



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JANUARY 2012

Prez Sez

By Tim Strayer

It's been a whirlwind of a month – in many ways! December was one of the windiest months that I recall in Anchorage, and busiest for me (and I think many others too). The newsletter will be shorter than usual this month because I have been so tied up with work and family travel



(but I have lots of highlights – keep reading). In fact I am writing this month's Prez Sez from Surprise, Arizona where we spent the Christmas holidays with family. This was quite a change from all my past family get togethers because there was no snow! I hope everyone also had a wonderful holiday. But enough about the weather, family, and holidays...time to get back to brewing!

I want to thank Billy Opinsky for sponsoring the Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition, Arctic Brewing Supply for accepting the entries, and Jason Ditsworth for leading the activities. The results are posted on our club website. Congratulations to Don Lewellyn and his co-brewer, your humble Prez, for taking the Best of Show for the second year in a row – this year with an American Barleywine.

The club holiday party (70s theme) was fantastic! If you missed it, you missed out! Unfortunately, I had to catch a 6 a.m. flight on Sunday so I could not stay for the "last dance". Many thanks to the Michael's, McDonald's, and the Plews (there were probably others I am missing) for their generous donations of time to ensure a memorable event. Check our Facebook page for a pictorial view of the night's festivities.

The Fur Rondy competition is coming up quickly – don't miss this one! Checkout the details included in this months newsletter. Entries are due Feb 10th.

The club brews: Many of you have asked about the status of these brews (Flanders Red and a Russian Imperial Stout) and I am happy to tell you that they are done! We will have 5 gallons of each available for enjoying at the January meeting. We are also going to be discussing with Dennis (past Prez) a plan for re-distributing the remainder back to the original contributors. Check out last months newsletter article for more details and watch your email inbox.

January is one incredible month for beer in Alaska. Check this out:

First: If you don't have tickets for the Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival (GABBF), don't wait, get them now, right here: <http://auroraproductions.net/beer-barley.html>.

The Prez Sez

Secretary's Corner

GABBF Steward Invitation

Calendar Items

Fur Rondy Homebrew
Competition

Beer Trippin' 2012

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Second: closely monitor this website for all of the activities for "Alaska Beer Week": <http://www.akbeerweek.com>. There will be TONS of places around town that will be hosting beer dinners, tastings, and other beer related shenanigans.

Third: Our club meeting this month is very unique (different date/people/places/things) as we will be sharing the stage with the folks from the Alaska Brewers Guild (you can learn more about that here: <http://www.brewersguildofalaska.org/>). Jim Roberts (aka Dr. Fermento) is the president of the Guild and will be assisting us with the meeting activities – a great asset to the club indeed. Our meeting will be held on THURSDAY, Jan 19 at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Goose Theater – show up early to help setup and socialize a bit. Our special guest speaker for this event will be: **Stephen Pauwels from Boulevard Brewing Co.** This meeting will be a great opportunity to meet Stephen, as well as many brewers from Alaska and elsewhere. Don't forget to bring your homebrew to share, and some commercial beers and/or beer paraphernalia for the auction. And as always, we need your help with every meeting to make it a success, here is the breakdown for the club responsibilities, by last name: A - J Food K - P Setup R - Z Cleanup. Please do your part.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a private meeting that will ONLY be open to card carrying members of the GNBC, members of the Brewers Guild, and invited VIP guests. If you have not paid your membership dues, now is a great time to do it, by visiting our website: <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html> We don't want any tears in your beer because you forgot to pay your dues!

I think that wraps it up. As always if you have any questions/concerns/suggestions, please don't hesitate to drop me a line at president@greatnorthernbrewers.org. Looking forward to seeing everyone in January.

Stay warm and brew strong!

Flame out,
Tim

**DIMOND
LIQUOR**

tapproot

Secretary's Corner

By Julie McDonald

Meeting Minutes: December 10, 2011

Prez, Tim Strayer, got this party started at some point. I wasn't exactly taking notes for this meeting. We did little to no biz. It was just time to strut our disco stuff. And we did it quite well, by the looks of things. Costumes were quite good and I don't recall any wardrobe malfunctions this year. That's the thing about togas....they just don't want to stay where they are supposed to.

On behalf of the board and the entire membership, I would like to thank Joe and Amber and the Plews for getting this gig together and for decorating and just basically taking care of the whole thing!

If you missed this epic event pictures can be found on the club's Facebook page. You should really take a look at what you missed! If you have pix of the event, post them on the Facebook photo album, also! <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.303709029669871.82151.154608164579959&type=3>

Membership/Dues reminders ñ We are still under 60% of our current membership being renewed for the new club year. Some things to consider:

- Participating businesses will NOT honor your old membership card for club discounts. No current card, no discount.
- It is so easy to renew! You can do it online at our website on the membership page or you can check out that same page for info on snail-mailing a check to us.
- Let's get this squared away before the January meeting so no one is left out in the cold!

