

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

**MEETS EVERY ODD MONTH THE 2ND MONDAY AT 11:30 A.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN
AND EVERY EVEN MONTH THE 2ND TUESDAY AT 4:30 P.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN**

2019 Committee

Judy Bogner
President

George Darnell
Vice President

John Butler
Secretary

Allison Thomas
Treasurer

Charlotte Morris
Membership Coordinator

Pamela Toliver
Newsletter Coordinator

Pamela Toliver
Website Manager

Blake Adams
Member at Large

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, October 8
Rachel's Kitchen
4:30 p.m.
Shared Appetizers

OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE

Three Bs Winery Tour

A small group of wine enthusiasts climbed aboard a rented van at 10:00 a.m. on September 12, 2019, to visit three wineries near Lake Frederick. Our first stop was Bluemont Winery, a family-owned winery off Snickersville Turnpike, near Snickers Gap on Route 7 in Loudoun County. The Zurschmeide family has been farming at the foot of Buck Mountain since the 1970s. They now operate the winery, a brewery, a cidery, and a pick-your-own farm. We arrived a little before 11:00 a.m. and waited outside until they opened. We took the opportunity to get a group photo



Mike & Marge Gooden; Mike & Linda Reyman; Phil & Dana Kelly; and Harry & Marian Romano

September 12, 2019

next to a carved wooden pig near the entrance.

We gathered around the tasting bar on the second floor and were treated to a generous selection of white and red wines. After our tasting, we retired to the balcony overlooking the Loudoun Valley for the view. We were told that on a really clear day you can see the Washington Monument. They loan binoculars to guests, but we could make out Tysons on the

horizon without them. We lingered for a while before boarding the van for our next stop.



We drove along the crest of the mountain between Snickers Gap on Rt. 7 and Ashby Gap on Rt. 50. We passed Mount Weather, a secure FEMA site used by many Federal employees and contractors to telecommute or attend offsite conferences and training. Mount Weather gets its name from the weather balloons that were launched there. During the Cold War it became a relocation site for Federal officials in case Washington was attacked.

Some of us remembered the plane crash on the mountain. Trans World Airlines Flight 514 was a Boeing 727-231 enroute from Indianapolis, Indiana, and Columbus, Ohio, to Washington Dulles that crashed into Mount Weather on Sunday, December 1, 1974. All 92 aboard were killed.

As we passed Ashby Inn at the intersection of Rt. 50 and Rt. 17, we talked about its history, serving horse-drawn wagon drivers carrying goods between Fredericksburg and Winchester. Often there would be a two-day backup waiting to cross the Shenandoah River at Castleman's Ferry on the Winchester Turnpike. Those who had dined at Ashby Inn had mixed reviews.

We finally reached Barrel Oak Winery on Rt. 55 near Delaplane in Fauquier County. It is one of the best-known wineries in Northern Virginia because of its imposing location overlooking I-66 and its dog-friendly and family-friendly venue. Thanks to our Lake Frederick neighbor, Lori Tate, who is a floor manager at Barrel Oak, our tastings were complimentary. After sampling their excellent wines, we decided to order food and wine to take a lunch break.



The group at Barrel Oak Winery



The group at Blue Valley Winery

Our last stop was Blue Valley Winery, an imposing new winery near Barrel Oak with a great view of the Blue Valley along Rt. 17. It is a huge place with several tasting areas, room for outdoor picnics, wedding receptions, and other events.

One of the wines we tasted was a superb Syrah. When our attendant said they added a touch of Viognier, Mike Reyman was surprised. After the trip he emailed:

"I was somewhat taken aback when the tasting host at Blue Valley mentioned their Syrah (a bold red wine I love) was mixed with a small percentage of Viognier. I went on the Total Wine on-line guide and found this statement which implies it is not an uncommon practice.

'In the Northern Rhône, the varietal makes big, rich wines with drying tannins and black fruit. Notably age-worthy, particularly in the regions of Hermitage and Côte Rôtie, Syrah develops secondary earthy flavors, such as tobacco. It is the only red grape used in the Northern Rhône that is sometimes blended with the white Viognier grape, which helps set the deep color of the wine.'

Live and learn. Another interesting wine fact thanks to the "three-B's" winery tour."

We arrived back at the lodge about 5:00 p.m. This was an interesting and friendly trip with a good mixture of seasoned and new residents of Trilogy at Lake Frederick. Thanks to everyone who joined us.



Mike Reyman [foreground] tasting Blue Valley's Syrah

A special thanks to Barb Rawlings for all her help with the Travel Club Luncheons this past year. Since last September Barb has donated and made sure that all of the paper plates, napkins, etc., have been available for us to enjoy the delicious shared lunch each month. We appreciate your service so much, Barb.

