



# THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

APRIL 2015

## The Prez Sez

by Peter Hall

I probably should have referenced spring in the last newsletter article I wrote. We have had warm temperatures and very little snow for quite a while now. I say that it is warm, but really only considering that we are in Alaska. Temps are great

right now for brewing outside and keeping predictable fermentation temperatures. Get on brewing before time runs out. We have a ton of events encroaching upon us. I hope to make you all aware of everything coming with enough warning to be ready. There have all of the required supporting articles further down in the newsletter, and one silly one from me.



March is usually when we head out to the Anchorage Curling Club to spend a day with our friends and have fun on the ice. Sadly, they are still out of commission after a failure in their ice making equipment. I hope that the ACC understands that the GNBC misses the company and that we would all be happy to hang out again sometime. We would especially be happy to help them however we can. I am aware that they are trying to raise funds on a gofundme account here: <http://www.gofundme.com/SaveACC> We may not be the most skilled labor, but I am at least able to lift and move things. Hope to see you back in action before the next season begins.

Beer Tripping gets better and better every year. We are all becoming more like old friends that are happy to be hanging out again. All of the events went off without a hitch (as far as I know) and I'm quite sure we are welcome back next year. I appreciate all of you that managed to make it representing us so well. All of those that couldn't go, thanks for holding down the fort. I'm sure you will make it out next time. The Talkeetna businesses were more than happy to see us. We hopefully rewarded their good service well. Thank you Joe Michael for all your help putting this together, to Denali Brewing for bringing us out again, and all the wonderful Talkeetnans for letting us hang out. I hope to see you all there again next year.

Competitions are always right around the corner. The next one coming is with very short notice, but it happens to be hosting the American Ale category so I have a feeling that many of you have beers you can enter. Dan Bosch has managed to pull together the Snow Goose Spring Breakup competition.

The Prez Sez

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This one is open to only the styles stated. Like I said though, I'm sure that most of you already have some beer on hand that you will be able to enter. I know this is short notice, but I hope to see a lot of judges there to finish this competition quickly with many interesting viewpoints. Please check out the article attached and I will see you at The Goose on April 25 at 10am.

Just as the temps get solidly comfortable to be outside, we will be hanging out at 9551 Emerald Street for Brew a thon 2015! Last year we shifted the date forward a week after very late season snow the year before that. We managed to push things into a weekend that had amazing sun and was above average warm. The funny thing is that the turnout was about as low as when we had terrible weather. So the board decided to go with tradition, rather than convenience, and moved the date back to coincide with the AHA big brew day. Last year I hosted a brand new brewer, and I feel like it helped me to have a more successful brew day all together. It made me slow down to explain all of the steps. I realized better what I was actually doing, rather than sailing through everything. I encourage all of you to be out there whoever would like to tag along. Please check out Kevin K's article down below.

It sure is nice to have enthusiastic people helping the GNBC to have a successful time at all of the events we do. Kat K, our membership coordinator, is zealously taking over the coordinator spot for our summer camp out. We alternate every year between Eklutna and Trail River for our summer hang out. This year we are back at Trail River. Eklutna is wonderful, but I think Trail River is a little more developed and very comfortable for our large group. There is plenty of room to have a great fire and circle tons of people around it. Please review Kat's article, and then come to Trail River on the weekend of June 12-14.

My life has been pulled in several directions lately. It has all been great, but leave my brain a little slow to respond. Shannon and I went to California to be in our very good friend's wedding. As soon as we got back we headed to Talkeetna for beer tripping. All of this is going on while we are buying a new home on the south side and actively trying to sell our current home on the east side. If you have questions/comments/concerns for me I will still do my best to get back to you quickly and coherently. Thank you all for your continued support of the GNBC. I will see you soon! Keep your brews hot and beers cold. Prez Peter



# Secretary's Corner

by *Jeff Shearer*

This is my first article I get to write for the Secretary's Corner section of the GNBC newsletter. I've already resigned myself to not being able to match the efforts of our former secretary, Jeff Shearer, both as a contributor to the newsletter and as a home brewer but I'll do my best to entertain and inform you with my words. I will never be the home brewer that Jeff is.

Jeff has been our "Home Brewer Of The Year" longer than I've been a member of the club and his contributions will be greatly missed. Jeff was a tireless advocate for quality home brewing and never hesitated to help another home brewer with information on the right way to do things. I wish I had had the opportunity to brew a batch with him just to see how he manages to produce quality beer as consistently as he does. Anyone who has judged a home brew competition that Jeff has entered has had the chance to sample the great beer he makes and THAT I will miss a lot.

Jeff is moving to Montana soon and bets are on regarding how long before he finds a group of home brewers there and becomes an integral part of their efforts to promote quality brewing.

So, I have to come up with a topic each month and so this time I will try to write about something that I know a little about; beer and traveling.

Since my high school and navy days I've been able to maintain contact with many people who are scattered all over the USA and I enjoy the opportunities I've been able to take advantage of to visit them. Since I re-discovered beer after years of being a wine freak (more on this some day) I use the travel to seek out beers wherever I go.

