



GRAPES & GRAINS GROWLER

MARCH 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
- Introducing Our New Recording Secretary Lenny Huff
- A Lesson in Resiliency
- An Interview with Secretary Priscilla Harrell
- Treasurer Update
- Regional Ambassadors
- Tips, Tricks, & Hacks
- Drink of the Month
- Rallies & Event Updates
- Volunteer to Help

From the Desk of the President



Greetings G&G members,

Hope this finds you planning lots of adventures as spring peeks around the corner in most parts of the country.

A major goal for our team this year was to increase the number of rallies as well as expand the geographical locations in which they are offered. The executive board has accomplished this. Our website lists nine rallies spread across the United States and even into Canada. We are also offering two caravans, one of which traverses into Canada. I am so proud of our executive team and their tireless energy. It truly is a privilege to work with these consummate professionals in expanding G&G gathering opportunities for our members. I would also like to thank our G&G members who have stepped up to host a rally this year and share what their little piece

of our world has to offer to our membership.

You recently received an email seeking volunteers for our Regional Ambassador program. As a nation-wide club that includes Canada it is not always feasible that a member of the executive board be present at all G&G rallies, all the regional rallies and rallies that want to offer a G&G sanctioned event. This is where the Regional Ambassadors come into play. As a Regional Ambassador your responsibility will be to communicate G&G's objective and vision at rallies and events, to the greater ACI at large and provide feedback to the Board from the region you would represent. We encourage you to get active in your club and join the leadership team in helping to grow G&G's presence by volunteering for this role.

You may have thought about it, asked about it, well now it is a reality! Grapes & Grains signature merchandise is now available: t-shirts, string backpacks, stickers, coasters, tote bags and more. Well done to Priscilla Harrell and Matt Marquand

for launching our Zazzle merchandise site. Read the full article about our merchandise on page 9 of this newsletter.

In closing, I hope many of you have had the opportunity to sign up for a G&G Rally or Caravan. The conversations and comradery present at our gatherings offers not only in the moment adventure and enjoyment but possibly the ability to forge some of the best friendships you could hope to have. I know that has been the case for Denise and myself.

"The conversations and comradery present at our gatherings offers not only in the moment adventure and enjoyment but possibly the ability to forge some of the best friendships you could hope to have."

Safe travels, I look forward to seeing you down the road.

Cheers!

David Lorenz
G&G President

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President



Mike & Tammy VanBuskirk

Greetings fellow Grapes & Grainers,

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! This February, Tammy and I were *lucky* enough to spend a wonderful month in Fredericksburg, Texas spending time with family and friends while enjoying the weather and wine of the Texas Hill Country. We had several incredible days of sunshine, blue skies, and high temperatures anywhere from 60's to 90's. Yes, 90 degrees in February! But of course here in Texas, with our fickle weather, we also had chilly days and freezing nighttime temperatures and some crazy winds. One day we arrived back at camp to find our outdoor carpet on the other side of the park with a tree trunk the only thing trapping it in place. I'm sure we would have always wondered where it went if it had not been lodged in place.

Tammy's parents moved to nearby Kerrville years ago, so we have been visiting the area for more than a decade and always enjoy our time there. There is so much to do in the area... the 290 Wine Trail hosts more than sixty wineries and tasting rooms, plus distilleries and breweries, and amazingly more are added every year. Downtown Fredericksburg boasts a variety of boutique shops and many delicious restaurant options... German, Italian, Mexican, Southern cooking, barbeque, you name it! Most restaurants and wineries have welcoming

outdoor patios to enjoy your meal or wine al fresco and have live music on the weekends. Hiking Enchanted Rock State Natural Area and watching the bats emerge from Old Tunnel State Park are usually on our line up as well. Fredericksburg has a colorful German heritage and several museums and historical sites, including the National Museum of the Pacific War and Fort Martin Scott.



Because we love the area so much, we decided to plan *our* first Grapes & Grains Rally there. Of course we needed to do our due diligence and visit as many wineries, distilleries, and breweries as possible to plan the perfect rally! (Tammy needed no convincing in this endeavor.) We've included some of our favorite wineries and added a few newly discovered (to us) wineries and a distillery to our bus tour line up. Having just delved into the world of bourbon last year, we thoroughly enjoyed our [Garrison Brothers](#) Distillery tour and tasting. This first legal whiskey distillery in Texas has an interesting history and we are excited that it will be our first stop on our bus tour.

