



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

AUGUST 2011

The Prez Sez

by Dennis Sessler

In last year's August Prez Sez article I toted the pluses of leaving Alaska during the summer for a family vacation. After a two week vacation in June this year, I still have yet to catch up. Work is work and no matter how hard I try I can never get caught up. I wish the saying at work was Charlie Papazian motto, "Relax, Don't worry and have a homebrew". Could you imagine your boss coming up to you and dropping that bomb on you? "Hey, I know you have had a hard day, so just chill and have a beer on me". One thing I know for sure: summer is waning one day at a time. The fireweed is almost at full bloom and as the saying goes six more weeks till the cold is here for the long haul.



My black currants are doing great again this year. I pruned the life out of them and it still looks like I didn't touch them. I've resorted to tying the berry laden branches up to the fence just so I can mow the grass. All I know is that come the end of August I will be picking berries and freezing them. I still have to get last year's crop out of the freezer and into the steam juicer so it can be canned and stored in the cellar for later use. Not long after that I will start to pick apples and will be remaking my new favorite apple beverage "Apple Crunk".

I love this time of year. I spend two months getting all the flowers, yard and plants happy just so they produce fruit and look beautiful for a few months or so. My fingers are crossed that the August and September weather is nice and sunny. I have a lot of projects and home and work that I need to accomplish and if history is any indication it will be a 50-50 shot at best.

On to current events. The next club function that we will be having is the August 11 picnic at my house in Eagle River. Check out my article on this event with a map attached. Last year we had just over 50 members here and a lot brought their children. I will be renting the bounce house again this year; the kids had a blast and I think mom/dad were able to relax and visit while the kids tore it up. The only reminder I have for everyone is please make sure your garbage ends up in the "Garbage Can", not in my grain bin that I use to store all the malt for brewing. I'm able to laugh about it now, but last year was another story. My home is a work in progress construction wise. There are always more projects planned and never enough time to get them all done.

The Prez Sez

Secretary's Corner

Anchortown Invitational

Equinox Mead Competition

Dues are Due! Pay Up!

August Picnic at the Sesslers!

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I think everyone is like that to some point and for those that aren't, good for you; you all give me inspiration to the light at the end of the tunnel. I just hope I'm not dead by then. Fellow member Steve Baxter told me when Dena and I undertook this massive home remodel that it would take a bunch of years to complete. I told him that it would take two to three years and that was five years ago. Steve, I think you were right. I hope to see you all here on August 11th.

Next club event after that will be the Anchortown Invite. We will need lots of help both judging and stewarding to make easy work of this competition that will be held on August 21st. It's on a Sunday and we have newbies running this competition this year. John Trapp has run this competition since its inception and he is passing the torch to Aaron Christ and Karl Morgan. I have no doubt that everything will run smoothly. If the club turns out in masses we will all be able to knock this out in a timely fashion. See John's article on this fast approaching competition.

On to some past news: the ET Barnette Homebrew Competition is in the bank. I want to thank all the GNBC members who ventured north for the competition. I'm sure the weather was a lot better up there than what Mother Nature had in store for us in Southcentral. A big congratulation goes to fellow GNBC member and current Homebrewer of the Year, Steve Jayich. He has won the competition this year and for a third time in a row overall. I hope everyone who entered gets the much needed feedback and continues to perfect that next batch of homebrew.

The last thing I want to mention is that the need to pay membership dues is fast approaching. New membership cards are being designed and will be approved by the board soon. New cards will begin to be mailed out the 1st-2nd week of September but it's not too early to get your renewal letter and dues payment of \$25.00 in. See the Membership Coordinators article on renewing your dues.

I hope that everyone is brewing and having a great summer. Our monthly meetings at the Snow Goose will restart next month on September 20th. We will start the whole cycle over again looking for members who which to volunteer for officer and board positions. If you have considered running in the past and think that 2011-2012 is the year please shoot me and email and we can talk. I will not be running as your president this fall. I am going to be getting much more involved leader wise with my sons Cub Scout Pack, and will have my hands full no doubt. Till we see each other again, please think before you drink and keep the flames to your kettle.

Brew On



Secretary's Corner

by Julie McDonald

Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2011

This was the date of the club cookout at the Loughrey's, which served as our July meeting. I was not able to attend this year so I don't have any details of activities, etc.

Just the same, here are a few tidbits in the Old and New Biz section:

Old Biz - The 4th at the Craig's – July 4th weekend

I personally, and on behalf of everyone that attended, want to thank John and Rose for being such wonderful hosts! We had a great time sitting around campfires, listening to John tell stories from days gone by, and enjoying each other's company. A wonderful weekend, indeed!

New Biz - August Cookout at the Sessler's: August 11th– I have no details on this yet, but I'm sure our Prez does, so make sure you read the Prez Says to get your calendars marked.

