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THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

AUGUST 2012

Prez Sez

by *Tim Strayer*

It's August already? I guess that means its time to start thinking about brewing those big beers that need time to age – you know the ones you sip by the fire, in your easy chair, with your slippers on, your dog at your feet, all while you can see the gently falling sno....WAIT A MINUTE! We still got some summer left in us, so why not brew up a good old fashioned wheat beer, sit outside by the campfire, smack a few mosquitoes around, and enjoy some of your fresh cooked catch. Now that sounds more like it!



I just brewed up 10 gallons of a slightly modified version of my last gluten free beer. I have family and friends waiting to enjoy something more unique than what the shelf offers. Don Lewellyn and I also completed the transfer of our Big Fish Barleywine (Best of Show of the Humpy's Big Fish Comp Dec 2011) from oak barrels into kegs. Look for a release soon at Midnight Sun Brewing Co. (or slip on down to Humpy's, I hear its on tap already!)

As for what's going on with the club, there is much a-brew in the club, check out the latest below:

On the heels of the Brewbies outstanding show at the Alaska Run for Women, Team Beer Nutz completed the 5 mile Alaska Men's Run in July (in full disclosure I did the 2 mile family walk – had to get the kids out some how!). It was a very wet day but the team still completed the course. They proudly represented our club with our somewhat suggestive T-shirt, but all in good spirit in support of prostate and testicular cancer. Thanks to all of the guys who participated, and special thanks to Miles Pruner for getting the shirts designed. Let's plan for an even bigger turnout next year. See the photos in this month's newsletter or on our facebook page.

Congrats to Steve Jayich for winning the ET Barnette competition yet again! You can read all about it at this website: <http://www.mosquitobytes.com/Den/Beer/Events/ETB2012/ETB2012.html>.

Congrats again to Steve for brewing his fine Side A IPA. I had a chance to sample some, and it's very good. The story goes like this: last year the American Homebrewers Association asked the Great Northern Brewers Club, in conjunction

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with Alaskan Brewing Company, to brew a commemorative beer for the National Hombrewers Conference held in Seattle during the month of June 2012. The recipe that was selected was an IPA by Steve Jayich called "Side A IPA". Here is a quick documentary on the actual brewing of the beer: <http://vimeo.com/user9676685/review/39862772/73d2fac91e> Here is a link to the actual recipe: <http://wiki.homebrewersassociation.org/Side-A-IPA>

Don't miss this month's club BBQ being held at Ira Edward's home. The details can be found on our Facebook page. Bring your favorite dish, homebrew, and enjoy the company!

Our next competition is gearing up and you don't want to miss it: Anchor Town Invitational. The exciting part of this year's competition is that a wining brew from the best of show round may be selected for commercial brewing at King Street Brewing Company! Brews are due in to Arctic Brewing Supply on August 17th. Read all of the details later in this newsletter.

And, there's news about the Fifth Annual Equinox Competition. Changes this year include the name to Alaska Meadery Equinox Competition to recognize the creation of the Alaska Meadery by Celestial Meads Meadmaster Mike Kiker. The second change is the addition of ciders to the competition. Entries are due in on September 28th at the meadery. Again all of the sweet details are in this newsletter.

And last but not most important: Membership Dues! Your current membership card will expire in September. Do yourself a favor and renew for 2012-2013 by going to the club website today and clicking on "Membership".

Until next month, I wish you tight lines and cold beer my friends.
Beer on!

Flame out, Prez Tim



2012 Brewbies Run Team



Fifth Annual Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition

by John Trapp

The fifth annual Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew competition will be held on Sunday August 19th. The judging will take place at King Street Brewery Starting at 10:00 a.m. and should finish up by mid afternoon. Entries will be accepted at Arctic Brewing Supply on Friday August 17th from 11:30 until closing (6:00 p.m.). Along with the plaques, medals and ribbons for placing, King Street Brewery **may** be picking a beer from the best of show round and brewing up a professional batch, so please fill out the recipe sheets completely. Notice how I said "may"? Well, there is no specific category to brew for the competition, it's entirely up to KSB to pick a winner and brew it if they like it enough and it fits their style. After all, it will be on-tap at King Street and Café Amsterdam. That's some pretty good bragging rights.

