



# THE Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

OCTOBER 2012

## Prez Sez

by *Tim Strayer*

**W**elcome to Oktober...yes, one of my favorite times of year for many reasons: crisp evening air, cold beer, and German fests galore, which of course means lederhosen and dirndls. Who can't love a well fit dirndl? I digress. I hope you are considering the opportunities to brew for the season as we are entering the new club brew year. Take this as an opportunity to challenge yourself perhaps with a lager, or a style of ale that you typically would not otherwise brew.

I am writing this months Prez Sez from the shores of Waikiki...yes, its warm and sunny and you have no sympathy for me, but its an opportunity to appreciate those commercial beers with a lighter body. I stopped at Kona Brewing in Hawaii Kai and I was very impressed with both dinner and the tap only beer selection. I am also planning on attending a German beer dinner at Sam Choy's with beers paired by Aloha Brewing Company. Ask me at the next meeting how it turned out.

Let's move to beer club stuff. On to elections! Yes, it's that time of year. We have a strong need this year for members of the club to step up and put their names in the hat. As I announced at the last meeting, I will not be running for a second term as the job that pays my bills is requiring more of my time and much more travel these days. It's been a great run and I have enjoyed working with everyone on the board as well as all of the members of the club.

Additionally, all four executive membership positions are available as these positions are only one year terms (pres, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary). It's my understanding that your VP, Aaron, is not running again but Julie McDonald (Secretary) and Tim Bisson (Treasurer) are ready for another year if you will have them. We also have three (3) general board positions open as well for a term of two (2) years. These are great opportunities to help mold the future of the club and I encourage everyone to participate! All you have to do is drop me an email to get the ball rolling. Elections will be held at the November meeting.

We are also voting on a bylaw modification in October to change the month of transition from November to January for the incoming board. See the article in this month's newsletter for more information.

As always check out Facebook for all of the upcoming events! [www.facebook.com/gnbc1](http://www.facebook.com/gnbc1). One of the many is the new Valdez Oktoberfest with over \$5000.00 in prizes! Take a look at last month's newsletter for the details.

That's all I've got from the shores of Hawaii! I'm going back to drinking good beer in the sun. I look forward to your homebrews at the next club meeting – watch your email for updates to events and announcements.

Prost!



**THE  
PREZ  
SEZ**

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**IN**

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## Secretary's Corner

by Julie McDonald

September showcased GNBC's first fall meeting back inside at the 'Goose! And a great one it was! Big thanks to all who fulfilled their duties; we had quite a bit of good food at this one! Kudos!

With that said, here is a recap of the meeting, also known in the business world as "minutes".

Prez Tim Strayer called the meeting to order at 7:10p on Tuesday, September 18, 2012.

- We had about 12 new members on hand. Welcome to all new members! At one point we had a total of 60 members in attendance and I noticed more coming in after I took the count. It was a nice turn out.

### OLDBIZ

- This is John Trapp's last year coordinating the Anchor Town Homebrew Competition. We are looking for a new coordinator. If you are interested please contact the Prez or John or any one of the board members.

- Membership – get it taken care of. It's so easy to do online, or you can download a copy of the membership application and mail it in to our membership coordinator.

- Tim reminds everyone of the importance of taking care of our duties (set-up, clean-up, food). Everyone pitches in and it makes things so much easier for all. Thanks for keeping up with this.

- New club brews – nothing new to report on this at the time, but stay tuned for future updates.

- Website revamp project – Joe Saunders is working on this, it's a work in progress.

We are looking at being able to add a recipe database and the capability of allowing an account for each club member.

### NEWBIZ

- When you come to a meeting, you will see a handful of members wearing lanyards with red straps and a goofy button. These are our club tasters for that meeting. If you have homebrews that you would like some serious feedback on see these individuals during the meeting.

- We have a banner ordered and on it's way, however for future reference John Burkett of ODOM mentioned that he could take care of banners for us.

- Valdez Oktoberfest and Homebrew Comp – October 19, 2012, in need of BJCP judges also, read all about it here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/271126042998605/>

- Jason Ditsworth is heading up the Humpy's Big Fish comp, for the last time. We are looking for someone to take over the coordinating duties for this event also. Contact Prez or Jason if you are interested. This year's event takes place on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Entries will need to be submitted the Saturday before that. More details and a Facebook event page will be posted soon. See below for info on this year's Big Fish side challenge.

- Club Christmas Party – Miles Pruner is heading up this event and announced at this meeting that the theme will be Hillbilly Hoedown! More info and a Facebook event page will be added shortly. Stay tuned. But mark your calendars now for the date: Saturday, December 8, 2012.

- January club meeting guest speaker – John Burkett announced that Paul Gatz, the Brewers Association director, will be available for us as a guest speaker.

# EVENTS

• We have a proposed by-laws change that was printed and placed on each table for members to look over. It will also be available in this newsletter. Voting on this proposal will take place at our October meeting.

