



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JUNE 2008

The Prez Sez

by Ira Edwards

Damn, Spring sure was short this year. Summer is just about here, fishing is starting to wind up, and my summer beers are in the keg and almost ready to sample. To top it off, the weather is great and the fruit trees in my back yard and all over town are starting to flower. June is going to be a great month for the Great Northern Brewers Club. We have the annual summer camp out, the final round of the National Homebrew competition to look forward to, and the planning for all the rest of the summer activities to look forward to...



Thanks to everyone who made it John Craig's home for the annual Brew-A-Thon last month. This year we were delayed a week due to the Huge snow dump at the end of April, but you would not have known it by the beautiful weather and great times at the Jade Street Brewery. Thanks again John and Rose! Also a big thanks to Pete and Lisa at Arctic Brewing supply for supplying an outhouse for the event. Without it this event could not happen every year.

Coming up on Father's Day weekend is the annual GNBC Summer camp out. This year the event will take place at the Trail River Campground from 12 noon on Friday, June 13, to 12 noon on Sunday June 15. Look for more info further into the newsletter to get the whole picture of this great event! Fishing, hiking and BBQ are on the list of activities, along with just enjoying the company of fellow members and telling stories (however true they may be) around the campfire. See you there!

As I hope you noticed, the GNBC crew put together an amazing event with the first round of the American Homebrewers Assotiation (<http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/index.html>) 2008 National Homebrew Competition for the Northwest Region. This year was pretty good for the club as we sent on 22 entries from 7 brewers to the final Round of the NHC in Cincinnati this month. We should find out on the 21st who the winners are at the finals, but it seems that the GNBC always takes home a few medals in the finals. This year the following people sent on entries to the final round: John Trapp sent 1 entry, Dennis and Lisa Urban sent 2 entries, Breck Tostevin sent 2 entries, Steve Jayich sent 2 entries, Rory Petrik sent on 3 entries, I sent 4, and Jason Ditsworth sent on 8 entries to the finals. Congratulations everyone! In Homer last month was the Goblets of Gold Mead competition. Pete and Lisa from Arctic Brewing went down to judge and came back with stories of great meads and even got to bring back a pile of ribbons and prizes fro GNBC member swhoe placed in the categories. Former member Keith Howard (now living in Sunny Florida) took best of show and I was told his mead was to die for. Congrats again to everyone who placed!

The Prez Sez

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GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
PMB 1204
3705 ARCTIC BOULEVARD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

GNBC WEB SITE:
WWW.GREATNORTHERNBREWERS.ORG

NEWSLETTER EMAIL
bushy@alaska.com

PRESIDENT: IRA EDWARDS
ira_j_e@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: KARRI CANEPA
kacanepa@uwalumni.com

TREASURER: BRECK TOSTEVIN
keegan@gci.net

SECRETARY: DENA SESSLER
sessak@mtaonline.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SHAWN WENDLING
cpsw@gci.net

DENNIS SESSLER
sessak@mtaonline.net

C. HALL
hall_ce@yahoo.com

JOHN TRAPP
johnctrapp@hotmail.com

Don Lewellyn
dlewelly@fastenal.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
DEBBIE GRECCO
bushy@alaska.com

Before you know it, July will be coming around the corner, and that will bring us to our July BBQ and later the annual GNBC/Humpy's Golf Tournament on July 26th. Stay tuned to future newsletter articles and make sure that the club has your correct email address to send out notices on the summer events as they come up. The summer is busy for everyone, so we plan lots of activities so you can at least make some of them.

Well, that's it again for this month. I'll see you at the camp out dinner on the 14th! Enjoy your Beers, Meads, and Ciders responsibly this month and remember to stay safe out there.



Secretary's Corner

by Dena Sessler

The May 20th Great Northern Brewers Homebrew Club meeting at the Snow Goose Restaurant and Sleeping Lady Brewing Company was short, sweet, and to the point as we gear up for a busy summer.

