



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

March 2024

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Next Meeting

March 19 @ 49th State

The Prez Sez

By Liz Greer

March comes in Lion and out like a Lamb? Well in between, things are picking up...warmer temperatures, St. Patrick's Day, and more daylight! In ancient Greece, many believed in the return of Persephone the goddess of spring and the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of grain, harvest, and fertility. Now there is a good reason to kick up the brewing!

Our January meeting, in February, was well attended! The Alaska Brewers Guild and GNBC co-hosted a reception for the Craft Beer and Barleywine festival. Breweries and brewers, industry representatives, judges from across the country,

competition organizers and Stewards, and GNBC Members all gathered to share brews, appetizers, and stories. Our guest Speaker Phil Farrell had everyone laughing at his tales of beer tripping and Barleywine Festival History. Special thanks to 49th State for their support.

Our February Meeting was a sweet treat with chocolate and candy pairing... thanks to Colin Burket for the planning. If you missed the meeting, you might want to watch the You-Tube video "Best Beer and Chocolate Pairings for Every Palate | Expert Recommendations" by Douglass Miller. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sL7ZnO3eNA8>

The March Meeting will be Mead Madness!With a presentation by Karl Morgan at 49th state Brewing.

Mead or Honeywine is similar to wine and beer. "Many cultures—Egyptians, Greeks, Chinese, and Vikings—drank mead. The Greeks called mead ambrosia, or nectar. It was believed to be the drink of the gods and was thought to descend from the heavens as dew before being gathered in by bees." If you have some Meads, Braggots, Cyser, Melomel, or other honey ferments ... bring them in. If you are not sure what these are... not to worry you can learn!



GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

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Maria Benner 2023-2024

Colin Burket 2023-2024

Jerry Siok 2023-2024

Nathaniel Gingery 2024-2025

Sue Krawiecki 2024-2025

Contact information via our website

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

- 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! & Golden Carboy Competition
- April 16 – Club Meeting & Brew Gear/Book Exchange at 49th State Brewing Company 7:00 p.m.
- May 4 – Group Brew for National Homebrew Day! At Arctic Brewing Supply
- May Meeting TBD

Also if you have any thoughts on some fun activities, please let me or one of the officers know. Remember we have more information on the club at: <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/>

Secretary’s Corner

Enjoying Beer in Alaska: A Historical Photo Essay

By Gwen Higgins

Alaska has had a long history of beer consumption stretching back over a century, at least to the gold rushes of the late 1800s. This month, I’m sharing a few historical images of beer in the 49th State:



Left: Members of the crew of the film *Eskimo*, which was filmed in Alaska from 1932 to 1933, take a break to enjoy some brews.

Michael Philip papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.

Right: Beer seemed to be the picnic beverage of choice for this group of women and men, circa 1945.

Emard Cannery Employee photograph album, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.



Left: Pat Ryan (obviously not *that* Pat Ryan) drinks a beer at a bonfire celebrating Alaska Statehood in 1958.

Ruth A.M. Schmidt papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.

Right: Alaska's snow and chilly temps are perfect for keeping brews cold.

Donald Arthur Post, photographer, Donald Arthur Post slides, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.



Right: The frame for a brewery building in Anchorage, damaged during the 1964 Earthquake. Unfortunately, it never seems to have been operational.

John Cerutti slides, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.

Right: Two women holding beers during a picnic.

Dorothy and Grenold Collins papers, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.

All of the photographs featured in this article can be found on [Alaska's Digital Archives](#).



Membership News March 2024

By Steve Johnson

By the Numbers

As of February 23rd, GNBC had 82 annual members and 25 annual members, on a pace with our membership on this date in 2023. Also, as of this date, twenty members from last year had not paid dues for the current year. Each membership may include one individual or an individual plus spouse or partner in the same household.

Annual Membership Dues

At the February meeting, President Liz Greer stated that, for three years, the club has been running deficits—more dollars out than dollars in. To obtain more dollars, the club could increase dues or change the membership structure. Since the 2013-2014 membership year, annual dues have been \$30 for one or two individuals in the same household.

One alternative to increasing the \$30 fee would be to limit the membership to one person at the current price, with an additional, discounted fee for a spouse or partner in the same household.

Such a change would reflect the per person fees that the club pays for liquor liability insurance. At present, insurance costs 4.71 per person on the list of members. On July 1st, 2023, when our current bill was calculated, our invoice was based on 186 individuals: 149 in the annual category and 37 in the lifetime category.

According to the American Homebrewers Association, no other AHA affiliated club has our club's membership policy of including a spouse or partner in the same household at no additional charge.

The GNBC Board will discuss annual dues in upcoming meetings. No change in the annual membership rate would take place before the 2024-2025 membership year, starting in October 2024.

Life Membership

At club meetings and board meetings, members have mentioned the lack of information about Life Membership on the club website. The price is not mentioned on the Membership page and Life Membership is omitted from the Paypal form. These paragraphs are intended to fill that gap, temporarily.

Since the 2013-2014 membership year, Life Membership has cost \$350. As in the case of annual membership, the life membership covers one person and a spouse/partner in the same household.

The price of Life Membership is a bargain for anyone who expects to be a member of the club for more than 11 years (at current rate), even without considering the value of discounts from merchants.

For life memberships, the club prefers payment by check to avoid PayPal percentage based fees. For Annual Memberships, PayPal's audit trail of payments justifies the cost (\$1.47 for a \$30 payment). Given the low volume of Lifetime Membership transactions, the cost of the audit trail seems unnecessary.

Food / Setup / Cleanup

For most meetings, 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.

December and January are omitted from this list. The December meeting is the holiday party. All members are asked to participate in any way they can. The January meeting—even if held on the first of February—is the Beer Industry Meeting, held in cooperation with the Brewers Guild and the Alaska Craft Beer and Barleywine Festival. Members bring homebrew and cookies. TAPS card holders help with pouring beer.

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

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.

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



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