



# THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB  
AUGUST 2017

## The Prez Sez

by John Trapp

I don't know about you, but July was a pretty busy beer drinking month for me. It started out with a long 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in Talkeetna followed up by Jeff and Cathy hosting the club for a BBQ at their home. I then headed north and judged beers at ET Barnette in Fairbanks and finished off the month with The Culmination beer festival at Anchorage Brewing Company.



I would say my liver needs a rest, but we're just getting started here folks. First, a correction! For the last two months I've been telling you the wrong date for Augtoberfest at 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company in Healy. It is Friday and Saturday August 11 and 12, NOT the weekend before. I apologize if this messes up anyone's plans.

Here's the three month calendar of events:

August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – Augtoberfest at 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company in Healy, AK.  
August 19<sup>th</sup> – BBQ at Peter and Shannon Hall's House. See Peter's article on this.  
September 16<sup>th</sup> – Talkeetna Beer Festival! Tickets are \$55 and worth every penny.  
September 19<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting at 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company, 7:00p.m.  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Bodega Fest.  
End of September through mid-October – Oktoberfest season starts!  
October 8<sup>th</sup> – Anchor Town invitational Home Brew Competition  
October 14<sup>th</sup> - Autumn Pour HBC in Juneau.  
October 17<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting at 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company, 7:00p.m.

A couple of thank yous are in order, first to John and Rose Craig for opening up their Talkeetna homestead to the brew club over the long 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. It's always a good time whooping it up with the Yoder Roaders.

Next, Jeff and Cathy Loughrey get a much appreciated thank you for hosting the July BBQ at their home on Lake O' the Hills. There was lots of great food and beer, plus my son caught three fish in the lake.

Peter and Shannon Hall will be hosting the august BBQ at their home on August 19<sup>th</sup>. See Peter's article for time and location. This is a great opportunity to bring those JAB's (junior alcohol beers) we've all been brewing this summer. You have been brewing them, right?

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The Prez Sez

Secretary's Corner

GNBC Summer BBQ

Good Beer Deals

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If you're heading up to Healy for Augtoberfest the second weekend in August, be sure to tell me how it goes. I have visitors coming in from out of town and won't make it (they're not big beer drinkers). So I can't drag them along even if I wanted to. I guess I'm the one whose plans got messed up with my false date of this event. This should be a great road trip!

Something to keep in mind, when we start up our monthly meeting in September we will open up nominations for all officer positions as well as three board positions. So if you are interested in running for a seat feel free to ask any of the current members and we will gladly tell you what we do (beer club wise) and what's involved with holding that position. It's a very rewarding way to give back to the club. Think about it.

Also, don't forget to enter the competitions coming up in October. The Anchor Town Invitational is on October 8, and then the Autumn Pour is in Juneau on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Plan on entering both of these events and plan on judging them too.

There will be no "Meet Your Local" article this month; it's a long story and I won't bore you with the details, but we will be having a double feature next month.

Remember, be safe and drink responsibly when out and about and keep those carboys filled. Until next month, Cheers.



## Secretary's Corner

*by Jim O'Toole*

A couple of weeks ago Kathy and I thought we'd go someplace relatively close for dinner so headed for Firetap at Tikhatnu Center because they always have a reliable beer list and a pasta dish that I only have to look at the menu to remember the name of. It's the only thing I ever order there but always look to be sure they still have it.

It was around 5pm when we left my house and I remembered that my youngest son was batching it for the week while his wife and kids were out of town. I figured if I could catch him before he headed home in the opposite direction from Muldoon, we'd buy him dinner. He answered the phone and told me that he was at the Firetap at Tikhatnu Center having a sandwich and a beer before he went to a movie.

A lot of stuff ran through my head when I told him that we would see him there in about five minutes and all of it had to do with beer. Of course, there was some memories of times with him too: this kid was a “big man on campus” at Homer High School years ago and one of his nightmares of those days is when I found the twelve pack of Miller beer in his bedroom when I was throwing the clothes he left in the dryer through the door into his room.

I wasn't drinking in those days but realize now that I probably didn't bring the kid up right if he was drinking Miller beer. Of course in the mid 1990's in Homer there probably wasn't much else available so, remembering vividly the first time I ever told my dad that I had tried Miller beer and thought it was pretty good (mid 60's), so I give him a pass on that. Being stupid enough to leave a twelve pack in the middle of his bedroom floor is what really bothers me I guess. I didn't raise him to be a sneak but I thought he would have some basic common sense. He has improved since those days.

Anyway, we entered the taproom and he was at the bar, had finished his sandwich and had one of the good beers they serve there in front of him. There was an empty bar stool to his right and to the right of that there were four or five guys who seemed to be together. Before I even said “Hi” to my kid he called the bartender over and said, “He's from Pennsylvania and has judged beer, brews beer, and knows a little about it....ask him.” The nice woman behind the bar grabbed a small sample size glass, poured something pale in it, and handed it to me.” I took a sniff and then a mouthful.....”Rolling Rock,” I said.

