



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
JANUARY 2018

State of the Brewnion

by *Mike Cragen*

Greetings fellow homebrewers and enthusiasts! As the incoming Prez of the Great Northern Brewers Club, I'm honored to be writing my first "State of the Brewnion" newsletter. I've been a member of GNBC for the past five years, but have been homebrewing since 2001. Over the years, I've brewed hundreds of batches. I've even had the opportunity to brew in Antarctica. I'm looking forward to sharing a beer with each of you, especially those I haven't met yet. Thanks for the vote of confidence; I'm happy to serve as your club president and look forward to helping to shape GNBC through my tenure.



GNBC has had countless members over the years and numerous officers and board members. Among the most active and influential is our outgoing Prez, John Trapp. He has volunteered untold hours to GNBC and his hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. We all owe John a grand thank-you. Be sure to express your gratitude and offer him a homebrew the next time you see him.

Also, an immense thank-you goes out to our outgoing VP and former Prez, Kevin Sobolesky. He has been a long-time advocate for GNBC, and his work with BJCP classes and certification is very influential! The club, our homebrew, and our judging knowledge are all much better due to his hard work. Kevin certainly has a beer coming his way as well.

We have an exciting lineup over the next few months, with events you definitely don't want to miss. First and foremost is our GNBC meeting and beer industry reception at 49th State Brewing Company on January 18th. This is my favorite GNBC event of the year. If you haven't been, put this on your calendar, pencil it in. We'll be starting at 7pm, but be sure to bring your GNBC membership card and ID's – NO ID, NO ENTRANCE! We will be checking cards at the door, as this is a members only event (each member permitted one guest). No problem if you haven't renewed yet, it's only \$30 per year and easy to sign up at: www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html.

State of the Brewnion

Secretary's Corner

Meet Your Local

2018 GNBC Home Brewer of
the Year (HBOTY) Criteria

Big Fish 2018

January 18, 2018 GNBC Club
Meeting Details

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Other Upcoming Events:

January 13-19 – Alaska Beer Week! See: akbeerweek.com

January 18th – GNBC Meeting/Industry Party at 49th State Brewing Co. 7pm

February 20th – Monthly meeting at 49th State Brewing Co. 7pm- educational session on water chemistry with Jordan Couture

Late Feb/Early March (exact date TBD) – Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition at 49th State

March 20th - Monthly meeting at 49th State Brewing Co. 7pm

Late March (exact date TBD) – Talkeetna Beer Trippin' hosted by Denali Brewing Co.

Let's talk homebrew! Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition was held on December 2nd. BOS and Brewer's Choice went to **Tony Strupulis** with a Latvian Stone Ale that he named "Akmens Alus" which translates to "stone ale". Tony boiled his wort with superheated rocks from a fire in his backyard. This process led to really enjoyable caramelized flavors from the scorching of the sugars in the wort. Midnight Sun will be making this recipe. I, for one, can't wait to try it.

Homebrewer of the Year (HBOTY) will look a bit different this year. The HBOTY winners for the past five years will not be competing this year, so it's anybody's to take. The full guidelines, beer styles per competition, new point scale, etc. are specified below. I'm excited to watch the race for 2018 HBOTY unfold. Fresh faces are welcomed and encouraged.

I'd like to recognize and thank the officers and board members for 2018:

Eric Minor – Vice President (new GNBC officer)

Treasurer – Sam Moore (returning officer)

Secretary – Jim O'Toole (returning officer)

Board of Directors – Liz Greer (new GNBC board member)

Board of Directors – Rick Levinson (returning GNBC board member)

Board of Directors – Mike Fisher (returning board member)

Board of Directors – Brian Hall (returning board member)

Board of Directors – Peter Hall (returning board member)

Membership Coordinator – Kat Karabelnikoff (returning to position)

Social Media Coordinator – Julie McDonald (returning to position)

Newsletter Editor – Jim Roberts (returning to position)

Newsletter Layout – Deb Grecco (returning to position)

This is a fantastic lineup, and we're already having conversations centered around making meaningful changes, including starting a new competition and working to improve the homebrew scene in Alaska.