There will be an awards ceremony at Café Amsterdam some time in September where we might just be drinking the KSB winning beer. The prizes for this competition are pretty good. There's the coveted Brass Tap Award, given to the highest averaging score sheets. Once again, in order to average the sheets, there needs to be more than one. Plus plaques, gift certificates, medals and ribbons. All categories are open and there's no entry fee, so plan on dropping off your beer or mead at Arctic Brewing Supply on August 17th and then help judge on the 19th.



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

Midnight Sun Brewery Tours and

Brew Debut: 6:00 PM 344-1179

11.....GNBC BBQ at Ira Edwards'

House 5 - 11ish

11.....2nd Annual Kenai Peninsula

Beer Festival at the Soldotna

Sports Center: 4-10 PM

11.....49th State Brewing Company

Augtoberfest in Healy

Noon - ???

17.....Entries accepted for the

Anchortown Invitational

Homebrew Competition: King

Street Brewery: 11:30 AM -

6 PM

19..... Anchortown Invitation Homebrew

Competition Judging: King Street

Brewery: 10:00 AM

28.....Entries Accepted for the Alaska

Meadery Equinox Mead/Cider

Competition at Celestial Meads

5:30 - 7:30 PM

29.....Alaska Meadery Equinox Mead/

Cider Competition Judging at

Celestial Meads: 10:30 AM - 3 PM



Secretary's Corner

By Julie McDonald

Well my obvious lack of a newsletter submission last month got me to thinking that I could've easily have submitted two simple little words, "Gone Fishin'".

Tim and I spent 24 of the last 34 days camping and fishing. It all started with the club's campout in Eklutna, which if you missed you really missed out on a great time. The weather was fine! In fact it was better than fine. The entertainment was memorable. Make sure you get yourself a hula hoop and get practiced up for next year's campout! The Cajun food was delish! And, of course, the beer.....and the meads.....and Breck's unique wines. You really should've been there.

Once the club campout ended we headed north to Healy. We visited 49th State Brewing. At the time they were out of just about all of their own beers, but had a great tap selection. It turns out that they were just getting ready to serve beers from their own system. Up until that point they had been brewing on King Street's equipment. The place really is cool and the atmosphere is very rustic and we had a great time there. One of the more memorable evenings there included a chocolate caramel molten cake that we paired with Stone's RIS that happened to be on tap! Yowza!

We then headed further north to Fairbanks. What trip there would be complete without a visit to Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling? That was amazing! So many fantastic beers on tap and on their bottle list! And the food was incredible, starting with the Scotch egg right on through to the gorgonzola stuffed pork chops! Mmmmm.... Oh and I got to see the pipeline for the first time in my 16 years in this state! I was so excited!! It was like meeting a rock star... Lame? Maybe, but when Big Oil has been paying your bills for 18 years you learn a new appreciation for some things ;-)

After our Fairbanks stay ended we headed back down to Talkeetna where we set up camp on the Craig's property. Eventually we were joined by the Lambs and Breck and the Craigs, but we had to bug on out before the 4th of July festivities as Tim had to get back to the slope. We had a fantastic time in Talkeetna, as we always do. We visited Denali Brewing, Mountain High Pizza, Wildflower Café, and of course the Fairview. Another great weather weekend, perfect for tourist watching from the DBC beer garden or the outdoor seating area of Mountain High Pizza.

One week later and Tim is back from the slope and we are headed to Soldotna for our 16th annual Kenai River fishing trip. Yup, 16th time we set up camp at Centennial Park so that we could fish for the late run reds. We started adding dipnetting to our activities about 5 years ago. This way we can get our meat quota and then pole fish and not feel bad if we get skunked on the river ;-). The Lambs, the Lewellyns, Rick Levinson, the Jeremias', Steve Baxter and his son....all were there for the same reason. And of course there was no shortage of good beer to be had. I believe everyone got their fish easily and this made for some happy times around the campfire.

Twelve days later we headed back to Anchorage again so that Tim could catch his flight back to the slope. I do believe I've seen enough of the inside of our camper....I can now rest easy until next summer! Or maybe not, since our nephews from Maine our moving in with us next week, one to resume his job on JBER and the other to attend UAA. It's an opportunity to create a couple of new homebrewers....that's how I'm looking at it.

