



THE

# Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB  
JUNE 2016

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## The Prez Sez

by *Kevin Sobolesky*

**G**reetings brewing friends,

I hope you are all enjoyed our stint of warm weather and the glorious Memorial Day weekend. Of course, this is the beginning of the phase of the year where everyone is madly out traveling our great state slaying fish and visiting the amazing locations so we won't be having any more formal meetings until September.

The Spring Break-Up IPA homebrew contest was held with the support of 49th State Brewing Company and Anchorage Brewing Company. Willie Creamer won the best of show with his American IPA. Thanks go out to our comp organizer Dan Bosch and our sponsors.

Our Brewathon event went off well and once again, we had lovely weather to enjoy brewing outdoors and to grill some savory treats. Attendance was modest, but fun, and we look forward to the Sobolesky's hosting us again next year.

The BJCP class wrapped up and while we could not hold the Tasting Exam, we will be back next year to hold the class, sans exam. Always a fun educational event with lots of classic beers to taste, look forward to it!

We hope to see you at the summer events we have until our first regular meeting of the season in September:

June 16th BBQ

John Craig's Independence Day

Mike's Brew Haulin'

July BBQ

August Campout

Cheers,

Prez "Unrelatable" Kevin

The Prez Sez

Secretary's Corner

GNBC Summer BBQ

20th Annual E.T. Barnette  
Homebrew Competition

Call For Judges

Alaska Run for Women  
GNBC Team Brewbies

Sud's Corner

Beer Haulin'

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

GNBC WEB SITE:

[WWW.GREATNORTHERNBREWERS.ORG](http://WWW.GREATNORTHERNBREWERS.ORG)

NEWSLETTER EMAIL

[bushy@alaskan.com](mailto:bushy@alaskan.com)

PRESIDENT: KEN SOBOLESKY

[metkonig@gmail.com](mailto:metkonig@gmail.com)

VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Fisher

[mikefisher.ak@gmail.com](mailto:mikefisher.ak@gmail.com)

TREASURER: PETER HALL

[treasurer@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:treasurer@greatnorthernbrewers.org)

SECRETARY: JIM O'TOOLE

[secretary](mailto:secretary@greatnorthernbrewers.org)

[@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:@greatnorthernbrewers.org)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JASON LEWIS

[lakeman775@gmail.com](mailto:lakeman775@gmail.com)

SEAN MACK

[seanmack@yahoo.com](mailto:seanmack@yahoo.com)

CHRIS CRUTHERS

[christopher.cruthers@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.cruthers@gmail.com)

Brian Hall

[iheart314@gmail.com](mailto:iheart314@gmail.com)

John Trapp

[johnctrapp@hotmail.com](mailto:johnctrapp@hotmail.com)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Debbie Grecco

[bushy@alaskan.com](mailto:bushy@alaskan.com)

## Secretary's Corner

by *Jim O'Toole*

I'm supposed to be on the Appalachian Trail (AT) right now, spending the night in a shelter at a place called Jenny Knob. Tomorrow night we would have been 16 miles further down the trail at a hotel in the town of Bland, Virginia. I think you could find it on some maps.

But our long planned 400 mile adventure ended far short of Damascus, Virginia near the North Carolina border and there were a number of causes.

Physically my buddy and I were prepared as well as we could have been, we had all provisions we needed for a five day start before re-supplying, and we had all the gear we needed to spend the night in shelters along the trail or in a tent/hammock situation if the shelters were full of other hikers or we found ourselves between shelters and needing to camp. We had water filters and treatment and a friendship strong enough for us to be confident that we weren't going to be wanting to kick each other's asses after a week or so out there.

The hike started west of Charlottesville, Virginia with the plan of heading south toward Damscus, Virginia and either reaching Damascus or stopping wherever we were after 31 days and then heading back to Sandy's place in Alexandria, Virginia so I could catch my scheduled flight home.

The first day was a slog through a muddy trail in rain and wind for about an hour before the wind and rain stopped. The mud and flooded creeks were constants but we reached the Paul C. Wolfe shelter in as idyllic a place as anyone could design. As beautiful a forest creek as you will ever see ran below the shelter and the oak and hickory forest was cleared out enough so that views of that beautiful country made us forget how hard it was to get there. The shelter itself was the typical three sided frame building with room for ten hikers to sleep comfortably but it had a built on porch with a roof over it and a picnic table on the porch.

