



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2018

State of the Brewnion

by Mike Cragen

There seems to be a common theme for homebrewers around this time of year - they're tapped out. It can be hard to take time to brew a batch in the summer. But, fall is near; fire up the burners and dust off the kettles. We have kegerators to replenish.

A huge thank-you to Brian and Tania for hosting and organizing the August GNBC BBQ. The brisket was life changing and beer was plentiful. Although August was somewhat sparse with GNBC activities, September is quite the opposite. September is also the month to renew your GNBC membership. More on that below. The highlights for the next few months include:



September 14th – Denali Brewpub Collaborative Beer Dinner (7:00-?) Call 733-2537 for reservations (very limited seating available)

September 15th – Talkeetna Brewfest (2:00-6:00)

September 18th – Monthly meeting from 7:00-10:00 (49th State). Educational speaker – "Homebrew Con"

September 28-30th – Valdez Oktoberfest Homebrew Comp. CANCELED – see info below

September 28th – Juneau Homebrew Comp. entry drop-off deadline (Arctic Brewing)

September 29th – Anchortown entry drop-off (Arctic Brewing)

October 5-6th – Autumn Pour Homebrew Comp (Juneau) – Smoked Malt Side Challenge

October 7th – Anchortown Homebrew Comp (see Mike F.'s article below for details)

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October 16th – Monthly meeting from 7:00-10:00 (49th State). Educational speaker – TBD

November 20th – Monthly meeting from 7:00-10:00 (49th State). Educational speaker – TBD

With fall around the corner, comes the return of GNBC's monthly meetings. Meetings will be in the lower level of 49th State Brewing Co., always on the 3rd Tuesday. This month's educational/informational presentation will be on Americas largest homebrew gathering - Homebrew Con. Three GNBC members attended, Peter Hall, Mike Fisher, and Brian Hall, who'll be sharing their experiences and learnings.

Unfortunately, Valdez had to cancel their Oktoberfest celebration and homebrew competition for 2018. The Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau organizes the festivities/comp, but they weren't able to make it happen this year due to staffing issues. Don't worry about it disappearing in the future, they are committed making it happen again in 2019.

Here's a quick recap of the two homebrew competitions still happening in September:

Anchortown – Open comp (all beers styles accepted, NO meads/ciders). Mike Fisher organizing. A full article with details below in this newsletter. No entry fee. Points available for HBOTY. JUDGES NEEDED, no experience necessary. Location TBD.

Juneau – Open comp (all beer styles accepted, including meads and ciders). Alaskan Brewing Co. will be shipping entries to Juneau. Be sure to have entries and BJCP paperwork to Arctic Brewing by 5:00pm on September 28th. Smoked malt side challenge. BOS gets \$500 and both BOS and Side Challenge Winner get flown to Juneau to brew with Alaskan. \$5 per entry. More information can be found at: <https://alaskanbeer.com/homebrew/>

September means it's GNBC renewal month. Your current GNBC membership expires on September 30th, but you may renew now. Membership is \$30 which includes discounts to Arctic Brewing Supply, Alaska Homebrew Supply, and La Bodega. But, most importantly, it's our primary source of income to keep GNBC afloat and moving forward. The easiest way to renew your membership is on our website at: <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/> Thank you in advance for your continued support of GNBC.

The Final Wort (the last batch I brewed) is an English Barleywine (17D). It's my first attempt at this complex, malty style. The brew-day went exceptionally well and OG rang in at a respectable 1.090. As with many big, bold, malty styles, this beer should develop and mature well with aging. As always, I'll have The Final Wort at a future gathering (probably not until December or later though) for you to sample and critique.

May you always brew for others and let others brew for you,
Mike "BrewMikester" Cragen

Secretary's Corner May 2018

By Jim O'Toole

I'm on another beer run in the eastern United States, having starting it a couple of days ago in a rental car from Alexandria, VA. with a good buddy who is capable of driving right now.

I broke my ankle on June 28. It is a pretty bad break (in many ways), and though I've worked really hard on the ankle, I still don't feel confident that I could jam on the brakes hard if I had to so my buddy Sandy gets to be the one who has to breathe into the BAC device I bought for the trip every time we leave a place. He's doing great; best he's done so far is 0.02.

When I broke the ankle one of the first things I told the ortho guy who worked on it was that I had this beer tour planned and I hoped we could my ankle ready for the trip. He asked where I was planning on going and when I told him Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and western and southern New York, he told me that he played baseball at Ithaca College, he had graduated in 2004, and he said that there is a really good beer bar in Ithaca.

