



Newsletter

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN

2025 Committee

George Darnell
President

Doc Holladay
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Gary McDowell
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Membership Coordinator

Pam Toliver
Communications Coordinator

Dan Mortland
Program Director

Greg Payonk
Cruise & Foreign Travel

Bill Johnson
Domestic & Foreign Travel

APRIL 2025 ISSUE

President's Message

Happy April!

I hope you have your taxes done so you can join the Travel Club for our monthly pot-luck lunch meeting in Rachel's Kitchen. This month, John and Heidi Lesinski, from the Lake Frederick Veterans Association, will be joining us to tell us about their recent trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. This is a meeting you don't want to miss. As usual, bring a pot-luck dish to share and join us in Rachel's Kitchen from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March Recap

We had three great trips in March: the tour of the Marine Corps Museum near Quantico with the Lake Frederick Veterans Association, the St. Patrick's Day Brewery Tour, and the Cherry Blossom Lunch Cruise on the Potomac. Read the trip reports in this newsletter.

April Trip

Because we had so many trips in March and Easter, Passover, and Spring Breaks help to fill up April, we only planned one trip for April, on the 28th. Our neighbor and Civil War enthusiast, Rick Turner, will be leading us on a tour of the Balls Bluff Battlefield Park, near Leesburg, followed by lunch and wine tastings. Registration will be open after this newsletter is published. See the announcement in this newsletter.

Schedule of Trips Updated

See the list of trips planned for 2025 (V7). This may change during the year and more details will be added as we get closer to each trip. We usually post our trips on MTL Events at least a month before the trip is open for registration. Coming up on May 12 will be our rescheduled trip to Luray and Shenandoah Caverns. Registration is now open. For June 2, Corinne Osius and I are planning a trip to Monticello with lunch at Michie Tavern and a visit to Pippin Hills Farm Vineyard, a long day. Sam Kerns and Rick Turner, our Civil War duo, are working on a Fredericksburg Area Battlefields Tour on June 13. Sam is also finalizing plans for an overnight trip to Pennsylvania for Railroads and Disasters on October 15-16. Registration may be open soon. And Bill Johnson is working on a tour of Fauquier County Vineyards on July 14. Mark your calendars and stay tuned.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2025
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Bring a dish to share

Foreign Travel 2025

We had to cancel our trip to Ireland, but MTL has one scheduled for September if you are interested.

Check out the cruises and land tours that Greg Payonk has scheduled for 2025 and contact him if you need more information. You can find copies of descriptions in our August 2024 Newsletter. You can find our newsletters on our website Lake Frederick Travel Club.

I hope to see you around campus and at our April 14 meeting.

George Darnell, President

703-850-2132

darnellgd@hotmail.com

p.s. If you are not a member of the Shenandoah HOA do the following to register for one of our trips:

1. Drop off a check with all your contact information, including email address, with the Shenandoah Lodge Concierge.
2. Ask the Concierge to register you on MTL Events.

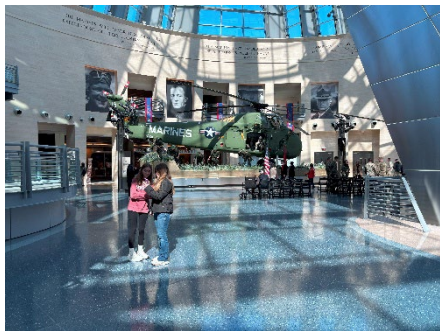
Quantico Marine Corps Museum

by George Darnell

March 3, 2025

Sixteen patriots from the Lake Frederick Veterans Association and Travel Club left the lodge on a bright, brisk morning at 0800 hours to tour the National Marine Corps Museum near Quantico, Virginia. Our Shenandoah Shuttle driver, Julie, took us down US 522 to get on I-66 eastbound to Manassas. We passed several new data centres along Prince William Parkway before reaching the mid-county area along Dumfries Road. This is the area where George and Michell lived before moving to Lake Frederick in 2016. George pointed out the Coles Firehouse, where they held their oldest daughter's wedding reception. She is now a nursing administrator at UVA Hospital and the proud grandmother of two boys and two girls. Time flies!

