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MEETS EVERY MONTH THE 2ND MONDAY AT 11:30 A.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN

## 2019 Committee

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*Vice President*

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Pamela Toliver  
*Website Manager*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting  
Monday, February 10  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.

**Potluck**  
**Please Bring a Dish to Share!**

## FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE

### Skyline and Luray Caverns by George Darnell

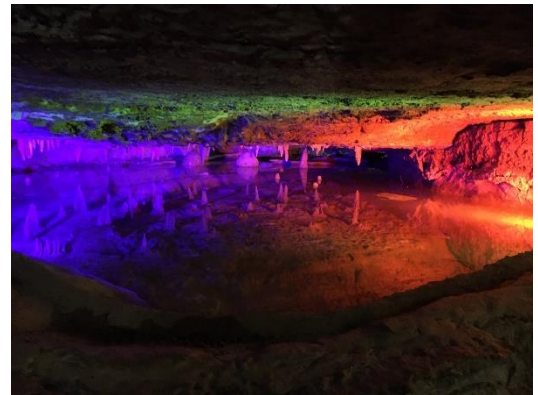
January 20, 2020

What better way to stay warm in winter than to tour beautiful underground caverns



nearby! Well that's what we thought, but the caverns were quite cool, and we were glad we had our coats and sweaters. Eleven adventurers including George Darnell, Ron Waltman, Kent & Terri Thompson, Bob & Linda Kerin, Jackie & Kristen Donovan, Doc & Connie Holaday, and Cynthia White, climbed aboard Gary's Classy Cowboy Van at the lodge and headed to Skyline Caverns in Front Royal. We arrived a little early and browsed the

gift shop, waiting for the first tour to start. Skyline Caverns dates to 1937 when Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive were drawing tourists. This cavern is not as developed as Luray Caverns, but is beautiful and impressive none the less. We have included some photos. Notice they use colored lights to enhance the caverns. It is one of the few places in the world with anthodite formations, that white moss-like stuff, hanging from the ceiling.



After Skyline, we stopped in the Front Royal Brewing Company for lunch. They were waiting for us and seated us at a long banquet table in a private room. After making our choices from the lunch menu, we enjoyed soups, salads, and sandwiches along with beer flights, wine, tea, and soft drinks.



After Lunch, we headed to Page County and Luray Caverns. This is a major tourist attraction, with a car and carriage museum, a Luray Valley Museum, and a toy museum included with every Luray Caverns ticket. We were surprised to see that it was fairly crowded, especially

with children, for a Monday until we realized it was a Federal Holiday, Martin Luther King Day.

After a brief wait, we entered the caverns on our tour. There is a broad, one-way, well-paved path through the caverns, and they do not use colored lights to enhance the formations. We even had a stalacpipe organ concert during the tour. We included some photos. After the caverns we visited the museums and restaurant before boarding the van for home.







Dear Editor,

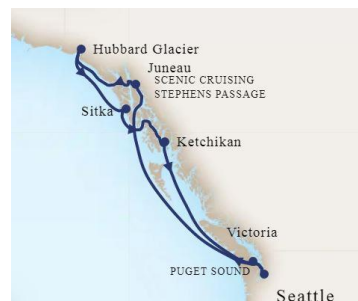
Just returned with George Darnell's trip to two local caves. They were amazing and here are couple of photos I took. Not for the claustrophobic or faint of heart as they were each over a mile of walking through their tunnels, 260' and 175' beneath the earth respectively. Still, very beautiful. My main purpose is to give you heads up about driving on 522. About 4:30 the 11 of us were heading home in a Classy Cowboy Chauffer limousine, N/B along 522 about 3 miles south of here. As we approached the new jail we could see a state trooper citing someone (S/B) across the road in front of Bill Long's Auto Clinic. We proceeded along 522 in the #1 (fast) lane when about ½ a mile before the Trilogy light another state trooper pulls us over.

I was present, within 6' of the driver, when the trooper asked our driver for his license and registration. The trooper told him that he had clocked him at 51 MPH for the past 2 miles driving in the fast lane that is posted for 55 MPH. Our driver then pointed to the Trilogy traffic light just ahead of us, letting the trooper know that he was slowing down as was about to make a left turn. The trooper responded by telling them that when driving on highway 522, he was not allowed to travel in the fast lane at 51 MPH until he was about half a mile before making a left hand turn. He returned to his vehicle with our driver's license and registration. In about 5 minutes he returned to tell our driver that this time he would only give him a warning. If I hadn't been there and witnessed this myself, I wouldn't have believed it. I just hope this trooper isn't behind me in Martins when I try to purchase a dozen items in the 10 items or less register as my next missive will probably be sent to you from the booking cage.

