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Grapes & Grains Growler October 2025



Fall camping season is here, but we're still savoring the last sips of summer! This issue pours out rally recaps, raises a toast to our new officers, and stirs things up with a new way to enjoy spirits.

From the Desk of G&G President Steve Turley

The excitement is real! I mean *really* real!

First, I am extremely excited and honored to serve as your president for the next year. It has been an amazing journey growing up with this club! I have had the privilege of being the first officer to have been elected as 2nd VP, 1st VP and now President. I must admit, we were treading water a bit when this board was first elected after Rock Springs, and we had to "invent" an organization as we rapidly grew. Beginning with Mark Kruer's fabulous idea, we were suddenly faced with a group that literally exploded out of nowhere.

Sometimes it felt like we were changing the tire while the car was rolling down the freeway! But our talented and dedicated executive board put our collective heads together and pushed forward with all our might. And here we are by far the largest Intra-club in the ACI and still growing. Our first rally at Bardstown was attended by a mere 18 rigs. We are currently hovering around 1,000 member rigs and organized one of the largest events at the International Rally with 480 attendees at the Mega Tasting.

Moving on from our short, but incredible history to what's ahead for Grapes & Grains; I will repeat: the excitement is real! With the addition of two more fantastic board members, 1st VP Scott Vaughan and 2nd VP Stephanie Devins, we can feel the momentum shifting to yet another gear! Congratulations to our new officers! I have full confidence that they will far exceed what I was able to accomplish while serving in their positions.

What a great time at this year's International Rally in York! The Mega Tasting was one of the highlights of the entire rally. The Grapes & Grains Luncheon, organized by Past President Mike VanBuskirk, was widely regarded as the best food (by far) at the rally. And hats off to Matt and Lisa Marquand for organizing our first Grapes & Grains breakfast! It was a smash hit, not only with Grapes & Grains attendees, but also our great rally parking crew. They got to enjoy the abundant leftovers while getting those last hundred rigs sandwiched into the fairgrounds. And let's not forget that our great club also raised \$1,000 to donate to the local FNOP charity, leaving York, PA just a little bit better than we found it.

Now, if you thought this year's "Roaring Twenties" Mega Tasting was fun, wait until next summer at Minot to see what Scott and his team have in store for you! And Stephanie is bringing another level of fun as she is expanding and organizing an amazing rally schedule for 2026. We will visit some favorite locations and explore a lot of new territory. You can guarantee at every Grapes & Grains rally you will have an incredible time with old friends and new friends alike.

I anticipate this coming year will be the best yet, so buckle up! Because the excitement is real!



Getting to Know Your New G&G Officers

Scott Vaughn

G&G First Vice President

As a member of ACI since 2021 we have most enjoyed time spent with the G&G group! Roanoke, VA is home base and a 2009 34 ft. Classic Limited is our home away from home. My wife Deborah has named our Airstream, "The Breeze" for the JJ Cale song, "Call Me The Breeze". When we are pulling out of our driveway, we turn up the volume, smile and play our theme song. A fun way to start each trip. Being retired has allowed us ample time to be traveling and enjoying this great country. Deborah is our planning guru. So far, we have traveled up and down the East coast from Maine to Key West and as far out as Arizona, Colorado and Utah. (Can you imagine that I always ask if we can route the trip through Kentucky some way somehow!) To date, we have attended Sip of VA 1 and 2, Sip of Kentucky 1 and 2, Sip of PA, Mega Tasting in Sedalia and York and Region 3 2025 tasting. When at a rally or gathering where no tasting or bottle share has been prearranged, I will normally take the initiative to start one.

My passion is for bourbons and learning about other spirits and recipes from those who enjoy gins, tequilas, rums, etc. The brain trust of knowledge and experience in this group is deep and wide. My background is in real estate and real estate finance including management and supervisory roles. We have done house flips and owned a couple of rental houses. I have pulled a few Airstreams out of the woods and cleaned them up and resold them. There was a point when we had four Airstreams on our property at onetime. (This initiated an intervention by my wife.) For now, we are down to just The Breeze.



We are members of the Virginia Airstream Club and have co-hosted *The Great American Backyard Campout and Pool Party* for 3 years running. Looks like we will be having this rally again in 2026!

Talking is my preferred way of getting to know others and making connections. So, ring me up anytime at 540-353-2274 or sit down with me for a beverage! It is an absolute pleasure to get to serve on your board. Here is to seeing you down the road!

Cheers and Sip On!
Scott Vaughn
BRN 4352

Stephanie Devins

G&G Second Vice President

I am super excited to begin this adventure with the executive board of Grapes and Grains. For me, the group in this club has significantly raised my feelings of enthusiasm and camaraderie with fellow Airstreamers. My goal is to encourage more to host rallies as they truly build our community and "feed" our members.