Julie's navigation system decided to take us through Independent Hill onto Joplin Road, a winding two-lane road that separates Prince William Forest Park from the training grounds of Quantico. We passed an old Nike Missile site that is now the Prince William County Schools



office complex. No deer or lost Marines were in sight. As we passed the Quantico National Cemetery, some of our travellers said they lay wreaths there during the Christmas Season. US 1 and the entrance to Quantico Marine Corps Base, with its replica of the Iwo Jima statue in

Arlington is where we turned right and drove a short distance to the entrance to the museum.

Julie was able to drop us off at the entrance promenade about 1000 hours, but we still had to walk about 100 yards to the



entrance. After we passed through security scanners, a docent greeted us and pointed out the rest rooms and the theatre that showed a free short introductory film. A separate fee-based theatre shows a longer film about the life of a Marine from basic training to combat. The museum is laid out in a large circle with hallways leading into displays that cover the eras of Marine Corps training and battles. It has been updated recently to include Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Afghanistan.

There is a stairway and

elevator to a second floor where you can get a closer look at the many Marine aircraft suspended from the ceiling. The tavern and cafeteria, where we had lunch on our own, are located on this level.

A large group of young Marines, dressed in BDUs, known as fatigues in my day, was also visiting the Museum for an orientation and tour. They looked so young that I mistook them for cadets from a military high school. Oh, well!



Julie brought the bus back to our drop-off point for reboarding about 1500 hours. We were soon on our way home, taking US-1 to Route 234, Dumfries Road, to



avoid backtracking on Joplin Road. Dumfries was a thriving tobacco port on the Potomac River in the Colonial Period until it silted in from farm run-off. Except for heavy rush-hour traffic and an accident in mid-county, our trip home was uneventful. We were back at the Lodge at 1700 hours as scheduled, tipped Julie, took a group picture, and headed to our homes.



St. Patrick's Day Brewery Tour

by George Darnell

March 17, 2025

The best-laid plans of mice and men oft go awry ..."

We planned to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by visiting three area breweries: Chilly Hollow, Bluemont Station, and Lost Barrel, but our plans changed after our first stop.



When we arrived, the staff told us they opened on Black Friday 2024. We ordered a variety of drinks and



Twenty-four travelers left the lodge about 11:15 a.m. in a Shenandoah Shuttle driven by Julie. Our first stop was [Chilly Hollow Brewing Company](#), a new craft brewery located on the rolling hills of an operating cattle farm near Berryville. It offers beer crafted on site by an award-winning

brewmaster as well as local wine, cider, bar food, and grass-fed beef raised right in the brewhouse's

backyard. When we arrived, the staff told us they opened on Black Friday 2024. We ordered a variety of drinks and food from the bar and soon had our drinks and food tickets for pick-up from the kitchen. I had an excellent Irish Stout, and a beef brisket sandwich, made from beef raised on the farm, and tater tots. It was huge and delicious.



We gathered around tables near a large stone fireplace in the middle of the dining hall. The staff asked for a group photo before we left, which they took on the outside patio overlooking the farm. Then it was back on the bus for our next stop, Bluemont Station Brewery and Winery on the other side of the Blue Ridge.

When we arrived and started to unload, a caretaker told us they were closed on Monday and had celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Saturday. Bummer! So, we backtracked on Rt. 7 to Bear Chase Brewery, which is one of our favorites. They were open. So, we enjoyed our beers (Irish Red for me) and other drinks while we enjoyed the late winter view of the Loudoun Valley.

Having been burned once, we decided to check the website of our next stop, Lost Barrel, near Middleburg. The website said they were open, but a phone call revealed that they were closed. Another disappointment! Go to plan C, Vibrissa Brewing Company in downtown Winchester, about 30 minutes away.

Julie let us off in the large parking lot next door, across from the courthouse. The servers ushered us to two long low-top tables to take our orders. They have an extensive menu of food, beer, and other drinks. Service was prompt and we soon had our food and drinks to enjoy with further conversations. Finally. It was time to leave. We decided to skip Twisted Oak Brewery in White Oak, an optional stop on our itinerary, and leave it for another day.



