



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

Brewer's Log

By Mike Fisher

With one month to go, 2020 is almost behind us. How little we knew one year ago about what we'd be facing this year. Thank you to the members who've stuck around through chaos and closures, virtual meetings and canceled events. I appreciate your support in making this way of doing things possible.

We held our November meeting via Zoom on the 17th. I appreciate everyone who was able to attend, the discussion that took place, and all the great ideas people suggested for a virtual Christmas party.

Our election ended at 8:00pm, so we announced the results during the meeting. The vote was nearly unanimous in support of the officers and board members listed on the ballot. (There appears to have been an erroneous vote, as reported below; otherwise, most races were unanimous.) Our 2021 officers and board members, based on the vote of 45 members (34% of total members in good standing):

President, 2021 (all write-in votes): **Mike Fisher (47%)**, Braden Ohlsen (11%), James Roberts (11%), Christophe Venot (11%), Jim Lamb (5%), Brian Hall (5%), Curtis Kreid (5%), "2" (5%)

Vice President, 2021: **Christophe Venot (96%)**, Mike Cragen (2%), "1" (2%)

Secretary, 2021: **Jordan Couture (98%)**, "1" (2%)

Treasurer, 2021: **Thomas Huling (98%)**, "1" (2%)

Board Members, 2021-2022 (3): **Deb Morgan (34%)**, **John Trapp (33%)**, **Robert Trosper (33%)**, "2" 1%

Current Board Members, 2020-2021: **Phylcia Christian, Chaven Davidson**

After 7 years of service as a club officer or board member, I had planned to step down at the end of my second term, but at the same time I don't want to see a void in leadership. Honoring the write-in votes I received, I will plan to continue as President unless the board and I can identify a successor. If you are interested in serving as GNBC's next President, please contact us.

The proposed revisions to the bylaws were also approved (**98% Yes**, 2% No). The website has the updated version of the bylaws.

I would like to recognize Steve Johnson for becoming our new Membership Coordinator. He offered to serve after our November meeting and has been officially appointed to the role by our Treasurer. Steve brings a lot of experience that will help him serve in this role. Thank you, Steve!

We'll meet next on December 11 for a Zoom Christmas party. See the article below for details!

For this month's flame-out, I managed to cover four major styles of fermented beverages this month! I am happy to report that I brewed my first cider using only apples from my trees, some nutrient, and a packet of yeast. I'd received feedback on a previous cider that was flavored with my apples that what would

December 2020

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NEXT MEETING:

December 11, 2020

Club Christmas party on
Zoom at 7pm; sign up at
greatnorthernbrewers.org to
be eligible for door prizes!

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GNBC WEBSITE

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SECRETARY

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Steve Johnson

membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phylcia Christian, 2020-2021

Chaven Davidson, 2020-2021

Deb Morgan, 2021-2022

John Trapp, 2021-2022

Robert Trosper, 2021-2022

Contact information via our website

make it even better would be to use 100% Alaskan apples. Done! I also brewed two beers (Raspberry Robust Porter, Cherrywood Smoked Rauchbier), made two wines (blueberry, Moscato kit), and made one mead (blueberry melomel). I'm looking forward to enjoying (and hopefully sharing) these batches over the coming weeks and months.

In closing:

- Join us for the Christmas party on December 11
- Let us know if you're interested in serving as President
- Get out and brew something
- Enjoy the holidays

We will see each other again soon.

Secretary's Corner

By Jordan Couture

Happy December Club Members,

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered to run for a position for the upcoming year. A big welcome to all our new and returning officers. I was happy to see such a large turnout for last month's meeting, over 25 club members at one point.

This month's meeting will be replaced by a Zoom holiday party. Please join us on Friday December 11. The Zoom link is on our website. You can also join by phone:

Meeting ID: 837 9811 4713

Passcode: GNBC2020

Phone Link: 253-215-8782

Happy Holidays everyone,

Jordan M. Couture Secretary

Autumn Harvest Brew Competition

By Christophe Venot



Autumn Harvest competition results are in! Judges were presented with fantastic and very diverse entries, and we had a battle of presidential proportions for the Best of Show winner. Our simplified, socially-distanced format was limited to four categories: cider, light-colored beers, dark-colored beers, and other beers. Entries included six ciders and four beers in each of the remaining categories.

