

# GRAPES & GRAINS GROWLER



## Cheers and welcome!

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Grab your beverage of choice and make yourself comfortable. This is the September issue of the Grapes & Grains Growler, the official newsletter of the Grapes & Grains W.B.C.C.I. Intra-Club. We hope you find it informative and entertaining. We publish bi-monthly and provide you with information on upcoming rallies, other information about the club, and interesting articles. Cheers!

## Got a story idea?

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If you have a story idea, a little-known drinking related factoid, a recipe you want to share, or are just interested in contributing to the G&G Growler please let us know by contacting Elliott Heath.

[utowpia17@gmail.com](mailto:utowpia17@gmail.com)

## Notes from the President

Where has the time gone?

In less than 3 years, I will soon be the Past President of the Indiana Club and Past President of the Grapes & Grains Intra-Club.

How did it all begin? Karen & I purchased our first Airstream, a 2021 25 FBT Flying Cloud, which we took delivery on Sept 5, 2021, the day I am writing this article. We joined the Club in October and couldn't wait for the spring rallies to start. Due to a trip to Disney that was cancelled due to covid, we saw the Mid Winter IBT was going to be in Sarasota, Fl in January. We booked the 3 day trip to this rally and headed south. We arrived and were parked rally style with the backs of our campers facing each other. I still remember coming into our camper and telling Karen, "The guy who is behind us has a parrot!" We met so many wonderful people at this rally and we learned a lot of information about the individual Clubs, Regions and International Officers. We volunteered to help clean tables before and after sessions, attended campfires, became an affiliate with another club, and were so grateful for the many people we met at our inaugural rally. We have run into our Airstream friends often at many rallies or even their homes. We came

## Notes from the President continued

home and I contacted the present Indiana Club president and asked to be considered for the position of the Second Vice President. After a few references were checked out, I was voted into my first official office in the Airstream World.

We attended a few local rallies and after attending the International rally, in Lebanon, TN,. I felt there was a need to create a club that did something different. My Cousin, Jane Zatorski, our parents were Brother and sister, her husband Jim along with my wife Karen, decided upon a club that would go to our favorite places, wineries, breweries and distilleries while sitting around a campfire. We toyed with several names and finally came up with Grapes & Grains. I contacted Eric McHenry and asked if we could start a club that based on this loose criteria. He gave me the go ahead in August of 2021. I worked on the mission statement, constitution, bylaws, found Charter members and officers, not one but two logos, and started plans for two rallies in 2022. We started recruiting new members in January of 2022.

Our Inaugural rally was in May in Bardstown, KY. I planned for 25 Airstreams and 18 people showed up for the Rally. We had 38 people attend for a great rally, which included people from as far away as Texas, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin and a few other states. On Thursday evening, we shared appetizers and the hour extended until midnight. On Friday, we had a motor coach pick us up at the campground and took us to do tastings and tours of several distilleries and brought us back to the campground where we had dinner out on the town. On Saturday, we visited Maker's Mark Distillery for a tour, tasting and lunch. I smoked pork loins for the pitch in, pot lot dinner on Saturday night and again the happy hour lasted well into the night. Sunday came and after a light breakfast we said our good byes and headed back home.

The next event was our the International Rally in Fryeburg Maine in July 2022. We had a whopping 5 trailers that parked with Grapes & Grains Intra-Club, and this included a couple from Illinois that I picked up from a rest stop in New York on the way up to Maine. We met many of the new members and made our existing relationships even stronger. We spread the word that there was a new Intra-club and it was growing in leaps and bounds.

## Notes from the President continued

Our second rally, the Sip of Georgia, was held at the Top of Georgia in October of 2022. We had about 50 Airstreams and almost 100 attendees. We had heavy appetizers and wine on Thursday while we were entertained by local winery owners. On Friday, we visited the town of Helen and local wineries. Our evening entertainment was an on site wine tasting from Wolf Mountain Winery with appetizers that was out of this world. Campfires rounded out the evening.

