



THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB
FEBRUARY 2012

Prez Sez

By *Tim Strayer*

I made it through another Alaska Beer Week and another Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival. How did you fare? Another annual Beer Week/Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival has made it into the history books. For me, it's time to sit back and enjoy some barleywine quietly by the fire with fond memories.



Hopefully most of you were able to attend our January club meeting, because if you missed it, you missed out! This meeting is by far our most premier event throughout the year due to the collaboration between the GNBC and the Alaska Brewers Guild. These are two powerful groups of beer loving people that gather in the same room once every year to share a common love for beer that bridges the gap between home and professional brewing.

I am surprised we did not stop the earth on its axis or cause some other cataclysmic event. Steven Pauwels from Boulevard Brewing company was the keynote speaker. He spoke about beer styles and his desire for the USA to eventually develop a geo-centric expertise, much like Europe has: For Pauwels, if you want a good Hefe – go to Germany. If you want a great Pils – check out Czech, and if you want a beer that will “melt enamel from your teeth”, head to the Northwest US (Alaska I say!) for an IPA that will turn your mouth inside out.

I also had an opportunity to speak with Steven personally, and I can tell you that he is passionate about beer and otherwise a very genuine individual. Thanks again to the Brewers Guild of Alaska and John Burkett from Odom Distributing for inviting Steven to the meeting. We are looking forward to working with both of them in selecting next year's guest speaker.

We also had many of the brewers from Alaska's great brewing industry come out to join us that night – and they came bearing gifts of liquid happiness in true Alaskan hospitality fashion. Thank you to all of you for sharing your goods with club....uhhhh....I mean beer. I speak for the club when I say that we are looking forward to visiting all of your establishments in the coming months, and can't wait till next January's meeting!

The Prez Sez

Secretary's Corner

2012 Snow Goose Break-up
Homebrew Competition

2012 GNBC Summer Campout

2012 Home Brewer of the
Year Categories

Final 2011 HBOTY Standings

2012 Fur Rondy Homebrew
Competition

Beer Trippin' 2012

Festival Success



We also gave out several awards and honors: The 2011 Home Brewer of The Year Award: Aaron Christ! Thank you plaques to Dennis Sessler and Breck Tostevin for their time served with the GNBC – its most appreciated. And lastly, but not least, to our previous and current membership coordinator (for getting us and keeping us organized), Dena Sessler. Congrats and thank you to all!

I also wanted to thanks to: our board members for contributing their time, raffle items, and food; the Brewers Guild of Alaska for sharing the expense of the food and room; all of the wonderful samples and donations from breweries within the great State of Alaska, the Snow Goose for accommodating our large crowd; all of the fantastic distributor donations we received from Specialty, K&L, and Odom; and last but not least to Jim Roberts (aka Dr. Fermento) for assisting with the details of the event both during and behind the scenes. I hope I did not forget anyone, but if I did, accept my apologies. I will buy you a beer the next time I see you!

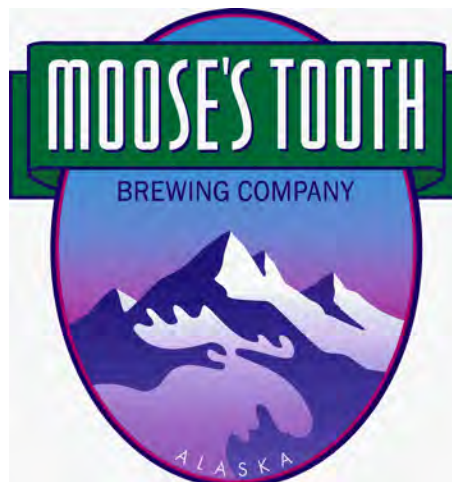
In the spirit of Beer Week, I even took a day off of work and brewed some beer of my own – its been a while (four months) with all of the traveling I have been doing for work and the holidays. I quickly remembered how much I love to brew beer. What did I brew you ask?: A gluten free beer for the upcoming Fur Rhondy competition (read further on in this newsletter for details), and a pseudo-clone of Arrogant Bastard for my own consumption (and of course the first lady of beer, my lovely wife Kristine). Don't forget: keep those name tag/club card holders! Those are meant to be used at all of the future meetings so that everyone can get to know you on a first name basis. Since we meet only once every month it makes it difficult to commit those to memory sometimes.

