



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

March 2021

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The Prez Sez

By John Trapp

I'm back!!! Did you miss me? Don't answer that, besides it's just for a month. You see, I'm the first of what we are calling the "Revolving Guest President" where someone (you never know who it'll be) takes the helm and writes the Prez Sez for the month. I suggested this to Mike back in January, since this year is looking like last year, kind of wacky and uncertain, putting a damper on our Beer loving life styles. COVID crap has restricted us to virtual Zoom meetings (better than nothing) and not being able to share the comraderies' of great beer drinkers. How dare they do this to us! The beer drinker and beer lover will prevail – hear me now, believe me later. In the meantime – Brew, Brew, Brew!



So, what do we have coming up in the near future, let's list it out.

March 16th is a Zoom Club meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

April 20th we'll have another Zoom Club meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

May 1st is Brew-a-thon (probably a virtual event – brew at home and call in the gallons brewed).

May 18th is our Zoom Club meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

June – we got nothing! Drink yourself silly or go fishing.

July 8th thru 11th is the GNBC summer camp out at Trail River campground. (yep, 3 nights of fun)

I do believe a few of the board members are working on getting a competition organized, but we'll let you know when and if that happens. We can all brew up some beer and be ready for it. Speaking of, don't forget that it's Lager season right now, and many garages (including mine) are at a perfect lagering temperature. I need to get 2 or 3 batches going in the next month; a Schwartzbier, O-fest and Dortmunder Export, or maybe a Mai Bock. Regardless of which one I brew, please stay safe, healthy and keep on brewing. Until next month, Cheers.

Secretary's Corner

By Jordan Couture

Happy Beer Day to all our Icelandic Club Members,

With spring upon us and the days getting longer it's time to start thinking about those lighter beers, that's why this weekend I brewed a tropical stout. As a reminder, the Consortium Library Archive and Special Collections has agreed to host our club papers and records so future historians will know what an active and robust homebrewing scene Anchorage has. The club is preparing to make its first deposit. If you come across anything during your spring cleaning that you would like to donate please feel free to reach out to me.

We are still conducting our meeting virtually. Below is this month's zoom information.

Topic: March GNBC Meeting

Time: Mar 16, 2021 07:00 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82550658424?pwd=OGU1MlhCWERDMk5tbTdoZnBnQk5vUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 5065 8424

Passcode: GNBC2021

Stay warm out there and have a homebrew!

Jordan M. Couture

Secretary

The GNBC Summer Camp Out is Coming!

By John Trapp

We have a little change of plans, instead of June being the month of our annual summer camp out, this year it will be in July. Long story short, it has become increasingly difficult to reserve the group campsite down at Trail River Campground. With the popularity of it, and the fact that it can be reserved up to a year in advance, I needed to play some games in getting the reservation. I won't bore you with the details, but I needed to reserve an extra night in order to secure the weekend. So, the club has the Group Campsite from Thursday the 8th at noon, until Sunday the 11th at noon. That gives us 3 glorious nights of Trail River goodness. The Group meal will still be on Saturday evening so start thinking about a potluck dish to share.

I know some of you are probably saying "John, what's the theme this year"? Well, there is none! Let's just get out and enjoy the fresh air, open spaces and great brews. There's plenty of activities going on in the area from fishing, beach combing, Seward, mountain climbing, biking, etc. You get the picture. So mark your calendars and plan on having a great 3 day weekend on the Kenai.

Reading about Beer and Brewing

By Steve Johnson

The Brewers Association—parent of the American Homebrewers Association-- makes numerous reports and studies freely available. (Some publications are "members only" to the Brewers Association.) Among recent free downloads was the *Draught Beer Quality Manual*, fourth edition (2019), available on Draught Beer Resource Hub on the Brewers Association (<https://www.brewersassociation.org/resource-hub/draught-beer>). Although this 107 page publication is focused strictly on commercial draught systems—no kegerator or keezer how to articles here—as a dedicated consumer of draft beer, I found the content of compelling interest. My interest was no doubt increased because my keezer usually contains one commercial/Sanke keg. The manual includes detailed diagrams of kegs and faucets and other equipment. And a glossary. I learned that "FOB" also stands for "Foam on beer detector."

Years ago, at the Strand Bookstore in New York, I picked up a copy of Stanley Baron's *Brewed in America: A history of Beer and Ale in the United States* (Little, Brown & Co., 1962). This 424 page study keeps my interest because it reflects the perspective of its time, prior to the following decades of increasing brewery consolidation and the craft beer revolution. Anchorage libraries apparently do not have a copy—one is available at Rasmuson library in Fairbanks—but a fourteen day loan of access to this book is available at the Internet Archive, archive.org. Just as in physical books in physical libraries, one user at a time an access many digital books at the internet archive. There is no charge is obtain a user account. Used, former library copies are available at thriftbooks.com and other internet book dealers for less than \$20.

A study not included in Baron's bibliography is a 1917 Department of Agriculture Report, later reprinted in the *Journal of the Institute of Brewing, A Study of American Beers and Ales* by Toman and Riley.

"The main object of this investigation was to find, if possible, a means of distinguishing beers and ales made entirely from malt from those made from malt together with other cereal products, such as rice, corn, and cereal.... It was concluded, after looking into the literature, that in order to accomplish this purpose it would be necessary to collect a series of samples made from the various raw materials ordinarily used and make a study of the effect of these raw materials upon the composition of the finished product."

That sounds to me something like a federal exercise in craft brewing, just a few years before the start of prohibition. The entire study may be found at Project Gutenberg by searching or pointing a browser directly at <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/25050>. The Institute of Brewing version is freely available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/20500416/1917/23/5>. And I was quite surprised to see that issues of the *Journal of the Institute of Brewing* become freely available two years after publication. Start browsing at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/loi/20500416>. Click on "articles" to get to the "all issues" link.

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