



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JUNE 2015

The Prez Sez

by Peter Hall



The monthly challenge is always getting one of these articles together, especially when the sun is so warm and bright. Even when I have a ton of work to do around my new home, I

front load all of the outside work as much as possible. With interesting things happening at work, and a very busy home life, I have been feeling really beat up and I didn't muster the energy to communicate with all of you. I do apologize for not getting out a newsletter last month. I will my best to keep you all well informed, and I hope you can enjoy my writing too.

Crazy times are dropping back to manageable and I am greatly looking forward to a little more time to hang out with all of my GNBC (and everyone else in my life) friends very soon. Summer is back and we have complimentary events to go along with the warmer weather.

The Snow Goose comp happened some time ago now. Even if there had been a May newsletter (sorry again) I would not have had results for you. I do now. The comp had low quantity entries but high quality attendance. If you are interested in the results, please review them below. Anchor town is tentatively scheduled far enough out right now that you have time to make some fresh brews for it. Check out all of the accompanying info down below.

Thank you to the Soboleskys! Brew-a-thon could not have been held on a better Alaskan spring day. There were only a few small but manageable mishaps that you could expect on your average brew day. I did watch one six gallon carboy explode in the hands of the person trying to empty the cleaning solution out of it. Luckily, no one was hurt and the beer found a new fermentation home. Assistance was abundant to run the event, but could have been coordinated a little better. GNBCers are eager to help, just sometimes need my and the boards direction on exactly how to help best. We always work to make our events better and better. Next year will be no different, I don't know if I want the weather to be any different though. Thank you again, Soboleskys!

The Prez Sez

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Homebrew Competition

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Summer camping season has firmly arrived and I know we are all ready to partake. At least really hope you are, because the GNBC camp out at Trail River is right around the corner. This year we are back on the wonderful Kenai Peninsula. Please review the article from Kat later on in this newsletter, and plan to be at the Trail River Group Site A on the weekend of June 12-14!

Barbequing on a gorgeous deck above a picturesque small lake is an ideal day for a group of friends in the middle of July. Jeff Loughrey and Cathie Straub have hosted the GNBC a number of times, and they have been nice enough to invite us back. Sharing great things on the barbeque and great beverages may have something to do with it. I know that we are nice guests and treat the neighbors well too. Being good guests may even earn us the privilege of visiting Ira Edwards' home in August. These events are not scheduled quite yet. Both tend to happen in the first half of the month. Keep an eye out for info as it becomes available.

Beer dinners happen sporadically as people find enough time to put together a well-choreographed evening. As I have hinted, my wife and I just purchased a big beautiful new home. There is plenty of room in the kitchen to mill about and a dining area fit for a large table. I know that Shannon and I will host a beer dinner sometime this year. These are always coordinated through email and I do not have a timeline for you just yet. Hopefully just the mention of beer dinners can spur others to join in on the fun of hosting a dozen or so GNBC friends? Always keep an eye out for an email inviting you to one of these events. Spots tend to fill very quickly.

I hope you are reviewing the GNBC emails that go out. I try to keep everyone well informed, but also try not to pester you. I can do this best by writing out a well-informed Prez Sez and sending out periodical email updates. I'm sure I miss a thing from time to time. GNBC Secretary, Jim O'Toole, can usually pick up any of that slack. Don't miss out Jim O'Toole's writing of events to come and some of his beer adventures. For any questions/comments/concerns, please email me at president@greatnorthernbrewers.org



Secretary's Corner

by *Jim O'Toole*



I spent a couple of weeks on the Big Island back in April; two good weeks as everyone would expect, but this was a particularly good one just due to the variety of things I got to do.

I have a great girlfriend who inspires me to get off my ass and do things but she also seems to enjoy hanging out with me when I feel like doing nothing. She got me to watch that Bruno Marz video where his band guys dance around a room in monkey masks so many times that I kind of liked it. I suspect she knew that I enjoyed the message in the song: "sometimes I just don't want to do anything," the first time I heard it.

