

# GRAPES & GRAINS GROWLER

JANUARY 2024

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 Registrations
- Join Our Facebook Community
- Introducing Our New Secretaries
- Regional Ambassadors
- Drink of the Month
- Mission Statement
- Annual Dues
- Future Rallies & Events
- Volunteer to Help

## From the Desk of the President



Greetings and Happy New Year to all our Grapes & Grains members,

I hope this finds you settling into 2024 busy making travel plans for the upcoming season, possibly still streaming and enjoying some warmer weather in our southern states.

2023 was a very successful year for Grapes & Grains. Our membership grew in leaps and bounds and we were able to host more rallies than the year before. The executive board is working hard to make 2024 another banner year, offering even more rallies as well as two caravans. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be either a rally host or a rally co-host. The Grapes & Grains leadership team appreciates all the work and creativity it takes to offer your fellow members these rallies and caravanning opportunities. If you have an idea for a rally please don't hesitate to

reach out to the executive board. With the creation of planning and budgeting templates, the executive board has made it easier for first-time hosts to be successful in sharing a part of the country they love with their co-members. Grapes & Grains leadership would like to thank Elliott

*"Working hard to make 2024 another banner year, offering even more rallies as well as two caravans"*

Heath for his contribution in creating and editing the G & G Growler for our members. We appreciate your time and efforts in formatting a newsletter that flowed seamlessly with relevant information. Some of you may have noticed a slight change in the layout of last month's newsletter as Elliott passed the torch to our new Growler editor Tammy VanBuskirk. I extend a huge welcome and well done! Thank you so much Tammy for stepping up.

On a personal note, if you are over 62, I highly recommend purchasing a lifetime senior pass from the U.S. Department of the Interior.



The purchase price is only \$80. The pass will save you half of your camping fees at any National Park or Core of Engineers campground in the country and it will allow you and up to 3 people in your vehicle into any National Park for free. If you don't have one and are over 62, you should consider obtaining a pass. The pass can be found at: <https://store.usgs.gov/lifetime-senior-pass>.

If you have any suggestions or questions for our team, feel free to email me at [gandgpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gandgpresident@gmail.com).

Cheers!

David

# From the Desk of the 1st Vice President



## Mike & Tammy VanBuskirk

Greetings fellow Grapes & Grainers,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season with plenty of new and unique beverages (in moderation of course). If you need some new drink ideas, join our Grapes & Grains Facebook group where members are always posting recipes to some great drinks.

I spent last weekend in Northwest Kansas pheasant hunting where it hit 10 below. I couldn't wait to get back to Texas and enjoy the warmth. But it appears Mother Nature brought some cold weather to Texas, 14 degrees! I know some of our northern Grapes & Grainers may scoff at a mere 14 degrees, but in Texas that's a might bit too cold for our southern blood. I hope everyone made it through the winter storms and your rigs are ready to hit the road this spring. There are still a few spots left in our spring rallies, the Sip of Georgia and the Sip of Kentucky.

Since we've been home, we have attended a couple of our local club's (North Texas Airstream) rallies. We had our new officer installation rally at The Range, an Airstream-only Resort in Ennis Texas. We were blessed to have Millie O'Donnell, The Airstream International Club Vice President and G&G member, swear in the new officers for the North Texas Airstream Club. She also joined us in a friendly game of Texas Hold'em.....and yes she does know how to play!

While there we also had a surprise visit from Marc and Trish of KYD (Keep Your Day-dream). I tried to talk them into joining G&G, after all, who doesn't like to have a good Old Fashioned?"

*"After all, who doesn't like to have a good Old Fashioned?"*

Our Airstream has been at the dealership getting some warranty work done since the first week in December, so we are feeling a little antsy to get back on the road. Hopefully it will be finished soon. We are planning to spend February in Fredericksburg, Texas and enjoy the Texas Hill Country wineries and recon the area for a potential G&G rally in 2024, so stay tuned.

One last thing to pass on. Many of us like to drink good wine, but how do you pick a good bottle when you are at

the store or a restaurant? A simple and free app, Vivino might help you.