We've planned the Sip of Texas III in Fredericksburg, for May 22 – 26 which is

Memorial Day weekend. The Lady Bird Johnson Campground has a great weekly rate, so we encourage everyone to stay for the week and spend time enjoying all that Fredericksburg has to offer. Actually that is probably impossible to do even in a week, but you can have fun trying! We will have some group activities planned that we can all participate in on Sunday and Monday. And don't forget! We're planning a 1920's Murder Mystery Dinner for our Saturday night finale. This will be a night to remember... everyone will be dressed in character, enjoying great food and camaraderie, while tuning up your sleuthing skills to discover who the villain is. And we just might have some prizes for best costume, best performer, or the best detective!

Make sure you book your sites soon, as they will only hold our spots until mid April. If you haven't signed up yet, we hope you will join us! We will have a great time!

[Click here for more information or to register for the Sip of Texas III](#)



Mike VanBuskirk
Mike@VanBuskirks.net
Grapes & Grains 1st Vice-president



All Hours are Happy Ones.



From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President



Steve & Cheryl Turley

Lists, lists and more lists! Good, bad or indifferent? Some folks need a checklist to make sure things get accomplished in a timely fashion and some folks just wing it. Others seem to, well, never do anything... but that doesn't describe most Airstreamers I know. This is a "get up and go" community, and our Grapes & Grains Intra-Club is doing a lot of going in '24! But when you are ready to get up and go, do you follow a strict regimen? Do you have a list? Seems a lot of folks do, and here are a few.

Courtesy of our friends in Region 9 East Texas Lakes Unit (ETLU), I discovered some useful lists. While these are just a few, there are many others out there, published by experienced Airstreamers who have learned how to do it right. Your list will vary from these depending on your rig, tow vehicle, and the gear you carry. However, these are very helpful because even the most experienced campers can get distracted or in a hurry and forget a crucial step. Do you have a list? Maybe you should!

I look forward to seeing you at a Grapes & Grains event soon!

Steve Turley
2nd Vice President

Arrival Check List

- Check for clearance around truck and trailer
- Park Trailer on same side as utilities (Driver)
- Check shore power for voltage and proper polarity
- Connect Power (30 Amp with Surge Protector)
- Level trailer side to side
- Set Chocks and wheel locks
- Unhitch Vehicle
- Level trailer front to rear
- Set stabilizer jacks
- Hook up sewer hose
- Connect water filter
- Connect water to trailer
- Roll out awning
- Turn on propane
- Stow hitch parts
- Open vents or turn on AC/Heat
- Switch refrigerator to electric power
- Turn on Water at bib
- Turn on water heater
- Record Mileage
- Stow backup camera
-
-
-

Storage Check List

- Check for clearance around truck and trailer
- Park Trailer on same side as utilities
- Check Shore Power for voltage and proper polarity
- Level trailer side to side
- Set Chocks and wheel locks
- Unhitch Vehicle
- Level trailer front to rear
- Set stabilizer jacks
- Verify propane is off
- Stow hitch Parts
- Connect Power/Trickle Charger
- Verify Water Heater is off
- Shut Vents/ Turn off AC/Heat
- Put 5 gal of water in Black and Treat
- Turn off and clean refrigerator
- Turn off Radio/TV/Booster
- Close all curtains
- Lock Hitch
- If no power, turn off battery
- Lock door lock and deadbolt
- Put on AC Cover
- Lock storage doors
- Drain fresh water tank
- Drain water heater
- Put cup of RV Antifreeze in toilet and drains
- If winter, drain hot an cold water low points
- Make list of repairs or needed supplies
- Record Mileage
-

(Continued on page 4)

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President ...Continued

A few more examples of lists...

