



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2012

Prez Sez

by *Tim Strayer*

Are you ready? Its time for a whole new year of beer! Yes its time for us to get together and talk beer. The first club meeting of the new year will be Sept 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Snow Goose. Watch your email for details about the first meeting. But lets talk about all of the things of the past month and some of those coming up.



The Anchor Town Invitational was a success thanks to John Trapp and all the club members who provided all of the needed volunteer support. Thank you to King Street Brewing for hosting the event. Congrats to all the winners – be sure to read the article in the newsletter with a full wrap up.

For all of you mead fans out there, don't forget that the Equinox Competition is coming up this month. Don't let this one pass you by! As always with this competition and others, check Facebook for all of the details.

Have you heard about The Valdez Octoberfest? I wont spoil the details of the article within, but I will tell you that there is a homebrew competition that you will not want to miss! Prizes galore!

Christmas is almost here! Well...it will be here much faster than you think. We will have a club Christmas party as we do every year. This years theme is a Hillbilly Christmas! Miles and Dana Pruner have volunteered to organize the event – thank you! We know that you want to have the winning costume for the competition, so we are giving you adequate notice so you can get yourself all of the needed pieces and parts during the Halloween season. Check out the article below for details!

As a reminder its membership time! All you have to do is go to our website and click on "Membership", fill in the fields with your COMPLETE address and get out your credit card. Its still only \$25.00!

There you have it...all business, short and sweet; but get your beers a brewing for the first meeting. I look forward to sampling all of your fine brews!

Flame out,
Prez Tim

The Prez Sez

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Homebrew Throwdown

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Secretary's Corner

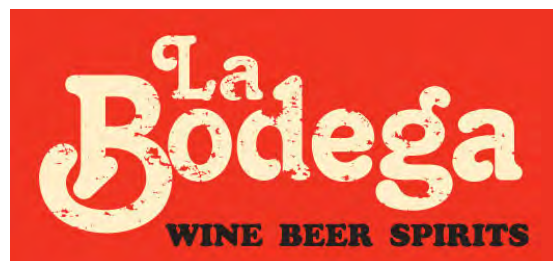
by Julie McDonald

Another summer month is done. I don't really have that much to share about August. There are some upcoming events that we can touch on here, but for the most part this is going to be a pretty lean Secretary's Corner.

· Ira Edwards hosted the club's August BBO on the 11th. Tim and I were not in attendance, but it seems (through Facebook posts and pix) that everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks, Ira!

· John Trapp headed up the Anchor Town Invitational Home Brew Competition (for the last time). King Street Brewery chose a Belgian witbier, the category winner for Belgian and French Ale in the Anchor Town Homebrew Comp, to brew as their pro-am beer. Congratulations to homebrewers Lee and John Boyd and their Belgian Witbier! On another note about this competition, as I mentioned this is John's last year coordinating this event. We are looking for a new coordinator. If you are interested please contact the Prez or John or any one of the board members.

· The next indoor/Snowgoose GNBC Club meeting is slated for September 18, 2012, at 7 pm. You can keep up with any agenda updates on our Facebook events page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/330051663751381/>



· September meeting member duties are as follows. Last name, beginning with:

A-J Food

K-P Setup (arrive at about 6:30-6:45)

R-Z Cleanup

If anyone has ideas for educational segments for upcoming meetings, feel free to post your thoughts on our FB page or email them to me at juzy@gci.net and I will pass them on to the board.

· The 5th Annual Alaska Meadery Equinox Comp (formerly known as the Celestial Meadery Equinox Comp) is being held September 29. More info here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/314998131926029/>

Don't forget to renew memberships!!!! They expire at the end of September! Hurry, don't lose out on your membership benefits! It just take 3 minutes online, click on the link below, fill in the four (4) fields, and get out your credit card or use your PayPal account. Its still only \$25.00! I just did mine, I paid thru PayPal and I'm pretty sure it took me less than 1 minute! <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html> For those of you that are not able to attend meetings or don't live in Anchorage, your "donation" to the club is still much appreciated. Remember that our dues help to pay for facility rental, medals/awards for competitions, membership cards, shipping costs, annual January meeting expenses, and much more. None of that would be possible without our membership dues. New this year is the membership card design. It emphasizes our first names so that when placed in our lanyards, and worn at club meetings, we can all "remember" each others' names. For those of you that don't have a lanyard as of yet, they will be available at the next club meeting - Sept 18 at the Goose!