Finally, my newsletters will end with a section called "The Final Wort" – detailing the last batch I brewed, which I'll bring to future club meetings. This month's Final Wort is a New England IPA or NEIPA. This was my first shot at this style, which emphasizes low bittering hop additions, high adjunct percentages, a hazy appearance, and a pleasant juiciness. Not only was this my first attempt at a NEIPA, but also my first time using cryo hops. Many thanks to Brian Hall, Eli Logan, and Chris Ferguson for guidance on this style. . . . these guys are experts at NEIPA's if you're interested.

Keep a hop in your step and a brew within reach,
BrewMikester Cragen



CONTACTS

Secretary's Corner

by Jim O'Toole

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you have been having a good season of more holidays than I can keep track of anymore and that you are all looking forward to all the great things coming up during Alaska Beer Week (AK Beer Week). Some people look forward to the Christmas holiday season as a way to connect with family and friends and I admit that through this Scrooge-like demeanor I may put on at times I still like that aspect of it. But I've come to think of Alaska Beer Week as another "holiday" season for me and I look forward to it for exactly the same reasons.

My drop in enthusiasm for what passes for Christmas these days has been perked up since the days a few years ago when I just wanted to go somewhere else during the holidays but, now, I have two grandsons who are as much fun to be around as any people I know and any time I spend with them makes it seem like a holiday.

But throw in remote controlled dinosaurs and hockey games and it becomes a party. The two boys are beyond that stage where playing with the wrapping paper and toy packaging is distracting but they still have the attention span of 4 and 2 year olds when they move from one toy to another and can't understand why they have to put one of them away when they know they are going to want to play with it again soon.

I was proud of my four-year-old grandson on Christmas day when he came over, unwrapped the hockey game that grandpa and grandma gave him, and managed to keep from going crazy when we told him that he'd have to wait until he got home to open it as it had too many parts to assemble and it would be too hard to carry it home. Can I admit here that I was going kind of crazy too because I had wanted to play with it since I bought it?

So, of course, the day after Christmas I was over at his house to challenge him at the game and visit with my son who always has something in the kegerator and a good beer is always welcome after a hockey game. Miles beat me 5-3 and was awfully smug about it but he had a day of practice and he cheats.

The beer was King Street's Pilsner, one of my all-time favorites. Miles will get a re-match soon but I'll have a beer before the game to get loose. It's on, kid.

So, there ya go. A "Secretary's Corner" from your secretary who had absolutely nothing to write about.

Calendar Of Events

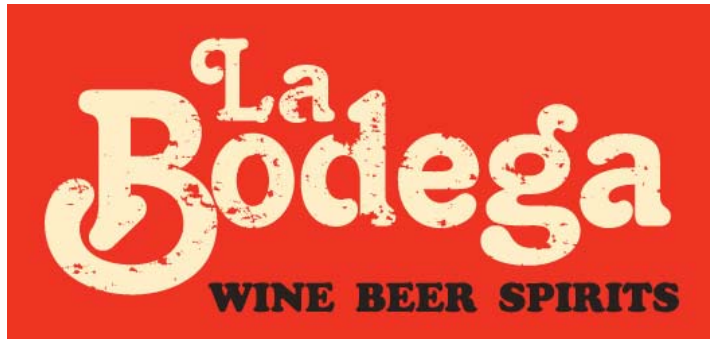
January 13-20, 2018
Alaska Beer Week
Various events

January 18, 2018
GNBC Meeting
THURSDAY
7:00PM
GNBC members and guests only

February 20, 2018
GNBC Monthly Meeting
Tuesday
49th State Brewing Company
7:00 p.m.

February 2018
Fur Rondy Home Brew Competition
Stay tuned for date and place.





