



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

May 2024

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The Prez Sez

By Liz Greer

May is upon us, and summer is just around the corner. Hopefully you have started some summer brews, and maybe a few wort share creations too! Maybe you got a few good hand-me-downs from the April gear swap to assist. April included Beer Trippin' 2024, and it is in the books as another fun year with some of the most spectacular weather I can ever recall for this event! Thanks to Denali Brewing and the City of Talkeetna!



Club President Liz Greer with the Mayor of Talkeetna

GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

GNBC WEBSITE

www.GreatNorthernBrewers.org

PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Greer

president@greatnorthernbrewers.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Jordan Couture

vp@greatnorthernbrewers.org

TREASURER

Zack Quam

treasurer@greatnorthernbrewers.org

SECRETARY

Gwen Higgins

secretary@greatnorthernbrewers.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Steve Johnson

membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maria Benner 2023-2024

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Contact information via our website

Our big event coming up is on May 4th - our annual group brew for [National Homebrew Day!](#) "In 1988, May 7 was announced before Congress as National Homebrew Day. The American Homebrewers Association created Big Brew as an annual event to celebrate National Homebrew Day around the world." So bring your brew kettles and burners to Arctic Brewing! Set up at 10am. We will be having our Beer Toast at 10:15am. Brewing all day until about 4pm. There will be a few special brews including Club Darkside/Lightside brews, and a beginner brewing demonstration at 1pm.

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

- May 4 – Group Brew National Homebrew Day! Arctic Brewing Supply
- May 24 – Haines Brewfest Homebrew Competition. The Morgans will shuttle your brew.
- June 1 - May/June Meeting – Brisket and Brews! At Adam Sikorski's house
- June 8 – Team Brewbies Alaska Run for Women. UAA or on your own that week
- June 14-16 - Campout at Ekultna Lake
- July 4 – Tentative – Talkeetna 4th of July Parade. We need a trailer for a float!
- July 20 – Bottle Share with our Kenai friends at the Rock'n the Ranch at the RustyRavin
- August 9 – Palmer State Fair Homebrew Competition (.and cider, sodas, etc,)
- August 30 -Sept 2 – McCarthy club trip
- Sept 20 – Valdez Brewing Oktoberfest Homebrew Competition

If you have 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/>

-Cheers!

Secretary's Corner: April gear swap

By Gwen Higgins

This is going to be a bit of a shorter column, since we didn't have an educational presentation at last month's meeting. Instead, we had a repeat of our gear swap from last April. People brought in brewing equipment, glassware, supplies, branded merch, and other beer-related items for people to take what they wanted. For the sake of nobody getting trampled to death rushing to get the best stuff, it worked similarly to our regular door prize drawings. Despite the random selection of tickets having a bias toward one table in particular, it was a great way to pick up some useful brewing items and get rid of unused gear. It looks like it's becoming an annual tradition, so if you missed the gear swap this year, there's always next year.

Beer Trippin' Recap (plus Denali Brewing wort share info)

By Mike Cragen

Beer Trippin' 2024 is in the books and it was another fantastic one! The weekend was a great combination of events, friends, fun, sun, and . . . BEER! Before I get into those details, first a sincere 'thank you' to Sassan and all the great folks at Denali Brewing Company! Once again, they went out of their way to make us feel welcome and provide an amazing opportunity for all of our members.

Denali Brewing Co. hosted the Golden Carboy Homebrew Competition.

Here are the results:

Golden Carboy – Sam Shea – Munich Helles

Best of Show – Sam Shea – Munich Helles

2nd overall – Mike Cragen – Kölsch

3rd overall – Mike Cragen – Pale Ale

This is the first time ever the same beer has been chosen for both Golden Carboy and Best of Show – congrats Sam! Sam's Helles will be the headlining beer for Beer Trippin' 2025 – I can't wait to try that one!

GNBC members received 115 gallons of wort from DBC. This year we were given their Mt. Huntington Hazy, pre-hopped. They brought it to a boil to sterilize it, then pulled it aside before hop additions at 1.068 and a pH of 5.13. As a reminder, for everyone who received wort, it's expected that you bring at least one growler of beer per style that you brewed. If you received 5 gallons, you should have at least one style & growler- 10 gallons, you should have at least two growlers and styles.

We are trying something a little different for the DBC Wort Taste and Share this year. Adam Sikorski has



Beer Trippin' attendees on a tour of Denali Brewing

graciously offered to host the Taste and Share as a **"Brisket and Brew" on Saturday, June 1st at 4:00PM.** His address is: 2430 Copperwood Dr. Not only is he hosting the Taste and Share, but he's also having a people's choice brisket challenge. Feel free to contact him at 907-202-2105 if you'd like to participate as a brisket-making contender. Please consider bringing a side dish, salad, or dessert – feel free to contact Adam

to see what's needed. There will be cornhole and axe-throwing, but bringing other yard games as well is encouraged.

