



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

JUNE 2007

The Prez Sez

by *Steve Schmitt*



Let me start this month's missive by apologizing for listing the wrong date for the May meeting in last month's newsletter. We sent out an email to correct the problem but I know that a few people were at the Goose on the 22nd rather than the 15th. At least you could get a beer and get growlers filled up!

Refer to an article within this newsletter regarding the summer campout – June 15th through the 17th at Eklutna this year. Also – the date for the July BBQ at Jeff and Cathy Loughrey's will be on July 11th starting at 6pm. The August BBQ will be at the Kiker residence – date TBA.

The Annual GNBC Golf Event is growing this year – actually we're combining efforts with Humpy's and turning it into a big tournament with a shotgun start, real food, and beer. Thanks to Mike Hartman and Jason Ditsworth for getting the ball rolling on this and to Billy Opinsky and Bruce Mills for their assistance. Debbie Roberts is gonna be in charge again this year (thanx Deb!) so please contact either Debbie or myself if you have any questions. A donation to charity is made every year with the proceeds from this event – this year we plan to purchase a golf cart for special needs golfers which will be stored and used at Moose Run. The plan is to eventually have one of these carts at every course in the state. Very cool idea.

The National Homebrew Competition is going strong right now and a number of GNBC members have entries going on to the second round of judging in Denver in June. Stay tuned for the results. Speaking of competitions – we're not sure of the status of the State Fair Competition as I write this article. We (the GNBC) have been talking to the State Fair people about adjusting the judging requirements so that we could hold the judging in Anchorage rather than driving to Palmer. When we get the details ironed out we'll get the information out as soon as possible. Stay tuned.

Also – remember to water your raspberries and apple trees! Get rid of all the birch and spruce trees in your yard since they're not doing you any good. Replace them all with something fermentable!

The Prez Sez

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and Humpy's: 2007 Golf
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Secretary's Corner

by Dena Sessler

Members of the GNBC met for the last "regular" GNBC meeting (until September) on May 15th at the Snow Goose. Read the Prez Sez and the calendar for our upcoming summer events in June, July and August. Steve Schmitt our President was in St. Louis, so Jason Ditsworth our Vice handled all of the formal and informalities.

The brew-a-thon, on May 5th, was a huge success as usual. The sun was out, the wort was boiling, and many glasses were full. The club managed to brew approximately 250 gallons of beer.

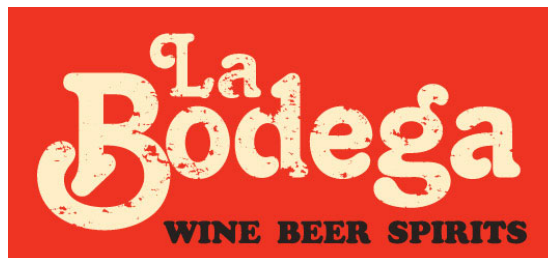
The summer camp-out is coming up on June 15th-17th at Eklutna Lake's group site. The theme is Italian, so bring a dish to share on Saturday night.

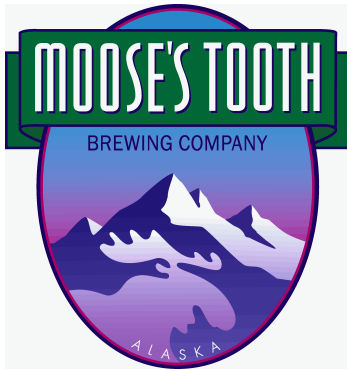
July's BBQ at Lake O The Hills, hosted by Jeff and Cathy Loughrey, is scheduled for July 11th at 6:00pm. Humpy's and the GNBC will be joining forces for the golf tournament on August 4th. The goal of the tournament is to raise enough money to purchase a handicap golf cart for each of the golf courses, starting with Moose Run. Debbie Roberts has stepped up to coordinate the event. The fee is 100.00 per person or 300.00 per team. This is not a bad price considering all of the free food, great beer, and cool prizes. It will be a shotgun start at 7:00am. There will be up to 36 teams or 144 golfers.