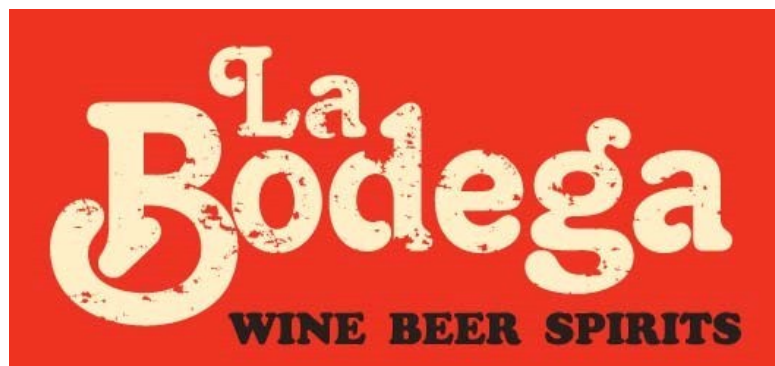
I had to tell him that I'd been planning the trip for a couple of months, had done diligent research, and found that there are a lot more than ONE "really good beer bar in Ithaca" now and we planned to hit as many as we could. He worked with me to get me ready to travel and I can't thank him enough.

He's Lieutenant Salinas of the US Air Force and I will be forever grateful for his faith that I would follow the path I needed to do this trip as, if he had performed the surgery he thought I needed, I would probably have had to cancel the trip.

I wish I could say that the primary reason for the trip was gallivanting capriciously for a week to see how many great beers we can find, but it isn't.

When I was in New Orleans in April I got a call from a friend living in Wayland, New York and the call was to inform me that his wife had died and he planned a memorial party on August 25. This would have been her 80th birthday, and, for reasons I may or may not be able to explain, I decided on the spot that I would go.

Norma was a five foot one inch, 110 pound sopping wet. She had an enormously dynamic personality. I've known her much longer than her husband has. She was one of the Ketchikan "family" when I lived there in the 70's-80's and she possessed a persona and love of life far exceeding her size. We all had jobs and families in those days but, if we had been living in a hippy commune, Norma would have been our "Mother." If there is one thing that I prize about her and my relationship, it was something I had wanted to tell her for years and that was, "Thank you." When I visited Wayland in 2002 she didn't remember a conversation we had had back around 1974 when I was in the middle of a not very pretty divorce and I was taking turns personally agreeing that the marriage was over and, alternately, groveling shamelessly over the soon to be ex-wife. Norma essentially grabbed me by the ears and told me to "wake the hell up, face reality, and get on with my life." I did, I survived, and that ex-wife is still a good friend today.



I was lucky enough to do a seven month road trip around the US in 2002 and one of the places I wanted to stop was in Wayland but I hadn't heard from Norma and Steve since they had left Ketchikan soon after they were married in 1984. I got their phone number from a friend and called when I was a week out to let them know I was in the area and Steve answered the phone. I told him who I was and asked him if he remembered me and he said, "Jimmy....remember you? Hell, man, you married us." I rolled quickly through my memory rolodex and had to say, "Damn, Steve, how messed up did I get THAT day?" I honestly did not remember that wedding until I got to their place and they showed me photos in which it was pretty obvious that I had gotten REALLY "messed up that day." Some preacher, huh?

I planned on staying at their place for a day or two but ended up staying almost a week. Western New York is where Niagara Falls is and it is not the only waterfall around and, as Steve grew up in that country and knows where they all are, I just rode around in his truck while he showed me places that tourists would pay a lot of money to see and when we got to them we had them to ourselves. I promised myself that I would come back to see it again. I wish I had done it sooner now.

The day I left Wayland to continue my trip in 2002, Norma had a doctor appointment to get to and I found out later that she received a cancer diagnosis that day. She hung on for 16 years before finally succumbing to it and I am really glad that I got the chance to tell her how much I appreciate what she did for me long ago and that she would always be a great friend.

So, here I sit in a little town in central Pennsylvania after two days of meandering through three states finding great beers and great people who have been incredibly willing to advise us on where the next good beer joints are in the direction we were headed. We'll get to Wayland tomorrow, the memorial is on Saturday, and we will be back on the road on the "beer hunt" on Sunday. Ithaca is on the itinerary. I'm going to find the college bookstore and buy Salinas an Ithaca Baseball hat.

