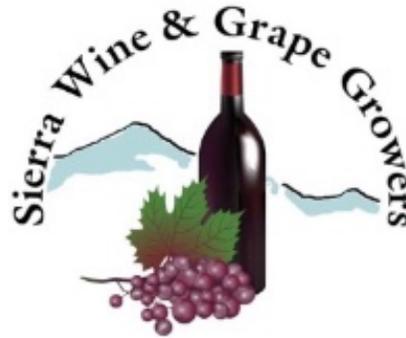


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The Newsletter of the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers

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September 2018



The Trellis Wire

Welcome to the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers Association

Here in our monthly newsletter, we keep our members up to date on SWGGA activity, and provide links to our [website](#), where you can read more.

Next Meeting

Members Only Winery and Vineyard Tour

Come join fellow SWGGA members for a tour of the vineyard and winery of Al and Debbie Rickman, two very experienced grape growers and winemakers, on Thursday, September 20th at 7:00 PM. See a vineyard wrapped around their house, and their rather unique wine making facilities.

Pizza will be served, but, bring glasses and a bottle to share. The Rickmans will have a tasting of some of their wines. Please RSVP as soon as possible, as we only have room for 40 SWGGA members only (sorry no guests).

Directions:

Take Hwy 49 North or South to Combie Rd.

Turn onto Combie Rd. at the light

Right at the next light (do not proceed straight past the Lake of the Pines entrance)

Follow Combie Rd. continuing onto Darkhorse Dr. - 3.5 miles

23858 Darkhorse Drive, Auburn, CA

Please park on the street (carpool if you can)! Parking in driveway is for drop off and delivery or disabled only. Enter to the left behind house to the covered patio and crush pad.

RSVP to: Marilyn Blitstein 530-414-5403 or gardennutz@aol.com



Last Meeting

The inimitable Rod Byers was the host at the presentation of prizes to the winners of the County Fair Wine Competition. We had 54 wines to sample, and had a great time.

There are more photos on our [website](#).

Recap of Board Meeting

From the President:

This is a recap of the August 22 Board of Directors meeting.

I reported that the process of organizing and scanning the Association's archives is almost complete. In reviewing the old files, I noticed that for many years we had an association with the California Association of Wine Grapegrowers. Jim Garrett volunteered to look into whether it would be worth reestablishing.

In 2003, the association conducted a written survey of its members. There was a good

response and many of the responses were very constructive. We will look into doing another survey in the near future.

We have \$2855 in the general fund and \$1608 in the scholarship fund for a total of \$4263.

The September meeting will be at the Rickman's. Pizza and tables and chairs will be provided by the Association. Details will follow.

There were a number of comments about how successful the August fair program was, largely due to Rod Byers participation. The board voted to present him with a \$200 gift certificate in appreciation.

Four new members joined in the last month; two at the last meeting and two from the flyers David Blitstein had circulated.

The open rate for our blasts and newsletters is a little over 50%. If you are having difficulty opening them, please let us know.

They were substantial discussion about our policy for posting material from our commercial members. The board will consider adopting a rule at our next meeting.

The nominating committee presented a proposed slate of officers and directors for 2019. The slate was approved and will be circulated in the next few weeks. Voting will occur at the annual meeting in November.

Bernie Zimmerman

Wine in the News

Chromatography Tip from Daniel Pambianchi

Your chromatogram will give you sharper results if dried in a heated, ammoniacal environment. I pour some Windex in a large pan and place it under the chromatogram during the drying process. Also, if you scan your chromatogram and then use some photo-editing software (I use Photoshop) To play with the hue and saturation, you can better interpret the results. I tried doing it with yours but the digital information on colors isn't there in your picture (it needs to be scanned).

Daniel Pambianchi is the author of *Techniques in Home Winemaking: The*

Comprehensive Guide to Making Château-Style Wines

Mislabeled vines cause stir among wineries

[Esther Mobley](#) Aug. 5, 2018. Source: San Francisco Chronicle



Andrew Jones holds a cluster of Graciano grapes (left) and one of Mourvedre grapes. Some winemakers suspected the vines they had planted might not be Mourvedre clone Monastrell.

Call it a case of viticultural identity theft.

Beginning in 2012, a newly available grapevine — Monastrell, a Spanish clone of the grape variety most commonly known as Mourvedre — surged in popularity among Paso Robles wine growers. More than 200,000 Monastrell vines were sold, the equivalent of about 200 acres. It's not known how much wine those vines have produced, but if you've drunk Central Coast Mourvedre from the last few vintages, there's a chance those Sunridge Monastrell vines were its source.

"The consensus was that it was a good selection," says Andrew Jones of Sunridge

Nurseries, which sold the Monastrell vines. “People liked it better than other selections of Mourvedre — it had better color, better flavors.” The Monastrell became 90 percent of all Sunridge’s Mourvedre sales.

Only it wasn’t Monastrell at all. It wasn’t even a clone of Mourvedre.

As Jones informed his clients in a letter in July, the vines sold as Monastrell were actually Graciano — a minor grape variety from Spain’s Rioja region.

“It’s a pretty awkward thing,” Jones admits.

Read the rest of the article [here](#).

SWGGA Swag available at monthly meetings

Shirts, hats, glasses and aprons are available for order.

The Outreach Coordinator Dave Blitstein handles sales. Get in touch with Dave if you want to place an order or have questions: dbeffx@aol.com.

To view photos, click [here](#),

Commercial Member Highlights

Check out our Commercial Members

[Double Oak Vineyard and Winery](#)

[Gray Pine Vineyard and Winery](#)

[Lucero Vineyard and Winery](#)

[Sierra Knolls](#)

[Sierra Moonshine](#)

[Brew House Supply](#)

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