

Greetings,

Here is the packet from the 7th Midwestern Morris Ale in Madison, Wisconsin, Memorial Day Weekend, 1987. There are three kinds of stuff in this collection: 1) reports from committees (green corners), 2) the collected correspondence sent out to the teams (blue corners), and 3) minutes from most of our organizational meetings (red corners). Most readers of this collection will have a pretty good idea of what is involved in an event of this sort, so the committee comments are probably the most useful.

Some overall observations:

We had a lot of people working on this event, more than previous Ales, as far as we can tell. This is helpful in avoiding burnout. The trick is keeping all the parts of the event in communication. Don't underestimate this problem. One person (Lynn) had to act as Grand Central Station for most of the event - the person in this role should not have to do much else. Individual autonomy is quite helpful in getting things done, the trick is to make sure it all works when it comes together - timing and logistics have to mesh. Example: One of the tour guides decided to stay in one place on the Capitol Square. This was good thinking; the gigs were a little too short as planned and a longer gig would encourage the involvement of an audience. But everybody else was doing the move, which meant that one of the tours had to spend 10-15 minutes going around the square to find an empty place to dance. At close to 200 people, the Midwestern Ale is getting to a size that requires a lot of formality of organization. Don't overdo it, just keep the problem in mind.

These events are getting bigger (more people) and more complicated (more services). It is salubrious to look at the budgets and descriptions from the first Ales and bear in mind that everybody had a damn good time. Don't let that stop you, though. . .

Overall, we were quite happy at how things came out. Good luck to you too.

-Mark Fulton
-7/3/87