Normally I take many notes about the beers I'm sampling when I'm traveling but this time I'm just riding around, enjoying the scenery - if not the humidity - and the amazing amount of great beer available everywhere we've gone.

During the past trips I took the notes to be able to let people know where the beers are back here but, on this trip, I've realized two things; if you have a smartphone you can find great craft beer joints anywhere and, there are a startlingly large number of "great craft beer joints" in the east now.

Some of them are new buildings but most are in existing re-purposed structures and they are sparing no expense in making them as fine a place to drink beer and eat good food as I've seen anywhere.

An old bank barn in Gettysburg now has a brewery on the bottom floor and the pub on the main floor with the original 1800's rough-cut planking for the floor and many of the hay contraptions still where they have always been.

In Fredericksburg, Virginia there are a number of great places but our favorite was a tiny place tucked into a neighborhood and, on a Wednesday afternoon, the bartenders were being kept busy.

In Mifflinburg, PA we had several good beers and some great food in a huge building that used to be a factory for building Ford Model TT trucks on the chassis' that were shipped there from Detroit in the early days of automobiles. Mifflinburg, for any of you history buffs, was one of the busiest places on the planet when buggies were the main form of transport. They had over 75 factories building them. Now they brew and sell beer in them. Good beer. With a beautiful Ford Model TT in one corner of the place.

I don't feel the need to tell you the names of these places. They are everywhere back here now and every single one of them makes you feel like you are sitting in the loft at Midnight Sun, or in King Street's beautiful new taproom, or in my favorite "neighborhood joint" in Anchorage, Resolution Brewing in Mountain View.

So, if you are contemplating a trip east and are wondering where the good beer is, stop wondering. It's everywhere, it's really good, and the people making and serving it are "beer people." You will love them all.

Club Elections

Originally written by Breck Tostevin (2009) with contributions by Julie McDonald (2016)

We will be having club elections in November and as is the case every year, each of our executive officer positions is available for which to run.

We also have 3 board seats that are up for election. These seats are two year terms.

Since we are a volunteer organization, it is the efforts of our officers, directors and club members that make this club function.

Many people have ideas about what they would like to see the club do but the only way it is going to happen is for US TO DO IT OURSELVES.

We want to encourage both long-term and newer members to run for a club position and/or take on a club project. Here is a brief description of what each position entails.

President (elected):

- *master organizer of the club and our leader
- *provides direction and achieves club goals and objectives with and through the officers, board members and general club membership
- *organizes the agenda for club meetings including the business items and educational presentations
- *looks down the road six months or more to make sure events are assigned to an organizer and that events are being planned and implemented
- *writes the Prez Sez article each month to inform the membership about events and to inspire them to participate
- *runs the club meetings and board meetings
- *is ultimately the person to make sure things stay on track and in the best of circumstances inspires us to participate and improve our homebrew club

Vice-President (elected):

- *is the President's right hand person and is a leader in training
- *is in a co-leadership position and works in concert with the President to provide club insight, direction and motivation
- *is in charge of the club tote box that contains the all important beer cups, name tags, raffle tickets, plates and utensils for our meetings
- *steps in when the President is unable to attend board or club meetings or events

Secretary (elected):

- *is the official club recorder and historian for the club, and keeps minutes of the meetings and keeps track of dates of events and presents them in a monthly newsletter article
- *takes on special projects for the President

Treasurer (elected):

- *handles and keeps track of the club finances and monies, keeps email list on the club website

Board Members (elected):

- *act as participating advisors to the officers and do so by attending board meetings, writing newsletter articles and assisting in the general management of the club
- *takes on at least one special project each year (a competition, event, or project) in order to make the club function

Membership Coordinator (volunteer position, not elected):

- *maintains the membership records
- *acts as a contact point for all membership related questions and information *processes all new and renewed membership applications
- *purchases (is reimbursed by the club) all needed materials for membership processing

Newsletter Coordinator (volunteer position, not elected) *the point person for all newsletter submissions *submissions are collected and sent to the editors.

