



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

May 2023

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The Prez Sez

By John Trapp & Liz Greer

April was one heck of a month, Talkeetna Beer Trippin and a great monthly meeting filled with books on all levels of brewing. Our big event was Talkeetna. We had a good showing of GNBC members that came up for some home brewing fun. Mike Cragen spearheaded this outing again, thanks Mike, and be sure to see his article below on the recap. Congratulations to all the winners in the homebrew competition and I can't wait to try the beers created from the wort share. Also, our April monthly meeting was the book swap; lots of great books to grab and read. A big thanks to Liz for organizing and coming up with it.

Here's the 3 month calendar:

May 6th: Big Brew Day (aka Brew-a-thon) Brewing demonstration at Arctic Brewing Supply

May 30th: Club Meeting at location and time – TBD. Hosted by DBC to sample beers from Wort share

June 9th- 11th: Summer campout at Eklutna, Friday noon until Sunday noon.

July TBD: Will have a BBQ just need to confirm time (possibly the 12th?) and place.

The first Saturday in May is Big Brew Day (Brew-a-Thon) and Arctic Brewing Supply is putting on a brewing demonstration at the shop. Plan on swinging by to say hello, buy some supplies, or watch the demo. Pete and Lisa are great friends of the club and have the best Home Brew store in the state, so show your appreciation for all they do for us. See Liz's flyer below on this event.

Our monthly meeting for May will be on My 30th, the day after Memorial Day. This event coincides with Denali Brewing Company's wort share. Everyone that participated in the wort share needs to bring a 6-pack or growler of their creation to the meeting for the DBC brewers to sample. They want to see just what we are capable of doing with a blank canvas. We are still working on the location, but it will definitely be on the 30th. I hope to see you all there.

GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
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www.GreatNorthernBrewers.org

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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

Our summer campout will be back at Eklutna Campground the weekend of June 9th thru 11th. There's plenty to do out there, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, bird watching, stick gathering, and my son's favorite – rock throwing. Saturday the 10th is also the "Run for Women" and there will be a route laid out for anyone wanting to participate in this event without going back into Anchorage. The men will provide "Tasty Beverages" for the thirsty runners. This should be fun and I look forward to helping out. Our group dinner on Saturday is going to have a theme, and I'm thinking it should be "Something That Goes Oink". Yes, this means pork and/or pork products. Could be ribs, loin, chops, bacon (always a favorite) or a big old ham. Totally up to you, go wild.

We will be having a BBQ in July, I haven't confirmed the date and place yet, but trust me, it will happen.

Until next time, keep brewing because life is good.

Cheers

The Secretary's Corner

By Gwen Higgins



Last month, the club encouraged members to do a little spring cleaning and bring any books related to brewing or unwanted brewing equipment to the meeting for a book and equipment swap. The rest of the items were donated by Michael Kiker and the family of Barry Bruninga, who passed away last year.

Rather than having a presentation, meeting attendees were encouraged to browse the stacks of books on each table, which were divided up according to theme. This had the advantage of forcing people to mingle with members they might not know as well. I came away with several books on mead and cider, as well as one on the history of wine, and a book of cocktail recipes.

The equipment swap took place during the door prize portion of the evening. The equipment in the best condition was reserved for door prizes, and prize winners could browse the rest and take as many items as they wanted when they came up to claim their prizes.

Thank you to everyone who brought in books and equipment, to Liz for storing all of the stuff at her house for months, and to Lauren Wallace for lending her library skills to organizing the books by topic.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Steve Johnson

At the end of April, paid memberships--annual and life-- in GNBC totaled 109. Each membership may include one or two individuals (spouse or partner) in the same household.

The current membership numbers may be further broken out as follows:

- Annual memberships: 86 (147 individuals)
- Life memberships: 23 (35 individuals)

The club tracks the number of individual members because the annual liability insurance payment is based on the total number of individuals on the first of July. Today the club has 182 individual members. On the basis of annual membership numbers to date for 2022-2023, the club has reversed the decline of annual memberships in 2020 and 2021:

- 2019-20: 110
- 2020-21: 81
- 2021-22: 76
- 2022-23: 86

From year to year, the number of life memberships and life members is more stable than the number of annual memberships. Since taking on membership duties in 2019, I have processed only one life membership (two individual members). In the past year, the club lost one life member through the death of Steve Schmitt.

