



GRAPES & GRAINS GROWLER

AUGUST 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
- Matt's Cocktail Bar
- Regional Ambassadors
- Pop Tabs for Sedalia
- Airstream Flamingo'd
- Giving Back in Sedalia
- Parking with G&G at Sedalia
- Rallies & Event Updates 24-25
- G&G Airstream Flamingo'd Tags
- All Hours are Happy Ones
- Growler Submissions

From the Desk of the President



Greetings G&G members,

I hope that everyone has been enjoying their summer and staying cool.

It is that time of year when Grapes & Grains seeks nominations for officers to serve on the Executive Board. Please consider getting involved in this constantly growing club. We will vote on club officers in September and install the officers at the Sip of Virginia Rally in October.

The big bit of news that I have to share with everyone is Grapes & Grains will be hosting its first ever annual luncheon at an International Rally. The luncheon will be held on Monday October 7th from 11:30 – 1:00 in Sedalia Missouri. The meal will cost \$20 per person and will include pulled pork, pulled chicken, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, chips, buns, unsweet tea, lemonade, water and peach cobbler for dessert. During the luncheon

*Make plans to attend
the first annual G & G
Luncheon at International
in Sedalia, MO
October 7th
11:30 - 1:00*

the executive board will have a brief presentation on the “state” of the Intra-Club. Click [here](#) to register.

In closing, in order to sustain our membership, we need to offer more rallies, caravans and/or events all across our great nation. To do this **we need your help**. Please consider hosting a rally, leading a caravan, hosting a Grapes & Grains event, becoming a regional representative, or letting us know that you are willing to help in some other way. Thank you in advance for volunteering.

Safe travels, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Sedalia or down the road.

Cheers!

David Lorenz
President



From the Desk of the 1st Vice President



Mike & Tammy VanBuskirk

Greetings Fellow Grapes & Grainers,

Tammy and I have sold our home and are now “full timing.” It has been a summer of traveling and visiting friends and relatives. We are currently in West Jefferson, North Carolina, where the weather is great. Temperatures here are 70-80’s, not like back in Texas where it will be 100+ degrees for the next couple of weeks. We miss our family and friends back in Texas, but not the crazy heat!



After leaving Texas, we headed to Raccoon Mountain RV Resort in Chattanooga Tennessee with a quick stop in Laurel Mississippi to see some of the “Hometown” fixer-uppers. We had a great time in Chattanooga where

we met up with Edward and Tiffany



Wilson. We visited several of Chattanooga’s speakeasies and took a day trip to



Lynchburg Tennessee to tour the Jack Daniel’s Distillery.

After leaving Chattanooga, we made a quick stop in Damascus, Virginia to bike the Virginia Creeper Trail. This

beautiful rails-to-trails should be on your bucket



list when you are in Virginia. Our next stop was in Elk Creek Virginia where my uncle let us spend a couple of weeks enjoying his mountain retreat. I will have to admit, it was a little scary towing BellaRae up the “driveway” to his house. While we were there,

Tammy had a chance to work on her farming skills. He has an amazing place full of deer and even a black bear. Well, that brings



us back to West Jefferson. We had intended to stay for a couple of days while visiting my cousin.

Now, three weeks later, we are getting ready to



leave to make our way north to begin a busy fall travel

schedule. Our first stop will be the Finger Lakes Rally in New York, then on to the Sipping Across Missouri Caravan, the International Rally in Sedalia, then finishing up at the Misty Mountain Campground for the Grapes & Grains annual installation rally.

Mega Tasting News...

The Mega Tasting at International this year is sold out. If you are on the waitlist, don’t give up! We have already had openings for four people on the waitlist. If you have already registered, we will be sending out detailed information next month to let you know when and where to check in and drop off your beverages.



See you down the road, because that’s where we’ll be.

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

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President



Steve & Cheryl Turley

A Little Geography?

As everyone knows, Grapes & Grains is an ACI (or WBCCI, for you purists) Intra-Club. As opposed to your local cub - which is geography-based - we are not limited by any regional boundaries. Our members are from all over the U.S. and Canada and represent a broad interest in wines, spirits and beers. Clearly, that same interest is worldwide and not limited to Airstreamers. According to the very popular (and mostly accurate) Wikipedia:

Beer is thought to have been invented by the Sumerians, who lived in what is now Iraq, around 8,000 BC and ancient tablets have been unearthed showing the original brewers were women. The Sumerians even had a goddess of beer, Ninkasi.