The BBQ at Kiker's home will be on the 21st of August then regular meetings will resume on September 19th.

An update on the State Fair. There has been letters fired back and forth between the GNBC and the ladies at the State Fair. Basically we want to be able to take entries and judge where and when we want. The ladies still want a presence at the State Fair to take entries on Friday and Saturday, even though the majority of entries are from the local area. We said "no way" and they still haven't responded.

Within our region in Nationals this year, we were the last ones again, to get results in. It took over 4 weekends to judge and they had very few judges. The AHA is very frustrated, so it is possible that the GNBC will be asked to take over next year, so stay tuned. Congratulations to all those who are going on to the second round. The awards are as follows: Rory Petrik 1st in European Amber Lagers, Steve Jayick 1st for an English Pale Ale, Dave Bieganski 3rd for his porter, Ira Edwards took a 1st for his Melomel, 1&2 in Sour Ale, Ira Edwards & Chris Andersen 3rd in Sour Ale, Jason Ditsworth took 1st for a Specialty Beer, 3rd for a Melomel, and 1st for Other Mead, and Steve Schmitt took 2nd for his Traditional Mead and 3rd in Other Mead. Great brewing guys!





In other competition news...Ring of Fire Meadery held their 1st mead competition earlier this month. They had 31 entries from around the state, to include our own John Trapp who won a 1st place with a Traditional Mead, and 2nd place with a local fruit Melomel. His Traditional Mead took a 2nd to the Best of Show Sparkling Red Current. Congratulations John!

Update on the House Crawl. The magic bus is booked up on Saturday's through the fall, so it is on hold for now. There was no education portion in the May meeting. If anyone has any ideas for the education part, please let someone know so we can address the subjects starting in September.

Dennis & I had the pleasure of attending a beer dinner at Jason's home on the 19th of May. The theme was Tapas, or your interpretation. Everyone went all out with their food and beer pairings. It was fantastic! If you want to attend one of these dinners please get a hold of Julie McDonald at juzy@gci.net. There is no invitation needed, however space is limited to 10-14, depending on how many people the host can comfortably have in their home.

That's it for this month. Remember this was the last regular club meeting for the summer. Meeting will resume on September 19th at the Snow Goose. See you at the campout.



EVENTS

Every First Thursday
Moose's Tooth First Tap

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

15 - 17...GNBC Summer Campout at
Eklutna Lakes Campground

20.....English Beer tasting at the
Tap Root Cafe: 345-0282

11.....GNBC Summer BBQ at
Jeff Loughery's House

4.....GNBC/Humpy's Golf Tournament
at Moose Run



Tee Off With GNBC and Humpy's on August 4th

by *Debbie Roberts*

GNBC's biggest and most popular annual event has undeniably been the golf tournament, and this year it just got bigger. This year's Great Northern Brewers Annual Golf Tournament will be a little different. It will still be the same great fun as always but this year, we will be joining forces with Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse.

Proceeds from this tournament will be given to Challenge Alaska for the procurement of a motorized golf cart for the handicapped. Currently, there is only one handicap-usable golf cart in Anchorage and it more or less resides up at the golf course on O'Malley. In years past, the club has somewhat struggled with determining who the best beneficiaries are for golf tournament proceeds, but we've seen the real need for such a cart and combining forces with Humpy's will ensure we can achieve our goal. The Humpy's/Great Northern Brewers Golf Tournament will be held on August 4, 2007 with a shotgun start at 7:00 AM. We will be golfing on the Hill Course at Moose Run Golf Course. This event will be limited to the first 144 participants. Prizes are awarded based on best score, longest drive, closest to the pin and drawings for numerous door prizes.

The cost is only \$350 for a four-person team. The deadline for team assignments and paying for the game is July 21st. If you can't muster up a 4-person team, with enough advance notice, I may be able to pair you up with others in a similar situation. Mulligans will be available at additional cost.

