



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

November 2019

Brewer's Log 2019.11.01

By Mike Fisher

Halloween is behind us and we're fully into the "holiday season." Let's put those harvest fermentables to good use. ~~Our next competition has two side challenges that might just let you sneak by with Halloween sourced "alternative sugars," but you didn't hear that from me.~~



We had a great time at the October meeting with a talks by Kevin and Vince from Two Seasons Meadery and by a presentation by Lara and Pam from the Alaska State Fair about changes in their Spirited Beverages Department. Kevin and Vince talked about getting started as well as ideas for the future. They have a great place and I'd encourage everyone to go check out their selection. Lara and Pam talked about the Fair's homebrew competition and asked for GNBC feedback on how to get more entries. Expect to see more from them as they seek additional input from GNBC. A copy of their handouts, including their Superintendent position announcement, are included at the end of this newsletter.

In September, Ryan Johnson of Alaskan Brewing talked about their homebrew competition, which took place on October 12. Congratulations to our members for their entries and wins!

Our meeting this month will feature Gary Busse of Midnight Sun Brewing Company. Dave Short, brewmaster at 49th State, will also join us to talk about a collaboration brew with GNBC and 49th State.

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January Meeting

GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
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Since the holidays are upon us, we know that all of the festivities over the next three months will fly by in a blur. We'll have newsletters each month but special events in place of our regular meetings. On December 7 we'll have the Big Fish Homebrew Competition, which you can read more about in this newsletter. Planning for our traditional Christmas party is still underway, so stay tuned for details in the coming weeks. Expect an announcement soon about Glacier Brewhouse's 12 Days of Barleywine in mid-December, and a month later we'll be in the throes of Alaska Beer Week (akbeerweek.com). In the middle of Beer Week, we'll have our big January meeting and a changing of the guard. That week will of course end in blazing beer foam of glory with the Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival. It's hard to believe all of this will happen over the next three months, and it'll be harder to believe that it has all come and gone so quickly.

GNBC events over the next three months are:

- November 19: Monthly meeting in the basement of 49thState Brewing Company, 7:00pm. Guest speaker will be Gary Busse of Midnight Sun Brewing Company.
- December 7: Big Fish Homebrew Competition. Read all the details later in this newsletter.
- December (TBD): GNBC Christmas Party. Details coming soon!
- January 15: Pickup day for the Turnagain Tartside Challenge. See the article later in this newsletter.
- January 16: January meeting, graciously hosted by 49th State Brewing Company. We'll have a changing of the guard and welcome of the 2020 GNBC officers and board members, a presentation by Clay Robinson of Sun King Brewery, and a lot of wonderful conversations, beers, and foods. See the article later in this newsletter

November is election month! If you e-mail me by Friday, November 15, I'll add your name to the ballot. There is always space for write-in candidates, as well. We'll look forward to seeing you at the meeting on

Tuesday, November 19, for the election (and a great educational program). The different roles are shown on our website (<https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/about-us/>) with years listed. We'll be voting on two board positions and each of the officer positions (president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary). Thank you to the following individuals who have accepted a nomination:

- Vice President: Christophe Venot
- Secretary: Jordan Couture
- Treasurer: Thomas Huling
- Board (2 positions available for 2020-2021): Phylicia Christian, Chaven Davidson, Thomas Huling, James Osowski

Jim Lamb and Tony Strupulis have one year remaining in their board positions. We have a third, unfilled board position that runs through 2020; I will likely nominate one of the individuals named above who isn't elected.

In other officer news, Samuel Moore resigned as Treasurer on October 8. The board approved Mike Cragen to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of 2019.

We've had a lot of membership renewals flood in over the last month. Our membership year runs from October 1 through September 30, so it's great to see our good friends renew their membership in the club. It's also great to see some new members join us. If you haven't renewed for 2019-2020 yet, be sure to renew your membership to take advantage of all the benefits it provides both for you and the club. The easiest way is through our website at <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/>. Simply fill out the form and pay online. We also have a paper application if you'd prefer to mail it in or pay in person.

For this month's Flame-Out, I got back into the brew game big time with a big beer to cellar and a smaller beer to put on tap. I brewed a split-batch American Stout for aging and a porter. What are you brewing for the season?

Secretary's Corner

Happy November Homebrew Club,

As daylight saving draws to an end and we all enjoy an extra hour of sleep on Nov. 3rd, there will be no excuse for you not to be well rested for our monthly meeting on the 19th at 49th State Brewing Company.

Elections are this month. If you would like to run, know someone who would, please email our President Mike Fisher at president@greatnorthernbrewers.org. I promise it's not that much more work and you have another excuse to get together with great people each much and enjoy craft beer.

Our holiday parties will soon be upon us. The planning process has already started. If you have any opinion, feedback or would like to help out with the holiday party or the trade show please let a board member know.

