



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

MARCH 2008

The Prez Sez

by Ira Edwards

Well, here I am sitting with an IPA in hand getting ready to ski the Tour of Anchorage. We all know how important Carbo-loading is to endurance athletic events. March is going to be a great month for Home Brewers. It is getting warmer (hopefully not warm enough to melt the snow just yet), the sun is staying above the horizon longer each day (it is actually light when I get to work and when I get home), and all those beers I have been aging in the crawl space are coming into their prime. Since I am busy in the winter with all my Nordic skiing and don't get to brew too often outside of the Spring, Summer and Fall, I am looking forward to revving up my brew schedule to get ready for the busy summer season. Now is the time to make plans. There are Hop Rhizomes to order from Arctic Brewing (or online if they don't stock the variety you want), you have brew related gardening to plan for, there is planning on what you want to drink in the back yard this summer, and what you want to bring with you to the GNBC summer camp out. I am all for spontaneous brew sessions with whatever I have left on-hand, but sometimes you have to make the extra effort and PLAN things a little...Now is the time to start!



The big thing to get ready for this month is prepping your taste buds to judge at the First Round of the National Home Brew Competition in April. We need your taste buds! With a few hundred entries expected in the Northwest Region (that is our region, for the geographically challenged), we will need all the help we can get. We have more BJCP judges in our club than the number of people that even showed up to judge in the Northwest in the last few year. This is shaping up to take both a Saturday and a Sunday to complete the judging, but as not everyone will be able to make both days, the more volunteers the better. If you have friends that appreciate good beer (the entrants generally only send their best on to Nationals...) invite them along as well. Jason Ditsworth is the judging coordinator, so be sure to contact him with yor info so he can set you up on a judging panel for the event. No need to be a BJCP certified judge, but we will make sure to pair you with experienced judges if you are new to evaluating beers.

The Prez Sez

Secretary's Corner

2008 National Homebrew
Competition First Round
Judging in Anchorage

Fur Rondy Fun

Humpy's Bigfish Award Party

March Educational Meeting:
Nationals Judging: The Plan

Postcard from John Craig

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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

CARL HALL
C_HALL.PND@AUC.COM

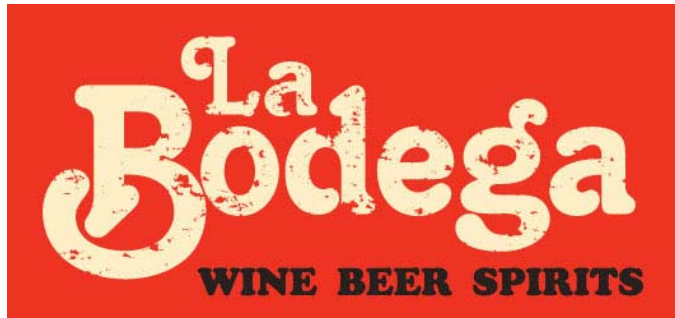
JOHN TRAPP
johnctrapp@hotmail.com

Don Lewellyn
dlewelly@fastenal.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
DEBBIE GRECCO
bushy@alaska.com

During the March meeting, Jason will be giving an educational talk on what to think about and what comment are helpful on a beer/mead/cider score sheets. You can then use that new found talent to come and help judge at the 2008 Snow Goose Breakup Home Brew Competition on Saturday March 22. Entries will be accepted at the Sleeping Lady Brewery on Friday the 21st (First day of SPRING) from noon to 6pm. Judging will start at 10:30am on Saturday, so follow the signs to the judging room, and show up a little early to get signed in and put on a panel. The winning brew will be enjoyed out on the deck in the summer season, so bring out the best you have, and come help judge!

Well, that's it again for this month. I'll see you at the meeting on the 19th! Enjoy your Beers, Meads, and Ciders responsibly this month and remember to stay safe out there.



Secretary's Corner

by Dena Sessler

Hello GNBCers. The club met on February 19th in the basement of the Snow Goose and the following things were discussed. Fur Rondy was a success with 60 entries. This year's competition was a difficult one, as there were so many fabulous beers! The Best of Show winners were Rory Petrik with a Belgian Tripel and Dennis Urban with his Cabernet Sauvignon and Basswood Honey Pyment. Congratulations to them both and all those who won ribbons!

The Snow Goose Break-up competition will be on the 22nd of March with entries being taken at the Goose on Friday the 21st of March. Good luck to all of you who enter! The beer trip to Kenai will be from the 28th-30th of March. The bus plans to leave Anchorage around 12:00 noon on Friday. There is still room for anyone that still wants to attend. Get a hold of Keri Canepa for reservations and details.

