



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2013

The Prez Sez

by Peter Hall

I guess you have to pay your dues eventually. We have had a great summer full of warm sunny days. I hope that everyone got their fill because the rains have finally come. It was starting to look a little parched, so I guess that's really not all too bad. Cooler days certainly work out better for brewing for me, anyway.



Also in the vein of dues, we are beginning a new membership year. I'm sure that at least a few of you have already payed up for the new year. For all those who haven't, head over to <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html>. We have a number of ways to get membership cards to everyone. Friendliest to our bank account is if you pay at least a few days before our next meeting then we will be able to just hand them to you there.

Speaking of our next meeting, I'm sure that I will see everyone on September 17th at 7pm in the Snow Goose basement. With the new membership year we have a whole new slew of fun meetings coming up. I am on the constant look out for new informational/exciting speakers to host. Come to the meetings, share a home brewed beverage, and maybe learn or share what you have learned. I'm sure everyone is just chomping at the bit for the year ahead of us.

As usual, we have a number of events ahead of us. We have a membership year and don't have regular meetings in the summer, but things never really slow down. We have at least a few mead makers around that I know will all have something for the Equinox Mead competition. This competition is right around the corner. Check out the article below and break out some of those historically been quite handsome for this competition. Of course Valdez also happens to be a beautiful place that is great to visit. The competition will be held on October 11 and 12. I believe that you will be able to drop your entries off at Arctic Brew Supply if you are unable to make it down to Valdez. I will follow up with more information as it comes available. I send out emails pretty regularly with all sorts of important info, so keep an eye out.

It happens to also be the time of year to begin considering elections. I, of course, am talking about GNBC elections. I'm not all too concerned at the moment with anything

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The Prez Sez

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beyond that. The GNBC greatly relies on the input of the membership. I hope to see a number of individuals with their name in the hat to help on the board and executive positions. There are a few board members that are up for election and so are all of the executives. If you would like to submit your name, shoot me an email and I will make sure you are on the ballot come November.

Send me an email with any kind of questions or concerns you have. You can reach me at president@greatnorthernbrewers.org. I look forward to seeing everyone at our September 17 meeting at 7pm in the Snow Goose basement. Thanks!

Keep your brews hot and beers cold

Prez Peter

Secretary's Corner

by Kat Karabelnikoff

I can admit that yes "fall" and soon to be another choice six letter word that starts with W(inter) is on the way. However I'm not letting that stop the fun to be had. For me it is apple harvesting season and that means Hard Cider making, which I am really looking forward to this year. I think after the amazing summer we had it was ok to wrap it up with a more "normal" rainy Alaska August. I mean really; what is the Alaska State Fair without a little or a lot of rain. Ok, we do have some great fall events and competitions coming up so check out what we have going on as well as realizing we are back to having a regular monthly meeting which is September 17th, 2013. Hope to see you there! Brew On!



Old Business:

Membership Dues:

Dues have increased as of May 1st, 2013:
\$30 for an Annual Membership
\$350 for a Lifetime Membership

Yes, It is September and we are officially back to having a regular monthly meeting so please RENEW your memberships now and you can pick up your new card at the September meeting! Contact Ross our Membership Coordinator at gnbc.membership@gmail.com or go online our website to renew there: <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html>

Rules of Conduct:

All GNBC Members have been asked to sign an updated Rules of Conduct form. Please contact Ross/Membership Coordinator for a form or you can obtain a Rules of Conduct form at our next GNBC meeting. This implementation will continue at each meeting for



CONTACTS

existing members.

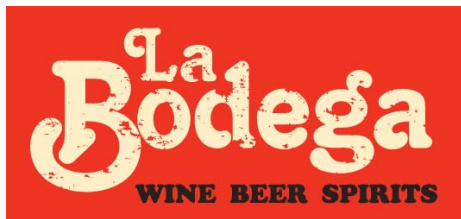
We will have some new procedures for our events and meetings. Our monthly meeting will now have a designated start and ending time, as well as a last call to serve homebrew at 9pm. Lights out, closed up and a final walk through will be conducted at 9:45pm by a GNBC officer/ board member.