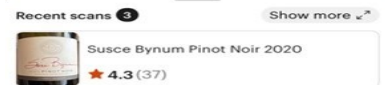
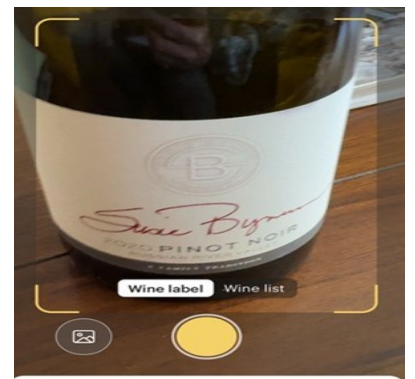
Follow the steps below to use the [Vivino Wine Label Scanner app](#).

### Steps

- Download and open the free Vivino app.
- Click on the camera icon. *Make sure to allow Vivino access to your camera in your phone settings.*
- Take a photo of any wine label.
- Pay close attention to the vintage year and wine type. If its not correct, just try to scan the bottle again. Or you can type in the name of the wine.
- From there, you can view ratings and reviews from a community of millions. We typically go for a 4.0 or better.
- You can also scan a wine list from a restaurant.

Cheers and Happy New Year,

Mike VanBuskirk  
Mike@VanBuskirks.net  
Grapes & Grains 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president



# From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President



**Steve & Cheryl Turley**

events. Georgia, Kentucky, Texas and Virginia will all see their second Grapes & Grains rallies, with a good possibility of adding more to the "annual" list of events. In addition, we will be hosting rallies in states that have never hosted a Grapes & Grains event. And we will also be visiting our Canadian neighbors to the north for the first time! In addition, we are planning a bigger and better (if that is possible) Mega-Tasting

If you have an idea for a Grapes & Grains rally in your area and you want to make it happen, contact us at [gandgpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gandgpresident@gmail.com). We are looking forward to working with as many of you as possible to set up rallies everywhere!

Steve Turley  
Grapes & Grains 2nd Vice President

What does 2024 have in store? A lot! There are universal happenings that we all know and expect: Leap Year - an extra day to enjoy in February, followed by a total solar eclipse in April, an International Rally in the fall and election day in November. And then there is the good stuff - Grapes & Grains events.

We will see a record number of Grapes & Grains rallies, beginning in Georgia in March. We will also see the first ever Grapes & Grains caravans. Behind the scenes, your executive officers are working to make hosting Grapes & Grains events easier in hopes of growing the frequency and geographic diversity of our events.

What does that mean for you? First, there will continue to be a growing number of Grapes & Grains events and a continuation of successful past



*“Our hope is to enable as many members as possible to host rallies in their home states, expanding the footprint and providing exponentially more Grapes & Grains fun across North America... and maybe beyond.”*

event at International again this year. With all these events, we hope to grow one more critical piece of our Grapes & Grains experience: including YOU as a Grapes & Grains rally host. Yes, YOU! We are growing in membership at such a significant pace, there is no way your executive officers can perform their duties *and* plan all the events we want to host. That’s where YOU come in.

To that end, we have created a Rally Template to help with the planning and execution of a Grapes & Grains rally and assist with creating a rally budget. Our hope is to enable as many members as possible to host rallies in their home states, expanding the footprint and providing exponentially more Grapes & Grains fun across North America... and maybe beyond. While it is a little more complex than paint by number, your local knowledge, combined with the Rally Template and a little coaching, will make you a Rally Host Professional in no time at all.



# From the Desk of the Past President



**Mark & Karen Kruer**

Happy New Year!

We are into our Fourth year of Airstreaming as this new year rolls around. My campground/planner/wife Karen successfully put us on the road last year for over 180 nights, and this year is already shaping up to be another year on the road camping almost half of the year.

