



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

OCTOBER 2008

The Prez Sez

by *Ira Edwards*

Hi all. It was great to see everyone at the September meeting, our first of the season after the summer break. It was great to sit down and visit with old members and discuss summer adventures, but I think it was especially exciting to see so many new faces at the meeting. Thanks to everyone who brought a friend and got them excited about home brewing. We are turning into a pretty diverse group of brewers with blossoming experts in the crafting of fine Beers, Meads and Ciders.



A little background on the club to refresh the foggy memories of the longtime members and get all the new folks started off on the right foot. We are a Home Brewing Club, first and foremost. While we all appreciate the fine commercial examples out there (and often try to imitate them). Let's try to keep the sharing to homebrews or new and exiting commercial beverages (or those brought from trips far and away). We are a non profit organization that supports ourselves with our dues that go to pay for educational events, homebrew competitions (you think that food grows itself?), the club website and a multitude of other club functions. Wait a minute, you say we have a website? Well, hopefully if you are reading this newsletter, you have found our website at www.greatnorthernbrewers.org I was told by several longtime members and even some new ones that they were shocked we even had a website. It's true, we have entered the modern age and are not going back. The website is free and open to the membership and your friends. We are even being more green by not printing several hundred newsletters each and every month. We are updating the calendar and several other pages, but keep watch of the site for the current newsletter and announcements of current club events.

We are a social club and not a drinking club. We are very much focused on the improvement of our brewing craft and the making of better beverages through educational sessions at most club meetings, offering classes like the BJCP (Beer Judge Certification Program) and hosting guest speakers before the Great Alaskan Beer and Barleywine Festival. We try very hard to promote responsible enjoyment of the fruits of our hobby and encourage everyone to stay safe out there. That said, we are here to learn from each other and the most effective way of getting feedback on our brew is to have someone else taste them and relate their experiences. Our club consists of everyone ranging from first timers to current and former commercial brewers. We have club members who have high tech brewing systems that put mine to shame, and we have members that have won countless awards and even best of shows at many competitions using only extracts and paying fine attention to detail. Ask around and you would be surprised at the variety of brew we have tried in our time with this great hobby.

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The Prez Sez

Bigfish on the Horizon

Secretary's Corner

Celestial Mead Equinox
Mead Competition Results

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I hope that everyone is excited about this coming year and that we all have fun and stay safe out there.

OK, on to new business. Elections are coming up in November. All officer positions are up for grabs (we need a new secretary...) and there are a few board members that have expiring terms this year. Nominate someone to any one of the officers and if they accept, they can go on the November ballot. I will send a spam E-mailing to the club in the near future to announce the next board meeting (usually the week before the general club meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Snow Goose). This will allow anyone interested in participating in the direction of the club to come and learn what we do. I will also put the meeting agenda out there if anyone wants to send me feedback on the needs of the membership. This is a volunteer run club, so your participation is vital to us remaining a big and happy organization. If you do not want to be on the board or become one of the officers, please consider sending in a newsletter submission to the editors on the first of the month. We try not to print too much drivel, but we all think the membership would be excited to hear about any trips you have taken that had a brewing related aspect to them, or especially any new projects you have up your sleeve this year.

I want to thank everyone in advance (well, the event will have passed by the time you read this) for supporting the ski movies I showed at the beginning of the month at UAA as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center. I especially want to thank Humpy's and also Alaskan, Midnight Sun, and Moose's Tooth brewing companies for their donations to the after party that helped us raise more money to keep all you skiers and snowmachiners safe out there this winter. It was a great event. Is there a better way to raise money for our safety than to drink great beers and oggle ski porn? I can't think of one.

As it is fall and beginning to frost out there, it is also Apple picking time. This has been kind of a crappy summer to say the least, but there are apples to be had and I will be making juice this year once they ripen in my garage for the making of Cider and other apple beverages. I will do a demonstration on a weekend after the apples ripen, so send me an email if you are interested. I will send the details to all club members who wish to learn about making cider (I'll even have some past vintages to share).

Well, that is all for this month. I'll see you on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Snow Goose, and until then, enjoy your Beers, Meads and Ciders responsibly. PROST!!!



Secretary's Corner

by Dena Sessler

Welcome all to another month of the Secretary's Corner. It was great to see so many old and new members at our first monthly meeting on September 16th at the Goose. There was a lot of business to discuss. First and foremost, your club membership is now up for renewal. The cost is a mere \$25.00 for the year. Not only does your dues payment make you a part of the most awesome club in existence, but it helps pay for rentals, competitions, and activities, plus as a club member you receive a 10% discount at La Bodega Liquor and at Arctic Brewing Supply on your brewing ingredients. Please see our Treasurer Breck Tostevin to pay your dues or send a check to:

Great Northern Brewers
 ATTN: Membership
 1204 Arctic Blvd
 Anchorage, AK 99503

Nominations are now open for the GNBC officer and board positions. All positions are open to nominations with three of the five board positions also available. Elections will be at our November meeting.