· For all of you who are planning to enter a beer into the Humpy's Big Fish comp side challenge in December. Here is a bit of a description of this year's side challenge:

The Definitive Style Guideline for HAC (High Alcohol Content)

2012 Big Fish Side Challenge – The HAC Challenge

Aroma: Subdued malt background, Medium hop aroma, American hop varieties are used in historically correct examples.

Appearance: Pale/Straw to clear in color (certain aficionados of the style refer to quintessential examples as being 'piss-clear'), high carbonation levels

Flavor: Clean malt flavor is evident, no roast or caramel flavors, balance between malt sweetness and hop bitterness, clean dry finish, warming sensation from higher than standard level of alcohol

Mouthfeel: High carbonation, light body, warming from alcohol

Overall Impression: An easy to drink lawnmower style beer, however, consumption prior to actually mowing your lawn may be detrimental to your health due to elevated alcohol levels. Copious amounts of rice syrup solids are used in classic examples of this style to increase alcohol content without increasing mouthfeel. Pedestrian versions of this style typically weigh in at 8% alcohol, stellar examples can approach 12% alcohol. A clean, easy to drink, balanced between malt sweetness and hop bitterness, high alcohol beverage designed for mass consumption without the aid of a safety harness.

EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every First Thursday

Midnight Sun Brewery Tours and

Brew Debut: 6:00 PM 344-1179

15.....*Capitol City Brew Fest (Juneau)*

Juneau Arts and Civic Center

1-5 pm: \$25 pp

18.....*GNBC meeting at the Goose*

7 PM downstairs

21.....*Denali Brewing Company Beer*

Dinner: Twister Creek Restaurant

8 PM: Cost TBD.

22.....*Bodegafest*

Kincaid Park Chalet

2-8 PM: \$25 pp.

22.....*Talkeetna Beer Fest*

2-6 PM: \$35 pp.

28.....*Entries Accepted for the Alaska*

Meadery Equinox Mead/Cider

Competition at Celestial Meads

5:30 - 7:30 PM

29.....*Alaska Meadery Equinox Mead/*

Cider Competition Judging at

Celestial Meads: 10:30 AM - 3 PM

06.....*Great Alaska Beer Train*

Alaska Railroad/Glacier

4-8 pm: \$159 pp.

11.....*Sleeping Lady Brewing Company*

Beer and Wine Dinner

Time/Cost TBD

19.....*Eagle River Boys and Girls Club*

Beer Festival

6:30 PM: \$50 pp.

20/21.....*Mighty Matenuska Beer Fest*

Alaska State Fairgrounds

6-10 pm: \$30 pp.

We are scrapping the idea of a September beer dinner due to no hosts. However, November is fast approaching. If anyone is interested in hosting in November, let me know ASAP. Generally the dinner is planned out and an email announcement is made about a month before the dinner is to take place. If you would like to host a beer dinner or just want more info about them, contact me, Julie, at juzy@gci.net

When receiving a spam email from the club DO NOT REPLY TO THAT EMAIL. It goes into a digital black hole never to be seen again. Please read the email carefully and reply to whoever is requesting information, etc. We always provide a "reply to" email address.

Miscellaneous

TAP (Training for Alcohol Professionals)

Upcoming TAPs classes held at CHARR's Charlie H. Selman Training Center located at 1503 W. 31st Avenue, Suite 101 Anchorage. Remember this is required if you plan to volunteer to steward at any fests or competitions or tastings this year. Here's the latest schedule: 9/7 Friday 9am

9/11 Tuesday 5:30pm

9/13 Thursday 1pm

9/17 Monday 1pm

9/19 Wednesday 5:30pm

9/22 Saturday 11am

9/24 Monday 9am

Renewal certification is available at the CHARR office Monday through Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Renewal testing is also available with proof of previous training following Saturday classes at 2:00pm

