



THE

# Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JULY 2010

## The Prez Sez

by Dennis Sessler

Summer is in full swing now. As I write my article I am watching the clock slip away on another summer solstice night. Yes it is a little sad

to realize that in a few days we will be losing just a few seconds a day. And by the time you read this, our June campout at Eklutna Lake Campground will be in the bag. Too bad we can't stop the clock just to give us a little more time to get all those summer projects done, all that fishing, and smoking, all that salmon so when the clock starts again we can enjoy our favorite pastime. Well I take most of that back; we could very easily enjoy a cold one while fishin' or smokin' up the catch. Not sure on the summer projects, at least I can speak from experience. The more I enjoy a fine cool one, the less work gets done around the house. I can hear that whip crackin' already!

As I finish this month's article I am thinking about all the good times the club membership will be having this coming weekend at Eklutna Lake Campground. Every year this is one of my favorite club events. There is enough room for all the kids to ride bikes, play in the woods and mud, while the adults can kick back and reminisce about all the past campouts and memorable club events. This is what summer is supposed to be. We put up all winter long for the chance of enjoying the midnight sun and all the activities that come with it. I want to thank Joe Michaels for volunteering to coordinate this year's campout. He picked a wonderful theme, and maybe it will bring some of the warmer, sunnier weather our way also. All club members who attended please feel free to post some pictures on the GNBC's Facebook page. This is our social site for up to the minute updates on everything beer related.

July is going to be another busy month for the homebrew club. For everyone looking for some beer related love we have three events lined up for everyone. Can't attend all three? Try your best to make it too at least one. Our homebrew club survives on the backs of the membership as a whole.

The first club event will be the July 14<sup>th</sup> picnic at Jeff Loughrey's home. I contacted him on the details and he said go back to the past years info. Check out the details further in the newsletter. This will be on a Wednesday evening so clear your calendar. The next big event is the **GNBC/Humpy's Charity Golf Tournament**.



The Prez Sez

It's Membership Time

Golf Tournament

GNBC Summer Picnic

E.T. Barnetter Homebrew  
Competition

E.T. Barnette Call for Judges

Membership Application

Anchor Town Invitational  
Homebrew Competition

GNBC Summer Campout  
"The Year of the Dogs"

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That's right; we co sponsor this very worthwhile event. The money raised is donated to **First Tee**, a nonprofit organization that not only teaches children how to golf, but more importantly teaches them life skills. I'm so proud that our club is able to partake in this wonderful event. A big thanks to Billy Opinsky and all the crew at Humpy's for providing the engine behind this venture year after year. Most importantly thanks to Mike Hartman and Jason Distworth. They have assumed the chairman responsibilities and are requesting that club members in droves contact them and help volunteer at this event. If you wish to play in the tournament you can reserve your team spot and pay for it when you follow the link on the front page of our club website. We will need maximum participation for everything to come off without a hitch. I volunteered last year and had a blast. There are so many little things that must be accomplished in a very short time. Check out Mike and Jason's article and give them a call to help volunteer. The date for this event is July 24<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendar.

The next event will be the **E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition in Fox, Alaska**. That's right; it's time for another road trip. This event will be July 31<sup>st</sup>. Check out Scott's article in the newsletter for all the details. Every year members from the club venture north to help judge this small but worthwhile competition. The grand prize is \$500.00 and is limited to only a few BJCP styles. All the details will be in his articles. If you judge and wish to enter, your beers can be hand delivered to the competition saving you a lot of money in shipping costs. My family will be road tripping and were thinking of staying a Pikes Waterfront Lodge. The lodging rates are cheaper than driving up in my truck with the camper. Check on the GNBC Facebook page for details, maybe we can reserve a block of rooms and have a blast.

Do you have that competition bug yet, because we have another one lined up? The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Anchortown Invitational** is scheduled to be held Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>. John Trapp is the event coordinator and has all the details to follow later in the newsletter. The categories that will garner points for this competition towards Homebrewer of the Year will be BJCP categories 7,10,13,15 and 27. Go to <http://www.bjcp.org/2008styles/catdex.php> to find out all about beer styles for competition and go here, <http://www.bjcp.org/sitemap.php> for entry forms. This website has a wealth of information about competitions and beer style guidelines.