On Saturday, the day was open to do visit Helen and other wineries. We had a pot luck dinner and the first Grapes & Grains Halloween costume contest. Our members did not disappoint with their creativity. I think we can all agree this second rally was a HUGE success.

Our growth in the membership told us that we were doing something right. We were determined to have more rallies and events in 2023. We opened the year with the Sip of the Panhandle in February, The Sip of Napa Valley in March and the Sip of Texas in April. We followed this with the very new and popular Mega Tasting Event at the International Rally in Rock Springs. See separate article in this newsletter. We still have Sip of Virginia rally coming up in a few weeks and it's looking like another sold out successful event.

In closing , I have had a wonderful time planning rallies, events and future rallies and meeting all the wonderful people in this GREAT Intra-Club. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future will hold with our newly elected leaders. There are a lot of exciting ideas for rallies and events.

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Mark Kruer

President

Grapes & Grains Intra-Club

# From the Desk of the Vice President

Greetings to all Grapes & Grains members.

## **Bylaws**

Thank you to all the members who voted on our new bylaws. They were overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 160-0. To view the new bylaws, go to our web page and click on the bylaws link, <https://airstreamclub.org/grapes-grains-intra-club/bylaws>.

## **Member in the Spotlight**

Starting in this newsletter we will be doing a “Member in the Spotlight”.

This issue features our behind-the-scenes webmaster and JotForm guru Matt and his wife Lisa. They have attended most of the Grapes & Grains rallies while working full-time jobs. More importantly, Matt agreed to be our webmaster where he has done a fantastic job keeping our website current and in compliance with WBCCI standards. Matt was also tasked with mastering JotForm which is the tool many of the clubs use for registration for rallies. We greatly appreciate all his efforts and continued support of Grapes & Grains.

## **Host a Rally**

I am excited to announce that several people have contacted the executive board and are volunteering to host a rally. One rally will be held at the Top of Georgia airstream only park and another rally will be held near Waco Texas. Once the fine details are ironed out an email will be sent out formally announcing these rallies. With that being said, we need your help in providing even more rallies for our members from California to North Carolina to Ontario Canada and all points in between. If you have a rally idea, please submit your proposal to [gnggrowler@gmail.com](mailto:gnggrowler@gmail.com).

## **Ongoing elections**

An email was sent to all Grapes & Grains members notifying them of our election of next year’s executive board. If you have already submitted your vote, thank you. If you haven’t voted yet please click on the link below to submit your vote.

<https://us17.list-manage.com/survey?u=23005boa9fa356c914c98c444&id=edc70e7604>

## From the Desk of the Vice President continued

### **Eat, Drink, and Yodel**

My wife Denise and I traveled to Monroe Wisconsin to attend the “Eat, Drink and Yodel” rally on August 24-27. I know, what a perfect name for a Grapes & Grains rally! Charlie and Linda Meinholz from the Wisc-UP airstream club hosted an outstanding rally.

Monroe Wisconsin is a town in Green county that is steeped in Swiss history, is known as the Cheese Capital of the United States and is home to the nation’s second oldest brewery. The rally consisted of a tour of the National Historical Cheesemaking Center museum, a tour of the ALP and Deli cheese store where Toni yodeled for us (a stunningly beautiful song), a visit from the town mayor, a viewing of the sing along version of *The Sound of Music* at the campground, a tour of an organic farm and a nearby church that was built in 1859, and a tour and dinner at the Historic Turners Hall (the term “turners” in Swiss means gymnastics).

One of the rally attendees was Stan Schwenke. His family, four brothers and two sisters, were performers, an acrobat troupe, who travelled throughout the United States from 1945 to 1977 in their custom built 31-foot airstream. They performed on the Ed Sullivan Show, on the Bob Hope Show, at Madison Square Garden, and were the opening act for the likes of Burt Reynolds, Bette Davis, The Three Stooges, Roy Clark and Red Skeleton. Stan shared his memories and his scrapbook with us. The stories he told us were so fascinating. You just never know who you might meet at a rally.