If you are interested in playing, volunteer or donating anything, please contact Debbie Roberts, 552-3227 (work); 337-9360 (home); or 227-5287 (cell). Space is limited so act fast to guarantee your spot in the tournament. Pulling off the annual golf tournament is a labor-intensive task, and numerous volunteers are needed to help organize, set up and clean up after the event. There should be plenty of beer around to lubricate both your motivation and drive.

This is a Designated Driver Event so if you participate, please make arrangements to have a ride home.



Book Review: The Joy of Drinking by Barbara Holland

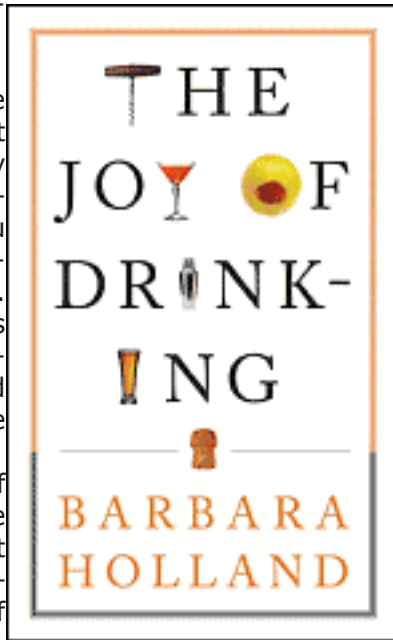
by Jim Roberts

There was an email floating around a couple of weeks ago heralding a recent book by Barbara Holland. Holland's a gifted author, but not well known in the mainstream literary circles that focus on popular fiction or only the bright, safe reads in non-fiction. Holland just completed a little book called "The Joy of Drinking," and if nothing else, it's praises for drinking are bound to bait scorn and rebuttal from the neoprohibitionists that work hard to tear down anything that touts the positive side of consuming alcoholic beverages, no matter how much sense it makes or how strong the

I ran over to Barnes and Noble and got the just a few pages I started to feel better about Americans are afraid to confess that they indulging in any amount more than "mod-term indicates) is akin to telling someone you to demonstrate that all societies have, con-first and foremost, it's a very social activity. ing historical facts surrounding booze. I was consumption across recorded history. Hol- steadfast coffee drinkers, fitness fanatics and perception about consumption as are the

I thoroughly enjoyed Holland's exploration of erages popped up independently all over the words, making booze was not a cultural event the peoples of the earth. Most cultures fig- cultures revered the potion to the point of signations. To demonstrate the social impli- back to the last time they were asked by someone to stop by for a glass of milk, or to sit down and enjoy a tumbler of water. Some may argue that coffee's stepped in and replaced our beloved elixir and by sheer numbers it has. She also points out that the experience of going to a Starbucks is a lot different than going to the neighborhood pub. At Starbucks, it's quiet, people avoid eye contact and quickly find diversions in palm pilots, laptops and other solitary activities. People go to pubs to socialize, meet people and laugh and live a little.

The book starts off a little slow with a ton of arcane historical references to the influence of alcohol across societies, but with Holland's quick wit, humor and easily identifiable, pointed and positive attitude about drink, it picks up momentum quickly. A small amount of redundancy is only slightly distracting, but by the time you're done with the book, you might become a lot more candid about your drinking patterns and habits. If you drink any quantity, this is a must-read book that can be used to defend a practice that's increasingly at risk these days. If not that, buy it for the sheer entertainment value. Oh, and the read is definitely enhanced with drink in hand.



small \$11.95 book. It's a quick read and within my own unwavering joy of drinking. Any more, consume alcoholic beverages, and confessing to eration" (whatever scant amount that uncertain have leprosy. Holland uses a lot of historical fact tinue to, and will always enjoy drinking because If nothing else, the book is replete with fascinat- quite surprised at this almost "who's who" in land laces up the gloves and throws jabs at the food purists that are as much shaping America's neoprobieis.

the undeniable observation that fermented bev- globe throughout the march of time. In other that was carried across borders and taught to ured it out all on their own, and most of those God-like or at least highly revered mystical as- cations of booze, Holland asks the reader to think



GNBC Summer Camp Out

by Steve Schmitt

This year we will hold our annual Summer Camp Out at the Eklutna Lake Group Use Camp Site. To get there get on the Glenn Highway and drive north till you see either the Thunderbird Falls exit or the Eklutna exit from the highway (about 30 minutes from Anchorage). Take either exit and follow the signs to Eklutna Lake which is about 8 miles off of the highway and mostly up hill. When you get to the campground follow the signs to the Group Use Site, park your car, and throw away the keys!