Be sure to read the Secretary's Corner for all of the nitty gritty from the past meeting that I overlooked as well as a rundown of things you surely will want to know about.

Check out the article from Dr. Fermento with a great piece the wraps up the GABBF in words – now that's hard to do! (But I am sure he was tapping on the board with beer in hand).

TALKEETNA BEER TRIPPIN'! Our annual March road event – don't miss it. Read the article in the newsletter for details. Competitions: Fur Rondy and Snow Goose Breakup – read the detailed articles – 'nuff said. Stay warm and brew strong.

Flame out...



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Secretary's Corner

by Julie McDonald

Meeting Minutes: January 18, 2012

7p – social time, lots of good food and beer to be had. If you got here later than 7:45p, you likely missed most of the food. There is something to be said for being early or on time.

I want to thank Kevin Sobelesky, Fil Spiegel, Tracey Lewellyn, and Matt Wallace for door greeting duties. It's a nice touch to have someone at the door to welcome visitors and new members.

7:40p, head count was at 122. I know this amount rose by 8p. But I do not have a max head count for the evening.

7:42p, Prez, called the meeting to order.

Welcome to all visitors and members. A huge thanks to all of the breweries and distributors who contributed beers for this meeting.

Awards were presented to various people for various reasons:

Aaron Christ – Homebrewer of the Year
Breck Tostevin – appreciation of service
Dennis Sessler – appreciation of service
Dena Sessler – appreciation of service

The following topics were briefly touched on.

Club Brew News

We had a keg of each of the three club brews to sample. Let us know your thoughts on these brews. We are making plans to distribute between the brew teams and to come up with a plan for filling the barrels with our next club brews.

Fur Rony Competition

February, 11, 2012. Dennis is organizing this one. This time the side challenge will be Gluten Free beers...with gluten intolerant judges – be diligent in your recipe formulation, don't poison the judges! Entries will be accepted at the Goose basement on Feb 10, between the hours of 11-6

Beer Trippin'

Joe Michael and Jim Lamb are currently working out the details for this annual event. The event will take place the last weekend of March, 2012. As soon as we have a line-up of events we will get the info to you thru club email and through the club Facebook page. So stay tuned. I have seen t-shirt designs for this event and they ROCK! You can check them out on the club's event page here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/236076666465233/>

Next meeting: Snowgoose, Feb 21, 2012 . This meeting's guest speaker is Matt Wallace who will talk to us about brewing in a bag. Get there early to socialize and help set up. Member duties break down like this:

A - J Clean, K - P Food, R - Z Setup

A 10 minute break before moving on.

After the break Jim Roberts, president of the Brewers Guild of Alaska, took charge and talked a little bit about the history of the Great Alaska Beer And Barleywine Festival and it's 17 years of existence, how the relationship between professional brewers and home brewers is very beneficial to the Alaska beer community, and talked a little about AKBeerWeek, thanking Barb Miller for taking the reigns and getting the ball rolling on an official beer week website, t-shirts, and general information on all the goings-on related to the GABBF.

John Burket takes the stage to introduce our guest speaker, Stephen Pauwels, head brewer from Boulevard Brewing. Stephen's presentation on brewing to style vs. brewing to taste was very informative and humorous. We'd like to thank him for taking the time to present this to us.

Raffle was held, with many awesome prizes this year. Thanks to the distributors, brewers, members and anyone who contributed to the booty!

MISCELLANEOUS:

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.
- 02/04 Saturday 11:00am
- 02/08 Wednesday 9:00am
- 02/09 Thursday 1:00pm
- 02/13 Monday 5:30pm
- 02/15 Wednesday 1:00pm
- 02/22 Wednesday 1:00pm
- 02/23 Thursday 9:00am
- 02/28 Tuesday 5:30pm
- 03/03 Saturday 11:00am
- 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*

**D I M O N D
L I Q U O R**

Monthly Member Beer Dinners

- **We have an awesome dinner planned for February, thanks to Georgy Porgy for hosting and picking the awesome theme of Belgo Cookbook! John & Cyndi Trapp are hosting March! Stay tuned for details to come out early this month! You won't want to miss this! I may have a host for April ???, Ira Edwards???? Not sure yet, waiting to hear back from him. Will forward that info on as we get it. If you are interested in hosting a dinner, just drop me an email.**
- **contact Juzy@gci.net for more information or to be put on the GNBC beer dinner email list**

That's about it from this corner....hope you all are recovering from the festival's vast list of events! Whew, it was a hard 10 days, but soooo worth it!