There will be a fall competition in lieu of the State Fair competition, sometime in late August. Ken and Shaunna Pajak have generously offered to host the judging at Café Amsterdam. Volunteers to organize the event are needed so contact Ira Edwards if anyone is interested.

The GNBC will be hosting the first round of Nationals this year. In the past the event has been split between Portland and Seattle over a 2 week period. Last year Seattle only got 12 judges to show up. Of those that showed, the majority were novice judges who had very little experience. Alaska has more BJCP certified judges than the whole Pacific Northwest combined, so we should be able to handle it with ease. Steve Schmitt will be handling all of the ticky details but needs volunteers in every capacity, so if you can help out please contact him. The first round of Nationals anticipates approximately 500 entries from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. The GNBC will be handling the competition over a two day consecutive period, broken up into 2 sessions per day. If you are interested in judging either or both of the days, please contact Jason Dittsworth. He is working on a judging schedule so the sooner the better.

If you are entering, please remember to reserve 4 bottles of beer. You need one for the first round and if you place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, will need an additional 3 bottles for the second round.



A friend and fellow brewer Rodger Bowman passed away on Sunday the 17th of February from Mesothelioma. He was from Australia and will be laid to rest there. Let us all bow our heads and raise a pint in remembrance to him.

The education portion of our meeting was a talk given by Ira Edwards on Lambics. He and Chris Anderson started the project 5 years ago. They ordered a bunch of lambics from thebelgianshop.com and cultivated the active yeast. The Belgian Shop offers a lot of beers that you can't get here in the states and are unpasteurized and as fresh as you can get them. They also purchased all the commercial yeast they could find here and made a big slurry. Ira and Chris accomplished brewing 150 gallons in one long day. And you thought that your brew day was long! Now they are reaping the benefits of all their labors with some award winning beers. Ira brought in a Geuze, which placed 2nd at Nationals, a Kreik, Framboise, and Cassis. He also brought to share some strawberry, apricot, peach, and a Muscat grape lambics. Jason said that what we were drinking were world class lambics and I must concur.....they were phenomenal! Way to go Ira and Chris.

That's it for this month. See you all at the next club meeting on the 18th of March.

EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

07.....*First Taste at McGinley's: 5:00 PM*

15.....*Cafe Amsterdam: MSBC Firkin Saturday: Obliteration II: 6:00 PM*

18.....*GNBC Club Meetig at the Snow Goose 7:00 PM*

19.....*Snow Goose Breakup Homebrew Competition Entries Accepted 12:00 PM*

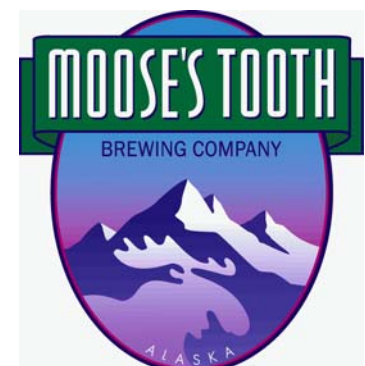
22.....*Snow Goose Breakup Homebrew Competition Judging 10:30 AM*

22.....*Cafe Amsterdam: Mead-A-Mania: Celestial Meads Tasting: 6:00 PM*

28.....*Planet Beer Mars Release At Midnight Sun Brewing: 6:00 PM*

12.....*National Homebrew Competition Homebrew Competition Judging at the Goose: 10:00 - ??*

13.....*National Homebrew Competition Homebrew Competition Judging at the Goose: 10:00 - ?*



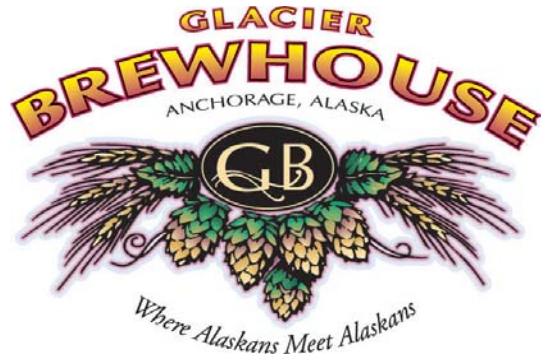
2008 National Homebrew Competition

Yeah – it's time for Schmitt's monthly rant again....

