



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JANUARY 2009

The Prez Sez

by Ira Edwards

Happy New Year! I hope everyone made it through the Holiday season...I know I did! I was busy building my sauna firing it up for the first time and drinking some fine home brew. Spending time with Family and Friends was also a big part of my holiday and I hope yours were spent doing the things that were important to you with those you care about most.



2009 is going to start off with a Bang for the club! We have the 2009 Great Alaska Beer and Barleywine Festival shaping up and it's going to be bigger and better than last year. There are several new breweries and a lot of related activities and dinners that surround the festival. Keep an eye out in Fermento's Blog www.drfermento.net and in the local news sources for activities and be sure to schedule yourself in for the Connoisseur's session on Saturday January 17. The big event for the Great Northern Brewers Club Members is the monthly meeting on THURSDAY, January 15 at the Snow Goose Ballroom. That's right, this month we are not meeting on the 3rd Tuesday but the day before the festival starts.

We have an action packed lineup at the meeting and it is going to again be one of our largest meetings of the year. Many of the visiting brewers and brewery representatives will be bringing interesting samples and wanting to visit and chat with passionate homebrewers. We also have two great guest speakers. We'll start off with Eric Wallace, the brewer from Left Hand Brewing Company. Check out his biography later in this newsletter for some info on a really passionate brewer. Finally we will have Don Russell, aka "Joe Sixpack" to come and talk to us on the interesting topic of Winter Beers around the world. Check him out at www.joesixpack.net

Also this month, the board is going to start on some plans to improve the face of the GNBC. If anyone has any suggestions on activities or services that we can improve on, please feel free to let me or one of the board members know and we will take it into consideration. We want to get everyone of you involved in the club and make it the best group we can. Your participation in the club is what makes it such a great group. We are always looking for newsletter articles cataloging your creations, vacations and passions.

We'll see you at the meeting this month and at the festival afterwards. Say safe out there and enjoy those Beers, Meads and Ciders.

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The Prez Sez

Left Hand Brewing Company's
Eric Wallace

Sunday Morning Hangover
Skiing

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Left Hand Brewing Company's Eric Wallace

by Ira Edwards

(Editor's Note: This piece was released by the brewery, but gives you some great background on one of our guest speakers at the GNBC meeting this month – Enjoy!)

John Eric Wallace is the President and co-founder of Indian Peaks Brewing Company, parent company of Left Hand Brewing Company. Eric grew up around the world as the son of an Air Force officer, and was exposed to good beer at a precocious age in Germany. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1984 with a degree in international affairs, and spent 8 years in the Air Force as a communications officer in Italy and Turkey before moving back to the U.S. in 1993. Upon his return, he was inspired by the renaissance in craft brewing developing here in the U.S. and, along with co-founder Dick Doore, decided to jump headfirst into the craft beer business.



On the personal side, Eric has been married to his wife, Cinzia, since 1991 and has three beautiful children, Noami, Noel and Nick. He's an avid foodie, loves good espresso, and seeks out the weird and unusual beers that are being produced in this country, and will even tell you that the US is the most interesting and creative craft brewing scene in the world today. Once you spend time with him, you'll know he's passionate about beer and food pairings – he's a supporting member of the Slow Food movement, and even his business card says "Beer is Food." He's enjoyed working with top restaurants around the country, putting on close to 100 different beer dinners to a range of audiences, from the novice to the beer geek and all others in between. Whether its over a Black Jack Porter, an espresso, or a bowl of pasta in all its myriad diversities, you'll enjoy your time with Eric.

One of Eric's other passions is giving back to our local communities where he works, lives and plays. He serves on the Imagine! Foundation Board of Directors, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival Advisory Board, and is the Vice President of the Colorado Brewers Guild.

Eric has been a supporting member of the Slow Food movement since the late 90's.

Slow Food is a non-profit, eco-gastro-nomic member-supported organization that was founded in 1989 to counteract fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions and people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes and how our food choices affect the rest of the world.

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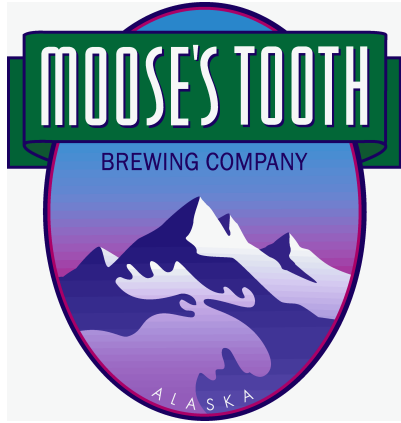
For more information and how you can join the movement, visit www.slowfood.com. Left Hand Brewing was founded by Eric Wallace and Dick Doore on September 21, 1993, and has been crafting a well-balanced portfolio of award-winning beers that are now available in 26 states and 7 countries. We believe in balance in beers, that beer is food, and that we won't make a beer that we don't drink.