I have a friend I've known since first grade who lives in Aiken, SC, about 45 miles from Augusta National Golf Club (ANGC) where The Masters golf tournament is held every April. In 2001, Paul called me and said he had an extra pass for three days of practice rounds for The Masters and he wanted to know if I was interested in going. I had my flight reservations made before we finished the phone call.

Without making this into a golf article I have to advise that if you have the slightest interest in golf you should take any opportunity to visit Augusta whenever it presents itself. I will say the same to any of you who have zero interest in golf but would just like to walk around the grounds of one of the most beautiful and well-maintained pieces of ground on the planet. You could crawl on your hands and knees and cover every inch of ground between the first tee and eighteenth green and not find one thing growing that was not planted by the ANGC.



# EVENTS

*Every First Thursday*  
*Moose's Tooth First Tap*

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

21.....*GNBC Monthly Meeting*  
*7 pm at the Snow Goose*

24 *Breakup Comp Entries Due*  
*At the Goose Noon - 6 pm*

25.....*Snow Goose Breakup Comp*  
*Goose Basement: 10 am*

2.....*GNBC Brewathon at Jeff Shearer's House 9:00 National Toast: Details TBD\*

19.....*GNBC Monthly Meeting*  
*7 pm at the Snow Goose*

22 - 23...*23rd Annual Great Alaska Craft Beer and Homebrew Festival*  
*Haines, Alaska*

12-14.....*GNBC Summer Campout*  
*Trail River*





For golf fans, 2001 was the first of back to back Masters wins by Tiger Woods and, at the risk of sounding like I'm bragging, I was there for part of the second one of these in 2002 when I was on a road trip and managed to time my arrival at my friend's place when The Masters was held that year and I also attended the tournament in 2005.

Is there a beer connection here? Of course there is. One might think that a high-falutin' place like AGNC would attempt to gouge the customers (they call them "patrons" and I will also from here on out) on food and drink but the club makes most of their money from selling the TV rights to The Masters so treats their patrons with cheap food and beverage prices. Now I haven't been there in nine years but in 2005 but the most expensive sandwich they sold was \$3.00 and they were still charging \$2.50 for a 12 ounce Heineken. They only had two or three beers for sale and Heineken was the best of them but how could you not enjoy paying that little for one?

Between drives from Aiken to Augusta and back my buddy and I hit the small but very well run Aiken Brewing Company on the main street of the town. I was just getting started as a home brewer at the time and found the quality of the beers inspiring and I remember thinking for the first time, "I wonder if I could make this?" as I sipped a flight of what they had on tap. The thing that impressed me the most was that a little town like Aiken, South Carolina had a place where people took quality beer seriously and that there were probably many others in many other places. It was an eye opener and I told myself that I should look for these places.

So that's what I do every place I go. Before leaving I research every resource I can find regarding the beer in the area and, while there, try to find as many of them as possible. I've been pretty successful so, if no one objects, I may continue to write some things in this newsletter about places I've been and beer experiences I've had. At least the ones I remember.

Upcoming events: (shamelessly stolen from Fermento's blog with our events added)

**04/24/15 (Friday)**

Sleeping Lady Brewing Company  
Spring Breakup Homebrew Competition Drop Off  
12 pm – 6 pm

**04/25/15 (Saturday)**

Sleeping Lady Brewing Company  
Spring Breakup Homebrew Competition  
10 am

**04/25/15 (Saturday)**

49th State Brewing Company  
Season Grand Opening  
4 pm - ?? Pay As You Go

**05/01/15 (Friday)**

UAF Wood Center Pub  
10th Annual Taste of Alaska Beer Festival  
8 pm - Midnight: \$30 advance/\$35 door



**5/2/15(Saturday)**

Brew-a thon  
9551 Emerald Street  
9 am

**05/05/15 (Tuesday)**

Jack Sprat Restaurant (Girdwood)  
Denali Brewing Company Beer Dinner  
\$6:30 pm: \$75 pp.

**05/22-23/15 (Fri - Sat)**

23rd Annual Great Alaska Craft Beer and Home Brew Festival  
Haines, Alaska  
Various Times/Various Costs

**06/12-14/15 (Fri - Sun)**

GNBC Summer Campout  
Trail River Group Site #1  
Keep it local potluck theme

**07/18/15 (Saturday)**

Golden Days Beer Festival  
Silver Gulch Brewing Beer Gardens (Fox, Alaska)  
3-10 pm: \$20 pp

**07/18/15 (Saturday)**

E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition  
Silver Gulch Brewing Company (Fox, Alaska)  
10 am: \$5 per homebrew entry

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| <b>MEETING SETUP</b> |         |
| A - J                | Food    |
| K - P                | Setup   |
| R - Z                | Cleanup |
|                      |         |
| A - J                | Cleanup |
| K - P                | Food    |
| R - Z                | Setup   |



## Brew-a-Thon

*by Kevin Sobolesky*

Hello Brewers!

This year's Brewathon will take place on Saturday May 2nd. As some of you know, and others might not, Brewathon is when homebrewers gather together to brew beer outdoors, share their skills, knowledge, and even a homebrew or two. Anyone who is interested in bringing their gear and brewing a batch is welcome! Anyone who wants to observe and learn about beer making is welcome! Random passers by and stray pets are welcome!