To my right I heard, “You've gotta be shitting me” from one of the group at the bar. Apparently they had been trying to guess what Firetap's “Mystery Beer” was for a while and weren't happy that some old fart had come up with it in about ten seconds.

Now, in the interest of full disclosure.....I DID grow up in Pennsylvania and not too far from Latrobe where Rolling Rock was born. My dad drank it and it was a favorite at the big outdoor parties my folks liked to have a couple of times a year with a million family members and friends. They kept the beer in tubs with the soda pop so it was no problem for me or any one of my derelict cousins or neighborhood hoodlums to snatch a beer or two out of there and then head over the hill behind the Sweeney's house.

One of the early beer memories of those times in that place is something I like to relate to anyone interested and it involves Rolling Rock; they used to sell it in 7 ounce bottles. “Pony bottles” we called them and they were the perfect size for ten and twelve-year-old kids to get just drunk enough for our dads to know what we did but not drunk enough for our moms to beat us for it.

The nostalgia factor here is obvious. My son met my dad a couple of times but there were close to 4000 miles that separated them for most of the time they shared on this planet so the connection was not all that strong. Mostly what I have is “connections” that I can plug in when things happen like happened at the Taproot. My Pennsylvanian dad loved his beer.....I love my beer and.....my kid loves his beer and he's the only member of the family here in Alaska with a kegerator. And he has two sons.

That Rolling Rock, Iron City, etc. swilling Pennsylvanian Marty O'Toole legacy will continue and I hope I'm still alive when one of my grandsons torments his dad with an innocent beer experience in his teen years. I am willing to bet that it won't be with Miller.

Just for brags - for guessing what the Tap Root “Mystery Beer,” was - the bartender bought my beer that night. If I remember correctly it was a Midnight Sun Sockeye Red to go with that spicy pasta dish.

Calendar Of Upcoming Events. (See “The Prez Sez” for most up to date listing)

August 4-6- Salmonfest- Ninilchik. \$69-135.

August 5 - Augtoberfest at 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company in Healy, AK.

August 12 – Kenai Peninsula Beer Festival. Soldotna Sports Center. \$30-50.

August 19 - Peter and Shannon's Home 2806 Snug Harbor Circle. See article below.

Cheers, and keep those brew kettles a'boiling!





## GNBC August BBQ at Peter and Shannon's

*by Peter Hall*

**M**y son Clark and my dog Jelly Bean are eager for all of our GNBC friends to join Shannon and me for a GNBC August BBQ. The location for this event has been shifting a lot in the last few years (expect for Jeff and Cathies (because they are gracious hosts and have amazing digs). I have managed to be available to host the club this time around. There is work to be done, but this group always brings the best beer.

No Alaskan has many summer weekends available, but if you are in town on August 19 I hope you come by 2806 Snug Harbor Circle. Shannon and I have a large deck and a couple of barbecues. I'll happily apply your variety of grillables to either the gas or charcoal grill.

I will have some kind of games and/or fire set up in the yard, depending on the weather. I'll do my best to will the sun to join us, but not too much sun. Feel free to blame/thank me for the weather when you get to the BBQ.

Please feel free to show up with family, friends, and nice dogs. As usual, parking is the only real tight spot. Please be respectful to the neighbors and don't block the fire hydrant. If you can find my home at 2806 Snug Harbor Circle then I'm sure you will find the party.

Clearly laid out:  
Peter and Shannon's home for GNBC August BBQ  
August 19  
2806 Snug Harbor Circle  
Anchorage 99507  
Nice people, nice dogs, gilled food and of course, beer





# Good Beer Deals

by *Jim Roberts*

Long time Fermento Fan and friend Karen Bretz is moving out of the state. Like so many other craft beer lovers I know, as she prepares to move, she makes painful decisions about what to take with her and what to leave behind.

Anyone who has moved in or out of Alaska knows that decisions about what to leave behind are predicated more on weight and bulk than value. And anyone that loves beer knows that it comes with a lot of bulk and weight.

As Karen plowed through her goods, she came across the inevitable beer stash in her cellar and quickly realized painful decisions had to be made. She also seriously underestimated her vintage stash.

Karen graciously gave me first right of refusal on her foamy goods. I bought 50 of her 80 750 ml bottles of Rodenbach Grand Cru. Do the math. There are 30 left. Karen's offering bottles of this incredible beer for \$7 apiece. Any Rodie lover knows this is a steal.

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*The Great Northern Brewers Club and the American Homebrewers Association remind you to....Savor the Flavor Responsibly*

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**NEXT MEETING: August 19th 2017  
Peter and Shannon Hall's House**