



THE  
**Northern Brewer**  
 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

**October 2024**

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October 15th  
49th State Heritage Theater

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 Maria Benner 2023-2024  
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*Contact information via our website*

**The Prez Sez**

*By Liz Greer*

The Labor Day McCarthy Trip was a blast! 21 Great Northern Brewers Club affiliates participated in bottle shares, a beer pairing dinner, music, tours, and a fun potluck at the cabin of Maria Benner and Scott Clendaniel. Thanks to all that made it happen.

In early September a few club members meet up with a group of homebrewers from Society of Oshkosh Brewers (SOB) at Turnagain Brewing. They brought us several Spotted Cows beers which we shared at our September meeting. If you are traveling to a City with a Homebrew club, consider checking out their meetings. I suspect you will find them welcoming to a fellow homebrewer and you might be able to bring some ideas back to our club.

Our October meeting will be focused on spiced beers! Please Join! Also October Starts our Membership Year! Remember to renew!

Here are the suggested member support roles – snacks are always welcome!

Month	Last Name A-J	Last Name K-P	Last Name Q-Z
<b>October</b>	Food	Setup	Cleanup
<b>November</b>	Setup	Cleanup	Food

**Upcoming Events**

- October 15: General Meeting – Beer flavors
- November 19: General Meeting – Elections / Brewery
- December 7: Big Fish Brew Competition
- December 14: Holiday Party!
- January 30, 2025: Industry Night Reception.

Get your brews ready for the **Big Fish Competition coming up!**

If you have thoughts on some fun activities, please let me or one of the officers know. More information on the club and events on the Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Gnbc1/> and website: <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/>

*-Cheers*

## Secretary's Corner: September Meeting Recap

*By Gwen Higgins*

The club kicked off the season in September with a meeting all about beer judging. Club Vice President Jordan Couture gave a presentation about the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP) Style Guidelines and how BJCP competitions are judged. For those not familiar with the process, the Guidelines describe styles of beer according to four sensory attributes: aroma, appearance, flavor, and mouthfeel. Beer is evaluated not on how much the judge liked the beer, but on how well it fits within the guidelines for its particular style. Jordan went through how to judge each of the different attributes and fill in the official BJCP scoresheet. Tables were all given the same beer, along with scoresheets, so attendees could practice judging. For those who want to apply their judging skills in a competition setting, Humpy's is sponsoring the Big Fish competition in December.



Just a reminder, club elections are coming up in November, so if you are interested in running for an officer or board position. We will be voting on two board positions, as well as all of the officer positions. If you get something out of being a club member, please consider giving back by serving on the board.

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## Membership News – October 2024

*By Steve Johnson, Membership Coordinator*

At the Great Northern Brewers Club, everyone's annual membership year begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who joins after the 30<sup>th</sup> of April receives a membership card for the following year at no additional charge.

As of September 29<sup>th</sup>, I've received annual dues payments for 19 members. For those who want to remain active in the club and support its activities, now is the time to pay dues.

An up to date membership card is required for the discounts offered by Arctic Brewing Supply and La Bodega. Current membership is also required for admission to January's meeting, held in association with the Craft Beer and Barleywine Festival. The 2025 meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Save the date!

For many, PayPal remains a convenient way to pay dues using a credit card. A PayPal account is not required. A link to the PayPal form is on the club website at <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/>

For those paying cash at a meeting, please request a receipt for payment. I will have a receipt book at the meeting. Thanks to Board Member Sue Krawiecki for suggesting a receipt book.

Steve Johnson

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# A Memorable Weekend: Great Northern Brewers Club Meetup in McCarthy, Alaska

*By Scott Clendaniel*

The Great Northern Brewers Club came to McCarthy, Alaska over Labor Day weekend, and if you want to know how that brew-venture went, then read on. Most everyone arrived on Friday. Maria and I decided to head down to the footbridge around four in the afternoon to welcome our friends and greet them with a beer after the long drive. When we rolled through McCarthy on our bikes on our way to the footbridge, we saw several club members who had already made it to the Ma Johnson's Hotel, where most of the club was staying for the weekend. We greeted them and headed to the footbridge, where we met more club members rolling into town. We told everyone to meet up at The Potato Restaurant for some beers and food. After dinner, a few people went to watch the local softball game, and then everyone gathered back at the lobby of the Ma Johnson's, and the club had a proper bottle share, with locals dropping in from the street to sample imperial stouts and homemade meads.

Friday night was Prom at the Golden Saloon, located directly across the street from the Ma Johnson's Hotel. The Jephries played, a few members attended, and the saloon was packed, with festive Prom goers.

The next day, most of the club went to Kennicott and took the Mill Tour. The tour is a great way to get an idea of what happened during the 27 years the town was producing copper from 1911-1938.



*Arrival on Friday night*



*Softball game with the best view!*

It's also the only way to experience walking around inside the 14-story, red-painted, timber-frame building.

