



THE

# Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

## August 2024

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### Next Meeting

Regular Meeting Sept. 17, upstairs  
in the 49<sup>th</sup> State Hall

### GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB GNBC WEBSITE

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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

## The Prez Sez

By Elizabeth "Liz" Greer

Grab some beers for August! The first Friday of August is International Beer Day...Domestic or imported, a reason to toast! It is also a day to submit your State Fair competition beers, see more later in the Newsletter.

The GNBC Board met in July and started planning a calendar of events for upcoming events 2024 including:

- August 9 & 10 – Judging for Palmer State Fair Homebrew Competition (and cider, sodas, etc.)
- August 20 - Summer BBQ at Jeff Loughrey's house
- August 30 -Sept 2 – McCarthy club trip
- Sept 17 – Club General Meeting – Beer Judging 101 and start of the 24/25 season.
- Sept 20 – Valdez Brewing Oktoberfest Homebrew Competition
- October 21 - General Meeting – Beer flavors
- November 18 – General Meeting – Elections
- December Holiday Party!

This Newsletter has more information on these events as well as our Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/Gnbc1/> and website: <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/>

Get your brews ready for the State Fair and Valdez events coming up! 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: Looking Ahead to Fall

By Gwen Higgins

September is almost here, which means that we're getting ready for another season of regular meeting. This year, we're focusing on the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) style guidelines, in preparation for hopefully having an opportunity to take the BJCP exam this winter. September's meeting will be an introduction to the guidelines with opportunities to taste examples of different styles of beer. October will be all about recognizing different flavors and ingredients in beer, possibly with a specific focus on spiced beers, given that we'll be in peak pumpkin spice season.



This year, we'll also be debuting beer tasting sheets at our meetings. The sheets will be like a smaller version of competition scoresheets, where tasters will be able to note the aroma, appearance, flavor, and mouthfeel of the beer and compare them with the BJCP guidelines for the relevant category, if they wish. This will be a great way for those hoping to take the exam to get practice evaluating beer, and for brewers to get useful feedback.

It's not fall yet, so in the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer and attend the club's Summer BBQ, starting at 6:00 pm on August 20, at Jeff Loughrey's house, 7051 Lake O the Hills Cir.

## Alaska State Fair – Brew Competition

By Mark Girmscheid, Alaska State Fair Craft Beverages Superintendent



We are rapidly approaching the 2024 Alaska State Fair Craft Beverages Competition. Please continue to prepare your favorite entries and consider venturing into new entry areas to expand your beverage making skills.

Fair entries accepted this year in person at **Arctic Brewing Supply, 8401 Sandlewood Place, Anchorage, Wednesday July 31, 2024 10am- 5pm; the Palmer Alaska State Fair Grounds, Hoskins Building, Friday, August 2; and Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 11am - 7pm.** As always, you can mail your entries if necessary, through approved methods FEDEX or UPS. This must be received before the close of business, August 1, 2024.

Please reserve time to join in the Judging Festivities, which will be, Friday, August 9, 2024 6- 10pm and Saturday, August 10, 2024 10am – 6pm. Also this year, the Fair has granted permission to dry/ self-contained camping for the weekend until Sunday, August 11, 2024 11am, RSVP- ASAP. Fair Admission Tickets will be offered for your time and expertise. We also are planning a spread of food and goodies for your enjoyment during the judging process. We hope that you will join us.

As you probably noticed, we changed the some of the Classes this year. As changes happen and popularity of different beverages ebb and flow, we adjust the Classes for the changes. We are excited this year to continue our relationship with the Great Northern Brewer's Club and look forward to partnering with their expertise and support.

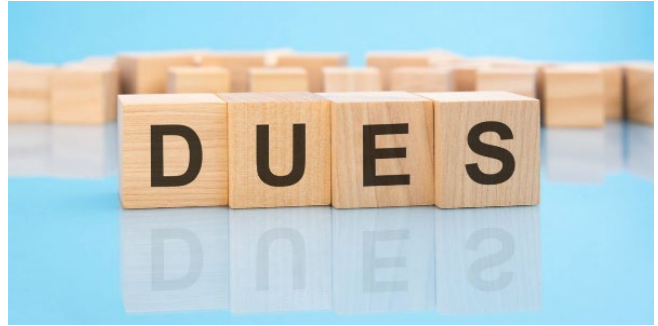
Please remember, that we are required by the Alaska State Fair's Liquor License to have Alcohol Server Training Certified (TAPS/TIPS) Stewards, your support and participation is greatly appreciated. Certification renewal is every four years. If you would like to get certified or renew, check out the only online State approved site at: <https://www.alaskacharr.com/alcohol-server-training.html>

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# Changes in Club Membership Dues

*By Elizabeth Greer and Steve Johnson*

Eleven years ago, in 2013, the price of an annual membership in the Great Northern Brewers Club increased from \$25 to \$30. That price couldn't last forever.