Fur Rhondy Competition

February, 11, 2012. Dennis is organizing this one. This time the side challenge will be Gluten Free beers....with gluten intolerant judges – be diligent in your recipe formulation, don't poison the judges!

Club Brew News

Current club brews are ready to be distributed and bottled. We need to work out a bottling date and get these barrels emptied. We are also looking at filling them immediately after emptying. Here are the styles for the next 3 club brews that have been decided on by the board: The sour barrel will get an Oud Bruin, the brandy barrel will get a Baltic porter, and the whiskey barrel will get a smoked Scottish ale. Stay tuned for more information on Club Brews status.

Great Alaska Beer & Barleywine Festival Tix and Volunteering

GABBF tix are on sale now. Get 'em while they're hot! Steven Pauwels from Boulevard Brewing is going to be this year's guest speaker. Check this link for more info on purchasing tix <http://auroraproductions.net/beer-barley.html>

If you plan on volunteering for GABBF You should know that the deadline for applying has already passed. Aurora Productions needed to submit volunteer info to APD by Dec 9, 2011.

EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

Midnight Sun Brewery Tours and Brew Debut: 6:00 PM 344-1179

19.....GNBC Monthly Meeting Upstairs at the Goose 7 pm

20 - 21...Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival

22.....Farewell Brunch at the Spenard Roadhouse 9 am to 3 pm

10.....Entries accepted at the Goose for the Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition 11 am to 6 pm

11.....Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition 10 am at the Goose

30 - 1.....GNBC Beer Trippin' Event in Talkeetna: Winter Camp Out



Beer Trippin'

Joe Michael and Jim Lamb are currently working out the details for this annual event. The event will take place the last weekend of March, 2012. As soon as we have a line-up of events we will get the info to you thru club email and through the club Facebook page. So stay tuned. I have seen t-shirt designs for this event and they ROCK! You can check them out on the club's event page here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/236076666465233/>

Next meeting: Snowgoose Theatre, Jan 19, 2012 . This is our annual pre-GABBF meeting. This is a joint venture with Brewer's Guild of Alaska, which Jim Roberts is the president of. As such we have a much larger attendance, with beer dignitaries and brewers visiting from outside. This meeting's guest speaker is Stephen Pauwels from Boulevard Brewing Co. Get there early to socialize and help set up. Member duties break down like this: A - J Food K - P Setup R - Z Cleanup

MISCELLANEOUS:

TAP (Training for Alcohol Professionals)

Upcoming TAPs classes held at CHARR's Charlie H. Selman Training Center located at 1503 W. 31st Avenue, Suite 101 Anchorage.

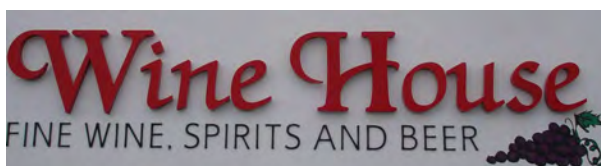
- Remember this is required if you plan to volunteer to steward at any fests or competitions or tastings this year.
- 01/03+++++ Tuesday+++++ 1:00pm
- 01/05+++++ Thursday+++++ 9:00am
- 01/10+++++ Tuesday+++++ 5:30pm
- 01/11+++++ Wednesday+++++ 1:00pm
- 01/17+++++ Tuesday+++++ 9:00am
- 01/21+++++ Saturday+++++ 11:00am
- 01/24+++++ Tuesday+++++ 5:30pm
- 01/26+++++ Thursday+++++ 1:00pm
- 01/31+++++ Tuesday+++++ 9:00am
- 02/04+++++ Saturday+++++ 11:00am
- Renewal certification available at the CHARR office Monday through Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm.
- Renewal testing is also available with proof of previous training following Saturday classes at 2:00pm



Monthly Member Beer Dinners

- We will be skipping January, but have an awesome one planned for February and someone has stepped up to plan March as well! Stay tuned for details to come out early this month! You won't want to miss these!
- contact Juzy@gci.net for more information or to be put on the GNBC beer dinner email list

That's about it from this corner....hope you all had wonderful holidays and are recovering enough to participate in a event filled Alaska Beer Week to kick off the Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival!