2012 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

Fur Rendezvous HBC

- Category 7
- Category 10
- Category 13
- Category 15
- Category 18
- Category 23

Snow Goose HBC

- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 9
- Category 14
- Category 20

Anchor Town HBC

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3
- Category 11
- Category 16
- Category 21

Equinox Mead HBC

- Category 24
- Category 25
- Category 26
- Category 27
- Category 28

Humpy's Big Fish HBC

- Category 8
- Category 12
- Category 17
- Category 19
- Category 22
- Side Challenge





Anchor Town Wrap-Up

by John Trapp

The fifth annual Anchor Town Invitational Home Brew competition has wrapped up and I'm pleased to congratulate Tim and Jen Bisson for winning Best of Show Beers with an American India Pale Ale. On the sweeter side of things, I took Best of Show Meads and Ciders with an Open Category Mead. There were a total of 39 entries that span across 21 categories. The judging took place at King Street Brewery on Sunday the 19th, and thank you to the 10 die-hard judges that showed up to help; we were able to finish up judging for the competition in 7 hours.

This was also the very first Pro-Am competition involving King Street Brewery. Shane and Dana sat in on the best of show round and picked 3 different beers that seemed to tickle their fancy. After a week of pondering which beer to brew, they chose the Belgian Wit. Congratulations to Lee and John Boyd for brewing up the tasty Wit Bier that won the first Pro-Am. I haven't heard the schedule yet, but we will try and have it ready for the awards ceremony being held at Café Amsterdam near mid September. The exact date and time will be announced later. And by the way, this was the very first beer Lee and John entered into a competition. Keep up the good work.

Now for the event you've all been waiting for, The Brass Tap Award, which is given to the brewer that **Averages** the highest scores on their judging score sheets. This is a genuine brass tap that is donated from Arctic Brewing Supply. Last year James Barber walked away with it, beating Frank Bell and Brian Noonan by one one-hundredth of a point. This year wasn't quite as exciting. With an average score of 34.5, Tim Bisson beat Steve Jayich by one full point. Congratulations Tim.

I would like to thank everyone involved in making this event roll, Pete and Lisa at Arctic Brewing Supply, Shane and Dana at King Street Brewery, Ken and Shauna Pajak at Café Amsterdam, and all the judges that showed up. Be sure to say thanks to all the supporters when you see them, they deserve praise. Congratulations to all the winners and everyone that entered. I look forward to more great competitions in the years to come.



GNBC Christmas Party

by *Miles and Dana Pruner*

Boy HOWDY! ! We've been busier'n a cat burryin' poop and do we have a shindig planned for this year's GNBC Christmas party! Git ready for a HILLBILLY Christmas, hotter'n a hen on a hot rock! Grab yer barley pops, bring along some vittles, pull yer best hilly britches an dresses outta the mothballs and git ready to shake yer tailfeathers to some bluegrass and beyond! Saturday December 8th! More info on food, time, etc. will be comin' drekkly. Miles and Dana Pruner are musterin' up this "Champaigne Git-together on a Beer Budget" this year, so if you have any questions about anything, give 'em a holler. Also, if you have any music to add to the cause, speak up!



Break out the Checkbook, its Membership Time

by *Dena Sessler*

I know it's hard to believe, but another membership year is fast approaching. It has been an incredible year for the club. Thank you to everyone for their commitment and enthusiasm to the G.N.B.C.!

This is the 4th year the GNBC has issued membership cards to its paid members. With the club data base purged of non paid members I'm proud to announce that we currently have 198 dues paying members. It is so exciting to see new faces and a fresh and renewed enthusiasm within our club!

I will begin to mail out the first wave of card the 1st-2nd week of September 2012. We decided to wait until then to avoid any confusion for the businesses that provide the G.N.B.C. a 10% discount, as the look of the card changes from year to year.

Currently Arctic Brewing supply gives card carrying members a 10% discount on brewing supplies and we also receive a 10% discount at LaBodega, Celestial/ Alaskan Meadery, Diamond Liquor, the Wine House, and a 2-3% discount at Keg Cowboy's (an internet store for keg supplies).

