



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

Brewer's Log

By Mike Fisher

March is always an exciting time, with the solid shift at some point—sometimes sooner, sometimes later—to breakup. With more sun, we get extended days of winter fun plus the promise that brewing outside, lawnmower beers, and summer fun are just around the corner.

February saw the return to regular monthly meetings. We had a good, but lightly attended, meeting on February 18. Thank you to Jeremiah Christian for talking about your new brewery and guided brewing approach. Christophe Venot also presented a cereal brewing challenge. Good luck to those participating. My cereal brew day was February 23 and went mostly smoothly, except that I discovered to my horror that I had grabbed the wrong cereal variety. I could deal with the fruity version (since that artificial flavor always seems to fall out easily) but imagine my horror when I had planned on an oat-based brew and discovered that this variety of the oat cereal actually used corn. Rather than switch to a fruity cream ale, I ran to the store to get a last-minute family-size box of the original stuff.

This year we have a leap day, and what better use of an extra day than a homebrew competition? This issue goes to press on the 28th of February, a day before the competition, but I think it's safe to say that the first competition of the year will/did go smoothly since it's in good hands.

Beer Trippin' is fast approaching and will be held the last weekend of March. Last year was my first time at the event and I really, really enjoyed it. If you were on the fence about attending, I'd encourage you to go for it. It's a fun weekend. I'm also really looking forward to the wort share in terms of what base recipe we'll and all the creative things we'll see our members do with that base beer between now and the May meeting. Read the Beer Trippin' article later in this issue for details.

Secretary's Corner

By Jordan Couture

Happy March Club Members,

With thoughts of daylight and laying down Märzen in our heads, let us not get too excited for the salmon run yet as the club has many great events planned before our summer hiatus.

- March 17: Regular monthly meeting in the barrel room of 49th State Brewing Company, 7:00pm. The meeting will showcase the results of two challenges. One challenge is the Tartside Challenge. Anyone who accepted sour beer from Turnagain will bring it to the meeting for Ted and his team to evaluate and then present the winner. The other challenge is Christophe's special ingredient brewing challenge. Anyone who drew an ingredient at the February meeting will return with their beer to share. The

March 2020

Contents of This Issue

Brewer's Log

Secretary's Corner

Beer Trippin' 2020

Equinox Mead Competition

NEXT MEETING:

Monthly Meeting

March 17, 2020, 7:00pm

49th State Anchorage

East Barrel Room

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overall theme of the meeting is unusual ingredients. We should have many examples to choose from, between the two challenges. Please bring homebrewed and commercial beers that use unusual ingredients and be prepared to talk about them.

- March 21st: Not an official club event. The Brewers Guild of Alaska is hosting its 2nd Annual Rare Beer Festival on March 21st from 1-4 PM at 49th State Brewing Company. This intimate and small tasting event features rare, unusual, and sometimes never before seen bottles and barrels from your favorite breweries across the state. Your ticket will include appetizers from 49th State, a commemorative tasting glass, access to sip a wide variety of brews, as well as a single drink chip to redeem at our "Golden Ticket Table" featuring the rarest of rare bottles. Tickets have officially gone on sale today and we hope to see you all there! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rare-beer-festival-tickets-94732831449?aff=ebdssbeac>
- March 27-29: Beer Trippin' in Talkeetna with Denali Brewing Company is in the planning stages. Stay tuned for an announcement about the dates and draft agenda once it's confirmed. That weekend, we also expect to hold the Equinox Mead and Cider Competition, along with Denali's homebrew competition. More details to come!
- April 21: Regular monthly meeting in the barrel room of 49th State Brewing Company, 7:00pm. The meeting agenda and theme will be announced soon.
- May 2nd: Brew-a-thon, location TBD
- May 19th: Regular May meeting, location TBD. Club members will share the results of the Denali wort share.
- June 12 - June 14 Annual Campout Eklutna Group Site B

Enjoy the return of daylight and have a homebrew!

Beer Trippin' 2020

By Mike Cragen

March 27-29 is Beer Trippin' in Talkeetna. Denali Brewing Company (DBC) is inviting GNBC members to join them for a weekend of beer, brewing, and booze. This event is all about homebrewing and homebrewers . . . not a traditional beer festival. GNBC will be hosting the Equinox Mead and Cider Competition. Denali has a non-BJCP competition the same weekend. The winner will help Denali 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 great events planned and 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, yeasts, fruits, or special ingredients. Whatever comes to mind. 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 mikecragen@yahoo.com. All wort requests MUST be emailed to Mike by Monday, March 23rd so DBC has enough notice to plan accordingly. Again, to be eligible to receive this wort, you must be present in Talkeetna for the Beer Trippin' weekend, you have to bring your creations to the May meeting, and you need to be a current GNBC member.

A full schedule of events will be emailed to the club once details are finalized. Finally, this is a family-friendly event. Bring the wife, husband, kids, and dogs – 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 28th at Twister Creek tasting room in Talkeetna. This coincides with the ever famous Talkeetna Beer Trippin' weekend. So if you have 2 bottles of mead or cider stashed away in the crawl space, go and get them! Please fill out a recipe sheet and properly label the bottles (and make sure you're entered in the right category). Speaking of; all categories are open as well as ciders. But wait, it gets better. There's no cost! Free! Nothing to lose but maybe winning the whole enchilada. You can drop off your entries at Arctic Brewing Supply on March 20th, or bring them to the club meeting on March 17th. Also, we will be excepting entries 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 let's show them what we have.

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