Ron Waltman

**Editor's Note: Good information—be careful out there when driving in the fast lane!**

## UPCOMING Cruise



### 8-Day Alaska Cruise September 6-13, 2020

**Call Jaime at Holland American Cruise Lines to book your room. 800-355-3017 ext. 29344**

Wow! Let's go north to finish the summer in the beauty of Alaska! The itinerary for this cruise takes you further north than many of the cruises. If you have yet to visit our 49<sup>th</sup> state, this is your chance! Here is the itinerary:

Sep 6	Seattle, Washington, & Puget Sound	4:00 p.m.
Sep 7	At Sea	
Sep 8	Scenic Cruising Stephens Passage	
Sep 8	Juneau, Alaska	1:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Sep 9	Hubbard Glacier	2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Sep 10	Sitka, Alaska	8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Sep 11	Ketchikan, Alaska	7:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
Sep 12	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada	6:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
Sep 13	Seattle, Washington	7:00 a.m.

### Deposit Information

We want to ensure that everyone who wants to be included on a trip gets to go, and because I forget who wishes to be included in each trip, the best way to achieve an accurate count is for you to drop off a deposit for the trips you are interested in with the Concierge at the Lodge.

**The Deposit for George's one day trips will be \$30 per person and \$50 per person for my multi day trips. This deposit will save a place for you on the trip you want to take, and you will then receive updated information such as final payment dates, etc. The deposits for the Caribbean and Alaskan Cruises will be paid directly to Holland America.**

## Calendar of Trips for 2020

- Jan 20—Skyline & Luray Caverns w/Lunch at Front Royal Brewery: \$77 for admissions & transportation; Lunch not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- Feb 12-19—Caribbean Cruise: Holland America cruise to Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Key West and Bahamas. From \$398 per person plus Port charges & tax, departing from Ft. Lauderdale FL, by Judy
- Mar 18—Museum of the Shenandoah Valley & Shenandoah Civil War Museum with lunch at Brubaker's Irish Pub on the Walking Mall: \$35 for admissions & transportation; lunch not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- May 22—Battles of Kernstown w/Lunch at Carrabba's: \$40 for admission & transportation; Lunch not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- May—Historic Winchester: This trip was very well received, and we have constant requests to do this trip for the people who were not here yet or missed it the first time. The day and price will be announced by Judy
- Jun 26—Charles Town for Skyline Terrace dining and evening at the horse races: \$35 for transportation only (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- Jul 20—Vint Hill for Cold War Museum, Winery, Brewery and lunch at the Covert Café: \$35 for museum donation & transportation; lunch and tastings not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 14) by George
- Aug 17—Jefferson's Monticello: \$60 for transportation & Day Pass; lunch not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 14) by George
- Sept 5-12—Alaska Cruise: Holland America cruise to Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Stephens Passage, Hubbard Glacier and Sitka. From \$694 per person inside cabin plus port charges & taxes. Departing from Seattle by Judy
- Sep 17—Antietam National Battlefield and Shepherdstown: \$30 for transportation; no admission fees; Lunch at Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- Sep 29-Oct 2—Niagara Falls, 3 nights, \$799 pp by Judy
- Oct 5—Little Washington and Sperryville for wine, beer, spirits, shops, and dinner at Griffin Tavern in Flint Hill: \$30 for transportation; shopping, tastings, and dinner not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 14) by George
- Oct 22—Durbin & Greenbrier, WV, Bald Knob 4.5 Hour Train Ride w/bag lunch: \$100 for transportation & train ride (long day) (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- Nov 27-30—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN: 3 nights, from \$1,059 pp by Judy
- Dec 1-2—Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Grove Park Inn. 1 night \$479 pp by Judy
- Dec 15—Christmas in Longwood Gardens, PA: \$70 for admission & transportation; meals not included (long day) (minimum of 8; maximum of 14) by George

**NOTE:** There will be details for each trip in the Newsletters and Flyers for each trip after January. Each trip is marked with a "by George" or "by Judy." You may email the coordinator for each trip for more information.