Shelley's Check List

Camper Pre-Flight Check List

1. Secure items inside of the camper
2. Set Fridge to 'auto'
3. Ensure all windows are closed
4. Turn off propane
5. Unplug electricity- stow cord
6. Unhook water – empty hose and stow
7. Stow sewage hose – make sure blue gloves are packed
8. Raise/remove all stabilizer jacks
9. Hook trailer to truck
10. Attach sway bar system
11. Connect 7 pin plug
12. Attach safety chains
13. Connect locking pin
14. Remove chocks
15. Lock all doors

Set up at Campsite

1. Level camper (side to side)
2. Set chocks
3. Unhook sway bar system
4. Unhook 7pin plug and safety chains
5. Pull truck away
6. Lower tongue jack and level (front to back)
7. Lower/place stabilizer jacks – fine tune level
8. Attach Water hose w/flow regulator
9. Turn on water
10. Attach Electric Cord to 30/50 amp, if available, surge protector
11. Turn on breaker
12. Attach sewage hose
 - a. Do not leave gate valve open -smell will enter camper
13. Turn on propane
14. Set up Awning
15. Set up camp
16. RELAX

(Continued on page 5)

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President ...Continued

A final example of a Maintenance List...

Maintenance

Operation	Notes	Frequency	Date	Date	Date	Date
Escape Window	Check Operation	1000/60				
Battery	Check Water Level and Spray Corrosion Inhibitor	Every Trip				
	Check Voltage >12.8V					
Smoke Alarm	Test and Change Batteries Annually	Every Trip				
Tires	Check Air Pressure and Integrity	Every Trip				
Hitch	Lubricate with Grease and Check for Wear	Every Trip				
GFI Breaker	Test and Record	Every Trip				
Exterior Floor Locks	Lubricate with Dry Graphite	5000/90				
Exterior Floor Hinges	Lubricate with Silicon Lube	5000/90				
LPG Hold-Down	Lubricate with Silicon Lube	5000/90				
LPG Regulator	Check vent for obstructions	5000/90				
Door Stricker Pocket	Lubricant with White Lithium Spray Grease	5000/90				
Wheel Lug Nuts	Torgue to 110 ft-lbs	5000/90				
Breakaway Switch	Pull pin and Spray with Contact Cleaner and Silicon	5000/90				
7-way Plug	Spray with Contact Cleaner	5000/90				
Door Step	Lubricant with Silicon and Paint Rust	5000/90				
Refrigerator	Clean and Inspect Burner (NH4 Only)	5000/90				
Water Pump	Clean Strainer	5000/90				
AC Unit	Clean or Replace Filters	5000/90				
Brakes	Inspect or Replace as Necessary	10,000/180				
Wheel Bearing	Clean and Repack and Replace Seal (unless Nev-R-Lube)	10,000/365				
Tire	Rotate and Inspect	10,000/180				
Spare Tire	Check Inflation and Lubricate parts	10,000/180				
Window and Door Seals	Clean and Condition with 303	10,000/180				
Exterior	Wash and Walberize	10,000/180				
Hot Water Tank	Flush and Clean	10,000/180				
A-Frame	Touch up rust spots and inspect for damage	Annually				
Roof	Inspect for damage	Annually				
Sanitizing Drinking Water	Use Bleach Solution and let Stand for 4 Hours	Every 3-4 months				

From the Desk of the Past President



Mark Kruer

Let's go Camping!

For many of us, our camping season is year-round, but for others it just may now be starting.

From de-winterizing, replacing the linens and food items, restocking pantry items, trying to decide if you still need extra blankets, to finishing up those modifications you have been working on the past few months, there's a lot to get done before your first outing. A good cleaning inside and out always makes the Airstream happy, or at least I like to think so. Trying to decide if the tires will make it another season or if it is time to replace them is another several hundred-dollar decision, depending on how many you need. Do you pull out the spare and use it to reduce the cost of new tires or do you just replace it as well? My biggest concern is will the tire shop know and follow your directions on raising the trailer or do you do it yourself? Hopefully, any warranty work has been scheduled and completed in the off season because the shops are seldom accurate on when you can pick it up or want to keep it way too long.

Have you cleaned out the junk drawer? After all, how many flashlights do you need or use? Why are you keeping those old name badges? I'm still looking for the grey thread and a needle from a few weeks back.