Mike Kiker, owner of Celestial Meadery, hosted the first ever Equinox Mead competition this past Saturday, the 27th of September. Congratulations to John Trapp, the Best of Show winner, who won with his Raspberry Melomel. Big congrats to all that dug in there crawl space to enter their finest, and all those who placed!!

Ira Edwards is bringing back the Club Only Homebrew Competition. The way this works is that every month, a different style of beer will be open for judging. Just bring 1 bottle of that month's style to the monthly meeting for an informal judging. If your beer wins, it will be entered in the National Club Only Competition. In the past, GNBC members have done quite well nationally. To find out information on the club only competition and the style to bring, go to www.beertown.org.



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

Midnight Sun Brewery Tours and Brew Debut: 6:00 PM 344-1179

Every First Friday

First Taste Microtasting at McGinley's Pub

12.....*Oktoberfest at Humpy's: 6 pm
 RSVP @ 276-BEER*

17.....*Eagle River Lyon's Club
 Brew Festival*

18.....*Kassik's Kenai Brew Stop Beer
 Tasting: Michaels Restaurant,
 Soldotna: 6:30 pm*

19..... *Oktoberfest at Humpy's: 6 pm
 RSVP @ 276-BEER*

21.....*GNBC Monthly Meeting at the
 Goose 7:00 P.M.*

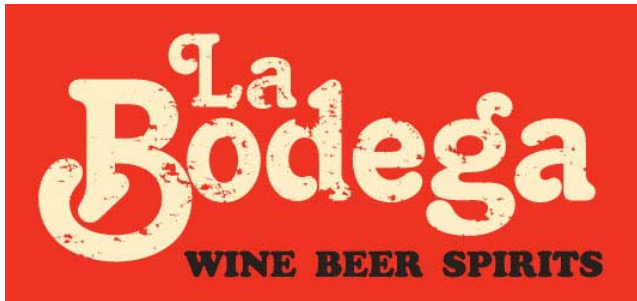
09.....*BJCP Program Begins
 Cafe Amsterdam Noon - 3:00 P.M.*

18..... *GNBC Monthly Meeting at the
 Goose: 7 pm*

05.....*Humpy's Bigfish Homebrew
 Competition Entries Accepted at
 Arctic Brewing Supply: Noon-6 pm*

06.....*Humpy's Bigfish Homebrew
 Competition Judging at SubZero
 10:00 - ??*

06.....*GNBC Christmas Party at the
 Goose: 6 pm*



MEETING SETUP

A - J Setup
 K - P Cleanup
 R - Z Food

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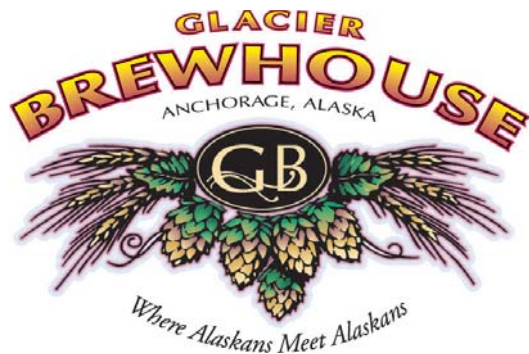
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November 9th is the date that has been set for the start of the Beer Judge Certification Course (BJCP) at Café' Amsterdam. The course will consist of 12 classes which will cover everything from malt and hops to water and brewing history. The focus will be on how to evaluate and brew better beer. The goal is to cover every aspect of 2-4 beers and sample 3-6 beers every class. The cost is \$150.00 which covers the price of the exam and a 250-300 page binder of information that has been collected over the years. If you have any questions or want to put your name on the list, please contact the course organizer Dennis Urban at dlurban@gci.net.

Mark your calendar for the 6th of December twice. It is the date of our annual GNBC Christmas party and Humpy's Big Fish Competition. It will be a liver bender, so get your rest! Entries will be taken at Arctic Brewing Supply Friday the 5th of December. There is no fee for this fantastic competition, and as always, judges and stewards are appreciated and needed. Judging is to take place at Sub-zero from about 10am – 2pm to allow people ample time to get ready for the Christmas party that evening at 6pm. Don't forget about the forever-entertaining side competition as part of the event. This year Steve Schmitt has decided that the style to be evaluated is 3.2 beer. Yes, you read that right. This means no Imperials; your beer must be no higher than a 3.2 ABV beer to be considered in the competition. The awards for last spring's Snow Goose Break-up Homebrew Competition will be this month as well as the awards for the Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition.

Please watch the newsletter for updates on the Brewer of the Year categories and information for the 2009 program.

On a serious note, I would like to remind all members that the GNBC isn't a drinking club, although we do enjoy some fantastic beer, mead, and cider it is a club that is dedicated to consuming alcohol responsibly, education, and the brewing and appreciation of great beer. Please be a participant. I hope to see all of you at the next club meeting on the 15th of October. Until then be safe, and enjoy all of October's events.