The GNBC membership year begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. Given the fixed membership year, it seems to make sense that few brewers and beer buffs join the club between April and September. At this time of year, it is worth mentioning the club policy that any annual membership dues paid between May 1st and September 30th will also cover the next year's dues and membership cards. That policy may inspire new or returning members who might otherwise hesitate to pay dues so late in the membership year.

Please get in touch with me if you need a replacement membership card, or a card for your spouse or partner. Unless I am out of town, I can fulfill these requests as received. And if you are not receiving two or three GNBC emails each month, and you want to receive them, send me your email address and I will check the email service and find a solution. Meanwhile, happy brewing! For some of us, our backyard breweries will soon be free of snow. For the next few months, I expect to spend more time brewing than processing memberships.

Steve Johnson
membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org

Talkeetna Beer Trippin'

By Mike Cragen

Beer Trippin' 23 has come and gone, but the carnage left behind is fantastic! Denali Brewing Company once again hosted Beer Trippin' 23 and they did not disappoint in the least! This year featured new events such as a guided spirits tasting session led by Sassan on Saturday afternoon, and a Sunday morning breakfast at Latitude 62. Oh yeah, there was a beer competition as well!

Here are the results for the 2023 Golden Carboy Homebrew Competition:

Golden Carboy – Christophe Venot – White pineapple, reaper pepper cider

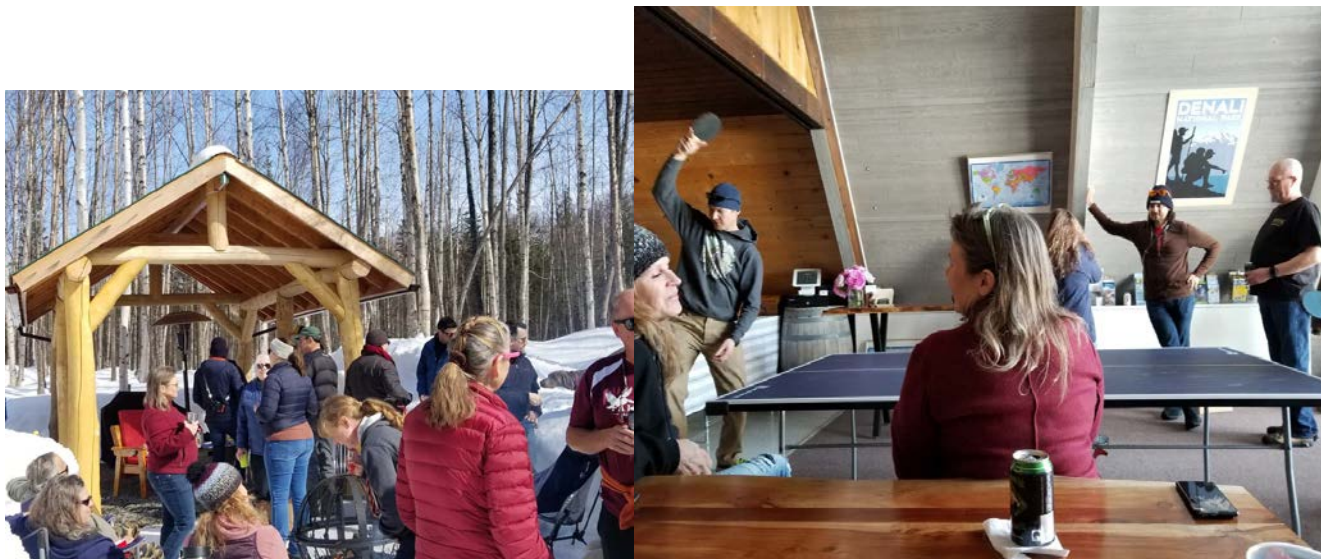
Best of Show – Mike Cragen – Kölsch

2nd Overall – Rick Levinson – Czech Dark Lager

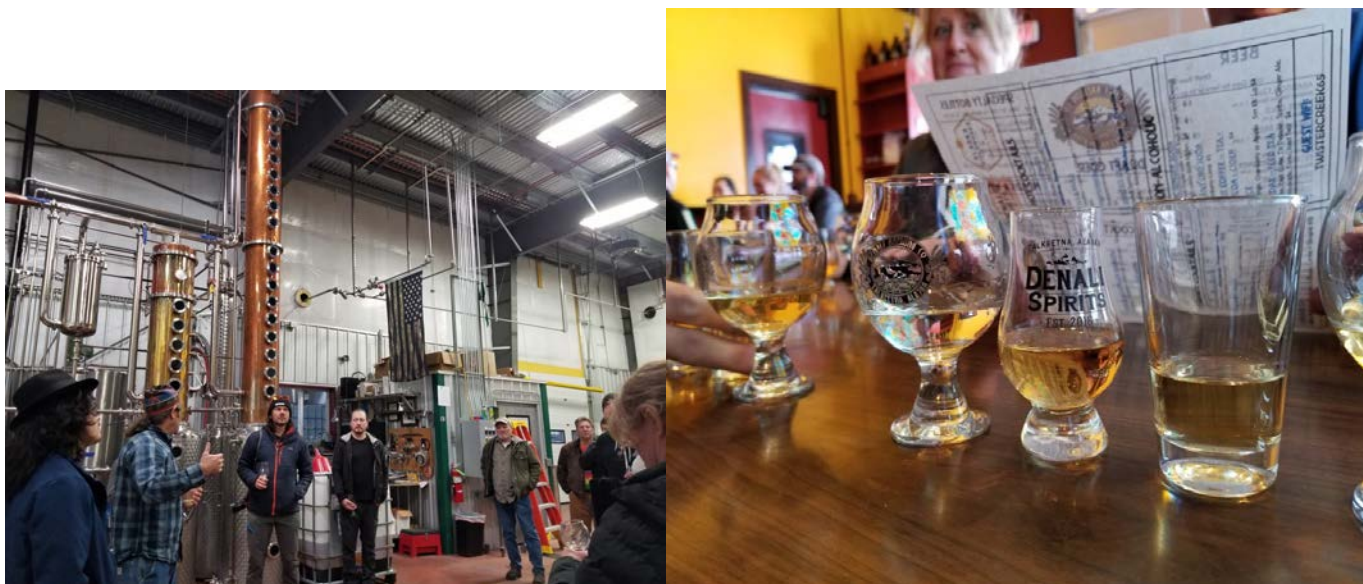
3rd Overall – Brian Hall – Apricot Barleywine

Best beer name – Brian Hall – Straight out the Bunghole