The Brew- A -Thon on the 10th of May was a big success, as usual, and since we delayed it a week due to April's freak snow storm, it a lot drier than if we had of brewed as originally scheduled. Someone left a cooler at John and Rose's house and can get a hold of them at (907) 243-6540 if you are missing one. Thank you again to John and Rose Craig for hosting another year of great brewing, and thank you to Pete and Lisa at Arctic Brewing Supply for renting the port a potty. We all appreciate it!!

If you are new to the club, please make sure that Breck Tostiven at keegan@gci.net has your current e-mail address so you receive club information during the summer as we will not have another regular club meeting at the Snow Goose until September.

The house crawl revival was on the 24th of May. What a blast. The party bus held 26, but I think there were 30 people stuffed on board and having an incredible time. What can I say... the food was great, the beer was fantastic, the games were fun, and the hosts were gracious. Thank you so much to all that hosted a stop, but especially to Pat Ryan for organizing a great event! If you are interested in going next year, get on the list as soon as you hear about it. There was a waiting list this year, and believe me, you don't want to miss it!

June 7th is another Beer dinner at Tim and Julie McDonald's. The last one hosted by Ira and Kara Edwards in May filled up so fast that the McDonald's decided to host another one. This one is full, but if you have never attended one, contact Julie at juzy@gci.net to get on the e-mail list. Attendance is on a first come first serve basis, so when you get her e-mail, respond fast!

This year's GNBC Summer Camp Out at Trail River Camp Ground near Moose Pass (on the way to Seward) will be held between June 13th-15th. There are going to be a couple of boats available if you are interested in drift fishing for trout down the Kenai. Dennis Sessler also has a friend that is willing to give club members a discount for halibut charters out of Seward. If you are interested, go to his web site at sharealaskacharters.com and mention Dennis or the club. He fills up fast, so if you are interested, book as soon as possible. This family-oriented event is always a great time, so bring something to camp in food for the pot luck and your own fixin's and plenty of good homebrew and plan on staying for the entire time between Friday afternoon at noon and Sunday at noon. If you can haul some firewood down, it contributes to warm and glowing evenings.

The 26th of July is the annual Humpy's/GNBC Golf Tournament. Last year, we teamed up with Humpy's, as we will continue to do, and raised enough money to buy a handicap accessible golf cart for Moose Run Golf Course. The cost was \$8,000.00 for the cart, of which the club donated \$6,000.00 and Humpy's made up the rest. It is a lot of fun, and raised money for a good cause. Debbie Roberts is organizing the event again this year (see her separate article and registration form elsewhere in the newsletter). She will need tons of help organizing what is the biggest event of the year for the club. We will need help setting it all up, signing people in at the course on the 26th of July, helping with beer and the barbeque and securing and organizing donations for the door prizes. She can be contacted at (907) 337-9360 or on her cell at (907) 227-5287. Please plan on attending and/or helping out with this noteworthy event.

Sometime between the 4th of July and the golf tournament, the Lowery's will be hosting another BBQ at their home. Stay tuned for all of the details on when it will be.

The E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition in Fox Alaska is going on the weekend of the 12th of July. Scott and Sherrie Stihler are in desperate need of judges. Last year they had 90 entries and 12 judges. This year there was a write up in Zymurgy magazine about the competition, and with a \$500.00 Best of Show prize, they are afraid that they might receive a few hundred entries this year. If you aren't committed to anything that weekend, please make the trip and help them out. Fox (13 miles north of Fairbanks) is a happening little town, with great beer, and great hosts that treat their judges very well, not to mention the great stuff you walk away with just for helping judge. If you plan on entering the competition, you can pre-register your beer with Scott and bring it up with you. His e-mail address is stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com, or you can call him at (907) 474-2138. Please contact him if you can make the trip. You can go to greatnorthernbrewers.org for a link to Dr. Fermentos web site (www.drfermento.net), which has some great information about the competition too.

There will be another BBQ at Mike Kiker and Anne Sponholtz home this year in late August. As soon as the date is firmed up, we will let you know all the particulars. August will also see a fall competition in lieu of the State Fair. Café Amsterdam has generously offered to host the inaugural Anchor Town Home Brew Competition, so as soon as everything is worked out, we will get the information out to you. Sometime in early October, Mike Kiker, owner of Celestial Meadery, will be sponsoring a mead only competition. Will keep you posted as information becomes available.