-GNBC Glasses for sale -

Glasses are available for purchase for \$5 each contact us and we will get you some!

Events:

Bodega-Fest - Anchorage, Alaska
September 14, 2013



Location: Cuddy Family Midtown Park (201 East 40th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska)
Time: 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Cost: The cost is \$25.00 advance purchase (\$30 at the door) which includes admittance, a commemorative tasting glass and 15 sample tickets. Additional 10 sample tickets can be purchased for \$5.00.

Tickets are available online or at La Bodega in the Metro Mall (530 East Benson Boulevard) and went on sale August 15th.

Description: There will be beer, mead and cider from Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and beyond available to sample. La Bodega's first ever beer, The Gladys Golden Ale, brewed in collaboration with Sleeping Lady Brewing Co., will be making it's first public appearance at Bodega-Fest! This event is a fundraiser for Alaska Public Media. Live music will be played all day from six different local bands. Strictly 21 and over. Good times and food will be available for purchase.

Alaska Meadery Equinox Competition - Anchorage, Alaska
September 21, 2013- See article in This months newsletter

Talkeetna Beer Festival - Talkeetna, Alaska
September 28, 2013

Location: Don Sheldon Community Arts Hanger (22249 South D Street) which is behind the Post Office

Time: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Cost: The cost is \$40.00 (+ possible ticketing surcharge approx. \$2.50). Included in the price is admittance, a commemorative tasting glass and 15 three-oz. samples. Additional samples will NOT be able for purchase. Tickets should be available soon for purchase though <http://www.denaliartscouncil.org/> but are not



EVENTS

Every First Thursday
Moose's Tooth First Tap

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

14.....Bodegafest
Cuddy Family Midtown Park
2-8 pm: \$25 pp

21.....Equinox Mead Competition
Celestial Meads
10:30 am - 3 pm

28.....Talkeetna Beer Festival
Sheldon Community Hangar
2-6 pm: \$40 pp

5.....Great Alaska Beer Train
Alaska Railroad
4-8:30 pm: \$159 pp

10/11...Valdez Beer Festival and Homebrew Competition
\$10 per entry

CAFE



AMSTERDAM



yet available. For further information contact Northern Susitna Institute Phone: 907-733-7111 Email: info@northernsusitnainstitute.org

Description: 49th State Brewing, Alaskan Brewing, Arkose Brewing, Bear Creek Winery, Broken Tooth Brewing, Denali Brewing, Glacier Brewhouse, Hoo Doo Brewing, Kassik's Kenai Brew Stop, Kenai River Brewing, King Street Brewing Company, Midnight Sun Brewing Company, and Silver Gulch Brewing will be represented at this event.

Proceeds will benefit the Northern Susitna Institute which provides a diverse range of programs to youth in the Talkeetna area.

Great Alaska Beer Train –

What: Alaska Railroad train traveling from Anchorage to Portage and back

When: October 5, 2013

Space is limited! Reservations are required.

Time: The train departs Anchorage at 4:00 p.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m.

Location: The train departs from the Alaska Railroad Depot (411W. 1st Avenue).

Cost: \$159 per person (must be at least 21 years of age). Included with the price of admission is, of course, the ride of the train, plus an assortment of appetizers prepared by the Glacier Brewhouse paired with six, 1/2 pints of Glacier Brewhouse beers. Additional beers are available for purchase. Tickets may purchased online at: <http://www.alaskarailroad.com/OurTrains/SpecialEventTrains/GreatAlaskaBeerTrain/tabid/151/Default.aspx> as well as from the Alaska Railroad Depot and Glacier Brewhouse (737 W. 5th Avenue) or by calling (800) 544-0552 or (907) 265-3494. Payment is due at the time of booking and all sales are final.



