



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JANUARY 2013

Prez Sez

By *Tim Strayer*

Well, I guess this is it...my last Prez Sez.



It's hard to believe its been over a year already. As they say time flies when you are having fun (or is it brewing beer?)! All things considered, it's been a great experience. I have had the opportunity to taste great beer, judge beer, laugh about beer, write about beer, speak about beer on radio, meet beer magazine editors, and much more all in the spirit of promoting our fine homebrew club. I have met many new people along the way and have enjoyed some fine homebrew (and commercial too) – just some of the great perks of being Prez.

But the people that deserve the most credit are those members that have stepped up to serve this club as board members or volunteers, for without them we would not have organized competitions, Facebook updates, newsletter articles and publishing, club outings, and all of the things that make ours such a great club. All of these things require an investment of time from many different people to keep the club humming along. And I can also tell you from personal experience many of these people also give of their personal dollars from time to time. So, if you are one of the few, I say THANK YOU for making this club what it is, and my job as Prez easier than it would have been otherwise. And if you have not given of your time, I would ask that you work with the incoming board to find out how you can contribute.

Many thanks to Jason Ditsworth for running another successful Big Fish Homebrew competition. As usual, it was a full day of judging, with winners in many categories – congrats to you all! But in the end, only one brewer can earn the Best of Show distinction: Matt Wallace did so with a Strong Scotch Ale. Matt will have a great time with the crew at Midnight Sun Brewing Company brewing that one up!

The Christmas party was a hoot! I want to thank Miles and Dana Pruner, as well as all of the volunteers for organizing the Christmas party. Many people had a fun, safe, and wonderful time. Unfortunately (after most people had left, and no fault of Miles and Dana), an event took place that has prompted the Snow Goose to no longer permit the GNBC Christmas party to be held at their facility. **Please read the article in this month's newsletter for very important details.**

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The Prez Sez

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Competition Announced

Brooms and Beer

Party Foul

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

DEBBIE GRECCO

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The annual co-sponsored GNBC and Brewers Guild club meeting will take place on Thursday, January 17 in the Snow Goose theater. This meeting is one not to be missed. There will be attendees from most Alaskan breweries, as well as VIP guests in town for the Great Alaskan Beer and Barley Wine festival. The new board will be taking office at this meeting as well.

NOTE: Due to an increase in alcohol awareness requirements, there will be changes to this year's event. Please watch your email for more information to follow. The most important thing to note is that you will be REQUIRED to have a valid GNBC membership card and a VALID AND CLEAN DRIVERS LICENSE to enter.

Don't miss the curling event in February! Details inside! Don't miss the Fur Rondy competition! Details inside!

Finally, I sincerely say thank you to the outgoing board members for all of their help, and I wish the new board leadership and Prez Peter all the best.

That's it from me. It's been great.

Flame out, Prez Tim



January 2013 Secretary's Corner

By Kat Karabelinikoff

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself to the club for those of you that haven't met me. I'm a culinary artist turned homebrewer, which I have found is a great thing. Homebrew and food make a great pairing. My passion is for cider and wine, but I'm finding myself winding down the path into beer brewing. I love the endless possibilities that homebrewing offers. I've been involved in brewing for about two years now.

I know there is much to learn from my own experiences (good and bad), as well as from those with more experience than myself. The November election was the first GNBC meeting that I attended. I am a fairly new member to the Club. However, after seeing the need of a Secretary in November's newsletter, I decided to take the opportunity to help the club out and gain some great insight. I'd like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome as a new member and as your new secretary. I look forward to serving the club and contributing wherever I can. Ok, let's get down to business. The Hillbilly Hoedown Christmas Party was a great event. It was some "shine sharing, rollin' in the hay of a good time". Big thanks to Miles and Dana Pruner and Wendy, (don't know her last name hope someone can help me with that) for the wonderful décor of our Christmas party; they did a great job setting the theme. Thanks to those who helped clean up the following day.

We'd also like to Thank Arctic Brewing Supply for the donation of a \$75 gift certificate to our Best costume contest prize. The winners of the best hillbilly costume are Rose and John Craig.

