



THE

# Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

## December 2025

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Holiday Party December 20, 2025

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Nathaniel Gingery 2024-2025  
Sue Krawiecki 2024-2025  
Lisa Saperstein 2025-2026  
Cody Baggett 2025-2026  
Scott Clendaniel 2025-2026

Contact information via our website

## The Prez Sez

*By Elizabeth "Liz" Greer*

As 2025 wraps up I can look back and say this year has been one of the best we have had as a club since covid. Meetings have been well attended, the Board has been doing a fantastic job setting up events, and members have been very supportive! All of your commitment to the Great Northern Brewers Club and the homebrew/craft industry makes this club a success!

Congratulations and thanks to the 2026 officers-elect for willingness to support. They will formally assume their positions at the January meeting.

### Upcoming events:

- December 13 (Saturday) – Big Fish Competition @Humpys

BREWS NEEDED! Hopefully we will have a good turnout for this year's Big Fish competition. Dust off some old ferments or brew some new ones! Also need judges and stewards. More information in this Newsletter. Drop off by Dec. 12 at Arctic Brewing.

- December 20 (Saturday) – Holiday Party @ Anchorage Brewing Company (Members Only)

Mardi Gras Theme -More information in this Newsletter

- January 29 (Thursday) – Craft Beer and Barleywine Festival Industry Reception – 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing (Members Only)

Billy Opinski will be the guest speaker. He has been a key member of the brew community in Anchorage. A co-founders Humpy's the most iconic Anchorage restaurant with an extensive craft beer tap, as well as the original Barleywine Festival. Alaska is known for some of the best barleywines on the planet\*, I venture to guess the internal Sate competition to brew the best of the best is why. ***\*The best barleywines are often associated with Alaska, where many breweries are known for their high-quality barleywines. Alaska has become a significant producer of barleywines in the U.S., with various breweries showcasing unique styles and flavors.*** Paste Magazine 2018

Meantime - If you have thoughts about 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/> & website  
<https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/>

## November Meeting Recap

Brewing with Fruit was the topic of the November Meeting. Thank you to Guest Speaker: Ted Rosenzweig of Turnagain Brewing who provided some words of wisdom and club members for some delicious beers to share!

The meeting also held elections for 2026 officers. Thanks for your support in advance:

- Co/Presidents: Elizabeth Greer and Scott Clendaniel
- Vice President: Ira Edwards
- Secretary: Nathaniel Gingery
- Treasurer: Zack Quam
- New Board Members, 2026- 2027: Steve Johnson and Gwen Higgins
- Sustaining Board Members 2025-2026: Lisa Saperstein, Cody Baggett, Scott Clendaniel



## Membership News

**By Steve Johnson, [membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org)**

Thirty five or so brewers and beer fans showed up for GNBC meetings in October and again in November, strong showings of continuing involvement with the club. Another indication of involvement with the club should be the number of entries in coming competitions, Big Fish and others.

Perhaps the best indicator of member interest is the number of annual memberships purchased, and the number of members who did not renew for the current year.

Annual Memberships	Payments	Annual members	Single memberships	Couple memberships
2025 Oct-Nov	50	73	33	20
2024 Oct-Nov	51	69	25	22

One payment and one membership not captured for 2025 Oct-Nov is one additional Life Membership purchased by a former annual member. GNBC now has 40 Life Members--12 single Life Memberships and 13 couples. (Couple Life Memberships are no longer available. A separate payment for each member is required.)

The number of members who did not renew, from the immediately preceding year, shows a high percentage of membership changes from year to year. People move, circumstances change, and people find the club for the first time or return after a year or more away.

Did Not Renew for current year	Payments not made	Annual members not renewed	Single members not renewed	Couples not renewed
2025 Oct-Nov	32	42	22	10
2024	30	47	13	17

Statistics for past years suggest that the number of annual members will continue to increase through the membership year. At the end of September 2025, the total number of annual members was 105.

# BJCP examinations are BACK! (Reprint from November)

*By Ira Edwards*

I took my BJCP class in Anchorage over 20 years ago, and with all of my activities, have been a nationally ranked judge for about that long. It was a great experience, and I have since taken wine and cider judging courses in Alaska and out of state, and I can say that the Beer Judge Certification Program curriculum is the most in-depth thing out there for judging beers, meads, and ciders. For many years, I helped teach a few of the topics in the BJCP courses run by GNBC, but since COVID, I have been living out of town, so I lost touch with the classes. Well, it turns out that we have not run any BJCP exams to get people certified in quite some time. I aim to remedy that.