We started off the new year at the 17th Canopener rally that takes place at the Topsail Hill Preserve State Park in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. The rally started Thursday, Jan 4, but some people have been here for the pre-rally and even the pre-pre rally. Lindsay Shropshire does a remarkable job on putting this rally together. Foley RV Center and Airstream of Mississippi is a BIG Sponsor of this rally and sets the bar high for other Airstream Dealers to contribute to Airstream Rallies. A Jan 1st polar

plunge in the pool, a Poker Run and an afternoon throwing axes are just a few of the pre-rally activities. Last year, I was able to bike ride to the beach daily with friends to watch the sunrise. Not so much this year, as it has been overcast so far, but I did make it a couple of mornings.

Some of the more notable events that happen at the rally are the Cheers and Beers beer exchange, Cornhole Tournament with 78 participants, Mardi Paws Pet Parade, Bloody Mary Bar, Tomato & Mayonnaise Sandwiches. We also created a long, long table for dinner on Saturday evening that was 296 feet long. Everyone brought their own table, chairs, food & drink. As it was sunset at 5:00, we all had creative ways of lighting the tables. There were candles, and lights of all description.

*"This year is already shaping up to be another year on the road camping almost half the year."*

Then we jump from one Florida State Park to another as we make our way to our next rally with the South Florida Airstream Club 30 in Fort Wilderness Campground in Walt Disney World February 22-26. So far there are plans for a Poker Walk, Meet and Greets, group bike rides, archery, Scavenger Hunt and the Hoop-Dee-Doo Revue dinner show. We will also have a Golf Cart Parade at the campground and a Pub crawl to the bars that are located on the Monorail.

Our final rally of this nearly 3 month trip home will be the Sip of Georgia II rally on March 21 to March 24 at the Top of Georgia near Helen. At this time, I believe that we still have openings for this rally. See more details for this rally in this newsletter.

The Sip of Kentucky rally is now open for registration. The dates are May 15 thru May 19 in Frankfort, KY. This rally will include two full days of bus tours to six distilleries. We will also have a catered meal one evening and Saturday will be a free day to visit the local area.

Save the Dates:

Sipping Across Canada August 20-August 29 (Passport required) Starting at Wapakoneta, Ohio and ending in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Sip of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada Rally August 29-September 2. Stay in Niagara Falls after the Sipping Across Canada Caravan or come up for the holiday weekend.

And this just covers the first five months of the year. More fun rallies and activities will be posted on our webpage.

I'm enjoying my Past Presidency,

Mark & Karen Kruer 18757



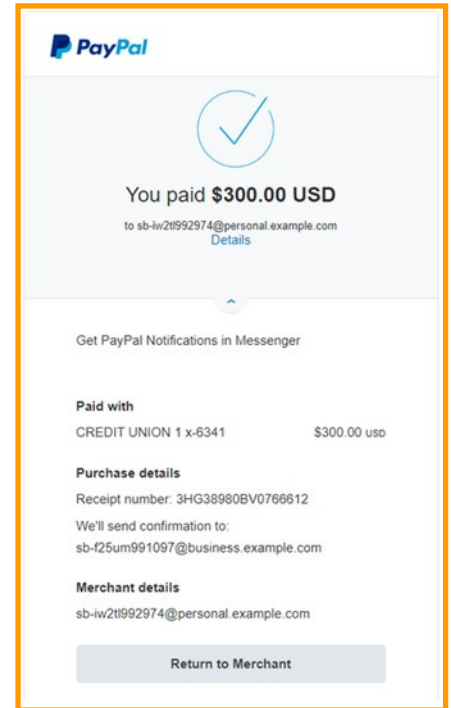
# Rally Registrations



Grapes & Grains is working hard to offer its membership as many rallies as possible. Some of these rallies have bus transportation and catered meals. When this occurs a rally then has a defined number of participants since a bus can only hold so many people and the number of attendees at a catered meal has been set. All these elements factor into the rally fee. Therefore, if a rally specifies that an individual must call the campground directly to book a campsite, it is imperative that a rally registrant perform this action prior to completing the rally registration form. If you booked a campsite online instead of calling the campground directly, and then tried to register for the rally you may be liable for paying the campground cancellation fee and risk your ability to register and attend the rally. Please follow the instructions when registering for a rally.