Valdez Brew Fest - Valdez, Alaska

When: October 11-12, 2013

This is BJCP sanctioned competition. The following categories will be judged: Oktoberfest (3B), American Pale Ale (10A), Stout (13A-F), IPA (14A-C), Specialty Beer (23).



Palmer, Alaska

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per entry

Entrants should fill out the registration and recipe form available at <http://www.valdezalaska.org/events/october-festival-home-brewery-competition>

Judging: Judging will take place on Friday, October 11th & Saturday, October 12th. Prizes:

The prize for Best of Show is \$1,000.00! First places in each of the BJCP categories (i.e. Oktoberfest, American Pale Ale, Stout, IPA, and Speciality Beer) will receive \$500.00! Second places in each of those categories will receive \$250.00!

2013 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

Fur Rendezvous HBC

- Category 3
- Category 5
- Category 14
- Category 19
- Category 23

Snow Goose HBC

- Category 2
- Category 7
- Category 8
- Category 15
- Category 21
- Category 22

Anchor Town HBC

- Category 1
- Category 6
- Category 9
- Category 11
- Category 12
- Category 17

Equinox Mead HBC

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

Humpy's Big Fish HBC

- Category 4
- Category 10
- Category 13
- Category 16
- Category 18
- Category 20

Additional information regarding the competition and Valdez in general may be found at: <http://www.valdezalaska.org>. If you have any questions please contact Brian Noonan at noonan.brian@yahoo.com or (781) 856-5811.

Miscellaneous

TAP (Training for Alcohol Professionals) Pre-registration is NOT required! 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:

9/10	Tuesday	9am
9/11	Wednesday	5:30pm
9/18	Wednesday	1pm
9/20	Friday	9am
9/20	Friday	9am
9/23	Monday	1pm
9/25	Wednesday	9am
10/9	Wednesday	1pm

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

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 -Remember if you have ideas for educational segments or guest speakers, or beer/ homebrew related events feel free to post them on our Facebook page or contact me at kkarabelnikoff@gmail.com or for those who need to speak with me if you don't use e-mail or what not please call me (907) 947-7393 or I can get you in touch with any one of our board members or officers. All e-mail contact info can be found on the club's webpage and in each newsletter. Thanks for reading, hope to see you at the September meeting and keep on brewing!

Sixth Annual Celestial Meads Equinox Mead Competition

by *Breck Tostevin, M.B.*

Attention Mead and Cider Makers and Judges! The Sixth Annual Celestial Meads Equinox Competition is Saturday, September 21. Get those meads and ciders bottled and ready!

Entries will be accepted at Celestial Meads on Friday, September 20 from **5:30-7:30 pm**. Please bring two 10 to 14 oz bottles or one 750 ml bottle and an AHA/BJCP recipe entry form for each entry. Here is a link to the form: http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_EntryRecipe.pdf

Entries shipped from out of town must arrive at Celestial Meads by Wednesday, Sept. 18.

This competition is open to BJCP categories 24 (Traditional Mead), 25 (Melomel), 26 (Other Mead), 27 (Standard Cider and Perry), and 28 (Specialty Cider and Perry). You can enter more than one mead or cider per subcategory.



The Equinox Competition is an official Brewer of the Year Event. So don't get left on the long ship on this one. The Best of Show of Mead may be made by Celestial Meads as deemed appropriate by Meadmaster Mike Kiker.

We need judges and stewards. If you are interested in learning the differences between judging mead and beer, or you are simply a mead lover, this is the event for you. We can team inexperienced judges up with more experienced judges. If you are interested in judging, please send me an email. Come sample the beverages of the Equinox!

Judging will be held at Celestial Meads, 600 W. 58th Ave., Suite B. in Anchorage from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 21. Please contact Breck at 884-1819 or keegan@gci.net for more information.

GNBC Membership Dues Time

by Ross Aldridge

Wow, it has been quite a summer; over the past three months I've managed to visit many of our States wonderful breweries. There are some really great brews being served out there, ranging from a refreshing Lingonberry Saison from Silver Gulch Brewing, to a strong Spiced Belgian from Homer Brewing.

