



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

September 2023

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See you in September!

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The Prez Sez

By John Trapp & Elizabeth Greer

Well, Summer has finally hit; and now it's gone. I hope everyone got out and enjoyed the sunshine and warmth, along with some fishing, camping and homebrew consumption! The last week of July and the first two weeks of August were pretty darn good in my book. First and foremost, a big thank you to Jeff Loughery and Cathy Straub for hosting our July BBQ at their beautiful home on Lake-O-the Hills. August was a fairly busy month, the club got back into the State Fair homebrew competition after a 15 year hiatus. A big thank you to Ira and Mark for heading up the competition there. The club also had the 2nd annual GNBC Weenie Roast! Another awesome time and great food was had by all – thanks Liz for the creation of this event.

Here's the 3 month calendar:

- **September 19th**: Monthly meeting back at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m. Oktoberfest
- **October 17th**: Monthly meeting at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m.
- **November 21st**: Monthly meeting at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m. Club Elections

Our September meeting will once again be dedicated to the greatest season of all, Oktoberfest! We will talk about the style of beer, its origins (with lots of fun facts) and drink some delicious O-fest beers. Please bring some potluck food to share as well as homebrew. There should be a few recipes to view so we can all start our lager season with a bang.

Outside of our meeting, there are always great Oktoberfest activities around town. They typically start near the end of September and run through mid-October. I don't have all the dates and locations just yet, but I will send them out to the club as we get them.

Before I forget, we have elections during our November meeting. Please consider running for a position as it is a very satisfying role and a great way to give back to the club. Plus, you have the ability to steer the club in directions never seen before (like a weenie roast). Believe it or not, having a homebrew position on your resume can open more doors than you can imagine.

Until next time, keep brewing because life is good. - Cheers!

In Memory of Cathie Straub

Dec. 18, 1963 - Sept. 1, 2023

The Great Northern Brewer's Club lost a long time member and friend this month. Many know her from the BBQ parties that Cathie and her husband Jeff Loughery would host in the summers.

She was active in the club, and attended many of the annual events. Having battled breast cancer for many years herself, she was always supportive of the club's annual GNBC "Brewbie Team" at the Alaska Run for Women.



Beside what many know of her through the GNBC, she was always active with her family, work, sports, and her countless hours supporting non-profits. So extensive were the gifts to her community she was given the Mayor's Award for Public Service. Her compassion legacy will be felt for years far into the future. The Impact that Cathie had on her loving family and extensive network of friends will be forever remembered. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate support for the Alaska Community Foundation specifically the Catherine Straub-Loughery Legacy Fund at:

<https://alaskacf.org/funds/catherine-straub-loughrey-legacy-fund/>

Cathie was fond of a good Belgian Ale. Please raise a glass this month in her honor.

Membership News - September 2023

By Steve Johnson

The club's membership year ends on September 30th. I am preparing to print and laminate membership cards for the new year. For members who will have paid dues for 2023-2024, I will have laminated cards for distribution at the club meeting on Tuesday, September 19th. That will save some money on postage costs and also help me associate names with faces.

For members who have not yet paid for 2023-2024, I will have printed, but not yet laminated, membership cards. On receipt of payment, I will laminate the cards and get them in the mail. If I remember to bring the laminator to the meeting, I can laminate and distribute cards on the spot.

GNBC meetings are the best place to make dues payment in cash. Membership payments may be made online at any time, including at meetings. A PayPal account is not need to make online payments. PayPal is simply the credit card processor.

Lost a membership card? Not receiving email announcements? Tell me by sending email to membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org. I will provide replacement cards and/or find out what is happening with your record in the mailing list.

Note for GCI Email users: GCI has announced plans to shutdown their email servers in May, 2024. To continue receiving this *Northern Brewer* newsletter, and other club announcements, after GCI discontinues email, you will need to supply the club with a different email address. Send your new e-mail address to membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org

Happy September! Another great month to brew and share beer.

State Fair Craft Beverage Competition

Elizabeth Greer

Thanks to everyone who participated at the 2023 Alaska State Fair Craft Beverages Competition, especially Mark Girmscheid, Terilynn Girmscheid, and Ira Edwards, with a shout out to Arctic Brewing who facilitated competition drop offs in Anchorage.



There was a good showing of many Divisions and Classes!



Judging was held Friday, August 4, and Saturday, August 5 with multiple judge panels and "TAPS Certified" Stewards. Pizza Delphi was delicious on Friday!

The winning beverages were displayed in a beautifully remodeled display in the Hoskins Building for the duration of the Fair. A successful event! Competition results can be found at: <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/result/spirited-beverage-division-champions-2022-2/>

As the organizers were new to this event and this was the first time GNBC has supported the event in several years, we all feel changes could be made in 2024 which would improve the overall competition. Your suggestions and input are requested! Please email suggestions to president@greatnorthernbrewers.org tagline "State Fair 2024". Thank you in advance!