On the Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August we will take care of our club business and will be having a barbeque/picnic at my home in Eagle River. I know it might be out of your comfort zone driving so far to the north, but just think of it like this, Thursday is ladies night, bring the wife and kids and let's have a fun filled evening. More details will be coming in the August newsletter.

I hope that everyone has a blast this month, come and visit with fellow club members and enjoy all the events that have been planned this month. If you are new to the club there is no better way to meet everyone, than anyone of these events. As a veteran member please make everyone feel welcome, show all the new members why the GNBC is the best homebrew club around. Till we meet again, enjoy the 4<sup>th</sup>, celebrate your freedom and show some love..... homebrew style. Don't forget to think before you drink, always plan for a safe return.

Brew On

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



## 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 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 on page 6 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.

Either way, renew your dues early to avoid any lapse in your membership card. They expire the 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

# EVENTS

Every First Thursday  
*Moose's Tooth First Tap*

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

14.....GNBC Summer Picnic at  
*Jeff Loughery's*

12 - 28...*E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition Entries Due*

24.....*Humpy's/GNBC Golf Tournament*

31.....*E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition in Fox, Alaska*

13.....*Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition deadline for entries*

15.....*Anchortown Invitational Homebrew Competition at Cafe*

27.....*GNBC Summer BBQ at Dennis and Dena's house*

21.....*GNBC Monthly Meeting at the Goose 7:00 pm*



# HUMPY'S/GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

*by Mike Hartman*

It is amazing how time flies. It was twelve years ago that Jason Ditsworth and I sat down (with beers in hand of course) and decided the club needed a golf tournament. We started with a handful of tee times arranged at the Moose Run Hill Golf course and twenty golfers (not to mention many kegs of homebrew that are now illegal to bring on the course). The tournament made all of \$1500 which we evenly split up to increase the club's checking account, fund the annual Christmas party, and donate to a local charity.

So, to move forward in time, here we are a dozen years later again directing the golf tournament. It isn't exactly the same tournament now, as many things have changed. One thing that has changed is combining our tournament and Humpy's annual golf tournament. The one thing that has not changed, and has remained a constant through the years, is the amount of fun that happens on the day of the tournament and the generosity shown by all the sponsors and volunteers that make this great event possible.

The event is now a double-stacked shotgun scramble, which means there are now 144 golfers and our proceeds are very substantial compared to the early years. Nearly all the proceeds are donated to the First Tee Alaska Program [www.thefirstteealaska.org](http://www.thefirstteealaska.org), which is an incredible program that teaches kids about life through golf. It is not a program to teach kids to be professional golfers. It is a program that helps kids learn and understand that many of the basic fundamentals of how the game is played are the basic fundamentals of a good and honest person.

We are still looking for a few volunteers and are not asking anyone to dedicate their whole day; just a few hours would really help. We'll even feed you! Contact Jason Ditsworth at [jditsworth@gci.net](mailto:jditsworth@gci.net) (338-8828), or Mike Hartman at [brewmaster@gci.net](mailto:brewmaster@gci.net) (345-6679) to volunteer. We would appreciate your help. Volunteer positions we need to fill include:

- Person to put the sponsor signs out at 6:15 AM
- Two additional player check in staff (already have one volunteer – Glenna Hartman)
- BBQ set up, monitoring and clean up (2 or 3 people) – show up by 11:00 AM, eat, have a beer, cleanup and your home by 3:00 or 3:30.
- Friday night load all the prizes, dry goods and supplies, etc. into the U-haul van at Humpy's. Need 2 more people in addition to Billy and Shawn from Humpy's. Show up at 5:30 PM, done by 7:00 PM.
- Friday night golf course setup. Show up at Humpy's at 5:30 PM to procure tents, tables, chairs for beer stations, etc., go to the course and complete setup. Done by 9:00 PM. Need 1 more person – Hartman, Ditsworth, Schmitt already volunteered.
- Golf scorekeeper (1 person). Show up by 11:00 AM the day of the tournament. Check in with golf course for score board, etc., and pre-populate the board with team names and numbers. Be at the barbecue area no later than 11:45 to start collecting score cards and determine the winning teams, long drives, and closest to the pin prizes.
- Prize coordinator to solicit sponsors for prizes and pick up the prizes for delivery to Humpy's where they will be stored until the U-haul van is loaded the night before the tournament (1 coordinator that can enlist help, but this person is responsible).

