



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
AUGUST 2008

The Prez Sez

by Ira Edwards

Is it August already? Where has summer gone? Did it even happen in the first place? Where did I place my beer? Are the fish running? Are the berries ripe yet? Where is my beer? Was that snow on the mountains I saw? Do I have the house winterized and my skis ready. Am I ready for moose hunting? Where in heck is my damned beer?!?!?!



As your current GNBC president, these are the "important" thoughts that I ponder. As you can tell, not too much of substance, but I manage to get by. I hope everyone has enjoyed the 4.5 days of sunshine we have had in the last 3 months, and I am convinced that we will have approximately 1.75 more days of sun before it starts to snow. August is here, and that marks the end of our summer journeys with the Great Northern Brewers Club. July was a busy and trying month, and I want to thank everyone for the help and comfort they have provided to the Yanoshek family after Dave's passing. Barb has told me that the Brew Club has been great and she is very happy to have so many people to lean on.

While August marks the last month of our "summer break" before getting back to our monthly club meetings and events, our summer is by no means over. We have a new Homebrew contest on the 17th at Café Amsterdam, the "Anchor Town Invitational," organized by John Trapp. There is even a special side challenge with additional Brewer of the Year points for the best SchwartzBier, a favorite style of the organizer. I put that challenge in there at the beginning of the year with the hope that John would hop in and help organize the event. What do you know, it worked! Read last month's newsletter for more details, but I hope to see you all judging and entering at our newest contest. Hopefully, this event will be more convenient and lend better judging feedback than driving our beers out to the Valley. The date conflict was purely coincidental, as we picked our date some time ago...

Another new event this month is the location of the August GNBC Bar-B-Que. This year it will be hosted by my wife Kara and I. Be prepared for a great time hanging out with friends around the fire and enjoying great food and beverages. Bring camp chairs to sit around the yard, and if you bring your keged beer, I'll even have a beer tent complete with CO2. I have a 6 regulator distribution system that has connections for both Sankey and Ball-Lock kegs. Bring a dish and something for the grill and remember that families are welcome. We have dogs that love beer, so don't leave you cup unattended...

That is all for this fine month, but I hope to see you all soon and remember to enjoy your Beers, Meads and Ciders responsibly. Cheers!

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The Prez Sez

Secretary's Corner

GNBC August BBQ

Tribute to Yanno

GNBC/Humpy's Golf Tournament
Recap

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Secretary's Corner

by Dena Sessler

Well, summer is quickly coming to an end, but the fall is packed full of activities. Saturday the 16th of August, our club president, Ira Edward, will be hosting the club BBQ at his home located at 8800 Solar Drive from 5 pm to around 11 pm. If you have any questions or get lost on the way, please contact Ira at 440-9112.

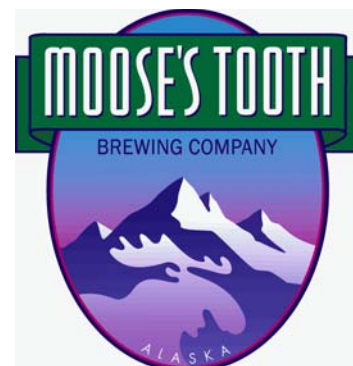
The day has been set for the inaugural Anchor Town Invitational on Sunday the 17th of August at Café Amsterdam. There is a \$3.00 per entry fee. Your beer, can be dropped off at Arctic Brewing Supply on Friday the 15th of August from 11am to close. There is also a special Schwarzbier side competition to decide who is the king or queen of that style. Good luck to all! As always there is a need for judges and stewards. Thank you once again to Ken and Shaunna Pajak for volunteering to host this event. To volunteer to judge, or if you have any questions please contact John Trapp at johnctrapp@hotmail.com.

I hear that there is a rumor going around that the GNBC has boycotted the State Fair. This couldn't be farther from the truth. If you have any beer that you would like to enter, please do so to show your support. The State Fair judging has been set for the 17th of August at the Palmer Fair grounds, starting at around 10am. If you do decide to make the drive to help judge, PLEASE, PLEASE, make sure that you arrange a safe way home. It is a very dangerous and expensive decision to drive back from the valley after a day of judging!

October 4th is the day of the Glacier Brewhouse's Oktoberfest Beer Train to Portage. It leaves the Alaska Railroad Station (Ship Creek) at 4pm, but early check-in is key since there is no reserved seating. The train returns by 8:30pm. It might sound a bit early, but they do sell out every year, so if you are interested, make your reservations now.

Thank you to all who showed up on the 20th of July to celebrate the life of a good friend and founding member's of our club, Dave Yanoshek. All of your love, prayers, and stories meant so much to his wife, Barb! He will truly be missed, but his laughter will linger on in the hearts of all that knew him!

