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Grapes & Grains Growler March 2025



Happy Spring Grapes & Grains members! Hope you are enjoying the great outdoors and gearing up for some fun at our upcoming rallies and events!

From the Desk of G&G President Mike VanBuskirk

Hello fellow Grapes and Grainers,

I hope everyone had a great Saint Patrick's Day and didn't drink too much green beer.

Tammy and I are getting ready for the Region 3 rally, Streamin' in the Sweetgrass in Ladson, South Carolina in April. We'll be hosting a G&G bottle share event, so make

sure you bring a bottle (or six-pack) of your favorite beverage if you are attending. This can be beer, wine, or spirits. The event will be a simple sharing of a variety of beverages. Bring your beverage to share (with your BRN written on it) and a glass. At the end of the event, you will take your bottle with you. We will have some G&G swag to give to the attendees, so don't miss out.

We are working on our 2026 rally schedule, so if you would like to host an official Grapes & Grains rally reach out to one of the executive board members or your G&G regional representatives.

Do you want to be a member of the Grapes & Grains' Executive Board? It's time to start thinking about running for a board position. If you are interested in volunteering, reach out to any board member to learn more about the available positions.

I'm looking forward to a great rally season!

Cheers,
Mike VanBuskirk



From the Desk of 1st Vice President Steve Turley

Rally season is heating up - quite literally down here in Texas - and, it's going to be another great year for Grapes & Grains rallies. We have a few that are back by popular demand, and some brand-new ones as well. Out west, up north and back east to Pennsylvania, we are covering more of the map than ever before! If you haven't heard yet, we will have our first Canadian rally, the Sip of Diamond Valley, in conjunction with the Calgary Stampede rally in July. There are still a few spots left, so jump on that registration if you will be in the area, or if you want to be in the area!

But rallies aren't the only thing going on this year! We will also be hosting the third annual Mega Tasting at International in August. We are working with the International Planning Committee to arrange an even more impressive event than we've had in the past! None of this would happen without a great slate of volunteers who have stepped up to help plan and execute another great event! We will also have another Grapes & Grains luncheon and business meeting where we will induct next year's slate of Grapes & Grains officers. We hope you plan on attending both!

We are also actively recruiting Regional Representatives to promote Grapes & Grains events and encourage membership across the continent. We do have a lot of our Canadian friends as members, and would love to add more. Why do we want to continue to grow, despite being the largest and fastest-growing intra-club in the ACI? More members means more resources and more local knowledge, leading to more rallies in more places. We believe Grapes & Grains has built a platform that makes hosting a rally as easy as it can be, especially since most of our rallies include multiple events, tours and meals. Do you have a rally idea? Are there a handful of great local wineries, distilleries or craft breweries in your area? Let me, or any of your Grapes & Grains officers, know you're interested and we will help you plan it.

Grapes & Grains has enjoyed terrific success in its first three years of existence. We have grown from a first rally with 18 rigs to hovering around a thousand rigs. The main reason for growth is fun! We love learning about adult beverages and enjoying those beverages in the company of other great people! How do we keep moving forward? With your involvement! Attend rallies and, in the spirit of all Airstreamers, volunteer to help!

Steve Turley



The bourbon table at the 2nd Annual Mega Tasting Event in Sedalia, Missouri



A fun dinner and tasting at Fernweh Distilling Co. during the Sipping Across Missouri Caravan



Touring the Castle & Key Distillery during the Sip of Kentucky Rally in 2024

From Matt's Cocktail Bar: Swedish Punsch



Corpse Reviver No 2A

In the early 1800s, bartenders would offer their customers hangover cures. Each bartender would craft their own concoction and claim it would eliminate all residual negative side effects of the night before and would even, in rare circumstances, revive the dead. And the Corpse Reviver was born.

Now, unlike the Old Fashioned and many other countless classics, there was no official template for the Corpse Reviver. It could be literally anything but over the years some recipes gained notoriety and to distinguish one recipe from another, bartenders started assigning numbers.

Over time, one clear winner emerged and most modern Corpse Revivers follow the “equal parts” pattern of the Corpse Reviver No. 2:

0.75 oz gin

0.75 oz Cocchi Americano (or Lillet Blanc)

0.75 oz Triple sec

0.75 oz lemon juice (freshly squeezed)

Shake with ice and double strain into a chilled coupe that has been spritzed with Absinthe

However, if you want to branch out from the standard No. 2 build and want to try a riff published in the 1956 book “The Official Mixers Manual,” grab a bottle of Kronan Swedish Punsch and head to the bar to make a Corpse Reviver No. 2A.

