



THE

# Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JULY 2015

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## The Prez Sez

by Peter Hall



**T**he long weekend is very nearly here for me, and I'm feeling like my brain has already checked out. It happens all the time though. I seem to be able to still robot through the day and pass off as mostly present. Hopefully I pull something coherent together here.

The GNBC Trail River campout was an exuberant success. I cannot honestly see how it could have gone better. I guess some things were left behind that had to be reunited with their owners, but that is a small price to pay for what we were accommodated. The sun was out, the bugs were low, beverages were delicious and plentiful, there was a huge delicious feast shared, and everyone was safe and had fun. Thank you very much to all of you that pitched in. Every contribution from the big (like being the last to go and being sure that everything is cleaned up), to the small, (such as offering some of your wonderful food at the potlach) added up to a marvelous time. Trail River is certainly a great venue, and it seemed tremendously popular. I received a lot of positive feedback and requests to keep the campout at Trail River. It may now be a consideration to just go back there again next year. Eklutna is pretty nice and much closer to home. I would be very happy to hear more input on this topic. It will certainly be considered by the board and reservations will be made soon.

BBQ is a wonderful way to enjoy the Alaska summer, and the GNBC is no stranger to doing it right. Ira Edwards has been the host of a myriad of events for the GNBC and is inviting us to his home for our July get-together. Many of us have been to his home before, but he has been nice enough to offer directions in his short article down below. We will also have another great BBQ a little later this summer up at the beautiful hillside home of Jeff Loughrey and Cathie Straub. Huge yards, big decks, and fun activities in great locations. I'll keep you all posted for the exact date on the August BBQ.

The Prez Sez

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I'm sure that I am not the only one with my mind on a variety of summer time activities. There is a bit of evidence of distraction every summer as newsletter contributions dip to nearly zero. Our Secretary seems to have a bit of a knack for writing, so he has been very helpful in filling space. Contributions from outside of the board or directors are few and far between, but when I do receive them I am positively jubilant. As I think I have covered before, if you have anything you would like to say, this is a great place to do it!

Hopefully this newsletter is keeping you reasonably informed. There are a lot of us in the GNBC, all with our own lives to keep track of. I hope to keep people at least coming to events, for which I know you need notice of when and where. I'll be at this job for at least several more months. If ever you would like to pass along and comments/questions/concerns/newsletter articles, I am happy to hear from you at [president@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:president@greatnorthernbrewers.org)



## Secretary's Corner

*by Jim O'Toole*

I thought I was going to get away without having to write anything for the GNBC Newsletter this month. Being new at this GNBC board stuff I didn't realize we kept the newsletter going in the summer when there is so much going on in our lives.

So when wondering what to write to fill in my space in the newsletter it occurred to me that I haven't been brewing in a while so discussing that wouldn't be very interesting. Mostly what I've been doing is trying to get things around my house, yard, and garden in shape. This has involved a lot of time outside in the hot sun that was prevalent before things turned typically gray recently.

When I think of how hot it was a while back, I think of the firefighters battling the fires burning all over Alaska and what it must be like to be in that hot smoke all day, walking on ground that sometimes reaches near charcoal on the Barbie temperatures.

A couple of months ago I was back east where I did a 65 mile section of the Appalachian Trail with a navy buddy who is working on getting the Virginia section completed. Every day that I hiked and four days afterwards were days that recorded record high temperatures for that date. My keychain thermometer blew out the first day so I have to go with the only temperature reading I saw during that time.....93 degrees F at the end of our hiking day around 2:00PM.

It was hot on that hike back east and it was hot here for a while and, for part of that time, I wasn't drinking beer.

At the last GNBC meeting I told some people that my doctor had advised I take some time off from alcohol while some medication worked its way into my system and the best response was from someone who said, "You need to find a new doctor." Funny but advice that would have just wasted everyone's time if I had followed it because I knew the doctor was right. I'm not a massive consumer of alcohol but to be sure that my body did what it is supposed to do it was best to stop doing things that might conflict with the meds. At least.



So, after about three weeks, the symptoms were gone, I drank a beer and I've been drinking them ever since.

