



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

July 2018

State of the Brewnion

by Mike Cragen

Summer is in full swing and so is GNBC. The Haines Homebrew Competition had 90 entries and club members Dan Lasco and Geno Ferrarini (aka Hanseath) took Best of Show with a Doppelbock, congratulations gentlemen! Fellow club members Christophe Venot, Brain Hall, and Karl Morgan also had great showings in Haines.



In the next 3 months, we have a fantastic lineup of GNBC and community brewing/craft events. The highlights include:

July 10th – Summer BBQ at Jeff Loughrey & Cathie Straub's house - 7051 Lake O the Hills Circle 6:00pm (see below for more info)

July 11th – ET Barnett entries due (in Fairbanks). No entry collection in Anchorage

July 12th – Beer in the Garden at Botanical Gardens

July 14th – ET Barnett Homebrew Comp in Fairbanks (see article below for more details)

July 14th – Golden Days Beer Fest at Silver Gulch Brewery in Fox, AK

July 28th – The Culmination Festival

July 28th – Beer and Bacon Festival – Lakefront Hotel

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

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

September 24th – Valdez Homebrew Comp. entry drop-off deadline (Arctic Brewing)

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

State of the Brewnion

Secretary's Corner

E.T. Barnette Homebrew
Competition

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

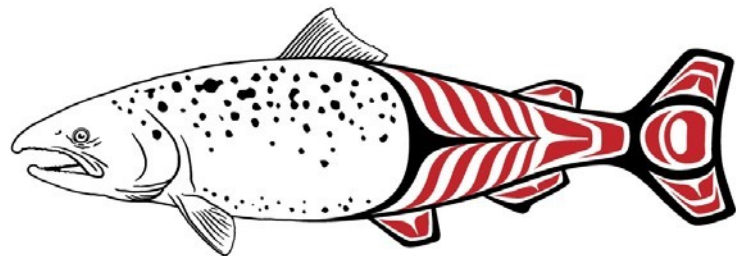
Jeff Loughrey and Cathie Straub have been kind enough once again to open their doors to GNBC to host our mid-summer BBQ. The gathering will commence at 6:00pm on Tuesday, July 10th at 7051 Lake O the Hills Circle. Please join us for an evening of camaraderie, laughs, and good beer! Be sure to bring something to throw on the grill for yourself, a dish to share with others, camp chairs, sunshine, and your favorite brew!

The E.T. Barnett homebrew competition in Fairbanks is coming soon (July 14th). For over 20 years Scott and Chèrie Stihler have hosted this exceptional competition. Unfortunately, if they don't get some help from qualified judges, the competition might not be around much longer. If there is any way you can make your way to Fairbanks that weekend, it would be a tremendous step toward saving a local homebrewing tradition. I've personally had a blast judging the past few years and will be there once again this year. There's been mention of some members carpooling. Contact me for more information on that. For info on submitting your brews visit: <http://www.mosquitobytes.com/Den/Beer/Events/Events.html>

On a personal note, this past month I had one of my homebrewing "career" highlights. As a part of the Autumn Pour Homebrew Competition, Alaskan Brewing Co. flew two homebrewers to Juneau for winning Best of Show and the ingredient side challenge. I was fortunate enough to get BOS last October and was able to spend the weekend with the Alaskan crew three weeks ago. Glenn Martin from Dillingham won the ingredient side challenge with a phenomenal spruce tip pale ale, of which we brewed 10 barrels on Geoff Larson's original system. Alaskan outdid themselves in providing an enlightening and entertaining weekend. Many thanks to the Alaskan Brew Crew. This year's Autumn Pour Homebrew competition will be in early October and the side challenge is smoked malt – start perfecting your recipes now. For more information, visit: <https://alaskanbeer.com/homebrew/>

The Final Wort (the last batch I brewed) is a Munich Helles (4A). This lager is typically on tap at my house and generally goes quickly! It started at 1.052 and has already dropped to 1.010. I fast-tracked this batch, as it's already kegged and carbonated. As always, I'll have The Final Wort at a future gathering (probably Jeff and Cathie's) for you to sample and critique.

