



THE

# Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

OCTOBER 2007

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## The Prez Sez BABY!

by Steve Schmitt

**I**t's already October and you know what that means – election time. During the October meeting we will open nominations for Officer and Board positions and these nominations will remain open till the November meeting when the vote will take place. If you are interested in getting involved with the inner-workings of the GNBC the best way to do so is sign on the dotted line and become an officer. We are looking to fill three vacant (or soon to be vacant) Board positions and nominations for all officer positions will be open as well. If you cannot attend the November meeting be sure to vote using the absentee ballot which will be in the November newsletter.

Thanks to Keri Canepa for organizing the educational topics and speakers for the GNBC this year. Last month we had a tour of the Snowgoose thanks to Clay and the Greg at the Goose which featured their Double IPA and a Coffee Bock which was stellar. Thanks guys. For the October meeting Keri has Dr. Joe Carson, President of the South Central Bee Keepers Association, coming to talk to the club about bees in Alaska (and other related things). Let me see – bees make honey and honey makes mead – I think I'll bring some.

If you are interested in taking the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) class let me know ASAP. We typically hold this class every other year and since we held the exam earlier this spring we don't plan to do it again till November of 2008. However, if there is sufficient interest we may hold a session this year – I've had a few people inquire about it so far – but not enough to merit holding the class. Overall we would need 16 to 20 people involved to hold the class since the BJCP has a minimum number of attendees for each exam. Anyway, if you're interested let me know quickly – otherwise we'll talk about this again next year.

Remember to start brewing for the Humpys Big Fish Competition on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the Fur Rondy Competition in February.

The Prez Sez

Secretary' Corner

Please Pay Your Dues

Humpy's 13th Annual Big Fish  
Homebrew Competition

BEER  
IN

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

GNBC WEB SITE:  
WWW.GREATNORTHERNBREWERS.ORG

NEWSLETTER EMAIL  
bushy@alaska.com

PRESIDENT: STEVE SCHMITT  
sschmitt@alaska.com

VICE PRESIDENT: JASON  
DITSWORTH  
gnbcweb@corecom.net

TREASURER: BRECK TOSTEVIN  
keegan@gci.net

SECRETARY: DENA SESSLER  
sessak@mtaonline.net

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHRIS ANDERSON  
crtjand@hotmail.com

IRA EDWARDS  
ira\_j\_e@hotmail.com

DENNIS SESSLER  
sessak@mtaonline.net

SHAWN WENDLING  
cpsw@gci.net

DENNIS URBAN  
dlurban@gci.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
DEBBIE GRECCO  
bushy@alaska.com

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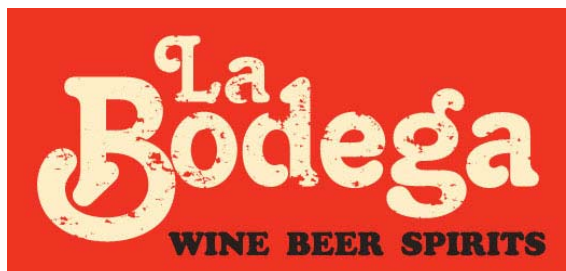
## Secretary's Corner

by Dena Sessler

Hello fellow GNBCer's. September 18th marked the first meeting of the fall, and there was a lot to discuss. The awards ceremony for the Snow Goose break up competition will be held sometime in October due to a hold up on the medals, so Steve Jayich, get your tote bag ready.

Our website, according to our president Steve Schmitt, is where we want it to be. Carl Hall is taking care of the administrating of the site. The club will be sending out an e-mail when the newsletter is available, however, starting in January 2008 everything will be done through the web site. If your dues aren't current, no access! The current month's newsletter will be posted to the site 1-2 months after it is available SO PAY YOUR DUES! Remember that our year runs from September to September. Make sure that you contact Breck Tostevin if you aren't currently receiving e-mails.

