



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

Brewer's Log

By Mike Fisher

There's a chill in the air and more precipitation. The Alaskan summer is coming to an end. Thankfully, autumn harvests lead to tasty seasonal beers and there's still time to brew up an inventory of your favorite cold weather beers, meads, and ciders.

September was the beginning of our meetings for the fall. It's too bad that we couldn't meet in person (at least not without a lot of precautions that could have limited attendance and impacted our program), but we had a good gathering on Zoom to kick off the year. I announced a number of items, covered in my column below as well as in the other articles. A **huge thanks** to Zach and Stefan of Bleeding Heart Brewing to joining us at our September meeting. It was great to hear their lessons learned and about progress on their new brewery. Be sure to watch for the opening this month!

During the meeting, someone asked if people from outside the Anchorage area can be officers or board members. While we do need to be clear up front that some roles are going to be more challenging to fill remotely, we absolutely support and welcome all nominees. If there's one thing the pandemic has enabled us to do, it's to use technology to replace in-person meetings. As Alaskans, we deal with these kinds of situations all the time and we can make this work. We welcome greater geographic diversity, as well as the more general diversity that can come from officers and board members from outside the greater Anchorage area.

At the meeting, we announced that the Home Brewer of the Year (HBOTY) program will live on in 2020. Denali Brewing had it's Golden Carboy competition (and wort share) in September, which we'll count toward HBOTY. (Big thanks to Denali Brewing for hosting the competition and also announcing the top three, plus an honorable mention, so we could assign points to more than just the Golden Carboy winner.)

In addition to that competition, GNBC is hosting an Annual Harvest Brew Competition. Read about it in the article below.

Our membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. If you haven't renewed yet this year, your membership has lapsed! Be sure to renew soon to take advantage of all the benefits it provides both for you and the club; memberships are what keep us going. The easiest way to renew is at <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/>. Fill out the form and pay online. Easy. We also have a paper application if you'd prefer to mail it in. (We'll take payment in person when we meet again!)

It's election season! I am accepting nominations by e-mail for officer and board positions now through November 6. Three board seats will be up for election this year, along with the roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. You can read about each role at <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/about-us/>. I'm looking forward to seeing new leaders and visions emerge.

October 2020

Contents of This Issue

Brewer's Log

Secretary's Column

Membership Renewals

Autumn Harvest Brew
Competition

Covid, Canines and Kids

NEXT MEETING:

October 20, 2020

*Location TBA; watch for an
announcement at
greatnorthernbrewers.org*

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
James Osowski, 2019-2020
Jim Lamb, 2019-2020
Tony Strupulis, 2019-2020
Phylcia Christian, 2020-2021
Chaven Davidson, 2020-2021
Contact information via our website

We will also vote at the November meeting on proposed changes to our bylaws, which we'll present to the membership at our October meeting. Please review the current bylaws on our About Us page and the proposed changes in the September meeting slides (on the main page of the website), and contact me if there changes you think we should consider.

For this month's flame-out, having topped off my kegs in August, I did not brew any of my own recipes, but I did put together two beers from the Denali Brewing Company wort share. Those will be revealed once we have a chance to meet and share our creations. I also finalized my recipe for the Brew with Passion challenge, which I'll brew in time for the Autumn Harvest Brew Competition (read the article in this newsletter and see the flier on the website for information!). My imperial oatmeal stout also made its way to a keg, just in time for the cooler weather we've had.

In closing:

- Join our October meeting (location TBA; watch our website)
- Get brewing for the Autumn Harvest Brew Competition
- Renew your membership if you haven't already!
- Nominate yourself and others for club leadership roles
- Take a look at those bylaws
- Get out and brew something

We will see each other again soon.

Secretary's Corner

By Jordan Couture

Happy October Club,

As Octoberfest wraps up and the smell of pumpkin spice begins to permeate the air, we will unfortunately continue to have our club meetings at a distance.

Topic: October Homebrew Club Meeting

Time: Oct 20, 2020 07:00 PM Alaska

[Join Zoom Meeting at this link](#) or check the website

Meeting ID: 849 9228 5268

Passcode: GNBC2020

However, social distancing is not keeping us from doing club activities. A big thank you to Bleeding Heart Brewing company for joining us via Zoom and presenting. A huge thank you to Mike Cragen and Denali Brewing for organizing the wort share. I look forward to trying what people come up with once we are able to meet again.