Cheers, to the lovers of beers, BrewMikester Cragen



TURNAGAIN BREWING
OLD WORLD TRADITION... THE ALASKAN WAY

Secretary's Corner May 2018

By Jim O'Toole

I'm running late with this for a couple of reasons, one of them having to do with some ongoing medical stuff that seems to be improving but the big setback hit last week when I fractured two ankle bones. It was a clumsy step out of my sauna after a day of working in the garden and I still am not sure how it happened.

Many of us have had leg things where we had to stay off of them for a period of time and, having gone through it more than once before I really feel lucky that I don't have to deal with snow and ice.

Lucky also because I have access to some excellent medical care with my primary care doctor juggling referrals to various places and showing genuine concern for my welfare.

Another thing I feel lucky about is some friends that I've had for many years, especially at this time, after a recent visit to the awesome city of Austin, Texas. The idea for the trip started a few months ago when I read that Paul Simon announced his final concert tour. I went on line and saw that he was playing in Austin so I called my old navy buddy, Sam, and we had advance purchase tickets the next day.



I'd been to Austin before but Kathy hadn't so I was excited about showing her around so arranged a rental car even though we would be staying at Sam's. Sam wasn't happy about this and suggested I cancel the rental but I insisted I did not want to make him think he had to haul us around every day. He finally convinced me to cancel about an hour before I was scheduled to get the car and that was a great decision as I had no idea what a great tour guide Sam is. Like I said, I'd been there before and Sam showed me some Austin sights but this time he was almost aggressive in his insistence that we get out and do something almost every day.

So, this guy, who I didn't know all that well when we served together in the 1960's but who I've gotten to know pretty well since we began having semi-annual reunions spent every day showing us things like millions of bats leaving their daytime beds under the Ann Richards Bridge as soon as the sun goes down, streaming out in a dense grey cloud that you see from above for ten to fifteen minutes. He took us down to Round Rock, a landmark on the old Chisholm Trail but where Round Rock Donuts is the primary attraction. For us anyway. We bought a dozen to take home but only one of them survived the trip from the bakery, past a picnic table, and into the car. Hey....there were four of us

We hit Esther's Follies, a long-time Austin attraction that rings a lot of bells for anyone who has ever seen anything that Mr. Whitekeys has done here, and then we went next door for a comedy show. I wish I could remember more of the jokes but the only one that I've retained was when one of the comics said, "I've been doing a lot of meditating lately. I keep forgetting to take my phone into the bathroom." It's sailor humor I guess.

The Paul Simon show was not just a highlight of this trip but I have to say, for a guy who spent four years in California in the late 1960's trying to see as many musicians of that and following eras as possible, this was a lifetime musical highlight. Two and a half hours of nothing but songs I feel I grew up with with Simon playing in front of a great 15 piece rock orchestra.

If there is a beer connection to this story it's a bit of a minimal one as Sam gave up beer after heart surgery last year but he DID stop at a grocery store so I could pick up a six pack of a nice German Pilsner from one of the rapidly growing number of breweries in Texas and, whenever he and I were out and about, he constantly pointed out good beer places and asked if I was interested. As I've written before about Texas, they are working hard to make up for the years that they really felt that Lone Star and Shiner Bock were the best beers around and they seemed to be pretty hard-headed about letting anyone show them any different.

We had quite a few restaurant meals while there and I can't remember any one of them that didn't have at least a couple of good beers on tap. Sadly the worst experience was at a local small brewery that had a really nice tap line but a surly bartender who didn't seem too excited about getting up and pouring us a beer. Asking for a second seemed out of the question.

So, after touring the Texas Tower, a small University of Texas museum that holds a copy of the Guttenberg Bible and one of the first photographs ever taken, the really cool "boardwalk" along Lady Bird Lake, several (but not nearly enough) Texas Bar B Que joints, the bar where Janis Joplin got her first serious paying gig, the beautiful Texas Capitol Building, and having my faith in beer drinking humanity re-enforced, we left Sam and his wife, Libby, to their temperatures in the 90's (although their pool was a delightful respite from that) and headed home knowing that good friends are probably, after family, the most important things we have.

So, all I can say is that this guy I met almost 50 years ago has become an invaluable part of my life and it was just simple fate that we met in the first place. So, hang on to your good friends, even the ones who quit drinking beer.

