



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

MARCH 2019

Brewer's Log 2019.03.01

by Mike Fisher

February brought us back into the usual swing of things. Our February meeting was a treat, with Clarke Pelz of Cynosure talking with us about the history of lager yeast and sharing some of his delicious pilsner. I, for one, learned a couple new things about yeasts and brewing history.



Oh, and just for the record, I'm not alone in my admiration for Cynosure's Pils; this beer earned the Pretentious Judge's Award at the recent February 16 Rondy Rotary Beer Festival. This is a worthy beer indeed (as are all of Cynosure's unique brews).

Our March meeting will feature member Brandon Yanoshek, who will talk about the journalism project he worked on last year, as well as Turnagain Brewing Company's Ted Rosenzweig, who will be evaluating our entries for the Turnagain Tartside Challenge. See the article later in this newsletter for the details about the challenge and how to enter your beers.

We have other big club events happening in March. Some highlights for the next few months are:

March 1: Drop-offs for Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition accepted at Arctic Brewing Supply, 4-6pm.

March 3: Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition at Magnetic North Brewing Company, 8861 Golovin St. Judging starts at 11am.

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Secretary's Corner

March 2019 Calendar Items

Beer Trippin' 2019

Equinox Mead Competition

Turnagain Tartside Challenge

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March 19: Monthly meeting at 49th State Brewing Co. 7pm. Brandon Yanoshek will present the project he undertook last year that involved interviewing a variety of brewers and Ted Rosenzweig will collect and evaluate beers for the Turnagain Tartside Challenge. Early entries for the Equinox Mead Competition will also be accepted.

March 22: Drop-offs for Equinox Mead Competition accepted at Arctic Brewing Supply.

March 29-31: Talkeetna Beer Trippin' hosted by Denali Brewing Co. (see the article in this issue)

March 30: Equinox Mead Competition at Twister Creek Tasting Room. Judging starts at 10:00am. (see the article in this issue)

April 16: Monthly meeting at 49th State Brewing Co. 7pm. Jeremiah Boone of Resolution Brewing Company will talk about barrels. We're working on adding some homebrewers' presentations about barrels as well.

May 21: Monthly meeting at 7pm. We plan to have Denali Brewing Company with us to go over our wort share beers. We'll let you know where the meeting will take place once we've ironed out all the details.

June 14-16: Save the date! We'll have our annual summer campout the weekend of June 14-16 at Eklutna Group Site B. More details to come as we get closer to the event.

The upcoming Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition is your first chance this year to start building up points for the 2019 Homebrewer of the Year (HBOTY) award. The next, the Equinox Mead Competition, is coming up at the end of the month. Watch this column and our website for details about other upcoming competitions.

One other industry event to add to the list if you're interested is the Rare Beer Festival, a fundraiser for the Brewers Guild of Alaska on March 9. Look online for more details and tickets.

For this month's Flame Out, I don't have any newly bottled or kegged beers to report, nor did I brew in February. In the small batch experimental category, my pinot saison and hoppy juniper farmhouse are continuing to show airlock activity, so I've let those be. My first rauchbier, which goes up to 11, has been very slow to clear, but it will appear at a future meeting if it ever does so (or I break down and filter it).

It's Märzen! Prost!

Secretary Corner

by Jordan Couture

Happy March Fellow Homebrewers,

First, I want to thank Clarke from Cynosure Brewing and Gwen from the UAA Archives and Special Collections for giving a couple of wonderful presentations at the February meeting. We are working with the archives to finalize a donation agreement to host our club papers. If you have any photos, scrapbooks, letters, or journals, or other materials related to the club, or know of anyone who does please let me know. You can send me an email at, jordan.m.couture@gmail.com or give me a call at 802-933-1661.

If you would like more information about the UAA Archives and Special Collections you can check out their website <https://archives.consortiumlibrary.org/donations/collecting-policy/> or call 907-786-1849. Brian Hall from Brülosophy conducted a blind tasting experiment. I look forward to hearing about the future results in a future podcast. Christophe reminded us of the importance of using one-way valves on our gas lines to reduce the risk of contamination.

A reminder to those of you who are participating in the Turnagain Brewing Company Tart Side Challenge: Ted Rosenzweig, will be at the March meeting to pick his favorite. I know I am enjoying participating in this. I am looking forward to seeing what other brewers have come up with.

