

THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

December 2022

Contents of This Issue

The Prez Sez
Tribute to Steve Schmitt
Secretary's Corner
TAPS Class Information
Brewing Equipment Sale

GNBC Holiday Party

December 10th @ Anchorage
Brewing

The Prez Sez

John Trapp & Liz Greer

November was quite a month! We started out with a bang, awesome monthly meeting on meads and ciders. A big thank you goes out to Kevin Sobolesky for giving a very informative talk about brewing meads as well as the tasty samples he provided to the club. The mead with peppers in it totally caught me off guard; but I liked it. We also had our annual club elections, and I am happy to welcome three new board members, Maria Benner, Jerry Siok and Colin Burket. The officer positions remain unchanged.

Unfortunately, we end the month on a sad note. Most of you know that long time club member and past president, Steve Schmitt, passed away from medical complications on November 17th. The celebrations of Steve's life will take place on December 4th from 1:00 to 4:00 at King Street Brewery.

Here's the 3 month calendar:

- December 10th – GNBC Christmas Party, Anchorage Brewing Company – 6:00 p.m.
- January 26th – Industry Meeting at 49th State Brewing Company for GABBF – 7:00 p.m.
- February 21st – Club Meeting at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m.

Anchorage Brewing Company will once again host the Great Northern Brewer's Club for the Holiday Party on December 10, 2022. Last year was a fun time and we hope to have a good party this year too. The party goes from 6:00 to 9:00 and has a theme of "Comfort and Joy". Since this is a potluck, I would take that to mean bring comfort food; and beer that brings you joy. Feel free to interpret that theme your own way. Also, the Christmas party is when everyone that took part in the Fantasy Draught Draft night event will bring their finished products for tasting. I must confess, my batch will not be ready by then. I know, I'm a bad bad man. I do look forward to tasting some other entries.

After the holidays, our biggest meeting of the year is all set for January 26th. This is the industry meeting and coincides with the Great Alaska Beer and Barelywine Festival (AKA – Beer Week). For our meeting we will need a number of volunteers to help with pouring home brew, checking memberships and a few other tasks. Please consider volunteering for an hour.

Until next time, keep brewing because life is good.

Cheers

GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
GNBC WEBSITE

www.GreatNorthernBrewers.org

CO-PRESIDENTS

Elizabeth Greer and John Trapp
president@greatnorthernbrewers.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Christophe Venot
vp@greatnorthernbrewers.org

TREASURER

Lindsay Foltz
treasurer@greatnorthernbrewers.org

SECRETARY

Gwen Higgins
secretary@greatnorthernbrewers.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Steve Johnson
membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Levinson, 2021-2022
Deb Morgan, 2021-2022
Robert Trosper, 2021-2022
Jordan Couture, 2022-2023
Steve Johnson, 2022-2023

Contact information via our website

Tentative Club Calendar

- December 10, 2022: Holiday Party (Anchorage Brewing Company)
- January 26, 2023 Meeting: BBF Industry Reception
- February 21, 2023: Meeting at 49th State Brewing – Porters
- March 21, 2023: Meeting at 49th State Brewing - Irish Beers
- April 18, 2023: Meeting at 49th State Brewing – Pilsners & Helles
- May 6, 2023: National Homebrew Day & Group Brew
- May 16, 2023: Meeting –Wort share (Tentative)
- Summer 2023 events: Club Campout, Weenie Roast, BBQ

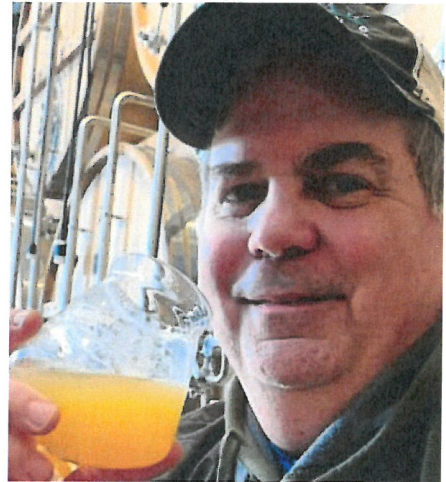
Cheer's to Ya, Schmitt: Toast to an Epic GNBC Leader

Jim Roberts

If you met him, you'll never forget him. If you haven't, you've undoubtedly heard of him. That loosely summates the legacy of Steve Schmitt, GNBC's seventh president. "Schmitt," (he pointedly addressed his conscripts by surname) ran herd on us beer loving sheep between 1999 and 2001. Schmitt passed away on November 17.

