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Grapes & Grains Growler July 2026



Summer is in full swing, and we're already looking ahead to our next Grapes & Grains adventure! Whether you're planning to join us in Minot or mapping out future rallies, there's plenty to look forward to.

From the Desk of G&G President
Steve Turley

See You in Minot!

The countdown is on! We're looking forward to another unforgettable Grapes & Grains gathering at the 69th Airstream Club International Rally in Minot, North Dakota. To everyone joining us, safe travels—we can't wait to reconnect, raise a glass, and create new memories together.

Can't make it this year? We'll miss you! Be sure to watch for our September issue, where we'll share photos, stories, and highlights from all the fun in Minot. We hope to see you down the road at a future Grapes & Grains event.



Rallies! Rallies! Rallies!



Looking for a fun Fall rally this year?

Planning for next year? Check out these rallies!



NEW for 2026! Sip of Georgia III - October 15-18, 2026 - Top of Georgia Airstream Park in Helen, GA

SAVE-THE-DATE for 2027! Sip of Northern Vermont (Boondocking Rally) - October 1-4, 2027 - Alburgh, VT

Let's rock and rally! 🚐 ✨

Sign Up



Rally Recap

Grapes & Grains 101

Our names are Brian & Clarita Walker, BRN 2948, from Bastrop, Texas. We have been members of ACI for five years and members of Grapes & Grains (G&G) for four years, but had never been on a G&G rally.

The G&G 101 rally was advertised as a rally for first-time G&G attendees, held in Frankfort, Kentucky, from May 13-17. When we read the announcement, we didn't really know what to expect, but we knew we wanted to attend and signed up right away. We are so glad we did! The rally exceeded our every expectation.



Communication before the event was exceptional. The hosts were Matt & Lisa Marquand, and they sent out several emails, including creating a WhatsApp group, to discuss the rally schedule with us. They covered the schedule, transportation, lunches, dinners, and even arranged for a pet walker to come by our Airstreams.



From the moment we arrived and received our registration packet with some cool swag, you could immediately tell how much thought they put into every detail. They had created a "meet and greet" that was fun and relaxed, with a happy hour and hors d'oeuvres to get acquainted with each other, where they discussed the rally schedule and presentations and tastings by the Bourbon Society.

The tours over the next two days were outstanding. We visited distilleries at Castle & Key, Buffalo Trace, Wild Turkey, and Glenn's Creek. These tours gave us a unique look into Kentucky bourbon history and craftsmanship. Each stop had its own personality and story, making each tour memorable. They divided the distilleries up by including a bourbon boat tour, which highlighted the bourbon distribution routes following the Kentucky River. Additionally, we visited West Sixth Brewery, which offered something different while still highlighting the spirit of the region.



One of the best parts of the rally was how seamlessly everything went. From the chartered bus to the tour groups and the box lunches, the entire rally was stress-free and gave everyone time to relax, socialize, and enjoy time together.

What really made the rally special, however, were the people. Since the event was designed for first-time attendees, everyone arrived as strangers, but by the end of the week it felt like we were leaving as old friends. As one of our new friends stated, after the first day of grabbing a bourbon haul at Buffalo Trace, it was the “best day ever”.

The evenings around the campfire, sharing bourbon tastings, stories, and laughter created some of our favorite memories.



Lisa, Matt, and the entire mentor team—Steve and Cheryl; Scott and Deborah; and Robb and Kim—deserve credit for not just creating an amazing rally event, but for creating an unforgettable experience! We went to Kentucky hoping for a fun trip and left with wonderful memories, new friendships, and excitement for future Grapes & Grains rallies.



From Matt's Cocktail Bar



Juniper's Gin Bar - Covington, KY

If your Airstream travels ever take you through Northern Kentucky or if you're already stopped to visit or to take a tour at the New Riff distillery, it's worth carving out an evening for [Juniper's Gin Bar](#).

The space is warm and inviting with tables surrounding the large, centralized bar. Their gin menu includes over 230 gins from around the world, so there is something for those new to gin as well as seasoned aficionados. And if you're hungry, their tapas selections are exceptional as well.

The full bar (not just gin) features numerous cocktails and pre-selected gin flights, but the highlight for us was the build-your-own flight. The bar staff were knowledgeable, and after a short discussion of our likes and dislikes, previous experiences, and desires, we arrived at a flight of four gins that were new to us (0.25 oz pours).

After the first flight, we ordered the Shakshuka tapas with the house-made lamb marguez and the dolmas with a lemon vinaigrette drizzle. Having a bit of food gave us time to pick out four more gins for a second build-your-own flight.

Unfortunately, we didn't stay late enough, but they do offer live jazz on weekend evenings as well.

For Airstreamers who enjoy discovering unique local experiences, Juniper's Gin Bar delivers in all the right ways: distinctive, welcoming, and just adventurous enough to

make it feel like a true find.

Cheers,
Matt



Sip Speak



 Welcome to Sip Speak—your go-to guide for the lingo, acronyms, and insider terms you’ll hear around Airstream Club International and our Grapes & Grains Intra-Club. Whether you’re a brand-new member still learning what “BRN” means, or a longtime rally-goer who occasionally scratches your head at a new abbreviation, this section is for you.

Each issue, we'll spotlight a few terms—keeping it light, clear, and useful—so everyone can feel right at home in the conversation. Because whether it's campground chatter, club business, or a Grapes & Grains toast, it's always more fun when you know the lingo.

G&G (or GNG)

Short for *Grapes & Grains*, the Airstream Club International Intra-Club for members who enjoy exploring wine, beer, spirits, and the camaraderie that comes with sharing them. G&G hosts tastings, tours, and social events at rallies and caravans.

 Think of it as the Airstream community for folks who love good drinks and great company.

Airstream Club International Rally

The largest annual gathering of Airstream owners, hosted by Airstream Club International. Held at rotating U.S. fairgrounds or expo centers, it brings together upwards of 1,000 Airstreams for a week of seminars, tours, entertainment, and community.

 Think of it as summer camp for Airstreamers—part festival, part learning, and all about the Airstream lifestyle.

Grapes & Grains Mega-Tasting

A signature event of the Grapes & Grains Intra-Club, held during the International Rally. Each Airstream brings beer, wine, or spirits to share, creating one big bottle-share style tasting. Grapes & Grains supplies glasses, appetizers, and a festive atmosphere.

 Think of it as a giant community tasting party—part social mixer, part fundraiser, and always a rally highlight.

Bottle Share

A casual gathering during a Grapes & Grains Sip Rally where attendees bring a bottle of beer, wine, or spirits to share with the group. Everyone gets to sample a variety of drinks and try something new. It's usually hosted at a member's campsite, with details shared in the rally's WhatsApp group.

 Think of it as a tasting party where the collection comes from the guests instead of a bar or winery.

Rallies! Rallies! Rallies!

2026-2027 Rallies Available

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- **SAVE-THE-DATE for 2027!** Sip of Northern Vermont (Boondocking Rally) - October 1-4, 2027 (*Planning in progress*)



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