



Volume 118

February 2026

The Greater Everett Brewer's League Newsletter

The purpose of The Greater Everett Brewers League is to promote and educate homebrewers in the production of craft-style homebrewed beers. As an AHA social club, we improve members' brewing skills by providing mentoring and networking to fellow brewers, promoting BJCP judging, providing evaluation and competition entry information, as well as promoting the local craft beer movement.

Upcoming Calendar

Month	Brew	Comments
February	Beer and Food Pairing	
March	Irish, Scottish & British Beers	Judging
April	speaker: Dan Custer	

The complete calendar through Jan 2027 is on the last page of the newsletter

January Meeting By Amy Townsend

Shelley opened the meeting by thanking outgoing club officers and welcoming incoming club officers for 2026. The program for the meeting will be tasting lagers.

GEBL's Brewer of the Year is Lori Brown. Czech Premium Pale Lager will be her same-brew pick. Other same-brews this year will be coffee porter, Kolsch and some version of Clone Wars.

Shelley presented a "thank you" gift certificate to S2S owner Doug Milnor, owner of S2S.

Tim McTee will lead the 2026 Fresh Hop Beer Competition as coordinator – a new volunteer position.

Dues will be increased in 2026: \$15 Single/\$25 family. Cut-off for payment is April to continue receiving email.

Shelley said a Club constitution committee has been formed to update

the GEBL constitution; they plan to complete the updates by February. The changes will be voted on by the Board, and then the Membership.

Honorary GEBL members for 2026 are:

- Doug and Christine Milnor (S2S)
- Dan Custer (S2S)
- R.J. Whitlow (5 Rights)
- Kevin Sullivan (BSG)
- Matt Edwards (Georgetown Brewing)
- Tina Anderson (Georgetown Brewing)

Steve thanked members for providing copies of many old newsletters. They have all been scanned and posted to our web site, thanks to Webmaster Will Seed.

Shelley said that 2026 is GEBL's 30th anniversary, with more information to come about celebrations.

Karen asked about member interest in participating in Beerstock. An email survey to be sent soon regarding locating the event in Sedro Wooley or Orting for 2026.

Our new guest is Avery, who has been brewing for 2 weeks! He's brewed only extract so far. He heard about GEBL through Jim Trimble.

January Tasting Results, Open Lagers By Lori Brown

Brewer(s)	Style	Beer	Average	Result	Points
Sound 2 Summit	1A	American Light Lager (Boat Beer) (For discussion/calibration)	42.2		
Jim Trimble	4B	Festbier	36.2	3rd	2
Mikayla and Dennis Nagy	3C	Czech Amber Lager	40.4	1st	4
Dennis Nagy	6A	Marzen	37.6	2nd	3
Tim McTee	7A	Vienna Lager	35.8		1

Points awarded: 1st 4
 2nd 3
 3rd 2
 Entry 1

Happy 30th Anniversary GEBL! By Lori Brown

Over the course of this year, we plan to dig into our club history in 5-year increments. The hope is to highlight some cool moments and photos in the newsletter.

The Beginning (1996-2001)

March 14th marks the 30th anniversary of GEBL! The club was formally started by **John Hartline** in 1996. He spoke to the club in August 2001, discussing the formation and early years of GEBL. Rather than attempting to summarize his talk, you can read his presentation outline from that August 2001 meeting at the end of this article.

Some early highlights include club visits by Charlie Papazian! Bert Grant! and Rande Reed! The GEBL Newsletter winning the AHA award for Best Newsletter in 1999! Shelley Albright winning the First GEBL Brewer of the Year in 1999! A pub crawl on Mike Hales double decker bus in 2001! Unfortunately, there is not a lot of photographic evidence from this era.

Many, many, many homebrewers have been a part of GEBL over its 30-year history. Remarkably, we still have 7 continuously active club members from the first 5 years of GEBL (1996-2001)!

- **Shelley and Gary Albright**
- **Dennis and Louise Fugier**
- **Lori Brown**
- **Eric and Julie Wilson**

I encourage everyone to check out the Newsletter archives on our website www.gebl.org for way more history than I could possibly summarize in a short article.