Meet Your Local – Resolution Brewing Company’s Cole Tamblyn

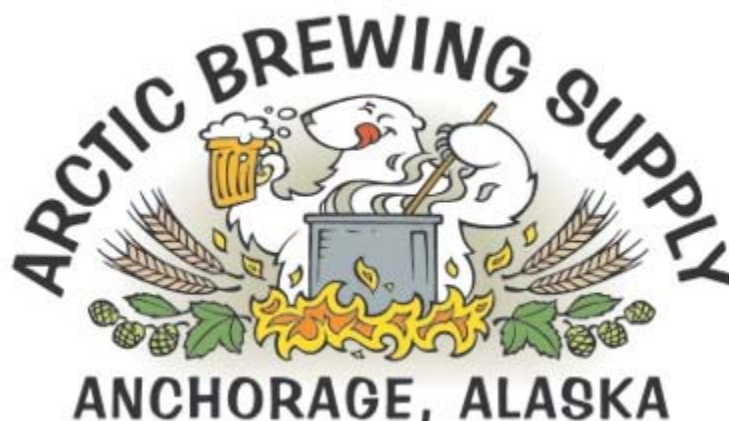
by Eric Minor

Who is Cole Tamblyn? Cole Tamblyn is a working man. Cole Tamblyn is a dreamer. But most importantly, Cole Tamblyn is a brewer of delicious beer. More specifically, he is the head brewer at Resolution Brewing Company in Anchorage, Alaska. I had the honor of sitting down with Cole over some tasty beverages provided by Cynosure Brewing to learn more about what he and Resolution Brewing company are all about.

Cole started brewing in 2010 as a hobby to pass the dark days of Alaskan winter. After reading some literature on homebrewing and finding a discount glass carboy at a Salvation Army shop, nothing could stop Cole’s journey into the wondrous world of brewing. He worked in the tourism industry in the summers, and landed a job at Arctic Brewing Supply in the off-season. It was that job that led to his meeting of Brandon Hall, the founder of Resolution Brewing Company. Brandon took Cole onboard to help with brewing beer and day to day operations. Resolution Brewing Company opened its doors in 2015, its name being a nod to Captain James Cook’s favored ship, the HMS Resolution. Located in the Mountain View neighborhood, RBC is a Belgian inspired brewery promoting the pillars of integrity, community, and creativity.

Along with their Belgian style standards, Resolution’s current tap menu includes a Belgian Specialty Ale brewed with orange peel, cinnamon, and fresh ginger called Belgian Holiday, a Cascadian Dark Ale with spruce tips, called Coat of Arms, as well as a delicious Doppelbock. I asked Cole about future beers at Resolution, and there is lots of excitement to come. A few of the beers headlining the upcoming tap menu are a Bière de Garde aged for a month in wine barrels, a collaboration brew with Bleeding Heart Brewery, which will be a Belgian Blonde Ale with locally made cinnamon and green apple hard candy, and an Imperial Stout and a Barley wine that will be aged in bourbon barrels from Seattle. Cole’s favorite beer style to drink is any German Lager. He is drawn to the time-tested processes and the rich history of the style that has been brewed for centuries.

Resolution Brewing Company’s future plans, along with the clearly evident skills of Cole Tamblyn, make RBC a local brewery to pay close attention to in 2018. If you make one resolution for 2018, make it a visit to RBC for a few pints of delicious Alaskan crafted goodness.



2018 GNBC Home Brewer of the Year (HBOTY) Criteria

Below you will find the list of BJCP Categories that will garner points towards the coveted Home Brewer of the Year. We will be using the 2015 BJCP guidelines.

Please note, the 2018 format is unlike years of past. The shift in thinking is in an effort to avoid extremely limited entries per category in an open competition and huge Best of Show (BOS) flights.

As in the past, your highest score in each category is the only one that will count towards HBOTY points (*you may NOT get points for multiple beers in a category*). Points will be awarded as follows:

1st – 3 points

2nd – 2 points

3rd – 1 points

If your HBOTY entry wins BOS or Brewer's Choice, you will receive an additional 2 points (if one entry wins both BOS & Brewer's Choice, you'll only receive the 2 extra points).

Each entry will need 2015 category/subcategory for judging purposes. Also, one of the below categories needs to be designated. If below category isn't specified, competition organizers will place the beer into what is deemed to be the most appropriate category.