One great thing about where we have stayed the last three April big island vacations is that it is right on a main road which provides great people watching. The lanai is about 15 feet above the street so, I imagine, it is kind of like hanging out on a balcony on Bourbon Street during Mardi Gras but without the huge throngs of people, the noise, people throwing things TO people on the street, and the vomit. We started staying up and enjoying the late-night view of the quieted street and going to bed when there was no traffic that we could see in either direction. Most nights it happened but some nights there was the last glow of a motor scooter tail light when a slow moving SUV driven by a tourist would come in from the south and one of us would give up and hit the rack. I had a case of beer from Costco and six packs of Kona's Castaway IPA that are probably fresher in Anchorage than they are in Hawaii to get through so sometimes I would stay up despite the lack of traffic. There are always waves crashing on the shoreline to get mesmerized by.

South of the place, at about the spot where a vehicle comes into view, is the Kona Humpy's <http://humpyskona.com/> where they finally are serving Alaskan beers from Midnight Sun Brewing and, about a twelve minute walk in the other direction, was Kona Brewing Company. We spent a good bit of time in both.

We spent a day driving up to Kamuela, which is the official US name for Waimea but you would not know this as all of the signage says Waimea. It's a Postal Service thing I heard and something to do with more than a couple of places in Hawaii being named Waimea. We had a couple of reasons for going up there, one being that it is 10 to 15 degrees cooler than along the shoreline, and we accomplished another when we spotted the Big Island Brewhaus <http://bigislandbrewhaus.com/> for some excellent locally made craft beer and, I was told, some excellent chili rellenos.



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

12-14.....GNBC Summer Campout
Trail River

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*

CAFE



AMSTERDAM

Hawaii is one of the places on the planet where sitting down at a bar and ordering a beer usually gets you into a conversation with someone whether you are ready for it or not; in this case, a late 20's couple from Chicago on a week-long whirlwind tour of the island on a late sort of honeymoon. He is a homebrewer but didn't get a word in edgewise with his really nice, chatty wife sitting between us. It turns out also that she and I are descended from people from the BEST place on earth for enjoying newfound friends in a bar so the fact that she and I were in the middle of the four seats we occupied was unfortunate for the people we were with.

But the thing is that I got to talk beer with some nice people from Illinois and steered them to a couple of places on the island where I knew they'd find the good suds; Humpy's of course I talked of as a can't-miss thing and I'm sure they had a great time especially the two nights in some treehouse that she was keeping a secret from him until they got there. The most I got out of him was that he'd be happy anywhere with her and having good beer around was a must. He also looked like he wanted to discuss brewing beer with me but his wife had him out the door and on to one of the many adventures she had planned for them before we got the chance as she probably knew what might happen if we got started.

My original plan with this report was to comment on something that bothers me a little and I'm not sure if it bothers anyone else. Obviously I digressed so let me say that I am a dedicated boycotter of various businesses; several due to their dropping support of the Iditarod, one because of their treatment of me personally, and a few others for various reasons.

I'm all in with the idea of companies of all sizes making money but, when I think of where I want to spend my money I'm not giving it to anyone who has pissed me off for any reason. When I'm spending on beer I think I'm doing a lot of good for any local economy if I find the people making the beer and let the people they hire to cook good food and serve the beer keep my dollars moving around much more to my liking than if the profits went to a multi-national corporation based on another continent. I don't much like the beers that the macro brewers produce anyway so it makes it easy to boycott them. My goal then is to tell people I know who drink those beers what I think of them and let them make their own decisions.

So the Big Island Brewhaus was a fun time as it is run by local people who run a great business. This, my first visit to the place, was just a day or two after I learned that Kona Brewing is not as locally owned as I thought it was. They are owned by the Craft Brew Alliance, a group of brewers in the US so, some of that money I spend goes elsewhere but the beer, food, and service offered by the Kona Brewing people is worth that to me. I did have a bad IPA in there this time though but, at least, the money we spent there stayed in the United States.