Hopefully, you all have been brewing and have plenty of things to enter in the Humpies Big Fish competition. This is your last chance for Home Brewer of The Year points, and with 11 style groups and two side challenges up for grabs it's still anyone's competition. See our website for more details.

Lastly, I would like to challenge you all to invite someone new to our homebrew club meetings. As a club we have a huge amount of beer knowledge and passion to share. I encourage you all to find that person you know who is on the fence about homebrewing, invite them to a club meeting and help them fall in love with this fantastic hobby.

Cheers and Happy Homebrewing,

Jordan M. Couture

Big Fish Homebrew Competition

By Liz Greer and Christophe Venot

GNBC is combining Anchor Town and Big Fish competitions to be held jointly as the Big Fish competition, on Saturday December 7. The competition will be located at the Sub Zero lounge, hosted by Humpy's. Big Fish is an open competition without a fee. Multiple entries are allowed; however, each person may only enter one beer per category/subcategory (e.g., only one entry for American IPA, category 21A). Categories will be judged in groups based on the 2015 BJCP Style Guidelines. More information on the scoring guide is available on the GNBC website at <http://greatnorthernbrewers.org/competitions>. There will be two competition side challenges which will be awarded extra homebrewer of the year (HBOTY) points:

1. The Midnight Sun Brewing Company Challenge this year is any beer with Belgian candy sugar.
2. The King Street Challenge is any style of Porter (e.g., Baltic, English, smoked, spiced, etc).

Additionally, MSBC and King Street may select a "Brewer's Choice" beer to brew from the side challenge, Best of Show, or any Big Fish point-scoring beer category. Double HBOTY points will also be awarded for winners of each Brewer's Choice.

We will also need judges to help judge the beers - no experience needed! Judging begins at 10am and should end by 2 pm. A light lunch and snacks will be provided for judges and there will be door prizes and leftover beers to take home.

Turnagain Tartside Challenge 2020

By Ted Rosenzweig

Greetings homebrewers! In the spirit of friendly competition and creative sour beer brew-

ing, Turnagain Brewing is proud to raise the SECOND Tartside Challenge. Here is how it works: we'll give you a gallon of our fermented and soured base wort, you take it home and finish it as you will within a month, and in two months we reconvene at the homebrew club meeting to share a taste. We'll brew a batch of the best beer and serve it in our taproom. The details:

1) You MUST show at our taproom on Wednesday of beer week (Jan 15) during business hours (4-8pm) to claim your gallon of unfinished beer. Please bring a container to hold your proto-brew (a couple sanitized growlers or a milk jug might work well). If you are busy, you may send a proxy to collect wort, but we cannot dispense wort outside of Jan 15.

2) You MUST bring or send your finished beer to the club meeting in March for "judging". The entire club will be encouraged to sample and rate beers to help us choose a winner, but entries will not have your name on them during judging. It is important for us all to learn not just what works, but what does not and why.

3) 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.

4) METICULOUS PRODUCTION DETAILS must accompany the submission. We are looking for refermentation/conditioning temperature, source/preparation/exact quantity of any fruit/spice/fermentable added to the mix as well as the volume of base beer to which it was added, and time spent on such additive prior to crashing. Beers may spend NOT MORE THAN ONE MONTH above 40F.

5) Fill out an entry form and 3 bottle labels, attach labels to bottles, and bring your submission to the March GNBC meeting for judging. Three containers of at least 12 oz are needed for judging. Both PET and glass are considered acceptable.

Helpful hints: Force carbonation is recommended. Yeasts do not perform reliably in acidic environments. Be very careful with any spices or herbs as they are easy to overdo. Freezing any fruit prior to addition improves extraction of flavors. If refermentation is desired, repitching yeast is a good idea as the beer we will give you has been cold for some time. Avoid pits and seeds as much as possible as well as the pith of any citrus peel (it tends to be bitter). Don't worry too much about sterilizing anything you might add; the beer we give you is already a polymicrobial playground with origins in wild and spontaneous fermentation. Have fun and get creative!

January Meeting

Each January marks the return of the Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival (GABBF) and Alaska Beer Week. GNBC has long been a supporter of the GABBF competitions by supplying BJCP certified judges and beer stewards, and has also been the host for the Thursday night meeting for brewers, brewery owners, special guests, and other beer industry

workers. The industry meeting will happen again this year and it's scheduled for Thursday January 16, 2020, at 6:30 PM, at 49th State Brewing Co. We owe a huge thank you to 49th State for helping us continue this tradition. Get down there and have a pint and some food. Here's what you need to know.

First and foremost, and this will be repeated several times in this announcement:

This is a GNBC member event ONLY. Visiting brewers and dignitaries are also welcome as GNBC guests.

The meeting adjusts a little every year. This year we're keeping the big adjustments we made last year and making some other small changes. First, the schedule:

6:30–7:00 GNBC Business: Come to say hello to the new GNBC leadership, say thank you to the outgoing leadership, and catch a quick update of upcoming GNBC business.