John and I live in Skaneateles, NY, right in the heart of the Finger Lakes region. We have lived here for 36 years. We have 3 children, 8 young grandchildren, and two

crazy terriers. We have been RVers since 2015. We started with two different Class A vehicles. We took them all over the country, but we found that they were less "agile" than we wanted as we tended to move around a lot. We also prefer state parks, and in New York many of them have size limitations that make them inaccessible for a large Class A.

Everywhere we went we kept eyeing the silver bullets; we would walk by them super slowly hoping maybe we'd get invited in for a peek. Finally, we were driving home from our traditional winter ski stay in Jackson, WY, through Chicago and we saw a billboard. The next thing we knew we were saying, "Let's go take a look". Well Airstreams are a lot like puppies. No one just takes a look. That was in 2022, and we have been wild about our 25 ft. International ever since.

So far, our biggest trips have been to the Southwest (Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico), the Southeast (South Carolina and Florida) and most recently to the Canadian Maritimes.



We look forward to more trips, more rallies, and meeting all of you somewhere down the road!!!

Stephanie Devins
BRN 2673

The World's Largest Speakeasy

A Roaring Good Time at the Mega Tasting

Steve Turley, G&G President

The 2025 Mega Tasting took a trip back 100 years to the Roaring Twenties in York. When Flappers danced The Charleston and bathtub gin was in vogue, Grapes & Grains attempted to recreate the Speakeasy in grand style. From the response of attendees, it was grand, indeed! Well over 450 participants, many dressed in period costumes, enjoyed hundreds of wines, beers, and spirits from all over this great country of ours. And the non-alcoholic table continues to grow in interest and diversity of products offered. We even added a bit of fun to the check in process, where attendees used a secret knock and password to pass their hooch through the back door so the "federal agents" would be totally unaware.

This much fun doesn't just happen. I want to again give a big shout out to the 42 volunteers who invested hours of their time towards making this event a smash hit. The volunteers created amazing decorations that set the Art Deco tone for the event, set up, tore down and cleaned up.

Overwhelmingly positive responses to the Mega Tasting are a direct tribute to the hard-working volunteers that helped make this happen.



In addition to the volunteerism that is central to the Grapes & Grains Intra-Club, charity is high on our list of core values. We always want to leave the communities we visit better than we found them. York is no exception, as we were able to raise and donate \$1,000 to the Friends & Neighbors of Pennsylvania. According to their [website](#), "Friends & Neighbors' Coordinated Street Outreach program is building relationships with and providing services to our unsheltered neighbors in the City of York and surrounding municipalities. Depending on the need, specific services may include physically guiding a neighbor to shelter, helping to make phone calls for benefits and other types of connections, providing bus passes for transportation support to return to a safe sheltered place, providing supplies to those choosing to remain outdoors, or those who cannot access shelter space for various reasons."



So, what could be better than the roaring good time at the Mega Tasting in York? The Mega Tasting in Minot, of course. Planning is already underway for an even bigger and better experience at the International Rally next August. If you haven't already, start making those plans for next summer. You won't want to miss it!

[Register for Minot International Rally](#)



A Postcard from York, Pennsylvania



CHOCOLATE, SPAM, and GRAPES & GRAINS

Deep Thoughts from Priscilla Harrell, G&G Corresponding Secretary

My husband and I had been to Lancaster, Pennsylvania Amish country of course, over the years, but I don't think we had ever been to York. I was excited to hear it was the birthplace of York Chocolate Peppermint Patties and an easy drive to Hershey, Pennsylvania, the chocolate capital of America. We are used to traveling very long distances to attend the annual Airstream Club International Rally and honestly, we did not quite know what to do with ourselves, having to travel only 3 hours to York from our home in Hollywood, Maryland. So, we made plans to detour, attending the Sip of Pennsylvania en route. The Sip of Pennsylvania was epic, thank you to hosts Laural Veloz & Dean Barker. Since purchasing our 27-foot Globetrotter in 2021 (Silver Beagle), we have been to 5 International rallies. Lebanon, TN; Fryeburg ME; Rock Spring, WY; Sedalia, MO, and now York. Each International we attended brought many happy



memories but who can forget the awesome Swine Palace in Sedalia. Like in Sedalia, our York time was primarily spent volunteering at both Grapes & Grains and Amateur Radio Intra-Club events, and to be honest we enjoyed ourselves even more, once we started volunteering.

