



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

February 2024

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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

The Prez Sez

By Elizabeth Greer

2024: Snow, Snow, Snow..... I love... I hate moving it. I hope between your shoveling, snow blowing and hopefully fun times in the powdery outdoors, you are finding some time to brew! I have finally emptied out a few kegs of "expired" beer, cleaned them, and I am ready to fill! With spring just weeks away, time to get the brews going strong.

Last year was the first year that it seemed things got back relatively normal. Meetings were back and active with presentations and/or activities at most of them, competitions are returning, and several fun events were held. Please thank the GNBC officers, Board members, and supporters who made 2023 a successful year! This year promises more of all of that - with some other social activities being planned.

Here is a summary of the events over the next three months:

- February 1st - Industry Meeting for Barley Wine Festival. 49
- February 20 Club Meeting – at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m.
- March 19 – Club Meeting – Meads at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m.
- March (Date Pending) - Tartside Challenge Wort from Turnagain Brewing
- April 12-14 – Beer Trippin' in Talkeetna!
- April 16 – Club Meeting & Brew Gear/Book Exchange at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m.

Of course, the big event coming up is the Craft Beer and Barleywine Festival, Commercial Brew Competition, and associated Industry Night Reception this Thursday February 1st. This event is co-hosted by the Great Northern Brewers Club and The Brewers Guild of Alaska, with support from 49th State Brewing Company. The Legendary Phil Farrell will be our guest speaker. You may know him as the head Brewer of StillFire Brewing, Grand Master 6 Beer Judge, "Beer Drinker of the Year", or Beer Tripper "chicken man" Extraordinaire. Learn more about him:

<https://suwaneemagazine.com/ga-with-stillfire-brewings-phil-farrell/>

Reminder – this event is for members and invited guests only. BE SURE TO BRING YOUR CARD...else we are going to need to verify your current membership; time better spent at the event! You will have the opportunity to join at the door if you have not yet. Hope to see a good turnout!

-Liz

Secretary's Corner: Lessons from Dry January

By Gwen Higgins

Normally when I write this column, I summarize the previous month's meeting topic or discuss beer I have consumed over the last month. However, the "January" meeting is still days away, and after spending the holidays with my wine-loving family, I opted to take the month off of drinking. Here are some for a successful Dry January (or Sober October, or any other month of the year):

1. Find alternative beverages to enjoy. After a long day of work, I often like to treat myself to a beer I haven't tried before. This month, I have been replacing those beers with non-alcoholic drinks that still feel "special." I particularly like kombucha, but this time of year, trying different flavors of tea or making extra fancy hot chocolate are also good options.
2. Activities that don't involve drinking. Vice President Couture and I usually go on a date to a different brewery each week. This month, we have found other activities to occupy us, like movie nights and spending more time at the gym.
3. Nothing says you can't brew. Even if you aren't consuming alcohol, you can still make it. Use some time you might otherwise spend having a couple pints at a brewery to brew an extra batch of beer. By the time it's ready to drink, you will be too.

Fortunately, Dry January ends just in time for the Industry Gathering on February 1.

Membership News February 2024

Steve Johnson

As of January 26th, seventy-six individuals have purchased annual memberships for the year ending on September 30th: Three members fewer than last year. In terms of membership numbers, the club is on track for another successful year.

Two out of town beer judges have purchased memberships this year – they will be in town for the Craft Brew and Barley Wine Festival. One member renewed despite moving out of state.

Two Meetings in February

Because our January gathering—the Beer Industry Reception—occurs on the first of February this year, I will note here that the regular February meeting will be held at the usual time and place: third Tuesday of the month, February 20th, in the East Barrel Room, 49th State Brewery, Anchorage, Alaska.

Food / Setup / Cleanup

Also returning on the 20th, after the special procedures of the Beer Industry Reception, is the Food / Setup / Cleanup schedule shown below. On a rotating basis, members are asked to provide homemade food, help in setting up the meeting room, or help in cleaning up after the meeting. Find the month of the meeting and the group in which your last name lies, and you'll find your member duty.

Month	Last Name A-J	Last Name K-P	Last Name Q-Z
February	Setup	Cleanup	Food
March	Cleanup	Food	Setup
April	Food	Setup	Cleanup
May	Setup	Cleanup	Food
September	Cleanup	Food	Setup
October	Food	Setup	Cleanup
November	Setup	Cleanup	Food

Department of Missing Information

When processing online membership payments, I've noticed a trend of members not filling out the fields for complete address and phone number and the name of the second card holder, if any. For renewing members, I can usually provide this information from records, but sometimes people have moved without providing a change of address. With luck, in such cases, mailings are forwarded or returned to sender. If you do not receive your membership cards within a week of paying dues, send an email reporting the problem to membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org.