The Big Island Brewhaus advertises the names of all of their local suppliers, including the name of the fisherman who supplies the fresh fish, and I just got a good feeling for the place. If you're ever passing through Waimea on the Big Island, this is a great place to take a break: <http://bigislandbrewhaus.com/>

I have no interest in the place other than my desire to go back again.

Upcoming events:

05/22-23/15 (Fri - Sat)

23rd Annual Great Alaska Craft Beer and Home Brew Festival
Haines, Alaska
Various Times/Various Costs

6/12-12/15 (Fri-Sun)

GNBC Campout
Trail Lakes Campground
Free-Just bring food, beer, and whatever you are going to live in

07/18/15 (Saturday)

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



07/18/15 (Saturday)

E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition
Silver Gulch Brewing Company (Fox, Alaska)
10 am: \$5 per homebrew entry

8/8/15 (Saturday)

Kenai River Beer Festival
Soldotna Sports Center
5-10PM

08/22/15 (Saturday)

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

9/26/15 (Saturday)

Juneau Arts and Cultural Center
4th Annual Capital Brewfest
1-5 pm: Cost TBD (Ticket Sales Begin 7/1)



Summer Camp-Out

June 12th Trail River Campground, Moose Pass/Seward

Hooray, the summer campout is just over a week away! You can arrive as early as noon on Friday June 12th and the good times continue thru the 14th most people are packed up by 2pm on Sunday.

To find the campground, head south from Anchorage towards Seward on the Seward Highway. Watch for the brown and cream colored sign just before the Crown Point Bed and Breakfast between mileposts 25 and 24 on the right side of the road. Turn at Milepost 24.2 on Trail River Road for 2 miles. We will have the group area with the pavilion reserved. The group campsite is on the left once you are in the campground but there will be signs directing you to the group camping area.

The highlight of the campout is the group dinner Saturday night and the theme is Alaskan: Keep it local!! We are always encouraging people to drink locally brewed beer so why not mix that idea with our food?! Meaning you can make any food that is Alaska inspired. No, it does not have to be harvested or grown here, just inspired by Alaska or something we deem "local fare". It could be baby back ribs with a Rhubarb BBQ sauce, Pilot bread with smoked salmon spread, Moose Chili! Bring your favorite foods and your homebrews, ciders and meads. This is a family friendly event so bring the family, the kids, the dog, and guests if you like. This campground offers more privacy and great campfire options. For current updates check out the FB event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/664318253696091/> or contact Kat Karabelnikoff gnbc.membership@gmail.com Hope to see you all at the campout this year!

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!



Palmer, Alaska

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:

Ch erie 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 or (907) 474-2138.

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

Break-up Home Brew Competition

Date: 25-Apr-15

Number of Entries: 10

Largest Category: American Ales



Category of this Flight: BJCP Category 3 Euro Amber Lager

Place	Brewer	Cat/Sub	Sub	BOS
1	Mike Cragen	3B	Okto	BOS
2	Jamie Stehn	3A	Vienna	
3				

Category of this Flight: BJCP Category # 5 Bock

Place	Brewer	Cat/Sub	Sub	BOS
1	Ted Rosenzweig	5D	Eisbock	
2				
3				

Category of this Flight: BJCP Category # 10 Am Ale

Place	Brewer	Cat/Sub	Sub	BOS
1	Mike Cragen	10A	Am Pale	
2	Rory Marcenco	10A	Am Pale	
3	Chris Hilliard	10B	Am Amber	



Category of this Flight: BJCP Category # 11 English Brown

Place	Brewer	Cat/Sub Sub	BOS
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1	Jamie Stehn	11C N. Eng Brown	
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2

2

Category of this Flight: BJCP Category # 21 Spice/Herb/Veggie

Place	Brewer	Cat/Sub Sub	BOS
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1	Rory Marcenco	21A Ginger Am Pale	
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2	Mike Fisher	21A Habanero Pepper Saison	
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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



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**NEXT MEETING: June 12th - 14th, 2015
at Trail River Campground**