That's it for this month. Have a fun filled, and safe summer. See you all in September.

EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

05.....*Midnight Sun Brewing Company Planet beer PRE-Release at the Anchor Pub: 5-7 PM*

06.....*First Taste at McGinley's Pub 5-8 PM*

06.....*Midnight Sun Brewing Company Planet Beer Series Mercury Release at the Brewery: 6:00 PM*

12.....*Kinley's Restaurant/Alaskan Brewing Beer Dinner: 6:30 PM*

13.....*GNBC Camp Out at Trail River*

??.....*GNBC Summer Picnic*

12.....*Beer Dinner Hosted by Tim and Julie McDonald*

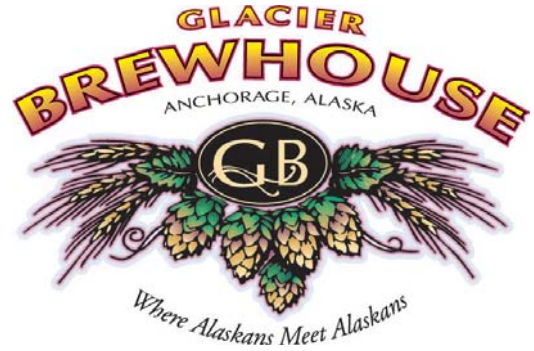
12.....*E.T. Barnette Homebrew Judging at Silver Gulch Brewing Company*

26.....*GNBC/Humpy's Golf Tournament Moose Run Golf Course*

CAFE



AMSTERDAM



GNBC Summer Camp Out 2008

by Ira Edwards

It is time once again for the event of the summer that is not to be missed: the 2008 GNBC Summer Camp Out. For longtime members, you have probably lost count of the number of Camp outs you have attended. For new members, this is a GREAT annual event that allows you to get to know your fellow members outside of normal brewing activities and in a family setting. That's right, the whole family is invited (provided that you keep in mind that alcohol will be present...). This year's even will take place at the Trail River Group campground in Moose Pass from 12 noon on June 13 to 12 noon on June 15, which happens to be Father's Day this year.

Information can be found on the US Forest Service information page at: http://activities.wildernet.com/pages/activity.cfm?actid=1004NRRS678cg&areaid=AK&rectype=Camping&startrecord=14&fromPage=summary&CU_ID=1 and the directions to get there from Anchorage are to go south on Seward Highway approximately 100 miles to Crown Point (just past Trail Lake). Turn at Milepost 24.2 on Trail River Road for 2 miles to campground. Look for the GROUP CAMPGROUND and the GNBC signs. Find yourself a campsite and prepare to have some safe fun for the weekend.

Dennis and Dena Sessler have a friend in Seward who is willing to book a boat for the group on Saturday. You can contact Dennis (his email is on the front page of the newsletter) to see if there is still space. We are also planning on arranging a Kenai River drift fishing trip on Saturday morning. As we have done many times in the past, we fish for trout from the Kenai Lake boat launch in Cooper Landing to the mouth of the Russian River. Then we take a break and fish for Reds on the opening weekend of the Russian, after which we float down to take out at Jim's Landing on Skilak Lake Road to be back at the campground by mid afternoon. This is a fun trip that requires you to bring a life jacket. We have 1 or 2 boats lined up right now, but we need a couple more to make this a group event. If you have a drift boat or a cataraft and would like to come please let me know ASAP by calling me at 440-9112. I am an experienced drift pilot if you are not able to make the trip but are willing to lend out your boat to the group.

Saturday evening is the big group dinner and potluck. Bring a favorite dish to share and something to toss on a grill if you like. The club will supply a meat dish and a couple of bags of charcoal, so feel free to get creative. If you have space in the bed of your truck feel free to bring some firewood to burn at night, and if you don't have wood give me a call and you can haul some of mine to the campground.

I hope to see you all there for what is sure to be another great time among friends!



GNBC / Humpy's Annual Golf Tournament

by *Debbie Roberts*

Once again this year, GNBC and Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse will team up for the annual golf tournament. Great fun (and great beer) always happens during this event....