Announcing the 22nd Annual E.T. Barnett Homebrew Competition!

This is a AHA/BJCP sanctioned competition.

The grand prize for Best of Show is \$500!!!

Great prizes and custom medals will also be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of each of the seven judged categories.

The seven judged categories will be: Pale Bitter European Lager (5A-D), British Bitter (11A-C), Dark British Beer (16A-D), Pale American Ale (18A-B), Amber and Brown American Beer (19A-C), Belgian Ale (24A-C), Fruit/Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer (29A-B and 30A).

Entries will be accepted: June 18 - July 11, 2017

Entry fees: Submit three 12-16 oz brown or green crown capped bottles and a check or money order for \$5.00 in U.S. funds per entry.

Judging: Judging will take place on Saturday, July 14th.

Location: Fox, Alaska (a small mining community ~10 miles north of Fairbanks)

More information as well as Entry and Bottle ID forms may be found at: <http://www.mosquitobytes.com/Den/Beer/Events/Events.html#ETB>

Should you have any questions or are interesting in judging contact Scott Stihler at stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com or (907) 474-2138.

Cheers, Scott & Chérie Stihler

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2018 E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition Call for Judges



E.T. BARNETTE HOMEBREW COMPETITION CALL FOR JUDGES:

Beer Judges we need You!!

We need BJCP judges and/or experienced brewers to help judge this year's E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition!!!

We also need an intrepid steward to help make things run smoothly!

Judging will take place on Saturday, July 14 at Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling Company located in Fox, Alaska (a small community ~11 miles north of Fairbanks).

The seven judged categories will be: Pale Bitter European Lager (5A-D), British Bitter (11A-C), Dark British Beer (16A-D), Pale American Ale (18A-B), Amber and Brown American Beer (19A-C), Belgian Ale (24A-C), Fruit/Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer (29A-B and 30A). Once again out of town judges can pre-register and hand carry their entries thereby saving on shipping costs.

All they need to do is fill out the Entry forms and mail it to us along with the corresponding fee payment. On the day of the competition the judges simply show up with their chilled entries in hand. Be sure to attach Bottle IDs to each of the bottles with rubber bands so we can distinguish which entry is which.

Please mail your pre-registration materials to:

Chérie Stihler

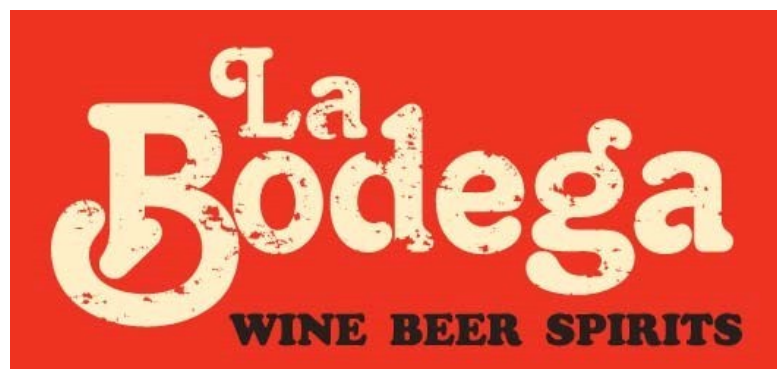
P.O. Box 84988

Fairbanks, AK 99708

Please mail in the pre-registration information etc. early enough so that it is received no later than the entry deadline (i.e. July 11). This will allow us to register those entries along with all the others and we'll be ready when you show up with beers in hand.

This year's E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition will once again take on that same day as the Golden Days Beer Fest. Since the beer fest takes place 3:00-10:00 p.m. there should be plenty of time to judge beer AND enjoy the festivities associated beer festival.

If you are interested in helping out please contact Scott Stihler at stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com or (907) 474-2138.



The Northern Brewer is a monthly newsletter published by the Great Northern Brewers Club for distribution to all club members. Subscriptions are a part of club membership and may be obtained by joining the club. Membership is open to everyone over the age of twenty-one. Please send \$30.99 to:

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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: July 10th, 2018
Summer BBQ at Jeff Loughrey & Cathie Straub's house 6:00 PM