Next meeting: Remember that indoor Snowgoose meetings have concluded for the summer. Our next official function is the BBQ at the Sessler's on August 11th.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Take note that Alaska CHARR has changed the name of the former TAMs training to TAP (Training for Alcohol Professionals)

Upcoming TAPs classes held at CHARR's Charlie H. Selman Training Center located at 1503 W. 31st Avenue, Suite 101 Anchorage.

- **Remember this is required if you plan to volunteer to steward at any fests or competitions or tastings this year.**

| | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------|
| 08/04 | Thursday | 9:00am |
| 08/06 | Saturday | 11:00am |
| 08/09 | Tuesday | 1:00pm |
| 08/11 | Thursday | 5:30pm |
| 08/15 | Monday | 1:00pm |
| 08/17 | Wednesday | 9:00am |
| 08/22 | Monday | 5:30pm |
| 08/25 | Thursday | 1:00pm |
| 08/30 | Tuesday | 9:00am Spanish |
| 08/31 | Wednesday | 9:00am |



- *Renewal certification available at the CHARR office Monday through Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm.*
- *Renewal testing is also available with proof of previous training following Saturday classes at 2:00pm*

2011 Big Fish Side Challenge – The Belgian Specialty WTF Challenge.

How are those entries coming? You can peruse an earlier issue of the newsletter for more details (see Secretary's Corner)

Monthly Member Beer Dinners

- **Looking for hosts for August beer dinner, if any are interested.**
- contact Juzy@gci.net for more information or to be put on the GNBC beer dinner email list

Hope this finds you all enjoying your summer!



Forth Annual Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition

By John Trapp

We now have a date for the Fourth Annual Anchor Town Invitational Homebrew Competition – August 21st at Café Amsterdam! There’s still time to brew, so fire up the kettles and make a few batches. Entries will be accepted at Arctic Brewing Supply on Friday August 19th from 11:30 until closing (6:00 p.m.). Once again, do NOT bring any entries to Café Amsterdam as they are busy running a restaurant and bar, and might just drink your beer. Also, this competition is on a Sunday afternoon and we’ll need as many judges to help out so we don’t stay late. So please plan on judging on the 21st.

There will be no entry fee and all categories are open. 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. Last year we had cash and gift certificates on top of medals for first place, and plaques for best-of-show. Ken Pajak is also planning on hanging some kind of trophy in the restaurant with the BOS names on it, so now there are bragging rights to be had. This is turning out to be one awesome competition to enter; I hope to see a lot of entries for our fourth annual competition. Good luck to all.



Fourth Annual Celestial Meads Equinox Mead Competition

by Breck Tostiven

Attention Mead Makers and Judges! The Fourth Annual Celestial Meads Equinox Competition is Saturday, September 17. Get those meads bottled and ready!

Entries will be accepted at Celestial Meads on Friday, September 16 from **5:00-6:00 pm. Please Note the time change.** Please bring two 10 to 14 oz bottles or one 750 ml bottle and an AHA/BJCP recipe entry form for each entry. Here is a link to the form: http://www.beertown.org/homebrewing/pdf/entry_recipe.pdf Entries shipped from out of town must arrive at Celestial Meads by Wednesday, Sept. 14.

You may enter more than one mead per subcategory. The Equinox Mead Competition is an official Brewer of the Year Event and only BJCP Categories 24,25 and 26 will be excepted. So don't get left on the long ship on this one. The Best of Show of Mead may be made by Celestial Meads as deemed appropriate by Meadmaster Mike Kiker.

We need judges and stewards. If you are interested in learning the differences between judging mead and beer, or you are simply a mead lover, this is the event for you. We can team inexperienced judges up with more experienced judges. If you are interested in judging, please send me an email.

Judging will be held at Celestial Meads, 600 W. 58th Ave., Suite B. in Anchorage from Noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 17. Please contact me at 884-1819 or keegan@gci.net for more information.



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

04.....*Earth Day EPA Release at SubZero 6-8 pm: Pay As You Go*

11.....*August GNBC Summer Picnic Sessler House: 6 pm*

12.....*Saw Turn Pymment Release Cafe Amsterdam: 6-8 pm*

13.....*First Annual Kenai Peninsula Beer Festival: 4-10 pm*

17.....*Kassik's Beer Dinner at Kinley's 6 pm: \$65 pp*

19.....*Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition Entries Accepted at Arctic Brewing Supply 11:30 am – 6 pm*

21.....*Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition Judging at Café Amsterdam*

10.....*Bodega-Fest at Kincaid Park*

16.....*Equinox Mead Competition Entries Accepted at Celestial Meads 5:30 – 7:30 pm*

17.....*Equinox Mead Competition Judging at Celestial Meads Noon – 3 pm*

Break out the Checkbook, its 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. Thank you for your continued commitment to and enthusiasm for GNBC.

This is the 3rd year the GNBC has issued membership cards to its paid members. With the club data base purged of non paid members I'm proud to announce that we currently have 232 dues paying members. It is so exciting to see new faces and a fresh and renewed enthusiasm within our club!

I will begin to mail out the first wave of cards during the 1st-2nd week of September 2011. We decided to wait until then to avoid any confusion for the businesses that provide the GNBC. 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 2012.