Last year with all of your help, and our wonderful sponsors, we were able to purchase the motorized handicapped golf cart to be stationed at Moose Run Golf Course. Thank you for all who donated and participated!

The Humpy's/Great Northern Brewers Golf Tournament will be held this year on July 26th (Humpy's owner Billy Opinsky's birthday), with a shotgun start at 7:00 am. We again will be golfing the Hill Course. This event will be limited to the first 144 participants. Prizes will be awarded for best team score, men and women's longest drives and closest to the pin. There will also be numerous drawings for door prizes.

The cost will be \$350 for a four-person team. The deadline for team assignments and paying for the game is July 18th. Mulligans and string will be available at an additional cost.

If you are interested in playing, volunteering or donating anything, please contact Debbie Roberts, 552-3227 (work); 337-9360 (home); or 227-5287 (cell). Space is limited so please reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Please find the Registration Form in this newsletter. Get your team together and join us for a fun day. Beer is always plentiful on the course and a huge BBQ will await you at the end.

As always, this is a Designated Driver event so if you participate, please make arrangements to have a ride home.

REGISTRATION FORM

Must be received NLT July 18, 2008

Tournament Date: Saturday, July 26, 2008

Moose Run Golf Course – Hill Course

Humpy's / Great Northern Brewers Club

Golf Club Challenge

c/o Debbie Roberts

7635 Hennings Way

Anchorage, Alaska 99504-4622



It's the time of the year when hackers and scratchers dust off their golf clubs and head out to beat that little white ball into submission! This year, the Great Northern Brewers have joined forces with Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse to provide a bigger and better golf tournament. It will be held at Moose Run Golf Course, Hill Course on July 26th with a shotgun start promptly at 7:00 am. We anticipate a full field of 144 golfers. **FIRST TEAMS TO PAY – PLAY!!** Prizes are awarded at the post-tournament BBQ based on best score, longest drive, closest to the pin. There will also be drawings for numerous great door prizes.

Players are recommended to form their own teams because this is a scramble. There will be no attempt to balance teams by ability or handicap. The emphasis this year is not necessarily winning, but having fun, although we expect a lot of competition to occur - that may be consuming beer or actually playing golf.

Snacks will be provided at the turn and draft microbrewed beer will be delivered on the course. Special events will happen at some holes. There will be a barbeque provided after the golfing is over – catered by Humpy's.

If you would like to sponsor a hole, and have your business name and number displayed on a T-box, please remit \$200.00 by July 18, 2008. Donations of any form are also accepted.

Business/Contact names: _____ Phone number: _____

This is a Designated Driver Event. Please make arrangements to have a ride home.

REGISTRATION FORM

Must be received NLT July 18, 2008

Tournament Date: Saturday, July 26, 2008
Moose Run Golf Course – Hill Course

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ENTRY FEE: \$350.00 per team (includes carts, green fees, prizes, trophies, food and BEER!)
\$100.00 per person if you don't have a foursome.

Shotgun start will begin at 7:00 am. Check-in is between 6:00 am and 6:30 am.

Mulligans \$5.00 each - 8 maximum per team

4-Person Teams

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Captain's phone number: _____

Players: 2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Paid by cash _____ or check _____ Payable to Great Northern Brewers Club

Credit card _____ Expiration Date _____

Return to: 2008 Golf Tournament
c/o Debbie Roberts
7635 Hennings Ways
Anchorage, AK 99504-4622

Phone Number (907) 337-9360
Fax: (907) 552-8959

Beer.....it's what's for dinner!

by Julie McDonald

Ask yourself this question: Do I try to pair beer with everything I eat? If the answer is yes, keep reading. If the answer is no, most definitely keep reading!

For over a year now, Great Northern Brewers Club members have been organizing and hosting bi-monthly beer dinners. More recently we've changed to a monthly schedule to accommodate increased interest. These events have showcased some amazing talent in creativity, both in using beer as an ingredient and with pairing. Not sure how to pair beer with food? There are loads of websites and articles out there on this topic, just Google it or drop me a note, I'd be happy to help in any way.