Remember **YOU MUST HAVE A CARD** to receive your discount. I have provided a membership application for your convenience. Just print it out and mail it to the G.N.B.C. membership coordinator at 19049 Eagle River Road Eagle River Alaska 99577. You can also go to the clubs website and use the PayPal option to renew your dues.

There will be two options on membership renewal form, \$25.00 for a one year membership or \$300.00 for a LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP. We currently have 13 life time members. The thought of never having to mess with membership dues again is an inviting proposition.

Renew your dues early to avoid any lapse in your membership card. They expire the 30th of September 2012. Please make sure that I am aware of any changes to your mailing address or email. If there are any changes, please email me at sessak@mtaonline.net so I can make any corrections. Thank you again to all! The members of this club ROCK and it's because of you, that we can boast that it is the greatest club on the planet to be a part of!



G.N.B.C. Membership Application Sept. 2012-Sept. 2013

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year or \$300.00 for a Life Membership, Payable to the **G.N.B.C.** You can either mail your application and check to the G.N.B.C. Membership coordinator at: 19049 Eagle River Road, Eagle River, AK 99577 or use the convenient pay pal option on our web site: greatnorthernbrewers.org.

Dena Sessler
G.N.B.C. Membership Coordinator

(With your membership card you will receive 10% off at The Arctic Brewing Supply on brewing ingredients, The La Bodega liquor store, Celestial Meadery, the Wine House, Diamond liquor and 2-3% off at Keg Cowboy.)

Eagle River Brewfest

By Dennis Sessler

October 19th 2012, mark your calendar. The date is fast approaching for the annual Eagle River Brewfest. The sole purpose of this festival is to raise donations for the Eagle River Boys and Girl Club. I, along with a small group of GNBC members have been attending this quite little beer festival for years, will be attending again. Last year I approached the festival coordinator and asked how I could be of help to make this year's festival a raging success, and eliminate some of her required tasks. Since I'm familiar with everyone in the brewing arena I stepped up to take care of soliciting "donations" from all our local breweries and taking care of the necessary paperwork so the coordinator can obtain all the permits.

Here are all the details that you will need to obtain the coveted tickets to this year's event. The tickets are on sale at the Eagle River Boys and Girls club. There are only 300 tickets available and believe me they will go fast. For the last three years this annual event has sold out weeks before the event. The cost of the ticket is \$50.00. One hundred percent of the money from ticket sales and from the accompanying auction goes to keep the B&G club open for another year. This is their primary source of funding that allows them to keep the doors open to benefit hundreds of local children.

You might ask what the paltry \$50.00 gets you. The event takes place at the Eagle River Lions Club. The Lions Club rents the facility at a reduced price to the Boys and Girls Club for the event and cooks up a buffet style array of foods fit for a king. I'm not privy to this year's menu. If I had asked I'm sure I could have obtained it. Just trust me; you will be treated to items like prime rib, halibut, salmon, and a whole cornucopia of other great foods. You need not worry about eating dinner before arriving at the festival. You will be given a logo-inscribed pint glass upon entry, along with the required tickets. The Lions Club facility is a small building and when all 300 fest goers are present it will be elbow to elbow with locals socializing, dancing and partaking in an auction that will consume the masses.

So here is a list of the attending breweries and meadery.

- Alaskan Brewing Co.
- Midnight Sun Brewing Co.
- Glacier Brewhouse
- Sleeping Lady Brewing Co.
- Moose's Tooth Brewing Co.
- Denali Brewing Co.
- King Street Brewing Co.
- Celestial Meadery



What you will need to do is contact the Boys and Girls Club in Eagle River and secure your tickets. Their address is 11700 Old Glen Hwy. Eagle River. It's the bright blue building right next to Arby's on the main drag in Eagle River. I would call before making the venture out to Eagle River; their phone number is 694-5437. Here's a small list of people that will also be selling tickets and with a phone call said they could meet you in Anchorage to deliver tickets so you won't have to make the drive out to Eagle River.