Judy Bogner, [judyllbogner@aol.com](mailto:judyllbogner@aol.com)

George Darnell, [darnellgd50@verizon.net](mailto:darnellgd50@verizon.net)

# More Info about a Few Trips

## Niagara Falls "Moments to Remember" Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2020

4 Days / 3 Nights  
5 Meals

### Price per person:

Twin/Double \$739

Single \$959

Deposit: \$50.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before August 29, 2020

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$58 per person.

Tour #20033



Amazing Niagara Falls, one of the great natural wonders of the world ... see it for yourself with Shenandoah Tours! Come and witness the majestic beauty and humbling power of the thundering waters of Niagara Falls. Get a "front row" seat overlooking these mighty falls whose roar is so powerful it can be heard for miles. Take a cruise to the base of the Falls, savor the panoramic view from atop Skylon Tower, enjoy a great Canadian show, and visit delightful Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niagara Falls - a land where wonders never cease - reserve your seat now!

### Day 1 - Tuesday - September 29

#### Depart USA

Welcome aboard! We're off to thundering Niagara Falls, one of Shenandoah Tours' favorite vacation spots. Journey north and by late afternoon we cross the border and enter the Canadian side of the Niagara River arriving in spectacular Niagara Falls, a natural wonder with exceptional beauty and awe. Horseshoe Falls creates a silver gray mist, complete with a rainbow, as six million cubic feet of water drops nearly 200 feet per minute. Our host hotel is the Country Inn & Suites. For our enjoyment there is a variety of shops, restaurants, and sightseeing attractions as well as Casino Niagara. A free evening for individual interests.

### Day 2 - Wednesday - September 30

#### Sightseeing Tour / Skylon Tower / Cruise to the Falls

Join our local guide for a morning sightseeing tour. We'll explore the area sights including the world famous Floral Clock, giant hydroelectric plants, Horticulture Center, Queen Victoria Park, and of course, the Falls! Lunch will be enjoyed in the Skylon Tower revolving dining room overlooking the falls. No visit to Niagara Falls would be complete without experiencing a thrilling cruise to view the thundering falls from river level. Tonight, see the Falls in colorful lights. (CB,L)

### Day 3 - Thursday - October 1

#### Niagara-on-the-Lake / Welland Canal

Explore 19th century Niagara-on-the-Lake, a beautiful village on Lake Ontario, at the mouth of the Niagara River. Worth a visit for its charm alone, it features historic shops and colonial homes with immaculate gardens. In addition, we'll stop at the Welland Canal Locks providing passage for cargo ships between Lakes Erie and Ontario. A free afternoon allows time for shopping and sightseeing. A special evening awaits at Oh Canada Eh, an award-winning musical and feast of Canadian food, fun, and folklore. (CB,D)

### Day 4 - Friday - October 2

#### Travel Home

Return home with fond memories of the power and beauty of this region. (CB)

### Valid Passport Required

#### TOUR INCLUDES:

- Niagara Falls Sightseeing Tour
- Lunch at the Skylon Tower
- Voyage to the Falls Boat Tour
- Visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Welland Canal Locks
- Oh Canada Eh! Dinner Show
- Also included: Accommodations, Motorcoach Transportation, Shenandoah Tours Escort, & Luggage Handling.
- 5 Meals = 3CB, 1L, 1D



## A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel November 27-30, 2020

**4 Days / 3 Nights  
2 Meals**

### Price per person:

Twin/Double \$1039

Single \$1429

Traditional Rooms

Twin/Double \$1149

Single \$1639

Atrium Rooms

Deposit: \$150.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before September 21, 2020.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$112 per person. (Twin/Double), \$138 Single

Tour #20047



Get in the spirit of the holiday season at the fabulous Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Stroll through acres of lush indoor gardens and along winding pathways and waterfalls. See brilliant displays of holiday ornaments and huge, sparkling trees. It's truly a sight to behold as everywhere we look, Christmas is coming to life! Our days and evenings will be filled with wondrous holiday festivities. Highlights include a spectacular Christmas Dinner and Show, General Jackson luncheon cruise, Delta River Flatboat ride, ICE Exhibit, and the legendary Grand Ole Opry. This tour is one you don't want to miss!

### Day 1 - Friday - November 27

#### Travel to Nashville

All aboard!! We're on our way to Nashville for a three-night stay at the fantastic Opryland Hotel. We arrive at the hotel all decked out in its finest array just as dusk settles over the city. What a spectacular sight as over two million Christmas lights sparkle in the night. A free evening to enjoy the amenities of the hotel.