As is tradition, we will be grilling up many savory treats and food items. We encourage attendees to contribute to the potluck with a side dish for your fellow brewers.

Midnight Sun will be donating yeast for people to use (It will be a neutral Scottish Ale yeast).

The event is being held at 9551 Emerald Street. This is at the very west end of Dimond blvd in South Anchorage between Jewel Lake Road and Sand Lake Road. Turn onto Emerald Street heading south (left turn if you're heading west coming from Jewel Lake) and it's the one-story split level where Emerald Street ends at Jade Street. We will have some extension cords for pumps as well as a network of garden hoses for cleaning and filling. Note that we will have a carbon filter on the hose bib but separate hoses for cleaning and filling, so if in doubt, please ask "is this water dechlorinated?" We have no desire to produce any chlorophenols if we can help it.

Will we start setting up at 8AM, with the invocation and kick-off at 9AM, and tear down and clean up at 5PM.

If you are interested in teaching new brewer(s), please email me at [metkonig@gmail.com](mailto:metkonig@gmail.com) with the style of beer you are making, whether it's All-Grain or Extract, and how many people you would be interested in hosting. It's right good fun to share the hobby with new people, and there are people out there who don't even know they want to brew their own beer yet! Let's give them the chance.

Likewise, if you are looking to be taught how to brew and/or have no gear, please email me at [metkonig@gmail.com](mailto:metkonig@gmail.com) and I will do my best to set you up with a brewer and/or gear.

This is also a great place to get feedback on your homebrew (or commercial brew for that matter). We will have numerous beer experts and ranked beer judges to give you careful, thoughtful, and most of all, thorough, examinations of your brews. If you don't know what went wrong, or what hard-to-articulate character should be there, someone here might.

Please be considerate to the neighbors when parking! That includes blocking mailboxes and driveways. There should be plenty of spots along Jade, Emerald and Byrd lane. There will room to pull up big rigs in the driveway to offload as well.

Also if you wish to volunteer to help set up or clean up, please let me know! We can't have the event without some helping hands. [metkonig@gmail.com](mailto:metkonig@gmail.com)

**Summary:**

May 2nd, 2015 (1st saturday)

Set-up at 8:00AM, Toast at 9:00AM, Break-down by 8:00PM

9551 Emerald Street

Bring your brewing gear, home-brew, food and good cheer!

If you have any questions, shoot me an email at [metkonig@gmail.com](mailto:metkonig@gmail.com)



## Spring Breakup Competition

*By Dan Bosch*

Regardless of the weather you see outside, or what Jackie Purcell is telling, break up is late this year. In fact, I can tell what break up will happen. The Snow Goose Spring Break-up Home Brew Competition will be held at the Snow Goose on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>. You can bring your entries to the Snow Goose on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 1200 – 1800. Judging will start at 1000 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We have a BJCP class going on right now, so this will be a good opportunity for these keen students of beer judging a chance to gain experience and some BJCP judging points. I will pair experienced judges with new judges, so mentorship will be a key to the Break-up judging this year. Remember that the Snow Goose Break-up is only open to the following BJCP categories: 3. European Amber, 5. Bock, 10. American Ale, 11. English Brown, 21. Vegetable. The best of show has the opportunity to be brewed by the Snow Goose and served on their deck this summer. In fact they are still serving last year's winner, Jeff Shearer's Vanilla Porter, and it is delicious. See you Break-up!



## Summer Camp-Out

by *Kat Karabelnikoff*

June 12<sup>th</sup> Trail River Campground, Moose Pass/Seward

So we mixed it up and moved this event a week earlier this year as to allow many of us to partake in other Summer Solstice events around the state and make it to the camp out as well. You can arrive as early as noon on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> and the good times continue thru the 14<sup>th</sup> most people are packed up by 2pm on Sunday.

To get there, head south on the Seward Hwy for approximately 103 miles from Anchorage to Moose Pass. You will turn right on to Trail River Road (If you see Kenai Lake on the right side of the Hwy you have gone too far and need to turn around). Follow Trail River road for about a mile to the campground and we will have the group area with the pavilion reserved. There will be signs directing you to the group camping area.

The theme for Saturday night's dinner is Alaskan: Keep it local!! We are always encouraging people to drink locally brewed beer so why not mix that idea with our food?! Meaning you can make any food that is Alaska inspired. No, it does not have to be harvested or grown here, just inspired by Alaska or something local. It could be baby back ribs with a Rhubarb BBQ sauce, Pilot bread with smoked salmon spread, Moose Chili or plain ole blueberry pie! Bring your favorite foods and your homebrews, ciders and meads. This is a family friendly event so bring the family, the kids, the dog, and guests if you like. This campground offers more privacy and great campfire options. For current updates check out the FB event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/664318253696091/> or contact Kat Karabelnikoff [gNBC.membership@gmail.com](mailto:gNBC.membership@gmail.com) Hope to see you all at the campout this year!



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



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**NEXT MEETING: April 21st, 2015  
7:00 pm at the Snow Goose**