2012 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

Fur Rendezvous HBC

- Category 7
- Category 10
- Category 13
- Category 15
- Category 18
- Category 23

Snow Goose HBC

- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 9
- Category 14
- Category 20

Anchor Town HBC

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3
- Category 11
- Category 16
- Category 21

Equinox Mead HBC

- Category 24
- Category 25
- Category 26
- Category 27
- Category 28

Humpy's Big Fish HBC

- Category 8
- Category 12
- Category 17
- Category 19
- Category 22
- Side Challenge

In other news, well I really don't have much, but take a gander at some upcoming events listed below:

- We are looking for hosts for a September beer dinner. If you would like to host a beer dinner or just want more info about them, contact me, Julie, at juzy@gci.net.
- Ira Edwards is hosting the club's August BBQ on August 11. Check here for all the info you need: <https://www.facebook.com/events/346795115387945/>
- John Trapp is heading up the Anchor Town Invitational Home Brew Competition and will be bringing King Street Brewery in to pick a brewable beer from the best of show round. It will be their choice, no style is pre-determined. You can get all of the details here on our Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/300336000059079/>
- The next indoor/Snowgoose GNBC Club meeting is slated for September 18, 2012, at 7 pm.
- The 5th Annual Alaska Meadery Equinox Comp (formerly known as the Celestial Meadery Equinox Comp) is being held September 29. More info here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/314998131926029/>
- Big Fish Side Challenge will be HAC (High Alcohol Content), stay tuned for more details.
- When receiving a spam email from the club DO NOT REPLY TO THAT EMAIL. It goes into a digital black hole never to be seen again. Please read the email carefully and reply to whoever is requesting information, etc. We always provide a "reply to" email address.

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. Here's the latest schedule:

- 8/7 Tuesday 1pm
- 8/11 Saturday 11am
- 8/14 Tuesday 5:30pm
- 8/16 Thursday 1pm
- 8/22 Wednesday 9:00am
- 8/24 Friday 1pm
- 8/27 Monday 5:30pm
- 8/30 Thursday 1pm
- 9/3 Monday 1pm

Renewal certification is 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





Summer Campout Recap

By Dennis Sessler

I know I'm the king of slackers for not spitting out this article for the July newsletter. Between all the kickin' Cajun foods we had and the best two days of summer weather-wise, I was just too spent to sit down and put together an article until now. The 2012 summer campout was held at Eklutna Campground the third week of June. If I had to guess we had close to 50 members either camp out on Friday night or visit on Saturday night for the Cajun Potluck.

There were more dishes than I could count and all who attended enjoyed the wide variety of appetizers, main dishes and desserts. Of course there was a wide variety of home and commercial beers for those to keep semi-hydrated. Temperatures cruised thru the 70's and broke the 80's. It was so hot that around 1-2 in the afternoon the camp looked like a ghost town. Everyone had had enough of the heat and retired to their camper for a relaxing nap. I can honestly say that it's the first time I've fired up a small generator just to turn on the air conditioner in the camper. Temperatures inside them pushed into the mid 90's.

I want to thank all who were able to attend this year's event. Without your attendance the summer camp out just wouldn't have been the same. If you are into long range planning the 2013 summer campout will be held at Trail River Campground just north of Seward. The reservations have already been made for the 21-23 of June 2013. I hope that you will make next year's campout one of the "To do" things with the club this next year. A great time is guaranteed to be had by all.





Fifth Annual Equinox Competition — Meads and Ciders!!!!

By Breck Tostevin, M.B.

There are two changes at the Equinox Mead and Cider Competition this year. First is the name change to the Alaska Meadery Equinox Competition to recognize the creation of the Alaska Meadery by Celestial Meads Meadmaster Mike Kiker. The second change is the addition of ciders to the competition.

So, I am proud to announce the Fifth Annual Alaska Meadery Equinox Competition is Saturday, September 29. Open to meads and ciders. Get those entries ready!

Entries will be accepted at Celestial Meads/Alaska Meadery on Friday, September 28 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Please bring two 10 to 14 oz bottles or one 750 ml bottle and an AHA/BJCP recipe entry form for each entry. You can find the form on the AHA or BJCP webpage.

Entries shipped from out of town must arrive at Celestial Meads, 600 W. 58th Ave., Suite B, Anchorage 99518 by Wednesday, Sept. 26.

