



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
NOVEMBER 2016

The Prez Sez

by *Kevin Sobolesky*

Howdy Brewers,

We seem to be settling in for a proper winter for once in quite a while. The silver lining to my roommate having to work on his car for two weeks in the garage meant that when the snow flew, I had a cleared out space to swap my tires. This also means my garage is free to setup my brew gear. It's about time for my annual batch of my Seasonal Affective Disorder Belgian dark strong ale. Best to have it ready to drink before it gets really dark, right?

The Anchor Town Invitational Competition has concluded. We had a smaller number of entries this year and a good turnout of judges, so we managed to get to the Best of Show (BOS) round by early afternoon. Mike Cragen took home the most Homebrewer of the Year (HBOTY) points by far (40), but Ted Rosenzweig took BOS with his Grapefruit Sour Wheat. We're eagerly awaiting the word from our generous host Brewery, King Street, on which of the BOS beers they will decide to produce. Until then, congrats to our winners, thanks to the judges, stewards, brewers, hosts, and especially Mike Fisher for running the event. If you would like to pick up your leftover entries, we will have them at the November meeting.

If you missed out on Anchor Town, don't worry. The annual Humpy's Big FishH Competition is coming up on December 3rd. So, get your year end beers ready. Note that this is the annual GNBC competition for Meads and Ciders. We still have time to brew up some nice libations for the event. Don't forget to come and helpjudge. These homebrew competitions are super fun and educational, and Bigfish tends to be one of the biggest competitions of the year.

December 10th is the annual GNBC Christmas Party at the Zoo. This year's theme is "Night at the Movies." Dress up as your favorite actor, character, director, or bucket of popcorn and be prepared for fun (or else)!

The nominations for elections are in and the following will be on the ballot at the November Meeting. If you are interested in nominating yourself, please email me at president@greatnorthernbrewers.org

The Prez Sez

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Movie Night

2016 Humpy's Big Fish
Homebrew Competition

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Winter Warmer will be the theme of the next meeting, so bring those Old Ales, Spiced dark beers, Imperial Stouts, to the basement of the 49th State Brewing co at 7p.m. on November 15th.

Cheers,
Kevin "The Legend" Sobolesky



Secretary's Corner

by Jim O'Toole

If you read my last submission to this newsletter you know that I was in Portugal and had another month of travel in Europe before I got home.

I'm not going to go through that final month here; I'll be doing a slide show and commentary on what I saw and learned while I was over there, and will try to focus on what I discovered about the changes in the European beer culture everywhere I went.

But when I got the message from the Prez regarding the deadline for newsletter submissions I realized that I hadn't done much in the way of preparing for it.

What I've been doing since I got home is all the winter preparation stuff that I should have been doing before everything froze up. This includes things like digging up and canning 24 pints of carrots, digging up beets and hoping that they aren't so frozen that they're going to be worthless, putting the lawnmower away after running it over the lawn one last time in order to mulch the birch leaves that were covering it, getting the snowblower out and ready, and then spending a couple of days trying to figure out why it's leaking oil. The nearly 100 pounds of apples off of the trees are still in baskets in the garage and I hope I can get some good use out of them too.

I normally enjoy doing all of this stuff but the crazy hectic pace while trying to beat the freeze reminded me that several people told me that I missed some really nice weather here; weather that would have been nice to work outside in.

Another thing I missed was one of my favorite beer events; Bodegafest. I heard that there were several competing events on the same day and that the crowds were not as thick in the Bodegafest tent as in the past, so that makes me regret missing it even more. I normally work the festival as a server and try to get the early shift so I can spend a couple of hours burning through as many beers as possible with beers I've never tried before a priority. A couple of years ago, Dr, Fermento's son was there and he and I kept running into each other and shared tips on where the best beers were being served. Networking works, man.

I did get to take part in a couple of festivals in Europe though; one in Guadalajara, Spain and one in Barcelona. I will say more about this stuff when I do the presentation at the November GNBC meeting, but I can say that Guadalajara is full of people who like to have a good time and they have a bullring with real bullfights where the guys who sell beer in the stands wear Homer Simpson tee shirts. Barcelona has a mind blowing craft beer thing going on.

