



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

December 2019

Brewer's Log 2019.12.01

By Mike Fisher

We're down to the final weeks of 2019. Thank you for all the support you've given over the past year. Thank you to my fellow officers and board members for your dedication to the club, your ideas, and your guidance. I also want to thank the club's members for support and for the fun meetings and events we had this year.



I look forward to continuing on another year as president and am excited about all of the new and returning officers and board members. In addition to those who won the election at our November meeting, the board approved James Osowski's appointment to the vacant board seat. I'm really excited to see where we take GNBC next year. I see a lot of fresh ideas and enthusiasm in our 2020 team:

President Mike Fisher

Vice President Christophe Venot

Secretary Jordan Couture

Treasurer Thomas Huling

Board Member, 2019-2020 Jim Lamb

Board Member, 2019-2020 Tony Strupulis

Board Member, 2019-2020 James Osowski (appointed)

Board Member, 2020-2021 Phylcia Christian

Board Member, 2020-2021 Chaven Davidson

We will say farewell to Rick Levinson and Jeremiah Christian when their board positions end at our January meet-

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Secretary's Corner

**Big Fish Homebrew
Competition**

**Turnagain Tartside
Challenge 2020**

**AHA Membership Special for
GNBC Members**

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Rick Levinson, 2018-2019
Jeremiah Christian, 2018-2019
James Osowski, 2018-2019
Jim Lamb, 2019-2020
Tony Strupulis, 2019-2020
Contact information via our website

ing. Thank you both for your board service over the last two years. It has been a lot of fun working with you.

November's meeting wasn't just the elections, though. We had a great talk from Gary Busse about his background and the early days of Midnight Sun Brewing Company. He also brought with him a case of 1-hour old Arctic Devil, which was a pleasure to enjoy with him. David Short and Devin Wagner came to talk with us about a GNBC/49th State Brewing Company collaboration brew. Details are still being worked out, but the plan is to brew a 10-barrel batch of a Munich Dunkel in mid-December. Stay tuned for more information as the plan is finalized.

Wintertime fun has just begun and we have a lot of great events on the horizon, including GNBC events of:

- December 7: Big Fish Homebrew Competition. Read all the details later in this newsletter.
- December 14: GNBC Christmas Party, Gateway Hall, Alaska Zoo, 7:00pm. This will be a big, members-only event to celebrate the year. Come dressed as your favorite Bond villain, Bond Starlet, or James Bond Himself. We are also using this event as a fundraiser for the club. Please raid your cellars and storage to bring beers and other items to donate to the silent auction we'll be running. Please watch for more details to be announced via e-mail and the GNBC Facebook page.
- January 15: Pickup day for the Turnagain Tartside Challenge. See the article later in this newsletter.
- January 16: January meeting, graciously hosted by 49th State Brewing Company. We'll have a changing of the guard and welcome of the 2020 GNBC officers and board members. A lot is up in the air with the November 21 announcement that the Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival has been canceled, but we'll get the word out about the meeting details as they solidify.
- February 18: Regular monthly meeting in the barrel room of 49th State Brewing Company, 7:00pm.

We were light on GNBC competitions this year, but we do have one more. Big Fish takes place on December 7. As this newsletter goes out on Black Friday, I hope that you are planning to enter a lot of great beers. The

official pickup will take place on Saturday, November 30 at Arctic Brewing Supply. Follow up your beer entry by showing up to enter yourself as a judge. Big Fish is a popular event for many judges, and the more the merrier. Come help out on Saturday, December 7, at 10:00am.

Next up after Big Fish is our Christmas party, at 7:00pm on December 14. We'll return to Gateway Hall at the zoo and are looking forward to a great time. We have some special things planned this year, so we watch for more information as we get closer to the party.

Mark your calendars for the January meeting on the 16th. Due to the cancelation of the Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival, we currently still plan to meet but do not have an out-of-state speaker lined up, but we're still planning on a great event that may focus on the Alaska of Alaska Beer Week. Please watch out for and answer the call to volunteer to help it all come together and run smoothly. If you'd like to help with pre-event coordination, setup, cleanup, doors, or pouring, please let me know. Volunteers make the party the amazing event it is.