2011 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

Fur Rendezvous HBC

- Category 1
- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 19
- Category 22
- Category 23

Snow Goose HBC

- Category 3
- Category 6
- Category 8
- Category 10
- Category 15
- Category 20

Anchor Town HBC

- Category 2
- Category 7
- Category 14
- Category 17
- Category 21
- Category 27

Equinox Mead HBC

- Category 24
- Category 25
- Category 26

Humpy's Big Fish HBC

- Category 9
- Category 11
- Category 12
- Category 13
- Category 16
- Category 18
- Category 28





STEWARD INVITATION

You are cordially invited to help steward the barley wine and winter seasonal beer competition at the 2012 Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival.

First and second round judging will take place on Friday January 20, 2012, starting at 5:00 PM sharp (stewards need to arrive no later than 4:15 PM because we will start pulling beers at about 4:30). The Best-of-Show round will take place from 12:00 to 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

As in previous years, if you donate your time to help with the competition you will receive a free pass to the festival for the entire weekend, including the connoisseur's session on Saturday afternoon.

Please confirm your availability to help by responding to this e-mail (jditsworth@gci.net) no later than Friday, January 13th, 2012.

Note that Steve Schmitt will be running the show on the days of the actual competition this year, but I will be doing most of the up front coordination of personnel.

If you have any questions please send me an email or call me at (907) 244-8855.

Cheers!
Jason Ditsworth



MEETING SETUP

A - J Food
K - P Setup
R - Z Cleanup

A - J Setup
K - P Cleanup
R - Z Food

A - J Cleanup
K - P Food
R - Z Setup



Calendar Items for Beer Week and Beyond

Listed below are some of the events that are going on around town that you may be interested in attending.

**Sunday, January 15: Midnight Sun Brewing Company Super Foods Beer Dinner in the Loft: \$75 pp:
5:30 – 8 pm**

Tuesday, January 17: Pike Brewing Company Beer Dinner at Café Amsterdam: 6-8 pm: \$60 pp

**Wednesday, January 18: Alaskan Brewing Company's Dark Beer Dinner at Simon and Seafort's: 6-8 pm:
Cost TBA**

Wednesday, January 18: Boulevard Beer Maker's Dinner at Kinley's Restaurant: 6 pm: Cost TBA

Thursday, January 19: GNBC GABBF Brewer's Meet and Greet at the Goose Theater: 7 pm

Friday, January 20: Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival: 6-9 pm: \$35 pp

Saturday January 21: Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival Connoisseur's Session: 2-5 pm: \$45 pp

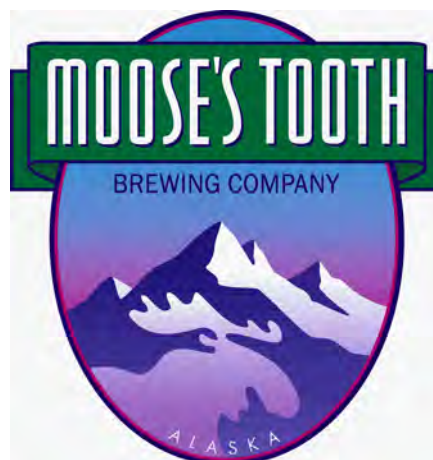
Saturday January 21: Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival: 6-9 pm: \$35 pp

Sunday January 22: GABBF Farewell Brunch at the Spenard Roadhouse: 9 am – 3 pm: Pay as you go.

Friday, February 10: Entries accepted at the Goose for the Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition. 11 am – 6 pm

Saturday February 11: Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition Judging at the Goose: 10 am

Have fun and be safe!



Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition

By *Dennis Sessler*

A new year is upon us and at this time of year it's time for Alaska's annual Fur Rendezvous festival which includes the state's largest homebrew competition. I hope you have been brewing like mad men and women because winter is the best time to do so, especially in anticipation of this event. The competition is registered with the AHA/BJCP and we are ready to go.

The competition will be held on **Saturday, February 11th** at the Snow Goose Restaurant and Sleeping Lady Brewing Company. This will be the first competition in 2012 to garner as many points as possible towards the 2012 GNBC Homebrewer of the Year Competition.



The categories which will garner points towards the year long competition are;

7 Amber Hybrid Beer

10 American Ale

13 Stout

15 German Wheat and Rye Beer

18 Belgian Strong Ale

23 Specialty Beer

Side Challenge will be the "Gluten Free Beer Challenge. (*)Double Points(***)**

But by no means are you restricted to just enter those beers, enter as many different styles as you like.

Judging will begin at **10:00 a.m.** and as always there will be a need for plenty of judges and stewards. This competition is an AHA/BJCP sanctioned competition so all beer, mead and cider categories will be open for entry. You can find the current style guidelines at <http://www.bjcp.org/stylecenter.html>. And entry forms can be found at http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_EntryRecipe.pdf.

