



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

AUGUST 2018

State of the Brewnion

by Mike Cragen

Freezer filled with fish – check

14 July days in camper/tent – check

Judged E.T. Barnett – check

Kegeerator full of homebrew – ummm, I have some brewing to do!

July was a terrific month for GNBC on two fronts. First, thank you to Jeff Loughrey and Cathie Straub for hosting our annual mid-summer BBQ. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend, but I've been assured a great time was had by all. Secondly, GNBC members Dan Lasco, Geno Ferrarini, and Karl Morgan traveled to Fairbanks to judge and support the E.T. Barnett Homebrew Competition. Thank you, gentlemen, for your support of homebrewers and competitions in Alaska!



Although August is sparse with GNBC activities, we have an abundance of events and competitions in the near future. The highlights include:

August 10-11th – Augtoberfest at 49th State in Healy

August 22nd – BBQ at Brian Hall's House

September 15th – Talkeetna Beerfest (2:00-6:00)

September 18th – Monthly meeting from 7:00-10:00 (49th State). Ed speaker - TBD

September 25th – Valdez Oktoberfest Homebrew Comp. entry drop-off deadline (Arctic Brewing)

September 28-30th – Valdez Oktoberfest Homebrew Comp. (Comp. on the 29th)

September 28th – Autumn Pour Homebrew Comp (Juneau) entry drop-off deadline (Arctic Brewing)

September 29th – Anchortown entry drop-off (Arctic Brewing)

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October 5-6th – Autumn Pour Homebrew Comp (Juneau) – Smoked Malt Side Challenge

October 7th – Anchortown Homebrew Comp (see below for more details)

October 16th – Monthly meeting from 7:00-10:00 (49th State). Ed speaker – TBD

It's time to start brewing for the rush of competitions – three competitions within nine days. An email will be coming soon with the details of the comps, but here's the quick and dirty of each:

Valdez – NOT an open comp (not all styles accepted – specific styles announced soon). \$2000 prize money available. Entries accepted at Arctic Brewing until Sept 25. \$10 for each entry. Must fill out BJCP paperwork and Valdez entry information. The link to entry forms and additional information will be emailed soon.

Juneau – Open comp (all beer styles accepted, including meads and ciders). Alaskan Brewing Co. will be shipping entries to Juneau. Be sure to have entries and BJCP paperwork to Arctic Brewing by 5:00pm on September 28th. Smoked malt side challenge. BOS gets \$500 and both BOS and Side Challenge Winner get flown to Juneau to brew with Alaskan. \$5 per entry. More information can be found at: <https://alaskanbeer.com/homebrew/>

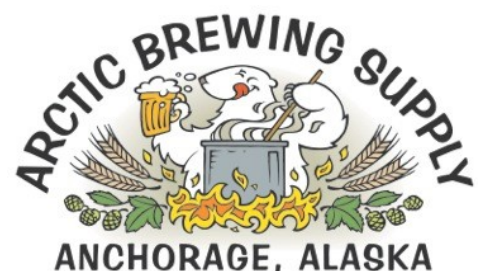
Anchortown – Open comp (all beers styles accepted, NO meads/ciders). Mike Fisher organizing. A full article with details will be in the Sept. newsletter. No entry fee. Points available for HBOTY. JUDGES NEEDED, no experience necessary.

I'd be remiss to neglect two business items.

First, GNBC election season is right around the corner, with elections being held in November. I'll be calling for nominations at our monthly meeting in October, but I'm happy to add names to the list at any time. Please consider running for a position, it's a great way to give back to the club and help steer GBNC.

Second, your current GNBC membership expires on September 30th, but you may sign up at any time. Renewal is \$30 which includes discounts to Arctic Brewing Supply, Alaska Homebrew Supply, and La Bodega . . . most importantly, it's our primary source of income to keep GNBC afloat and moving forward. The easiest way to renew your membership is on our website at: <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/>

Thank you in advance for your continued support of GNBC.



The Final Wort (the last batch I brewed) is a Vienna Lager (7A). I created this recipe about a year ago, but didn't brew it for some reason. But, after drinking Rick Levinson's wonderful Viennas on multiple occasions, I decided it was time to try my own. Plus, Alec Venechuk - the Juneau homebrewer who typically steamrolls competitions - made one, so I decided to see how mine stacks up against the homebrewing champ! Anyways, mine is in diacetyl rest now and happily coming along. As always, I'll have The Final Wort at a future gathering (the September monthly meeting) for you to sample and critique.