I hope to see you at the November meeting. Bring your favorite beers and a donation or two for the raffle.

GNBC Calendar 2016-17

GNBC November Meeting
49th State Brewing
Tuesday November 15, 2016, 7 p.m.

Setup by those of us whose last names begin with A-J
Food provided by those of us whose last names begin with K-P
Cleanup by those of us whose last names begin with R-Z

Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Comp
Saturday December 3, 2016 10 a.m. at Bootleggers
Saturday November 26, 2016 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. drop of at Arctic Brewing Supply
HBOTY point for 8. Dark European Lager, 18. Pale American Ale, 22. Strong American Ale, 24. Belgian Ale, 29. Fruit, *Side Challenge* Chocolate

GNBC Christmas Party
Saturday December 10, 2016
Alaska Zoo
Come dressed as your favorite, or least favorite, movie character

GNBC/ABG "Meeting"
49th State Brewing Company Theater
Details Forming – Stay Tuned!
January 17 2017

EVENTS

Every First Thursday
Moose's Tooth First Tap

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



GNBC “Movie Night” Christmas Party

by Peter Hall

The GNBC has been welcomed back to the Alaska Zoo Gateway complex for our annual Christmas Party. Of course we are paying for the privilege, but they always seem happy to hear from me when I make the call to book again.

This will be a night at the movies for the club. Come as whatever movie character, director, set piece, you wish: get as inventive as you like. Ideally your costume isn't so obscure that even after explaining nobody gets it, but have some fun.

I haven't booked a band yet. I've made a contact or two, but would still be happy to hear of any leads or suggestions.

I hope to see you all at the Alaska Zoo Gateway Complex at 4731 O'Malley Rd at 7:30 p.m. on December 10. The GNBC will provide some food, a jockey box with one beer already plugged in and plenty of CO2, service ware, and some decorations. You can show up with a smile and whatever you want to share.

Any questions/comments/suggestions? Contact Peter Hall at alaskabrewer@gmail.com



2016 Humpy's Big Fish Competition

by Peter Hall

The Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition stands out as one of the highest profile homebrew competitions in the state and is one of our biggest

Midnight Sun Brewing Company has graciously offered brew this year's grand prize winning beer, within reason. Commercial brewery constraints help us temper what goes forward for brewing. What this means, for example, is that if the Competition winner is a five year old, oak aged, smoked gruit, it might be too logistically complicated for Midnight Sun to brew.

Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse is once again hosting the GNBC and the competition at the Bootleggers Bar that's connected to the alehouse but separate.

The judging will take place on December 3. Tasting will begin promptly at 10 a.m., at Bootleggers Bar located at 612 F St in downtown Anchorage, next to Humpy's.

The Christmas Party had been miraculously scheduled for one week later, so hopefully Big Fish judging won't be as impacted as years past when it was scheduled for the day after our notorious gig.

I really need high turnout from qualified judges. Please plan on doing your part to help out with judging and please plan to be there until at least 2 in the afternoon. The final best of show round will need to be done no later than 3 p.m. I know that I am asking a lot here. All are welcome to help judge, even if you've never judged before.

Don't fear if you are new to this; you will be paired with other qualified judges that will walk you through the whole thing in a casual, non-threatening, and learning-oriented atmosphere. If there is a competition to become acquainted with professionally judging beer, this is one of the best.

Entries will be accepted Saturday November 26th at Arctic Brewing Supply from 11a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is no entry fee for GNBC members, and all 2015 BJCP categories are open for entry. I'm sure if you're in the running for Home Brewer of The Year (HOBTY), you're already probably preparing for this comp. For the rest (and it really is still wide open, it is possible - but unlikely - that you can win HOBTY with a well-executed side challenge beer) categories include 2015 BJCP categories; 8. Dark European Lager, 18. Pale American Ale, 22. Strong American Ale, 24. Belgian Ale, 29. Fruit, *Side Challenge* Chocolate

Contact Peter Hall at alaskabrewer@gmail.com with any questions.