• November elections – all executive board seats are open, and Tim will not be running for Prez again. We need some strong contenders to step up and throw their names in the running. We have three board seats available this year; all three have two year terms. Please consider running for a seat. John Craig was nominated for one of the vacating board seats and the nomination was seconded. You will see John's name on the ballot in November.

• We have a new event coming up. This is more of a demo/participation event that could lead to something more team oriented, but for now, on January 26, we are invited to participate in a curling match. As I get more info such as time, location, etc. I will provide a Facebook event page. Stay tuned for more.....

• Volunteerism – Our club runs on this concept. Without volunteers we would not be as successful as we are. A few places that we need YOU are as follows:

1. Club Only Competition Coordinator – someone who organizes and follows through with all Club Only comps.
2. BJCP Coordinator – Dennis Urban is letting go of this after years of running this event. Time for some new blood. We have Kevin Sobelesky agreeing to take this over with help from Matt Wallace.
3. Humpy's Big Fish Comp coordinator (mentioned earlier)
4. Anchor Town Comp coordinator (mentioned earlier)
5. Membership coordinator – we do have one person interested at this point. If anyone else is interested please contact any one of the board members (all of our contact info can be found on the club's website)
6. Newsletter Article Submissions – We are always in need of more.

• The next indoor/Snowgoose GNBC Club meeting is slated for October 16, 2012, at 7 pm. You can keep up with any agenda updates on our Facebook page.

• September meeting member duties are as follows. Last name, beginning with:

- A-J Setup (arrive about 6:30-6:45)
- K-P cleanup
- R-Z food

If anyone has ideas for educational segments for upcoming meetings, feel free to post your thoughts on our FB page or email them to me at [juzy@gci.net](mailto:juzy@gci.net) and I will pass them on to the board.

• For all of you who are planning to enter a beer into the Humpy's Big Fish Competition Side Challenge in December, here is a bit of a description of this year's side challenge:

The Definitive Style Guideline for HAC (High Alcohol Content)  
2012 Big Fish Side Challenge – The HAC Challenge

Aroma: Subdued malt background, Medium hop aroma, American hop varieties are used in historically correct examples.

Appearance: Pale/Straw to clear in color (certain aficionados of the style refer to quintessential examples as being 'piss-clear'), high carbonation levels

Flavor: Clean malt flavor is evident, no roast or caramel flavors, balance between malt sweetness and hop bitterness, clean dry finish, warming sensation from higher than standard level of alcohol

Mouthfeel: High carbonation, light body, warming from alcohol

*Every First Thursday*

*Moose's Tooth First Tap*

*Every First Thursday*

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

05.....*Talkeetna Beer Fest*

*Sheldon Community Arts Hangar  
7-11 pm: \$35 pp*

05/06.....*German Club Oktoberfest*

*Egan Center: 7 pm*

06.....*Arkose Brewing Company Dinner*

*Rusty's on Dahlia Street (Palmer)  
4-9 pm: \$49 pp.*

06.....*Great Alaska Beer Train*

*Alaska Railroad/Glacier  
4-8 pm: \$159 pp.*

11.....*Sleeping Lady Brewing Company*

*Beer and Wine Dinner  
Time/Cost TBD*

14.....*Humpy's Oktoberfest Dinner*

*6-9 pm: \$65 pp.*

16.....*GNBC Meeting at the Goose*

*7 pm: Downstairs*

19.....*Eagle River Boys and Girls Club*

*Beer Festival  
6:30 PM: \$50 pp.*

20.....*Elktoberfest O'Fest Gala*

*3801 Centerpoint Drive  
7-11 pm: \$25 pp.*

20/21.....*Mighty Matenuska Beer Fest*

*Alaska State Fairgrounds  
6-10 pm: \$30 pp.*

Overall Impression: An easy to drink lawnmower style beer, however, consumption prior to actually mowing your lawn may be detrimental to your health due to elevated alcohol levels. Copious amounts of rice syrup solids are used in classic examples of this style to increase alcohol content without increasing mouthfeel. Pedestrian versions of this style typically weigh in at 8% alcohol, stellar examples can approach 12% alcohol. A clean, easy to drink, balanced between malt sweetness and hop bitterness, high alcohol beverage designed for mass consumption without the aid of a safety harness.

· We are scrapping the idea of an October beer dinner due to no hosts. However, we do have a host for the November dinner. Details will be announced by mid-October. Stay tuned for more. If anyone is interested in hosting in December or February, let me know ASAP. Generally the dinner is planned out and an email announcement is made about a month before the dinner is to take place. If you would like to host a beer dinner or just want more info about them, contact me, Julie, at [juzy@gci.net](mailto:juzy@gci.net)

· When receiving a spam email from the club DO NOT REPLY TO THAT EMAIL. It goes into a digital black hole never to be seen again. Please read the email carefully and reply to whoever is requesting information, etc. We always provide a "reply to" email address.