Newsletter Editor (volunteer position, not elected):

- *edits, format and publishes a highly professional newsletter each month that appears as a pdf link on our Club website
- *is constantly in need of support in terms of article and photo submission from both the club management and membership
- * requires some degree of literary fluency, editing skills and the ability to perform simple newsletter layout and publication skills using popular layout software such as Adobe PageMaker or Microsoft Publisher
- *we are so very fortunate to have Deb Grecco and Jim Roberts acting as our editors for a very long time, and we thank them for their endless devotion to the club and their continuing newsletter efforts

Social Media Administrator (volunteer position, not elected):

- *uses newsletter info and whatever info is sent directly to update Facebook and Instagram accounts
- *creates and maintains Facebook events pages for various club activities
- *collects information from various online or other social media sites for sharing with the club’s social media accounts
- *maintaining social media account profiles and tending to followers and inquiries

Another role the club seems to need is recruiting people to give educational presentations at our monthly meetings. There is great talent both within the club and within the local brewing community: it just needs to be tapped and directed.

Other Opportunities:

There are lots of opportunities to run or assist competitions, events, presentations, and the like. Here is a list of some of our past and current events:

- *Kerri Canepa organized the Kenai Bus Trips
- *Lisa Peltola, Pat Ryan, Kat Karabenikoff, and others have organized the House Crawl
- *Kevin Sobelesky currently runs the Beer Judge Certification Program Classes with presenters Jason Ditsworth, Pete Devaris, Dennis Urban and others
- *Julie McDonald has organized the club beer dinners in the past and has created and runs the club’s social media accounts
- *many have taken turns organizing the Summer Campout and other member-only club events
- *Jeff and Cathie Loughrey have hosted the summer BBQ for decades
- *Dennis Sessler, Ira Edwards, John Trapp, Dan Bosch, Jason Ditsworth, and many others have run and assisted in a plethora of club home brew competitions
- *John and Rose Craig have hosted a decade of Brewathons and now Kevin Sobelesky has taken over the hosting duties for that annual event.

The bottom line is that just about anyone in the club has something to contribute and the contributions don’t have to originate from within the officer or board positions. This is your club and we implore you to not only bask in the club’s educational, social and fermented riches but to step forward and contribute some of your own talent to support the above positions or to provide something unique. The opportunity to help shape the club in the years to come is in your hands and we need your participation and input to keep things lively for all GNBC members.

Please consider running for a club position and take action to make things happen in the Great Northern Brewers Club! If you have interest in running for any of our elected positions, please email one of our board members. All board contact info can be found in our newsletters and on the club’s website at <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org> You can also nominate yourself or others at one of our monthly meetings leading up to the November elections.

See you at the meeting!

S e p t e m b e r



Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition

by *Mike Fisher*

It's just about time to submit entries to this Fall's Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition, but you may still have time to brew something up for the competition. Submission details are below. The actual competition is on October 7. I'm not sure where judging will take place; I'm still sourcing a location.

Entries will be accepted on September 29 at Arctic Brewing Supply (8401 Sandlewood Place, Anchorage, AK) from 11:00am to 3:00pm (sharp). I need to end the drop-offs early due to another commitment. The last chance cut-off for entry submission is 5:00 pm on Friday, October 5, and I will collect any remaining entries from Arctic Brewing at that time. If you don't make it to Arctic when I'm there, make sure you provide the BJCP entry form and clearly identify your bottles.

A couple of requirements:

For each entry, we will need a completed entry form and three (3) bottles of the beer you plan to enter. Please prepare entry forms (http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_EntryRecipe.pdf) ahead of time. Indicate what GROUP the beer is in (see the website or the link below). Include your e-mail address to get your score sheets. Keep it legible!

You can enter as many beers as you like, but only one per subcategory. We're using BJCP's 2015 Style Guidelines. Multiples per group are fine.

There is no charge for entries, but donations of heavy duty boxes (especially 24-pack beer boxes, with the dividers) for moving around entries are appreciated.

We need judges! In addition to entering a beer, please try to judge. You can judge any group in which you didn't have an entry. We encourage not only seasoned judges to participate but even novice judges or folks that haven't judged before. If you don't have the experience; don't worry. You'll be paired with other judges that will walk you through the fun and educational process.

If you are around at the end of the judging session, you are encouraged to grab any empty bottles you want to reuse. Anything I take will go straight to recycling.

To help things go smoothly and keep everyone happy:

Complete your entry form ahead of time and clearly identify the bottles. If you have multiple entries, it's on you to make sure you don't mix them up.