Looking forward to seeing some of you at the Sip of Virginia rally next month.

Safe travels and hope to see many of you down the road someday.

Slainte,

David Lorenz

## Member in the Spotlight

We are Lisa and Matt Marquand (#3044). Lisa is a social worker for Nationwide Children's Hospital and Matt is a software architect in the Chief Development Office of Huntington National Bank and we live in Columbus, Ohio. We're both still working full time but greatly look forward to retiring. We have two children, Sophie (29) and Noah (27), and we're lucky to have them live nearby in Columbus. Sophie is engaged to be married (Michael) some time next year and Noah has been married (Juana) for a little over a year.

After decades of Matt's hesitance to buy a camper and with a lot of help from Lisa and life-altering events during the COVID pandemic, we ordered our Airstream in 2020 and after much anticipation (and hundreds of preparatory deliveries from Amazon and hundreds of hours of YouTube videos), we finally received our 25' Flying Cloud, Front-bed Queen (more on that later) in March, 2021. Our rig is named



Freyja and the truck is named Odin. In some mythological accounts Freyja and Odin were married and she is often depicted riding in a chariot pulled by two cats (we have two cats Finneas and Frankie).

We spent the first season getting used to our rig, towing with Odin (2019 F-250 diesel), practicing backing up, learning how to use equipment, visiting Ohio's many state parks, and taking our first long trip through Colorado, Monument Valley, and eastern Utah. We were members of the Airstream club and were curious about rallying but couldn't find anything that aligned well with our schedule.

Our very first rally was the result of entering and being chosen in the 2020 lottery to boondock with 50 other Airstreamers and attend the grand opening of the new factory and museum in

## Member in the Spotlight continued

Jackson Center. We were really excited and it was only an hour away from our house. Unfortunately, it was delayed due to COVID, but we did attend the rescheduled event in 2021 and thoroughly enjoyed it. Subsequently we saw a note about the inaugural Grapes & Grains rally in Bardstown Kentucky and felt like that would be a good opportunity to try our first real rally. Everyone was new to the group and that helped us commit. We immediately bonded with some fantastic people and that forever changed our minds about rallying. Since then we've attended two international rallies, five regional/intra-club rallies including an urban rally with over 100 rigs in downtown Logan, Ohio, and taken advantage of Airstream courtesy parking. It's amazing to think that we've put roughly 30k miles on the truck in such a short time.

We love our 25' but after using it for a few trips we weren't happy with a few things namely the unused space next to the refrigerator and the queen bed that was supposedly a walk around (we couldn't tour any actual campers when we ordered since there were none on lots during COVID). Matt sourced matching materials for the interior, built a cabinet with a couple of drawers beside the refrigerator, converted the queen to twins including a big nightstand and storage cabinets under the beds. We also upgraded interior solar components, had two more solar panels installed on the roof, and swapped out the two AGMs for two lithium batteries. We have no regrets on all the work we've done so far and we're really enjoying our rig.

We have a lot of hobbies and activities outside of camping and we struggle to balance everything while still working full time. Lisa spends time visiting her mother, reading, hiking, gardening, and taking care of her many house plants. Matt enjoys reading, hiking, meeting regularly with his board gaming group, smoking meats & homemade sausages, making homemade limoncello, and dabbling in making tasty cocktails.

Our favorite campground, so far, is the Many Glacier campground on the north east side of Glacier National Park. After this year's international rally in Wyoming and before visiting Canada, we spent 8 nights boondocking in Glacier. The rig did fantastic charging our lithiums back up to 100% before noon every day and we didn't have to drive anywhere to get to hiking trailheads. We love to hike and the campground provided us the ability to keep the truck at the campsite but still hike over 60 miles on trails within the park during our stay.