Five other people showed up and spent the night with us but we were the only strangers as all of the others had been on the trail for months and were attempting north-bound thru hikes from Georgia to Maine so they had all crossed paths at one time or another. The oldest of them was another US Navy submarine veteran who served 15 years after Sandy and I did and it was interesting that, when the first sunlight came through the trees, the three of us were the first ones up.

Sandy and I were across the creek and southbound at 8 AM but we found slow going as the first few hours were uphill and there was very little flat ground. I noticed that Sandy was a lot slower than he was a year ago and he finally said that a blood condition he has that limits his ability to process oxygen was something he was going to get checked when we finished the hike as he didn't feel as strong as he did last year. I found myself hiking ahead and then waiting for him despite his suggestion that I go on ahead to the next shelter and he would eventually get there. He said this when we had about 12 miles to go.



At the top, we stopped for a food break and a northbound hiker came up the trail toward us. When he saw us, all he said was, "Rocks suck." We understood what he meant as we had hiked on rocky trail every day last year but the context of what he was saying had to be experienced firsthand.

We later were told that the next 7 or 8 miles we were facing were on some of the most rugged trail in that area of the Blue Ridge Mountains and, though there might be other places where it was just as bad, we had not experienced the relentlessly endless rocky areas like this section provided.

I decided to slow down as Sandy was having trouble keeping up with the pace we had hoped to make and I realized that we probably would not make it to the next shelter but finding a place to camp was going to be a problem as the trail ran along the side of a mountain that had a pretty severe slope and the only flat places were covered in boulders.

I never saw the rock that ended our adventure. Stepping through another extensive rock field just like all the others I started taking a step with my right foot when my left hiking pole got stuck between rocks. This happened all the time and all it normally took was a little tug and out it would come. Not this time. I was already moving forward when I realized the pole wasn't coming out and, the next thing I knew, I was going down face first in a rock pile with a forty pound pack on my back. All I remember is thinking, "Don't hit your head" but I did, with the left side of my face smacking against a, thankfully flat, rock. I laid there for a few seconds and realized that I wasn't seriously hurt but I couldn't get up until I got rid of the backpack. Sandy was a minute or so behind me and when he got to me I was lying on my side and I could see a look on his face that said, "I can't possibly carry him out of here."

I got to my feet and decided to push ahead but I could see that we only had an hour or so before the sun went down behind the mountains. Sandy lagged far behind and when I finally reached the Blue Ridge Parkway and spotted a good camping spot on the other side of it I waited for him. Fifteen minutes later he came into sight and he was dragging. He reached a flat spot about 200 feet from me, did not look up, but stopped three or four times before he finally saw me. He later said that I told him he looked like a "ghost" but what I actually said and meant was that he looked "like a cadaver." He said that he needed to eat something as he was "out of fuel" so I pointed him across the road and picked up my pack. I was so exhausted I couldn't lift it high enough to put it on my back.

We got the camp set up after dark with Sandy saying he was "sick" and "freezing" and not being able to eat anything but we climbed into our sleeping bags and did some thinking. My wrist had started to act up and I realized that I must have landed on it when I fell and I wasn't sure I was going to be able to hang on to a hiking pole if we continued. Lying there that night I came up with a plan and so did Sandy. They were not too much different. The key was Sandy telling me, first thing in the morning, that he was "finished with the Appalachian Trail." That was the first part of my plan too. Another key part of both plans was to get back to his place in Alexandria as soon as possible. After that the plans diverged. Sandy said he would pay for any change I made in my flight plans if I wanted to go home early and that he would go out to western Virginia soon, pick up the food drops that we anticipated picking up along the trail south, and ship mine back to me at his expense. None of that was anything I had considered but the predominant part of my plan was something that made Sandy feel a lot better as soon as he heard it. I suggested that, once we got to his place, we should rent a car (he hasn't owned one since he moved to Alexandria in 1991), drive out to pick up our drop packages, and go on a BEER TOUR. The color came back to his face as soon as I said it.

