

MICHIGAN “DID YOU KNOW” – COPPER CLUB CONES

By Randy Karasek

All five known Copper Club cone top variations are pictured in the USBC, though the rarity for a couple of them is far from current reality. This article will comment on that and show details of the different variations.

Copper Country Brewing, Hancock, Michigan



USBC 158-11



USBC 158-12



Copper Country 3.2% Variation

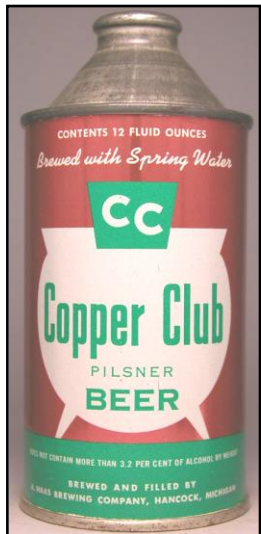
The exact alcohol statement says “DOES NOT CONTAIN MORE THAN 3.2 PER CENT OF ALCOHOL BY WEIGHT”.

Note the pictured example is the best I have been able to locate for MBC photos, and is much tougher than the USBC indicates.

A. Haas Brewing, Hancock, Michigan



USBC 158-13



USBC 158-14



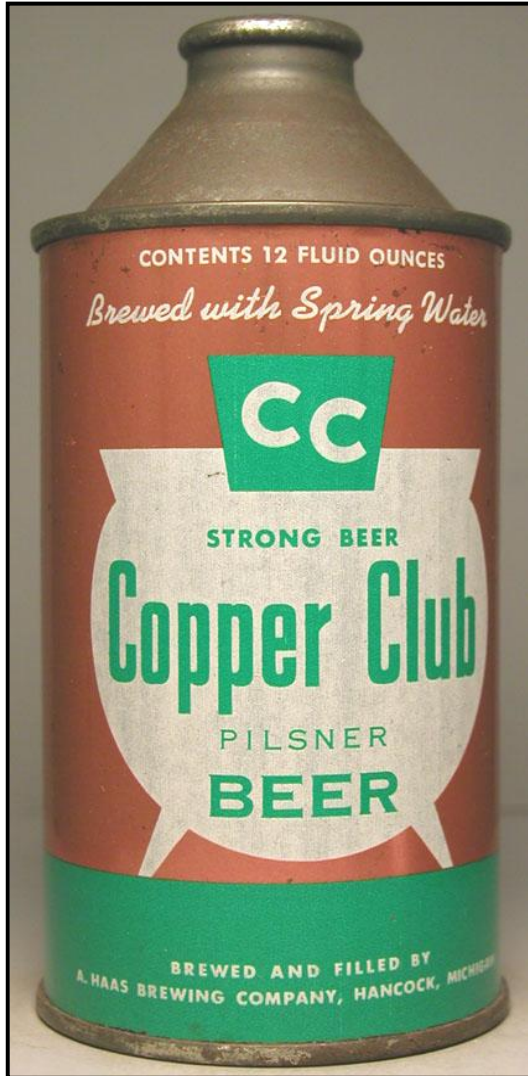
A. Haas 3.2% Variation

The exact alcohol statement says “DOES NOT CONTAIN MORE THAN 3.2 PER CENT OF ALCOHOL BY WEIGHT”.

While a quality 3.2% example located for MBC photos, this is again much tougher than the USBC indicates.

Note the essentially identical designs and identical alcohol statements, since really the same brewery in the same city! As part of the “De-Germanization” after WWII, the A.Haas name disappeared, simply renamed to the more “American” Copper Country.

Two + Two + “STRONG” equals five



The USBC lists five variations, with the 3.2% statements far tougher than their non-alcohol statement counterparts, but so far only four variations have been mentioned. For the fifth we’re back to the A.Haas Brewery and its very tough “Strong Beer” variation.

Note the green “STRONG BEER” text under the CC logo, the only Michigan beer can to have such text printed on its can body. Theory is that this design was marketed to Minnesota and Wisconsin where required by the states to mention issues with alcohol content (Michigan had no such requirement). With Hancock, Michigan located high up in the Upper Peninsula, shipping to Minnesota or Wisconsin probably easier than shipping to the Michigan Lower Peninsula prior to the opening of the Mackinaw Bridge in November of 1957.

The “STRONG BEER” is the toughest of all five Copper Club cones, with the specific example pictured to the left selling for \$1,082 on Ebay some years back. While the auction price mainly due to two Michigan

collectors sniping each other at auction close, if another quality example appeared today I wouldn’t be surprised if a similar price was reached.

What about the sixth variation?

There is no known example of the “STRONG BEER” variation for the Copper Country named brewery, and likely it was no longer necessary, superseded by the explicit 3.2% statements.

However, I have seen a composite listing mention a Copper Club from the A.Haas brewery in the neighboring city of Houghton, Michigan, and there is even a grainy black and white photo of a Copper Club listed as from Houghton, Michigan in the original publication of the “Beer Cans of Michigan”. At present I have not been able to locate such a variation, and for now my opinion it doesn’t actually exist.