The board is currently looking into having a club event at the Anchorage Curling Club this year. The board is working out the details at this point and is trying to gauge interest in this event. If you would like to go curling please reach out to a board member and let them know.

Our first 2019 Homebrew Competition is the Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition on March 3. Entries need to be dropped off Friday March 1 at Arctic Brewing Supply between 4-6 pm. This is your first chance to start earning points for HBOTY.

Remember when life starts moving too fast, relax and have a homebrew.

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Beer Trippin' 2019

by Mike Cragen

March 29-31 are the dates for the annual Beer Trippin' event in Talkeetna this year. Denali Brewing Company (DBC) is inviting GNBC and all brewers to join them for a weekend of beer, brewing, camaraderie and fun. This event is all about homebrewing and homebrewers. This is not a traditional beer festival. GNBC will be hosting the Equinox Mead and Cider Competition (more details later in newsletter). Denali has a non-BJCP competition the same weekend. The winner will help them brew the headlining beer for next year's Beer Trippin' weekend. If there's one out-of-town event you make it to this year, this should be the one.

Denali has reworked the schedule of events this year and added some noteworthy opportunities. First, DBC is brewing a wort, which they'll be providing to GNBC members. This post-boil wort is yours to finish. Try any combination of hops or yeasts to come up with your own brew. It is the expectation that if you receive wort from DBC, you bring your creation to the May GNBC meeting. Denali Brewing will be attending and eagerly sampling your brews. You'll have to be in Talkeetna for Beer Trippin' to collect the wort into your own sanitized vessel(s). Also, the wort is only available if you RSVP for it with Mike Cragen at: mike-cragen@yahoo.com Specific details are still being hammered out, but a detailed schedule with events, times, and locations will be coming your way soon.

Finally, this is a family-friendly event. Bring the wife, husband, kids, dogs, and hamsters – there's fun to be had by all! Although there's plenty of accommodation options in Talkeetna, be sure to book soon so your favorite places don't get snagged away from you.

Denali Brewing Company's - Equinox Mead Competition

by John Trapp

It's time once again to drink the nectar of the gods. Denali Brewing Company will be hosting the "Spring" Equinox Mead Competition on Saturday March 30th at the Twister Creek tasting room in Talkeetna. This coincides with the famous annual Talkeetna Beer Trippin weekend. So if you have two bottles of mead or cider stashed away in the crawl space, go and get them and enter them for consideration.

Please fill out a recipe sheet and properly label the bottles (and make sure you're entered in the right category). All mead categories are open as well as all cider categories.

But wait, it gets better. There's no cost. Entry in this competition is free. You have nothing to lose and might win the whole enchilada.

You can drop off your entries at Arctic Brewing Supply on March 22nd, or bring them to the club meeting on March 19th. Entries will also be accepted in Talkeetna at Twister Creek Tasting room on Friday evening the 29th – 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and also Saturday morning 9:00 am to 9:30 am. The judging starts at 10:00 am so plan on judging too. I hope to see lots of participation in this event. I know we have some excellent mead makers in the club, so lets show them what we have.

Turnagain Tartside Challenge

by Ted Rosenzweig

Greetings homebrewers! In the spirit of friendly competition and creative sour beer brewing, Turnagain Brewing is proud to raise the first Tartside Challenge. We bought you a gallon of our finished but uncarbonated sour base beer for you to take home and finish as you chose. At this month's meeting, we'll reconvene to share a taste. The details:

- 1) Fill out the entry form (link below) in its entirety. You should have been taking meticulous notes. Make sure you capture all the details on the entry form. Also fill out the bottle labels at the bottom of the form.
- 2) Bring 36oz (3 @ 12oz bottles or equivalent) of your entry to the March 19 meeting with only the bottle label form (link below) taped or rubber banded onto it. Please, no markings or other labels! At the meeting, we will have a table for you to drop off your bottle as well as the top portion of your entry sheet. We'll put an ID number on the cap and your entry form.
- 3) My crew and I will sample during the presentation and pick our favorites as well as vet recipes. We can pass out ballots/cups and then open it up for the group to sample. It may or may not be possible to pick a winner during the meeting, but we'll try!
- 4) 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.

We'll brew a batch of the best beer and serve it in our taproom.

Please use the entry form located here:

<http://greatnorthernbrewers.org/TurnagainTartsideChallenge.pdf>

We're looking forward to sampling your creations!

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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: March 19th 2019
49th State Brewing Company 7 PM**