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

10.....Entries accepted at the Goose for the Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition 11 am to 6 pm

11.....Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition 10 am at the Goose

21.....GNBC Monthly Meeting 7 pm at the Snow Goose

27.....Humpty's Big Fish Awards 6 pm at Sub Zero

30 - 1.....GNBC Beer Trippin' Event in Talkeetna: Winter Camp Out

CAFE



AMSTERDAM

First Call for the 2012 Snow Goose Break-up

by *Dan Bosch*

This is the first call 2012 Snow Goose Break-up Home Brew Competition. Mark your calendars and start brewing for April 7th, which is the first Saturday in April. The **ONLY** BJCP categories open to the Break-up competition are: Dark lagers (category 4), bock (category 5), Light Hybrid (category 6), Scottish/Irish Ale (category 9), IPA (category 14), Fruit Beer (category 20).

This year's brewer's challenge a SMaSH (single malt and single hop) beer. This is the same challenge as last year and it proved to be the most popular flight. All grain brewers should make their challenge beer out of base malt alone, and one hop variety. Extract brewers are similarly delegated using one extract and one hop. We had some great SMASH beers last year and those of you who read last year's wrap-up already know that this same challenge was established last year. I would love to see some well aged barley wine SMaSH beers, or a nicely aged old ale (either English or American).

Once again this year's "Brewers Choice," may not be the overall "Best of Show (BOS)" in this BJCP sanctioned event, but it will be chosen by the head brewer at the Snow Goose and the BOS panel. The Brewers Choice award will be served at the Snow Goose this summer, so it must conform to some criteria. It must be a quick turnaround beer for brewing economy, so a beer ready to go from kettle to tap in several weeks. For the brewer of the Brewer's Choice, this is a chance to work with the pros at Snow Goose, as you can help them expand your recipe from your home brewing system with a capacity measured in gallons to the Snow Goose system measured in barrels. I don't know about you, but I would sell my soul to the devil for a chance like this. The Brewers Choice will most likely be ale – even though a lager may win the BOS. If the stars align and brewing gods smile upon you the BOS and Brewers Choice may be one and the same.

Any questions? You can call Dan at 907-344-2335.

MEETING SETUP

A - J Cleanup
K - P Food
R - Z Setup

A - J Food
K - P Setup
R - Z Cleanup

A - J Setup
K - P Cleanup
R - Z Food

Summer 2012 GNBC Campout

by *Joe Michael*

Hi-ho! Another fast breaking news story! After braving cold, blowing snow, high winds, and even an avalanche, the group site for our annual summer campout has been procured! Every year, the club alternates locations, to give those tethered closer to Anchorage a chance to get in on the camping fun. The savings on gas doesn't hurt anyone's feelings either! This year, we return to the group site at Eklutna Lake. For those of you that have been around for at least a few years, this is the same location we were in back in summer 2010. More information will be forthcoming as we transition into summer, but for now, save the dates, Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23, and plan to join us at Eklutna Lake for a great big outdoor sleepover with the GNBC!



2012 Home Brewer of the Year Categories

by *Tim Strayer*

Below you will find the list of BJCP Categories that will garner points towards the coveted Home Brewer of the Year distinction. A traveling trophy is awarded to the homebrewer who throughout the year accumulates the most points.

This Award is presented at the January GNBC club meeting which coincides with the Great Alaskan Beer and Barley Wine Festival club meeting.

Here is the run down on how points will be scored:

Each Category has several sub categories, **only** your highest scoring entry per category will be awarded points. This will minimize the shot gunning affect.