The tournament is still being held at Moose Run's Hill Course and this year it's being held on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$400 for a four-person team, which includes green fees, carts, BBQ lunch, prizes, and of course, BEER!

Registration for teams closes July 17<sup>th</sup> so please sign up early, or tell your friends to get registered early as we will fill up fast. You will find the registration flyer and link to sign up with a credit card or with Pay Pal at [www.greatnorthernbrewers.org](http://www.greatnorthernbrewers.org).





## GNBC Summer Picnic

*by Dennis Sessler*

**T**he Great Northern Brewers Club is lucky enough to have members that graciously open their homes to welcome our members for outside events that feature the best of what our club has to offer: good friends, good beer and a good time.

For as long as I have been in the club, Jeff Loughery, a long-standing member of our club, has invited homebrewers up to his spacious abode on the Upper Hillside in Anchorage for a summer barbeque on July 14th. This event is family-oriented and invites not just the brewers, but their families to enjoy an evening in the (hopefully) sun for outside recreation in a pristine setting with enough activities to keep everyone occupied. Jeff's back yard opens to a lake with paddle boats and a recreation area where volleyball, horseshoes, fishing and expansive views are the norm.

Come prepared to let the kids run around and enjoy themselves while you share a few bebies with friends, eat and be summer-time merry like it can only happen in Alaska in July. Bring everything you need to be comfortable, including something to throw on the grill for you and your family, homebrew to consume and share, and your favorite Frisbee, volleyball, catcher's mitt, or whatever to engage others in good, vibrant outdoor fun. This year's event will be on July 14th beginning at about 6 pm and lasting until... whenever you and your family get worn out.

To get to the gig, head up O'Malley and look for Stoneybrook Road on the right, towards the top. If you get to Hillside Rd., you have gone too far. Go to the end of this short road and take a left on Mountain Lake Drive. This will quickly turn into Lake O' The Hills Circle. The lake will open up on your right. Follow this around toward the end, and Jeff's place is at the end. His address is 7051 Lake O' The Hills Circle if you want to put it into Google maps. Please respect other homes when you park because it can be crowded. Come and enjoy a good time I hope to see everyone there.





## E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition

*by Scott Stihler*

Announcing the 14th Annual E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition!

This is an AHA/BJCP sanctioned competition.

The grand prize for Best of Show is \$500!!!

Great prizes and custom medals will also be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of each of the seven judged categories.

The seven categories that will be judged are: European Amber Lager (3A-B); English Pale Ale (8A-C), American Ale (10A-C), Porter (12A-C), Stout (13A-F), IPA (14A-C) and Fruit/Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer (20 & 21A).

Entries will be accepted: July 12 - July 28, 2010

Entry fees: Submit three 12-16 oz brown or green crown capped bottles and a check or money order for \$5.00 in U.S. funds per entry.

Judging: Judging will take place on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Location: Fox, Alaska (a small mining community ~10 miles north of Fairbanks)

More information as well as Entry and Bottle ID forms may be found at the following URL:  
<http://www.mosquitobytes.com/Den/Beer/Events/Events.html>

Should you have any questions or are interesting in judging contact Scott Stihler at [stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com](mailto:stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com) or (907) 474-2138.

**KEG  
COWBOY**  
Kegerator Conversion Kits

### 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





## Call for Judges E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition

*by Scott Stihler*

We need BJCP judges and/or experienced brewers to help judge the AHA sanctioned E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition!!!

Judging will take place on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling Company located in Fox, Alaska (a small mining community, 10 miles north of Fairbanks).