Grapes & Grains uses a product called Jotform as a rally registration tool which we integrate with PayPal to collect rally fees. We recommend that whenever an individual registers for a rally and pays the fee with PayPal they verify that the funds were taken out of their account. Secondly, you must click the Return to Merchant button after paying in order to complete the transaction in both PayPal and Jotform.

You are not considered registered for the rally until PayPal has successfully debited your account. Until you have validated that this has occurred and received an email from Jotform indicating you are registered, you should not consider yourself registered for the rally. Save the Jotform email response you receive as your confirmation of registration and refer to that email if you have any problems and need to reach out to the club to resolve registration issues.



*Can't wait to see you at this year's Grapes & Grains events!*



# Join Our Grapes & Grains Community

By Matthew Marquand

Are you an Airstream enthusiast with a passion for grapes, grains, and the open road? Look no further! The Grapes & Grains Intra-Club on Facebook is the perfect online haven for like-minded individuals who love sharing tips, tricks, and the joy of the journey.

## What's Inside:

In this private group, you're invited to share your favorite intra-club secrets, whether they're about the perfect cocktail recipe, a hidden gem of a wine, or a must-try craft beer. The Grapes & Grains community is all about creating a space where members can connect over their love of Airstream adventures and the delightful beverages that accompany them.

## Capture the Moment:

Got some spectacular rally pictures or snapshots of your furry travel companions? Share them with your friends in Grapes & Grains! The group is a virtual gallery of recent rally experiences, adorable cats, dogs, and anything else that brings joy to your Airstream life.

## Hang Out and Connect:

Beyond sharing your latest discoveries, Grapes & Grains is a great place to hang out with fellow members. Organize parking meetups at rallies or find courtesy parking if you're in between destinations in your rig. This is your chance to connect with over 500 of your closest G&G friends, creating a community that goes beyond the virtual world.

## How to Join:

Ready to embark on this Airstream and beverage-filled journey? Simply search for "Grapes & Grains Intra-Club" on Facebook and hit that join button. It's your ticket to a community where the road is endless, and the friendships are boundless.

Don't miss out on the fun – become part of the Grapes & Grains Facebook Group today!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/grapesngrains>



*"It's your ticket to a community where the road is endless, and the friendships are boundless."*



# Introducing Our New G&G Secretaries

On behalf of the Grapes & Grains (G&G) Executive Board I would like to announce and congratulate Lenny Huff as our new recording secretary and Priscilla Harrell as our new corresponding secretary.

Thank you, Lenny and Priscilla, for volunteering to be the G&G recording and corresponding secretary. According to Habitat for Humanity research has shown that volunteering is associated with improved health and well-being, including increased longevity, adoption of healthy lifestyles and reduction in depression and stress. Whenever another opportunity arises, please consider volunteering for either G&G or a position in your local community.

Slainte,  
David Lorenz  
President Grapes & Grains



Lenny and his wife Melinda have been streaming for a little over three years. They have attended several G&G rallies, volunteered at the Mega Tasting event, and Lenny has been the secretary for a local Masonic Lodge for the past five years. G&G is very pleased to be adding Mr. Huff to our executive board. His exceptional communication and analytical skills will be a huge asset to the executive board.



Priscilla and her husband David have also been streaming for roughly three years. They have attended several G&G rallies as well. Priscilla's experience as the Second Vice President of the WBCCI Amateur Radio Club and as their communications, marketing, social media, and liaison person coupled with the fact that she is a webmaster for a local Yacht Club and serves as the WBCCI Region 3's Facebook content creator, will make her an invaluable asset to the G&G Executive Board.



# Grapes & Grains Regional Ambassador

Grapes & Grains (G&G) is rolling out a new program called Regional Ambassadors. These regional ambassadors will come from all 12 regions and will be present at rallies on behalf of the Executive Board. Some regions are quite large and may require multiple ambassadors.

## Purpose

The G&G Intra-club needs to communicate its purpose and events to the greater ACI at large through ambassadors in each of the ACI Regions. Ambassadors will communicate relevant information from the G&G Executive Board to the ACI Regions and provide feedback to the Board from the Regions. Ambassadors will be selected by the Executive Board.