Entries will be accepted at the Snow Goose in the basement on Friday February 10th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. For current GNBC members, there is **no entry fee**, for non members, a \$5.00 fee per entry. You will need to provide three 12 oz. bottles for each beer entry. Mead and Cider entries can be three 12 oz bottles or one 750 ml bottle. If you are unable to drop off entries during that time please feel free to contact me to make other arrangements.

This year's competition will award a Best of Show Beer and a Best of Show Mead or Cider. There will be unique prizes for both of the Best of Show winners plus all the great Fur Rondy medals and notoriety. Kassik's Brewing Company will be in attendance and like last year they will be selecting an award winning beer to brew it commercially. That beer will be eligible to be entered at the Great American Beer Festival Pro-Am Competition in September 2012 or 2013 in Denver CO. I will have all the leftover beer/meads and ciders along with all the judge evaluation sheets and the awards at the February 21st homebrew club meeting.

Let's make this a great competition. Dust off your mead and ciders, brew and bottle those beers and let's get ready to "Rondy!" For more information contact me at sessak@mtaonline.net.



Beer Trippin' 2012

By Joe Michael

As we wave farewell to the year that was 2011, the avid home brewers of the GNBC shift their focus to a fresh 365 days of fermented fun. Among those many activities is the upcoming Talkeetna Beer Trippin' gathering at the end of March 2012. This marks the 3rd year that the GNBC has partnered with the crew at Denali Brewing Company for some relaxed fun in beautiful Talkeetna.

While this year's theme, "Dark Side Of The Brew", borrows from a pretty trippy band, it also speaks to the environment in Talkeetna during this time of year. It's a popular summer destination, known as the gateway to Denali, and showcases a more laid-back way of Alaskan life. Beer Trippin' 2012 will be held from Friday, March 30th through Sunday, April 1st. If you haven't been to Talkeetna during this "darker" time of the year, you are really missing out! Gone are the crowded sidewalks and "touristy" feel of the town – this is Talkeetna laid bare! Although there's still a chill in the air, walking down the quiet streets and visiting the local shops and eateries is a real treat. This is all further enhanced by the great events and social fun organized specifically for this weekend by GNBC club members and Denali Brewing Company head honchos Boe Barnett and Ty Schommer, and the awesome crew of folks with Denali Brewing Company and Twister Creek Restaurant. Every year, this weekend event grows, and we hope you'll consider joining your fellow club members for a great getaway weekend!

More information about this event is coming in regularly, but here's what we know right now:

- Denali Brewing Company will host the annual Beer Trippin' homebrew competition. There are no restrictions on style or brew names. This is a non-BJCP sanctioned event, so anything goes! The winner is typically chosen by a mix of local folks and some of the experienced among us. More information will be forthcoming on when and where to have your brews turned in for entry.
- The event t-shirt design is complete, and will be available for purchase during the Beer Trippin' weekend. An image of the shirt is being included with this article. The shirt will likely retail for \$20, however if you purchase the shirt at the event and show your current GNBC membership card, you'll get it for \$15! This is a limited time offer, available only during the event weekend, and only from DBC/Twister Creek.
- More events for the weekend are being planned, and will be made known over the next few months. You can expect some fun things at Mountain High Pizza Pie, Flying Squirrel Bakery, Talkeetna Roadhouse, and other fine establishments around Talkeetna. There's lots of other things you can do while you're there too – flightseeing, snow machining, hiking, or just being reclusively lazy are all great ways to unwind!
- You will find lots of great places to lay your head as well! Check out the GNBC Facebook page or the Talkeetna Chamber Of Commerce (talkeetnachamber.org) for information on local lodging. Event attendees from years past can also guide you on good places to stay if you are unsure.

We hope you'll come out and support this great event – if you haven't been before, we'd love to see you out there! This is a highlight of the year for many of the club faithful. Once you check it out, it is sure to be one for you as well! For any questions about this event, please talk to Jim Lamb or Joe Michael! Once again, please be sure to check the February and March newsletters and the GNBC Facebook page for continually updated information and newly added events about Beer Trippin' 2012.



The Northern Brewer is a monthly newsletter published by the Great Northern Brewers Club for distribution to all club members. Subscriptions are a part of club membership and may be obtained by joining the club. Membership is open to everyone over the age of twenty-one. Please send \$25 to:

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The Great Northern Brewers Club and the American Homebrewers Association remind you to.....Savor the Flavor Responsibly



The *Northern Brewer* welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. You can contact the editor, Debbie Grecco at:

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**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 19th, 2012 7:00 pm
In the Theater at the Snow Goose**