



The Prez Sez

Listen Up! Ira's got @&@% to say!

Rondy Homebrew Competition Heats Up

Brew, judge proctor, attend, drink

Secretary's Corner

Dena's recap and 2008 forecast

Revised Brewer Of The Year Categories Announced

All is fair in beer and war

Brewer of The Year Statistics

Cry in your beer: Jason prevails

Beer Literature For Sale!

Get literate for cheap

The Great Alaska Beer And Barley Wine Festival Needs YOU!

Volunteer or be DAMNED!

Big, Fatty Imperial Stout Commemorates 4/25 Fallen Heros

Fermento brews a beer to honor a fallen son

THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JANUARY 2008

The Prez Sez

by Ira Edwards

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Woo Hoo! I made it through another year, and 2008 is looking to be another great year for the Great Northern Brewers Club. And, January is going to be the biggest month of the year. That's right; it is time for the 2008 Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival (January 18-19 at the Egan Center), and all the activities and events that surround it. Be sure to check with the staff at SubZero, Cafe Amsterdam, Tap Root Cafe and other for activities that they are planning in conjunction with this event. For the actual Festival there is a new addition with a connoisseur's tasting before the main event opens up. It is another \$10, but is shaping up to be well worth it with special beers brought in just for this part of the festival.



Since there will be so many fine and tasty beverages to sample, remember to stay safe out there. Get a designated driver, call a cab, or just don't drink that much. My solution is usually to volunteer as a server at the festival and space out my drinking with bouts of actual work pouring samples for others. Then you can work and drink both days and space out your consumption. Another solution is to get yourself a room downtown. I have seen room specials at places ranging from the Copper Whale Inn to the Captain Cook Hotel. Just call and mention the festival and ask about room specials. More info on the Festival and info on how to VOLUNTEER can be found at <http://www.auroraproductions.net/beer-barley.html>

Our January GNBC Club Meeting will again be one of our most popular events. The meeting is again held at the ballroom at the Snow Goose restaurant (thanks Gary) and will start at 7pm on THURSDAY, January 17, not Tuesday like the rest of our meetings. This year for our guest speaker we have Sam Calagione, the President & Founder of Dogfish Head Craft Brewery. Some of our club members have heard him speak at the National Homebrewers Conference and I have been told he puts on a good show. He even emailed and said he will bring a couple of cases of some of his latest crazy beers. The meeting will also be full of Brewers from the establishments sending up beer for the festival, along with some other industry types. A rep from Wyeast will even be at the meeting and he is excited to see our club. Remember to bring some fine home brew to foist on all these traveling dignitaries (that includes me, as I have to travel like eight miles to get to the meeting).

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**PRETTY IN PINK AT THE
2007 GNBC XMAS PARTY**

FOAMY THOWS A RAGE



Like I said, we have big things happening in 2008. Because of all of our moaning and groaning about problems with the First Round of the National Home brew Competition (NHC), we were told to "put up or shut up." So, while we are finalizing the logistics of the event, it looks like the GNBC is going to host the judging of the NHC 2008 First Round for the Northwest Region. This is very big news, folks. Get your taste buds and critical thinking skills tuned up at the Beer and Barleywine Festival and at the Fur Rondy and Snow Goose Breakup Home Brew Contests.

Read on later in the newsletter for the categories for 2008 Brewer of the Year competition and the results of the 2007 competition. Congrats to Jason Ditsworth for scoring the most points and dealing with the nightmare of keeping track of the competition throughout the year. The Board has decided to make things simpler from now on, and since I am going to keep track of the BOTY points, that makes me a happy man.

That brings up a couple of changes to this year's competition schedule. We still have the Rondy Competition organized by Dennis Sessler and the Big Fish organized by Jason Ditsworth as our first and last contests of the year. I am running the Snow Goose Breakup Home Brew Competition, and that will be a bit different this year and the date will change slightly because of the upcoming NHC judging. Read on later in the newsletter for a description hatched up by myself and the brewers at the Goose, Clay and Greg. Finally, the GNBC has officially decided to not be involved in the Alaska State Fair Homebrew Competition for 2008 and quite probably until the end of time. The rules to make the contest work with the State Fair, and the fact that they wanted judging to occur exclusively in Palmer on a Sunday, created a safety issue of getting folks home from Palmer after drinking a lot of beer. It is always hard to get drivers on out of town events. So we have decided to pursue a new event in the fall. A lot of options are still being tossed around, but I think that we are off to a good start on an event that the club can pull off with lots of entries, and good judging attendance. Pay attention in the coming months for details as they emerge.

