



GRAPES & GRAINS GROWLER

NOVEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER

GRAPES & GRAINS
GROWLER, THE
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE GRAPES &
GRAINS W.B.C.C.I.
INTRA-CLUB

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Updates from the G&G Presidents
- Rally Reviews
- Places of Interest
- Tips, Tricks, & Hacks
- Drink of the Month
- G&G Club News
- Future Rallies & Events

From the Desk of the President



Greetings and salutations to all our Grapes & Grains members.

Thank you for your vote of confidence during the club election.

Just a little bit about myself: I completed 20 years of service in the United States Navy, taught High School physics, electronics, and engineering for 15 years and college mechatronics, robotics, and electrical engineering classes for 5 years, did some contract work for the government for three years and in April of 2022 I retired. My wife, Denise, and I bought our first Airstream, a 2011 25' Flying Cloud in September of 2021. It wasn't long after we purchased our Airstream that we saw that this new Intra-Club called Grapes & Grains was going to be hosting its inaugural rally in Bardstown Kentucky. We

attended that rally as well as the Sip of Georgia, Sip of The Panhandle, Sip of Texas, Sip of Virginia, six other rallies, one international rally, and two caravans. We love streaming and we love streaming with our Grapes & Grains members.

Our little Intra-Club has grown from just 12 members to over 1,500 members from all across the United States and Canada. It is our goal to offer more rallies than ever before. We already have six rallies, two caravans, a mega tasting event, and several other potential rallies in the works for 2024. In order to support the growth of the club and create even more events for all our members we will be implementing annual dues of \$10 per rig beginning January 1, 2024. These dues will be used to support rally hosts in securing campsites, venues, cater-

ing, transportation etc. during the planning phase of rally/caravan development. We encourage all our members to participate in hosting a rally.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our founding President, Mark Kruer and his wife Karen. They have spent countless hours hosting rallies, attending rallies, etching glasses, creating beautiful rally prizes, screen printing garden flags, the list goes on and on. Mark and Karen took their passion for beverages made from grapes and grains and turned it into a community that is now the largest club in ACI. Well done Mark and Karen, you should be proud of your accomplishments.

In closing, I am looking forward to being your President for the next year, supporting G&G in all its endeavors, and hopefully meeting many of you at one of our events. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at gandgpresident@gmail.com.

Cheers!

David

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President



Mike & Tammy VanBuskirk

Greetings fellow Grapes & Grainers,

My wife Tammy and I bought our first Airstream in July 2021 and named her Bella Rae. We retired last year and are planning to put our house on the market this spring and go “full-time” while we look for our forever home. There are so many beautiful places that we have visited, I don’t know how we will decide on a place. We love traveling with our two dogs, Duke and Gracie, exploring new places, and, of course, meeting great people while enjoying beverages made from grapes and grains.

As I write this, Tammy and I are finishing up our fall trip and heading back home to Texas. We spent some time in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and of course, Virginia, where we attended the Sip of Virginia. We had a great time at the Sip of Virginia meeting new and old friends. Melinda Downie and Stephanie Tisch did a great job with coordinating and put on an awesome rally. We enjoyed some great wine and spirits and amazing views while *flamingling* with fellow Grapes & Grainers. If you have not had an opportunity to rally with Grapes & Grains, you need to add that to your bucket list...you won't be disappointed! From there we worked our way to Alumalina where we met some of our Grapes & Grains friends who couldn't make it to Virginia.

“You need to add a rally to your bucket list... you won't be disappointed!”

As your newly elected 1st Vice-President, I'm looking forward to a great year of rallies and meeting many new members. One of my main goals this year will be to increase the number of rallies we offer so that all members have an opportunity to attend a rally in their area of the country. I believe we have a great club and will work hard to make Grapes & Grains even better. Many thanks to Mark and Karen for all their hard work in launching this incredible intra-club.