Club elections are coming up in November, if you would like to run for a leadership position please feel free to have someone nominate you during the OCT meeting or send an email to a club officer to get your name on the ballot.

I hope you are all staying safe and making the most of the short Alaskan summer.

Cheers,
Jordan Couture, Secretary

Membership Renewals

By Kat Karabelnikoff / Mike Fisher

I almost can't believe that September is over, October is here and soon winter will be knocking on our doors. Yes I know this means for some of you reading this, you are realizing that your membership card expired at the end of September, and now is the time to RENEW your membership to continue to enjoy all the fun and perks of being a GNBC member. For those who have already recently renewed your card is on the way and should be arriving to you soon if it has not already, and Thanks for continued support of GNBC.

The cost for membership is \$30.00 annually per household please don't forget to include your spouse's name so they can have their own membership card and get the benefits too. (Household cards are intended for married/coupled members in the same home) or \$350 for a lifetime membership.

You can renew your annual membership online on our website <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html> with a credit or debit card. You can also send in a Check or Money Order (made payable to Great Northern Brewers Club). Contact the GNBC Membership Coordinator at membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org for the mailing address.

If renewing online or via mail please don't forget to include your full name (and spouse's too on the same name line if applicable), Full Street Address (street, city, and zip code), Phone Number, and Email.

You can contact GNBC Membership if you have any questions.

I wanted to take the time to inform the club that I will be stepping down as Membership Coordinator and in the interim Mike Fisher will be taking over the responsibilities of the position in October, I unfortunately will be recovering from shoulder surgery and will not be able to complete my duties. I have genuinely enjoyed working with the GNBC Board and members as the Membership Coordinator and I look forward to helping in other ways when I can in the future. Thanks for being such a great group to work with as it has been an awesome way to meet a variety of good people who also appreciate a good brew.

Cheers,
Kat Karabelnikoff

Golden Carboy Winner

From Denali Brewing

We had a successful judging for the Beer Trippin' Golden Carboy. We had a group of brewery employees and a couple beer friends partake in the judging. There was a lot of great entries this year, it made for a tough competition. We are excited to announce that for the first time the winner of the Golden Carboy is a cider! Results below:

- **1st place & Golden Carboy:** Cider with Mangos – Christophe Venot
- **2nd place:** 50/50 blend of Eng. Barleywine & imperial stout – Brian Hall
- **3rd Place:** Mosaic Dry Hopped Lager – Mike Cragen
- **Honorable Mention:** Eis-strong ale aged in cognac barrels – Brian Hall

We all had a great time doing the judging, we did miss having all the club members up for Beer Trippin' weekend and one day hopefully we can get back to that.

Autumn Harvest Brew Competition

By Christophe Venot

GNBC is hosting the Autumn Harvest Homebrew Competition with bottle drop off accepted November 6-10 at Arctic Brewing. Here's your chance to enter a fun best-of-show style competition. I'm providing 1 gallon of fresh-pressed cider and 8 oz passion fruit to 10 brewers.

For apple juice or passion fruit pickup, note that I out of town Oct 5-7 and 12-21, so please contact me asap if you're interested.

The requirement of 5 bottles for entry is a little high, so we're trying to figure out socially-distanced judging to use the standard 3 bottle entry requirement. I'll make an announcement as we get closer.

Autumn Harvest Brew Competition – Nov. 10-15

GNBC is hosting a socially-distanced competition to provide an opportunity to share your quarantine brews and compete for GNBC HBOTY. The competition will follow a simplified format to allow for judging over Zoom without a social gathering. **FOUR** categories are open, encompassing all beer styles PLUS cider, and all categories are open for the **BREW WITH PASSION** challenge.



*Apple Juice and Passion Fruit Pickup:

Contact Christophe Venot at vp@greatnorthernbrewers.org or through Facebook to register for pickup passion fruit puree and/or 1 gallon of cider (10 slots available for each). Pickup will be between September 21 and October 2 in Anchorage and will be conducted with COVID precautions (facemask, etc.).