Points will be awarded as follows:

1st -6 points

2nd -4 points

3rd -2 points

If your HBOY entry wins Best of Show you will earn another 2 points

Fur Rondy Home Brew Competition

Category Name

- 7 Amber Hybrid Beer
- 10 American Ale
- 13 Stout
- 15 German Wheat and Rye Beer
- 18 Belgian Strong Ale
- 23 Specialty Beer

* Side Challenge ***Gluten Free Beer*** (Double Points)
Sponsoring Brewery- Kassiks Brewing Co.

Snow Goose Break -Up Home Brew Competition

Category Name

- 4 Dark Lager
- 6 Light Hybrid Beer
- 5 Bock
- 9 Scottish and Irish Ale
- 14 India Pale Ale (IPA)
- 20 Fruit Beer

* Side Challenge ***Brewers Challenge*** (Double Points)
Sponsoring Brewery- Sleeping Lady Brewery

Anchor Town Invitational Home Brew Competition

Category Name

- 1 Light Lager
- 2 Pilsner
- 3 European Amber Lager



- 11 English Brown Ale
- 16 Belgian and French Ale
- 21 Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer

Equinox Mead Competition

- | Category | Name |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 24 | Traditional Mead |
| 25 | Melomel (Fruit Mead) |
| 26 | Other Mead |
| 27 | Standard Cider and Perry |
| 28 | Specialty Cider and Perry |

Sponsoring Meadery-Celestial Meadery and Alaska Cider Co.

Humpy’s Big Fish Home Brew Competition

- | Category | Name |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 8 | English Pale Ale |
| 9 | Scottish and Irish Ale |
| 11 | English Brown Ale |
| 12 | Porter |
| 17 | Sour Ale |
| 19 | Strong Ale |
| 22 | Smoke Flavored/Wood Aged Beer |

*Side Challenge *** Schmitt Challenge *** (Double Points)

Sponsoring Brewery-Midnight Sun Brewing Co.

Keep in mind that with the exception of the Snow Goose Spring Break-Up Competition and the Equinox Mead Competition, all the other competitions are open to all 28 BJCP categories. But only these preselected categories plus the side challenges will garner points in this year-long competition. Also keep in mind that every competition except the Anchor Town Invitational has the added bonus that your home brewed beer or mead could be brewed professionally by one of our sponsoring breweries/meadery.

So now that the criteria have been set let’s get those winning recipes formulated and get brewing. The first competition (Fur Rondy) is just around the corner on February 11th. All style guidelines can be found on the BJCP website at <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/catdex.php>



2012 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

Fur Rendezvous HBC

- Category 7
- Category 10
- Category 13
- Category 15
- Category 18
- Category 23
- Side Challenge

Snow Goose HBC

- Category 4
- Category 6
- Category 5
- Category 9
- Category 14
- Category 20
- Side Challenge

Anchor Town HBC

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3
- Category 11
- Category 16
- Category 21

Equinox Mead HBC

- Category 24
- Category 25
- Category 26
- Category 27
- Category 28

Humpy’s Big Fish HBC

- Category 8
- Category 9
- Category 11
- Category 12
- Category 17
- Category 19
- Category 22
- Side Challenge

Final 2011 HBOTY Standings

	Fur Rondy	Spring Break Up	Anchor Town	Equinox Mead	Big Fish	Total
Aaron Christ	6	14	12		22	54
Andrew Janco	8	10	12	6	8	44
Melanie Smith	8	10	12	6	8	44
Frank Bell	10	10	16		6	42
Brian Noonan	6	6	8		2	22
Steve Jayich			6	2	14	22
Steve Kunemund		8	8		4	20
James Barber		8	8			16
Sean Farley	6	8				14
Matt Wallace		4	4			8
Ted Rosenzweig				4	6	10
John Trapp		6		6		12
Breck Tostevin	4			8		12
Tim Bisson	6		4			10
David Short		6	4			10
Tim Strayer	8				2	10
Steve Baxter				10		10
Steve Pierce	6					6
Mike Lanzarone	6					6
Starsky Stubbs		6				6
Don Lewellyn	4				2	6
Dan Bosch					6	6
Charlie Gillespie					6	6
David Coates			4			4
Steve Schmitt				4		4
Kevin Sobolesky					4	4
Matthew Hendrick					4	4
Brad Cruz			2	2		4
Dennis Sessler	2					2
Dena Sessler	2					2
Julie McDonald	2					2
Je ff Shearer		2				2



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Celestial Meads 

Handcrafting fine traditional meads, melomels and methyglyns in Alaska.

Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition

by *Dennis Sessler*

It's time to start planning for the annual the Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition. Our club actually has little association with the actual festival, probably because we take care of everything on our own. Participation in this even is a great way to kick off the New Year. Daylight is slowly making an appearance, and in fact the second week of February is about the time that the sun actually makes its appearance on my home. Well enough about all the winter stuff and on to the details.

The competition will be held on **Saturday, February 11th** at the Snow Goose. This will be the first competition in 2012 to garner as many points as possible towards the 2012 GNBC Homebrewer of the Year Competition.

The categories which will garner points towards the year long competition are;

7 Amber Hybrid Beer

10 American Ale

13 Stout

15 German Wheat and Rye Beer

18 Belgian Strong Ale

23 Specialty Beer

Side Challenge will be the "Gluten Free Beer Challenge. (***)Double Points(***)

But by no means are you restricted to just enter those beers, enter as many different styles as you like.

Judging will begin at **10:00 a.m.** and as always there will be a need for plenty of judges and stewards. This competition is an AHA/BJCP sanctioned competition so all beer, mead and cider categories will be open for entry. You can find the current style guidelines at <http://www.bjcp.org/stylecenter.html>. And entry forms can be found at http://www.bjcp.org/docs/SCP_EntryRecipe.pdf.

Entries will be accepted at the Snow Goose in the basement on Friday February 10th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. For current GNBC members, there is no entry fee, for non members, there is a \$5.00 fee per entry. You will need to provide three 12 oz. bottles for each beer entry. Mead and Cider entries can be three 12 oz bottles or one 750 ml bottle. If you are unable to drop off entries during that time please feel free to contact me to make other arrangements.

This year's competition will award a Best of Show Beer and a Best of Show Mead or Cider. There will be unique prizes for both of the Best of Show winners plus all the great Fur Rondy medals and notoriety. Kassik's Brewing Company will be in attendance and like last year they will be selecting an award winning beer to brew it commercially. That beer will be eligible to be entered at the Great American Beer Festival Pro-Am Competition in September 2012 or 2013 in Denver CO. I will have all the leftover beer/meads and ciders along with all the judge evaluation sheets and the awards at the February 21st homebrew club meeting. Let's make this a great competition. Dust off your mead and ciders, brew those beers and let's get ready to "Rondy!" For more information contact me at sessak@mtaonline.net.



Beer Trippin' 2012

By Joe Michael

As we wave farewell to the year that was 2011, the avid home brewers of the GNBC shift their focus to a fresh 365 days of fermented fun. Among those many activities is the upcoming Talkeetna Beer Trippin' gathering at the end of March 2012. This marks the 3rd year that the GNBC has partnered with the crew at Denali Brewing Company for some relaxed fun in beautiful Talkeetna.