I will be at Arctic Brewing Supply to collect entries from 11:00am to 3:00pm (sharp) on September 29. Please arrive early if possible, especially if you have multiple entries. If I'm overloaded when it's 3:00pm, I'll leave the rest in their cooler until later.



GROUPS. Judging, Homebrewer of the Year (HBOTY), and Best of Show (BOS) are based on groups. For details, see <http://greatnorthernbrewers.org/wp-content/uploads/ClubDocuments/AnchorTown2018Guide.pdf>.

Eligible for HBOTY and BOS: Wild/Sour/Brett, IPA/Pale, Light Lager, Amber/Dark Lager, Stout/Porter, and Fruit and Spice/Herb/Vegetable

Eligible for BOS: Belgian/French, Imperial (8% and up)

The side challenge is "Funky Fermentables." THIS YEAR, WE WILL JUDGE FUNKY FERMENTABLES AS THEIR OWN GROUP! Please indicate them in place of the groups listed above.

THE JUDGING LOCATION HAS CHANGED AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. We're still planning to start at 10:00am on Sunday, October 7. Light snacks will be provided.

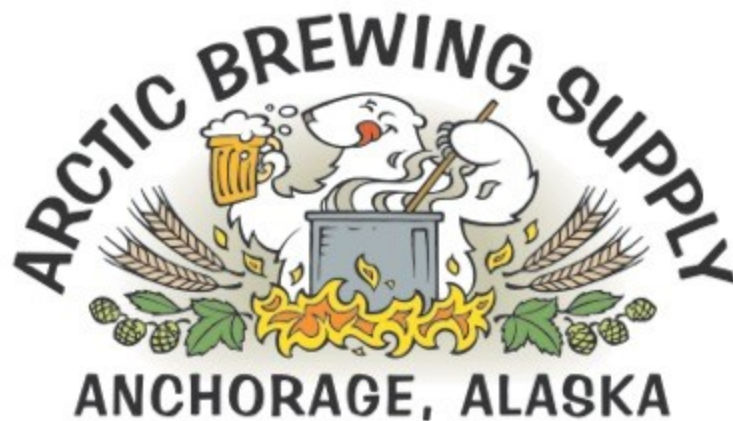
WE NEED JUDGES! More judges means a faster judging day, earlier finishing time, fewer conflicts, less palate fatigue, and less risk of running out of time. PLEASE help with judging. Anyone with an interest is welcome. Inexperienced judges will be paired with experienced judges. I could also use a couple of stewards to help with fetching beers and arranging flights during the judging.

If you have questions, including getting a shipping address, please e-mail AnchorTown@fisherak.com.

I will scan and e-mail score sheets and announce results through various club channels, including Facebook, the club newsletter, and in our October 16 club meeting. I do not plan to return any paperwork or leftover entries will not be returned.

We need entries! We need judges! Please plan to enter your best beers in the competition, and then stop by judge. We'll see you in a few weeks!

Happy brewing!



Membership Renewals

By Kat Karabelnikoff

Summer is always a busy time of year for we Alaskans. I can attest to this as I've been working hard in the garden and fishing whenever I can, typically with a good beer in either situation.

The days are getting noticeably shorter and the nights are certainly getting cooler. Even more so, I almost can't believe its September already and that means we have only one month left in the current membership year.

Yes, that is right - your membership card will expire at the end of this month. Now is a great time to renew your membership early and continue to enjoy all the fun and perks of being a GNBC member. If you renew by **September 15th** you will be able to pick up your new membership card at the meeting on Tuesday, September 18th. If you can't make it to the September meeting don't worry, any cards not picked up at the meeting will be mailed out that week.

The cost for membership is \$30.00 annually per household (don't forget to include your spouse's name so they can have their own membership card and get the card perks too.) or \$350 for a lifetime membership. If you know you will be attending the September meeting and want to pay with cash, check, or credit card at the meeting please email your information to me at the email below and I will have a card ready for you to pick up.

You can renew your annual membership online on our website <http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership.html> with a credit or debit card or send a Check or Money Order (made payable to Great Northern Brewers Club) to:

GNBC Membership Coordinator
c/o Kat Karabelnikoff
9601 COPPER DRIVE
Anchorage, AK 99507

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 me at membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org if you have any questions.

I look forward to seeing all the familiar and new faces at the September 18th meeting!



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 \$30.99 to:

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

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

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**NEXT MEETING: September 18th, 2018 at 49th State
7-10 pm Educational Speaker "Homebrew Con"**