Weenie Roast Recap

By Gwen Higgins

August 15th was the GNBC's second annual summer weenie roast at Abbott Loop Community Park. The club provided the hot dogs, while attendees brought potluck dishes to share. Thank you to everyone who helped out. We had a good turn out even though it was a rainy day.

Here are some photos from the event:



Weenie Roast Photo's Continued:



Beer Research: John Taylor, The Bard Of Beer

By Rick Levinson

Long before Michael Jackson wrote the praises of fine ale, there was John Taylor, the original "Bard of Beer", though he often referred to himself as the "Water Poet". He was an adventurer, sailor, saloon keeper, writer and publisher, and for forty years, the greatest advocate for good beer that ever lived. John Taylor was born in Gloucester England in 1580. The son of a surgeon, Taylor was sent to a grammar school but became, as he said, "mired in Latin accidence" (Latin grammatical inflection). So, he quit school and became apprenticed to a Thames River boatman. At a young age, he was conscripted in the British navy, which at that time, was at war with Spain and the formidable Spanish Armada. He was present at the siege of Cadiz and the battle of Flores, serving under Sir Francis Drake. Naval life could really bring out a thirst which he quenched with English ales to which he developed a lifelong addiction. He spent much of his life as a Thames waterman, a member and officer of the guild of boatmen that ferried passengers across the River Thames in London.



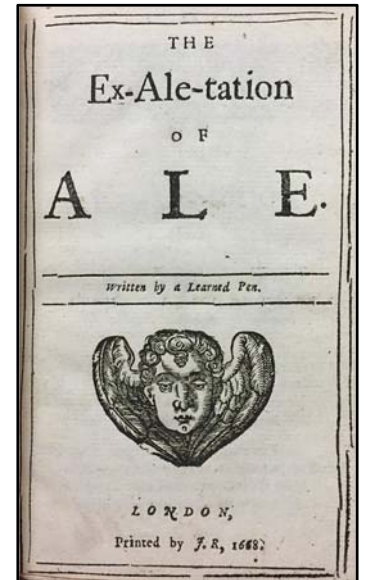
John Taylor was a contemporary of William Shakespeare, another literary Bard who was a fan of fine ale. As a writer and poet, John less prolific, though more focused on beer. Taylor published over 150 pamphlets and books, many paid for by subscription. Although his work was not sophisticated, he was a keen observer of people and styles in the seventeenth century. Some of his titles included: "The Ex-Ale-tation of Ale", "The Praise of Hemp-Seed", and "Lewd Did I Live, & Evil I Did Dwel". I

have no doubt that some of the GNBC members can relate to these and will be googling them shortly.

Much like Mark Twain did later, Taylor traveled extensively in the U.K. and European continent and wrote humorous accounts of his journeys. John Taylor is probably best known for his traveling and chronicling of his search for the perfect beer. Taylor extolled the virtues of a pot of good beer in more than 100 tracts and pamphlets. On one of his beer journeys, he traveled to Prague, where he was received by the King and Queen of Bohemia.

John Taylor began a series of eccentric journeys around England and the U.K. for which he solicited subscribers to support his adventures. He described his adventures in whimsical and rollicking prose and verse that was sent to his subscribers.

Taylor wrote that "the best beer equaled the best lodging". He would present himself at the front door of a nice inn representing himself as "the Queen's Waterman" and later as "the King's Water-Poet". In exchange for lodging, food, and ale, he immortalized his hosts in his writings. His success in this gambit was nothing less than astounding; he appears to have been welcomed everywhere. And true to his word, he returned kindness with glowing written tributes to his many hosts on the quality of their ale and their hospitality; something Michael Jackson imitated several centuries later. Taylor's writings became so well known, that his lifestyle was fully supported by free beer, food, and lodging wherever he went. Subscriptions to his pamphlets and books were so successful, that he became wealthy enough to purchase two taverns; one in Oxford, and one in the Covent Garden area of London.



Once while undoubtedly under the influence of his beloved ale, John made a barroom bet that he could sail in a boat made entirely of paper from London to Queenborough at the mouth of the Thames, nearly 50 miles away. He launched a craft made of thick oiled paper with two dried stockfish on wooden racks tied to canes for oars. Cheering crowds followed him along the riverbank offering him beer and encouragement as he rowed. Though very wet and tired, he made it all the way to Queenborough to collect his bet money and plenty more free beer.

Late in life, John Taylor penned what is considered the first beer guide for connoisseurs. His book was a catalog of the best inns and taverns to be found in all ten shires around London with special emphasis placed on the quality of each tavern's beer. It was a best-seller.

John did write on other subjects besides beer. One of which was titled "The Needles Excellency" which was one of the few books written and published specifically for British women in the 17th century, though it is considered sexist by today's standards. John married a woman named Alice, about whom very little is known other than John's fond writings of her honesty, faithfulness, and positive contributions.

John Taylor died in December 1653 while serving pints at The Poets Head Inn, his tavern in Covent Garden. It was a fitting demise for the Bard of Beer.

*Then high and mighty town's ale I did drink there.
It made my brains to caper and career,
It was of such magnificent strong force,
To knock me, in five miles, twice from my horse. --John Taylor*

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