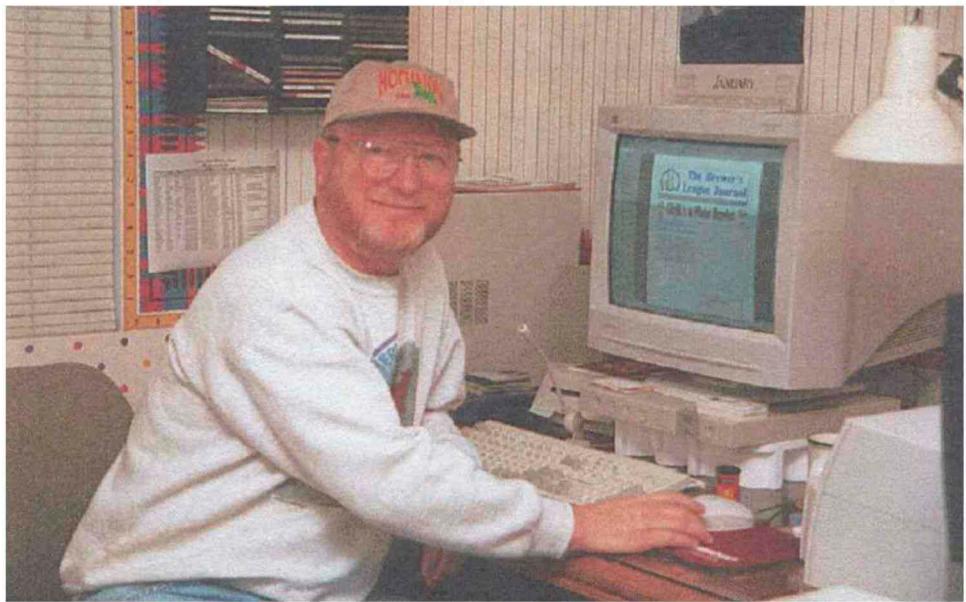
1996 GEBL Logo



1998 GEBL Logo



1998 Scuttlebutt gathering (from April 1998 newsletter)



Club Founder John Hartline (from December 1999 newsletter)



**2001GEBL/CBG joint pub crawl on Hale's double decker English bus
(Mike Hale drove)**

August 2001 Presentation outline from founder John Hartline:

1. What got the club started

- 1.1. Don and Ralph held loosely organized meetings at the old Homebrew Heaven location
- 1.2. My reluctance to take it on
- 1.3. First meeting March 14th 1996.
- 1.4. Original meetings held at ***Buck's American Cafe***
- 1.5. Approximately 12 original members became the core group and included:
 - 1.5.1. George Crawford
 - 1.5.2. Jim Jensen
 - 1.5.3. Jack Hughes
 - 1.5.4. John Moore
 - 1.5.5. Jeff Paden
 - 1.5.6. Bob Dokka
 - 1.5.7. Mark Bernhard
 - 1.5.8. Kyle Jamison
 - 1.5.9. Don Roberts
 - 1.5.10. John & Anne Hartline

2. Annie's first reaction to the club

- 2.1. How Annie's reaction to the club of "good ol' boys drinking beer" didn't appeal to her led us to encourage members to bring wives to next meeting.
- 2.2. Ann Jensen attended the 2nd meeting in April, Pam Namowicz joined Tom for the third meeting, and a trend was born.

3. Formalizing the club

- 3.1. During the third meeting we voted on dues, when they would be paid, collected for the first prorated year, and decided Annie had all the qualifications of a wonderful secretary. Sputtering and objecting, Annie agreed to handle the duties until we elected officers.
- 3.2. I agreed to take on the club leadership role under the same provisions.
- 3.3. The group decided that anyone who joined the group in the first 6 months would be forever considered as the "Plank Membership", and would elect no officers until we grew to at least 15 dues paid members.
- 3.4. The group decided (with one dissenter) that "The Greater Everett Brewers League" would be our name. The lone dissenter (Jack "Old Peculiar" Hughes wanted the group to be called "The North End Fermenters."
- 3.5. He was promptly shouted down and called bad names.

4. After 6 months

- 4.1. Membership had grown to 17
- 4.2. We had 4 female members: Anne Hartline, Ann Jensen, Shelly Albright and Ann Marie Crawford

- 4.3. We had been recognized by the AHA as an official homebrew club
- 4.4. We had a club library and a club subscription to Zymurgy
- 4.5. I had offended Tom Munoz and his beer.
- 4.6. We had a terrific sponsor who treated the club with generosity and enthusiasm
- 4.7. We had a club newsletter that was getting a lot of attention
- 4.8. We were learning a lot about beer from our membership

5. By December of our first year

- 5.1. We had elected officers: President; me, VP; Chuck Walker, Treasurer; Jeff Paden, Secretary; Annie, Membership Coordinator; Jim Jensen and Librarian; Shelley Albright.
- 5.2. Established a strong female contingent in our membership
- 5.3. Established a style calendar for the coming year of tastings
- 5.4. Had a great time.

6. Our second year included:

- 6.1. The Homebrewery (Homebrew Heaven) relocating to it's present location
- 6.2. Charlie Papazian visiting us at the Homebrewery
- 6.3. A meeting at the newly opened Scuttlebutt Brewing Company
- 6.4. Our first Beer Bus trip to Fall City for the Brewfest
- 6.5. Jack cementing his "Old Peculiar" status with a particularly foul version of this famous brew.
- 6.6. The addition of many new members including, but not limited to: Bob Baker, Denise and Louise Fugier, Todd Zurik, Tim Knowles, Bruce Fingarson, David Swartos and Dick and Joyce Hayden.
- 6.7. We settled on a club logo, and ordered our first round of shirts.
- 6.8. John Boy and the club celebrated my Centennial batch of beer.
- 6.9. Tom Munoz becoming more of an active player within our group, encouraging us to consider moving our meetings to *Glacier Peak*.
- 6.10. The club showing it's amazing support and compassion when Annie discovered she had breast cancer.