So, we're getting closer to the actual judging event. Remember that we will be hosting and judging the 1st round of the National Homebrew Competition, the NW Regional, in Anchorage, on April 12th and 13th (Saturday and Sunday) at the Snowgoose as usual. We will begin at 10am each day and continue till we're done. We expect approximately 500 entries so we need anyone and everyone interested in judging to help out – the best way to increase your beer knowledge is through judging at these events. Also – if anyone is interested in helping organize the event or assisting as a steward during the judging let me know.

You may refer to previous newsletters (January & February) for additional information regarding the actual judging – I want to discuss entries this month.

Entries may be dropped of at the Snowgoose beginning March 31st through April 11th. A couple of things to note here: entries will be accepted during normal business hours at the Goose – my advice would be to check ahead and make sure they're open before heading down there on Sunday or Monday because they may (or probably) will be closed. More importantly – don't expect anyone at the Goose to help you with your entries – they are simply going to accept the bottle. For information regarding entering refer to the AHA website (www.beertown.org) or Zymurgy Magazine. EXPLICIT instructions for entry are available on the web site. This year they will only



Fur Rondy 2008

by Dennis Sessler

Iwant to take the time to thank everybody who entered the 2008 Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition. We had a total of 60 beer, mead and cider entries, a little light this year, some of the heavy hitters seemed to have sat this one out. Awards were presented at the February meeting, if you didn't come and pick up your evaluations there are at Arctic Brew Supply. Congratulations to Rory Petrik, his Belgian Trippel won Best of Show Beer. Dennis Urban took home the Best of Show Mead/Cider with a Basswood/Cabernet Sauvignon Pymment. The winners list is posted on the club website under competitions, as well as the BOTY point standings. Special thanks go out to Breck Tostevin for being my head judge, and Tracey Lewellyn and Carl Hall for graciously taking care of all the stewarding responsibilities. Another round of thanks goes out to all who judged both individual flight and the tough Best of Show round. Until next year brew on!!!!!!

Fur Rondy Fun

by *Jim Roberts*

February was a big month for me because I celebrated my 50th Birthday on the 23rd. I was graciously hosted by Café Amsterdam and many GNBCr's who "got wind" of the gig and showed up to celebrate. I didn't want to advertise the gig, but everyone else did, which is okay. If you read the Press or The Celebrator Beer News, this is old news, but it was a great time. Midnight Sun's firkin release of RondyBrew coincided with my birthday and I was honored to get to bang in a tap into a firkin of the cask conditioned goods. Thank you to Café Amsterdam, Midnight Sun Brewing Company and all of my homebrewing friends that made this a memorable evening. Amazingly, I kept my shirt on, unlike other events.

All of this was a big pre-loading event for the Sunday, February 24th Running of the Reindeer event with the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous festival. I'd booked my spot well in advance and made a rare appearance as Dr. Fermento. It was great fun. Things got started when we showed up at Platinum Jaxx to sign in and get our T-shirts and placards for the run. The place was jammed to capacity and if not for a caring Fermento fan, I wouldn't have enjoyed a beer there. He bought one and shoved it in my hand. I drank the beer, but quickly ducked out to head to Humpy's for a more homey preload. At Humpy's I ran into a much more familiar crowd and shared a number of pints in anticipation of what was to come.

The start of the run was over at 4th and G Streets and by the time I elbowed my way into the raging crowd, it was out of control. Anyone who's watched the news since the event already realizes that this was a re-defining event for our struggling annual Rondy that needed a shot in the arm (or a pint in the hand) to invigorate a lackluster festival.

I've long since heaped accolades on the younger management of Rondy that had the foresight to commission Midnight Sun Brewing Company to build an official Rondy beer and add some younger generation events like the Running with the Reindeer. I drank a lot of RondyBrew that day!

No one quite knew what to expect while milling about and dancing in the cold/warm 30 degree weather. It could have been worse. Thanks to Dennis and Lisa Urban and their bestowment upon me of a wearable six-pack, I came well armed to wait things out. My waist-suspended six pack was quickly depleted, but I still had a beer in hand when things started to get underway.

While waiting, much to my surprise, I discovered the Busse's, also in costume, waiting to run. More surprising still is the fact that both Gary and I share the same birthday and he was there to celebrate as well. Also in the mix where Barb Miller and Mark Staples and their band of renegades from a soccer team that decided to run at the last minute. I'm sure there were more of us, but GNBCr's quickly got lost in the seething mass of 1,000 runners and thousands and thousands of spectators. This event made plenty of national and local news, so I won't bore you with the details of the actual run. After the event, it was back over to Humpy's for a couple of more pints before calling it a very successful birthday weekend.