This month's event will be a barbecue at Brian Hall's house, 10200 Hillhaven Circle, at 6 PM on August 22. This is a potluck event! Bring your homebrew and something for the potluck (Brian will be providing a big slab of meat), and let's make this a great summer GNBC event like our events always are!



Secretary's Corner

By Jim O'Toole

People who read this column regularly are going to get tired of reading about my physical problems but when that's about all I've been dealing with lately there isn't much more on my mind.

On June 18, I spent a nice day outside working in the garden and turning compost but it was warm that day, I hadn't eaten anything in about 8 hours, and I wasn't hydrating enough when I stepped into my sauna with a 24 ounce bottle of water, a beer, and a good book. I stayed in there longer than I should have as, when I opened the door to step out I missed the ground and ended up on my back with two broken bones in my ankle.

I am really lucky to have access to the kind of medical care I've been receiving for this as well as the concern medical people have had for, not just the ankle, but the reason why I fell. I knew what it was.....take a lack of food, lack of hydration, 170 degrees for too long and you write a recipe for heat exhaustion but I've had EKG's and echocardiograms looking for heart problems and the only "problem" that has come up is that there are some friends of mine who having heard of this, are simply amazed to find out that I have a heart to begin with.

So, I'm wheeling around on a knee scooter with a boot on my leg and the leg it is on has not touched the ground in 37 days.



I've heard people talk about having a foot or leg injury that required "non-weight bearing" but I had no idea what a challenge it is. I went to the Alaska Botanical Garden's "Beer In The Garden" event again a couple of weeks ago and the paved trails that I have walked dozens of times before became a challenge with the scooter. There is some uphill there and the access to the area where a couple of great Alaska breweries were set up required a downhill bit of a twisting gravel trail. But I was a trooper; not as much of a trooper as Kathy who signed up as my designated driver and managed to laugh politely every time someone mentioned the DUI danger I might be in with the scooter, but a trooper.

One thing I've noticed as I've gone through this is that there are a lot of really nice people in Anchorage. Aside from the, "Keep it under the speed limit" and, "Don't be doing any wheelies with that thing" comments, most people show a lot of deference to someone who is obviously moving a little differently than most others. I've had more people hold doors open for me and move out of my way in the last few weeks than have done so in many years. I've also become aware of how many people are completely oblivious to the fact that there are other people walking the planet and that avoiding them is not as easy on a three wheeled scooter as it is when on foot but, overall, people have been great. The fun part is watching kids watch me ride the thing. I doubt I have the patience to explain to them that, what they think looks like fun, is not. It's kind of hard on the knee that rests on the scooter and the opposite hip. FYI.

I like drinking almost all beer out of a glass. I always rinse the glass before the pour and really enjoy looking at the color and clarity of whatever it is that I'm drinking. But carrying almost anything while wheeling this scooter around requires some thought and a full beer glass requires real concentration.

Someone asked me what the biggest hassle with being mobility limited was and I said they should think about using their own bathroom with a scooter. Everything you do requires planning. Some rooms you have to back into. Moving to a chair requires thought about what side of the scooter you need to dismount from and, if the chair is a recliner and how far from the seat you need to park the scooter so you can reach it to get up but won't smack it with the recliner footrest when you hit the recline lever.

Yeah, I'm whining. This has been a real hassle, basically having to give up an entire summer, and having to depend on other people to do things I really enjoy doing like mowing the lawn, turning compost, weeding the garden, etc. I can't drive so everywhere I go, including numerous doctor appointments, someone has to haul me and the scooter. And getting a beer from the fridge, rinsing and filling a glass, and then maneuvering it to my table next to my chair without spilling it is a lot harder than I ever thought it could be.

So, I am hoping that all of you are having a better summer than I am but I also hope that you understand that I understand that things could be worse. A lot worse. What if I had done this in winter? What if I had no family and friends to help me? What if I was without health insurance? What if I was homeless? What if I lived somewhere that does not have excellent doctors and associated medical professionals?

All in all, it hasn't been all that bad a summer so far. See you at Brian Hall's on August 22 for the potluck BBQ! I'll wheel myself in, so help me around and feed me beer!



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The *Northern Brewer* welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. You can contact the editor, Debbie Grecco at:

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

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**NEXT MEETING: GNBC BBQ August 22, 2018
Brian Hall's House 10200 Hillhaven Circle 6:00 pm**