Well, that's it for this month. I'll see you at the meeting on the 17th and at the festival after that! Enjoy your Beers, Meads, and Ciders, this month and remember to stay safe out there.

2008 Anchorage Fur Rondy Homebrew Competition

by Dennis Sessler

Well it just may be too late to get a beer or mead brewed for the 2008 Fur Rondy HBC, but now is the time to get your entries ready for submission. I will be excepting entries in the basement of the Snow Goose on the February 8, 2008 between 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. A fee of \$4.00 per entry will be required with an AHA/BJCP entry form. Please provide 3- 12 oz. bottles or 1- 750 ml bottle with still mead/cider entries.

Entries can be shipped via UPS or FED EX or DHL, not USPS to Sleeping Lady Brewery, Fur Rondy HBC, 717 West Third Avenue, Anchorage AK 99501. Please e-mail me if sending entries to the brewery and I will retrieve your submission and enter them into the computer on the 8th.

This year's competition will have a Best of Show (BOS) Mead/Cider and a Best of Show beer. There will be a special prize for each BOS winner plus all the great Fur Rondy ribbons and notoriety. Let's make this a great competition, show up and enter, show up and judge/steward, show up and "Rondy". The winners will be recognized at the February meeting on the 19th. Please stop by and congratulate them all. For more info contact me at sessak@mtaonline.net.



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

16.....*Seven Deadly Sins/Pre-Fest Dinner
at SubZero: \$95.00: call 276-BEER
for Reservations*

16.....*Whale's Tail (Captain Cook)
Schneider/Chimay Tasting
6:15 PM: \$55.00*

16:.....*Suite 100 North Coast Brewing
Release at 6:30 with Dinner at
7:00 PM*

16:.....*Sack's Cafe Koningshoven, Urthel,
and Tripel Karmeliet release
Details TBA*

17:.....*4/25 Fallen Hero Imperial Stout
Release at the Goose*

17:.....*GNBC Pre-Barley Wine Festival
Meeting at the Goose: 7:00 PM*

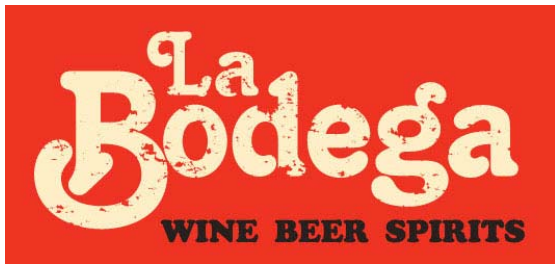
18:.....*Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine
Festival 4:00 - 10:00 PM \$30.00*

19:.....*Great Alaska Ber and Barley Wine
Festival: 5:00 - 10:00 PM \$30.00*

08:.....*Entries for Rondy Homebrew
Competition Accepted at the Goose
11:00 AM- ??*

09:.....*Rondy Homebrew Competition
Judging at the Goose*

16:.....*Ring of Fire Special Release Mead
at Tap Root Cafe*



Secretary's Corner

by Dena Sessler

Happy New Year to all! I am looking forward to serving as your Secretary for 2008. I know the New Year will bring brewing, friends old and new, and knowledge along with it.

The board met at the Snow Goose on the 5th of December and the topics that were discussed were 2008 Homebrewer Of The Year (HBOTY) categories, a new HBOTY award, and judging the first round of Nationals. We are going to four categories instead of six in 2008 for the HBOTY award. For all of the details on the HBOTY, new HBOTY, and judging the first round, go to the Prez Sez article for all of the latest information.

For those of you that are interested in pouring at the Beer and Barley Wine Festival, you must have a TAMS/TIPS card. Annie Chavez of Aurora Productions has put together two special classes to be held at the Snow Goose. The first is on Tuesday, January 8th at 6:00pm and the second will be on Saturday, January 12th at 11:00am. The cost of the class is \$35.00 and is limited to 30 people per class. If you are interested in taking the course, please contact Annie Chavez at 907-562-9911 to reserve a spot.