May's beer dinner was hosted by Ira & Kara Edwards. The theme was West Coast beers. They were blessed with some fantastic weather on dinner day, so were able to dine alfresco. The menu follows:

Steve & Shelly - *Marinated shrimp and asparagus (grilled) paired with classic American pilsner from the Schmitts.*

Laura & Paul - *Chipotle Shrimp Salad and Session Lager (by Full Sail Brewing Co.)*

Ed & Cindy - *Salmon Chowder paired with Alaskan IPA*

Tim & Fil - *California style pizza paired with Anchor Steam*

Ira's Crawlspace tour: Stone 2002 and 2004 Old guardian Barleywine, Midnight sun "M", Sierra Nevada Bigfoot, Anchor Christmas beer from 2002, '05 and '06

Ira & Kara –Lambic-marinated pork short ribs **AND** beer, cheese & herb stuffed halibut – paired with Apricot and Cassis lambic

Also on tap: New England Cider, Traditional cider, French Cider, Traditional Perry, IPA, Saison, 2004 barleywine, and Double IPA-Belgian style w/ coriander, cardamom, orange peel and Abbey II yeast

Pat & Mark - *Chocolate cake paired with Bock*

Your mouth is watering, isn't it? Sorry you missed it, right? You can fix that by getting in on the July dinner or any other future dinner.

Ira's dinner was limited to 12 people, it filled within 3 hours of announcement. So, a June dinner was scheduled. This dinner maxed out quickly as well. The theme is Mead and Moroccan, being hosted by Tim and myself. We don't have a completed menu yet, but a partial is listed below.





Meet and Greet: Tim & Julie – Gunnlod’s Tears by Celestial Meads

Appetizers: Dena & Dennis - TBD

Salad: Tim & Jen - hearts of romaine, dates, orange w/ a citrus dressing paired w/ Celestial’s Blue Ridge Hottie.

Also providing 3 condiment-type salads, meant as accompaniments to the main dishes:

1. cucumber, tomato and mint salad (optional mead suggestion: Celestial’s Blue Ridge Hottie)
2. roasted three pepper salad with cumin and preserved lemon (optional mead suggestion: Celestial’s Burning Sappho)
3. Zahlouk- Eggplant and tomato salad/dip (optional mead suggestion: Celestial’s Burning Sappho)

Tim’s Dungeon Tour: *We will be sampling from, but not limited to, Californian breweries: The Lost Abbey, Alesmith, Russian River. From the Midwest: Three Floyd’s, Bell’s and Kuhnenn breweries. And from the East Coast: Southampton, Smuttynose and Southern Tier breweries. Bring a light sweater, the dungeon can be chilly.*

Moroccan bread: Tim and Julie - served as an accompaniment to the salads and entrees. Hence it has no mead pairing of its own.

Couscous & Meat Entree: Kerri – raisin, apricot & almond couscous w/chicken-honey tagine & a dried fruit stuffing, mead pairing TBD

Vegetarian Entree: Carl - TBD

Dessert: Tracy & Don - strawberries infused with orange blossom mead, dipped in chocolate **AND** orange slices sprinkled with cinnamon and mead.

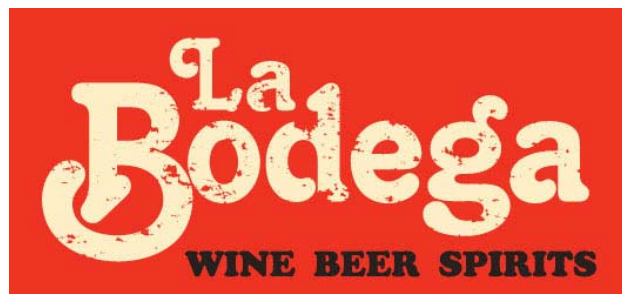
Digestif: Tim & Julie - Finishing off the evening with a taste of **Jadwiga Miód Pitny**. A very rich, intense mead from Poland.

The July dinner will be hosted by Carl Hall. As host, Carl gets to pick the date, theme, and how many guests he can accommodate. Carl has chosen the following:

When: Saturday, July 12, 6:30 pm

Theme: Seafood and any beer best for pairing with the dish. More information will be provided in the announcement email. Participation is on a first come, first served basis.