Beth 980-8636
Tracey 360-6267
Mike 360-0020
Debbie 250-5276

On Friday October 19th the doors at the Lions Club located on Eagle River Rd just west of Walmart, will open at 6:30 pm, I would suggest that you arrive early to get a quick seat and grab a bite to eat. The seating is limited and after eating everyone gets up and starts hitting the attending breweries, sampling their wares, it gets busy. The silent auction is ongoing and towards the end of the evening the live auction will start. It's a fun auction getting all the attendees into the donating mood. Bring your wallets and remember this is a fundraiser. At 9:30 pm they will start corralling all the masses out the doors. You will want to preplan your evening. They will be taxi cab rides available from this location, or better yet plan a ride home from a designated driver. I hope to see you there on October 19th supporting a very worthwhile organization.

Valdez October Fest and Home Brew Competition

by *Colleen Stephens*

The first annual Valdez October Fest and Home Brew Competition promises to be an evening filled with activities to interesting everyone from the brewer to the connoisseur of crafted beers. It will be held October 19.

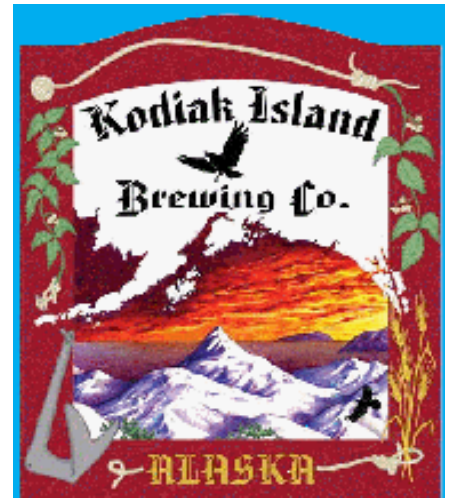
The Home Brew Competition will feature five different judging categories: IPA, German Wheat and Rye Beer, Stouts, American Ale and the final is a Brewers Specialty (an beer that does not necessarily fit into the four main categories).

Complete registrations can be found at: <http://www.valdezalaska.org/events/october-fest-and-home-brew-competition>
There will be over \$5,000.00 in cash and prizes awarded

All participants will have the opportunity to enjoy live music, feast on treats prepared by one of Valdez's favorite restaurants 32 degrees, enjoy beers from Alaska based breweries, and participate in an auction filled with travel and merchandise items.

If you have any questions, give the Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau a call at 907-835-2984 or email Colleen at colleen@stephenscruises.com





Drinking with the Cops?

by Ty Schommer

For 5 years now the Anchorage/Eagle River Area Firefighters and Policemen have had a “homebrew throwdown”. Its an event that has grown over the years and is in need of judges. I have judged it a few times and after you get over the initial weirdness of drinking beer with cops you find that they are a pretty easy going and beer loving bunch. I have coordinated judging in the past; organizing flights, coaching novices on how to judge etc., however this year I can't be there.

The event is October 20th, 6 p.m.
Your direct contact is Sean McMillan at 907-227-9823.
More information will follow on the location.

I can personally attest to the quality and quantity of food that will be there and I can also attest to the ability of a number of their efforts at homebrewing. There will be some swill as they are not GNBC-ers but for the most part there is pretty good quality. This is a great venue to talk beer to interested people outside of the GNBC as well as opportunities to offer guidance for improvement, not to mention the amazing shop talk these guys have. I cant handle too much of the blood and guts (the firefighters relish their stories) but the cops have “stories of stupid” that are hilarious.

I judged this last year with Ted Rosenzweig and his wife and did it previous years with a select group of firefighters/cops. The event has grown as well as the competitiveness so they are trying to get real judges with real palates with real knowledge to judge this each year. I hate that I cant be there myself but if not me then my hope is there are two or three of you that can/want to do this event.

Call me (Ty) if you have any questions about the event history 907-223-5120.

But if you are wanting to join up, contact the organizer Sean McMillan at 907-227-9823



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
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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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GNBC Web Site: www.greatnorthernbrewers.org



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PMB 1204
3705 Arctic Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503**

NEXT MEETING: September 18, 2012: 7 pm at the Snow Goose