This year the GNBC didn't participate in the State Fair. Information as to why is available on the website. John Trapp did make the trip to Palmer this year to help judge. He said that there were approximately 48 entries, but no style guide lines to judge from, so he had to do it all from memory. Apparently this wasn't an important aspect since most of the judges were from the wine community and all inexperienced beer/mead judges. John said that he had a peach melomel, which took Best of Show Mead and ciders, and one of the individuals was allergic, so he was advised to just smell it and judge it. There were no feed back sheets sent to entrants with their ribbons. I bet John really wanted to know there opinion on how it smelt. All in all it seemed like chaos. The club has organized this event for the past 10 years, and still our terms remain a no go with the State Fair. We are staying firm, judging and driving from Palmer just isn't cool. The club is looking at having our own competition in the fall. More information will follow as things develop.





On September 30, 2007, at 5:00 pm, Ken & Shaunna Pajak will be hosting a toast to Michael Jackson at Café Amsterdam. By the time this newsletter is available the event will have already taken place. Thank you to all that came out to show support for a great man and a great cause!

Don't forget about club elections. Nominations will be taken starting at our October meeting. All positions are open including 3 board positions.

On December 1st, Humpy's Big Fish competition will be held at Subzero. All categories are open. This year, the entry form will ask you if medals or beer money is preferred so the awards ceremony goes smooth. There will still be plenty of shirts, hats, glasses, etc for the winners. Midnight Sun brewing will be brewing the Best-of-Show beer, and Celestial Meadery will be handling the Best of Show mead. Entries will be taken at Arctic Brewing Supply during normal business hour on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. If you can't drop off during normal business hours or if you would like to help out with the competition please contact Jason Dittsworth. Now for the side challenge.....this year the style is Imperial Beers. You can brew an Imperial Stout or IPA, but you will be mocked! The award this year for first place is "The Golden Garden Gnome" so get creative.

The Beer Judge Certification Course is being offered every other year starting in November, and the exam is in March. There is no class being offered this year unless there is a lot of interest, so if you are interested, contact Steve Schmitt or Jason Dittsworth.



# EVENTS

Every First Thursday  
*Moose's Tooth First Tap*

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

05.....*First Taste at McGinley's Irish Pub  
5 - 9 P.M.*

08.....*Mead Competition at  
Celestial Meadery*

15.....*Scandinavian Beer Tasting at Tap  
Root Cafe 7 - 9 P.M.*

16.....*GNBC Club Meeting at the Goose  
7:00 PM*

TBA.....*La La Wine Tasting with La Bodega  
& La Bete Winery*

20.....*GNBC Club Meeting at the Goose  
7:00 PM*

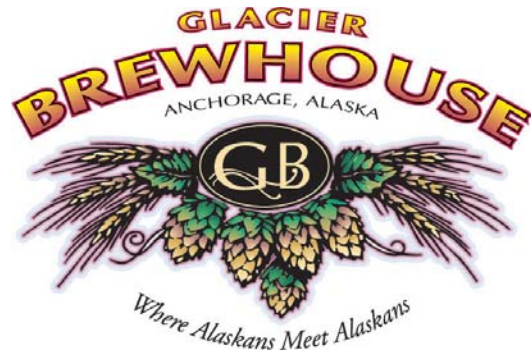
01.....*Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew  
Competition*

08.....*GNBC Christmas Party*

## CAFE



## AMSTERDAM



The golf tournament was a huge success. There were approximately 133 players who participated and there was enough money made to donate \$5,000.00 to Challenge Alaska and add to the club's account. Please make sure to give a huge thank you Debbie Roberts for organizing the event, who by the way isn't a golfer or beer drinker! Thank you Debbie!!! Next year the event will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 and combined again with Humpy's, so there will be a need for more volunteers and players.

Mark your calendars for December 8<sup>th</sup> 2007. It is the date of our Christmas party which will be held at the Snow Goose. The format will be a potluck again and the theme is beer.

March 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 will be a bus tour to South East. The plan is to leave about 12:00 noon on Friday and return around 6:00pm on Sunday, with an overnight in Homer. Kerri Canepa is organizing the trip and will keep us posted as she finds out more.

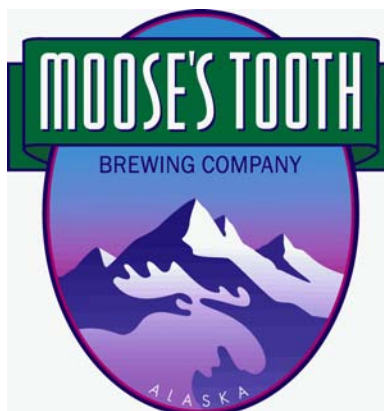
April 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 is the date for the Snow Goose break up competition and the year for another project homebrew. There is a rumor that the GNBC will be asked to judge the first round of National's for the Pacific Northwest, so if that happens, project homebrew will take a back burner.