That about covers it for this month. Our first club meeting at the Snow Goose, is scheduled for the 16th of September at 7:00pm. Hope to see you all there!





GNBC August BBQ

by Ira Edwards

There will be a little bit of a change up on the BBQ schedule this summer. Mike Kiker and Ann Spohnholtz will be unable to host the annual August BBQ at their house due to the convergence of many business and personal projects. As a result, I have volunteered to host the event at my house this year. My wife Kara even approved. Families are welcome, as long as you don't let the kids feed my dogs too much beer...

So here are the details: **When:** Saturday, August 16th from 5pm to 11pm-ish. I have been told that "someone" will turn into a pumpkin after Midnight, so I have to get everyone out before that.

Where: Ira & Kara Edwards' home on 8800 Solar Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507 (put it into Google maps...) we have a big parking lot and wide circular driveway, but if you need to park on the street, please be courteous of our neighbors.

What: The Annual GNBC August BBQ, of course. There will be a grill or two to cook things on and some tables to place things on. If the weather turns, I have a few 10x10 pop-up tents to put out in the yard and a huge garage to store people in. I also have a fire pit and a growing wood pile, so prepare to sit around and chill out or do S'mores for the kids (young and old). Things to bring: BEER (or Mead, Cider, and Wine) to share, something for the grill, a side dish, bug spray (they have not come out yet due to the cold weather, but you never know), and camp chairs to sit around the fire or in the yard.

If you have any questions or get lost on the way there, feel free to give me a call at 440-9112

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EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

11 - 12...*Mt. View Boys and Girls Club*

Entries Accepted for AK Sate Fair Homebrew Comp Noon to 8 pm

15.....*Arctic Brewing Supply*

Entries Accepted for Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition 11 am

16.....*GNBC Summer BBQ held at*

Ira and Kara Edwards house 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

16.....*Alaska State Fair Grounds*

Entries Accepted for AK Sate Fair Homebrew Comp 10 am to 6 pm

17.....*Café Amsterdam Anchortown*

Invitational Homebrew Competition Judging 10:00 am

17.....*Alaska State Fair Grounds*

Judging for Alaska State Fair Homebrew Competition 11 am to 6 pm

16.....*GNBC Monthly Meeting at the*

Goose 7:00 P.M

17.....*Café Amsterdam Anchortown*

Invitational Homebrew Competition Judging 10:00 am

20.....*Zymurgist Borealis Septemberfest*

Chena Pump Campground (Fairbanks) Noon - ??

26.....*Carlson Center (Fairbanks)*

1st Annual Farthest North Import and Craft Beer Fest

Tribute to Yanno

by Jim Roberts

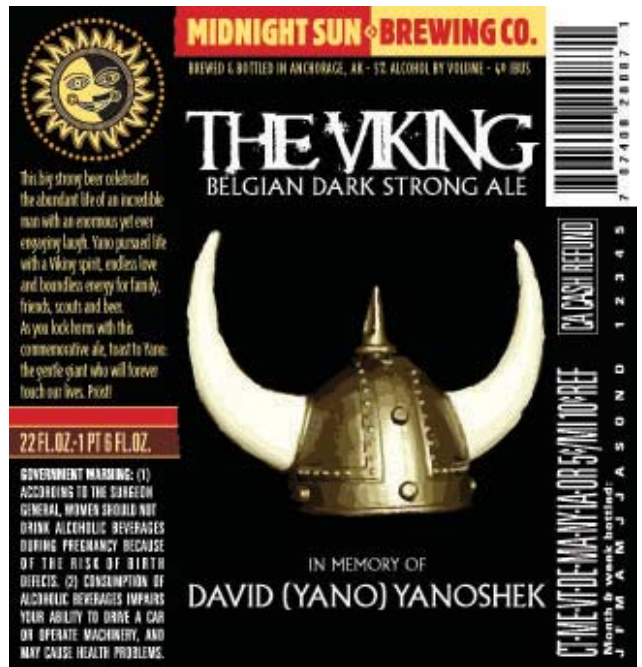
Long time Great Northern Brewers Club (GNBC) member Dave Yanoshek passed away in a boating accident last month. Dave was well known not only in our tight brewing circle and his death sent a shock wave across the community and state of Alaska as well.

Dave was one of the longest standing GNBC members in the history of our organization. Dave was often the first person people encountered when they were new to GNBC. How could anyone miss him? It wasn't so much his portly stature but his immense, often spirited personality that drew people in. His presence was often announced by his signature belly laugh, a sound that will echo in our hearts and in our club forever.