The clear winner of the **Cider** category was Mike Cragen's "Cider with Raspberries," which went on to take 2nd in the BOS round with the judges noting that it had "a crisp,

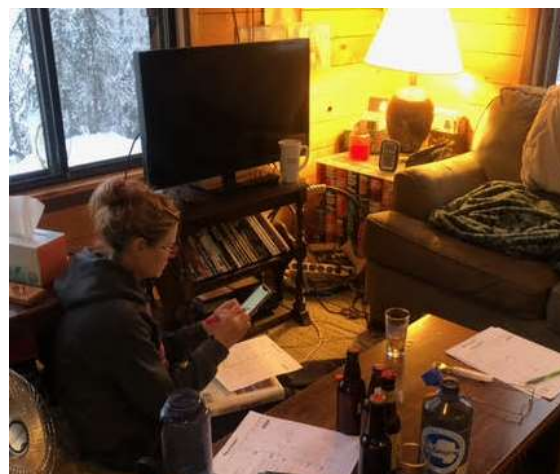
delicious raspberry flavor."

Light-Colored Beers were dominated by Robert Trospers's impressive Barleywine, which had an impressive level of complexity with subtle notes of orange and spice. The BOS judges commented that this brew should be even more impressive given another year of aging. This was only Robert's 2nd attempt at a Barleywine!

Nicolas Carrillo's dangerously-smooth Belgian Dark Strong took the **Dark-Colored Beer** category, narrowly beating Mike Cragen's impressive oak-aged imperial stout.

As expected, a wild range of beers comprised the catch-all **Other Beers** category, with Mike Fisher's creative and flavorful "session passion fruit & habanero farmhouse ale" taking the top place based on its average score. Mike's farmhouse ale and Frank Reuter's "Blueberry Blonde" were pushed to BOS because of rankings from individual groups of judges.

Mike Fisher's farmhouse ale also won the **Brew with Passion challenge**, noted by judges for its subtle and pleasant tropical fruit undertones harmoniously balanced with a light fruitiness and heat from the habanero peppers and pleasant farmhouse yeast esters. A more subtle beer than the name would imply!



Pictured: Tish tabulates scores from the comfort of the Cragen Cabin



The **Best of Show** judging round was graciously hosted by Jeremiah Christianson at Magnetic North Brewing.

The small panel of four judges was immediately impressed by the quality of the one cider and four beer BOS entries. The field was reduced to a battle of presidential proportions: Mike vs. Mike! After much deliberation, President Fisher's Farmhouse Ale narrowly beat Former President Cragen's Raspberry Cider.

I want to thank all contestants, judges, and our gracious host Jeremiah for making this unusual competition format possible. Do you want to enter or judge in future competitions? Contact VP@greatnorthernbrewers.org and see how you can volunteer to help out. We hope to have a full competition series in 2021, likely using a socially-distanced format in the first half of the year.

2020 Autumn Harvest Competition Results

Place ^A	Name	Category		HBOTY Points
1	Mike Fisher	BOS	Session Passion Fruit & habanero farmhouse ale	2
HM	Mike Cragen		Cider with raspberries	HM
1	Mike Cragen	Cider	Cider with raspberries	3
2	Christophe Venot		Cyser with Alaskan Honey & Apples	2
3	Nicolas Carrillo		Cider with other fruit - Passionfruit	1
1	Robert Trospers	Light-colored beers	English Barleywine	3
2	Mike Cragen		Kolsch	2
3	Nicolas Carrillo		Belgian Dubbel	1
1	Nicolas Carrillo	Dark-colored beers	Belgian Dark Strong Ale	3
2	Christophe V		Wheat Wine with Maple syrup	2
3	Mike Cragen		Imperial stout, oak-aged	1
1 ^B	Mike Fisher	Other Beers	Session Passion Fruit & habanero farmhouse ale	3
2 ^B	Frank Reuter		Blonde with blueberries	2
3	Christophe Venot		Passionfruit Hazy Pale	1
1	Mike Fisher	Brew With Passion Challenge	Session Passion Fruit & habanero farmhouse ale	6
2	Nicolas Carrillo		Cider with other fruit - Passionfruit	4
3	Christophe Venot		Passionfruit Hazy Pale	2

Notes:

- A Due to the socially-distanced judging format, final rank within each category was determined by averaging the consensus score from each group of judges.
- B both Frank's blonde with blueberries and Mike Fisher's passion fruit and habanero farmhouse ale were pushed to BOS because each beer received notably high scores from different pairs of judges.

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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