



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

AUGUST 2010

Prez Sez

by Dennis Sessler



Summer, oh summer where have you gone? If someone finds out please let me know. I guess it could have rained every day so we should all be happy that we have had a day here and there of nice blue skies and warm temperatures. Like some of my friends have done I should have taken heed and ventured out to the lower 48 just to enjoy a few days with temperatures over 80 degrees.

I remember when I transplanted to Alaska in the early 90's while enlisted in the Air Force. I would save all me leave up and use it during the holidays so I could head back to Wisconsin and get in a little deer hunting. I was a single man back then and loved to hunt and fish whenever I could, so that meant working hard all summer and enjoying the beautiful weather in Alaska, catching my fair share of halibut and salmon, then come the beginning of August it was time to go hunting.

I've enjoyed my fair share of moose, caribou and mountain goat and have lots of fond memories of outings with my fishing and hunting buddies. You must be thinking is this some kind of hunting Prez Sez article. No not exactly; this is about another type of hunting and harvesting. How about enjoying your next vacation hunting for that needle in a haystack commercial beer at some far flung brewery somewhere in the lower 48? There are a ton of gems out there hidden in little nook and crannies.

Last summer my family and I ventured out of state during the summer months, something I vowed to never do short of a family emergency. It was my high school reunion, my 20th. In fact, wow, where has all the time gone? We managed to enjoy over a week with family, and better still, my parents couldn't wait to take the boys and give Dena and I a much deserved break.

We did a little Lake Michigan lighthouse tour, we started our adventure just south of Milwaukee, and headed up to Door County in Wisconsin, we had done our research online and had all the lighthouses and breweries and brewpubs all mapped out. It was one of the most relaxing vacations we have had in some time. Dena and I managed to hit 4 breweries along the way; we hadn't been to the "brand new" New Glarus's Brewery yet. Years ago we went to the original brewery and were amazed of the true volume of beer they were able to brew, package and ship from one small location.

The Prez Sez

GNBC Club Picnic

Equinox Mead Competition

Kenai River Brewing Company
Art Contest

Anchor Town Invitational
Homebrew Competition

Club Only Competition

Membership

Membership Application

**GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
PMB 1204
3705 ARCTIC BOULEVARD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503**

**GNBC WEB SITE:
WWW.GREATNORTHERNBREWERS.ORG**

**NEWSLETTER EMAIL
bushy@alaska.com**

**PRESIDENT: DENNIS SESSLER
sessak@mtaonline.net**

**VICE PRESIDENT: STEVE SCHMITT
sschmitt@alaska.com**

**TREASURER: BRECK TOSTEVIN
keegan@gci.net**

**SECRETARY: JEN BISSON
suncluster1@yahoo.com**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JIM LAMB
jlamb@anmc.org**

**JOHN TRAPP
johnctrapp@hotmail.com**

**JOE MICHAEL
joeofak@gmail.com**

**TIM BISSON
tbisson123@yahoo.com**

**TIM STRAYER
tim@strayermail.com**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR
DEBBIE GRECCO
bushy@alaska.com**

**NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR
KERRI CANEPA
kacanepa@uwalumni.com**

They have created a very recognizable brand and were unable to brew and ship enough beer to supply adjoining states. Their new brewery was supposed to increase capacity in hopes of branching out, but due to demand in Wisconsin they have limited distribution to that state alone. Of all their beers, I most enjoy their sour ales. I buy it by the case and pray that the airlines manage to salvage a majority of the bottles for me in transit.

In retrospect with two children in full time school, it looks like the summertime is probably the best time of the year to venture out on a family vacation short of the hectic spring break timeframe. With this summer all but done, Dena and I are setting our sights on next summer, we have wanted to go somewhere that we have never been or I will rephrase that somewhere the boys and I haven't been, Dena was the worldly traveler in her youth. Our boys have been driving Dena and I crazy about going to the San Diego Zoo, they must have seen something on TV at one time or another about all the cool animals that call that zoo home. At first I was thinking we could find a suitable zoo much closer to Alaska, but when I found out that the American Homebrewers Conference would be rolling into Southern California in June of 2011, the decision was much easier to make.