This year Pat Ryan will be organizing the rebirth of the beloved house crawl. The date is set for May 24<sup>th</sup> 2008, so clear your calendar and prepare your liver!

June 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> is the annual camp out. It will take place this year at Trail River, located just north of Seward.

October 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 is the date for the first ever all mead competition held at Celestial Meadery. Mike Kiker will keep us posted on the details.

The evening ended with a behind the scenes brewery tour at the Snow Goose and question and answer session presented by Clay Brackley. We all know about the brewery, but it was a great opportunity to talk with Clay and Greg at lengths. What a couple of great guys and incredible brewers! They had a Double IPA and an Espresso Bock on tap for us all to try. My favorite by far was the Espresso Bock, a German style lager made with 6lbs of Kaladi Brothers Red Goat Coffee. If you weren't at the meeting I encourage you to go to the Goose for a pint before they run out. What a treat! That's it for last month's meeting. See you all at the next on October 16<sup>th</sup>.







## MEETING SETUP

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

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

## Please Pay Your GNBC Dues

*by Breck Tostevin*  
*Treasurer*

The GNBC fiscal year runs from September to September. So it is time to pay your dues for 2007-2008. Dues are \$25 and pays for club meetings, room rentals, our new improved website and electronic newsletter, educational events, homebrew competitions, the club campout, special events, general beer fun, and the promotion of great beer in Alaska!

You can pay your dues at the October club meeting or mail a check to:

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

Please provide us with an update of your email, address and phone numbers!

We are pleased to have you as part of our Club.

So renew your dues and keep active in the Great Northern Brewers!



# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition (December 1, 2007)

by Jason Ditsworth



That's right folks it's already time to get ready for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition. As many of you already know this competition has long been one of the best prize awarding competitions in Alaska. To quote a fellow home brewer (Mark Ryan) who said "I didn't realize I would need to bring a wheelbarrow to pick up my prizes," this competition is not to be taken lightly. Not only is this a great competition itself, it's also your last chance to rack up points towards GNBC Home Brewer of the Year award (see article in the July newsletter).

The competition this year will once again be on the first weekend in December. Entries will be collected on Friday November 30 at Arctic Brewing Supply and the competition will be on Saturday December 1. If you cannot make it to Arctic Brewing Supply on November 30 you can still enter the competition, so please give me a call to make other arrangements for entering your beer. Please only drop off entries early if you truly have a conflict that you can't work around. If you are entering from outside Anchorage you can ship your beer to Arctic Brewing Supply, 5915 Lake Otis Parkway #3, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 ( do NOT send it through the U.S. Mail). If you are shipping your beer it must be received no later than Friday, November 30.

There is no entry fee for this competition and all categories of beer, mead and cider are open for entry. Entry and judging will be based on the BJCP/AHA style guidelines, which are available at [www.bjcp.org](http://www.bjcp.org). Once again we will choose a best of show beer and a best of show mead. Cider is still not eligible due to timing of the competition and the limited ability to match apple types. The best of show beer will be brewed at Midnight Sun Brewing Company and the best of show mead will be brewed at Celestial Meadery. It is still possible to win best of show in beer or mead, but still not get your beer or mead brewed because of special ingredients or time constraints (e.g., four years ago, Pete Devaris won Best of Show with a Geuze that would have taken three years to replicate).

You must enter three 12- to 14-ounce bottles, preferably brown, clean of any labels and markings along with a recipe. For mead and cider you may enter one 22- to 30-ounce bottle (need two bottles for carbonated entries), or two 12- to 14-ounce bottles. Remember that because the grand prize for this competition is having your beer brewed at MSBC or your mead brewed at Celestial Meadery it is important to provide a reasonably accurate recipe in case the judges want to know the ingredients.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the event please call me at 338-8828 or send an e-mail to [jditsworth@gci.net](mailto:jditsworth@gci.net).



**T**he 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](http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org)



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

**NEXT MEETING: October 16th, 2007 7:00 PM at the Goose**