As always, DBC will be brewing the Golden Carboy winner – Christophe's White Pineapple, Reaper Pepper Cider – as next year's Beer Trippin' headlining beverage! Speaking of next year, if you missed this year, be sure to join next year as we already have new ideas to make the weekend even more ridiculous . . . in the best of ways.



DBC once again generously provided their wort for GNBC members to take home and tweak, spike, and transform. This year we were lucky enough to be given a big one – Double IPA (DIPA) – for us to play with! Interesting thing is that the wort is unhopped! I've heard chatter about members turning it into a sour, huge barleywine, hazy, fruited session beers, among countless other creative endeavors. We are still hammering out the venue, but the taste and share with DBC will be on Tuesday, May 30th. We're in the final stages of hashing out location details and time, but an email will be sent to club members once logistics are solidified. Friendly reminder – if you received wort from DBC, it's expected that you provide your samples to this taste and share event, even if you can't be there in person.



Finally, a huge GNBC shout out to Denali Brewing Company, their entire staff, and especially Sassan. Without their generosity and support, there's no way we could pull off such an epic weekend. DBC, on behalf of all GNBC members . . . Cheers!

Reading about beer and brewing: Thirty Years Ago at GNBC

By Steve Johnson

In recent months, my brewing-related reading habit drew me to the Consortium Library at UAA. The Archives has a collection of GNBC newsletters, photographs, and other records, most donated by Jim Roberts. The collection begins with newsletters from the summer of 1987. Alaska Fermentors, an earlier wine and beer brewing group, is represented by a single newsletter from 1980. A description of the collection is available at:
<https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/collections/specialcollections/hmc-1396/>.