#### Miscellaneous

TAP (Training for Alcohol Professionals) Pre-registration is NOT required!

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. Here's the latest schedule: 10/6 Saturday 11am

10/8 Monday 1pm

10/10 Wednesday 5:30pm

10/17 Wednesday 9am

10/18 Thursday 1pm

10/24 Wednesday 9am

10/26 Friday 1pm

10/29 Monday 5:30pm

11/1 Thursday 1pm

Renewal certification is 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



## 2012 Homebrewer of The Year Categories

### Fur Rendezvous HBC

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

### Snow Goose HBC

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

### 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 12
- Category 17
- Category 19
- Category 22
- Side Challenge

# 2012 Alaska Meadery Equinox Mead Competition Results

by *Breck Tostevin, M.B.*

**T**hanks to everyone who entered and those who judged the Fifth Annual Equinox Mead Competition. We had the largest turn-out yet with 48 entries from seventeen different mead and cider makers. The meads and ciders were of very high quality and some incredible blending skills were on display. Steven Kunemund took Best of Show with a Wheat Wine Zin Mead Braggot.

Thanks to Mike Kiker of The Alaska Meadery and Celestial Meads for sponsoring the competition. I want to thank the judges who assisted in judging this epic quest. For those who did not judge you missed some incredible meads and ciders.

Here are the results:

Traditional Meads: Cat. 24

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Breck Tostevin, GNBC, "Tupelo Love Juice 2012" Tupelo/Clover, Traditional Sweet Mead
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jason Ditsworth, GNBC, "Tupelo Drencher" Tupelo Traditional Sweet Mead
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Steven Baxter, GNBC, Orange blossom, Traditional Semi-Sweet Mead

Melomel: Other Fruit Meads; Cat. 25c

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Steven Baxter and Ty Schommer, GNBC, Berry Blend Melomel
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. John Trapp, GNBC, "The Hawaiian Tickler," Pineapple Melomel
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kevin Sobolesky, GNBC, "Raspbomel," Raspberry Melomel

Melomel: Cyser and Pyments: Cat 25a and b

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Breck Tostevin, GNBC, "Grape Hottie," Petit Sarah Pymment
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>. Breck Tostevin, GNBC, "The Juice," Riesling Ice Pymment
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>. Steven Baxter, GNBC, Riesling Pymment
- HM, Steven Kunemund, "Wishful, Zinful," Zinfandel Pymment



Open Category Meads: Metheglin and Braggot: Cat. 26a and b

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Steven Kunemund, GNBC, "Hog Heaven," Wheat Wine, Zin Mead Braggot, Best of Show
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Steven Baxter, GNBC, Oaked Star Anise Metheglin
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Yonali Liriano and Steven Kunemund, GNBC, "Mamajuana Mead," Dominican Herb Metheglin

Open Category Meads: Cat. 26c "The Wild Ones"

- 1<sup>st</sup>. John Trapp, GNBC, "Fuck Yeah" Vodka Mead
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pete Devaris, GNBC, "White Port" Oaked Christmas Berry Blossom with Brandy
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jason Ditsworth and Pete Devaris, "Spank Me" Tupelo, Blackberry Blossom, Red Currants and Rose Petals

HM. Breck Tostevin, "Dark Matter" Sorghum Honey, Cherries and Pears

Standard Cider and Perry: Cat. 27

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Pete Devaris and Jason Ditsworth, "PJ's," 27a Common Cider
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Steven Jayich, "Apple Cider," 27a Common Cider

Specialty Cider and Perry: Cat. 28

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Dan Bosch, 28c Apple Wine
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Steven Jayich, 28c Apple Wine





## Bylaw Change Proposal

by *Tim Strayer*

The following is a proposed change to the Great Northern Brewers Club Bylaws.

This document will serve as formal notification to the club membership. The change will be voted on by the club membership at the monthly meeting scheduled for October 16, 2012.

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed change please email the President at [president@greatnorthernbrewers.org](mailto:president@greatnorthernbrewers.org)

### Summary of the change:

Elections are currently held in the month of November and the new officers take office immediately following the election. It has been determined that it would be in the best interest of the club to continue to hold elections in November, but the new officers would not take office until the club meeting held in January. There will be a formal announcement at that meeting completing the transition to the new board. This two month overlap between existing officers and new officers will provide for better sharing of knowledge and less stress on the incoming officers.

### Proposed Change:

Existing bylaw regarding Voting reads as follows:

#### ARTICLE IV — Voting

##### Section 3 — Election Dates

Elections are to be held yearly in November with the new officers taking office immediately. Nominations shall be open at the September and October meetings.

Proposed new bylaw would read as follows:

#### ARTICLE IV — Voting

##### Section 3 — Election Dates

Elections are to be held yearly in November with the new officers taking office at the monthly club meeting held in January. Nominations shall be open at the September and October meetings.

**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:

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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: October 16, 2012: 7 pm at the Snow Goose**