# EVENTS

*Every First Thursday  
Moose's Tooth First Tap*

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

*11.....Alaska Run For Women GNBC  
Team Brewbies*

*16.....GNBC BBQ 6:30 at Perer and  
Shannon Hall's home*

*20.....Entries accepted for E.T. Barnette  
Hombrew Competition thru 7-13*

*?.....GNBC BBQ*

*16.....20th Annual E.T. Barnette  
Homebrew Competition*



CAFE



AMSTERDAM

So that's what we did. It took a week to drive out west, pick up the packages, hit as many beer places as we could find, drive to the Norfolk/Virginia Beach area for more beer places, and get back to Alexandria. Final count was 23 breweries or beer joints and 73 beers that I had never tried before. My liver may never be the same. But I'd do it again tomorrow.

I'll write about that trip around Virginia one of these days but I want you all to know that there are some amazing things going on back there, both in the beers they are brewing and how they are selling it.

For now, given the fact that the temperature where we would have been hiking today was in the 80's today, I can only say.....it's good to be home.

#### GNBC SCHEDULE

6/11/2016

Alaska Run for Women – Team Brewbies  
See article

6/16/2016

June BBQ  
Peter and Shannon Hall's home  
2806 Snug Harbor Circle  
6:30 to 9:00

7/?/16

July BBQ

8/5-7/2016

GNBC Summer Campout  
Eklutna Campground



## GNBC June BBQ

*by Peter Hall*

I've tried to coordinate something like this before, and now I have the chance to pull it all together. Shannon and I would be happy to host the GNBC at our house for a June gathering. I originally thought about hosting on the weekend. I know though that if the sun comes out that everyone will get out of town and nobody will show up. So instead I figured that Thursday June 16 would work best.

Please join Shannon and me at 2806 Snug Harbor Circle on Thursday June 16 starting at about 6:30 pm. I will have the BBQ hot and will have the fire pit ready. Bring whatever you might like to roast and otherwise serve and share with others. A few coolers will be ready and I should have the jockey box flowing with some Brewathon double IPA.

#### DETAILS:

Thursday June 16 at about 6:30  
Bring the whole family!  
2806 Snug Harbor Circle

Please feel free to block me into my driveway. Parking my mean just a little bit of a walk, but I know everyone will be courteous of the neighbors.

See you there!

# 2016 E.T. BARNETTE HOMEBREW COMPETITION

*by Scott Stihler*

Announcing the 20th Annual E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition!

This is a AHA/BJCP sanctioned competition.

The grand prize for Best of Show is \$500!!!

Great prizes and custom medals will also be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of each of the seven judged categories.

The seven judged categories are: Pale Malty European Lager (4A-C), British Bitter (11A-C), Dark British Beer (16A-D), Pale American Ale (18A-B), Amber and Brown American Beer (19A-C), Belgian Ale (24A-C), and Fruit/Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer (29A-B and 30A).

Entries will be accepted: June 20 - July 13, 2016

Entry fees: Submit three 12-16 oz brown or green crown capped bottles and a check or money order for \$5.00 in U.S. funds per entry.

Judging: Judging will take place on Saturday, July 16th.

Location: Fox, Alaska (a small mining community ~10 miles north of Fairbanks)

More information as well as Entry and Bottle ID forms may be found at the following URL: <http://ow.ly/K57M3>.

Should you have any questions or are interesting in judging contact Scott Stihler at [stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com](mailto:stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com) or (907) 474-2138.

CALL FOR JUDGES

Judges we need You!

We need BJCP judges and/or experienced brewers to help judge this year's E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition!!!

We also need an intrepid steward or two to help make things run smoothly!

Judging will take place on Saturday, July 16 at Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling Company located in Fox, Alaska (a small community ~11 miles north of Fairbanks).

Once again, the seven judged categories are: Pale Malty European Lager (4A-C), British Bitter (11A-C), Dark British Beer (16A-D), Pale American Ale (18A-B), Amber and Brown American Beer (19A-C), Belgian Ale (24A-C), Fruit/Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer (29A-B and 30A).

Once again out of town judges can pre-register and hand carry their entries thereby saving on shipping costs.

All they need to do 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 13). This will allow us to register those entries along with all the others and we'll be ready when you show up with beers in hand.