With the holidays approaching and relatives gathering, there is always a need for a festive beverage. One of our favorite drinks during Thanksgiving, is a pumpkin spice martini. So, as a Thanksgiving bonus, our recipe for a pumpkin spice martini follows.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Mike VanBuskirk

Pumpkin Spice Martini

2.5 oz Hiram Walker Pumpkin

Spice liqueur

1 oz Baileys Irish Cream

1 oz vanilla flavored vodka

1 tbsp pumpkin puree

.5 oz half & half

**Garnish - whipped cream,
pumpkin pie spice**

Add pumpkin spice liqueur, Baileys, vodka, pumpkin puree, half and half, and some ice cubes to a martini shaker. Shake for 20 seconds and strain into a chilled martini glass. Garnish with whipped cream and a sprinkle of pumpkin spice.

Want to make it fancy? Add a sugar and pumpkin spice rim to the martini glass.



From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President



Steve & Cheryl Turley

I just returned from the Sip of Virginia rally in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. This was our fourth Grapes & Grains rally in as many different states. There are a number of items about these rallies that are newsworthy.

First, the obvious: the grapes and grains are fantastic! Throughout our great country, small and large businesses are creating world-class wines, beers and spirits for us to enjoy. And what better way to enjoy them than in our Airstreams, together with our Airstream friends? To date, we have visited multiple wineries, breweries, and distilleries, each with its unique take on the subject. Some are great and some are, well, not-so-great. But all are interesting and add to the overall experience.

Second, the beauty of our great country is spectacular! From the Kentucky Bluegrass to the North Georgia Mountains to the Texas Hill country to the lush Shenandoah Valley, each location has been outright fabulous. (And we missed the white sands of the Emerald Coast, which is a beach-lovers paradise!) How much better can it get than to share the country's beauty with our

Airstream friends while enjoying a wide variety of grapes and grains?

Third, and definitely the best, are the people of Grapes & Grains. Rarely have we encountered so many nice, caring and friendly a group of people as we have with this club. It is a true joy to get back together at each rally and revive old friendships and make new ones. It is another joy to spot a fellow Grapes & Grains member on another Airstream caravan or rally. We always seem to gravitate together and turn it into a "mini Grapes & Grains event."

Have you been to a Grapes & Grains rally yet? With over 800 rigs (and growing), I know we have not met all of you yet, but we certainly look forward to doing so! Find a rally near (or far from) you and sign up! If there is not one near you, send us your ideas for a rally in your area! We want to expand

"How much better can it get than to share the country's beauty with our Airstream friends while enjoying a wide variety of grapes and grains?"

our slate of rallies in 2024 and beyond, and we are adding caravans to the growing list of Grapes & Grains events. If you have yet to attend one, I urge you to give it a try. You won't be disappointed!

I look forward to serving you as your 2nd Vice President this year and am always open to your suggestions for how we can improve the Grapes & Grains experience.

Steve Turley



Some views from the West of the Pecos Caravan 2023 the Turley's are currently experiencing.

From the Desk of the Past President... Gratitude



Mark & Karen Kruer

This month I chose to write about a topic that some of us may take for granted. It costs us nothing, but the rewards are truly amazing. Karen & I are very fortunate that we were able to purchase an Airstream. Being active members of the Club has truly changed our lives. We are TRULY grateful that we have the opportunity to meet so many unique and interesting friends from all walks of life. Just a friendly smile and asking simple questions like, "Where are you from? How long have you been Airstreaming?", to "Are you a first timer?" We now have friends from all over the US and Canada and enjoy making more friends as well as learning more about the friends we met the last time.

I am grateful that someone at International gave me the green light to launch this Intra-Club. It took a lot of hard work to get all of the necessary documents in place, logos approved, select an Exec Board, as well as plan the first two rallies. I am constantly reminded by the amount of "Thank You's" that arrived by snail mail in the early days, as well as the one I received in the mail just last month. It goes to show that you really appreciate all the hard work that is put into running this Intra-Club and hosting a rally.

Without you stepping up to host rallies or volunteering to help at rallies, we would not be as successful as we are today. But we could always use more help. We are looking into placing a Grapes & Grains Intra-Club representative in each of the twelve regions. These people would be able to provide a link between the Executive Board, the Region, and the local clubs. We could get info on what local rallies are being planned, as well as host an event at the Region Rallies and local clubs. We could also be on the lookout for interesting rallies that we may want to co-host. As we move forward to improve our presence within the various clubs, it is important that we are aware of the possibilities as well as making sure that the Exec Board is aware of any planned Grapes & Grains Intra-Club events. It is really that simple, come up with an idea and submit it to the Exec Board for approval. We may even be able to help you plan the event or rally.