While hiking the Appalachian Trail, one of the primary advantages we had was the friend driving a van who would drop us off at the beginning of our hiking day and be at the other end of the section of the trail when we finished. We would then head to a hostel or, as we did on our last night, to a Hampton Inn just a couple of miles from a brewpub where a guy who grew up in Fairbanks is the head brewer of a really nice, innovative brewery. That was Benny's Pub/Antietam Brewing Company in Hagerstown, Maryland on another really hot day.

The main advantage of having the van there was the cooler full of beer that was always there. I don't know the laws regarding open containers of alcohol in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and/or Pennsylvania but we probably broke them in whatever state had them. The driver never had one but the two hikers did and they were vital to our recovery from the exertion of that trail. The beer in the cooler was also a very strong incentive to keep putting one foot in front of the other through the heat and some hellacious terrain.....there's cold beer at the end of this.

I thought of this as my beer fast was coming to an end a couple of weeks ago and someone drove a big pickup truck into a birch tree in front of my house at 2:30AM. The only neighbors who heard the actual crash and got up to look were Jim (Dr. Fermento) Roberts and his wife who saw young people running and another vehicle that got there soon after the wreck and which appeared to be driving around looking for someone involved in it.



# EVENTS

Every First Thursday  
Moose's Tooth First Tap

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

7.....GNBC BBQ at Ira Edwards House  
6:30 pm

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

18.....E.T. Barnette Homebrew Comp  
Silver Gulch Brewing  
Fox Alaska  
10am \$5 per entry

8.....Kenai River Brewfest  
Soldotna Sports Center  
5-10pm

22.....Anchorage Brewing Company  
The Culmination Beer Tasting  
4-8pm \$100pp



Fermento filled in a lot of details about what he saw before the APD woke me up at 6:00AM and then offered to cut the tree down, saying that's one of his jobs at Hope Mining Company. So, one hot, sunny day he dragged a couple of bags of rigging and a couple of chainsaws across the street, we set everything up, he did the cutting, and we had that tree on the street right where we wanted it with plenty of room for traffic in about 45 minutes.

Notice that there hasn't been one mention of beer yet. We vowed to turn off the chainsaws before we cracked one so the bucking into firewood and stacking the brush took longer than the rest of the job as we were both grabbing our knees and hoping our hearts held out but we finally got it all taken care of. The beer was a Sierra Nevada Nooner in cans. It wouldn't have mattered what it was but that nice, ice cold pilsner was perfect for that moment.

Ninety-three degrees and hiking in it was not much different from working on that tree in terms of what the best and worst parts were. On the Appalachian Trail the worst was the heat and the terrain and the best was doing the hike with an old friend and having beer at the end of each day.

In the front yard the worst was the heat and the inability of either of us old farts to slow down but, once again, the beer at the end of the job was an incentive but the idea that I have great neighbors who would have done the job without the beer was also on the positive side of the scale.

I'm a lucky guy.

I hope everyone is having a great summer. The GNBC potluck BBQ sounds like a great event and here are a few others.

Calendar:

July 7  
GNBC BBQ  
Tuesday July 7, starting around 6:30  
Ira's House  
8800 Solar Drive  
Anchorage AK 99507



7/9  
Arkose Brewery  
Sister City Saison Brew Debut  
5PM. Pay as you go

7/16  
Lavelle's in Fairbanks  
3rd Annual Midnight Sun BBQ  
Time/Cost TBD



7/17  
Howling Dog in Fairbanks  
Midnight Sun Beer Tasting  
Time/Cost TBD

7/18  
Golden Days Beer Festival  
Silver Gulch Brewing in Fox, Ak  
3-10PM/\$20

7/18  
E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition  
Silver Gulch Brewing in Fox, Ak  
10:00AM/\$5 per homebrew entry  
Last I heard they were still looking for beer judges for this.