It only took a couple of beers at any GNBC event for the Viking in Dave to come out. This always hinted at his adventurous spirit that was invested not only in the club but through scouting, his kids, his work and his countless friends. More than once I've seen Dave adorn a Viking hat at a party and it always seemed so fitting. It went perfectly with his often wild red hair and scruffy beard. The effect was even better when I thrust a mead-filled pewter mug over his head and let out a good Viking howl.

I got to know Dave especially well during my tenure as GNBC Club President in 1992 and 1993, if memory serves me correctly. Dave was on our board of directors at that time. When running the club became especially frustrating and I really wanted to throttle someone, it was always Dave that stepped in with his even-keel balance and understanding, yet firm resolve to make things right. Without Dave, I'd have certainly made a bigger mess of the Club than I managed to in my short tenure. It always seemed to be his gentle hand that prodded the club back on course in its formative years.

Many of us gathered at Yanno's funeral and Celebration of Life, and again at a more beer-oriented event at Café Amsterdam. It was at that time that Midnight Sun Brewing Company (MSBC) decided to brew a commemorative beer to honor this great man. On Friday, August 01, MSBC brewer Gabe Fletcher produced The Viking, a Belgian dark strong ale. The Viking was made with traditional Belgian ingredients. Star anise and raisins promise to make the beer even more rich and complex.



"The style came from talking to his friends," said Fletcher. I knew he was a stout guy, but we didn't want to do a stout and knew that after his trip to Belgium, he'd learned to really enjoy the darker, stronger Belgian ales. We also wanted to brew something big that would lay down for sever years so that you could take it out later and do a little toast to him."

This is why although the brewery may lay only a couple of kegs down in the hold for release at very special events and locations sometime in the future, the objective was to brew 225 cases of bottle stock, sell it and donate all of the profit to Dave's surviving family. With that in mind, plan on attending Yanno Day at the brewery on Saturday, September 13th from Noon until 6 pm. More will be announced about this event as it unfolds, but plan on supporting this worthy cause by stopping by and picking up a case (or five) that day.

Although the brewery will sell individual bottles on September 13th, if you absolutely, positively can't make the gig, you can call the brewery and reserve a minimum of one case. The brewery understands that people will be out of town and want to get their share, and they understand that this stuff will probably fly

out the door, but keeping the lower limit at a case reduces administrative strain and ensures that the family gets the proceeds quickly. So, here's to Dave who represents the Viking in all of us!

GNBC/Humpy's Golf Tournament Wrap Up

by *Debbie Roberts*

This year's Great Northern Brewers/Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse Golf Tournament was a raging success. The bottom line is that proceeds from this event will be given to a charitable organization.

The weather could have cooperated a little better, but seasoned golfers were used to golfing in the rain this year, so the liquid sunshine really didn't dampen the mood of the 30 teams of spirited golfers as they rushed forth at the sound of the 7:00 am shotgun start on the Moose Run Hill Course.

Although people balked at seeing so much booze on the course at what seemed like an ungodly hour to start enjoying beer, seldom held back. Well-seasoned, returning tourney participants expected the Bloody Mary hole, so it was a hit again this year. The Jagermeister hole morphed into the Humpy's Hell Hole, and this year Midnight Sun Brewing Company weighed in with a "bonus" (unannounced) hole where their formidable Panty Peeler Belgian style tripel was served. To make more beer more available to more golfers, a beer station was set up on the back nine and two kegs of beer were kept flowing throughout the game. Back at the BBQ, more taps ensured that everyone got their share throughout the event. Finally, two beer carts and one food cart circulated the course to ensure maximum saturation. Hot dogs were handed out during the game and Humpy's provided great food at the wrap up.

In the end, First Place was awarded to The Blew Brew Crew with a score of 55. Second Place went to Billy O's team with a score of 55 and Third Place was awarded to the Peak Oilfield Service Company team with a score of 58. The Red Lantern Team was the Lemon Heads with a score of 84.

As always, this event couldn't take place without all of our fine sponsors and the breweries and distributors that donated the beer and the drinks that Dr. Fermento tried to use to ruin everyone's game. Our sponsors this year included:

Best Plumbing
Dowland-Bach
Alaskan Brewing
Arctic Brewing
Air Liquide
Kassik's
Mo's O'Brady's
Celestial Meads
Alaska Transmission and Gear
Able Body
Midnight Sun Brewing Company
M.U.F.F. Engineering



Virtually all of the breweries in town and Alaskan, Kassik's Kenai Brew Stop and Kenai River Brewing Company kicked in suds. Thanks as well to Midnight Sun Brewing Company for supplying the food and the army of volunteers that manned the course, spent countless hours planning, procuring and setting up the event and made it all happen. Look for next year's event to take place at about the same time and for sure in the same place. Keep the clubs a-swinging; you and your team could take top honors at next year's event.

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 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: August 16th, 2008
GNBC BBQ at Ira and Kara Edwards' House 5pm to 11 pm**