This year's the E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition will once again take on that same day as the Golden Days Beer Fest. The beer fest generally goes until 10:00 p.m. so 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 Scott Stihler at [stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com](mailto:stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com) or (907) 474-2138.



## Alaska Run for Women GNBC Team Brewbies

*by Julie McDonald*

Sign up starts April 15, 2016, for The Great Northern Brewers Club walk/run team, The Brewbies, in the 23rd Annual Alaska Run for Women slated for June 11, 2016.  
See our Facebook event page here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1716784728536065/>

The Alaska Run for Women is Alaska's premier women's running event that raises money for breast cancer research and support, detection and awareness programs. Although it's women who are doing the walking and running, men are encouraged to participate as volunteers, cheerleaders or phantom donors.

If you haven't participated in the event in the past, this is the year to get involved! You don't have to run, you can walk, or you can run some and walk some. Check out this info for more detail:

### 2016 START TIMES

We start in waves to help decrease congestion along the course.

The PARTY WAVE is for participants doing the 5-mile untimed event, but looking for less of a "race" feel. Join this group if you are a walker, will have a stroller, or if some of you want to walk/run together as a group.

- 8:30 a.m. 1-mile run/walk start / Corral at 8:10 a.m.
- \* 8:45 a.m. 5-mile TIMED run/walk start / Corral at 8:15 a.m.
- \* 9:00 a.m. 5-mile untimed run/walk start / Corral at 8:30 a.m.
- \* 9:10 a.m. 5-mile untimed PARTY WAVE & STROLLERS / Corral at 8:40 a.m.

You can pick which event option works best for you. If you are an avid runner and would love to have your time recorded, opt for the 5 mile timed start. If you are just out to have some fun with friends or if you are walking with a stroller you would pick the 5 mile Party Wave.

If interested, contact me, Julie McDonald, [juzy@gci.net](mailto:juzy@gci.net), 907-240-3688 for more information.

You can register online, after April 15, at [www.akrfw.org](http://www.akrfw.org) & click on "Register". \*Be sure to indicate The Great Northern Brewers Club Brewbies under the team selection.

\*I debated purchasing team t-shirts but they are just not cost effective for a small quantity and I'd rather that our \$\$ go to registration donation rather than a shirt. We have made shirts in the past and I still have 2 old club logo iron ons from past teams, I've also ordered 6 new ones that I hope are of better quality, if anyone wants them. They will be \$5 a piece, unless we get reimbursed by the club for them. You can make your own or just pick a black T-shirt for race day. Please remember that if you choose a hat, choose any color other than pink, unless you are a survivor. Pink hats are reserved for survivors in the race.

**YOUR ENTRY FEE IS A DONATION!**

Your Entry Fee is a donation only. In order to include all women regardless of economic circumstances, there is no set registration fee. There are also no participant processing fees, so more of your donation can continue to be used to help all women and men in the fight against breast cancer. We encourage you to consider a donation at any level to help in the fight against this disease. The recommended registration donation is \$25

For anyone that cannot run/walk but would like to volunteer, here is the link to volunteer sign up: <https://www.akrfwregistration.org/volunteer.php>

Please check out the race website, especially the race day information. It has info for shuttles and other things you may want to know.



## Sud's Corner

*John J. Craig*

Let's celebrate a new Alaskan summer. BEER, BEER, BEER, life is beer, it's in my veins and two pints a day keeps me going. Thank God for the beer gods up in Sud's Heaven. BEER I'AM. The exploring of beers in one's lifetime, with over 5,000 breweries in the world, each brewery makes 4 different beers. That's over 20,000 different beers, how many can a person do in a lifetime? And the breweries keep growing. Life is beer.

Anyhow, in my older retirement years my new project in life is to build a Sud's Beer Camp for people who like to drink beer in the woods. I have a 35 acre place at Grizzly Bear Campground, with trails running across the property. Kegger Trail, Moose Snort Trail, Sud's Trail, Beer-Ass Trail, Growler Trail goes to Growler Creek with old beaver ponds. It's a nice place to go, to get out of Anchorage, and Talkeetna is close by.

