have indicated with colored markers who got the second and third mailings. We used an Avery mailing list handler and sheet-printed the labels on our laser printer. Worked like a champ. If you want a copy of the file (in ASCII), we can send it to you, but it may be just as easy for you to re-enter it by hand as there are not that many entries. As is frequently the case in these times of the mobile society, there were a couple of people who wanted to attend the Ale as members of their former teams. This was not a problem in terms of registration, but as the individuals in question were now living elsewhere, they had to get their own mailings. This is why there may be two entries for the same team, but in different cities.

Copies of our letters and registration forms (phase 1 and phase 2) are also included on diskette. They are formatted in WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS. The letters are included for your reference and amusement, but the registration forms you might actually be able to use as is, substituting appropriate names and deadlines, etc. Just in case the files are corrupted, I've enclosed a paper copy of the phase 2 registration form; you could simply white-out my name, put yours in, and you're ready to go.

We set early deadlines for registration, offered dollar incentives, etc., and this seemed to work well. We had a number of cancellations (we did not promise any refunds, but did refund money to those few - our best recollection is three total - who seemed to have a "legitimate" reason for not coming - e.g. personal illness, family problems, etc.) but very few (under five) late registrations.

As has been done at other ales, we made up a bag for each team with their badges, pre-ordered T-shirts, a copy of the team's registration form (so they could sort out who ordered the large and who ordered the extra large) and gave them to the first person to check-in from a given team. We then marked this person on the registration form in our big book so that when their teammates showed up and demanded their T-shirts we could say, "Oh, Ed has them." Much groaning would then ensue, but we figured it was neater than sorting out individual T-shirts and badges.

We had very little tenting space, so people were encouraged to sleep indoors. This worked out OK, so far as we could tell.

You may not realize it, but phone costs for the Ale can potentially become astronomical. We tried as much as possible to limit phone calls by sending concise, detailed letters, and by having the Ale Czarina on E-mail. This was very handy.

Good luck. If you need questions answered (or just hand-holding) on registration or money, call us at 708.699.7915 (Jim and Rayna - Bagsnake and Registration Princess respectively).