Also remember that it is a members-only event, so if you haven't renewed for 2019-2020 yet, take care of that soon. The easiest way is through our website at <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/>. Simply fill out the form and pay online. We also have a paper application if you'd prefer to mail it in or pay in person.

While you're in the membership mood, the American Homebrewers Association recently reached out to me about our club's membership. We have a low rate of AHA membership for a club our size, and they want to see it go up. They sent the latest membership offer and a link specific to our club. It expires at the end of the year, though, so if you want to join AHA, act soon! See the article later in this issue for more details!

We had a presentation this past fall from the Alaska State Fair. They are still looking for a new Spirited Beverage Superintendent. If you're interested in this opportunity, please visit their employment page at <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/fair-info/employment/>.

It's not every issue that this column covers three pages! One final announcement is that John Burket has very graciously donated to GNBC a Brewer's Edge Mash & Boil system and a Brewcraft USA Genesis Fermenter. I'm very excited to have these as club assets for us to loan out to members, do demonstrations in the community, and use to decide if we want to invest in our own. I am planning a test batch in the Mash & Boil to learn it (I've long toyed with the idea of picking up one of them for test batches) and in the near future we'll put together a formal equipment loaning process for others to do the same.

In closing, I want to thank everyone again for great year. I've named many, but I also want to give special acknowledgement to Julie McDonald for her work on the Facebook page. Julie is the one who brings all the information in this newsletter into the social media space, despite all the times I've forgotten to send her things. Thank you, Julie, for working so hard to get the word out about our events.

For this month's Flame-Out, I brewed my first real lager (fermented with lager yeast in my cold garage) and look forward to tapping it in early 2020. It was unusual to pitch all the way down at 50 degrees, but I was pleasantly surprised to see airlock activity the next day. I also brewed a blueberry wheat. Those brews aren't the most seasonally appropriate, but I'm enjoying the darker beers I have on tap from last month. What are you brewing?

Secretary's Corner

Thank you for electing me to another term as your secretary! I am looking forward to serving another year. Mike Fisher and Christophe Venot will be returning as president and vice president. Please welcome Thomas Huling and as your new treasurer and Phylcia Christian and Chaven Davidson as new board members serving a 2020 and 2021. The board has also voted to appoint James Osowski to fill the vacant board position left by Peter Hall.

Remember that our December meeting is the Christmas party on Dec. 14th at the Alaska Zoo Gateway Complex at 4731 O'Malley Rd. This is a potluck event. We will also be holding a silent auction to raise money for the club. If you would like to bring something special to donate that would be amazing. The theme this year is James Bond so brush off the tuxedo or dress up as you as your favorite bond villain.

We need judges for the Big Fish Homebrew Competition on Dec. 7th at sub-zero. If you are interested in judging even if you have no experience please contact Christophe Venot vp@greatnorthernbrewers.org or Liz Greer eagreer@yahoo.com for more information. With these competitions many hands make light work.

Big Fish Homebrew Competition

By Liz Greer and Christophe Venot

GNBC is combining Anchor Town and Big Fish competitions to be held jointly as the Big Fish competition, this Saturday, December 7. The competition will be located at the Sub Zero lounge, hosted by Humpy's. Big Fish is an open competition without a fee. Multiple entries are allowed; however, each person may only enter one beer per category/subcategory (e.g., only one entry for American IPA, category 21A). Categories will be judged in groups based on the 2015 BJCP Style Guidelines. More information on the scoring guide is available on the GNBC website at <http://greatnorthernbrewers.org/competitions>. There will be two competition side challenges which will be awarded extra homebrewer of the year (HBOTY) points:

1. The Midnight Sun Brewing Company Challenge this year is any beer with Belgian candy sugar.
2. The King Street Challenge is any style of Porter (e.g., Baltic, English, smoked, spiced, etc).

Additionally, MSBC and King Street may select a "Brewer's Choice" beer to brew from the side challenge, Best of Show, or any Big Fish point-scoring beer category. Double HBOTY points will also be awarded for winners of each Brewer's Choice.