Are the TPMS batteries still good? Mine seem to have lasted several seasons as the spare batteries are still in the glove box.

Karen & I both like to read a lot of books so we always hit up libraries when we are on the road for long stretches of time to restock our library.

"A good cleaning inside and out always makes the Airstream happy."

Often, there are reading libraries where we are camping to drop them off when finished. A few DVDs are always good to have on hand if the antenna channels are pixelating. Yes, I know about Starlink but we have so far survived without it as we are both retired and cannot justify the expense and storage.

We all are most likely trying to justify all the extra stuff we "have" to keep in our storage. I carry 3 water hoses, one that is way back in a compartment that I have a hard time to even get to it. We carry a total of 7 chairs just because they all fit as well as a few side tables. A full-size axe is in the bumper storage, but I do use it to split wood on occasion. Maybe I could get a hatchet to save weight and size?

I will need to find a home for the cast iron Dutch oven as we are attending a National Dutch Oven Gathering rally this summer. Of course, a chimney and charcoal will also be needed.

I would also like to take a few moments to thank Brett Greiveldinger for being our Charter Member Treasurer. Without Brett stepping up in the beginning to hold this position, our Intra-Club would not have grown as fast and strong as it is today. He served over two terms in this role and recently resigned to take over projects of his own. He will continue to be a G&G member and I can't thank him enough for giving us his valuable time and sharing his extensive experiences with the Airstream Club. We wish him well on his future projects.

Enjoying my Past Presidency,

Mark & Karen Kruer 18757



Spotlight on Our Recording Secretary Lenny Huff



Lenny & Melinda Huff

Greetings to all our Grapes and Grains Brothers and Sisters,

Being the new guy, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lenny Huff and I am the newly appointed Recording Secretary for our Grapes & Grains Intra-Club. Along with my wife, Melinda, we have been Airstreaming for four years now and each year has been better than the last. Year one and two we camped on our own and more times than not were the only Airstream in park. Year three, early in the season, we met some great people, at Tennessee Cumberland Plateau Campground (Hi Steve & Mindy!) who told us about this intra-club called Grapes & Grains. Next thing you know, we're parked with Grapes & Grains at the International Rally in Rock Springs, volunteered to help with the Mega Tasting, and then parked with a lot of the same great people at the Alupalina Rally in October. Last November, when the original posting came out in search of a new Grapes and Grains Recording Secretary, I jumped at the chance to give back to the community that showed us such a wonderful time last year. So how did I get into this mess? I am married to a flight attendant and have flown everywhere on this great Earth. The flight attendant logic is, "Why drive when we can fly?" So all suggestions of a road trip or camping

were instantly dismissed. Then came Covid. In the Fall of 2020, we went on our first road trip/camping trip. We drove out to the Delaware Water Gap and stayed at a KOA with our daughter and son-in-law. I bought a tent and a blow-up mattress that would fit the bed of my 1/2 ton Dodge Ram. It was a great set up as the adventure began. The first night the mattress had a catastrophic fail and we slept on the hard steel most of the night. The next night was a repeat of the previous night. On the drive back we visited National Parks and swapped out the truck tent with



Hampton Inn's. Unfazed by the truck tent failure, we planned another road trip to Mt. Rushmore. We drove the 2000 miles, there and back, visited National Parks, stayed at Hampton Inn's, and surprisingly, were still talking to each other. At the time, I was thinking we should keep this going while she's still in the mood for ground travel. So, we planned one more trip and off we went to Sedona, Arizona and the Grand Canyon. Another great time was had and while we were driving back she said something that totally caught me off guard. She said, "Let's get a camper." Now keep in mind that I was in total shock. So I asked, "What kind of camper do you want?" She said, "I like those silver ones." After

arriving home, we did a little research and the following week put a down payment on a 20-foot Bambi.

So, here we are now. I retired from the Illinois National Guard eight years ago and Illinois Bell/AT&T last year. Melinda is still working for United Airlines and plans to for a few more years. Last year we upgraded to a 27 foot Flying Cloud FBT and are loving life. I have a sweet gig as the Recording Secretary for the largest and fastest growing intra-club within all of Airstream Club International. We travel with two Mini Schnauzer's, Rocky and Bull, who make sure we never sleep in and that no one ever sneaks up on us. Our season will start with the Sip of Georgia and end with the Sip of Virginia. We hope to see you on the road and all the Sips in between.