Membership Renewals

by Kat Karabelnikoff

It's time to renew your GNBC membership. If you haven't done this yet, now is the time. You want to have your GNBC member card before the big January Meeting!

We are already in our new member year, but a fresh reminder is worth sending out.

The cost for membership is \$30.00 annually per household (don't forget to include your spouse's name so they can have their own membership card and get the benefits too.) or \$350 for a lifetime membership.

You can renew your annual membership online on our website <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html> with a credit or debit card or send a Check or Money Order (made payable to Great Northern Brewers Club) to:

GNBC Membership Coordinator
c/o Kat Karabelnikoff
9601 COPPER DRIVE
Anchorage, AK 99507

If renewing online or via mail please don't forget to include your name (and spouse's too if applicable), Full Street Address (street, city, and zip code), Phone Number, and Email.

You can contact me Kat Karabelnikoff at membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org if you have any questions.

I look forward to seeing all the familiar and new faces at the November 15th Meeting!

Cheers,
Kat K (and Peter H)

P.S. Volunteer to be part of the GNBC Leadership! Prez, Vice Prez, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board positions are all up for grabs.

Anchor Town Homebrew Competition 2016 Recap

by *Mike Fisher*

On a bright, sunny day, much like that of last year's competition, judges gathered in the upstairs tasting room of King Street Brewing Company to judge this year's Anchor Town field of 38 beers across the BJCP style spectrum.

This year's Best of Show (BOS) came from **Ted Rosenzweig** with an amazing **Grapefruit Sour Wheat**, entered in the American Wild Ale, Wild Specialty Beer category. Ted's beer emerged the winner after two hours of deliberations among the BOS panelists as they sat down to choose a winner from 22 impressive beers. The BOS round included the beers earning gold in each category, plus an extra one that the judges argued was so good that they didn't think it should be left out. The 2015 guidelines have increased the number of styles by nearly 50% over 2008, which led to the large BOS round.

Brewer	Awards
Alec Venechuk	2 Gold, 2 Silver
Britt Reed	1 Gold
Chelsea Ryerson	1 Gold, 1 Silver
Elisha Logan	1 Silver
Eric Minor	2 Gold
Jacob & Allison Cormier	1 Gold
James Frankford	1 Silver, 1 Bronze
Jay Levell	1 Silver, 2 Bronze
Mike Cragen	6 Gold
Sean O'Dowd	2 Silver
Steven Kunemund	1 Silver
Ted Rosenzweig	7 Gold, 3 Silver
Tyler Merritt	1 Silver

Shane and Dana of King Street participated in the Best of Show round. After a great deal of deliberation and four strong contenders at sundown, they decided on a winner: Alec Venechuk's American Pale Ale. They plan to brew this Brewer's Choice in time for a spring release.

Entries were spread across many styles. The deepest field was American IPA, with five entries, followed by Fruit Beers with three entries. The remaining categories only had 1-2 entries each.

Category	Number of Entries	Category	Number of Entries
IPA	5	Amber Bitter European Beer	2
Fruit Beer	3	German Wheat Beer	1
American Porter and Stout	2	International Lager	1
Brown British Beer	2	Irish Beer	1
Dark British Beer	2	Strong American Ale	1
Pale American Ale	2	Strong Belgian Ale	1
Spiced Beer	2	Strong European Beer	1
Standard American Beer	2	Belgian Ale	1
European Sour Ale	2	Historical Beer	1
Trappist Ale	2	Amber and Brown American Beer	1
American Wild Ale	2	Specialty Beer	1

At the end of the day, we had a lot of amazing beers, judges, hosts. I want to offer a huge thank you, in no particular order, to all the entrants, Pete and Lisa at Arctic Brewing Supply for hosting our collection process, all the judges, and all the folks at King Street for letting us store beers in their fridge and take over their upstairs tasting room for the better part of the day.

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



The *Northern Brewer* welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. You can contact the editor, Debbie Grecco at:

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**NEXT MEETING: Novermbe 15th, 2016
7:00 PM at 49th State Brewery Anchorage**