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Subject: SWGGA August 2018 Trellis Wire
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The Newsletter of the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers

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August 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

August Meeting

August 16, 2018 @ 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Nevada County Fairgrounds, Ponderosa Hall

Join the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers for a wine tasting and awards ceremony. All Nevada County Fair home wine competition entrants and the general public are welcome. The inimitable Rod Byers will be the host as usual. Bring one or more glasses to taste the

wines entered in this year's competition. Monetary awards to the Fair winners will be presented. Prize award winners are asked to bring additional bottles of their wines so everyone can taste. Entrants will still pick up their ribbons and display bottles at the Fairgrounds on the Monday following the close of the Fair. Please do not bring wine, as the entries will be available for tasting.

[More information](#)





Member Profile: Meet the Rickmans

Hi, We are Al and Debbie Rickman. We established our first home vineyard at our Fair Oaks home in 1995. It was quite an adventure made successful by Al's relentless reading and study. We had 110 vines of four different varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. By 2002 we realized that Fair Oaks had grown to the point that we wanted to find a new home in a smaller community.

Our love of growing grapes, winemaking, and golf helped us set priorities when finding a new “retirement” home. It was not easy to find a location that was on a golf course but also had enough space for a vineyard. We lucked out and found a 1.5 acre lot on the 17th fairway of Darkhorse Golf Club. Working with a great combination of an architect and a builder our home was designed with a wine processing and cellar on the lower level, living area on the upper level and our landscaping in front of the home is a 510 vine vineyard. This vineyard has seven varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Chardonnay, and Sauvignon Blanc.

We look for every opportunity to share our experience with friends and neighbors. One of our favorite things during the year is showing friends how to harvest and crush grapes. It educates them and is “free” help for us!

Both Al and Debbie are retired from Aerojet Rocketdyne, an aerospace and defense contractor specializing in propulsion systems for launch vehicles, satellites, strategic missiles and tactical weapons. Al was a laboratory manager and Debbie a program manager. Both have technical degrees in chemistry and microbiology. Our education and professional experience have helped us in our winemaking endeavors.

When not working in the vineyard we have the wine cellar to keep us busy. For a little variety in our life we play golf, target shoot and fish. Oh by the way, we do also enjoy drinking wine! Life is good!

Recap of Board Meeting

From the President:

Recap of the July 26, 2018 Board of Directors meeting

There has been no significant change to our bank balances from last meeting. There are few invoices being submitted.

Coverage of our monthly meetings has improved since David Blitstein spoke to the Union. David also circulated a thank you card sent to him by our scholarship winner, Catherine Renner.

The July meeting at the Lucero winery went quite well, largely due to the efforts of the Lucero family in hosting us. David presented a SWGGA sign to the Luceros in appreciation.

The August meeting will feature Rod Byers and the results of the fair wine competition. The September meeting will be at the Rickmans; details to follow.

Given several complaints of people not receiving the newsletter or email blasts, the Communications Coordinator suggested everyone check their spam filters, which may be filtering out mail that comes through Mail Chimp. You may have to contact your host since some of them control your filter settings.

We will have a booth at the August 2nd Grass Valley Thursday night market, staffed by David Blitstein and Diane Houston. Our new flyers will be distributed. An email blast with details will go out shortly. Stop by and say hello.

At the request of one of our commercial members, there was extensive discussion about our policy allowing commercial members to post announcements such as winery specials. Further research is being done and the discussion will resume at the next board meeting. If you have a reaction, positive or negative, to getting these posts (they are not sent out as email blasts to all members; just to those who have signed up to receive posts) please let me know.

Wine in the News

[Here](#) is a link to an interesting article by wine writer Kelly Hayes on wines around the world. It appeared recently in the Sierra Sun newspaper. If you are asked to answer a question first, you

click on skip survey at the bottom.

Bernie Zimmerman

[Here](#) is another interesting article: **Storing Wine on its Side is Nonsense, Says Scientist.**

Jim Garrett

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](#)

This is a communication from the Sierra Wine and Grape Growers, a group to which you belong

Our mailing address is:

SWGGA
PO Box 1264
Grass Valley, CA 95945-1264

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