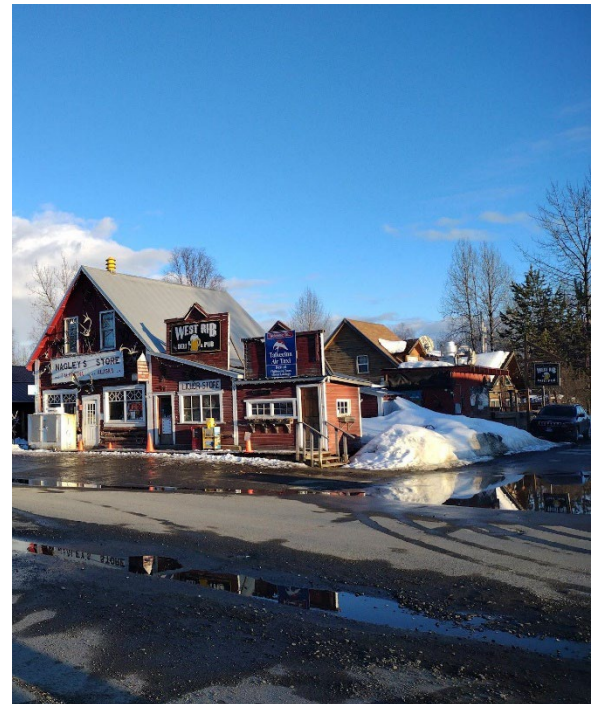
Again, thank you so much to all the good people at Denali Brewing Company and Talkeetna as a whole. We had a fantastic time and couldn't have asked for better weather, better friends, or better beer!

Cheers,
Mike Cragen

More photos of Talkeetna during Beer Trippin'...



Food and an empty glass at the Denali Spirits tequila tasting



McCarthy Brew-Venture!

Mark your calendars for the first GNBC Brew-venture to McCarthy on Labor Day weekend!
In the words of Warren Miller, "If you don't do it this year, you'll be a year older when you do!"

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 30 - Monday, Sept. 2

WHERE: McCarthy, Alaska, the gateway town to Wrangell - St. Elias National Park

WHAT: Explore America's largest National Park during the day, and relax with brews, great food and live music in the evenings.

Bob and Marie Logan slides, Archives and Special Collections, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.



Itinerary

Friday: arrival and drinks at The Potato or the Saloon.

Saturday: spend the day exploring Kennicott, or go for a hike on the Root Glacier. In the evening, McCarthy Lodge will host us for a beer dinner (\$65+ per person).

Please text Maria Benner if you are interested in attending the beer dinner: 907-351-4347. The room seats 40 people max.

Sunday afternoon: Maria and Scott will host the club at their cabin for a potluck and bottle share.

Monday: departure

Lodging

The owner of McCarthy Lodge, Neil Darish, has extended a special invitation to GNBC members for this adventure.

Accommodations: Ma Johnson's Hotel - 50% OFF from Friday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 2.

Hotel bookings will be by phone, or e-mail: 907-202-6717, Neil.Darish@McCarthyLodge.com rather than through the website so Neil can provide the discount.

Here are additional notes from Neil about the hotel rates:

We can override the 2-night minimum for club members that only can do 1 night.

First Night = \$165 for 1 or 2 people sharing a room, no taxes, includes breakfast.

Two Nights = \$329 for 1 or 2 people sharing a room, no taxes, includes breakfast.

For Club members who can be there Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights: third night for just \$90 per room (includes breakfast at the Salmon & Bear Restaurant across the street).

There are many other lodging options available in McCarthy and in Kennicott, including lodges, AirBnBs, and campgrounds. This website has some good resources: <https://www.wrangells.org/about-the-wmc-1-1>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Maria Benner (907) 351-4347, mariabenner@outlook.com

Celebrate National Homebrew Day on May 4, 2024

with the
**Great Northern
Brewers Club**

and
**Arctic
Brewing
Supply!**



8401 Sandlewood Place



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

12:00 pm – Batch #3 & #4 (including the Beginner Batch)

We will probably be doing some beers and a cider and/or seltzer.

RSVP : 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. Drop in OK if you have not RSVP'd

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

If you have never made a beer, or a novice... please join! ... it is fun and you can learn more about brewing.

....May the 4th be with you!



THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA HOME BREW CONTEST

Part of

The Great Alaska Craft Beer & Home Brew Festival

May 24 - 25, 2024

A home brew contest for all beer, mead and cider lovers of the North

Judging on

MAY 24



in Haines, Alaska



Learn more and Register your brew at

WWW.SEAKFAIR.ORG HOMEBREW

Every donation directly supports the fight against breast cancer.

Join Our Team At The

Alaska RUN for Women 2024



Saturday June 8th

Join thousands of women and raise funds for breast cancer awareness, education, early detection, research and prevention!

In-Person or Virtual

June 8

8:30 a.m. start

UAA Campus



June 1-8

Anytime/anywhere
during the 8 days



Scan to register and
join our team.

Register now at www.akrfw.org



Register/Donate Online and Choose our Team Name:

Team Captain:

Elizabeth Greer

Contact:

president@greatnorthernbrewers.org

Team Name:

BREWBIES –

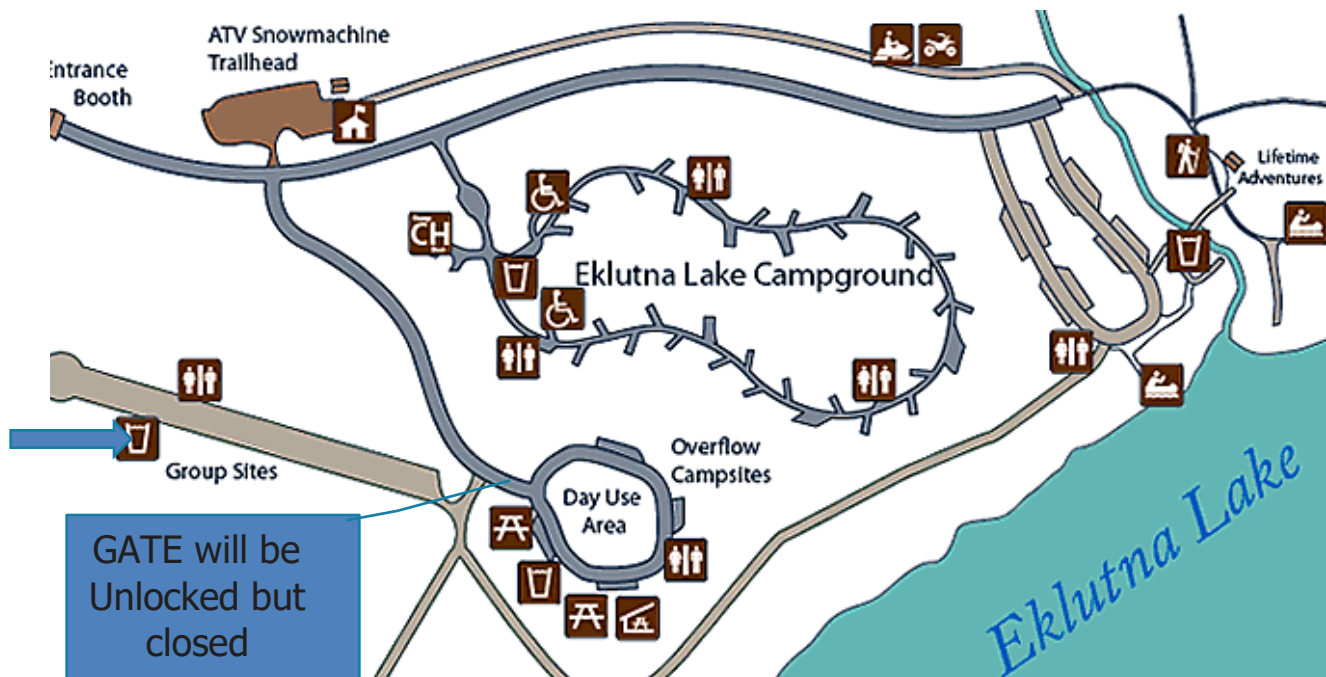
Great Northern Brewers Club

Every donation directly supports the fight against breast cancer.



Great Northern Brewers Club - Campout 2024 Eklutna Group Site B

Friday, June 14 @ 1pm – Sunday, June 16 @ 11am
Potluck Party Saturday at 6pm (ish)



What to Bring: Pretty much everything and anything: R.V.s, campers, tents, canopies, bikes, boats, games, food, something for the Saturday Potluck Party, and of course BEER!

Turnagain Tartside Challenge on Friday Evening

There is a shared restroom

Pets are welcome as long as they are friendly and leashed if needed.



Alaska State Fair 2024 Craft Beverages Competition



Get ready for the 2024 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 2, or Saturday, August 3, 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 Beer Competition Judging Sessions will be held on **Friday August 9, from 6pm - 10 pm 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

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