But now, the time has come to return to my own brews, and my most beloved Brew Club; and the first step, is to renew my membership!

If you renew before September 14th, you will be able to pick up your membership card at the Meeting, along with three tickets for the raffle. The cost for membership is \$30.00 per household (so don't forget to include your spouse's name) and \$350.00 for a lifetime membership. You can renew online with your credit card, or send a check to:

GNBC Membership
138 E 45th ave.
Anchorage, AK. 99503.

Don't forget to include your Name, Address (street, city, and zip code), Phone Number, and Email. I'm looking forward to see you all there, and tasting some of your great creations.

Hoppy Brews All

Ross Aldridge, VP / Membership Coordinator



Eagle River Brewfest

by Dennis Sessler

October 11th 2013, mark your calendar, the date is fast approaching for the annual Brewfest that's sole purpose 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.

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. 100% of the money from ticket sales and from the 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 for hundreds of local children.



You might ask what the paltry \$50.00 gets you. The events is held at the Eagle River Lions Club, the Lions club donates the facility 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, etc. 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.

Here is a list of the attending breweries and meadery.

- Alaskan Brewing Co.
- Midnight Sun Brewing Co.
- Glacier Brewhouse
- King Street Brewing Co.
- Sleeping Lady Brewing Co.
- Broken Tooth Brewing Co.
- Denali Brewing Co.
- Arkose Brewing Co.
- Anchorage Brewing Co. *tentative on availability of draft beer*
- 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. On Friday October 11th 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. 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 11th supporting a very worthwhile organization.

Call For Participation

by *Fermento*

Hey Sudfanz! Fermento here! Most of you know me as the weekly beer writer for the Anchorage Press. This is my 17th year of grinding out news about all of Alaska's great beers for our weekly left-wing liberal alternative to the Anchorage Remaining Daily (News). You might also know that I've been writing a bi-monthly column for the Celebrator Beer News, making sure that the rest of those flatlanders south of us in the L48 (and the rest of the world, for that matter) know that we do more than get drunk and make babies in igloos in the dark up here. If all of that doesn't give me enough to do, I churn out 8-15 pages more about beer in my weekly blog called Da Rant. That's been going on for about eight years now. Finally, this is my fourth year as the Executive Director for the Brewer's Guild of Alaska. Within that capacity I oversee all 23 of Alaska's licensed brewing operations. Did I mention I have a full time job?



No, this isn't a glamour shot for Fermento. The other thing I do every month is to take the time to produce the monthly Great Northern Brewers Homebrew Club (GNBC) Newsletter. The editor, Deb Grecco and I share this task. I've been a member of GNBC for 26 years

if memory serves and of those 26 years, I served two years in 1992 and 1993 as the club's President and have been producing this newsletter for a quarter of a century (25 years for those challenged in fractional mathematics).



What does this have to do with you? Within the capacity of publishing the newsletter, I am perhaps one of the better barometers of the degree to which club members participate in events and contribute to the overall health, vigor and longevity of our dear Club.

For the most part, GNBC is driven by a handful of dedicated executives and board members, while the rest of us reap the benefits of cheap and resourceful membership in a primarily social and somewhat educational setting. I get the sense that most of us take this for granted.

No, this little ditty is not intended to slap you around with a word-lashing, but lately, we suck and sharing in the burden of keeping our club the world class organization that it is.