Before I visited the archives, I had already read or least browsed the sixteen years of club newsletters at the club website, 2007 to date. At the UAA Archives, I returned to the era of printed newsletters delivered by the post office. Since I last visited the archives, the collection has grown, filling a gap of newsletters from 2002 to 2006, and adding several recipe books published by the club. Those "gap" newsletters are included in John Craig's extensive collection of GNBC newsletters and brewing related papers. Librarians and archivists usually call those related papers "printed ephemera." I am delighted by these snapshots from the past. John's collection will be a welcome addition to the materials at UAA.

Talking to John and reading his collection got me wondering, What was happening at the club thirty years ago? In 1993, the six year old club had "more than sixty members". Their names, addresses and phone numbers were published in the January newsletter. The club had outgrown its meeting place at Trader Jim's liquor store on Lake Otis Boulevard, almost across the street from Arctic Brewing Supply's original location. Club meetings moved to the church hall at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Muldoon. St. Patrick's offered meeting space for \$25 per meeting--the price of insurance. In the May 1993 newsletter, Wade Hampton Miller noted the live acoustics of the space and that Jim Roberts can conduct meetings without having to raise his voice every time there are mutterings.

In 1993, Club Officers were
President Jim Roberts
Vice-president Wade Hampton Miller
Treasurer Dave Yanoshek
Secretary Mick McDaniel
Newsletter Editor Dave Yanoshek

The Club participated in two competitions in 1993, Fur Rondy and the State Fair. The club also published the 1993 edition of a recipe book. Recipe contributors included several current members of the club... John Craig, Rick Levinson, and Jerry Siok. Beyond the recipes, the book's extensive section on "the Basics of Homebrewing" depicts the practical landscape of home brewing in Anchorage at the time. Alaska Mill & Feed, The Brewers Cache, Great Brew House, and Arctic Brewing Supply were listed as local sources of brewing specific supplies and equipment. Pepsi Cola Bottling Company was a source for CO2 for draft systems. In October, the club held its first Brew-A-Thon, at Troy Ceriello's house. The October newsletter reported that club members brewed 27 batches/250 gallons of beer. One carboy was broken, but it was not full.

Steve Johnson



Celebrate National Homebrew Day with the Great Northern Brewers Club



8401 Sandlewood Place

and
**Arctic Brewing
Supply!**



In 1988, May 7 was announced before Congress as National Homebrew Day, and every year, the first Saturday in May recognizes this day!

Tentative Schedule: 10am to 4pm

10:15 am - Beer Toast

10:30 am – Batch #1 & #2

1:00 pm – Batch #3 & #4 (including the Beginner Batch)

RSVP Please: President@greatnorthernbrewers.org Let us know if you would like to: **LEAD** a brew batch, **JOIN** a brew batch, **LEARN** to brew, or **DROP-IN** for the toast and/or support. Also if there is someone you would like to brew with.

What to bring: brew pot, brewing supplies, snack/pot-luck, and if weather is nasty – canopies appreciated.

Can't make it to Arctic Brewing that Saturday? ...you may still want to participate by brewing at home or joining us for the Toast virtually at:

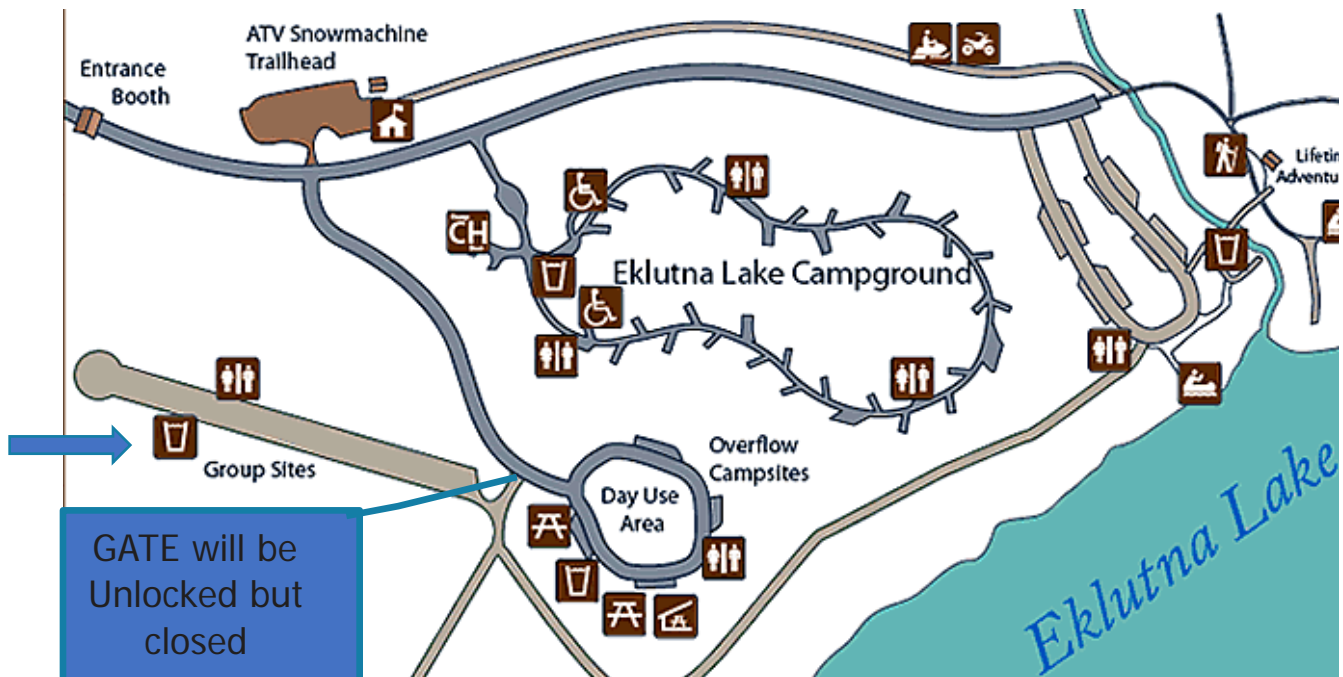
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82000549006?pwd=R0czOG10QVplQzVGWkx4a004Y1ZzZz09>

Great Northern Brewers Club - Campout 2023

Eklutna Lake - Group Site B

Friday, June 9 @ 1pm – Sunday, June 11 @ 11am

Potluck Party Saturday at 6pm (ish)



Ladies (beer chicks): There will be a 1-mile and a 5-mile trail to support the Alaska Run for Women on Saturday morning 10am. <https://www.akrffw.org/>
Sign up for GNBC team: "Brewbies" if you want to support the event. Maybe the guys (breast supporters) will put out a beer stop for us!

What to Bring: Pretty much everything and anything: R.V.s, campers, tents, canopies, bikes, boats, games, food, something for the Saturday Pot luck Party, and of course BEER! There is a shared restroom. Pets are welcome as long as they are friendly and leashed if needed.



Alaska State Fair 2023 Craft Beverages Competition



Get ready for the 2023 State Fair Craft Beverage Competition!

This year's event will include many Divisions and Classes to enter. There are also Divisions for Non- Alcoholic Beverages and Label Competition. Professionals are also encouraged to enter in a designated Sub-Category.

Entries can be:

- Dropped off at the Fairgrounds – Hoskins Building on Friday, August 4, or Saturday, August 5, from 11 am – 7 pm.
- Dropped off at Arctic Brewing Supply in Anchorage, dates to be announced.
- Mailed in. Mailing entries is highly encouraged.
- Requested for Special Arrangements (not guaranteed) from the Competition Superintendent if unable to bring entries on Entry Day.

*The Competition Judging Sessions will be held on **Friday August 11, from 6pm - 10 pm and Saturday 12, from 10am -6pm at the Fairgrounds.** Judges and "TAPS Certified" Stewards, especially those with experience, are needed. Please consider supporting this event and helping out; contact the Competition Superintendent. Camping will be available at the grounds.*

Additional Information: <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/craft-beverages/>

Contact for Superintendent Mark Girmscheid: markgirmscheid@gmail.com

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



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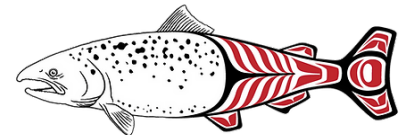
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