Our bus arrived back at the Lodge about 5:00 p.m., and we tipped and thanked our driver, Julie, said our goodbyes, and headed home. Another fun trip, but not exactly as planned. Now we have two breweries to visit in the future.

Cherry Blossom Lunch Cruise

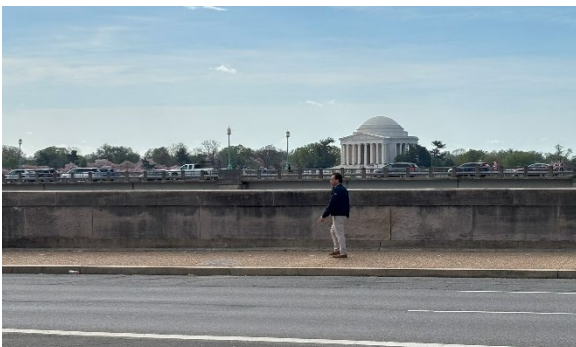
by George Darnell

March 31, 2025

Response to this trip was greater than expected. We had 24 enthusiastic travelers waiting for our bus to take us to the Cherry Blossom lunch cruise on the Odyssey when I arrived at the Lodge. After collecting travel waivers and passing out lanyard name badges to those who ordered them, I boarded the bus, which had exactly 25 seats, and took the last seat in the back row. Our driver Julie, soon had us on I-66 heading east with signs of Spring all along the way. Traffic slowed from Centreville all the way to the beltway, even after all the construction upgrades to I-66.



When the bus reached the beltway, I was surprised that Julie's GPS did not stay on I-66 to DC. Instead, it took us to Route 50 into DC. Some of our travelers who had lived in the area remarked about places along the way. We soon reached the high-rise apartments and office buildings in Rosslyn, passing the Iwo Jima Memorial Statue near Arlington Cemetery before crossing the Potomac into DC. Julie took us down Constitution Ave. to 17th St., where we turned right and pulled into the WWII Memorial bus parking area. Julie found a spot for our bus and we debarked to use the park restrooms and visit the WWII Memorial and the Reflecting Pond in front of the Lincoln Memorial.



We could see the Cherry Blossoms around the Tidal Basin and the Jefferson Memorial in the distance across Independence Ave. Refreshed, we reboarded the bus and noted how much trash weekend visitors had left in the area.

Julie's GPS surprised me again, taking us back into Virginia across Memorial Bridge and the parkway to Rosslyn. Along the way, we were treated to Lady Bird Johnson's legacy, the flowers along the parkway, and the Iwo Jima Memorial again. The bus made it back into DC on I-395 to the Maine Ave. exit. We arrived at the dock with 15 minutes to spare before departure. City Cruises staff were expecting us and seated us at three long tables near the DJ and cruise announcer, who pointed out points of interest as we cruised out of the DC Channel into the Potomac, particularly the Cherry Trees along Haines Point.



The Odyssey is glass-enclosed with a deck running completely around the perimeter, where voyagers could take photos. Unfortunately, some people blocked the view for us while we were having our three-course plated lunch. I chose the grilled salmon and cheesecake with a glass of Pino Grigio (extra charge). After our meal we had time to visit the restrooms below deck and walk around the outside deck to view the sights along the Potomac, including National Airport, the Air Force Memorial, the Pentagon, Roosevelt Island, Georgetown, Watergate, the Kennedy Center, the Lincoln Memorial, Haines Point, and Fort McNair, where I spent a year at the National War College in 1984-85. Fortunately, the predicted rain never arrived, and we had a warm sunny day for our trip after some early morning showers in Lake Frederick.



Our ship docked right on schedule at 2:00 p.m. Those who wanted their souvenir photos, taken as we boarded, were able to collect them as we docked. Julie was waiting for us where she dropped us off and we were soon back on Maine Ave. headed home. Our bus passed the Tidal Basin as we made our way



back to I-395 across the Potomac. We had an elevated view of the whole area. The trees were in full bloom and there were several paddle boats in the Tidal Basin. I wish we could have them in Lake Frederick.