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One of the items that we keep with us in our Airstream is "Thank You" cards. We use them to thank suppliers for door prizes, major items, or just for a job well done. If you are not replenishing them on a regular basis, then you are not using them as often as you could. We just used up an entire package last week and will be restocking before our next trip.

Hope your Holidays are wonderful!

Mark & Karen Kruer



Sip of Virginia

By David Lorenz

For the long weekend of October 5 -9 Virginia Airstream Club partnered with Grapes & Grains (G & G) to host a rally at Misty Mountain Campground in Greenwood Virginia. Melinda Downie and Stephanie Tisch were the hosts and they created a rally that people will be talking about for many years to come.

Friday was a "day on your own" and rally participants took advantage of the plethora of things to do in beautiful Nelson County. Some visited wineries, breweries and/or distilleries, others went to historic Monticello or Charlottesville or got some exercise on one of the numerous hikes on or near the Blue Ridge Parkway. Saturday morning G & G conducted

their annual business meeting and installed new officers. Later that morning it was time to split the 93 participants into groups to board one of two hop-on, hop-off buses. The buses transported the participants to different local wineries, distilleries, breweries and a cidery. Both groups were fortunate to share the experience of Hazy Mountain Vineyards and Brewery which had the most spectacular setting I have ever seen. The vistas seemed to go on forever. Literally breathtaking. To top off the fun filled weekend the entire rally group, along with an airstream, went to the King Family Vineyards to attend a Polo match on Sunday. One of the players was the owner of Misty Mountain Campground and he took the time to come over and introduce himself and his horse. A fun filled time was had by all as we enjoyed charcuterie boards and wine from the vineyard with a



front row view.

When not out site seeing, Mindy and Stephanie made sure we had much community time. Breakfast every morning, catered evening meals, game nights, a cocktail class with tastings and many solo stove fires to enjoy the cool mountain air helped us to reconnect with old and make new friends. The Sip of Virginia was a rousing success. Well done Mindy and Stephanie!



"... a rally that people will be talking about for many years to come!"



The Speakeasy



By Tammy VanBuskirk

Also known as blind pigs or gin joints, speakeasies have quite a colorful history. Some say these illegal drinking establishments began in England and Ireland back in the 19th century and eventually poured into the United States. The term *speakeasy* derived from the need for patrons to speak softly to maintain secrecy and avoid detection. Some required secret passwords or knocks for admittance. With the Eighteenth Amendment to the US Constitution being ratified in January of 1919, the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors” was prohibited. In response to Prohibition, speakeasies flourished. By 1920, an estimated 32,000 speakeasies existed in New York City alone. These speakeasies varied vastly, ranging

from residential basement gatherings sharing bottles of “shine” to glamorous night-clubs providing some of the best jazz entertainment of the time along with delectable dining.

Prohibition pressures created a rise in crime, with bribes being proffered to corrupt police to gain lead time on impending raids. Owners of some speakeasies installed creative devices to protect their liquors or destroy any evidence that could be used at trial. For example, New York City’s 21 Club hired an architect to create some unique features, including a switch that when activated during a raid, dropped the liquor bottles down a shaft designed to shatter the bottles, with their final landing being a pile of rocks in the cellar to complete the job.

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Prior to Prohibition, it was not common for women to consume alcohol in public, especially in the company of men. In some states it was illegal for women to enter a saloon. The speakeasy dramatically changed the way women drank and the drinks being served. With women now on the scene, bartenders began to create more palatable cocktails to help cover the taste of prohibition era spirits, which

ranged from poorly distilled whiskeys and gins to downright dangerous industrial alcohols. Popular cocktails during this period included Bee’s Knees, Old Fashions, French 75, and The Last Word.

