



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

February 2023

Contents of This Issue

The Prez Sez
Everything Porter!
Secretary's Corner
Membership Column
Beer Trippin'
Alaska State Fair
Competition
Announcement

Next Meeting

Feb. 21– 49th State

The Prez Sez

By John Trapp & Liz Greer

We made it! Through January! January is one of the busiest months for us as a club, it takes lots of coordination, planning and volunteers to pull off a successful industry meeting the way we did. I want to thank everyone involved that made this happen. Kudos to you and I hope you got a tasty beer or 3 out of it. One of the topics we highlighted at the meeting was our accomplishments over the last year. I've been doing this "Prez" thing a long time and I can tell when we are firing on all cylinders. We have a lot of new members, had a few new events, and most of all we had great participation. I think we can expand on what we did in '22 and make it even better in '23.

Here's the 3 month calendar:

- February 21st : Club Meeting at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m. (Porters)
- March 21st : Club Meeting at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m.
- March TBD: Tartside challenge wort share, date will be revealed by Dr. Ted in the next month.
- April 14th to 16th: Talkeetna Beer Tripping! Make your plans accordingly. See Mike Cragen's article.
- April 18th : Club Meeting at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m. (Book Swap)

The Beer style for our February meeting will be Porters. We will discuss the history, styles and availability of this tasty beer, along with some brewing techniques for you to try at home. If you have any porters in the cellar, dig them out and show up to the meeting.

Just to keep everyone up to speed and in the know, we received a good number of people that are interested in taking the BJCP class. Part of this includes finding a location for the class. When we figure out the logistics on that, we'll let everyone know and we can move forward with the class.

March is still a wonderful month to get some lagers brewed and fermented while the garage or crawl space is cool enough. Ales are great, but why not try a lager while the weather cooperates with you – just saying. We'll be sending out a notice of when the tartside challenge is happening, along with pick up times and suggestions. Turnagain Brewing has been doing this for a few years now, some of the creative finished products are outstanding. Stay tuned for more info.

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

Jordan Couture, 2022-2023

Steve Johnson, 2022-2023

Maria Benner 2023-2024

Colin Burket 2023-2024

Jerry Siok 2023-2024

Contact information via our website

April will bring around Talkeetna Beer Tripping. See Mike's article on this and make your plans and accommodations accordingly. This has always been a huge hit with the club as well as Denali Brewing Company, so plan on attending for some springtime fun in Talkeetna. Also, our April meeting will be a book swap, or book exchange. If you have any brewing books you've read and don't need any more, or if you're looking to pick up a different brewing book, show up at the April meeting.

Until next time, keep brewing because life is good.

Cheers!

Everything Porter! *By Elizabeth Greer*



The February 21, 2023 meeting style will focus on Porter Beers! Bring in your homebrews or commercial examples of these smooth, dark and easy drinking brews. Of course we all know there are many types of porters. February's presentation will go over these various styles and the long history of porters. The club will provide a few commercial examples to share too!

The Secretary's Corner

By Gwen Higgins

The club's January meeting, which takes place the Thursday before the Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival, is always a great time, and this year was no exception. As always, members of the brewing community in Alaska, as well as those traveling from out of state for the festival, were invited to join in the fun. As things return to normal after a couple years, it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves in the name of good beer.

The guest speaker for the evening was Bill Howell, author of *Alaska Beer: Liquid Gold in Land of the Midnight Sun* and the foremost expert on the history of brewing in Alaska. The talk, which covered nearly 150 years of beer in the Last Frontier, was as entertaining as it was informative, following brewing in Alaska from the first Alaskan brewery in Sitka, through prohibition, to the thriving industry it is today. Along the way, Howell explored why it was so difficult for Alaskan breweries to compete with beer shipped up from the Lower 48, and how from the very beginning, they emphasized their local production in their marketing. If you missed the meeting or want to hear more from Bill, his radio show, "[Drinking on the Last Frontier](#)" can be heard on KDLL on the Kenai Peninsula, or downloaded on your favorite podcast app.

The January meeting is also when the club's new officers and board members take over from outgoing members of the board. Thanks to Rick Levinson, Deb Morgan, and Robert Trosper for their time on the board, and welcome to Maria Benner, Colin Burket, and Jerry Siok!

Membership News

By Steve Johnson

At the Great Northern Brewers Club, February is the fifth month of the membership year. The membership year ends on September 30th. On the last day of January, 2023, the club had 77 paid annual memberships and 23 life memberships. Last year at this time, the club had 63 annual memberships and 22 life memberships.

Another way to compare membership numbers is to count non-renewals from the prior year. This year there have been 16 non-renewals to date. That number may decline during the remaining seven months of the membership year. In 2021-2022, the previous membership year, there were 20 non-renewals from 2020-2021 memberships. I have not attempted to calculate statistics for earlier years. Membership numbers do not tell us everything about our club, of course, though the numbers do suggest that current membership level will be sufficient to pay for meeting room rental and other activities.



The author, circa 1999

Lately I have been reading our [club's old newsletters at the UAA Archives](#) on the third floor of Consortium Library on the UAA Campus (). This collection includes older newsletters not already present on our website (2007 to present). So far I have browsed the newsletters from 1987 through 2000. In those years the number of club members reported in the newsletter ranged from 50 to 70. Some club newsletters printed the names, telephone numbers, and brewing interests of all

club members. The newsletter also welcomed new members by name. An early version of the club website published the names and email addresses of all members.

Newsletters also reported the number of entries, and results, of competitions and the gallons of homebrew produced during the annual brewathon. In 1994 there were 188 entries in the Fur Rondy competition. At one time our club had an apparent "world record" for brewathon gallons, though a club in the lower forty-eight overturned that record. In any case, the Guinness Book of World Records did not regard brewathon feats as notable as far as their publication was concerned. And, while taking notes for this report in our age of small scale brewing, I did not record either the year or quantities in those epic brewathons.

Talkeetna Beer Trippin'

By Mike Cragen



Ladies and Gentlemen! Start your mash tuns! Sanitize your carboys! And fill your bottles. It's time for the annual Beer Trippin' homebrew competition in Talkeetna, April 14-16. This amazing event goes far beyond just a competition. It's not only a weekend of camaraderie, drinking, and shenanigans, it's a time to hang out with our generous hosts, Denali Brewing Company.

Specific details will be coming out in the February and March GNBC meetings and in the newsletter as well. For now, get those beers brewed, reservations made, and prepare for the good times ahead. Quick teaser . . . wort share will happen once again, Beer Trippin' t-shirts are making a return, and Denali Brewing Company is open to any and all suggestions to make this the best Beer Trippin' yet. Call Mike at 907-250-4818 if you have questions or recommendations.

Alaska State Fair Spirited Beverage Competition

By Elizabeth Greer

The Alaska State Fair and the Great Northern Brewers Club will be partnering this year on the Alaska State Fair Spirited Beverage competition!

Tentative dates include beer drop off August 4 & 5, and the judging August 11 & 12.

More information to come, but start thinking about your competition beers. We will also be looking for Experienced Judges and Stewards with TAPS Certifications.



A HUGE Thanks to our Supporters!

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



8401 Sandlewood Place Anchorage, AK 99507 | 907-561-5771



MATHESON

ask...The Gas Professionals™



...



THE **Odom** CORPORATION



OLD WORLD TRADITION... THE ALASKAN WAY