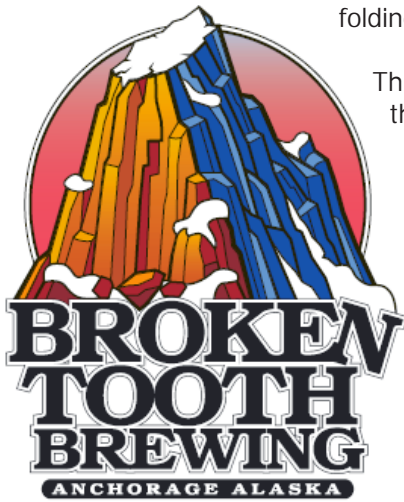
Did you notice our current President's call for participation in the Club's leadership through volunteering to serve as an executive or board member? Re-read the Prez Sez, if you didn't notice it. It's the annual influx of new ideas, talent and momentum that keeps GNBC chugging along, and that's where you come in. What you probably don't know is that it's a major pain in the ass for the Club to fill these ranks every year because participating in the Club's leadership takes a little bit of commitment and a little bit of time. I don't know what it is, but perhaps there are those of us that don't think we're worthy of such a position. Maybe we're just lazy. Again, this is no indictment on your part, but the bottom line is that the club needs your help.

Any Club member is qualified for a board or executive position, regardless of that member's tenure with GNBC. And, you'd probably be surprised that participation can be a fun, rich, and rewarding experience. You don't have to do it forever either. Serving a term in one of these positions will expose you to not only the inner workings and management of the Club, but it will expose you to parts of Alaska's beer industry you're probably not familiar with. So, get off your ass and volunteer.



Another area we collectively suck at is contributing to the very newsletter you're now reading. During my tenure working on this newsletter, I've seen contributions wax and wane. Years ago, when the Club produced a paper newsletter, the size was limited by printing and postage constraints. We had to have a specific layout and couldn't exceed 12 or 13 pages or an additional stamp was needed to get crucial club information to members. I'm here to tell you that producing the newsletter back then was much more of a chore than it is now. Not only was the layout work complicated and cumbersome, but we had the additional task of

folding, sealing, addressing and stamping (back then) upwards of 150 pieces.



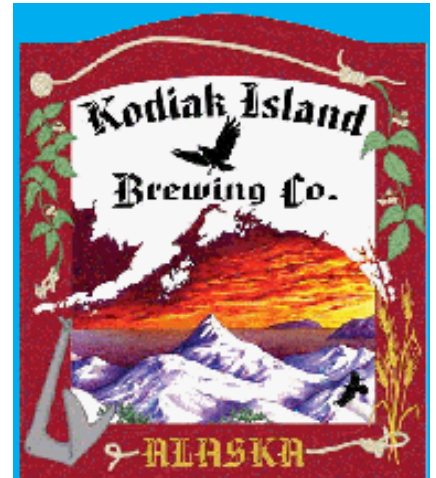
Things have changed with an electronic format which allows us to produce a linear document that's essentially unlimited in size. Since then, I've seen the newsletter bulge to as much as 24 pages and skinny down to as few as four or five.

Despite all of this, are you interested in knowing what the single hardest thing to deal with in producing the newsletter, especially of late, happens to be? The toughest part of doing this every month is finding enough stuff to fill it up. Members used to submit educational pieces. Members used to recount their sudsy experiences in both homebrewing and the enjoyment of craft brewing both within the Club and within their own endeavors. What happened to all of this?

I'm not sitting here with a smirk on my face; trust me: I'm no better than the rest of you. In fact, this might well be the first article of written for the newsletter in a year or two. And that's sad, considering that I generally think in paragraphs. Of course, my other literary callings get in

the way of this, and there's this thing called "life" that keeps me from being an avid contributor, but that's irrelevant in the grand scheme of things. I haven't brewed a batch of beer in eight years now, but that's not because I've lost interest in homebrewing. In my life, I've found out that the most expensive ingredient in homebrewing is time, and I can either make beer and drink it or drink beer and write about it. I chose the latter. Although I don't generally attend meetings or participate in the events, I remain active by churning this rag out every month. It's the least I can do.

Essentially, I'm begging for your participation in and contribution to the Club through becoming active in its leadership and by sending something along to enliven the newsletter. You don't have to be F. Scott Fitzgerald to submit something for inclusion. I don't care if you bang something out with a color crayon on a grain sack. Just get it to the Club president and he'll get it to me, and I'll polish it up for you. C'mon, kiddos, I need your help!



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:

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NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2013 7:00 pm at the Snow Goose