8/7-8/9  
49th State Brewing Augtoberfest  
Healy, Ak  
Noon until ?????? each day/Cost TBD

8/8  
Kenai Peninsula Beer Festival  
Soldotna Sports Center  
5-10:00PM/\$30

8/22  
The Culmination Beer Tasting  
Anchorage Brewing Company  
4-8:00PM/\$100

8/28-8/29  
Midnight Sun Brewing Anniversary Campout  
Cooper Landing  
Time/Cost TBD

9/12  
Bodegafest  
Location TBD  
Time/Cost TBD

9/18  
Denali Brewing Company Brewfest Beer Dinner  
Time/Cost TBD

9/26  
4th Annual Capital Brewfest  
Juneau Arts and Cultural Center  
1-5:00PM/Cost TBD  
Ticket sales begin 7/1



## E.T. Barnett Homebrew Call Out

by *Scott and Cherie Stihler*

### Judges we need YOU!!!

We need BJCP judges and/or experienced brewers to help judge this year's E.T. Barnett Homebrew Competition!!! We also need an intrepid steward to help make things run smoothly!

Judging will take place on Saturday, July 18th at the Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling Company located in Fox, Alaska (a small mining community ~11 miles north of Fairbanks). The seven judged categories will be: Pilsner (2A-C), English Pale Ale (8A-C), American Ale (10A-C), Porter (12A-C), Stout (13A-F), India Pale Ale (14A-C), and Fruit/Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer (20 & 21A).

Once again out of town judges can pre-register and hand carry their entries thereby saving on the shipping costs. All they need to is fill out the Entry forms and mail it to us along with the corresponding fee payment. On the day of the competition the judges simply show up with their chilled entries in hand. Be sure to attach Bottle IDs to each of the bottles with rubber bands so we can distinguish which entry is which.

Please mail your pre-registration materials to:  
Chérie Stihler  
P.O. Box 84988  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Please mail in the pre-registration information etc. early enough so that it is received no later than the entry deadline (i.e. July 15). This will allow us to register those entries along with all the others and be ready when you show up with beers in hand. I hope you can help us out with judging or being a steward for this year's the E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition. For more information about this competition please go to the following URL: <http://ow.ly/u5qqC>.

Note that this year the E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition and the Golden Days Beer Fest will take place on the same day at the same venue. Since the beer festival goes from 3:00-10:00 p.m. ADT there should be plenty of time to judge beer AND enjoy the festivities associated beer festival.

If you are interested in helping out please contact us at [stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com](mailto:stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com) or (907) 474-2138.

# July BBQ

*by Ira Edwards*

**Y**es! It is time for yet another BBQ at Ira's! If you are new to this game, pay close attention. For the regulars, you know the routine, so come prepared with your food, drink and a desire for fun times with friends :)

This is, as always, a Potluck, so bring something to add to the kitchen spread! As we are smack dab in the middle of this thing called SUMMER in Alaska, let's celebrate! Hopefully we will see some of the bounty that Alaska has to offer. Gardens are growing, Bring what ya got for the BBQ and we'll be grilling some salmon and possibly some other treasures. Since this is usually a backyard social event, make sure you come prepared to hang out around the fire pit (if we get rain and they lift the burn ban) and possibly make some s'mores. Please bring your camp chairs, as I only have a few. If you want to roast hot dogs, I have a supply of willow branches that will be ready and waiting.

I'll have some coolers/ice ready for any beverages you wish to share. If you are a non-beer drinker (or you or your kids are under 21...), other tasty beverage options are available like homemade fruit sodas and fizzy lemonade (and diet coke...)

## **Who's invited to come:**

You, your family and your nice dogs...

## **The DEETS:**

Tuesday July 7, starting around 6:30

Ira's House

8800 Solar Drive

Anchorage AK 99507



Please fill my large parking lot as full as possible (3 rows wide and a few deep in front of the Garage, along with the circular drive next to the spruce trees) and be courteous of my neighbors when parking on the street.

Please also RSVP so we know what kind of crowd to prepare for.



# Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition

*by Mike Fisher*

We are only three months away from the 2015 Anchor Town Competition. Ladies and gentlemen, get your brews started.

While many of the details about the competition are still up in the air, I have tentatively planned on the weekend of September 12-13 for the competition. A lot more information will be announced, including the drop-off and judging locations, once the details have been confirmed.

All beer styles are welcome, but the styles that count toward the GNBC Homebrewer of the Year award are:

- 6. Light Hybrid
- 12. Porter
- 13. Stout
- 18. Belgian Strong
- 22. Smoke Flavored/ Wood Aged

**T**he 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: GNBC BBQ at Ira Edwards July 7th, 2015  
6:30pm at Ira's House**