You can enter more than one mead or cider per subcategory. The Equinox Competition is an official Brewer of the Year Event. The Best of Show entry may be made by Celestial Meads – The Alaska Meadery or the Alaska Cider Company as deemed appropriate by Meadmaster Mike Kiker.

We need judges and stewards. If you are interested in learning the differences in judging mead and cider, or you are simply a mead or cider lover, this is the event for you. We can team inexperienced judges up with more experienced judges. If you are interested in judging, please send me an email.

Judging will be held at Celestial Meads, 600 W. 58th Ave., Suite B, in Anchorage from 10:30 am to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 29. Please contact Breck at 884-1819 or keegan@gci.net for more information.



Yeast by Numbers

by *Tim Bisson*

Here's two websites that will help you pitch the right amount of yeast for all your batches of beer.

<http://www.mrmalty.com/calc/calc.html>, <http://yeastcalc.com/>

On both of these sites, you enter the type of fermentation (ale, lager or hybrid), volume of wort, original gravity and information on the yeast you are using including production date. (You'd be surprised how quickly the viability drops on the liquid yeast packages.)

Based on those variables, an appropriate number of cells and size of starter are calculated. I have been using Mr. Malty for the last year or so and find it quite helpful. Lag and overall fermentation times are down and clean beers are up. I recently heard about yeastcalc but have yet to compare it to the numbers computed by Mr. Malty.

Yeastcalc's advantage is that it will calculate the amount of DME to use in your starter. It also gives directions for making multi step propagations.

Mr. Malty's advantage is that it will do calculations for liquid yeast, dry yeast, and repitching from slurry while Yeastcalc only does calculations for liquid yeast.

Break out the Checkbook, its Membership Time

by *Dena Sessler*



I know it's hard to believe, but another membership year is fast approaching. It has been an incredible year for the club. Thank you to everyone for their commitment and enthusiasm to the G.N.B.C.!

This is the 4th year the GNBC has issued membership cards to its paid members. With the club data base purged of non paid members I'm proud to announce that we currently have 198 dues paying members. It is so exciting to see new faces and a fresh and renewed enthusiasm within our club!

I will begin to mail out the first wave of card the 1st-2nd week of September 2012. We decided to wait until then to avoid any confusion for the businesses that provide the G.N.B.C. a 10% discount, as the look of the card changes from year to year.

Currently Arctic Brewing supply gives card carrying members a 10% discount on brewing supplies and we also receive a 10% discount at LaBodega, Celestial/ Alaskan Meadery, Diamond Liquor, the Wine House, and a 2-3% discount at Keg Cowboy's (an internet store for keg supplies).

Remember **YOU MUST HAVE A CARD** to receive your discount. I have provided a membership application for your convenience. Just print it out and mail it to the G.N.B.C. membership coordinator at 19049 Eagle River Road Eagle River Alaska 99577. You can also go to the clubs website and use the PayPal option to renew your dues.

There will be two options on membership renewal form, \$25.00 for a one year membership or \$300.00 for a LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP. We currently have 13 life time members. The thought of never having to mess with membership dues again is an inviting proposition.

Renew your dues early to avoid any lapse in your membership card. They expire the 30th of September 2012. Please make sure that I am aware of any changes to your mailing address or email. If there are any changes, please email me at sessak@mtaonline.net so I can make any corrections. Thank you again to all! The members of this club ROCK and it's because of you, that we can boast that it is the greatest club on the planet to be a part of!



G.N.B.C. Membership Application Sept. 2012-Sept. 2013

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year or \$300.00 for a Life Membership, Payable to the **G.N.B.C.** You can either mail your application and check to the G.N.B.C. Membership coordinator at: 19049 Eagle River Road, Eagle River, AK 99577 or use the convenient pay pal option on our web site: greatnorthernbrewers.org.

Dena Sessler
G.N.B.C. Membership Coordinator

(With your membership card you will receive 10% off at The Arctic Brewing Supply on brewing ingredients, The La Bodega liquor store, Celestial Meadery, the Wine House, Diamond liquor and 2-3% off at Keg Cowboy.)

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: Saturday, August 11th, 2012 GNBC BBQ
at Ira Edward's House**