My idea is that next year, the Club should enter the event with a decidedly beer theme and capture the hearts and livers of everyone involved. If anyone can think of a great beer theme, contact the club and share your ideas or email me directly at jroberts@peakalaska.com.

MEETING SETUP

A - J Setup
K - P Cleanup
R - Z Food

A - J Cleanup
K - P Food
R - Z Setup

A - J Food
K - P Setup
R - Z Cleanup





Humpy's Big Fish Awards Party

By Jason Ditsworth

If you've been wondering why we haven't had the Humpy's Big Fish Awards Party yet, you're not alone. However, there are several good reasons, the first being that the beer isn't quite ready yet. With that said the date has been set and the beer winning beer will be available for sampling. In case you have forgotten the winning beer was a Belgian Triple brewed by Flash Lubitsh-White. I'm sure the guys at Midnight Sun Brewing Company have created a spot on replica of the beer knowing their past prowess in doing just that on several other great homebrews. So please join me and all the other entrants for the party on Monday March 24th at Humpy's starting at 7:00 PM. If you were a winner in the competition please try to attend to receive your medals and/or prizes. If you can't attend please find someone that is attending that can grab your winnings.



New Mexico, West Texas, and Arizona are the playground of the "Chaparral" (Paisano) commonly known as the "Roadrunner." The clown of the desert has such a dominate personality they soon capture the love and amazement of everyone.



Nuevo Méjico, Oeste de Tejas y Arizona es el jardín del "Chaparral" conocido mas bien como el "Paisano." ¡El Payaso del desierto un personalidad tan dominante que pronto captura el amor y asombro de todos!

'WILD ONE' ROADRUNNER CHILI
 ROSE & I ARE ENJOYING THE
 WEATHER. NO SNOW OR ICE
 CAN WALK LIKE A HUMAN -
 9 A.M. 47° SURE FEELS GOOD
 PEOPLE STILL DRINK COWBOY BREW
 AT THE LOCAL WATERING HOLE -
 KEEPS THE HORSES HAPPY. 😊
 THE HOT SPRINGS FEELS GOOD
 ON A FULL MOON NIGHT, AS I
 HOWL LATE INTO THE RIO GRAND
 WISH YOU A HAPPY FULL RONDY
 ENJOY JOHN & ROSE

Jim ROBERTS & DEB
 7635 HENNINGAS WAY
 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
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DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE



SOUTHWEST COWPOKE CHILI

6 Jalapeños, chopped	2 lbs. Lean Beef	Saute Jalapeños, Beef, Onions, Garlic until meat loses red color. Add remaining ingredients and ¼ cup water. Bring to boiling, reduce heat, and simmer, covered until you've finished a case of Beer. Prepare Roadrunners — let chili cool and feed to the Roadrunners. Lean back, take it easy and enjoy the rest of the Beer.
2 Lg. Onions, chopped	1 Tsp. Cumin Seed	
1 Clove Garlic, chopped	1 Tsp. Oregano	
1 Tomato Sauce (8oz)	4 Cases Cold Beer	
Salt + Pepper to taste	2 Lg. Roadrunners	





Caro Ketcherside 99

March Meeting Educational Topic

By Jason Ditsworth

Unless you've been living under a rock... you should already know that the GNBC is hosting the Northwest Region National Homebrew Competition on April 12 and 13. See Steve Schmitt's numerous past articles, rants, and postings.

To get ready for the judging we'll be covering beer judging as the educational topic at the March meeting. If you find yourself saying why is judging an educational topic? Well the answer is pretty simple, the best way to go from making okay beer to making great beer is to understand how to evaluate and fix what you are doing wrong. This is exactly what we strive to do when judging beers at our competitions. Topics that will be covered include:

- 1) A summary of how this competition will be different than our other competitions
- 2) A brief history of how we have earned the honor of running this competition (and why it's a little extra important that we do a good job)
- 3) An overview of the BJCP style guidelines
- 4) An overview of the BJCP score sheets and suggestions for "practicing"- have you ever in your life heard of such an easy homework assignment?
- 5) An overview of what you should and should not write on the score sheets
- 6) Maybe we'll even judge a beer as a group?

I hope all of you that plan to judge on April 12 and/or 13 can make it to the March meeting. If you want to judge and haven't signed up yet please send me an email at ditsworth@greatnorthernbrewers.org. Please include with your message what day(s) you can judge and whether you prefer to judge the morning session (10:00 AM) or the afternoon session (1:30 or 2:00 PM), OR both. If you plan to judge and you also plan to enter the competition please let me know what categories you will be entering. I need this information to setup the judging panels.



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: March 18th, 2008
7:00 PM at the Goose**