### Day 2 - Saturday - November 28

#### ICE / General Jackson Showboat / Grand Ole Opry

A special day filled with wonder and amazement. Visit "ICE!," the awe-inspiring experience where more than 2 million pounds of ice come to life under the skillful hands of talented artisans. We'll watch ice sculptures being carved before our very eyes at the live carving zone. Next, we enjoy a wonderful luncheon cruise and holiday musical revue aboard the General Jackson Showboat. This evening, we attend the legendary Grand Ole Opry, a great opportunity to see and hear our favorite country music entertainers. (L)

### Day 3 - Sunday - November 29

#### Delta River Flatboat Ride / Christmas Dinner & Show

Our morning is free to enjoy the amenities of the hotel and to take a ride aboard the Delta River Flatboat, surrounded by the lush indoor gardens of this beautiful resort. See the 85 foot fountain, three waterfalls and, hopefully, "Danny," the 80 plus pound catfish that lives in the river! A special evening of dining and entertainment awaits at the Christmas Dinner and Show. Enjoy a traditional holiday meal including all the trimmings, followed by a spectacular Christmas show. (D)

### Day 4 - Monday - November 30

#### Travel Home

Filled with good tidings and holiday cheer, we bid farewell to Nashville and return home with wonderful memories of "A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel." Please note: The tour itinerary is established by the Opryland Hotel and is subject to change.

#### TOUR INCLUDES:

- 3 Nights at Opryland Hotel
- Admission to ICE
- Lunch on the General Jackson Showboat
- Grand Ole Opry
- Services of a Shenandoah Tours Escort
- Delta River Flatboat Ride
- Christmas Dinner & Show



# Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Gingerbread Houses at Grove Park Inn December 1-2, 2020

**2 Days / 1 Night  
2 Meals**

**Price per person:**  
Twin/Double \$479  
Single \$549

Deposit: \$50.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before October 19, 2020

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$39 per  
person (Twin), \$58 Single.

Tour #20040



Sugar and spice and everything nice! Come along and enjoy the most wonderful time of the year... the Biltmore Estate celebrates Christmas in grand style! Visit America's largest home all dressed in its finest array for the holiday season ... decorated trees, wreaths, bows, and poinsettias. An additional treasure is a visit to the Grove Park Inn to see the amazing display of gingerbread houses, and delight in these sugar-and-spice creations. Enjoy a special dinner at Biltmore Estate and a holiday buffet breakfast at historic Grove Park Inn. This is a one-of-a-kind holiday experience we'll never forget!

## Day 1 - Tuesday - December 1

### Travel to Asheville / Candlelight Tour - Biltmore Estate

Welcome to this Winter Wonderland Tour! Journey south to Asheville, North Carolina, and experience the finest of the holiday season! Accommodations await us in Asheville. As dusk settles over the city we're off to the magnificent Biltmore Estate for a fine holiday dinner and their annual Christmas Candlelight Tour. Enter the grounds where over 500 luminaries cast a warm glow. The best is yet to come ... a candlelight tour of this incredible estate, the 225-room French Renaissance chalet, home of George Vanderbilt. Crackling fires, glittering trees, and hundreds of candles glow throughout rooms richly decorated for an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas. This is an experience we'll long remember! (D)

## Day 2 - Wednesday - December 2

### Grove Park Inn / Gingerbread Houses / Travel Home

Today we'll visit the fabulous Grove Park Inn to see the amazing display of gingerbread houses. People from across the country create these culinary sugar and spice masterpieces for competition in this annual event. Enjoy an included breakfast in the Blue Ridge Dining Room and warm by the giant fireplaces in the grand lobby. Afterwards, return to the Biltmore Estate to visit the gardens, the winery, and Antler Hill Village filled with dining and shopping opportunities. By mid-afternoon we'll board our coach for the trip home, bringing with us cherished memories of this special holiday tour. (B)

### TOUR INCLUDES:

- Candlelight Tour of the Biltmore Estate
- Dinner at Deer Park Restaurant
- Gingerbread House display at the Grove Park Inn
- Breakfast at the Grove Park Inn
- Visit the Biltmore Winery
- Also included: Accommodations, Motorcoach Transportation, Shenandoah Tours Escort, & Luggage Handling.
- 2 Meals = 1B, 1D.