Next time you are out of Alaska and you have some time to hit up a brewery or two or a brew pub for a quick lunch, sample their wares and bring back some stories for all your beer loving friends. I love to hear about what some of these breweries are doing experimental wise; some are pushing the envelope so far that new styles are being thought up every year.

The month of July featured a couple of GNBC sponsored events. We had our club picnic at the home of Jeff and Cathie Loughery up on the upper hillside. It turned out to be a very pleasant evening weather-wise and a great time was had by all. For those who were able to make it this year, there were dozens of homebrewed beers to sample; everyone had their fill cooking up their choice of fare. The kids who attended had a blast both in and on the lake, I know my boys are still talking about it, in fact I think I'm still finding little spots of Loughery sand here and there around the house. The Loughery picnic was also the first of American Homebrewers Assoc. Club Only Competition (AHA COC) club taste off's. Everyone who was interested in bringing mead to the picnic would have their mead sampled and the winner's entry was forwarded to the COC competition site in Colorado. The winner was Joe "AK Joe" Michaels; he submitted a wonderfully made Macadamia Nut Blossom mead. Best of luck on your entry, Joe, I'm sure it has what it takes to bring home the gold. Jeff and Cathie, thank you very much for opening up your home to the club, your continuing support of the club is much appreciated.

The last club event for the month of July was the co sponsored GNBC/Humpy's Golf Tournament. The rain managed to hold off for the day and a great time was had by all, as of the time of me writing my article the tourney was a financial success and contributions to First Tee the nonprofit organization who will receive the lion's share of the money raised will find more resources in their bank account to help troubled kids not only learn to golf, but help them deal with the life little lessons that most children their age never have issues with. Thanks to those who spear headed the planning and execution of this year's event. Jason Ditsworth and Mike Hartman did a wonderful job planning from beginning to end; I hope you two were able to enjoy the day's events. Thanks to Billy Opinsky and the crew from Humpy's for all of your logistic contributions. And for all the members and friends who helped with setup, registration, and execution of the whole tournament, I thank you all for your selfless contributions.

Well onto upcoming events, before this month's edition goes online, the ET Barnette Homebrew competition will have taken place up north in Fox Alaska. I hope some of our club members were able to enter and best of luck to those who did. The grand prize is \$500.00, which would buy a lot of brewing supplies to say the least. My family is making the voyage up for this event, plus some other sight-seeing events. I will spam the club as a whole when I receive the winners list.

The next event is the Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition. It will take place on **Sunday August 15th**. John Trapp is organizing this year's event and will be looking for plenty of entries and people to help judge and steward this event. See John's article in the newsletter for all the details on submissions and how to get a hold of John to volunteer. The Homebrewer of the Year Categories for this competition are BJCP categories 7, 10, 13, 15, 27. Please go to <http://www.bjcp.org/index.php> for everything on style guidelines and entry forms.

On **Thursday the 26th of August** we will be having the club get together at my home in Eagle River, Bring the family and whatever you want to grill up, and a small side dish for all to share. I don't have a lake in my back yard but will have some fun events planned for guests; wow just got a flash thought, lawn darts and home brew, everyone better watch out. Just kidding, come one come all, bring the kids and if it's raining maybe a spare set of clothes. The AHA COC style for this month will be sour ales BJCP Category 17, plus American Wild ales and Specialty Wild Ales. I'm still trying to figure that out, I guess if you brewed something and it's sour or wild bring it for evaluation. Best entry will be shipped out to California for the competition. I hope to see everyone there on the 26th.

The next competition is the Equinox Mead Competition hosted by Celestial Meads. Breck Tostevin is organizing the event; check out his first call article on this exciting competition.

Last but not least is club membership, last month we put out the first notice for renewals. If you haven't taken care of this yet, jump on board and don't be a slacker. Either use the PAYPAL option on the club website or print off the membership page and mail it in with either the \$25.00 annual membership fee or one for \$300.00 and become one of the **1st GNBC LIFETIME MEMBERS**. If you plan on hanging around this great club for another 12 years consider that the club will be paying you. Either way you look at it, the GNBC is the cheapest club around; everyone volunteers their time and passion so that the club as a whole will prosper. The first wave of new membership cards will begin to be mailed out the 1-2 week of September. Don't get behind the eight ball on this one, 2010 membership cards expire at the end of September.