Presidents in GNBC's formative years weren't really leaders, as the club struggled first for survival, then identity, and finally relevance in a burgeoning, then explosive craft beer and homebrewing era. For context, homebrewing wasn't even legal in Alaska when GNBC the first Fur Rendezvous Homebrew Competition. Like everything else, we flew forward on a wing and a prayer. Back then, club presidents were a lineage of characters that added more zest and flavor to the club than solid foundational leadership. Accession to GNBC's top spot was more of a popularity contest. The outgoing prez would look around and muse "okay, who gets to do this next?" I know this to be true: I've seen me do it.

This is no indictment on Schmitt, his predecessors, or followers, but I can write this with some authority. I was the class clown and drove the GNBC bus between 1992 and 1993 as the club's second president. I took the wheel from Pat and Randy Oldenburg, the club's founders, although there were other informal leaders before them in the club's over thirty year history. This isn't a lesson in club history, but Schmitt was a refreshing, solid, changing presence at GNBC. While I flailed around in analysis paralysis, Schmitt brought raging solidarity and positive, confident decisiveness to the club, all loosely veiled in his signature spasticity and bright impulsiveness that "made shit happen," even though us adoring minions didn't know that we were doing his bidding most of the time. In retrospect, that IS true leadership. Who says running a homebrew club can't be fun? Wherever he was, in whatever circumstance, Schmitt naturally took command. He was easier to follow, because there's no leading a natural, driven leader. If you were around Schmitt, you felt good about it. Schmitt was powerfully decisive, reassuring, and had magnetism. Midway through my writing gig at the Press, Schmitt and I hosted a radio show called Dr. Fermento's Growler Hour. Although - as Schmitt and I laughingly mused - in reality, what we were actually doing was "hosting a beer radio show on a dry campus, with a broadcasting bandwidth no further than the parking lot," I fettered and freaked over the details, almost scripting the entirety of each show. Schmitt would unequivocally discard the carefully prepared notes I handed him before going live every week. "PFFT!," he'd exclaim with a stopping, flat-palmed waive of his upturned forearm, throwing the papers over his shoulder. "Relax. Don't be such a complete TOOL. We got this. It's going to be EPIC," he'd say as he'd grab the mic and start the show.



Join me other GNBC'ers in celebrating Schmitt's epic life and his epic contributions to **GNBC on Sunday, December 4, on the third floor of King Street Brewing Company** between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Beer and appetizers will be provided. Leave the homebrew and commercial beer at home; "it's stupidly illegal," as Schmitt would say. Instead bring a light side dish to share, a raging thirst, all of your memories, and of course those timeless "Steve-isms" to share with friends and family. For you stragglers, we'll be doing a toast to Steve at 2 p.m.



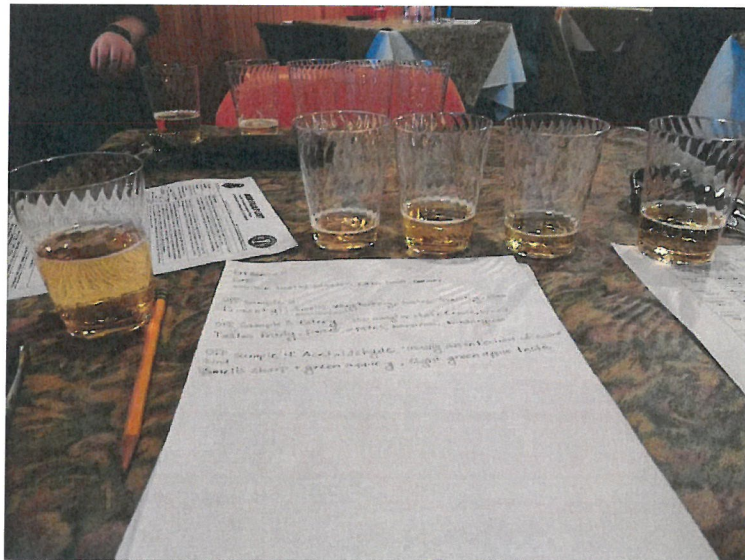
Secretary's Corner: Return of the BJCP Class

Gwen Higgins

A central goal of this club is to provide educational opportunities about beer and brewing. One of the main educational classes we have sponsored in the past has been the [Beer Judge Certification Program](#) (BJCP) class. The class provides a foundation of knowledge about the BJCP guidelines, the standards for various styles of beer, as well as information about off flavors and other faults that can occur in the brewing process. The class has traditionally been offered as preparation for the BJCP exam, which results in certification as a qualified judge for homebrew and commercial beer competitions.

It has been a few years since the class has been offered, thanks to COVID, but we are hoping to offer it once again this spring. The class relies on quite a bit of preparation from instructors and, as well as a venue and beers to taste as examples of various styles. Due to the expenses involved, there is generally a fee to take the class, which will partially be determined by the number of students enrolled (i.e. more students mean some of the costs may be distributed among more people, lowering the price). We will need a minimum number of students to offer the class, so please let one of the officers know if you are interested in taking the class.