As a National Level Judge, I am qualified to administer the testing, and so I am going to get rolling on that. It has to be scheduled at least 4 months in advance, and not longer than 24 months in advance. So I am thinking about finding a set of dates after ski season and before salmon and trout fishing season starts in June. I have some other GNBC members who are qualified to help proctor the exams and tastings, so what I really need now is a pretty solid list of people who have taken the classes and now want to take the exams. I can schedule a maximum of 12 students per exam, but there is a process to get a waiver to host a larger session. Since we have not held an exam for such a long time, I am confident that we can get the waiver. If I get a solid interest in 70 students who want to test, I will need to schedule another exam session later next year, after I am done with field work and hunting. LOL.

BJCP has a pretty awesome online study guide for the exam, and there is an online pre-test to allow you to be qualified to sign up for the certification exam and tasting. Please email me ASAP if you have interest in a spring 2026 exam or a fall 2026 exam, and when you took the BJCP classes. I need that information to register to host an exam session and possibly apply for a waiver to the class limit of 12 students. My Address is [rooster.skier@gmail.com](mailto:rooster.skier@gmail.com). I will be signing up with BJCP before the GNBC Christmas Party in December, so I will repost this article as a reminder a couple more times. Cheers!

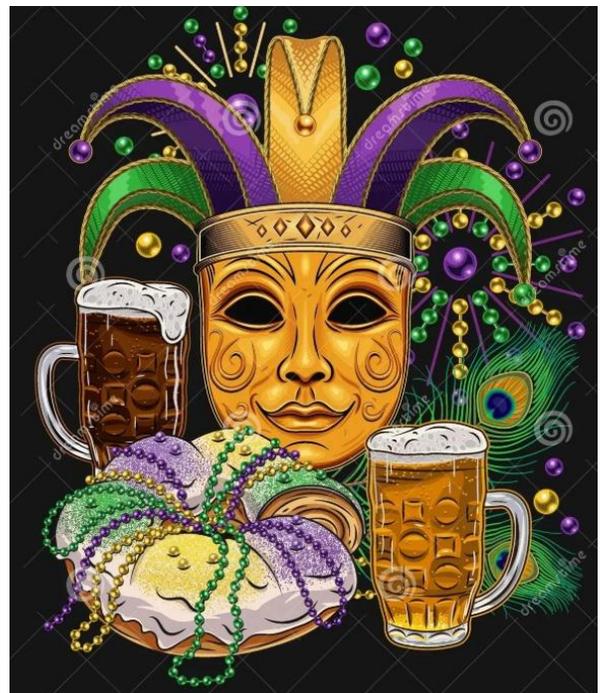
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## Mardi Gras Theme Holiday Party Let the Good Times Roll! December 20, 2025. 7pm-9pm (MEMBERS ONLY EVENT)

Come celebrate the holidays with us! Dress in your Mardi Gras, or other holiday attire. No technical presentation: just food, fun, and beer! Bring homebrew/craftbrew for a bottle share, a food item, and a wrapped beer gift for exchange if you are interested. Gifts should be a brew, or brew related. No specific requirements, but we will be playing the Stealing Game.

If you would like to come early to have a beer at ABC or help set up, the room should be available about 6pm.

**NOTE: Keep Party Beers inside the private room**



## Big Fish Competition (Reprint from November Newsletter)

*By Ira Edwards*

***ENTRIES, JUDGES and STEWARDS NEEDED! No experience required.***

I am happy to announce that the Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew competition is BACK! Humpy's was one of the first bars in Anchorage to feature a ton of microbrews (they opened up 30 plus years ago with 40 beers on tap!) and the owner, Billy Opinsky has been a good friend of mine for at least the last 25 years. He has been supporting Homebrewing in Anchorage and Alaska for all of that time as well and is a very good friend of the GNBC. So, go digging in your cellars for that aged bottle of goodness, bottle what you have aging in your kegs or get to brewing a new batch of award-winning beverages!!!

Here are the details:

Judging will take place at Sub Zero Bistro & Microlounge on Saturday, December 13 (attached to Humpys on 612 F St, Anchorage, AK 99501) . Judging STARTS at 10 am, but please show up a little early to get signed in to judge. This will be a BJCP-registered contest, so you will get experience points for helping to judge. If you are not a BJCP judge yet, please come anyway to help out and learn a lot about evaluating all the great options that I am sure will be entered.