As I said last year in my postcard from Sedalia, to say the Grapes & Grains sponsored events are spectacular is probably equivalent to saying there is a red carpet at the Oscars...of course the events are awesome! This year Matt and Lisa Marquand came up with the brilliant idea of a Spam, pancake, and eggs breakfast in our Grapes & Grains parking area to start out our Intra-Club festivities, and fellow members of the executive board

provided their full support. This year's Mega Tasting with the Roaring Twenties Speakeasy theme was beyond amazing!!

At the registration booth, I and other volunteers had the distinct privilege to whisper, "Bring your bottle to the first door on the left and knock three times. Al Capone's henchmen will be waiting there to collect your merchandise; do you remember the password?" The daily pop-up happy hours and the Luncheon and Officer Installation rounded out the numerous fun times at the York International.



A big shout out to all our many volunteers; we could not have pulled off our incredibly great time without their hard work!! What can I say, I love chocolate, Spam, Grapes & Grains, our volunteers and of course, Airstreams.



Rallies! Rallies! Rallies!

🎉 We've got an exciting lineup of rallies already in the works for 2026 — so keep an eye on your inbox for updates and announcements!

This year, we're introducing a new role to help make rally planning even smoother. One member of the Executive Board will serve as **Rally Coordinator**, and we're thrilled to share that **Stephanie Devins** (rinkmom17@gmail.com) will take on that role for 2026.

If you have an idea for a rally or are in the early stages of planning one, reach out to Stephanie first. She'll coordinate the club rally calendar, guide hosts through the board approval process, and provide all the helpful tips and resources we've gathered over the years.

Rallies are truly the “heart and soul” of our club — where great memories are made and friendships grow. Don't hesitate to share your ideas! We'll connect you with a mentor or lend a hand to bring your rally vision to life.

Let's rock and rally! 🚚 ✨

Rally Recap



The Sip of Pennsylvania

Hosted by Laural Veloz & Dean Barker

BRN 6854

Imagine after a long drive, pulling off Interstate 80 onto a country road for a few miles and seeing the Penn Wood Campground for Airstreams sign on the right side of the road. Taking a sharp right turn and an even sharper one to make the entrance drive as it meanders around curves through the flag decorated road and the towering hemlock trees. Then, the magic appears just ahead as the sun reflects off the rooftops of a dozen Airstreams to greet you.

The parking crew is waiting to guide you to your parking spot in the meadow. You quickly get out of your tow vehicle and give hugs to those who arrived before you. Then, it is a mad rush to get set up so you can visit with old friends and make new ones.

Opening night provided premixed mojitos from a keg (believe it or not) garnished with fresh mint and a lime, provided by Pittsburgh's Goodlander Cocktail Brewery served in an engraved Penn Wood Airstream Park stemless drink glass. Happy hour also consisted of a variety of hors d'oeuvres that satisfied everyone's afternoon hunger. The conversations were many as we enjoyed the newly constructed covered patio that the park built this spring from money raised through a silent basket auction last summer. Happy Hour was followed by a catered buffet dinner of sun-dried tomato stuffed chicken breast, pasta primavera, mixed vegetables, mixed green salad and fresh baked rolls from a family owned and operated local catering company named Zack's and then Airstream trivia and a campfire at the community fire pit.

The next morning, our hosts (with help from Penn Wood leaseholders) provided a breakfast for our group. It was delicious and very well received. We then hiked to the entrance of the park where the tour bus was waiting to take us on an 80-minute ride south to the city of Pittsburgh for the day. The ride was very informative as we learned about the history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania and that John Holly needs his espresso beans to keep him fueled up for long days. Our first stop was Trace Brewing, a brewery/coffee shop where we were deemed our drink coupon for a coffee or beer of our choice. The drink coupon idea was very efficient and sped up the process, so everyone had time to enjoy their beverage. We stayed there for about an hour or so, then reboarded the bus for a short ride to the end of the Strip District to visit Wigle Whiskey Distillery, where we had another tasting and some of us had lunch. There were many choices in this part of town; some went to Cellars

Speakeasy; others walked further down The Strip to explore. We eventually ended up at Kingfly Spirits distillery, where we used yet another drink coupon and enjoyed a delicious frozen limoncello. Our day in Pittsburgh had come to an end as we boarded the bus for our ride back to Penn Wood. Dinner was on your own and then we enjoyed another night by the campfire.

Saturday, we had a hot breakfast of egg bake, pancakes, sausage, and scrapple, followed by a day on your own, with several people going into nearby Clarion for hiking or junkin'. Several of us ended up at Clarion River Brewing for lunch, which had such an extensive menu that we ate there several times over the next few days. Around 5:00 p.m., we all carpooled to Mechanistic Brewing to use yet another drink coupon and ate from Spuddy's Food Truck. This food truck had about ten different takes on a baked potato from broccoli & cheddar to taco topped potatoes. After a few hours there, we returned to Penn Wood for another campfire and mini bottle share.