Rather than having us try to negotiate traffic on I-66, Julie's GPS took us down I-95 through the high-rise apartments in Shirlington to the beltway. Traffic was light and we were soon back on I-66 headed home, arriving at 4:00 p.m., an hour earlier than expected. We tipped and thanked Julie before saying our goodbyes and heading to our homes after another memorable trip.

Membership Coordinator Position Open

The position of Membership Coordinator for the Travel Club is now open. This position requires the person to add new members to our contact list in Google so that they will receive our monthly newsletter. If interested in helping maintain this list, please contact George Darnell, President, at darnellgd@hotmail.com, or Pam Toliver, Communications .Coordinator, at ptoliver@soft-spec.com.

Trip Ideas for 2025, V7

- Jan 20—Luray, & Shenandoah Caverns Tour (Rescheduled to May 12)
 - Apr 20—Easter
 - Apr 28—Battle of Balls Bluff w/Lunch & Winery Visits
 - May 2-11—Globus Land Tour: Budapest to Prague with Greg Payonk
 - May 12—Luray & Shenandoah Caverns Tour
 - Jun 2—Monticello, Michie Tavern Lunch, & Pippin Hill Vineyard Tour
 - Jun 13—Fredericksburg Area Civil War Battlefields Tour w/Lunch
 - Jul 14—Fauquier County Wine Tour
 - Aug 7-21—Norwegian Fjords & Arctic Circle Cruise w/Greg Payonk
 - Aug—Wine & Beer Tours
 - Sep—Lexington Upper Valley Tour
 - Sep 29—Oktoberfest Bridges & Breweries Tour
 - Oct 15-16—Pennsylvania Disasters & Trains Tour
 - Oct 23—Fall Colors Lunch Cruise on Smith Mountain Lake
 - Nov—Outlet Mall Shopping Spree & Wine Tour
 - Dec 3-5—Christmas in Williamsburg VA
 - Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with Greg Payonk
 - Dec 13—Wreaths Across America in Winchester
 - Dec 15—Christmas at Mount Vernon
- Check out the Shenan Tours at
< <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/> >
Early registration is recommended.
They sell out quickly.

Balls Bluff Battlefield Park Tour

April 28, 2025

The Battle of Ball's Bluff occurred Oct. 21, 1861, on the banks of the Potomac River near Leesburg, Virginia. The battle took place early in the Civil War, 3 months after the major engagement of First Manassas. The conflict between Union and Confederate forces is unique, in part, because the battlefield and number of troops involved is quite small compared to other major engagements. Each side had approximately 1700 troops, and the primary field of battle is very constricted. Join the Travel Club, and see the third smallest U.S. cemetery in the country. Learn about the only sitting U.S. Senator ever to be killed in combat and hear the unique story of the death of Sergeant Clinton Hatcher of the famous 8th Virginia Regiment. See how inexperience, difficult terrain, and a shortage of boats led to a military disaster. Nature lovers will enjoy the beautiful woodland scenery and tranquility of the relatively unknown Ball's Bluff Battlefield Park. Our Civil War Enthusiast, Rick Turner, will be leading the tour.



Following the tour, we will have lunch in the popular Leesburg Public House, a few minutes away. It is a popular Leesburg restaurant, serving a variety of food and drinks. Then it is off to two popular wineries/vineyards on the two ends of Loudoun County: Stone Tower Winery and Bluemont Vineyard.

Schedule

0815 Gather in Lodge
0830 Leave Lodge
0945 Arrive Balls Bluff
1145 Leave
1200 Arrive Leesburg Public House [703-777-6333](tel:703-777-6333)
1345 Leave
1400 Arrive Stone Tower Winery [\(703\) 777-2797](tel:703-777-2797)
1530 Leave
1600 Arrive Bluemont Vineyard [540-554-8439](tel:540-554-8439)
1730 Leave
1830 Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 18.

Registration is **\$60** for transportation. Food, drinks, wine tastings, and driver tip are not included. Please register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, made payable to **"Lake Frederick Travel Club"** with your contact information and the date of the trip at the lodge concierge desk no later than **April 18, 2025**

George Darnell

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