The 2007 HBOTY results are in. Jason Ditsworth has done it again but the race was much closer than in years past. Only 26 points separated 1st and 3rd place. Steve Jayich took 2nd and Ira Edwards 3rd. The new entrants for 2007 were Flash Lubitsh-White and Mark Reiss. Congratulations and great brewing!

Remember, January's club meeting will take place on Thursday the 17th of January not Tuesday the 15th. Don't miss it as it is the best meeting of the year! Hope to see you all there.



THREE "WISE" MEN



SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER

Brewer of the Year Categories for 2008

by *Ira Edwards*

Jason Ditsworth won the Brewer of the Year competition again for 2007, but both myself and Steve Jayich were right in there until the Big Fish competition when Jason scored big. It also looks like Steve and I forgot to enter a couple of contests during the year. It appears that to win this notable distinction, you have to score in every contest, so that means we all need to get brewing for 2008.

This year, we are going to do things a little differently to make things easier both for myself (I volunteered to keep track of the points) and for all of you who enter the contest. There will still be five contests that we count towards Brewer of the Year (BOTY) status: Fur Rondy, Snow Goose Breakup, Nationals (both first and second round will be counted), the new and soon to be announced Fall competition that replaces the Alaska State Fair, and finally, the Humpy's Big Fish. Instead of six categories per contest where you had to choose four entries to be scored for BOTY points, we are reducing the choices to four categories per contest (with a possible exception or two, depending on the competition organizer). I will then just take your highest scoring entry in each of the four categories and add that to your points tally. This results in less paperwork for me and fewer choices for you to make. Now you are still free to enter in all the other styles open in each competition, and I encourage you to do so if you like to brew other styles. These are just the styles we have chosen for this year. If you brew with someone and put their name on the entry form for that competition, I will award equal point to each brewer, with a limit of three brewers earning points on a given entry.

There will be a separate notation on the points list for a brewer who has not won a prize in a GNBC or NHC contest in any previous year. The Category will be called "New Entrant", since some people may have been brewing for years, been members of GNBC for years, or maybe just figured out which category to enter their beers in. It will also include folks who are completely new to brewing. We really want to encourage people to improve their brewing skills and not have to compete against those who have won medals in every contest for years. Look at Steve Jayich (Sorry Steve...). He just started entering contests in GNBC a couple of years ago and probably would have won this year if he had not forgotten about the Rondy Competition.

The Club has been pretty negligent in recognizing the Brewer of the Year, and also the best New Entrant of the year. But we are going to start something nice this year to make it a goal worthy of entering you finest beverages.

For 2009, we will announce the styles in the fall, to make sure there is time to brew.

Here are the style categories for the 2008 GNBC Home Brew Competitions. Happy Brewing and good luck.

Fur Rondzvous Home Brew Competition

Category	Name
9	Scottish and Irish Ale
12	Porter
14	India Pale Ale
19	Strong Ale

Snow Goose Breakup Home Brew Completion

Category	Name
6	Light Hybrid Beer
7	Amber Hybrid Beer
8	English Pale Ale
11	English Brown Ale



2008 National Home Brew Completion

All styles are open and points are scored on any ribbon earned in the first round or medal in the second round. Enter them all, and good luck.

**BRECK PRACTICES
CRAWLING HOME**



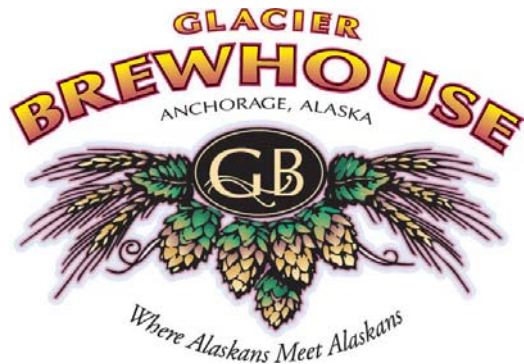
**A COUPLE OF MORE
"WISE MEN"**



2007 Brewer of the Year Statistics - The Final Countdown

compiled by Jason Ditsworth

Brewer	Fur Rondy	Big Fish	Snow Goose	NHC Round 1	NHC Round 2
State Fair				FINAL TOTAL	
Jason Ditsworth	20	8	14	18	60
Steve Jayich		20	6	20	46
Ira Edwards	14		16	4	34
Steve Schmitt	8	6	10	2	26
Flash Lubitsh-White	6	6		12	24
Rory Petrik	14		6	2	22
Dan Bosch	6			8	14
Breck Tostevin				12	12
John Trapp				8	8
Dena Sessler	6				6
Dave Bieganski			2	4	6
Mark Ryan				6	6
Tim Bisson	4				4
Tom Pease		4			4
Mark Reiss		2			2
Chris Anderson			2		2
Ted Rosenzweig				2	2
Ed Kenna				2	2