MEETING SETUP		
A - J	JAN	Setup
K - P		Cleanup
R - Z		Food
A - J	FEB	Cleanup
K - P		Food
R - Z		Setup
A - J	MAR	Food
K - P		Setup
R - Z		Cleanup

Sunday Morning Hangover Skiing Is Back!

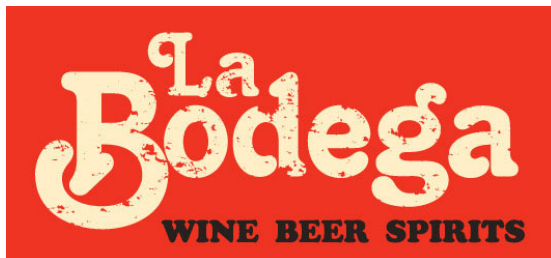
by John Trapp

Now that the silly season is behind us, and if you're like me I'm sure you ate truckloads of food and drank boatloads of beer. Well I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but we could all use a little exercise to purge the system. Since South Central Alaska is finally having a fantastic snow season (though a little cold) and the ski trails are in excellent shape, we need to start skiing on them. GNBC started doing this about 4 or 5 years ago and it was a nice way to get out, get some exercise in, make fun of each other (in a good way) and enjoy the trails. Over the last year or two we let the ball slip and no one bothered organizing a schedule to get my/our fat asses back on the trails.



For starters, these ski outings are for all experience levels, from beginner to old pro. Also, you don't need to have a super fancy \$900 skate ski package to have fun, any type of cross country skis will do. There are certain trails that don't allow skate skis, but for

the most part it'll be just fine either way. I ski on both and probably use my classical skis 60% of the time. To be honest with you, I'm not in good enough shape yet to jump on the skates, so for the first couple of outings I'll be on my track skis.



EVENTS

Every First Thursday

Moose's Tooth First Tap

Every Friday

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

14.....*Kinley's Restaurant and Bar
Left Hand Brewing Co. Dinner*

14.....*SubZero Microlounge
Pre-GABBF Dinner*

15.....*GNBC Monthly Meeting in the
Goose Ballroom*

16-17.....*2009 Great Alaska Beer and
Barleywine Festival*

28.....*SubZero Microlounge:
Celestial Meads Dinner*

06.....*Entries Accepted for 2009 Rondo
Homebrew Competition at the
Goose*

07.....*Judging for 2009 Rondo
Homebrew Competition at the
Goose: 10:00 am*

17.....*GNBC Monthly Meeting at the
Goose*

22.....*BJCP Exam at Cafe Amsterdam*

CAFE



AMSTERDAM

I hear you asking the big question already, "When is this"? Starting on January 11th, at 9:00 a.m. and continuing every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. until the snow melts and we can't ski anymore. We will rotate the venue, from Hillside, to Kinkaid, to Beach Lake in Eagle River, and possibly Hatcher's Pass out in the Valley. We've even been known to enjoy a few malted beverages after we're done.

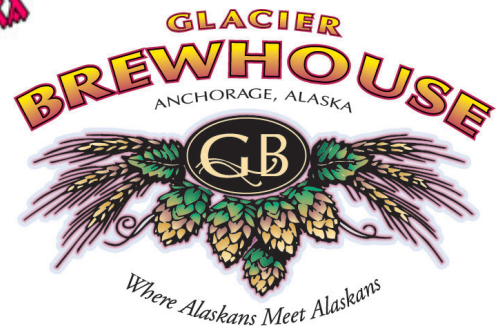
I'm only going to give a 3 week schedule and see how it goes. So here's the dates and place you need to be at for some GNBC skiing fun.

Sunday January 11th, 9:00 a.m. at Hillside trail parking lot. This is the lot just off Abbott before you turn into Hill Top ski area.

Sunday January 18th, 9:00 a.m. at Kinkaid. Follow Raspberry road in and park at the lower lot just before you drive around the stadium. And I know, this is after Barley Wine Fest, so it'll be a true Hangover Ski.

Sunday January 25th, 9:00 a.m. at Beach Lake in Eagle River. I have no clue where to park, I've never been there, but we'll find it and ski.

I hope to see many people come out and enjoy this activity. It was lots of fun in the past and I'm sure it'll be a big hit once again. So get those skis out, wax them if you need to and meet me on the trails.



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*



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NEXT MEETING: January 15th, 2009 (THURSDAY) at the Goose