7. Our third year included:

- 7.1. Jim Jensen's now infamous "Fear and Loathing in the Brewhaus" newsletter article. (check the library for the January 1998 issue)
- 7.2. Adopted more stringent membership requirements and began serious work on a set of by-laws
- 7.3. Don and Ralph changed the name of their gig to Homebrew Heaven.
- 7.4. Annie and I stepped down as officers in the club to deal with her recovery.
- 7.5. First formal club election was held and the new officers took the helm. The first election resulted in Chuck as **Chief Executive**, Jim as **Chief Executive in waiting**, Jeff as CFO, Shelley as **Chief Scribe and pencil breaker**, Louise as **Massive Quantities of data Archivist**, Jack Hughes was elected as the **Director of hysterically great times and consuming mass quantities**, and Gary Albright was

elected as the **Director of strong-arming unwitting visitors into suffering our new membership rituals.**

- 7.6. Tom Munoz got us to finally move our meeting to the newly opened Flying Pig Brew Pub. He also became an important part of our group.
- 7.7. Our first ever involvement in the Everett Brewfest
- 7.8. New members James Stockard, Jeff Salsberry, Howard, Lynn and Eric Holcomb and Tim Martin
- 7.9. We were invaded by aliens (March 1998 newsletter)
- 7.10. The great Tomahawk hop debacle
- 7.11. The Big Bastard Big Three; Chuck, Jack and Jim? George, Bob and John? Gravity, Aeration and Pitching Rate? (July 1998 newsletter).
- 7.12. Our second annual trip to the Herb Farm Brewfest.
- 7.13. Brian Sollenberger becoming active in our little club.
- 7.14. Hop Union and the Northwest Brewer's Guild roasted Ralph Olson. Our club co-hosted, and gained a great deal of notoriety.
- 7.15. The Budweiser Brewery was ceremoniously burned at the Albright summer celebration (July 1998 newsletter)
- 7.16. Louie the lizard acclaims Gerbls as Beer Heros
- 7.17. Tomahawk contest ended with beer judges (Tom Munoz, Don Roberts, Brian Sollenberger, and Eric) losing all sense and experiencing serious flashbacks. Claims were made that Shelley's Acid Trip Porter, had been brewed in Hell.
- 7.18. Club adopted By-Laws.

8. Year 4 saw:

- 8.1. Rande Reed (Snoqualmie Falls Brewing Company) spoke to us.
- 8.2. Bert Grant spent a wonderful evening with us. 50 people in attendance.
- 8.3. Annie is still discovering pens in the most unusual places (ask Don).
- 8.4. The Many Ales of Christmas was a hit (December 1998 newsletter).
- 8.5. First Brew Baby born to Eric and Kimberly Holcomb.
- 8.6. **Newsletter wins Best Newsletter contest sponsored by AHA.**
- 8.7. Newsletter gets facelift.
- 8.8. Club adopts Brewer of the year trophy.
- 8.9. Shelley Albright First Brewer of the year.

9. So on and so forth.

2026 Tasting/Judging/Event Schedule

Month	Brew	Comments
February	Beer and Food Pairing	
March	Irish, Scottish & British Beers	Judging
April	speaker: Dan Custer	
May	Pale Ales & International Blondes	Judging
June	TBA (idea is GEBL Pro-Am competition)	
July	IPA	Judging
August	event: Sensory / Off-Flavors	
September	Historic Beers (BJCP cat. 27)	Judging
October	speaker: Other Fermentables	
mid-October	Fresh Hop Competition	
November	Porters & Stouts	Judging
December	Potluck Dinner/Gift Exchange	
January 2027	German Beers	Judging

2026 Officers

President *Shelley Albright* president@gebl.org

Vice President *Lori Brown* vp@gebl.org

Treasurer *Pete Stachowiak* treasurer@gebl.org

Secretary *Amy Townsend* secretary@gebl.org

Membership *Will Fredin* membership@gebl.org

Librarian/Webmaster *William Seed* webmaster@gebl.org

Newsletter *Steve Macaulay* newsletter@gebl.org

Keep in Touch with Members

Quaffing some amazing brews, brewing a special batch, have a brewing question, planning a craft beer vacation and have some questions? Keep in touch with GEBL on our Facebook page. A great way for new and old members to keep in touch.

[GEBL Facebook here](#)

Got ideas for the newsletter, or some beer pics you'd like to share? Send them to:
newsletter@gebl.org