At seven in the evening, the Salmon and Bear Restaurant hosted the whole club for a beer dinner. We took over the entire restaurant. While the beers weren't particularly spectacular, the pairings and food were excellent. The creativity shone through—starting with a Glacier Brewhouse Blonde Ale served in a smoked glass, paired with smoked sable crostinis. Neil Darish from the McCarthy Lodge did a fantastic job organizing the dinner and even served many of the courses himself!

Later that night, Rose's Pawn Shop from Los Angeles played a great show at The Potato Restaurant, which lasted until about 11 o'clock. Roland Roberts Band was scheduled to play at the Golden Saloon, but Roland himself couldn't make it due to illness. Instead, I heard Kat Moore from the Saturated Sugar Strings played with the Jephries late into the night at the Golden Saloon.

On Sunday, the club met at the McCarthy Creek Bridge and made their way up the hill to our cabin for a potluck, about two miles from town. Some people rode bikes, others walked, and we provided rides up and down the hill throughout the evening. The food was amazing, and the bottles of beverages were outstanding! The GNBC never fails when it comes to a great spread of food and libations.

The highlight of the evening was a nature walk around the 10-acre lot to view mushrooms, including a visit to the "Monkey Forest." The Monkey Forest is a spot on the property where a few outdoor paintings of monkeys are hung to weather and deteriorate over time. The nature walk ended at the Art Lab, where I showed off the last two paintings I created during my stay.



*Potluck at our Cabin*

The event was a smashing success! The weather was perfect, which was especially lucky as it had rained every day leading up to the GNBC's arrival. Glacier views were a rare treat for many first-time Wrangell-St. Elias NP visitors. Many members asked if this would become an annual event, but that remains to be seen. If the McCarthy Lodge offers the same deal and enough club members are interested, it could be arranged. I know I had a great time! Huge shout-out to Neil Darish for giving the GNBC a great deal on lodging and for hosting us for a wonderful beer dinner! Cheers!

# Beer Research: When The Saints Go Mashing In

*By Rick Levinson*

Were you ever in extreme desperate need for a beer, and some kind soul provided it for you; it was a religious experience, right? Well, it turns out that, for millennia, church leaders as well as common folks agreed with you, and thought those pious individuals who provided fine beer to those truly in need should be rewarded with a new title and their good deeds should be recorded in history. So, as we approach All Saints Day, it's important to pay homage to the Beer Saints – those individuals who, through their very good deeds and good taste, have made the world a better place.



While many beers are named after saints, the true Beer Saints are the stuff of legends, with a few facts and myths thrown in. What follows is a partial listing of legendary Beer Saints and their lore. It is incomplete because there are too many Beer Saints for the limited space here (35 at last count). This short list will hopefully provide some enlightenment, inspiration, and make you thirsty (to learn more).

**Saint Patrick** of Roman Britain and Ireland (patron saint of Ireland and of Nigeria)

A lover of beer and performer of miracles. He healed the sick, raised the dead, brought wild boars to Ireland to save the starving people, and he banished all snakes from Ireland so they could live

without fear. As Bishop, he had his own personal brewer, and he shared his favored gruit with the poor and the thirsty. His quotes: "Never trust a dog to watch your food" and also "Can thouest hand me a Guinness please?"

**Saint Columbanus** of Ghent, Belgium, Ireland, and Germany (patron saint of Belgian brewers)

When stumbling on a group of heathens about to sacrifice a cask of ale to the pagan god Wodan, he yelled "Stop" and blew on the cask causing it to explode into splinters. The sacrificial beer was spilled, and he detested wasted beer. Columbanus explained to the frightened pagans that good ale should not be wasted on the devil. More ale magically appeared, and Columbanus explained to the grateful people that ale was the beloved of God and was now available to be drunk in his holy name. For another beer miracle, he preserved the spilled cellar beer when a monk left the spigot running (kind of a low threshold for beer miracles at that time). He later ruled specific penances, such as drinking only water, for monks who spill large measures of beer. His quote: "it is my design to die in the brew-house; let ale be placed to my mouth when I am expiring, that when the choirs of angels come, they may say, 'Be God propitious to this drinker.' "

There were actually three Saint Arnold Beer Saints:

**Saint Arnold** of Soissons, France (patron saint of hop-pickers)

The collapse of the roof at a monastery destroyed all the barrels at their brewery, and the nearby village had run out of beer. Only one monk's small store of beer survived. Arnold asked God to multiply the store of beer, and his prayer was answered in abundance. The monks and townspeople were prepared to canonize him on the spot. He is also credited with the first filtration and clarification of beer by using straw cone bee skeps from the abbey's apiary. His quote: "Ouch! . . . damn bees (oops)".

**Saint Arnou** of Oudenaarde, Belgium (patron saint of Belgian Brewers)

He successfully appealed to God to deliver cold beer for the soldiers to drink during a battle in Flanders in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. He was able to multiply the beer into vast quantities through blessing and prayer. Soon, victory occurred when the enemy soldiers lay down arms and came over to his side to enjoy the beer. His quote: "The pause that refreshes".

