



April 2020

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NEXT MEETING:

TENTATIVE Monthly Meeting

April 21, 2020, 7:00pm
49th State Anchorage
East Barrel Room

THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

Brewer's Log

By Mike Fisher

Fellow members of GNBC,

We live in unusual times. One month ago, there was a virus floating around China and other parts of the world. It popped up at a long-term care facility in Washington. Today schools have been closed for two weeks and have another month to go—at least—before they reopen. Our March meeting was canceled, as were Beer Trippin' and the Equinox Mead competition. At the time of this writing, we've arrived at the end of a hunker down order in Anchorage, with an extension imminent. We really don't know if our April meeting or other upcoming activities will be similarly impacted. Life, as we know it, has changed dramatically.

While modern life has changed, it is interesting to think about how we partake in and celebrate a tradition that has spanned millennia. Whether we preserve the season's grain harvest and make water safe by boiling and then creating an acidic, alcoholic, and very delicious environment; let yeast and bacteria convert sugary apples, pears, grapes, and other fruits into fermented goodness; or add water to honey to allow yeast to ferment it into a delicious nectar; our processes honor countless generations before us. While "hunker down" orders and social distancing may limit our ability to gather around a boil kettle, technology still allows us to collaborate and communicate as we brew at home.

If it is within your means and safe to do so, please support the local businesses that support us. Whether that's take-out food, drinks, or brewing supplies, our supporters and sponsors need our help to ride through this storm.

While we're hunkered down, working from home, drinking through our cellars (aka emergency supplies), and brewing special commemorative batches for us to remember these strange times, please consider taking some time to help out the club with a survey. We haven't had a member survey in a very long time, at least not since before I became a member. Your board has put together a survey to see how we can serve you better and plan events that are meaningful and valuable to you.

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Contact information via our website

You can access the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/RUGVwHTfiXTbu4iY8>

We know that it's a long survey. It's all on one page, so if you don't have time to answer everything, just scroll through and pick a few questions to answer. The board will greatly appreciate anything you are willing to provide. Please respond to the survey no later than May 19.

We will meet again as soon as it is safe and responsible to do so. The newsletter says April 21 is our next meeting but watch your e-mail and government announcements to see if we'll be able to meet. In the meantime, we're working on a potential virtual meeting. Details will be pushed out on this e-mail list once they are confirmed.

Despite throwing the novel coronavirus at us, the planet has also given us a nice spring. The winter's snow is melting, springtime outdoor recreation is picking up, and before we know it it'll be summer. To get ready, I finally threw together a long-planned cranberry melomel. I made it at a session strength and will carbonate it for a crisp and refreshing summertime libation. I hope that despite all of the madness going on around you, you've had a chance to start brewing and preparing for warmer and brighter days ahead.

Cheers!

Secretary's Corner

By Jordan Couture

Welcome to Spring Club Members,

I hope you are all safe and doing well during this disruption to our lives. Normally I would write about upcoming club events. However, with all of the cancelations and rescheduling surrounding COVID-19 any information here will become outdated. For up to date information please refer to our website and Facebook page.

If you need brewing supplies to keep busy during this social isolation, I have confirmed with Artic Homebrew Supply and they are planning on maintaining normal business hours. I personally am going to brew some sours to lay down and enjoy once all of this is behind us.

Enjoy the return of daylight and remember the best way to stay calm during a crisis is to have a homebrew!

A HUGE Thanks to our 2020 Supporters

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



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