Well it's time to wrap up this month's article, I hope to see members at large at the upcoming picnic and competitions, also don't forget to mark your calendar, our normal club meetings will begin in September, they are held the **THIRD Tuesday** of every month, that's right summer is almost over, see you all September 21st. Just think Oktoberfest time is just around the corner. Till we meet again, think before you drink and Brew On!!



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

13.....Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition entry deadline

15.....Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition at Café Amsterdam 4:30 pm

26.....GNBC Summer Picnic at Dena and Dennis Sessler's home 6 pm

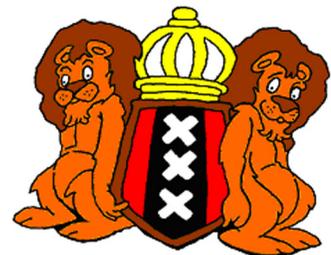
15.....Deadline for Kenai River Brewing Company Breakfast Beer Art Contest

21.....GNBC Club Meeting at the Goose 7 pm

24.....Entries for the Equinox Mead Competition accepted at Celestial Meads between 5:30 and 7:30 pm

25.....Equinox Mead Competition Judging at Celestial Meads

CAFE



AMSTERDAM

GNBC Club Picnic August 26th

by Dennis Sessler

This will be the last gathering of the summer away from our normal digs, down deep in the basement of the Snow Goose. We will celebrate the end of summer and toast to a better tomorrow.

The picnic will be held on August 26th starting at 6 pm at my home in Eagle River, the address is 19049 Eagle River Road. If you're familiar with Eagle River, I live just up the road from Wal-Mart. Don't worry about parking we will jam everyone in the driveway or up in the neighbor's driveway.

Food you might ask, well bring the normal fare, whatever you like to eat that can be cooked on a grill. Please also consider bringing a small side dish for all to share. Please don't forget to bring the homebrew- meads and ciders.

Please bring the whole family, we will have plenty of things for the kids to do, and remember is on a Thursday that means ladies night. Hope to see everyone here on the 26th.



2010 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

Fur Rendezvous HBC

- Category 12
- Category 18
- Category 19
- Category 23
- Category 28

Snow Goose HBC

- Category 1
- Category 3
- Category 4
- Category 6
- Category 16

Anchor Town HBC

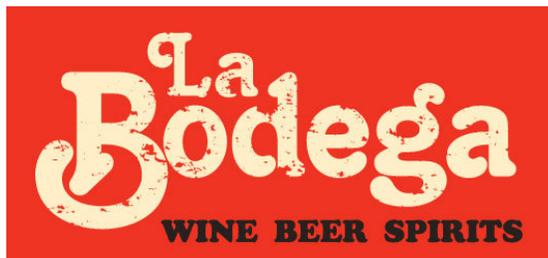
- Category 7
- Category 10
- Category 13
- Category 15
- Category 27

Equinox Mead HBC

- Category 24
- Category 25
- Category 26

Humpy's Big Fish HBC

- Category 2
- Category 5
- Category 9
- Category 14
- Category 22



Equinox Mead Competition: Saturday, September 25, 2010 at Celestial Meads

By Breck Tostevin

Calling all Mead-makers, Mazers and Mead Berserkers! We have a need for mead.

Celestial Meads and the Great Northern Brewers Club are holding the Third Annual Equinox Mead Competition on September 25. This is an AHA/BJCP registered competition open to mead only!

Categories within this competition include: 24 Traditional Mead; 25 Melomel; and 26 Other Mead.

The Best of Show mead will be produced as a commercial batch at Celestial Meads if deemed appropriate by Meadmaster Mike Kiker. Medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners in the three categories.

Please get those meads bottled and entry forms ready for the Equinox Mead Competition. Entries will be accepted at Celestial Meads on Friday, September 24 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Please bring two 10 to 14 oz. bottles or one 750 ml bottle and an AHA/BJCP recipe entry form for each entry. No entry fee. Here is a link to the form:
http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/pdf/entry_recipe.pdf

Mead judges are also needed. Judging will be held at Celestial Meads, 600 W. 58th Ave., Suite B., Anchorage, AK 99518-1628 from Noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 25.

Shipments should be sent to Celestial Meads at the above address and must arrive by Friday, September 24, at 7:30 pm.

Please contact competition organizer Breck Tostevin at 884-1819 or keegan@gci.net for more information or visit www.CelestialMeads.com.