There are two major changes from 2017 HBOTY to 2018 HBOTY points/scoring. The first is a new competition with a different format (see below). Secondly, 1 HBOTY point will be awarded to members when they judge any of the four competitions listed below (an individual can earn a total of 4 points if they judge all four competitions.)

Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition (Late Feb/Early March, date TBD) – maximum of 46 total points available

HBOTY

Lager

Stout/Porter

Imperial (8% & up)

Belgian/French

Wheat

SIDE CHALLENGE – SMaSH – double HBOTY points (1st – 6 pts; 2nd – 4 pts; 3rd – 2 pts)

Non-HBOTY

IPA/Pale

Wild/Sour/Brett

Other (any other category may be entered but will not be eligible for HBOTY or BOS).

*49th State will determine a "Brewer's Choice" beer to brew. This isn't necessarily the BOS winner, though.

Equinox Mead Competition (Late March, date TBD) – maximum of 38 total points available

HBOTY

Traditional Mead (M1)

Fruit Mead (M2)

Spiced Mead (M3)

Special Mead (M4)

Standard Cider and Perry (C1)

Specialty Cider and Perry (C2)

Non-HBOTY

*Denali Brewing Co. hosts a homebrew competition. This is not a BJCP comp, but BOS gets to brew with Denali for Beer Trippin' next year. More details to come.

Spring Breakup Open Comp (April) – maximum of 27 total points available

This is a new competition this year which will steer the focus away from guidelines, and focus on creativity and overall drinkability. All judges will be given 3 tickets to award to any beer(s) they find most enjoyable, creative, and appealing. The tickets can all be given to one beer, or be split among 2 or 3 different entries.

BJCP scoresheets will NOT be utilized, but voluntary feedback sheets will be available.

HBOTY points will be awarded as follows:

1st place (BOS) & Brewer's Choice - 6 points each (if a beer is BOS & B.C., only 6 points awarded)

2nd place - 5 points

3rd place - 4 points

4th place - 3 points

5th place - 2 points

6th place - 1 point

One individual may gain points if their beer places multiple times in the top 5 (i.e.: if an individual gets 2nd & 4th place, they'd earn 6 total points).

*Resolution will determine a "Brewer's Choice" beer to brew. This isn't necessarily the BOS winner, though.

Anchortown Homebrew Competition (August) – maximum of 46 total points available

HBOTY

Wild/Sour/Brett

IPA/Pale

Lager

Stout/Porter

Fruit and Spice/Herb/Vegetable

SIDE CHALLENGE – Funky Fermentables - double HBOTY points (1st – 6 pts; 2nd – 4 pts; 3rd – 2 pts)

Non-HBOTY

Belgian/French non-HBOTY

Imperial (8% & up) non-HBOTY

Other (any other category may be entered but will not be eligible for HBOTY or BOS).

*King Street will determine a "Brewer's Choice" beer to brew. This isn't necessarily the BOS winner, though.

Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition (December) – maximum of 46 total points available

HBOTY

Imperial (8% & up)

Belgian/French

IPA/Pale

Wild/Sour/Brett

Smoked & wood-aged

SIDE CHALLENGE – Chocolate - double HBOTY points (1st – 6 pts; 2nd – 4 pts; 3rd – 2 pts)

Non-HBOTY

Lager non-HBOTY

Stout/Porter non-HBOTY

Other (any other category may be entered but will not be eligible for HBOTY or BOS).

*Midnight Sun will determine a "Brewer's Choice" beer to brew. This isn't necessarily the BOS winner, though.

Summary of Possible Points

Source	Maximum Points
Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition (March)	46
Equinox Mead & Cider Comp (late March)	38
Spring Breakup Open Comp (April)	27
Anchortown Homebrew Competition (August)	46
Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition (December)	46
Judging	4
Total Points Possible	207



Big Fish 2017

by *Peter Hall*

Big Fish 2017 is in the bag. A total of 35 beer entries appeared for the Humpy's Big Fish competition. Midnight Sun Brewing Company was on hand to help judge and to select a brewer's choice/best of show beer. We had a solid representation from the GNBC of qualified and experienced judges. Enough inexperienced judged happened to come along and offer their novel tastes to every judging panel.