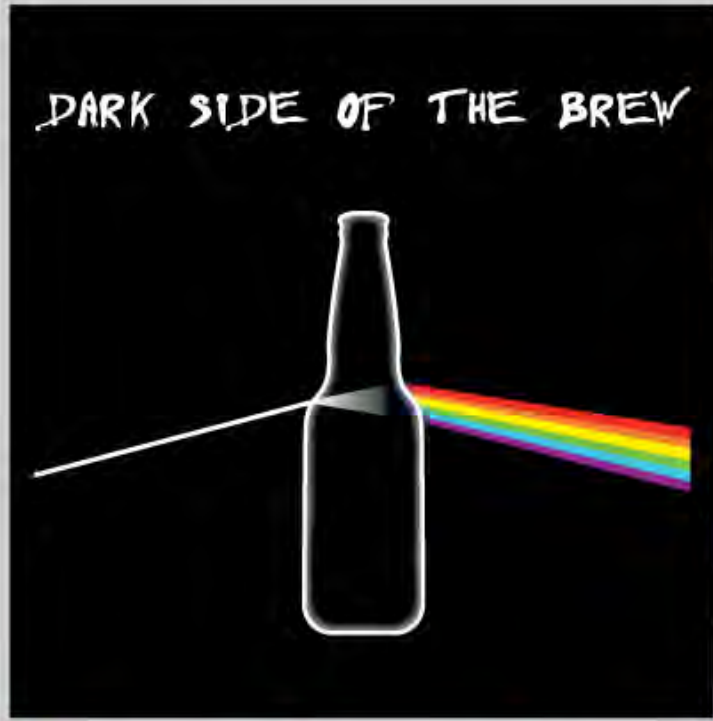
While this year's theme, "Dark Side Of The Brew", borrows from a pretty trippy band, it also speaks to the environment in Talkeetna during this time of year. It's a popular summer destination, known as the gateway to Denali, and showcases a more laid-back way of Alaskan life. Beer Trippin' 2012 will be held from Friday, March 30th through Sunday, April 1st. If you haven't been to Talkeetna during this "darker" time of the year, you are really missing out! Gone are the crowded sidewalks and "touristy" feel of the town – this is Talkeetna laid bare! Although there's still a chill in the air, walking down the quiet streets and visiting the local shops and eateries is a real treat. This is all further enhanced by the great events and social fun organized specifically for this weekend by GNBC club members and Denali Brewing Company head honchos Boe Barnett and Ty Schommer, and the awesome crew of folks with Denali Brewing Company and Twister Creek Restaurant. Every year, this weekend event grows, and we hope you'll consider joining your fellow club members for a great getaway weekend!

More information about this event is coming in regularly, but here's what we know right now:

- Denali Brewing Company will host the annual Beer Trippin' homebrew competition. There are no restrictions on style or brew names. This is a non-BJCP sanctioned event, so anything goes! The winner is typically chosen by a mix of local folks and some of the experienced among us. More information will be forthcoming on when and where to have your brews turned in for entry.
- The event t-shirt design is complete, and will be available for purchase during the Beer Trippin' weekend. An image of the shirt is being included with this article. The shirt will likely retail for \$20, however if you purchase the shirt at the event and show your current GNBC membership card, you'll get it for \$15! This is a limited time offer, available only during the event weekend, and only from DBC/Twister Creek.
- More events for the weekend are being planned, and will be made known over the next few months. You can expect some fun things at Mountain High Pizza Pie, Flying Squirrel Bakery, Talkeetna Roadhouse, and other fine establishments around Talkeetna. There's lots of other things you can do while you're there too – flightseeing, snow machining, hiking, or just being reclusively lazy are all great ways to unwind!
- You will find lots of great places to lay your head as well! Check out the GNBC Facebook page or the Talkeetna Chamber Of Commerce (talkeetnachamber.org) for information on local lodging. Event attendees from years past can also guide you on good places to stay if you are unsure.

We hope you'll come out and support this great event – if you haven't been before, we'd love to see you out there! This is a highlight of the year for many of the club faithful. Once you check it out, it is sure to be one for you as well! For any questions about this event, please talk to Jim Lamb or Joe Michael! Once again, please be sure to check the February and March newsletters and the GNBC Facebook page for continually updated information and newly added events about Beer Trippin' 2012.





Black

8 color

12" Wide

Full Front



Black

White

12" Wide

Back

Festival Success – I’m a Survivor

by *Fermento*

The 2012 Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival (GABBF) was a good event this year, depending on who you ask. It was for me, but it always is. Based on those of you I saw on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, my guess is that those of you that participated in one of the many AK Beer Week Events, including the Fest itself had a good time.

Our fledgling Alaska Beer Week is gaining momentum in its second year of official proclamation. Where last year we had scarcely a dozen events, all crammed into mostly Wednesday night, this year the official tally is upwards of 60 events that you could choose from to fill a week of nothing but foamy bliss.