Although speakeasies largely disappeared after Prohibition ended in 1933, their resurgence began in 1999 with the opening of Milk & Honey in New York City. The speakeasy trend continues today with many urban cities offering speakeasy options. The speakeasies of today still vary greatly. Some are small and quaint while others are bursting with live piano performances and bustling servers delivering decadent cocktails prepared by professional mixologists. If you are looking for a unique and intimate setting that possibly requires knowledge of a hidden entrance and secret password, search for a local speakeasy during your travels.



Spotlight on Company Chattanooga

While in Chattanooga this fall, we stumbled upon this little gem located in the back of the Kinley Hotel in the Southside Historic District. After passing through a hidden door behind a bookshelf, we slipped into this secret space... a jazz-filled, dimly lit retro-chic atmosphere, complete with cozy velvet lined chairs and intimate candle-lit corners surrounded by bookcases and vintage décor. Candles cast flickers of light along the long copper bar top, illuminate the array of bottles lining the back wall, and emit little touches of light to each tabletop. The bartenders are master mixologists, crafting classic cocktails, but also offering innovative cocktail creations of their own based on your preferences. Knowing we liked Old Fashions, Clay served us a Boulevardier and a Harlequin, a cocktail creation of his own using rye, brandy, Meletti Amaro, and bitters. Next, we tried two new-to-us classic cocktails, a Greenpoint and a Brooklyn. Company Chattanooga also serves sumptuous cuisine, from an amazing charcuterie board to steak frites, salads and sweets. If you find yourself in the Chattanooga area, we highly recommend you slip into Company and enjoy an elevated evening of cozy cocktails and fine dining.

How about you? Have you been to any interesting speakeasies? If so, we’d love to hear about them. If you haven’t yet, add this step to your travel planning and add a little mystery and intrigue to your next happy hour.



Tips, Tricks and Hacks

By David Lorenz

Tips, Tricks and Hacks is a new section for our newsletter. This edition is all about Apps. Most of us are familiar with Camppendium, Recreation.gov, and Harvest Host. Listed below are some additional apps that campers have shared with us.

iEXIT

Open the iExit app on or near any interstate nationwide and iExit pulls in daily Unleaded, Mid-Grade, Premium, and Diesel fuel prices across the United States. The only downside to this app is that it does not tell you which direction the gas station is. Just refresh the app and see if the distance to the gas station increases or decreases.

LOVES

The Love's Connect App is the ultimate travel app and your mobile guide to our more than 600 Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores and Speedco locations.

Map your route - Planning a road trip? With Route Planner you can enter your start and end destinations to find Love's Travel Stops along the way. You can add custom filters for fuel, restaurants and amenities to help you in planning your route.

Enhanced store locator - No matter where you are in the country, find the nearest Love's based on your location, city, state or zip code. You can search by highway, restaurants, fuel type or store amenities and with just a few taps you can get driving directions too. Amenities and services are displayed so you can quickly find what matters most to you.

View real time fuel prices - Watch fuel prices along your planned route to help you make better fueling decisions along the way! **Save 10 cents per gallon** on every fillup.

Order ahead with Godfather's pizza - Love pizza your way? Order ahead at select Godfather's Pizza locations directly from the app home screen.

OPEN ROADS

Open Road Rewards is a free loyalty program that enables you to earn discounts on fuel and save on snacks, beverages and more inside select Open Road Rewards locations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin.

CAMPSCANNER

With CampScanner, you can now explore and scan thousands of new campsites, from serene lakesides to rugged mountain getaways. As the largest campsite scanning app available, CampScanner gives you access to over 9,000 campgrounds to scan! Basecamp \$39 a year, Trailhead \$49 a year or Summit \$70 a year.

(Continued on page 8)

Tips, Tricks and Hacks *...Continued*

RV LIFE TRIP WIZARD

Built specifically for RVers, our Visual RV Trip Planner has the most advanced features available. It uses distance rings to show exactly where you'll be at the end of your driving day to choose the ideal stop. It customizes RV Safe Routes to the height & weight of your RV. Avoid low clearances, steep grades, weight limits, and propane restrictions.

TRIPIT

Triplt helps you keep track of your flights, hotels, car rentals, confirmation numbers, and other details—all in one place—so you don't have to search through multiple emails or apps to find what you need.