Currently Arctic Brewing Supply gives card-carrying members a 10% discount on brewing supplies and we also receive a 10% discount at LaBodega, Celestial Meadery, Diamond Liquor, the Wine House, and a 2-3% discount at Keg Cowboy's (an internet store for keg supplies).

Remember **YOU MUST HAVE A CARD** to receive your discount. I have provided a membership application for your convenience. Just print it out and mail it to the GNBC. membership coordinator at 19049 Eagle River Road Eagle River Alaska 99577. You can also go to the club's 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. We currently have nine life time members. The thought of never having to mess with membership dues again is an inviting proposition. The GNBC board voted this year to separate the lifetime membership dues into a separate bank account to ensure the fiscal longevity of our great club.

Renew your dues early to avoid any lapse in your membership card. The GNBC 2011 cards expire the 30th of September 2011. 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!



2011 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

Fur Rendezvous HBC

- Category 1
- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 19
- Category 22
- Category 23

Snow Goose HBC

- Category 3
- Category 6
- Category 8
- Category 10
- Category 15
- Category 20

Anchor Town HBC

- Category 2
- Category 7
- Category 14
- Category 17
- Category 21
- Category 27

Equinox Mead HBC

- Category 24
- Category 25
- Category 26

Humpy's Big Fish HBC

- Category 9
- Category 11
- Category 12
- Category 13
- Category 16
- Category 18
- Category 28



GNBC Club Picnic August 11th

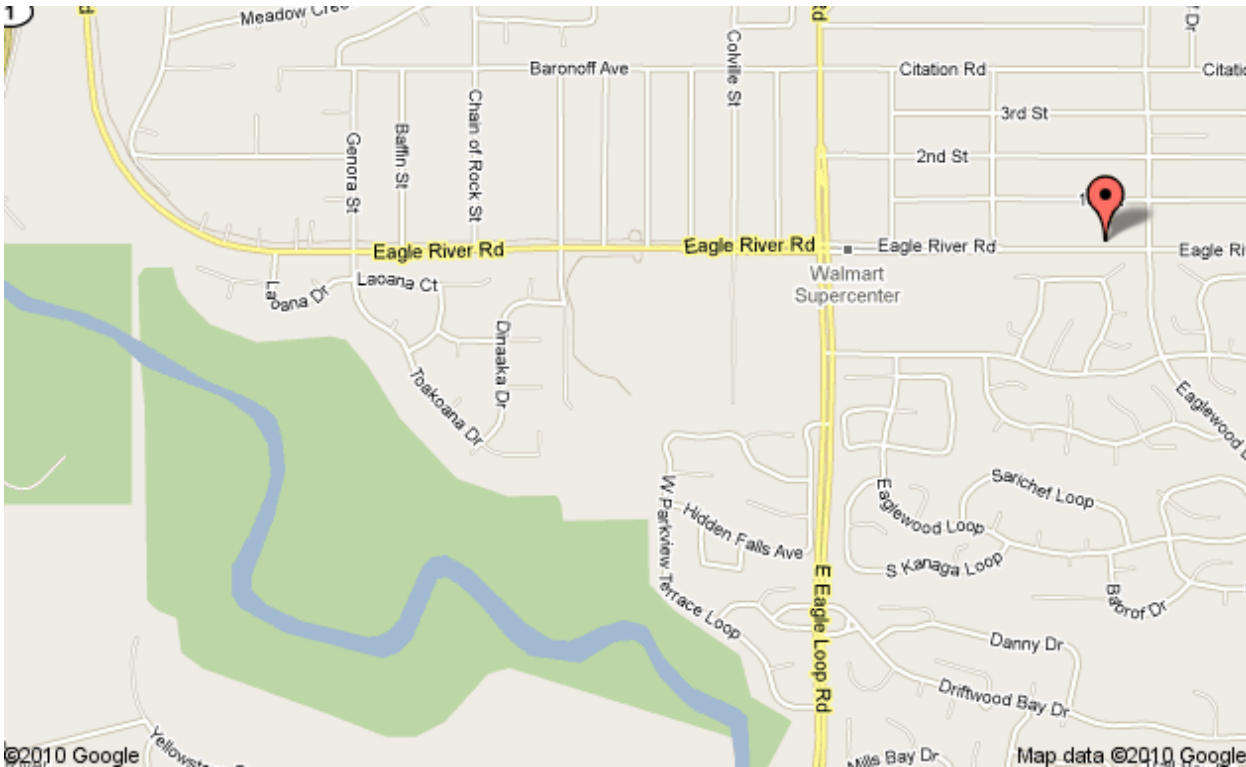
by Dennis Sessler

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 at my home in Eagle River, the address is 19049 Eagle River Rd. 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 August 11th.



G.N.B.C. Membership Application Sept. 2011-Sept. 2012

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

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, The La Bodega liquor store, Celestial Meadery, 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
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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: August 11, 2011 GNBC Summer BBQ at the Sesslers