I’m writing this with a few different hats on. Being a member of the Great Northern Brewer’s Club, it was great to spend time with old and new friends with good beer as a focus. Time constraints keep me from attending more club meetings and participating in our noteworthy events, but my heart’s still there and always will be. Every month when I edit your newsletter submissions, I get a deep longing to re-engage more fully and even start brewing again. I sure miss both the art and alchemy of homebrewing, although I must admit I was never as good at it as most of you have become, even in your formative years.



More importantly, as President of the Brewer’s Guild of Alaska, I can’t thank you enough for once again supporting my rag-tag, often unruly bunch of brewers and their associates within the industry on Thursday night just prior to the GABBF sessions themselves. Of all of our gigs, I know this puts

some strain on the Club and taxes us GNBCr’s in many different ways. Don’t think that your efforts aren’t recognized. The more aware in our bunch recognize that the AK Beer Week calendar is conspicuously empty on Thursday night. There’s a reason for this. It’s because anyone and everyone in the beer industry relishes in the hosting of the Guild at our annual Club meeting that we so generously host once a year. So, from a Guild perspective, and representing all 22 of our licensed brewing operations in Alaska, my wig’s off to you folks for your tireless efforts to make us all so happy once a year.



Many of you directly supported this year’s GABBF in a couple of ways. Thanks to all of you that volunteered to serve at this year’s festival and put up with the troglodyte requirement that you submit demographic information that would be sent to the Anchorage Police Department to ensure you have not been involved in any alcohol related incidents. Reports back from the event producer, Aurora Productions, indicates that there were only two folks out of over 200 volunteers that were rejected for this reason. I was not provided with further information as to whether these two folks were part of our club or not. I’m not guessing so.

And, for those of you that put up with the unruly, seemingly just-of-age crowd that came unglued at the end of the sessions because the event producer was lacking in letting folks know that last call was earlier than previous years, kudos for hanging in there and taking the heat. I deem this action on the part of the event producer egregious and it’s being addressed. The problem was identified early on, and the producer’s website and

Ticketmaster postings highlighted the change. By then, I was assured that only 33 percent of the tickets were sold, but it was the remaining 67 percent that caused problems at the early termination of each session. I can’t apologize for the producer’s lack of attention to detail in this matter, which might have prevented this grief, but I can apologize from the standpoint of the breweries and distributors that supported this event, for what you put up with.



And, there's no way this festival, which highlights the annual barley wine competition, could take place without the dedicated commitment of judges that come directly from GNBC's ranks to determine each year's best commercially brewed barley wine entered in the competition. Year after year, GNBCr's tirelessly and professionally judge this event which also includes the Best Winter Beer competition as well.

I've judged in many events across the country and am here to tell you that no event is so professionally handled and judged as our own right here in Alaska. I'm proud to be a part of it and proud to highlight our Club as integral to 17 years of continued success as we posture ourselves as being a part of the biggest and best barley wine festival on the globe.

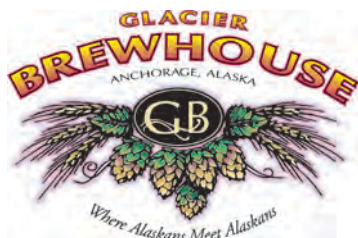
globe, and we're endlessly pitted against the Toronado Barleywine Festival in San Francisco every year. The only edge they have on us is proximity to more barley wine that ends up there quicker and easier and especially cheaper than it does here.

The only distinction is that they get a handful more entrants than we do, and that's only because distribution networks on the west coast get their beer to them cheaper than it takes to get an entrant up here. That's slowly changing. Again, the more aware folks keyed in on the fact that the Toronado event was cancelled last year because of venue problems. We stood tall, and despite much of the adversity surrounding our own event, we have prevailed year after year.



Longer standing club members will recall when Michael Jackson attended our event and proclaimed it the best of the best, saying that ours is a real festival and not just a collection of barley wines that could be had by attending Toronado's small enclave in the Haight district of San Francisco. I've been there. I've judged the competition and I've seen the aftermath. My conclusion is that WE ROCK!

So, as you continue to recover from a long nine days of drinking pleasure, rest assured that your participation and contribution have not gone unnoticed. I may not stand for much in this nation's best beer drinking destination, but I recognize your efforts.



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:

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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: February 21st, 2012
7:00 pm at the Snow Goose**