Call for Artsy Beer Lovers

by *Jim Roberts*

Feeling a little artsy these days? Feeling handy with your favorite box of crayons? Well put that pint glass down for a minute and doodle between sips. It could be worth something to you.

The Kenai River Brewing Company is holding an artwork design contest for their incredibly popular Breakfast Beer. The winning design will receive \$200, be credited for the design, which may be reproduced on T-shirts, hats, bottle labels, pins, coasters and/or posters. The winning entrant will work with Kenai River Brewing Company to develop a finished design, which will be professionally printed for our Breakfast Beer line. The winning design will be seen on promotional items around the world.

The design should fit on an 8-by-11 sheet of paper, designs may be full-color, but should be easily modifiable to work in situations with limited color options, design and text requirements: Breakfast Beer.

The deadline is September 15, 2010. Drop designs off at Kenai River Brewing Company, 241 N. Aspen Drive. Submissions become property of Kenai River Brewing Company, with credit given to the artist. For more information, call Amy at 398-4744 or e-mail amy@kenairiverbrewing.com



Third Annual Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition

by *John Trapp*

The date is quickly approaching for the third annual **Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition**. Ken and Shauna Pajak, of the famous Café Amsterdam, have graciously offered to sponsor and host this competition again. The judging will take place at Café Amsterdam on **Sunday August 15th at 4:30 p.m.** Notice the time change from our usual start. This is due to the fact that Café A is open on Sundays, so we will work around their schedule. Entries will be accepted at Arctic Brewing Supply at their new location, 8401 Sandlewood Place, on **Friday the 13th from 11:30 until closing**. Do Not; I repeat Do Not show up at Café A to drop off your entries on Friday or Saturday. The good folks working there are busy enough serving awesome food and beer.

There will be no entry fee and all categories are open. What you'll need is three 12 ounce bottles, preferably in brown glass with a completed entry form. Please fill out as much as you can on the forms so there is no guessing what's in the beer (no chickens please). We have some great prizes to give out, including the "Brass Tap" award (compliments of Arctic Brewing Supply) given to the brewer with the highest average scores. Also, there will be new medallions for first place, and plaques for best-of-show.

The judging of this will be critical, and we'll need as many judges as we can get. So please plan on attending so we can knock this out in about 4 hours. Once again, if you see Ken and Shauna before the competition say thank you to them for their generosity and contributions, not only to the brew club, but the brewing community. I hope to see a lot of entries for our third annual competition. Good luck to all.

American Homebrewers Association- Club only Competition (AHA-COC)

by Dennis Sessler

Here is the upcoming AHA COC schedule. These competitions are not open to anyone, we as a club will be conducting an evaluation to find the best one to forward to the event site. Entry fees and shipping cost are all paid by the GNBC. Get brewing and bring your beers to the club meetings to have them evaluated and possibly entered as the GNBC club entry.

***AUGUST 2010 Meads**, BJCP categories 24, 25, and 26. Evaluations will take place at the summer picnic at Jeff Loughrey home July 14th. Bring 4 bottles; shipments to the competition are due July 30th in Colorado. **Joe Michael's- Macadamia Nut Blossom Mead was forwarded.**

***September/October 2010 "Pucker Up" Sour & Wild Ales**, BJCP Category 17 styles, plus American Wild Ales, and Specialty Wild Ales. Evaluations will take place at the August picnic at the Sessler's house. Bring 4 bottles; shipments to the competition are due September 9th in California.

***November/December 2010 Strong Ale's**, BJCP Category 19 styles. Evaluations will take place at our October 19th GNBC club meeting at the Snow Goose. Bring 4 bottles; shipments to the competition are due November 30th in California.

***January/February 2011 "Battle of the Bitters" (English Pale Ales)**, BJCP Category 8 styles. Evaluations will take place at our November 16th GNBC club meeting at the Snow Goose. Bring 4 bottles; shipments to the competition are due January 28th in California.

*** March/April 2011 Bock**, BJCP Category 5 styles. Evaluations will take place at our November 16th GNBC club meeting at the Snow Goose. Bring 4 bottles; shipments to the competition are due March 15th in Oklahoma.