Also, do tell me if you are not receiving the email announcing the latest issue of Northern Brewer, the club newsletter. Current and back issues of The Northern Brewer are freely available for download at www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/newsletter.

Beer Trippin' 2024

By Mike Cragen

April 12-14 is Beer Trippin' in Talkeetna. If there's one out-of-town event you make it to this year, this should be the one! Denali Brewing Company (DBC) is inviting GNBC members to join them for a weekend of beer, booze, and camaraderie. This event is all about homebrewing and homebrewers . . . not a traditional beer festival. Denali will be hosting their annual Beer Trippin' Homebrew Competition once again – more details on that later. The winner will help them brew the headlining beer for next year's Beer Trippin' weekend.

Denali has great events planned and some noteworthy opportunities. First, DBC is brewing a wort, which they'll be providing to GNBC members. This post-boil wort is yours to finish. Try any combination of hops or yeasts. Whatever comes to mind. It is the expectation that if you receive wort from DBC, you bring your creation to the GNBC/DBC taste and share. Denali Brewing will be attending and eagerly sampling your brews. Specific details are still being hammered out, but a detailed schedule with events, times, and locations will be coming your way soon. If you have ideas for events, please contact Mike at: mikecragen@yahoo.com or 907-250-4818.

Finally, this is a family-friendly event. Bring the wife, husband, kids, dogs, and hamsters – there's fun to be had by all! Although there's plenty of accommodation options in Talkeetna, be sure to book soon so your favorite places don't get snagged away from you. Consider staying at the Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge who have offered us a 30% discount for the weekend. Just book online with the promo code: SPRING. They've been generous enough to offer shuttle rides (no additional charge) between downtown and the Lodge during the Beer Trippin' weekend.

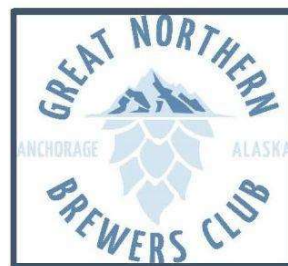
So mark your calendars- April 12-14.

Rosalie "Rose" Ann Craig

By Elizabeth Greer

GNBC lost a friend and long-time member in January. Her husband John "Suds" Craig, family and friends will miss her dearly. There will be a Memorial Celebration of "The Life of Rose" on Sunday February 18, 2024 at 1pm-4pm at King Street Brewery, 3rd Floor. Celebrate and share your stories with us. Beer will be provided, as Rose would have wished. A side dish would be appreciated. Contact for additional information is Lisa Lamb email: lisa.lambak@gmail.com





Great Northern Brewers Club Members

2024 Alaska Beer Industry Reception

Thursday February 1, 2024, 6pm-9pm

The Great Northern Brewers Club and Brewers Guild of Alaska will be hosting this year's Industry Reception at 49th State Brewing's Heritage Theater, 717 West 3rd Ave, Anchorage

Featured speaker will be **Phil Farrell**. *You may know him as: "The Chicken Man", Head Brewer of StillFire Brewing, Grand Master Level 6 Beer Judge, former Board of Governors of the American Homebrewer's Association, Wynkoop "Beer Drinker of the Year", or maybe Beer Tripper Extrordinaire.*

- 6pm: Set-up and drop off
- 6:30pm: GNBC club business
- **7pm-9pm: Industry Reception**
- 7:30pm-8pm: Key Note Speaker*

****We request conversations during the Key Note Speaker be taken out of the Heritage Theater in respect of the speaker and audience***

Light appetizers will be provided as well as beer from home brewers, breweries and distributors. **Thank you for bringing your Home brew!** Homemade food "pot-luck" items appreciated. We could use some cookies!

We need **Volunteers** to help with check-in and pouring beer

Please plan to commit an hour+ for support -Thank You! **GNBC membership card required**, or membership can be purchased at the door for \$30. RSVP and volunteer: president@greatnorthernbrewers.com

Special thanks to 49th State Brewing for their support!

49th STATE
- BREWING -

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



ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

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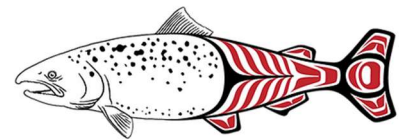
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