## Responsibilities

G&G Regional Ambassadors will serve a one-year term and be eligible for a two-year term if nominated and selected, beginning with the calendar year. If selected to the office mid-year, the Ambassador will serve the remainder of that year and the following full calendar year.

Each G&G Ambassador must:

- Be a member in good standing in the Airstream Club International, a member of their local unit or a member at large within the Region he or she represents and a member of the G&G Intra-Club.
- Attend Regional meetings and rallies and try to attend local club rallies.
- Promote G&G activities, rallies and caravans occurring in the Region's geographical vicinity.
  - Encourage Regional G&G members to host G&G events and rallies in their area.
  - Assist with the process of communicating Rally ideas to the G&G Executive Board for evaluation and approval.
  - Provide G&G resources to prospective rally hosts.
- Promote national G&G activities (such as the International Mega-Tasting event) to the Regions.
- Communicate the spirit and intent of the G&G Intra-Club.
- Promote membership in the intra-club and know how to and understand the process of joining the G&G Intra-Club through the ACI website.
- Provide written communications of all regional meeting activities related to G&G to the Executive Board.
- Ambassadors may optionally host G&G tasting events at Regional rallies as an example of the activities hosted by G&G.
- Assist in scouting and selection of future Regional Ambassadors.

An announcement will be coming out soon via email seeking volunteers to join our Regional Ambassador program. Thanks in advance for volunteering and we look forward to working with you.

Yours truly,

David Lorenz  
President



## Drink of the Month - An Azalea



### Ingredients

3 oz vodka  
 2 oz pineapple juice  
 1/4 oz lemon juice  
 1/2 oz Grenadine

### Directions

Strain into a chilled coupe glass, garnish with an orange slice and a cherry of your choice.

Enjoy!

***Mission Statement: Grapes & Grains is an Intra-Club for members to share their interests in beverages produced from grapes & grains. These would include beverages such as wine, brandy, spirits, and beers as well as recipes made from these beverages. Rallies and Caravans would focus on tours to places that make these beverages and to enjoy venues that serve these beverages. The main objective of the membership is to share their knowledge about grapes & grains with others. The club will be open to all members whose interests lie within Grapes & Grains.***

## Implementation of Annual Dues

Beginning January 1, 2024 Grapes & Grains will be assessing its members an annual due of \$10. These monies will be used to support rally hosts in securing campsites, venues, catering, transportation etc. during the planning phase of a rally or caravan. Annual dues will be collected on your WBCCI anniversary month. For example, if you joined WBCCI in June of 2017, every May you receive a notice that your annual dues are coming up next month. When you renew your WBCCI membership you also pay all your individual club dues at that time. This is when you will pay the annual \$10 dues for Grapes & Grains.

## Upcoming Rallies & Events

Here is the current list of 2024 Grapes & Grains rallies and caravans. Find more rally details on the website <https://airstreamclub.org/grapes-grains-intra-club> and our Facebook page. Some events are still in the planning stage, so details have not yet been released. Stay in the know by joining the [Grapes and Grains Facebook Group](#) and checking the website. Don't delay, as spots fill quickly once the event goes live.

Sip of Georgia II - Helen, Georgia - March 21-24

Sip of Texas II - Waco, Texas - April 11-14 **SOLD OUT - JOIN WAITLIST**

Sip of Kentucky - Frankfort, Kentucky - May 15-19

Sip of Wisconsin - Monroe, Wisconsin - June 6-9

Sipping Across Canada Caravan - August 20-29

Sip of Niagara Falls - Ontario, Canada - August 29-September 2

Sip of Oregon - McMinnville, Oregon - September 3-8

Sip of the Finger Lakes - Hector, New York - September 4-8 **SOLD OUT - JOIN WAITLIST**

Sipping Across Missouri Caravan - September 20-30

International Mega Tasting Event - Sedalia, Missouri - October 8th

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

More to come!

---

*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 need 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](mailto: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](mailto:gnggrowler@gmail.com)