Lenny & Melinda BRN 4095



There and Back Again - Lessons of Resiliency



Steve & Colleen Thorsen

Air streaming is a glorious lifestyle whether you do it full time or just spend a few days out in nature when you can grab them. However, you will face challenges, for no (travel) plan ever survived its execution. The enemy is the very thing we love — nature herself!

Take for example the critical element of your setup. Your rig requires an adequate, safe tow vehicle. We endured such a challenge travelling from Beaver Creek Ohio to Las Vegas and back with our first AS, a 16' Bambi Sport, "Little Epsilon", pulled with a 2022 Ram 1500 Limited ("Big Blue" -- a powerful, comfortable touring truck). We had no worries regarding its capacity to make this trip. But there we were coming down the backside of a mountain in Colorado when Big Blue's engine seized at 18,000 miles of use! Remarkably, we made it safely to the side of the road. Unfortunately, Ram's SOS service was ineffective — it would take hours. Our insurance

company was similarly ineffective. So, we found our own tow service from Silverthorne, CO and within an hour truck and trailer made it to a Ram dealership. Big Blue was now out of commission for an indefinite period. Meanwhile our well-planned retirement adventure was now literally "on the rocks"! Resiliency demanded we not give up; so, to find a rentable tow vehicle we used an app called Outdoorsy. We found a suitable truck and continued our trip, and we're so

"Resiliency demanded we not give up"

glad we did. We have never had the kind of adventure we experienced making it to the great National Parks of Utah and Nevada and back.

From this experience we eventually learned we can get an adequate, safe rental tow vehicle through the commercial side of the major car rental companies. This helped during our second breakdown on our way to the Swiss Rally (A faulty EGR valve). This time we found the nearest Enterprise Rental and asked for the Fleet manager. He immediately provided a suitable truck, and we towed our vehicle home (by this time, we had upgraded to our current AS, a beautiful 2022 23 FBT we nicknamed "Epsilon". The difference in price between Outdoorsy and Enterprise? Well, Enterprise was about 25% less in price, but the key bit of knowledge is that warranty insurance (we were at 48,000 miles by then) doesn't pay for rentals through apps like Outdoorsy. They will pay for standard rental car services from the commercial or fleet side of their operations.

So, what happened to Big Blue? She arose from the ashes and despite a

faulty EGR valve has been great. So, she earned a new name and is now referred to as Blue Phoenix! If you ever need to replace your tow vehicle with a rental for a short period of time (perhaps to tow your AS home for an indefinite period), try using the commercial or fleet side of the standard national rental car companies. It will save you time, aggravation, and money.



GRAND OPENING: an Interview with our Corresponding Secretary Priscilla Harrell



Priscilla and David Harrell behind the bar at the Derby Cafe, Churchill Downs, Kentucky. The bar offers over 170 Bourbons, special bourbon flights, and specialty cocktails

Tammy VanBuskirk: So, Priscilla, from a long career in finance, helping developers build apartment buildings & hospitals, to Zazzle e-store keeper? What gives?

Priscilla Harrell: Ha, you know, the good thing about retirement is you now get to do things for fun or for no reason at all. That is true luxury living. Yes, it's true I had a very meaningful and exciting career. I was able to help a lot of folks including those trying to build affordable housing and others wanting to provide housing and skilled nursing or assisted living care.

My favorite work was in hospital development where you help transform an entire community by providing much needed emergency or medical specialty care. In those 30 plus years, I did squeeze in time to fly an airplane (got my private pilot license) for the fun of it, really enjoyed dog sledding in the Artic twice, and did lots of fishing and boating. I like to try new things. The further away it is from my comfort zone, the better. This probably explains the e-store....

TV: I know our Executive Board received a lot of feedback regarding a need for Club Merchandise towards the end of last year, you volunteered your time on the board recently as Corresponding Secretary and we requested you take this on as part of your volunteer work. Tell us about the [store](#).