Handcrafting fine traditional meads, melomels and methyglyns in Alaska.

Celestial Mead Equinoix Mead Competition

by *Breck Tostevin*

The results of the First Annual Equinoix Mead Competition are in! Congratulations to John Trapp for his Best of Show Raspberry Melomel.

Thanks to everyone who entered, judged and assisted. It was an enjoyable event. Thanks to Mike Kiker, Meadmaster of Celestial Meads for hosting and sponsoring the competition. We had nineteen fine entries this year. We are looking forward to a bigger and better competition next year. You have a year so start fermenting a fine award winning mead. And now the results.....

Category 24: Traditional Mead

First: Benjamin Barnes, Traditional Dry Mead, "California Common."
Second: Breck Tostevin, Traditional Sweet Mead, "Jan Doleman Coastal Burn-out."
Third: Benjamin Barnes, Traditional Mead, "LawnMower Mead."

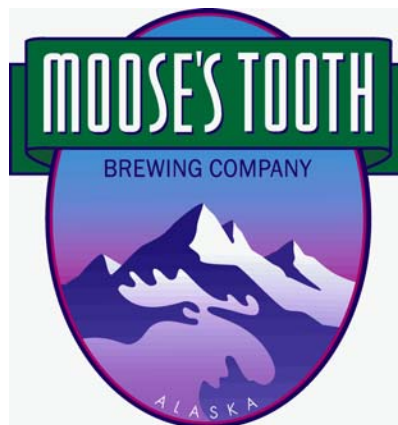
Category 25: Melomel (Fruit Mead)

First: John C. Trapp, Melomel - Other Fruit, "Raspberry Melomel."
Second: Jason Ditsworth, Melomel - Other Fruit, "Slow Ride."
Third: Jason Ditsworth, Melomel - Cyser, "Tits and Apple Butter."

Best of Show

Category 26: Other Mead

First: Ira Edwards, Other Mead - Open Category, "Choco Raz."
Second: Breck Tostevin, Metheglin, "Spruce Tip Love Juice II."
Third: Don Lewellyn and Carl Hall, Braggot, "Dip Stick Brown."



14th Annual Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew Competition

By Jason Ditsworth

That's right beer fans, the Humpy's Big Fish Homebrew competition is coming up quickly. Many of you already know this competition has long been one of the best prize awarding competitions in Alaska. Not only is this a great competition itself, it's also your last chance to rack up points towards GNBC Home Brewer of the Year award (the current standings are posted on the website at <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/competitions.html>).

The Big Fish competition this year will once again be on the first weekend in December. Entries will be collected on Friday December 5 from **12:00 PM to 6:00 PM** at Arctic Brewing Supply. If you cannot make it to Arctic Brewing Supply on December 5 you can still enter the competition, so please give me a call to make other arrangements for entering your beer. If you are entering from outside Anchorage you can ship your beer to Arctic Brewing Supply, 5915 Lake Otis Parkway #3, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 (do NOT send it through the U.S. Mail). If you are shipping your beer it must be received no later than Friday, December 5.

The competition this year is on Saturday December 6, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at SubZero Microlounge. Please note that the competition this year falls on the same day as the GNBC Christmas Party so we need lots of help judging to finish up early in the day. If we get plenty of judges we should be done with the best of show rounds by 3:00. Because the competition is on the same day as the Christmas Party we will announce the winners at the party, including the brewer of the year.

There is no entry fee for this competition and all categories of beer, mead and cider are open for entry. Entry and judging will be based on the BJCP style guidelines, which are available at www.bjcp.org. Once again we will choose a best of show beer and a best of show mead. Cider is still not eligible due to timing of the competition and the limited ability to match apple types. The best of show beer will be brewed at Midnight Sun Brewing Company and the best of show mead may be brewed at Celestial Meadery, depending on availability of honey and other ingredients. It is still possible to win best of show in beer or mead, but still not have your beer or mead brewed because of special ingredients or time constraints (e.g., if a Gueze wins Best of Show it likely would not be brewed, even though Humpy's would no doubt like to try).

You must enter three 12- to 14-ounce bottles, preferably brown, clean of any labels and markings along with a recipe. For mead and cider you may enter one 22- to 30-ounce bottle (need two bottles for carbonated entries), or two 12- to 14-ounce bottles. Remember that because the grand prize for this competition is having your beer brewed at MSBC or your mead brewed at Celestial Meadery it is important to provide a reasonably accurate recipe in case the judges want to know the ingredients.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the event please call me at 338-8828 or send an e-mail to jditsworth@gci.net.



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 \$25 to:

Great Northern Brewers Club
Attn: Treasurer
PMB 1204, 3705 Arctic Blvd
Anchorage, AK 99503

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



The *Northern Brewer* welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. You can contact the editor, Debbie Grecco at:

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NEXT MEETING: October 21st, 2008 7:00 PM at the Goose