



THE

# Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

## September 2021

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### Next Meeting

September 21, 2021  
First Club Meeting of the Fall  
49<sup>th</sup> State Barrel Room  
7:00pm

### GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

PMB 1204  
3705 ARCTIC BOULEVARD  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

### GNBC WEBSITE

[www.GreatNorthernBrewers.org](http://www.GreatNorthernBrewers.org)

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### SECRETARY

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### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

**Steve Johnson**

[membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phylcia Christian, 2020-2021

Chaven Davidson, 2020-2021

Deb Morgan, 2021-2022

John Trapp, 2021-2022

Robert Trosper, 2021-2022

Contact information via our website

## This One's for the Ladies Alaska Pink Boots Society By *Phylcia Christian*

I had the opportunity to speak with Sarah Perez, Brewer at Denali Brewing Company and Leader of the Alaska Pink Boots Society Chapter. I learned so much about what Pink Boots offers, their future plans, and some great resources for women brewers.

The mission of Pink Boots Society is to “assist, inspire, and encourage” women in the fermented beverages industry, encompassing breweries, distilleries, wineries, cideries, meaderies, and even businesses making kombucha or selling craft beverages! Membership is targeted to anyone working or aspiring to work in the industry: this includes everyone from the brewer to the person selling the glassware. Don't be discouraged if you're “only” a homebrewer; your membership is welcome!

The most valuable benefit of membership is access to all kinds of educational opportunities to make you a better brewer. Pink Boots offers classes, and members can apply for various scholarships with big names in the business. Would you like to have an all-expenses trip paid to visit Yakima Valley Hops for a hands-on experience? How about an adventure to White Labs to learn how to reuse yeast? These are just two examples of the types of scholarships a member could apply for. Sarah is hoping to offer similar experiences locally in Alaska.

She would also like to hold a “Little Boots” event. Similar to Beer Trippin', Little Boots invites women homebrewers to bring their pots and enjoy a group brew-day with ingredients provided by Pink Boots.

The Alaska Pink Boots Chapter is new and still growing. If you're interested in learning more or joining, visit the Pink Boots Society website at <https://my.pinkbootsociety.org/joinrenew/membershiptype.aspx?id=join> or reach Sarah directly at [ssperez0126@yahoo.com](mailto:ssperez0126@yahoo.com). Membership is only \$45 per year.

Be sure to follow Pink Boots AK on their socials to stay in-the-know about updates and opportunities:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pink-Boots-AK-110733503991818>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pinkbootsak/>

BONUS! Here are some more great resources that Sarah shared with me:

- FREE beer judge training for women by Jen Blair, National BJCP Judge: <https://undertheinfluence.beer/beer-judge-training>
- Brew Ha Ha Podcast: One of the hosts of the podcast is Herlinda Heras, International Beer Judge and, according to Sarah, a “Mega Goddess”: <http://brewhaharadio.com/>

# Adapting to Change

*By Mike Fisher*

Change is in the air, and it's not just autumn. We adapted to COVID-19 and thrived. Now we have to adapt in response to a few more challenges.

At our August board meeting, we thought we'd have to change our location since our long-time meeting host, 49<sup>th</sup> State Brewing Company, had been closed on Mondays and Tuesdays since June this year. The good news is that they have reopened on Tuesdays and we'll be finishing the rest of our meetings this calendar year in the usual location. We discussed whether it would make sense to change the meeting day and location. The pressure is off and we'll be meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 49<sup>th</sup> State, but at the September club meeting it might still be good to visit the meeting time and location for 2022 and/or beyond.

We also discussed the Home Brewer of the Year (HBOTY) program and decided that there will be no HBOTY 2021. We would like to roll over credit for any competitions that have happened or might still happen in 2021 into the HBOTY 2022 program. And speaking of competitions, we have a very good system down for doing them, not only in person but now also in a remote format. What competitions need are leaders to run them. In years past, we had individuals who reliably hosted "their" competition year in and year out, with the only changes being the occasional changing an organizer. Interest has waned, however, and COVID-19 put all of the remaining regular competitions on hold. We've heard from members that we put too much focus on competitions as well as that we don't have enough of them, so we need the club to make the decision about how many competitions we want to see each year and to find organizers to run them. It's not especially difficult to run a competition; it's largely about setting aside time and coordinating with Arctic Brewing Supply for accepting entries and a venue for hosting the competition.