Mike Cragen is a perpetual heavy hitter for the GNBC comps. Brian Hall and Mike Fisher were also very well represented. Ultimately the BOS title and Brewers Choice was claimed by Tony Strupulis with a Latvian Stone Ale. The number of lighter styles and sour beers in the Best of Show (BOS) round was high and very well represented. Thank you to all the brewers that are putting in the effort to master the more nuanced flavors of non-imperial or highly hopped beers! Thank you for making such great beer all together!

The BOS round was well staffed with representation by Humpy's, MSBC, and the GNBC. For a relatively low number of entries (for this competition) the general quality was amazing, and the judges had their work cut out to pick the BOS. The task was handled deftly and efficiently. I was happy to have 35 well-judged entries done by about 2:30pm.

Thank you very much to Humpy's, Midnight Sun Brewing, and to all the eager judges. Thank you also to Arctic Brewing Supply for their generous support of time, space, swag, and general positive vibes. There was a great balance of new and experienced judges that made for quality judging and an excellent learning experience. Thank you, Liz Greer, for being an amazing steward. This year went much smoother for me, but I still get dizzy and would lose my head without yours and Rick Levinson's help.

I have a good selection of swag and beer money that was donated to be by our amazing sponsors. Thank you again to MSBC, Humpy's, and Arctic Brewing Supply. Show your appreciation by patronizing these amazing local businesses, not that you were not already. Just buy another beer at Humpy's for some extra grain at Arctic Brewing the next time you visit. I expect to be handing awards for the best beers at the February meeting.

Home Brewer of the Year 2017 will be announced at the January meeting and HBOTY 2018 guidelines are elsewhere in this newsletter. The next home brew competition is Fur Rondy. Get to brewing and I hope to see you all at the 2017 competitions!



January 18, 2018 GNBC Club Meeting Details

by *Peter Hall, Mike Cragen, and John Trapp*

Each January marks the return of the Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival (GABBF) and Alaska Beer Week. The GNBC has long been a supporter of the GABBF competitions by supplying BJCP certified judges and beer stewards, and has also been the host for the Thursday night meeting for brewers, brewery owners, special guests and other beer industry workers.

The industry meeting will happen again this year and it's scheduled for Thursday January 18, 2018, at 7:00 pm, at 49th State Brewing Co. We owe a huge thank you to 49th State for helping us continue this tradition. Get down there and have a pint and some food. Here's what you need to know:

First and foremost, and this will be repeated several times in this announcement:

This is a GNBC member event ONLY. Visiting brewers and dignitaries are also welcome as GNBC guests.

There will be two parts to the meeting:

7-9 pm

- Club Business: Upcoming events, award presentation, and your new board members
- Beer Tasting: Many to choose from, but you have to contribute to make it a success – homebrew is welcome!
- Educational speaker

9-11:00 pm

Social Gathering

This event is NOT open to the general public.