If you missed out on the fun or want to see some great photos, check out our Facebook Page and if you have any great pictures, please share them there or send them to Julie so she can add them to the collection.

At 7:33 December 8th 2012, Ross Aldridge stepped up to call the meeting as our VP elect, Peter Hall or the then current president, Tim Strayer were present at the time. Our wonderful snowy weather delayed some attendees, including these two brewers.

CLUB BIZ:

- Talkeetna Beer Trippin – Friday April 5, Sat April 6 and April 7. A beer dinner is going to be held on Friday April 5 at Denali Brewing. Breakfast is the next day on April 6 at the Flying Squirrel just out of Talkeetna, about three miles away. Get your reservations now as rooms are at a premium. The Golden Carboy Competition is a non BJCP event. There are no defined styles for this competition: it's whatever you want to brew. Get more details on this at our event page on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/events/417521338317389/>

-Glasses for sale – Our new GNBC logo glasses are in and they should be available to purchase for \$5 at our next meeting.

-Club Only Competition – Homebrew clubs throughout the country are welcome to send in Club-Only beers. GNBC participates in this competition each year. There is a change in the January Club Only Competition. We will be holding this in conjunction with the club Board of Director's meeting the week of January 7th, perhaps on Tuesday or Wednesday. The location is yet to be determined, but if you are planning on entering the competition, please provide four (4) bottles of your homebrew to compete. We will need two for the competition and two to send forward to the national event.

Get more detail on this at our event page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/477233678983862/>

-January GNBC/Beer Week-

When: Thursday, January 17, 2013 7pm

Where: Snowgoose Restaurant & Pub (Theatre), Anchorage, Alaska

PLEASE NOTE: our January meeting is always held on the Thursday before the Great Alaska Beer & Barley Wine Festival. NOT on Tuesday. So adjust your calendars accordingly. Get more detail on this at our event page on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/372917842803351/>

-Remember if you have ideas for Club meeting educational segments or guest speakers, feel free to post them on our Facebook page or contact any one of our board members or officers. Contact info can be found on the club's webpage and in each newsletter.

Miscellaneous

TAP (Training for Alcohol Professionals) Pre-registration is NOT required! Upcoming TAPs classes held at CHARR's Charlie H. Selman Training Center located at 1503W. 31st Avenue, Suite 101 Anchorage. Remember TAP certification is required if you plan to volunteer to steward at any fests or competitions or tastings this year.

EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

17.....GNBC Monthly Meeting
7:00 P.M. at the Goose

18.....Great Alaska Beer and Barley
Wine Festival
6-10 PM - Egan Center \$40 pp

19.....Great Alaska Beer and Barley
Wine Festival
2-5 pm - Connoisseur Session
Egan Center \$50 pp

19.....Great Alaska Beer and Barley
Wine Festival
6-10 PM - Egan Center \$40 pp



Here's the latest schedule:

- 1/7 Monday 1pm
- 1/9 Wednesday 9am
- 1/15 Tuesday 5:30pm
- 1/19 Saturday 11am
- 1/23 Wednesday 9am
- 1/24 Thursday 1pm
- 1/29 Tuesday 9am
- 1/31 Thursday 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

We have two additional TIPS training: This is a renewal class, organized by the event producer, Aurora Productions, so you HAVE to contact coordinator Annie Chavez at annie@auroraproductions.net in order to reserve your spot in the class or if you need additional information. That is important! Cost: \$45 (good for 3 years)

Where: Snow Goose Restaurant

When: Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 5:30pm or Saturday, Jan. 12 at 12pm

That's it for this edition. I'm looking forward to providing information each month in this column. If you have any comments, additions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me through the Club's website.



Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition

By Dennis Sessler

A new year is upon us and that's right; its Fur Rondy time. I hope you have been brewing like mad men and a woman because winter is the best time to do so. This year's Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition is registered with the AHA/BJCP and we are ready to go.

The competition will be held on Saturday, February 9th at the Snow Goose. This will be the first competition in 2013 to garner as many points as possible towards the 2013 GNBC Homebrewer of the Year Competition.

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

Category	Name
3	European Amber
5	Bock
14	India Pale Ale (IPA)
19	Strong Ale
23	Specialty Beer

2013 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



By no means are you restricted to entering beers from just those categories. Enter as many different styles as you like.