Competition Format and Rules:

- The top beers or ciders with passion fruit from each category will move to the "BREW WITH PASSION" HBOTY special challenge round.
- Entrants are allowed **one entry per competition category (cider, dark, light, other)**.
- For each entry, please submit **FIVE 12-oz bottles for cider or beer**. Label beers with NAME, EMAIL, Competition category (cider, light, dark, other), BJCP BEER CATEGORY/SUB-CATEGORY. You can use the BJCP Bottle ID form: https://www.bjcp.org/docs/BJCP_BottleID.pdf. Recipe sheets are NOT NEEDED.
- Beers brewed with Denali's Single Engine Red wort are **not** eligible for the competition.

Beer Drop-Off

Drop off your **labeled** cider or beer at Arctic Brewing between November 6-10. Please practice proper sanitation and wear a face mask in the shop.

JUDGING

- Judges must be GNBC members or have previously judged in a GNBC competition
- Each judge will pickup 3-4 beers to evaluate in one sitting between November 13 and 15 and will submit scoresheets electronically.
- Sign-up for judging by emailing VP@greatnorthernbrewers.org. We will need approximately 10 judges.

Covid, Canines and Kids

By Chaven Davidson

Growing up in Kodiak, brewing wasn't remotely on my radar, as the sole brewery wasn't there for half of my youth, and it doesn't serve food or provide another reason for underaged adolescents to wander in there. I left town for a dry campus college, and spent years wandering until I arrived in Anchorage. I worked odd jobs, played a lot of sports, and drank some pretty basic beverages. Oddly enough, my first exposure to brewing came from playing Ultimate Frisbee, when a remarkably athletic guy drove into town and burst onto the scene at one of our annual tournaments. I talked and played with that individual semi-regularly and learned that he was deeply into homebrewing; which at the time I thought pretty shallowly was a great perk to befriending the new guy. To make a long story short he was my brewing ambassador, and I became hooked. When the earthquake shook the town a few years back, I went looking for damage before my wife got home and I found the brewing equipment bundle that she had purchased as my Christmas gift after I dropped a few not-so-subtle hints.

I then forayed into homebrewing alongside three other friends, and while the bug may not have bitten them the same way it bit me; the joy I found in the hobby ensured I would continue to pursue it regardless. I am not a prodigy, in fact I still feel barely proficient; but I find the whole process to be soothing and satisfying- both brewing and what comes after... Talking with various people in the club, seeing (and particularly tasting) what others have made, and attending/participating in different competitions has been equal parts invigorating and fulfilling.

Alas, when I allowed my name to be placed on the ballot for the board, I couldn't have known so much was going to change. I had no idea when I joined the board in November 2019 that my wife was slightly over a month pregnant with our first child, who would be born into a global pandemic resulting in nationwide restrictions on gatherings and activities. I'd prefer to blame my wife, but really I should attribute it to my own stupidity- we also rescued a dog from a shelter in Kenai days before the lockdown began in earnest; and then I switched jobs and began online courses to pursue a master's degree to boot... Woof. Some of you could probably take all of that in stride and then toss a few more variables in as well; but it's been a lot for me to chew on. The icing on the cake was the loss of so many outlets and activities that served to relieve stress and keep me sane, and let me tell you- the whole first child experience is stressful.

As summer has come to a conclusion, my little son and my larger furry son have become more manageable and once again I have found the time to engage in some of those more therapeutic activities. In the eye of the daily hurricane that my small household has become, I took the time to wander through Arctic Brewing Supply to decide on a series of whims what I would create. A few short days later I carved out a lazy afternoon to brew and was reminded of the many reasons why I love this hobby. The musky scent of the grains, the boiling wort, and the hops right before you toss them in... The following morning when you wake up to the telltale cadence of a healthy fermentation, and weeks later when you can finally see how those last-minute decisions at the brew store paid off for you... As life grows more and more complicated these days, some things remain enjoyably constant.

Cheers,
Chaven

A HUGE Thanks to our 2020 Supporters

Present your GNBC card at these suppliers for a members-only discount. See each store for details.



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