***Your GNBC Membership card and current photo ID are required for entry. Photo ID required for all entries.

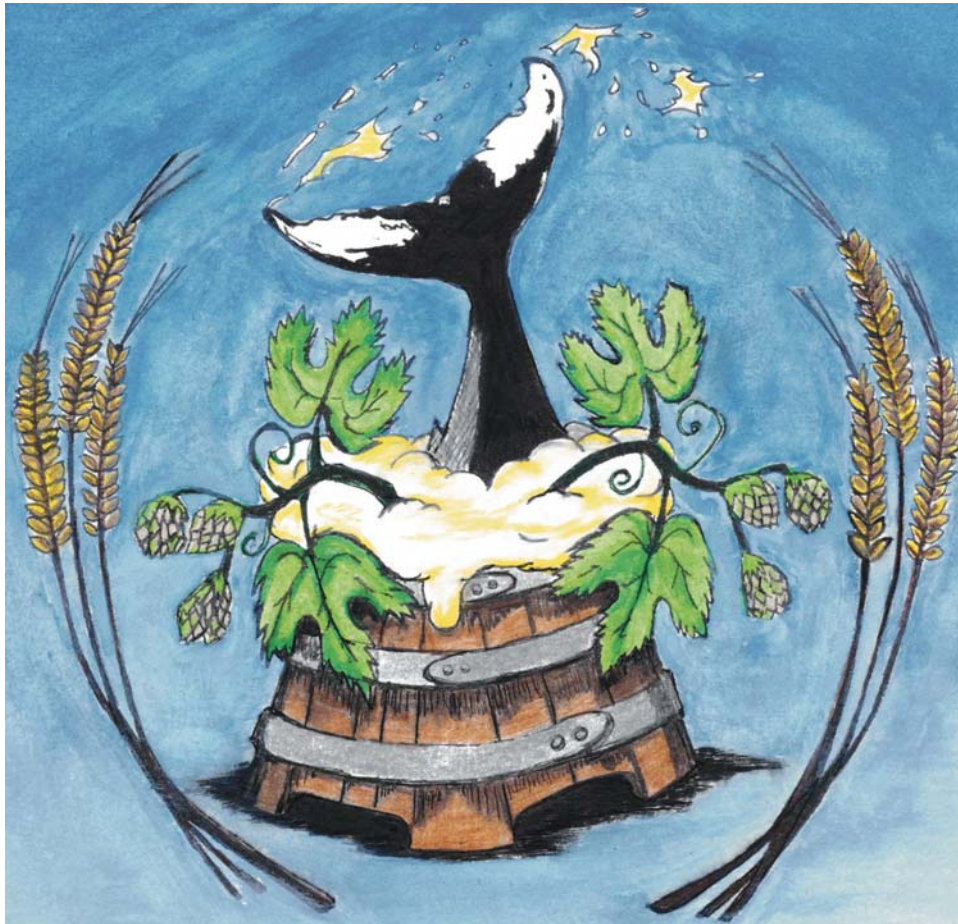


MEMBER DUTIES:

- * be responsible and have a ride home if you are going to drink.
- * If anyone can arrive between 6:15-6:30 to help with set-up that would be amazing. We also need a small crew to stay after 11:00 to help with clean-up.
- *And last, there will be NO potluck this year. ALL food is being provided by the GNBC through 49th State Brewing.

PLEASE READ THIS BOTTOM SECTION A COUPLE OF TIMES TO BE SURE THAT YOU ABSORB AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING ASKED OF YOU:

- GNBC members may bring one additional guest at the time they check-in through security (e.g. spouse, significant other, best friend).
- YOU must show your GNBC membership card and a valid and clean driver's license (e.g. no red stripe) to the security guard. ABSOLUTELY, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- PLEASE wear your lanyard with GNBC ID visible.
- THERE will be security at the door to check both IDs.
- PLEASE LABEL YOUR HOMEBREW with your name and beer style at minimum before you come
- DO NOT bring any outside glassware or cups to the meeting All glassware/cups will be provided.
- THERE will be plenty of water available to cleanse your palette between tastings.



- THERE will be all kinds of amazing commercial beer on tap for you to taste as well.
- ALL beer will be available for tasting from approximately 7:00-last call. We will not go all night, but we will have plenty of time to share.
- PLEASE remember that no beer in cups/glasses may leave or enter the theater area.
- LAST call is at 11 pm Upstairs bar may still be open at that time.
- PLEASE go back to the top and read all of this again. There are not as many requirements as before, but you still need to be familiar with that is requested.

On behalf of the GNBC and 49th State Brewing we want everyone to have a great time. We ask that you think when your drink and definitely plan ahead for a safe ride home, whether you are driving yourself or other pre-arranged ride.

I think that covered everything, though I'm sure it really didn't. Please **DO NOT BE AFRAID TO EMAIL ME** at president@greatnorthernbrewers.org if you have any questions or concerns. Watch out for more emails in the near future!



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 \$30.99 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 18th 2018
7:00 PM at 49th State Brewing Company Anchorage**