7:00–7:30 Guest speaker, Clay Robinson of Sun King Brewery: Please show our speaker the respect he/she deserves. We are trying to keep the night moving quickly and with lots of time to socialize.

7:30–11:00 Social: What many of you are waiting for!

IMPORTANT DETAILS—NO EXCEPTIONS:

- This event is NOT open to the general public. It is only for GNBC members and invited industry guests.
- We are asking for donations up front and/or membership dues before the meeting. This party has been a mainstay of our community. We hope to keep it this way by diversifying how the party is paid for.
- To enter as a GNBC member, you will need to present your current GNBC Membership card and a clean driver's license (i.e., no red stripe). Absolutely no exceptions.
- To enter as an industry member, you or your company will need to have prepaid the suggested per-person donation and given your name for us to include in the guest list. As with GNBC members, you will also need a clean driver's license.
- GNBC memberships cover one or two adults who reside in the same household. There are NO +1s for this event and each spouse/partner must present his or her membership card. Unrelated adults must each sign up for individual memberships.

MEMBER DUTIES:

- Be responsible and have a ride home if you are going to drink.
- There will be no potluck. All food is being provided by 49th State Brewing.

- If you bring homebrew, label it with your name and style at minimum before you come.
- Do not bring any outside glassware or cups to the meeting. All will be provided.

OTHER DETAILS:

- There will be plenty of water available to cleanse your palette between tastings.
- There will be all kinds of amazing commercial beer on tap for you to taste. All beer will be available for tasting from approximately 6:30pm until last call (approximately 11:00pm). We will not go all night, but we will have plenty of time to share.
- No beer in cups/glasses may leave or enter the theater area.

On behalf of the GNBC and 49th State Brewing, we want everyone to have a great time. We ask that you think when you drink and plan ahead for a safe ride home, whether you are driving yourself or have another pre-arranged ride.

Please send an e-mail to president@greatnorthernbrewers.org if you have any questions or concerns. Watch for more January meeting coverage and e-mails as we get closer to the event!

Alaska State Fair Handouts from October Meeting



SPIRITED BEVERAGES & SODA POP DEPARTMENT

2019 ENTRY INFO

- 144 Entries in 2019
- Down almost 100 from last year
 - Major Exhibitors unable to compete
 - Re-Vamp of Guidelines
- Wine: 38 Entries, 17 Winners
- Liqueur: 30 Entries, 25 Winners
- Soda Pop: 6 Entries, 6 Winners
- Kombucha: 7 Entries, 2 Winners
- Homebrew: 63 Entries, 28 Winners

2020 GOALS

- New Department Superintendent
- Recruit Professional Brewers
- Recruit Homebrewers
- Recruit Special Awards

ALASKA STATE FAIR, INC
Spirited Beverage & Soda Pop Superintendent

Purpose: Coordinate the competitive Spirited Beverage & Soda Pop Exhibit Department so that it is attractive, organized, fair and educational.

Reports to: Exhibits Supervisor

Recruits, Coordinates & Supervises: Volunteers & Judges

Confidentiality: Personal information of exhibitors is protected at all times.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must have good written and oral communication skills
- Must be able to recruit volunteers and exhibitors from community organizations
- Must be organized and detail orientated
- Recommend having a working knowledge of Homebrew & Wine Making

Areas of responsibility include but are not limited to:

- Ensure Spirited Beverage and Soda Pop Department Exhibitor Guide is edited yearly to remain current with Alaska home brewers and professional brewers.
- Monitor Alaska State Fair website to ensure department information is correct.
- Handle telephone and email inquiries for department as they arise.
- Attend Superintendent Meetings, twice yearly.
- Submit supply list, equipment requests, and pass orders by April 30.
- Coordinate volunteers to assistant during: entry drop off, judging, department display and entry pick up.
- Accept entries on Non-Perishable Entry Days. Greet and establish relationships with exhibitors.
- Recruit qualified judges
- Coordinate judging dates and times. Judge entries in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all entries are judged and displayed attractively before 1st day of the Alaska State Fair.
- Complete Judges Book in a timely manner, including: computer print-out, white entry forms, champion forms and sponsor award forms. Verify all paperwork for accuracy. Return Department book including all above listed material to Exhibits Supervisor before the first Sunday of the Alaska State Fair.
- Assist exhibitors claiming their entries and ribbons on Entry Pick-Up Days
- Recruit Special Awards

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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 see our website for membership information.

Great Northern Brewers Club is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Alaska and registered with the American Homebrewers Association.

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The *Northern Brewer* welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas, and inquiries. Please send article submissions to the president or secretary.

GNBC Web Site: www.greatnorthernbrewers.org



Great Northern Brewers Club and the American Homebrewers Association remind you to... Savor the Flavor Responsibly



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NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2019
Monthly Meeting, 49th State Basement, 7pm