Brewing Literature For Sale

Roger Penrod, one of the Club's long-standing members has some excess literature around that he's willing to part with. He has a variety of brewing books and a sizable collection of Brewing Techniques magazines. Roger's asking \$50.00 for the entire collection. If you're interested in expanding your library, contact Roger at (907) 306-0546 or at pharmboy@gci.net.

Volunteer to Serve at the 2008 Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival!

**GREAT ALASKA
BEER &
BARLEY WINE
FESTIVAL**

3rd YEAR 2008

**Volunteers
Needed!**

*The Friendly,
the Fun Loving,
& the Dedicated!*

**Egan Convention Center
January 18-19, 2008**

For more information, please contact
Aurora Productions, Inc. 562-9911 or showpros@alaska.net

Thank you for your interest and willingness to participate at our festival! **Must be a minimum of 21 years of age!**

★ *A proud sponsor of The American Diabetes Association* ★



Goose Brew In Memory of Fallen Heros of the Gulf War

reprinted from December 2007 GNBC Newsletter

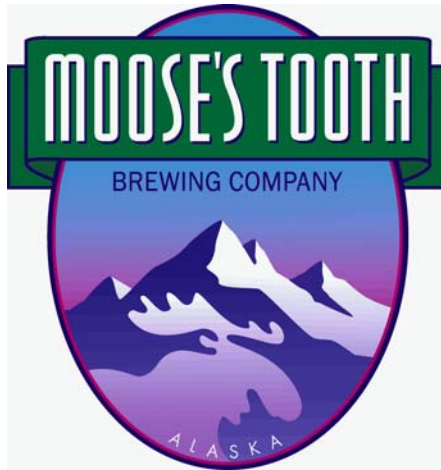
On January 20th, 2007, the word came in that I lost my son-in-law in Iraq. I was on my way to the 2007 Great Alaska Beer and Barley Wine Festival. I made some rapid adjustments and arrived at my daughter's house and was met with Army dignitaries including a chaplain, unit commanders and other people that shared in the intense loss. Of course, the loss was greater for my daughter, but I was hurting "big time," as they say in the industry. My daughter mandated that I attend the festival in SPC Jeffrey Bisson's honor. I did. Although understandably distracted, I drank in Jeff's honor. That's what he would have wanted me to do.

Close to one year later, people don't forget about not only my family's loss, but in a more global perspective, the loss of our servicemen that have fought to protect freedom both here and beyond. The Snow Goose Restaurant and Sleeping Lady Brewing Company have commissioned an imperial stout in honor of Alaska's loss of soldiers in support of our freedom. I was proud to assist in the brewing of this beer that will be released in conjunction with the one-year anniversary of my son's passing. The Goose, and in particular, Gary Klopfer (owner) have a big heart.

The proceeds of the sale of this brew will be added to the memorial fund that will immortalize the soldiers of the 4th Brigade, 25h Infantry Division at Ft. Richardson that didn't come home with the rest of the troops that deployed with my son-in-law.

This is a big beer. It's perhaps the biggest beer ever brewed at the Goose. I can attest that it's good. Brewer Clay Brackley said it had a bodacious heartbeat after it started to perk in the fermenter. He worked extensively with Dennis Urban to create the recipe. Lisa Urban was the brainchild of the whole honorary brew not only for my son, but the rest of the fallen heros.

So, the bottom line is to get to the Goose a little bit early for the club meeting and hoist a pint for our those who didn't come home in defense of our freedom. The beer will be officially released at 6:00 PM. If you rub elbows in the upstairs pub with the solders that came back, buy them a beer in their honor. Help make them proud and remind them that we never forget the sacrifice they've made for our country and help them get over the loss of their comrades in arms that didn't make it home with them.



**HAPPY 2008
FROM THE GREAT
NORTHERN BREWER'S
CLUB**



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



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NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 17th At the Goose