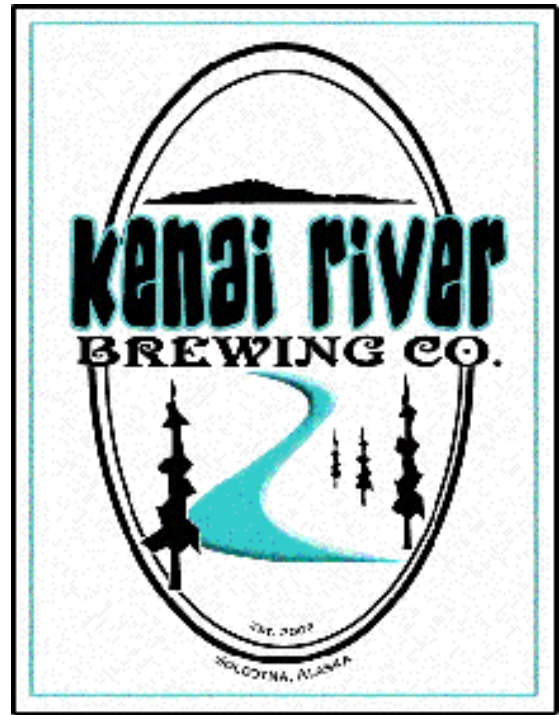
Anyhow, Rose and I could use some help over 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, cleaning out the trails of winter wind downfall in the woods. Chainsaws welcome, free firewood, ATVs welcome, we have some tent pads, some fire pits.

We would like to invite our club members to join us over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

Beer and food welcome. Pets under control, please. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.  
SUD'S

We are located at mile 3 of the Talkeetna Spur Road. Yoder Road, go straight six miles, top of Yoder Hill turn right, south. Southfork Road. Go 1 ¼ mile, that's our cabin... Moose Snort.

John & Rose



## Brew Haulin’

*by Mike Fisher*

As connoisseurs of fine beers, many of us pack extra luggage to haul beer home from our work trips and vacations. Likewise, many of us have probably brought homebrew and special Alaska beers to share with our out-of-state friends. Having recently done two trips, and with the summer travel season upon us, I thought I’d share two methods that I’ve used successfully to transport my beers in checked luggage.

On a recent trip to San Diego, I brought back 12 bottles (from 12oz to 22oz) and 3 or 4 cans in roller luggage. The rigid structure is a must to protect the precious cargo inside. (I’m still saving up for a Pelican cooler, with individual slots in a foam insert, if such a thing exists outside of my dreams.) Since I had planned ahead to bring home a lot of beers, I dedicated the luggage to the task. In groups of three, I wrapped the bottles with bubble wrap and then bagged them. In what I think was a bit of a genius move, I used Diaper Genie refills. For non-parents, these are plastic bag tubes that you tie on one end, fill up with diapers, and then tie off to dispose. The versatility comes from the ability to choose the bag length you need, plus you know they’re good at catching liquids and odors if a bottle breaks. I bundled all of the beers this way, put them in a large mesh bag (like the ones you can find for holding athletic equipment), and used the internal luggage straps to hold them securely in place.

All of the beers arrived without issue, though TSA did search the bag. What was very odd about the search was that they opened up the mesh bag and pulled out the bottle bundle from the corner farthest away from the mesh bag’s opening for inspection. Is it just a coincidence that the bundle contained a bottle of Prairie Artisan Ales’ BOMB!?

Another technique that I have used very successfully takes some advance planning. Those short 12oz bottles, used by Alaskan and others, fit perfectly in a small cooler I have, which in turn fits perfectly inside my roller luggage. I’ve used the cooler to bring special beers down to an annual get-together with friends, and I always make sure to bottle them in those short bottles. The cooler is designed to hold a six pack with ice, and it’s the perfect size to fit eight of the bottles with two pieces of cardboard woven through to prevent them from touching. I also put some cardboard on top of the bottles to keep them snug.

Bonus method: PETE bottles eliminate worries about glass breaking. I’ve bottled some of my beers for camping, as well as some small-batch sour beers, in these bottles. This also requires some advance planning unless you’re bottling from a keg.

Bonus hint: It helps to bring a luggage scale, especially when you’re planning a major haul! If you get dinged with overweight bag fees, then you probably could have been better off just shipping the bottles.



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

GNBC Web Site: [www.greatnorthernbrewers.org](http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org)



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

**NEXT MEETING: June 16th, 2016  
GNBC BBQ 6:30 PM**