The last topic, but certainly not the least for me, personally... this year is my third and final term as GNBC's President. I signed on to lead the club in 2019 and agreed to stay on a second year in 2020, and what an interesting year that second term ended up being, from the end of the Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival to the well-done (despite being hastily organized) Alaska Craft Brew and Barley Wine Festival to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the fall of 2020, I begrudgingly accepted a third term after having already pursued additional volunteer opportunities. When my term ends in mid-January 2022, I will be stepping down, handing the reins to the club's next President, and focusing my time on that new volunteer opportunity. I know I'll hear someone say that I'm doing a great job and should keep at it, but it's time for someone else to step up.

As a result, this club will need to find and elect a new President, and ideally it will find future leaders of the club so that the next President does not feel obligated to continue in that role. All of the leadership roles will be discussed at the September and October meetings that lead up to elections at the November meeting. Every member reading this should think about who they would like their leader to be as well as ponder their own role in the next round of leadership of this club.

There seems to be an expectation that the President role is really difficult and time-consuming. It really is not, and the time and effort that goes into it is really determined by the individual in the role. So much work can be delegated, and the reason I've taken care of sending e-mails, putting together the newsletter, and maintaining the website is because I enjoy doing those things. Those could all be delegated. The President still needs to run meetings (except when you can't make it, in which case the Vice President or someone else can do it), schedule and run board meetings, write an article for the newsletter (at least occasionally; we experimented with a rotating column that has worked well), and communicate with people (venue host for monthly meetings, venue host and the brewer's guild for the January meeting, American Homebrewers Association on occasion, West Insurance once a year for our insurance, etc.). Those things really don't take that much time.

Other than the duties above, the President role is about as turn-key as you can get:

1. I've transitioned us to a user-friendly WordPress website that is very easy to update, and that can be delegated to someone else if you don't want to do it
2. With the help of several past Presidents, we wrested control of the domain registration from a disreputable company and moved it to the same company that hosts our website

3. I moved our newsletter into Microsoft Word, so that anyone can work on it (either in Word or in any other compatible software that will let you save it to a PDF), and assembling the newsletter can be delegated to someone else if you don't want to do it
4. I have a full set of documents (newsletters, templates, to-do lists, passwords, etc.) that I will provide to the next President, unlike what some of the prior Presidents have faced upon starting their terms
5. You'll have a great support team

Read through that list again. The only ingredient left is an individual willing to step up with a little enthusiasm and a little bit of time each month to handle all the behind-the-scenes work.

The only reason this club and every organization like it exists is because of volunteers. It's easy to think "they're doing a great job, so they don't need my help," and that's a big problem. I speak only for myself, though I think most volunteer leaders would agree, when I say that volunteering as a club leader is not a difficult job and is in fact rewarding... until that "they're doing a great job" sentiment comes along. When you're stuck in a volunteer role because you've put in your time and want to do something else, yet no one is willing to step up as you did, the difficulty goes up, the motivation goes down, and the rewards become a curse. If you, the club member reading this, step up, you personally as well as all of GNBC will better for it.

## Membership Renewal Time

*By Steve Johnson*

October 1<sup>st</sup> marks the start of the membership year of the Great Northern Brewers Club. For annual members, after September 30<sup>th</sup>, your personalized, laminated membership card will no longer be valid at in person GNBC events or at the vendors who offers discounts to GNBC members.

The annual membership fee continues to be \$30. A membership covers up to two related adults (i.e., spouses or partners) residing in the same household. Unrelated adults must each pay for their own membership in the club. A GNBC membership card is required for entry to or participation in some events, so be sure to specify both names when applying for membership.

For many individuals, the most convenient way to renew, or begin, a membership is to use the online form at <https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/membership/>

Although PayPal is the payment processor, a PayPal account is not required to make a payment using this online tool. A credit card is required.

Members who joined or renewed after the first of May 2021 are already marked as paid for the 21-22 membership year.

Because of changes due to Covid, including changes in the days of operation of potential meeting places, I am unsure when I will be able to deliver membership cards in person. I am prepared to print, laminate and mail your personalized GNBC membership card just as soon as I receive notice of payment.

I look forward to meeting members when we can again meet in person to share, discuss and appreciate our beer, mead, and ciders.

Thank you!

Steve Johnson

Membership Coordinator

[membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org)

907 441-2810 (voice/text)

# A HUGE Thanks to our 2021 Supporters

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



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