The seven judged categories will be: European Amber Lager (3A-B) English Pale Ale (8A-C); American Ale (10A-C); Porter (12A-C); Stout (13A-F), India Pale Ale (14A-C); and Fruit/Spice/Herb/Vegetable Beer (20 & 21A).

Once again judges can pre-register and hand carry their entries thereby saving on the shipping costs. All they need to is fill out the Entry forms and mail it to us along with the corresponding fee payment. On the day of the competition the judges simply show up with their chilled entries in hand. Be sure to attach Bottle IDs to each of the bottles with rubber bands so we can distinguish which entry is which.

Please mail your pre-registration materials to:

Chérie Stihler  
P.O. Box 84988  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Please mail in the pre-registration information etc. early enough so that it is received no later than the entry deadline (i.e. July 28). This will allow us to register those entries along with all the others.

I hope you can help us out with judging of this year's the E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition.

For more information about this competition please go to the following URL:

<http://www.mosquitobytes.com/Den/Beer/Events/Events.html>.

If you are interested in judging please contact Scott Stihler [stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com](mailto:stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com) or (907) 474-2138.



# 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)

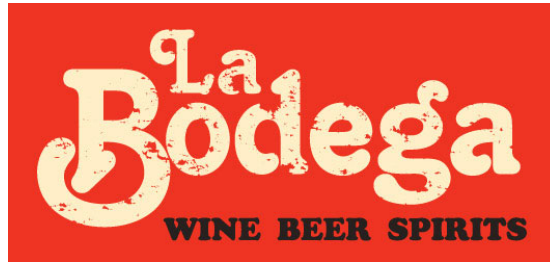
Not available at this time

Membership dues are \$25.00 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](http://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, the Wine House, Diamond liquor and Keg Coyboy.)





## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



# The GNBC Summer Camp out, “The Year of the Dogs”

by *Dennis Sessler*

**A**nother GNBC summer campout is in the bag. I’m still trying to dry everything out. For those who ventured north to the Eklutna Lake State Camp ground, we all found plenty of food, friendship and homebrews. Did I forget to add rain? We had lots of rain! We managed to get our fair share on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Despite all the wet stuff, everyone managed to secure a safe place to rest their tired heads. We had a large array of pop-up, slide-in and travel trailers. When one of our members showed up with the Starship Enterprise, the club as a whole was in awe. We all watched him perform the perfect Y turn TWICE with a trailer full of 4 wheelers attached, all compliments of a rear view backup camera. As a heavy equipment operator I was very impressed with all his driving skills.

This year the club was situated on the west end of the old airstrip. If you are familiar with the group campsite that would be site B, all the way past the outhouse to the end. This was a minor change for us compared to years past; I think personally that it worked out for the best. With the crowd in group site A, we would have had lots of vehicle and pedestrian traffic driving past us all day and night. There was plenty of room for all the campers, children and dogs to spread out and play.

Saturday night was our traditional club pot luck. This year’s theme concocted by coordinator Joe Michaels was Hawaiian Luau. Joe did an awesome job setting up the theme; he had Hawaiian music, and plastic leis. The food prepared by all the participants was, bar none, the best food I’ve enjoyed in many a summer camp out. Everyone had their fill, then we celebrated with many a homebrewed beer and meads. About 9 pm the fire was anteed up a few notches. This was the largest bonfire I have witnessed in many of years also. My wife Dena commented that when she went to bed it looked like the sun was shining in the back end of our slide in camper.

I managed to make sure that all was secure and that the fire posed no immediate danger. I retired to the camper at 2:30 am and handed over control to the Captain of the Starship Enterprise. It wasn’t long before the rain started to fall again. All in all, a great time was had by everyone. I will have fond memories of our “Viking” toast in memory of our great friend Dave “Yano” Yanoshek. It was a proper time to remise of all the old times that we all shared with this great man. Many of the founding members showed up just to share in the camaraderie. John Craig brought this drinking vessel that resembled something too improper to describe in these hallowed pages. Everyone can figure this one out on their own.



**T**he 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  
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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:

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Anchorage, AK 99503**

**NEXT MEETING: July 14th, 2010 GNBC Summer Picnic  
at Jeff Loughery's house**