The oldest evidence of ancient wine production has been found in Georgia and Syria from c. 6000 BC (the earliest known traces of grape wine), Iran from c. 5000 BC, Greece from c. 4500 BC, Armenia from c. 4100 BC (large-scale production), and Sicily from c. 4000 BC. The earliest evidence of fermented alcoholic beverage of rice, honey and

fruit, sometimes compared to wine, is claimed in China (c. 7000 BC).

Although nobody can say for sure, Poitín, pronounced "put-cheen," is an Irish concoction thought to be the oldest spirit in the world. A spirit, or liquor, is an alcohol that has been both fermented and distilled. Popular examples include gin, whisky, and vodka.

As history has taught us, our favorite "adult beverages" have rich and diverse beginnings, and today we have a variety unmatched in history. In the United States alone, the American Distilling Institute reports over 2,200 active distilleries. The craft brewing industry reports over 9,600 craft breweries, and *Wine Business* reports there are more than 11,600 wineries in the U.S. That is a lot of visits Grapes & Grains needs to catch up on!

But we are headed in the right direction. With 10 rallies and our first-ever caravan in 2024, we are rapidly growing from our meager beginnings with 18 rigs in Bardstown, Kentucky only two years ago! However, we have a **major** geographic disparity in our event distribution!

"Let's work towards extending the fun as far and wide in the West as possible!"

To date, we have had only four rallies west of the Mississippi, and three of those were in Texas! To be fair, the Sip of Oregon is slated for next month. By contrast, this year's second annual Mega Tasting event at International will be the second of two west of the Mississippi (although Sedalia is just *barely* west)! The bottom line is this: we need rally hosts to volunteer to

host more rallies out west. We need YOU!

Your executive team has worked hard to make rally hosting as simple as possible, with both event and budget templates available. If you have been to a Grapes & Grains rally, you know how much fun they are, so let's work towards extending that fun as far and wide in the west as possible! We need YOU!

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in Sedalia! Don't be surprised if I try to recruit you to host a rally! If you have any questions about hosting a rally, please feel free to reach out to me via email at tn_ags@me.com.

Steve Turley
2nd Vice President



From the Desk of the Past President



Mark Kruer

WOW! Where has the time gone??

It seems just like last month Karen & I had an idea about an Intra-Club that would host rallies at wineries, breweries and distilleries. After much hard work for 6 months, we were able to get the Grapes & Grains Intra-Club up and running. And run we have! At publication, we are at 938 BRNs in the Intra-Club out of a possible 9675 BRN's. UNBELIEVABLE! Never in all of our wildest dreams did we think that we would reach this milestone. We are now hosting nearly 10+ rallies a year and even have a Sipping across Missouri caravan next month. All of our rallies except for the inaugural rally, start out with the "Sip of ..." and several are already in their third occurrence. Hard to believe that I

"Never in our wildest dreams did we think that we would reach this milestone."

will be stepping off the board in a few months, after two terms as President and another serving as Immediate Past President. I will truly miss serving as a leader in this fine organization.

With that said, we will still be involved in planning the Sip of Kentucky II rally next May in Louisville, KY. The tentative dates for this rally are Wednesday, May 14th thru Sunday, May 18th. We are looking at including a visit to the home of the Kentucky Derby, Churchill Downs, the Louisville Slugger and Frazier Historical Arms museums, as well as visits to local distilleries. We have not yet completed the itinerary for this rally, but we hope to make it as enjoyable as the last two that we have hosted in Kentucky.



interested in hosting. We have lots of tools to make the rally planning easier than ever, as well as a number of experienced people who can assist in the planning. We are also hosting a panel discussion presentation at the International Rally in Sedalia.

We look forward to the second Mega Tasting at International, which is now on a waitlist due to its popularity last year. There is also a first ever G & G luncheon, which just opened up for registrations. Don't wait to [sign up!](#)

We hope to see our old friends as well as make new ones at International. I'm told there are still spots left. If you want to have a reserved spot at International with the G & G group, make sure that ACI knows your parking preference. You can arrive any day, any time and get to park with your G & G friends. See you soon!