To close out the camping seasons, we've been traveling each fall to the Florida panhandle for a few weeks and camping in state parks near Destin. Those trips are really our chance to simply relax, enjoy the beach, read, and just unplug. We also enjoy traveling outside the country and have spent time in New Zealand, Iceland, Ireland, and we're planning a trip to Scotland in 2024.

Rally on and we hope to meet you somewhere down the road.

# Recipe of the Month

## Wisconsin Old Fashioned

Leave it to the Wisconsinites to make their own version of the Old Fashioned, one so popular it became the state drink! In a bar order it Sweet, Sour, Press, or Soda. And the garnishes are just as unique!

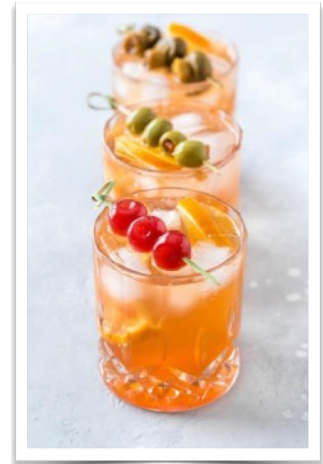
### Ingredients

sugar cube

4 dashes Angostura bitters

1/2 tsp water

2 oz Brandy



**Topper:** 1 splash: lemon lime soda (Sweet), sour mix or grapefruit soda (Sour), 50/50 lemon lime soda and soda water (Press), or soda water (Soda)

Ice for serving

For the garnish: orange peel or slice, cocktail cherry, pickled mushrooms, olives, or pickled Brussels sprouts

### Directions

Muddle the sugar cube, bitters, and water. Add the brandy and stir. Serve over ice with topper and garnish.

**Coming next month...**

***A Smokey Margarita!!!***



## Upcoming Rallies

For detailed information on upcoming rallies and events, go here: <https://airstreamclub.org/grapes.../rallies-and-events>

### Sip of Virginia

This rally will be held Oct 5-9 2023 Thursday to MONDAY. The Rally Co-Hosts are Mindy Downie & Stephanie Tisch. The Rally will be held at Misty Mountain Camp Resort in Greenwood, VA, just east of Waynesboro, VA.

### Other upcoming rallies

Sip of Georgia II March 21-24, 2024

Sip of Texas II April 11-14, 2024

Sip of Kentucky May 15-19, 2024

Sip of Oregon September 3-8, 2024

Sip of the Finger Lakes September 5-8, 2024

### Garden Flags

Club garden flags are available for purchase on the Airstream Club website. Just \$10!

### Order Merchandise

## Campfire Chats

Interested or questioning what's going on in our Club? WBCCI President Eric McHenry and Corporate Manager Lori Plummer host quarterly "Campfire Chats" with all members! They discuss updates about Club activities and initiatives, respond to questions from members, and these chats act as a forum for suggestions and ideas to help our club. The next campfire chat will be on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm eastern and 7 pm pacific. For more information click on the link below.



<https://airstreamclub.org/events/campfire-chats>

## Contributions

Roughly 23 months ago the dues free club "Grapes & Grains Intra-Club" (G&G) was established as a WBCCI Intra-Club. We suddenly find ourselves as the largest club in WBCCI. Logistically, with over 794 BRNs in the club we need to hold more than just a few rallies every year so that every member has an opportunity to experience a G&G Rally. Financially, when organizing a rally, many campgrounds, vendors, and caterers require down payments ahead of us collecting rally fees. A prime example is for the Sip of Virginia rally where the winery that hosts the polo match requires a \$1,000 deposit to hold our space on the polo field. The only funds that we have generated for the Intra-Club have come from flag sales and some in-kind contributions. More funds are needed for rally organizers so that they can plan and execute the quality events that have become our standard. The contributions will be placed in a special account that will be replenished when rally fees are collected. We are asking club members who are able to make a voluntary contribution to G&G do so by clicking on the JotForm link below.

<https://airstreamclub.org/grapes-grains-intra-club/contributions>

Thank you in advance for your contribution. Those making a contribution of \$100 or more will receive a garden flag.