On Sunday, we had another breakfast provided by our hosts and the fine volunteers at Penn Wood, followed by another day on our own. I think we ended up back at the Clarion River Brewery for another fantastic lunch. On our final afternoon we were treated to an AMAZING charcuterie table and a wine tasting presentation by Deb Mortillaro, a level 3 wine, bourbon, and saki tasting expert from Dreadnought Wines. This was very educational, as we tried wines from Italy, Portugal, South Africa and South America. I really like how our hosts thought outside the box to bring us unique educational experiences, as well as a killer food table.



In closing, I want to thank Penn Wood Campground for Airstreams for allowing us to use their facilities for our rally. We were the largest rally that they have had in this park since 2018. Penn Wood has an outstanding facility, a great full-time community of lease holders, great indoor

and outdoor spaces and can easily accommodate small to midsize rallies. They also have another rally field nearby that can hold another 20+ rigs that they are working on updating the water service and adding a new entrance. If you are in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, New York, Virginia, or West Virginia, I would highly recommend contacting them about hosting your rally or caravan stop at Penn Wood. There are lots of breweries in Clarion and even more choices for other activities in Pittsburgh. There is even a place nearby for fly fishing.

Submitted by Mark Krueer

BRN 18757



From Matt's Cocktail Bar



Grapefruit Ritual & Tonic (GR&T)

As I get older, I'm trying to eat healthier, exercise more, and keep my brain active. Part of my overall plan also involves watching how much alcohol, for me mainly spirits, I consume. Because of that I'm beginning to look harder at non-alcoholic (NA) alternatives.

NA spirits represent a small part of the alcohol industry, but its market share is growing rapidly. One research firm reports that in 2023; the global non-alcoholic spirits market size was estimated at USD 385.4 million and is expected to reach USD 681.5 million by 2030. In the US, the overall non-alcohol market was worth over USD 1.8 billion in 2023, with NA spirits being a part of the larger, booming non-alcoholic beverage market.

Lisa and I are big gin lovers and finding a good, NA alternative requires some effort. Most NA spirits are not meant to be direct substitutes. Most folks wouldn't drink an NA spirit neat or on the rocks. I find many of them thin, a bit weak, but sometimes have cloying flavors that you wouldn't expect (e.g., cloves). They'll only get better in the future but, for now, they're best used to impart similar notes in cocktails as a similar alcoholic product.

Seedlip manufactures “herbal” NA spirits. They’re readily available (at least in Ohio) but the company takes a flexible approach to their line of spirits in that they don’t label them as alternatives or substitutes for anything specific (e.g., gin). Each product they produce imparts unique herbal flavors and can be used in a variety of situations that may not even be possible with gin but the herbal notes are reminiscent of gin so they can work as a 1:1 substitute in some cocktails. The result is not going to taste like it does with gin but can still be quite good. Ritual on the other hand takes a bolder approach and markets their spirits as direct substitutes for specific spirits (e.g., gin, whiskey, tequila, rum, aperitif, etc.).

Lisa and I are early in our NA spirit journey, but I have managed to build a cocktail that I really enjoy. I find it very refreshing, tart, and very easy to drink. If you’re looking to jump into NA spirits give this one a try.

Grapefruit Ritual & Tonic (GR&T)

2 oz. Ritual Zero Proof Gin

0.25 oz. simple syrup

0.5 oz. lime juice

Add all the ingredients to a Collins glass (tall thin glass).

Add ice and stir.

Add 3-4 oz grapefruit tonic (I used half a bottle of Fentimans pink grapefruit tonic water).

Stir briefly, garnish with a lime wheel, and enjoy.

Cheers!

Matt Marquand

BRN 3044

Upcoming Rallies & Events

2026

- Sip of Texas 4 - April 2026, New Braunfels (details coming)
- Sip of Virginia - April 9 - 12 (details coming)
- Grapes & Grains 101, May 13-17 details coming)
- Sip of Calistoga - May 21-26 ([Click for more details](#))
- Sip of the Northern Mitt - June 10-14 (details coming)

- 69th Airstream Club International Rally in Minot, North Dakota - August 22–27
([Click to register](#))
- Sip of North Dakota - (boondocking - details coming)
- Rolling Rally to Minot - (details coming)
- Sip of Door County WI - (details coming)

Don't see what you are looking for? Host a rally! Contact rinkmom17@gmail.com.



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