Mark & Karen Kruer 18757



We are trying to find a host for a G & G Rally at the Airstream Park in Mystic Springs, near Pensacola, Florida for a rally in the first quarter of 2025. We held our Sip of the Panhandle Rally there in February 2023 and it was a great place to host a rally, with a great clubhouse and reasonable camping rates. There are lots of great breweries in nearby Pensacola. Send us an email if you are

From Matt's Cocktail Bar... The Vieux Carré

This month, we're heading south to New Orleans for a Manhattan riff called a Vieux Carré. Named after the city's French Quarter, the Vieux Carré (Old Square in French) features Benedictine, one of my favorite herbal liqueurs for which there really is no substitute. If you like a Manhattan, you'll love a Vieux Carré. Benedictine can be a bit pricey for a full bottle but it's worth it. I always have one on the bar because there are so many great cocktails that use it, including the Widow's Kiss, Bobby Burns, and the Monte Cassino.

The Vieux Carré was first served in the 1930s when Walter Bergeron, a bartender at the New Orleans' legendary Carousel Bar, treated his customers to what is now a classic. The cocktail features some really strong ingredients and is usually served up in a coupe or fancy glass, like a Manhattan, but it also works well served over a large rock so choose how you'd like it and get that glassware chilling.

I strongly recommend measuring carefully as the balance across all of the ingredients is crucial. When you get it right, it's a beautiful sipper. I'll also warn you to not skip using both kinds of bitters as they're necessary to cut through the sweetness imparted by the Benedictine and the Vermouth. Peychaud's Bitters is a mainstay of New Orleans cocktails like the Sazerac so let's keep it authentic and get to the recipe!

Cheers!

Matt Marquand #03044



The Vieux Carré

0.75 oz Rye (Bottled and Bond - 100 proof)
0.75 oz Cognac (I use Maison Rouge V.S.O.P.)
0.75 oz Sweet Vermouth (I like Cocchi Vermouth di Torino)
0.5 oz Benedictine
2 dashes Peychaud's Bitters
2 dashes Angostura Bitters

Add all the ingredients into a stirring glass, add ice, and stir for about 30 seconds until well chilled and diluted. Strain into your chilled glassware and express lemon oil from a freshly cut peel over the top and give the rim a quick swipe while you're at it.

I hope you enjoy one of my favorite cocktails, cheers!



Volunteer to Become a G&G Regional Representative

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 Representatives. 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 Representative 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 Representative can be found on the attached file. There can be more than one Representative for each Region. Click ([here](#)) to volunteer to be considered for a Regional Representative.



Bring those Pop Tabs to Sedalia



Attention All Airstreamers! We are excited to announce that Future Streamers Intra-Club are collecting pop tabs to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Kansas City, MO. Please start collecting as many pop tabs as you can from rallies, home, work and even your neighbors. You can bring them to the International Rally in Sedalia, MO. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and support a good cause. Remember, our children (Future Streamers) are giving back to other children, and pop tabs are easy to collect when you are on the road. Let's show our love for aluminum and make a difference together! Don't drink soda or have cans with tabs? No Worries here is a [link](#) dedicated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities-Kansas City where you can make monetary donations. If you have any questions please contact Misti Roach at futurestreamersairsteam@gmail.com

You've Been Airstream Flamingo'd by Grapes & Grains

Have you ever been "Flamingo'd" while camping in your Airstream? Flamingoes and Airstreams have had a connection since the 1950's. Some use flamingoes as a little kitschy décor inside or outside their camper. But when you "flamingo" a fellow Airstreamer, you are simply saying hello and brightening their day with a little flamingo "gift" that is left at their campsite. These gifts are usually dropped off secretly, but accompanied with a note or tag with your name or BRN.

G&G Recording Secretary, Lenny Huff's talented daughter, Jessica Bennett, designed G&G tags you are welcome to print and use with for your own flamingo'ing. Jessica has an Art Degree from Monmouth College and has been a flight attendant for United Airlines for the past 9 years. She currently lives with her husband, Ian, and black lab, Finn, in Pawling, NY. When not flying, working the desk at her husband's Chiropractic Office, or making sourdough bread, she still likes to draw and design in her free time.