ROADTRIPPERS

Roadtrippers is the #1 road trip itinerary planner. Plot up to 150 stops along your way! *Roadtrippers* goes beyond navigation to show you all the cool stops between Point A and B. 38 million trips routed. Basic plan starts at \$2.99/month.

THE DRIVE WEATHER APP

RVers are on the road a lot, and some apps take a while to update. You need something that adapts as you travel. That's why The Drive Weather App is one of the best choices for cross-country travelers. You just need to input your route, then you can instantly check the forecast from the National Weather Service. If there are any issues along the way, the app gives you up-to-date arrival estimates, as well as alternative route options. It's a fantastic option for RVers as they make travel plans.

IWEATHER

This is a nice and straightforward weather tracking app. It works well for both iOS and Android devices, and there are several widgets you can choose from to make the interface more user-friendly. You'll be able to see important information about the temperature, humidity, wind speed, and more. There are paid versions of this app, but the basic free version still gets the job done just fine. So if you're leaning towards free apps, this might be a good option for you.

WEATHER LIVE

Weather Live is one of the most visually appealing choices on the market. When you check the forecast, you'll see a collection of animated loops that represent the weather in your location. You also get all the basic climate information you need.

In addition, Weather Live has access to meteorological radar maps and rain projections. So you can look at the big picture and check for any approaching issues.

Don't see your favorite app listed here? Share it with us at gnggrowler@gmail.com

Drink of the Month - Smoky Margarita



Ingredients

2 oz. Reposado Tequila
 3/4 oz. Cointreau
 3/4 oz. Lime Juice (freshly squeezed)
 1/4 oz. Agave Syrup
 Cherry Wood Smoking Chips as needed
 Coarse Kosher Salt as needed
 Lime Wedges as needed

Directions

Fill the chamber of the Smoking Gun Pro with Cherry Wood Chips.

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice.

Add the ingredients to the cocktail shaker.

Fill the cocktail shaker with a dense smoke using the Smoking Gun Pro.

Shake for 8-10 seconds or until chilled and diluted.

Double strain the cocktail into a coupe rimmed with salt.

Garnish with a lime wedge.

G & G Annual Meeting and Officer Installation

During the Sip of Virginia rally, which was held the weekend of October 5-9, Grapes & Grains held its annual meeting and officer installation ceremony. Mark Kruer was recognized for creating G & G and for serving as President for the past two years. Mark conducted the officer installation ceremony for the next term.



President – David Lorenz

1st Vice President – Mike VanBuskirk

2nd Vice President – Stephen Turley

Secretary – Deborah Costello

Treasurer – Brett Greiveldinger (2nd term)

Webmaster – Matthew Marquand (2nd term)

Past President – Mark Kruer

Upcoming Rallies & Events

Here is a taste of some of the rallies and events being planned for 2024. Organizers are hard at work in the planning process. Stay tuned for more details about each of these fantastic events!

Don't see a location you were hoping for? Contact David at for more information about becoming a rally host!

Sip of Georgia II - March 21-24, 2024

Sip of Texas II - April 11-14, 2024

Sip of Kentucky - May 15-19, 2024

Sipping Across Canada Caravan - August 20-29, 2024

Sip of Oregon - September 3-8, 2024

Sip of the Finger Lakes - September 5-8, 2024

Sipping Across Missouri Caravan - September 20-30, 2024

Mega Tasting Event - During the International Rally October 5-10, 2024

Sip of Virginia II - October 31-November 3, 2024

**Which ones
will you
attend in
2024?**



Providing opportunities to rally with like-minded individuals, sharing our knowledge of beverages made from grapes and grains, and creating shared experiences... to help all of us become more informed tasters.

WE WANT YOU!!!

Do you have an idea for a G & G Rally? A favorite winery, brewery and or distillery? We encourage you to create an event to share your passion and creativity. The leadership team is in the process of creating a template that will help to automate much of the planning process, i.e. expectations, attendee registration, processing of rally fees etc. We are here to help you make your vision for an event into a reality. Please consider being a host.

Submit your idea to gandgpresident@gmail.com.

The purpose of Grapes & Grains is to hold rallies and caravans near distilleries, wineries, and breweries.



Want to Contribute to the Growler?

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 sending an email to:

gnggrowler@gmail.com