For the October 2024 - September 2025 membership year, the price has increased. The new price of a membership for two, including a spouse/partner in the same household, is now \$50.

The cost of an annual membership for one remains \$30. Previously, the spouse/partner was included in annual membership at no additional charge. Our hope is that annual members with spouses/partners will renew at the \$50 rate.

Why raise the membership fee? After a decline in membership dues income during Covid, the club has been running an annual deficit since 2022. With the current number of memberships, the \$30 price for one or two members does not balance the budget. The club needs to increase income from dues.

Why add a fee for a spouse/partner in the same household? For alcohol liability insurance purposes, two on a membership costs twice as much as one on a membership. The annual price of our insurance policy is based on the number of members on July 1st.

This year, on July 1st, 59 of 88 annual memberships had a spouse or partner listed in the membership records. Fourteen of 25 lifetime memberships had an associated spouse or partner. For insurance purposes, the club has 186 members. With each member one can associate a cost of insurance before taking into consideration a share of any other club expenses--room rentals and special events including the Industry Meeting with Alaska Craft Beer and Barley Wine Festival.

The Board hopes that annual members with spouses/partners will renew at the \$50 rate.

Club membership is still a great deal! Meetings are opportunity to chat with other brewers about your experiences and plans and find answers to your questions. Brews and snacks are usually plentiful, presentations are interesting and informative, and the parties and events are always fun. The discounts from our sponsors are an exceptional benefit. The newsletter keeps you up to date on events and news and doesn't overwhelm your inbox. Membership is required at several exclusive functions including the Industry reception for the Alaska Craft Brew and Barleywine Festival.

**Thank you for your continued membership and activity in the Great Northern Brewers Club.**

*P.S. The dues page on the club website has not yet been updated to include the new dues structure. The updated site will be announced as soon as ready for business.*

# GNBC in the Talkeetna July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

By Sue K.

4th of July in Talkeetna! Thanks to all the volunteers who decorated a float for the parade. The GNBC float was led by a vintage Cadillac decorated in bunting driven by Breck with Jim shotgun. Curtis drove Liz's Jeep with John waving flags from the passenger seat. On the beer themed float (provided by the Lambs) were a row of kegs and beer decorations including beer balloons provided by Barb and Arctic Brewing Supply. Liz, Marta, and Alan handed out candy and flags. A large GNBC group enjoyed beer and watched and cheered from the Denali Brewpub deck.

Lots of good potluck food, beer sharing, and socializing at the Yoder Road and Wobbly/Wiley Wolf camps. Later on the group went to the Fairview to dance to the Denali Cooks. Fun times!



\*Photos by Lisa Lamb



# 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](mailto:markgirmscheid@gmail.com)

## 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.



### 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](mailto:mariabenner@outlook.com)

# VALDEZ OKTOBERFEST HOMEBREW COMPETITION



**September 20th, 2024**

**Time and location: TBA**



Categories:

- Porter/Stout
- German Style
- Pale Ale/IPA

Judging:

1. Best Beer in each category (dark, IPA, German style)
2. Brewer's Choice (voted by fellow brewers)

*\$25 fee for each beer entry. Entry form is through QR code!*

*Must supply a minimum of six 22oz. bottles for the tasting*

*Registration must be received by August 16th*

*Must keep pours to sample-size; full servings will not be permitted*

*Beer produced/made at a commercial facility is prohibited*

*Judges will evaluate and score each entry and averages of scores will rank each entry in its category.*

*Must have means to keep beer chilled. Ice will be provided*

*No outside food & drink (other than the beer being supplied for contest) allowed*

*Must be at least 21 years of age or older at time of event*

*Prizes for Best in Category and Brewer's Choice TBA*

# Many Thanks to Our Sponsors!