**Saint Arnold** of Metz, France (patron saint of brewers)

During the outbreak of a plague, Arnold told his people to drink beer as it was safer than the water. They gladly did as he advised, and they survived. Supposedly, he ended the plague when he submerged his crucifix into a brew kettle. Years later, on an extremely hot July day when transporting the bodily remains of Arnold to be reburied at

the abbey of Saints Apostles, the parishioners were badly suffering from thirst, dehydration, and overcome with heat exhaustion. They prayed for intercession by the blessed Arnold to help them. Miraculously, a small remnant of beer at the bottom of a pot multiplied in such copious amounts that the pilgrims were saved, their thirst was quenched, and there was sufficient cold beer for the several days journey to complete their mission. His quote: "From man's sweat and God's love, beer came into the world".

**Saint Hildegard** von Bingen of Germany (patron saint of hop-growers)

She was the abbess of Diessenberg Germany. She was a visionary mystic as well as an enlightened author, musical composer, and herbalist, and she was recently named a Doctor of the Church; a true renaissance woman, before the renaissance. Her writings include the earliest known references to the use of hops in brewing beer to stop putrefaction and lengthen durability. Her quote: "On account of the strength and good juices of the grain, beer puts flesh on the bones and gives a lovely color to the face, while water has a weakening effect."

**Saint Matthias** of Judea (patron saint of alcoholics)

After he broke free of his own alcohol addiction, he helped those who loved beer too much. When he encountered hopeless drunks who had reached their lowest point in their lives, he preached that the holy spirit will empower them to exercise self-control so they can experience good health in the body and in the soul. His quote: "Hey man, take it easy on the bad stuff".

**Saint Conrad** of Parzham, Austria (a fairly recent saint and patron of Capuchin Friars)

He had the supremely important task of supplying pilgrims with beer. He thought that giving beer was a gesture of holiness that would not go without its reward, and he was never happier than when he had plenty of bread and beer for the poor. One skeptical member of his canonization tribunal asked whether it was very "saintly" for the Brother to serve a Bavarian girl two steins of beer and thereby risk the danger of getting her tipsy, if not other things. His quote: "If the lady in question could get drunk on only two steins then she was certainly not a Bavarian girl."

**Saint Cuthbert** of Lindisfarne, England (patron saint of maltsters and of scarecrow-makers)

He was a beer-loving monk who performed missionary work helping the poor. Late in life as a hermit on the Island of Farne, he was able to sustain himself only by growing barley and brewing beer. He became protector of the barley, and he invoked the name of God to disperse the birds who hungered to consume his barley, thus saving the crop. It may be the only instance when swearing lead to canonization. His quote "G-damn crows, get (*can't publish the rest*)".

**Saint Brigid** of Kildare, Ireland (patron saint of brewers and of recycling)

As the abbess of Kildare, she is said to have supplied 18 churches in her district with beer from one single barrel that lasted from Maundy Thursday through the end of Eastertide. Supplying all the followers of 18 churches (and remember they were Irish) with beer for 53 days from only one barrel certainly qualified as a saintly miracle.

Another miracle occurred one hot day, while working with lepers. Brigid's patients were exceedingly thirsty after their bath. To answer their pleas, with Christ's blessing, she changed the bathwater into beer. The beer was supposedly excellent with much strength (and of course, body). The lepers, whom were no strangers to miracles, exclaimed "It was the best miracle ever". Brigid performed this miracle regularly for visiting clerics who were none the wiser that the fine beer she served her guests was transformed from dirty bathwater. Her quotes: "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" and also "I'd like to give a great lake of beer to the King of Kings which all the hosts of heaven could enjoy for eternity . . . and every drop would be a prayer . . . and there shall be cheerfulness in their drinking and they should have barrels of peace at their disposal." Now that's some party!



As homebrewers and beer lovers, we also provide fine beer to the thirsty. Consider the saintly company with which you are associating. And if you are pious enough, who knows? Perhaps you too could be rewarded with a new title.



# Humpy's | GNBC Big Fish Homebrew Competition

## WHAT TO ENTER

All styles of beer, mead, and cider.

Styles will be judged using the 2021 BJCP style guidelines. Some categories will be combined.

Guidelines: <https://www.bjcp.org/bjcp-style-guidelines/>

**This year's side challenge is Alaska syrups!!!**

## HOW TO ENTER

- Drop off at Arctic Brewing Supply, 8401 Sandlewood Place, on Saturday, November 23, 2024 between 11:00am-5:00pm; or contact GNBC for alternative drop off locations.
- For each BEER entry: three 10-16 oz. bottles (two 22 oz. acceptable but not preferred)
- For each MEAD or CIDER entry: two bottles
- For ALL entries: completed BJCP entry form Entry form: [https://legacy.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP\\_EntryRecipe.pdf](https://legacy.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP_EntryRecipe.pdf)
- Bottles may not have any writing or labels on the glass Multiple entries: label each set on bottle cap or with sticky note

## JUDGING — DECEMBER 7, 2024

Judging starts at 10:00am at Flat Top Pizza at 610 F Street (tentative).

Old and New judges all NEEDED! If this is your first time, I want you there!

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