We will also need judges to help judge the beers - no experience needed! Judging begins at 10am and should end by 2 pm. A light lunch and snacks will be provided for judges and there will be door prizes and leftover beers to take home.

Turnagain Tartside Challenge 2020

By Ted Rosenzweig

Greetings homebrewers! In the spirit of friendly competition and creative sour beer brewing, Turnagain Brewing is proud to raise the SECOND Tartside Challenge. Here is how it works: we'll give you a gallon of our fermented and soured base wort, you take it home and finish it as you will within a month, and in two months we reconvene at the homebrew club meeting to share a taste. We'll brew a batch of the best beer and serve it in our taproom.

The details:

1) You MUST show at our taproom on Wednesday of beer week (Jan 15) during business hours (4-8pm) to claim your gallon of unfinished beer. Please bring a container to hold your proto-brew (a couple sanitized growlers or a milk jug might work well). If you are busy, you may send a proxy to collect wort, but we cannot dispense wort outside of Jan 15.

2) You MUST bring or send your finished beer to the club meeting in March for "judging". The entire club will be encouraged to sample and rate beers to help us choose a winner, but entries will not have your name on them during judging. It is important for us all to learn not just what works, but what does not and why.

3) The beer we chose to reproduce will be the best beer, as rated by club members, which is also reproducible on a larger scale at reasonable cost and poses no threat to the health of the general public or the reputation of our fine brewery.

4) METICULOUS PRODUCTION DETAILS must accompany the submission. We are looking for refermentation/conditioning temperature, source/preparation/exact quantity of any fruit/spice/fermentable added to the mix as well as the volume of base beer to which it was added, and time spent on such additive prior to crashing. Beers may spend NOT MORE THAN ONE MONTH above 40F.

5) Fill out an entry form and 3 bottle labels, attach labels to bottles, and bring your submission to the March GNBC meeting for judging. Three containers of at least 12 oz are needed for judging. Both PET and glass are considered acceptable.

Helpful hints: Force carbonation is recommended. Yeasts do not perform reliably in acidic environments. Be very careful with any spices or herbs as they are easy to overdo. Freezing any fruit prior to addition improves extraction of flavors. If refermentation is desired, repitching yeast is a good idea as the beer we will give you has been cold for some time. Avoid pits and seeds as much as possible as well as the pith of any citrus peel (it tends to be bitter). Don't worry too much about sterilizing anything you might add; the beer we give you is already a polymicrobial playground with origins in wild and spontaneous fermentation. Have fun and get creative!

AHA Membership Special for GNBC Members

Edited from an e-mail from Matt Bolling, Membership Coordinator for the American Homebrewers Association.

American Homebrewers Association (AHA) is interested in doing a special membership offer for members of the Great Northern Brewers Club.

First, a little bit of an explanation... While reviewing our database of homebrew clubs that are enrolled in the club insurance program, we noticed that the Great Northern Brewers Club has a significantly lower AHA membership rate when compared to clubs of a similar size.

With 200 members, the Great Northern Brewers Club is the 6th largest homebrew club insured through the AHA. The other clubs that are comparable in size typically have 40%-60% of their club members in the AHA... But GNBC only has 20 AHA members in the club, which is 10%.

We're interested in doing more with the club to help get your rate of AHA membership higher. We'd like to offer 2 free books to anyone who joins the AHA, or renews their membership to the AHA through the Great Northern Brewers Club between now and December 31. We'll be sending each one of them a copy of [*Brewing Eclectic IPA*](#) (\$19.95) and [*Gose*](#) (\$19.95).

In order for your club members to take advantage of the offer, they can simply join the AHA directly through the club's AHA membership referral link, and we will mail the books to them: http://bit.ly/GNBC_AHA

The club will also receive a portion of the membership dues that come through that link.

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Great Northern Brewers Club is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Alaska and registered with the American Homebrewers Association.

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The *Northern Brewer* welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas, and inquiries. Please send article submissions to the president or secretary.

GNBC Web Site: www.greatnorthernbrewers.org



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



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NEXT MEETING: December 14, 2019
Christmas Party, Alaska Zoo's Gateway Hall, 7pm