Judging will begin at 10:00 AM 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 and entry forms at <http://www.bjcp.org/sitemap.php>.

Entries will be accepted at the Snow Goose in the basement on Friday February 8th 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. You will also need to bring a copy of your recipe with you. 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. I will have all the leftover beer/meads and ciders along with all the judge evaluation sheets and hopefully the awards at the February 19th 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.

MEETING SETUP

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

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

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



Brooms and Beers

By Tim Bisson

What: Come curling with the GNBC!

When: Saturday, February 9th, 2013 2pm - 6pm (or later)

Where: Anchorage Curling Club (on Government Hill)

Who: GNBC members

Cost: \$5 per person for a one day Curling Club social membership

Adult Beverages: Homebrew is welcome. Also, the Curling Club has a bar with Denali Brewing on tap, and other beers and booze.

What to bring: warm clothes and an extra pair of shoes with clean soles. The shoes are to help keep the ice clean. Bring some snacks too if you can.

Details: The afternoon will be informal, fun and open to change. We will have a short tutorial on the game followed by some two end games and maybe some drills.

Also, there is a full kitchen available if someone needs an oven or stove to warm something up. There are also utensils, serving dishes, etc. Plus, jockey boxes are welcome

Also, so we have an idea of how many people are coming please either send Tim Bisson an email at tbisson123@yahoo.com or respond to the Facebook invite.

Good Curling!



Party Foul

By Prez Tim

Overall the Christmas party was a huge success, and reports are that all that attended had a great time. Many thanks are due to Miles and Dana Pruner (and their volunteers) for putting all of the details and the party together. Unfortunately, there were some issues with some late night behavior that took place well after the party should have ended.

After the Club Christmas party, I was asked to join the owner and general manager of the Snow Goose restaurant in a meeting to discuss the particulars. The short and sweet version is that there were some individuals who verbally abused the night manager during the party. And much later in the evening (between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m.) a dozen or so people remained behind and were very stubborn, not wanting to leave the restaurant. These individuals, aside from demanding that the kitchen be re-opened and the upstairs bar as well, felt the need to perform a "sit-down" in the elevator and refused to leave. Ultimately, the night manager called cabs for the group and was finally able to convince those individuals to exit the building.

The individuals responsible for this behavior are not easily identified as a whole. That's not the point. However, those people know who they are and can apologize to the club and the Goose when/if they are adult enough and ready. Meanwhile, GNBC lives with the consequences of the actions of a few. Overall, GNBC members are responsible drinkers, but as in any situation, there are a few individuals that can adversely affect those that represent our club admirably.

Until we are able to convince Goose management that we have adequate controls in place, we are not welcome there. I am sad to say that as a result of these behaviors, the GNBC will no longer be permitted to hold our Christmas party at the Snow Goose restaurant. In fact, future Club meetings are also in jeopardy as a result of the actions of a few. We are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that our upcoming January meeting has the necessary components to not only meet the expectations of our host, but a responsible experience for our members and VIP guests.

The board will be discussing and adopting new policies and procedures for future meetings and events – including methods for reducing the club's overall liability. This is long overdue. Actions like this put our Club, and our long-standing, gracious host, the Snow Goose Restaurant and Sleeping Lady Brewing Company, at risk. Changes, once they are agreed upon, will be published to the club. We need to become more conscious and responsible. Now is the time.

As I leave the position as president, I would like to call upon all members of the club to think about your behavior when drinking in public, and most especially when doing so at club events. You represent not only yourselves, but our club as a whole. Think as you drink, and think about the entity you are representing at these events; if you can't, drink by yourself at home because this club is, and needs to be, bigger than you are. GNBC, after all, is an adult, educational entity that promotes home brewing and responsible consumption of alcohol (its even written in our club by-laws). This is not a drinking club, this is a brewing club with an appreciation for fantastic brews and a mutual desire to help others improve their own brewing.

As we approach our annual January meeting, please remember that your actions do have consequences. Please attend the event, but enjoy your brews responsibly.



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:

Great Northern Brewers Club
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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 17th - 7 pm: at the Snow Goose