Additionally, I am planning to put together a survey to help inform the club's future educational offerings, so look for that in January's newsletter.



Beer samples and notes, 2018 BJCP Class

P.S. Got a recipe you want to share, tried a new commercial beer you want to review, or are really excited about a new piece of equipment? Write about it for the newsletter! Send your submissions to me by the 27th of each month at secretary@greatnorthernbrewers.org

TAP = Training for Alcohol Professionals

Steven Johnson

In Alaska, a valid TAP card is required for persons who serve alcohol at a licensed establishment and at events such as beer festivals and charity functions. Registrations are good for three years. Obtaining the TAP card requires taking a class and passing a written test with a score of at least 85% correct answers. The TAP class takes about four hours, followed by the test. After getting one's initial TAP card, one can take the test without re-taking the class. Current fees for the class and test are \$40 for employees of CHARR members, \$55 for others. The class fee includes a study guide summarizing Alaska law and good practices for serving alcohol. The renewal certification test, without the class, costs \$45 for employees of CHARR members, \$60 for others.

In Anchorage, TAP classes are offered by Alaska CHARR, the Alaska Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers Association, <https://www.alaskacharr.com>, 1503 West 31st, Suite 102, Anchorage, AK 99503. 907 274-8133, info@alaskacharr.com.

An updated schedule of TAP classes is available online at <https://web.alaskacharr.com/events>. Schedules are also published in bimonthly issues of Alaska Charr Magazine, available for free download at the publications tab at www.alaskacharr.com. As of 27 November, CHARR will offer in person TAP classes in Anchorage on December 9th and January 5th. Online classes will be offered on December 3rd, 6th, 13th, 21st, and 29th. At present no online classes are scheduled for January.

TAP classes and testing are now available via Zoom for Anchorage residents (and others). This is a change from the past, when the online class and testing were not available for applicants who lived where in-person classes and testing were available.

As a reminder, current membership cards are required for the December Holiday party and the January Industry Meeting, which should stimulate renewals. I will be at the club meeting on Tuesday November 15th and can produce laminated membership cards on site for renewals (payment in cash, check or via Paypal. A PayPal account is not required, only a credit card).

Questions, other comments or complaints? Tell me if you have not received your membership cards in a week of your membership payment. Send email to membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org.

Homebrew Equipment

GNBC Homebrew Equipment Club Fundraiser. Anchorage home brewer Barry Bruninga has passed away. Our condolences to those who knew him. His family and friends would like his brewing equipment to go to good use so has donated it to the Great Northern Brewers Club. Items will be photographed and posted with very reasonable prices. This equipment will be open for the public, but will not be advertised until 2023 so club members can have first selections. Expect postings in early December at:

<https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/gnbc-merchandise/>





Great Northern Brewers Club
Holiday Party!

Saturday December 10, 2021

6:30pm - 9:00pm

**Anchorage Brewing Company
148 W 91st Ave. Anchorage**



Anchorage Brewing Company will be hosting the GNBC Holiday party this year. We will be in a private area, but the public area and outside fire pits will also be open for our use. Please do not bring your alcohol into the public area.

What to Bring:

- a potluck dish
- homebrew or specialty share beer
- If you want to play - a gift for the Exchange/Stealing Game - a nice beer or brew related item. Wrap it up!

...wear what makes you joyful and/or comfortable!

ABC will have beer for sale at the public tasting counter. Note: they are providing the venue free of charge so Tip the Servers well!

Membership is required to attend.

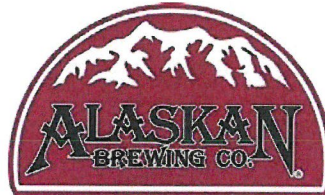
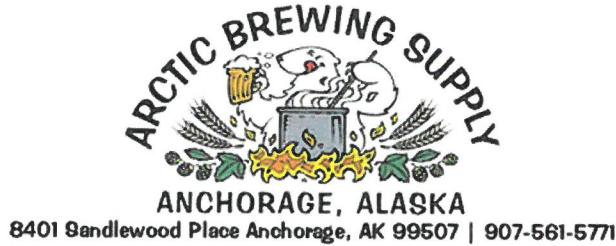
You may bring one guest.

You may join or renew Online at: <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/>

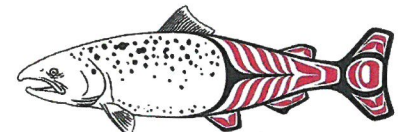
RSVP not required but appreciated for head count

HUGE Thanks to our Supporters!

Present your GNBC card at these suppliers for a members-only discount. See each store for details.



THE **Odom** CORPORATION



COOPER LANDING
BREWING COMPANY



TURNAGAIN BREWING
OLD WORLD TRADITION... THE ALASKAN WAY