If you are interested and would like to be added to the beer dinner email list, or if you would like to host a future dinner or if you just have questions, please contact me a juzy@gci.net .



GNBC House Crawl Recap

by *Pat Ryan*

Drizzling rain and cloudy skies could not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants in this year's house crawl. We were all picked up in front of Café Amsterdam at noon on May 24th. The revelers sported cells, carried appropriate glassware and bore bottles of their favorite beers.

The fun began as we boarded the Magic Bus (okay, it was labeled Mel's Bus, but it was all the same to us.) Throughout the eight hours of the day, the members changed, but lap sitting was always essential for a couple of "fun seekers."

John Burkett of Anchorage Cold Storage provided two pony kegs: Glacier Brewhouse Double IPA and another. Of course, we were also imbibing of "favorite beers". Hilarity was definitely in the air and accelerated after each of the five house crawl stops.

At the home of Barb Miller and Mark Staples (our first destination) we drank Midnight Sun Brewing Company beer on tap and snacked on gourmet brats, coleslaw, and other treats. The requisite game (the house crawl requires that each stop has a "competitive" game) consisted of using a BB gun to try and hit beer cans as targets. Since the time was early in the day, no one shot their eye out, a foot or otherwise.

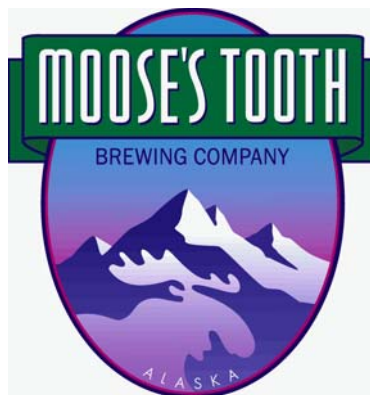
Cramming back on the bus, our next stop was at the home of Cindy and Ed Harrington. The game at this stop was fishing in a hot tub. We munched on delicious appetizers including both a pheasant dip and a crab dip. Soul music played in the background adding to the fun. After this stop, the noise on the bus definitely went up as we headed to the new home belonging to Lisa Peltola and Peter Dohm. This was our dinner stop and Pete and Lisa prepared baked halibut, noodle salad and other great snacks. The game here consisted of hitting balls with onions in the bottom of panty hose tied around the waist. This resulted in many laughs. Of course, the various beers and meads helped this along nicely.

Our fourth stop was at the Hilts' home in Eastside Anchorage. Fil had fortuitously invited her neighbors so we had a well lubricated welcoming committee. Various beers, corn dogs and so forth were offered. The clever game involved game hen bowling which consisted of rolling frozen game hens toward beer cans.

The participation and hospitality, as always, was great. The weather could have been more cooperative; it was quite chilly and jackets were retrieved from the bus. Speaking of "in the bus," two of our revelers, Brian and Larry, young soldiers just returning from Iraq, tried to opt out in this round saying that they couldn't keep up with our group. My husband Mark returned to the bus and convinced them that they could.

Our final destination was to the triplex in Fairview being built by Karen Larson and SJ Klein. Of course, the beer and snacks were ample. Their game brought the biggest laugh of the day. One partner had to hold a toilet plunger between the legs and attempt to insert it into a roll of toilet paper between the other partner's legs. Mike Hartman and My husband Mark were partners. Imagine the laughs and camera action that took place. Look for the blackmail photos.

Colin, our non-drinking congenial bus driver took us back to Café Amsterdam where many of us order more beers. These were beers that were definitely not needed, but then again, what does need have to do with it? Stay tuned for announcements about next year's event. You can either participate or host, which gives you the best of both beer drinking worlds.



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
Attn: Treasurer
PMB 1204, 3705 Arctic Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503

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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:

Online: bushy@alaska.com
Phone: 333-8985
Mail: 6933 Soyuz Circle
Anchorage, Ak 99504

GNBC Web Site: www.greatnorthernbrewers.org



**Great Northern Brewers Club
PMB 1204
3705 Arctic Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503**

**NEXT MEETING: GNBC Summer Campout at Trail River Campground
June 13th, 2008 through June 15th, 2008 Noon Friday to Noon Sunday**