Swedish Punsch is a Scandinavian liqueur comprised of a base spirit (usually arrack or rum) mixed with tea, lemon, spices, sugar, and water. Punsch offers a complex herbal sweetness to cocktails, is readily available, and is an inexpensive addition to your bar. The Corpse Reviver No. 2A is almost the same build as the No. 2 and provides a more complex and sweeter result than the original:

0.75 oz gin

0.75 oz Kronan Swedish Punsch

0.75 oz Triple sec

0.75 oz lemon juice (freshly squeezed)

Shake with ice and double strain into a chilled coupe that has been spritzed with Absinthe

Swedish Punsch is versatile and is commonly used in a cocktail called the Doctor featuring rum & lime. I've even replaced the sweetener in an Old Fashioned and added some into a Mai Tai with great success. Grab a bottle and explore Punsch!

Matt Marquand #O3O44



A Mai Tai and Old Fashioned made with Punsch

Who's Your G&G Representative?

Grapes & Grains would like to thank our Regional Representative volunteers for their continued commitment, hard work, and support! These volunteers are spread across the United States and Canada and do a fantastic job representing Grapes & Grains at rallies and events, answering questions, locating potential rally hosts and serving as a resource to members in their region. Each G&G Growler will feature a few of our representatives for our membership to get to know them better.

The following is a list of our Regional Representatives in order by region. Note: a region can have multiple representatives.

Region 2 Sharon Haw

Region 3 Helen Bailey

Region 3 Ronald Raymond

Region 4 Colleen Thorsen

Region 4 Pegeen Smith

Region 5 Mark Kruer

Region 9 Steve Turley

Region 10 Doug Whiteside

At Large Joni White

Don't see your region represented? Maybe YOU should volunteer!

How to be a Rep? <https://form.jotform.com/240606658358161>

Getting to Know Your Regional Representatives

**Meet Doug & Carol Whiteside - Region 10
Representatives**





Please tell us something about yourselves.

Hello! We are Carol and Doug Whiteside from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Carol and I met at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Growing up on the prairies, we had a very limited view of the world but a desire to learn more about its wonders. Upon graduation, we married and travelled through New Zealand, Australia and Southeast Asia. The statement "Ignorance is Bliss" certainly applied as we, two trusting and ill-informed explorers, backpacked on a shoestring budget with little or, at times, no contact with our friends and family back home. How times have changed! Although extremely challenging and "educational," we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and the travel lure was set. Upon returning home, our travel options became much less expansive as we settled into buying a house and raising our six children. Travel remained an integral part of our lives, and we spent numerous holidays towing a tent trailer with an eight-passenger station wagon across western Canada and the USA. Our children have also been instilled with our love of travelling through these trips and yearly backpacking trips to the Alpine Club of Canada's backcountry huts and trips to Peru and the Maritimes. Over time

and as family commitments permitted, Carol and I resumed our world exploration, visiting places like India, Tasmania, and Bhutan. We have also developed a love of long-distance walking, completing the Camino de Santiago, the English Coast to Coast and other walks in New Zealand, Ireland and Canada.

We have been retired for some years, and although we still have international travel plans, we wanted to explore closer to home. We started our North American travels in a 13-foot "Boler" style travel trailer. After one long-distance trip, we realized (with a lot of Scotch) it was no fun being cramped in a cold, sometimes damp, tiny trailer with no bathroom, watching the rain and snow come down. We needed better accommodation.

When not travelling, we visit our six children and five grandchildren, ski, hike and volunteer with our church and community. Carol also spends her time quilting, baking and gardening while I spend my extra time renovating our children's homes and fly fishing.

How did you become a member of the Airstream Club International and Grapes & Grains?

There was a run on RVs when we purchased our trailer, and while we saw a few older Airstream models in dealers' yards, we had to rely on the Internet to make our purchase. Ultimately, we bought our 23-foot International Airstream trailer sight unseen in April 2023 from a dealer two mountain ranges and eight hours away. It was still winter when we picked up the trailer, and because a snowstorm blocked the mountain pass home, we ended up camping at the dealership for a few days until the snow was cleared. This first camping trial confirmed that buying a warm, "spacious" Airstream was the right choice.

When we bought our trailer, we knew nothing about the Airstream Club International, however, over the past two years, we have concluded that the Club is the best part of owning an Airstream. We discovered the Club by looking into the BRNs (Big Red Numbers), and through the BRNs, we have found a community on wheels and a travel support network. This past year, we have spent almost 100 days in "The Airlinn," the name we christened our shiny coach. We have attended five rallies, including the Region 10 Rally and Sedalia 2024 International Rally, and

participated in our first Caravan, Grapes and Grain's "Sipping across Missouri." The Caravan was perfect! It opened our eyes to new ways of vacationing and a new way of creating community.

We are members of the Alberta Saskatchewan Local Club and associate members with Oregon and Montana. We are also members of the Grapes and Grains Intra-club. We have enjoyed our experiences with all the clubs. The Grapes and Grains Intra-club has, though, a few unique characteristics. First, its focus on "Grapes and Grains." Sharing food and alcohol is a great way to meet others, share experiences, and develop friendships. Because Grapes and Grains is not regionally focused, it has also allowed us to meet people from across North America, and while we live in a beautiful place with many wonderful places to see, it is the people we meet who truly make travel special.