*** May 2011 Angel's Share – Wood-Aged Beer**, BJCP Sub-Category 22C. Evaluations will take place at our April 19th GNBC Club meeting at the Snow Goose. Bring 4 bottles; shipments to the competition are due March 15th in California.

This competition schedule will take us through the next membership year. Please consider brewing one or more of these beers and help represent the GNBC in the AHA's national COC competitions. All points garnered in these competitions will count toward the AHA Homebrew Club of the Year, which is awarded every summer during the National Homebrew Competition.





DIMOND LIQUOR

Break out the Checkbook, it's Membership Time

by Dena Sessler

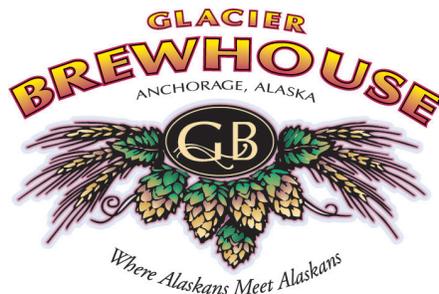
I know it's hard to believe, but another membership year is fast approaching. It has been an incredible year for the club. Through the tireless efforts of our President, the board, and our members, new programs and an overall new direction have been implemented with raging success! Thank you to everyone for their commitment and enthusiasm to the G.N.B.C.!

Last year the club started issuing membership cards to its paid members. It's a small detail that has been overlooked for far too long. There were a few bugs to work out, but now things are running smoothly and we are looking forward to another successful year. The club has welcomed close to 30 new members since February 2010. It is so exciting to see new faces and a fresh and renewed enthusiasm within the club!

We are going to continue to issue membership cards and the first wave will be sent out the first week of September 2010. We decided to wait until then to avoid any confusion for the businesses that provide the G.N.B.C. a 10% discount, as the look of the card will change from year to year. If you are a brand new member to the club, and wish to pay your dues now, your membership will be current through September of 2011.

Currently Arctic Brewing supply gives card carrying members a 10% discount on brewing supplies and we also receive a 10% discount at LaBodega, Diamond Liquor, the Wine House, and a 2-3% discount at Keg Cowboys (an internet store for keg supplies). Remember **YOU MUST HAVE A CARD** to receive your discount. I have provided a membership application on page 9 for your convenience. Just print it out and mail it to the G.N.B.C. membership coordinator at 19049 Eagle River Road Eagle River Alaska 99577. You can also go to the clubs website and use the PayPal option to renew your dues.

There will be two options on membership renewal form, \$25.00 for a one year membership or \$300.00 for a LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP. It is the first time the homebrew club has ever offered a life membership. The thought of never having to mess with membership dues again is an inviting proposition. Either way, renew your dues early to avoid any lapse in your membership card. They expire the 30th of September 2010. Please make sure that I am aware of any changes to your mailing address or email. If there are any changes, please email me at sessak@mtaonline.net so I can make any corrections. Thank you again to all! The members of this club ROCK and it's because of you, that we can boast that it is the greatest club on the planet to be a part of!



G.N.B.C. Membership Application Sept. 2010-Sept. 2011

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Areas of Interest:

Judge Give an Educational Presentation Organize an Event

Help with an Event Run for a position in the Club

Run a Competition Beer Judge Certification Class (B.J.C.P.)

Brewer List (contact info. to be shared with new brewers for assistance)

Not available at this time

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year or \$300.00 for a Life Membership, Payable to the **G.N.B.C.** You can either mail your application and check to the G.N.B.C. Membership coordinator at: 19049 Eagle River Road, Eagle River, AK 99577 or use the convenient pay pal option on our web site: greatnorthernbrewers.org.

Dena Sessler
G.N.B.C. Membership Coordinator

(With your membership card you will receive 10% off at The Arctic Brewing Supply on brewing ingredients, La Bodega Liquor Store, the Wine House, Diamond Liquor and 2-3% off at Keg Cowboy.)

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:

Online: bushy@alaska.com
Phone: 333-8985
Mail: 6933 Soyuz Circle
Anchorage, Ak 99504

GNBC Web Site: www.greatnorthernbrewers.org



**Great Northern Brewers Club
PMB 1204
3705 Arctic Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503**

**NEXT MEETING: August 26th, 2010
GNBC Summer Picnic at Dena and Dennis Sessler's 6:00 pm**