This competition is open to ALL BJCP styles

Entry - 3 bottles. Preferably 12oz, but we will take what you have. They need to be in a 6pack holder. Each entry needs to be accompanied by a BJCP entry form

([https://legacy.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP\\_EntryRecipe.pdf](https://legacy.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP_EntryRecipe.pdf))

Entries will be accepted by Arctic Brewing supply (8401 Sandlewood Pl, Anchorage, AK 99507) during Normal Business hours during that week until I pick up the entries at 6 pm on Friday, December 12, and shuttle them to SubZero

One of the awesome aspects of this contest is that Midnight Sun Brewing Company has agreed to brew the winning beer. It has to be a commercially brewable recipe, so if they feel it is not brewable, then they will brew the next-place-winning beer. The winning brewer(s) will also have the opportunity to help brew this beer. It will be on tap at Humpys, MSBC, and potentially other MSBC accounts.

Judging will wrap up early to mid-afternoon, and we need to be cleaned up before they open at 5 pm. As a benefit for the judges, stewards, and helpers, Humpys will bring over a bunch of their award-winning Eggs Benedict after we are done and will have light snacks available during the judging to keep our palates cleansed. If you do not want to judge the beers or are not able to judge because you entered too many categories, I would love your help in stewarding to help send out beers to the judging table and to help get them out of the cooler in time to serve at the appropriate temperatures. Stewards can also earn BJCP administration points.

Please let me know if you have any questions whatsoever.

See you all there!!



**AHA/BJCP Sanctioned Competition Program**  
**ENTRY/RECIPE FORM**



**Brewer(s) Information**.....

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (h) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club Name (if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Information**.....

Name of Brew \_\_\_\_\_ Category (No.) \_\_\_\_\_ Subcategory (A-F) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Category/Subcategory (print full names) \_\_\_\_\_

For Mead and Cider  
 Still     Dry  
 Petillant     Semi-Sweet  
 Sparkling     Sweet

For Mead  
 Hydromel (light mead)  
 Standard Mead  
 Sack (strong mead)

**Special Ingredients/Classic Style**  
 (required for categories 6D, 16E, 17F, 20, 21, 22B, 22C, 23, 25C, 26A, 26C, 27E, 28B-D)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Ingredients and Procedures**.....

Number of U.S. gallons brewed for this recipe \_\_\_\_\_

**WATER TREATMENT** Type/Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAST CULTURE**     Liquid     Dried

Did you use a starter?     Yes     No

Type \_\_\_\_\_

Brand \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAST NUTRIENTS** Type/Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**CARBONATION**     forced CO<sub>2</sub>     Bottle Conditioned

Volumes of CO<sub>2</sub> \_\_\_\_\_

Type/Amount of Priming Sugar \_\_\_\_\_

**BOILING TIME** \_\_\_\_\_ Hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Min.

**SPECIFIC GRAVITIES** Original \_\_\_\_\_

Terminal \_\_\_\_\_

**FERMENTATION**    Duration (days)    Temperature (°F)

Primary \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**BREWING DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**BOTTLING DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**FERMENTABLES (MALT, MALT EXTRACT, ADJUNCTS, HONEY OR OTHER SUGARS)**

AMOUNT (LB.)	TYPE/BRAND	USE (MASH/STEEP)

**HOPS**

AMOUNT (OZ.)	PELLETS OR WHOLE?	TYPE	%A ACID	USE (BOIL STEEP, DRY, ETC.)	MIN. FROM END OF BOIL
	Pellets				

**MASH SCHEDULE**

STEP	TEMPERATURE	TIME

**Finings**

Type \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the back of this form for brewer's specifics.



## BIG FISH HOMEBREW COMPETITION

**Saturday December 13, 2025 @ 9:30am**

*SubZero- 612 F Street*

*Entry Drop-Off at Arctic Brewing Supply, Dates TBD  
8401 Sandlewood Pl, Anchorage, Phone:(907) 561-5771  
or drop off in advance.*

***Open Competition — No Fees — Multiple Entries Allowed  
Judges Needed — No Experience Necessary!***

### **COMPETITION CHALLENGE!**

***Midnight Sun Brewing Co: Best Commercially viable to Brew***

#### **Beers will be judged according to the 2021 BJCP Style Guidelines**

*All beers will be placed in and judged in groups. See the scoring guide on the GNBC website at <http://greatnorthernbrewers.org/competitions/>*

Eligibility for GNBC Homebrewer of the Year and Best of Show round limited to select groups. Top entry from each group will also be eligible for Brewer's Choice.

*For each entry:*

- *Three 12oz. bottles (two okay for non-BOS eligible styles)*
- *BJCP recipe form:*  
[https://legacy.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP\\_EntryRecipe.pdf](https://legacy.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP_EntryRecipe.pdf)
- *Bottles should not have any writing or labels on the glass.*
- *See article in GNBC Newsletter for full details.*

*NOTE: Each person may only enter one beer per category/subcategory  
Have some Questions? Contact: Ira Edwards [vp@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:vp@greatnorthernbrewers.org)*



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