For more information about the park check out the following web site:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/chugach/eklutna.htm>

We have the camp site reserved from NOON on Friday, June 15th through NOON on Sunday, the 17th.

What to bring: Beer, specifically homebrew. Commercial beer is cool too, especially locally produced micros and some of that Mike's Hard Lemonade if it's really hot outside. Bring food for yourself and maybe a little extra to share. Bring Barley Wine and poppy seed muffins (the official breakfast food of the GNBC Summer Camp Out). Bring FIREWOOD – yeah – we like BIG fires!

Where am I gonna stay? Well, this is Alaska and we're camping out. You can sleep in your car/truck, a tent, a camper, whatever. There's a lot of space to park and everyone should have more than enough elbow room.

What kind of extra stuff will I need? Well, the nearest WalMart is about 45 minutes away so if you can't live without it for an hour or so you better bring it. I'm bringing all kinds of crap but I'm also gonna' have my kids with me. This means that I'll have a truck and camper, 1 dog, 2 kids, 3 bikes, 2 tents, monster trucks, a bunch of cars, even more trains, and a bottle of Scotch.

What are we gonna do? Bring your mountain bikes. There's a bunch of great trails for hiking also. We might consume a few 'malt freshies'.



Did somebody say Italian night? On Saturday night we plan to have a big fire, talk trash, drink beer, and eat Italian food. Bring whatever you want to eat and a little extra to share – this is a potluck-style-group event. Also – don't be lame and bring Ragu from Costco and dump it onto your pasta – you will be mocked! Put your lasagna in a vacuum sealed bag and dump it into some hot water to warm it up. I'll bring the red wine...

Calling All Beer Judges!

by Scott Stihler

We need BJCP judges and/or experienced brewers to help judge this year's E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition!!!

The overall quality of the entries is generally quite high and it is a lot of fun.

Judging will take place on July 14 at the Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling Company located in beautiful downtown Fox (~10 miles north of Fairbanks).

Judging should start at around 10:00 a.m. or so.

Once again judges will be able to save the cost of shipping their entries by pre-registering them. All they need do is fill out the Entry and Bottle ID each entry and mail them to us along with the appropriate entry fee payment. Then all they need do is simply show up on the competition day with their entries in hand.

Please send your pre-registration and payment to:
Scott Stihler
P.O. Box 84988
Fairbanks, AK 99708

If possible, please send pre-registration materials early enough for us to have them when we check in the entries on July 11. At the very latest we need these materials by Friday, July 13.

I hope you can join us in judging this year's E.T. Barnette Homebrew Competition.

We REALLY do need the help!

For more information about this competition as well as Entry and Bottle ID forms please go to the following URL: <http://www.mosquitobytes.com/Den/Beer/Events/Events.html>

If you are interested in judging or have any questions regarding the competition please contact Scott & Cherie Stihler at stihlerunits@mosquitobytes.com or (907) 474-2137.

Insider's Scoop

by Dena Sessler

There was no information received in time for the newsletter, however, as information is received, the club members will be blogged ASAP. Any information that you wish to be included in the Insiders Scoop, please e-mail me at sessak@mtaonline.net.

Brewathon Pictures from Last Month at John Craig's

Editor's Note: Some fabulously nice individual that attended last month's brewathon was kind enough to send these pictures along for inclusion in this month's newsletter, but the editors were lame enough to delete the source email, rendering them unable to thank the source. Whoever you are, thanks a ton. Now that GNBC's newsletter has gone electronic, member submission of photos is appreciated and can easily be fit in the online version. Keep 'em coming!

Editors



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: GNBC Campout at Eklutna Lake June 15-17, 2007