What would you like to do as a Regional Representative?

Throughout our journeys over the years, we have found it is by meeting people that we make the world a smaller, more tolerant place. While we may enjoy different things and have diverse life experiences, in the end, through meeting people, we find that despite the differences, we have a lot more in common. As representatives, we want to encourage people to join our club rallies and caravans to see and experience new things. We want to encourage people to meet others and expand their circle of friends. As representatives, we like to help find new rally and caravan opportunities. Most of all, though, as representatives, we believe our job is to make our time together more enjoyable and help make the world smaller.

Meet Helen & Bill Bailey – Region 3 Representatives



Please tell us something about yourself.

Bill and I are both originally from California, where we met and married over 40 years ago. We have been living in Mt Pleasant, South Carolina (Charleston County)

for the past 8 years. We moved across country, so Bill could live near his brother Bert, a retired Air Force Colonel. We escaped the high cost of living in California and love living on the East Coast, just 10 minutes from the beach.

We are Border Collie owners and love taking them to the beach to run and chase balls. We never want to live too far from the ocean. We definitely love the Salt Life. We have two sons and two grandsons on the opposite coast, which keeps us traveling west for visiting.

How did you become a member of the Airstream Club International and Grapes & Grains?

We purchased our first Airstream in 2022, a 27' International with the beachy vibe of blue upholstery, whitewashed cabinets, and blue and green striped awnings. We love that trailer! We joined Airstream Club International and the Carolina Airstream Club soon after to meet other campers. All our friends have boats in Charleston, including us, and we wanted to start seeing more of America and the National Parks.

We joined Grapes & Grains after attending the Alumalina Rally and then camped with the G&G in Rock Springs at the International Rally. I pretended to be a sommelier at the G&G Mega Tasting Event and poured about 40 bottles of white wine that afternoon. What a great event and fundraiser for the local community! We made so many friends at that event.

What would you like to do as Regional Representative?

As a Region 3 Representative of Grapes and Grains, I make sure we always fly our G&G flag at every rally, caravan, or event where Airstreams are present. As a Registered Nurse, I'm used to reaching out to total strangers to talk, answer questions, promote G&G, explain the Big Red Numbers, and to get folks signed up for our club. People are always curious.

We are huge advocates of not drinking then driving. We always try to encourage designated drivers, of which I am always available. My husband is retired law enforcement and we both want everyone to make it home safely from all events.

We look forward to meeting more of you along the trail. As the club grows, we

hope more and more rallies and even caravans occur throughout all regions of the US. We are keeping our eyes open for new locations for events.

Helen & Bill Bailey
BRN 14007

G&G 2024 Charitable Donations

**ITS ALL FUN AND GAMES 'TIL WE GIVE BACK,
 GRAPES & GRAINS MEMBERS GIVE BACK TO OUR
 COMMUNITIES!! OUR 2024 CHARITABLE DONATIONS TOTAL
 ALMOST \$7,000. SIP SIP HOORAY!!**

Sip of Georgia II
 Charles Smithgall Humane
 Society \$400
 Airstream Foundation \$500

Sip of Kentucky II
 Franklin County
 Emergency Food
 Pantry \$500

**Sip of the
 Finger Lakes**
 Hector Food
 Pantry \$250
 Safe Harbors
 of the Finger
 Lakes \$250

Sip of Texas II
 Waco Mammoth
 Foundation \$350

Sip of Oregon
 Homeward
 Bound Pets
 \$2,000

Sip of Texas III
 Friends of the
 Fredericksburg
 Nature Center \$200

Sip of Virginia II
 Waynesboro Area
 Refuge Ministry
 \$1,000

Sip of Wisconsin
 Green County
 Fair Board \$500

**Mega Tasting
 Sedalia
 International
 Rally**
 WBCCI
 Foundation
 \$1,000

Upcoming Rally & Event Lineup 2025

Sip of Kentucky II - May 14 - 18 **Sold Out** ([Click](#) to join Waitlist)

Sip of Half Moon Bay, CA - May 23 - 26 **Sold Out** ([Click](#) to join Waitlist)

Sip of Diamond Valley, Alberta, Canada - July 3 - 4 ([Click](#) for more details)

Sip of Pennsylvania - August 14 - 18 **Sold Out** ([Click](#) to join Waitlist)

Sip of the Finger Lakes II - Sept. 25 - 28 ([Click](#) for more details)

Sip of the Mitt, Michigan - Oct. 8 - 12 **Sold Out** ([Click](#) to join Waitlist)

Sipping Across California Caravan - Oct. 11 - 18 ([Click](#) for more details)

Don't see what you are looking for? Host a rally!
Contact gandgpresident@gmail.com



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