PH: I want to thank David Lorenz our President for believing I could take this on. I have no experience managing a store, much less an e-store. I also want to thank Matt Marquand our extremely hardworking volunteer Webmaster. He had previous experience with Zazzle and gave me a tutorial on how the e-store works. He was also my advisor and second pair of eyes for my product designs. I really appreciated his feedback. The Board reviewed the store and products and approved the store opening.

TV: Tell us about our Grapes & Grains Merchandise for sale on Zazzle.

PH: Well, our Executive Board gave me some good ideas but bottom-line, I worked on items I personally would like to have. Here are just a couple of items that we have for sale:

Men's Long-Sleeved T-shirt: This is our number one seller currently. Folks just love this men's long-sleeved T-shirt. It's available in different colors and in all sizes. It has our awesome Grapes & Grains Logo on the front and on the back. I bought one for my husband as a gift almost immediately. It's just perfect for ideal camping weather Spring and Fall.



All Hours are Happy Ones.

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GRAND OPENING: an Interview with our Corresponding Secretary Priscilla Harrell

...Continued

Small Tote: Our Logo is on both sides of the bag. I really wanted a bag at this low price point. I day-dreamed of receiving a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon with a little stuffed pink flamingo in this bag, delivered to my airstream door steps in the middle of the night so I would find it in the morning. Yes, I dream of being Flamingo'ed. Members of the Executive Board, hint hint....

Click [here](#) to visit our store today and check out all the merchandise we have available! We plan to come out with different collections from time to time; perhaps to coincide with a specific caravan or rally. We also have paper coasters and fun stickers with our logo available for purchase on the Zazzle site. Zazzle offers many shipping options you can choose from to suit your needs.

If you have suggestions on new Zazzle products we should create to add to our e-store, please let us know at: gngshopmerchandise@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all down the road, wearing your G&G merchandise of course!



Thank You for Your Service... Brett Greiveldinger



Our treasurer, Brett Greiveldinger, has chosen to step down from his role. His extensive knowledge and hard work were essential in setting up and maintaining the treasury for G&G since its founding. Thank you, Brett, for your support and service to the club!

Introducing Our New Treasurer... Cindy Schwefel

Cindy Schwefel, the lead auditor from our 2023 audit, has been appointed as the interim treasurer. Cindy graduated from Wake Forest University with a degree in accounting and has 30 years of experience in the field. Cindy currently has a small bookkeeping and tax business which she is able to manage from the road allowing her and her husband Jim to travel in Rosie, their 25' Globetrotter. Jim and Cindy attended the inaugural Grapes & Grains rally in Kentucky and have loved being a part of this community ever since. Welcome aboard Cindy!





Volunteer to be a G&G Regional Ambassador

Do you like to go to rallies? Do you like to tell people about the Intra-Club Grapes & Grains (G&G)? We Want You! The G&G Board is looking for volunteers to be our Regional Ambassadors. G&G has received multiple requests from members across the nation who would like to host a G&G event during their local or regional club rally. Our seven-member board would like to honor all these requests, but asking one of the seven members to be present at every event has become insurmountable. This is where you come in! As a Regional Ambassador you will be responsible to communicate G&G's objectives and vision to WBCCI members at the rallies and events you attend. You represent G&G to the greater WBCCI aka Airstream Club International, at large. We will also want you to provide feedback to the Board from your ambassador region. If this position sounds like something you would like to do, please volunteer. All the duties of a Regional Ambassador can be found [here](#). There can be more than one Ambassador for each Region. Click ([here](#)) to volunteer to be considered for a regional ambassador.



Tips, Tricks and Hacks

How to Get More Zzzzz's - By David Lorenz

We have a 2011 25' Flying Cloud with one air conditioner and two fantastic fans, one of which is located directly above the bed. I like it dark when I sleep and the translucent cover for the fantastic fan allows a significant amount of light in. A friend of mine, who travels in a camper van, enlightened me with an ingenious yet simple fix to my early morning wake up calls from the sun. VanEssential makes an insulated magnetic fan cover. Installation is a breeze. Remove the four screws that hold the white plastic trim cover of the fan, secure the magnets to the underside of the trim cover with tape and then replace the white plastic trim cover. The magnetic fan cover will now hold in place anytime you want to shield your living space from the sun. You can find the VanEssential magnetic insulated cover on [Amazon](#) for roughly \$40.