We've attached these Airstream Flamingo tags to the last pages of the newsletter. Simply print these two pages front to back on one sheet of quality paper and cut it out.

Use these tags to "Flamingo" friends and fellow Airstreamers and share the love of our Grapes & Grains Intra-Club! Happy Flamingo'ing!





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AIRSTREAMERS GIVING BACK IN SEDALIA

Let's make our mark in Missouri at the Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia and have "Fun in the Fall"!

Whether you are attending this year's International Rally or not, you can participate in our community service project for 2024. We are partnering with the [Bothwell Foundation](#) to support their Pinktober campaign. Airstream Club International members have two ways to make a difference:

1. [Buy a Pinktober T-shirt](#) in support of all people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Missouri, in October, has a lot of autumn colors, but **PINK** is the color that will make a difference in a lot of people's lives. Non-rally attendees can purchase T-shirts and have them mailed for a small fee (\$5).

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/bothwellregionalhealthcenterfoundation/event/rally2024/>

The broader Sedalia community will be out wearing "Blue Jeans for Bothwell" on Wednesday, October 9. Rally attendees can join in the fun on Wednesday, by wearing Pinktober T-shirts, along with blue jeans. During that evening's rally entertainment, a group picture will be taken at the Airstream Club International band and choral concert. (Please feel free to wear your Pinktober T-shirt and blue jeans all day!)

2. This Community Service project with the Bothwell Foundation is also targeting the renovation of the Bothwell Regional Health Center patient rooms. The Bothwell Regional Health Center was built in 1985 and needs updates and modernization. With every \$10,000 donated to this effort, a patient room will be dedicated with naming rights in the donor's honor.

We plan to have a patient room at the Bothwell Regional Health Center dedicated to the 67th Airstream Club International Rally! Even if you are not attending this year's rally, you can contribute to this project by [clicking this link](#).

If you haven't read the article in the Blue Beret, Spring issue, page 44-46, about the 2024 community service project, [please check it out now](#).

If you have questions, or if you want to volunteer to help distribute the Pinktober T-shirts at the rally, please contact Rose Garland (BRN #6566) at 314-484-1272.

And, P.S., please continue to collect aluminum tabs for the Future Streamers Intra-Club's effort to support the Kansas City Ronald McDonald House.

Thanks to everyone who has made even the smallest contribution to the success of the 67th Airstream Club International Rally in 2024 in Sedalia, Missouri!





Sunset in Rock Springs, Wyoming 2023

Parking with G&G at Sedalia

The International Rally in Sedalia Missouri is fast approaching. Many of you will be attending this fun filled rally. If you want to park with Grapes & Grains in Sedalia you must contact ACI at 937-596-5211 between the hours of 8-4 Monday through Friday and specifically let them know that you want to park with the G&G group. In the past some members thought that they automatically got to park with G&G by virtue of being a G&G member. This is not the case. If you really want to park with G&G at International (and trust us, you do!), please call ACI at 937-596-5211.



Friendly neighbors... tasty beverages.

Final G&G Event Line-up for 2024

All rallies and caravans are currently on a waitlist. Click [here](#) to join a waitlist.

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

Sip of the Finger Lakes - Hector, New York - September 4-8

Sipping Across Missouri Caravan - September 20-30

2024 International G&G Luncheon - October 7th 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Still a few spots left for the luncheon. Click [here](#) to register.

Mega Tasting @ International - October 8th 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Sip of Virginia II - Greenwood, Virginia - Oct. 31-Nov. 3

2025 Events... What's on the Horizon?

Attention travelers! Have you visited a location and thought, "Wow! This is an amazing place to have a G&G rally! There are so many breweries, distilleries, or wineries here."? Or maybe you have a great local spot that would be perfect for hosting a rally? We know you keep hearing this from us, but WE NEED YOU to host these rallies. We want all of our G&G members to have the opportunity to attend rallies in their regions. If you've been on the fence about leading your own rally, gather up a few friends and do it together. Let's start planning an awesome 2025 for Grapes & Grains events! If you have any questions, reach out to Steve Turley at tn_ags@me.com.

Sip of Kentucky II - Louisville, KY - May 14 - 18 *tentative dates

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.

All Hours are Happy Ones with G&G Friends



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? We would love to have more of you represented! Please let us know by sending an email to:

gnggrowler@gmail.com