How to Keep That Stabilizer Wrench Handy - By Mark Kruer

I have used a drill with a bit in the chuck but found it to be noisy and I had to carry a charger for the battery. Now I raise and lower the arms using the wrench. It is quiet, gives me a little exercise and reduces weight by not having to carry a charger. You can also feel when you need to stop to avoid torquing the trailer. I used a couple of strips from an old license plate, drilled a hole in the end and mounted it to the inside of the storage compartment. I never have to find it in the back of the truck or under other stuff.



From Matt's Cocktail Bar.. The Revolver

2024 marks the twenty-year anniversary of a simple but excellent cocktail. In 2004, while working at Bruno's bar in San Francisco, Jon Santer began developing a new coffee-based cocktail but it wasn't initially a hit with customers. However, after moving to a new bar, Bourbon & Branch, the cocktail got some final tweaks and the Revolver solidified its place as a contemporary classic.

Revolver Recipe

2oz Bourbon

0.5 oz Coffee Liqueur

2 dashes orange bitters

Add Ice & Stir

Strain & Serve Up in a coupe or
Nick & Nora

Garnish with a Flamed Orange
Cheek

The cocktail originally called for Bulleit Bourbon, hence the Revolver name, but any bourbon will do. Bulleit has a high-rye mash bill so using it, another high-rye, or even just rye is more in the spirit of the original classic.

To impart a coffee-like flavor, Jon selected Tia Maria, a Jamaican liqueur that isn't particularly coffee forward but provides a nice balance of sweetness, vanilla, as well as coffee without being really on the sweet end of liqueurs like Kahula or on the very dry end featured in many modern coffee liqueurs like Mr Black or Galliano Ristretto. If you enjoy a drier, more robust coffee flavor, then by all means use whatever you like but you may need to add a bit of sugar as I do think

the cocktail benefits from a bit more sweetness than that provided by the bourbon.

For the orange bitters, there's no need to run out and get anything special. Any bitters will do so grab what you like and have readily available.

Some classify the Revolver as a riff on a Manhattan but without sweet vermouth but I think it stands alone and sits somewhere between an Old Fashioned and a Manhattan.

Cheers!

Matt Marquand #03044



Why it works?

- *Only three, easy to remember ingredients*
- *Easy to adjust amounts and ingredients with what you like*
- *Won't break the bank sourcing ingredients*
- *Presents a high-rye bourbon and toasted orange front-end with undertones of rich coffee and baking notes*

Upcoming Rallies & Events

It's time to reserve your spots for the 2024 Grapes & Grains rallies and caravans! Find all the details on the [website](#) and our Facebook page. A few 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. Wait lists do get utilized, so don't hesitate to join a wait list. Hope to see you at several of these fantastic events! Cheers!

Sip of Georgia II - Helen, Georgia - March 21-24 **SOLD OUT - JOIN WAITLIST**

Sip of Texas II - Waco, Texas - April 11-14 **ONLY ONE SPOT LEFT!**

Sip of Kentucky - Frankfort, Kentucky - May 15-19 **SOLD OUT - JOIN WAITLIST**

Sip of Texas III - Fredricksburg, Texas - May 22-26 **10 SPOTS LEFT!**

Sip of Wisconsin - Monroe, Wisconsin - June 5-9 **ONLY 7 SPOTS LEFT!**

Sippin' to Niagara Falls Caravan - August 20-29 **16 SPOTS LEFT!**

Sip of Niagara Falls - Ontario, Canada - August 29-September 2 **14 SPOTS LEFT!**

Sip of Oregon - McMinnville, Oregon - September 3-8 **ONLY 3 SPOTS LEFT!**

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

Sipping Across Missouri Caravan - September 20-30 **ONLY 3 SPOTS LEFT!**

Sip of Virginia II - Greenwood, Virginia - October 31-November 3 **Details coming soon**

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.

Consider Hosting a G&G Rally

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 has created 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 or G&G rally photos 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