And now we need someone to help provide this service. Barb willingly donated all the items and that was a wonderful donation. However, it is not a donation that will be necessary for someone else to do. If someone will volunteer to make certain that the products we need for lunch are at the monthly meetings, the treasury can reimburse for the products. The easiest solution would be to purchase the products in bulk and store them in Rachel's Kitchen. Unfortunately, items left there are used by others so would be unavailable to us when we need them. If you are able to help please let me know.

Trip Wait Lists

We all have unexpected life events happen and need to change our plans sometimes. We are all busy people with many commitments and it is sometimes necessary to cancel plans we have made—including trips we have planned. Most of our trips are planned and fill months in advance and very often there is a cancellation or two before the trip date. That opens up some space and allows the people on the wait list to be able to join the trip if they choose. The reason we have some seats available on a couple of our trips is because we have had some cancellations. So if you want to join a trip and it is filled, please put your name on a wait list.

UPCOMING TRIPS

There are a couple trips coming up soon that still have room for a few people. If you have not signed up yet and want to join us on any of the trips that still have some room, please drop off your checks with the trip date and your email address to the Concierge Desk.

- September 30, Octoberfest Route 151 Brew trip—**There are 4 seats left**
- October 21, Fall Foliage Train Trip from Cumberland to Frostburg—**Filled**
- October 29, Fall Foliage Train Trip from Cumberland to Frostburg—**Filled**
- November, Middleburg Wine Dinner and Ghost Tour—**Filled**
- November 22-24, Christmas in New York—**There are a few seats left**
- December 3-4, Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate—**There are a few seats**
- December 9-11, Christmas in Williamsburg—**Filled**
- December 16, Bull Run Wine and Festival of Lights -- **New Trip with space available**
- December 19, Christmas Tea at Rosemont Manor—**New trip with space available**

Middleburg Wine Dinner & Ghost Tour

November 18, 2019

\$65 for Transportation & Tour



This evening trip will take us to the town of Middleburg on Route 50 for dinner at the King Street Oyster Bar

<<http://kingstreetoysterbar.com/>>. We will be sitting together at a table on the second floor and paying for our meals separately. Our host, Ward Brewer, will guide us through their menu <<http://kingstreetoysterbar.com/menus/dinner/>> and help us to select wines to complement our choices. Depending on what you order, dinner with tax and tip should be \$50 to \$75 each. If you are a fan of oysters, theirs are excellent.

After dinner we will join our Middleburg Ghost Tour owner, researcher and storyteller Heather Kyle.

<<https://middleburgghosttours.com/about/>>

Heather has over 25 years of experience as an Anthropologist and Ethnographer and a life-long interest in all things paranormal. She is passionate about history and has spent hours combing dusty archives to find the likely origins of Middleburg's most active hauntings. The walking tour should last about 1-1/2 hours. Dress for the weather.

The van will leave the Lodge at 4:45 p.m. and return at approximately 10:15 p.m.

\$65 covers the cost of van transportation and the ghost tour. All other costs are the responsibility of each traveler.

Please drop off checks with the lodge concierge with contact information and the date of the trip. Minimum for this trip is 8 and maximum is 14.

This trip is currently full, but we are starting a wait list.

New York City Christmas Showtime

November 22-24, 2019

3 Days / 2 Nights

Double Occupancy \$869 per person

Single \$1,329

Deposit of \$150 per person, balance due September 20

New York is celebrating its most festive time of the year---the Christmas season! Come with us and enjoy the exciting city all decked out in its finest array. Sparkling Christmas lights and the decorated windows adorning the ships along Fifth Avenue and throughout the city are a feast for our eyes. See the amazing Rockettes in their spectacular Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, enjoy a great sightseeing tour and have time for shopping too. See it---experience it---live it---book your seat now.

Come with us to see New York City all decked out in its Christmas array.

- See the amazing Rockettes in their Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular
- Enjoy a great sightseeing tour

- Bus transportation to New York
- Accommodations for two nights in the heart of the theatre district near Rockefeller Center and 5th Avenue
- Guided tour from Rockefeller Center to Greenwich Village to the Cathedral of St. John the Devine, from 5th Avenue to Central Park, from Times Square to Little Italy the sights and sounds of the city entice us.

The Christmas Magic on the great stage at Radio City Music Hall with the Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes. The "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers", "New York at Christmastime", and "The Living Nativity" are all part of the dazzling show.

Deposit of \$150 per person due when booking and is non-refundable if cancelled 60 days or less prior to departure. Balance is due by September 20th, 2019 Cancellation Protection \$58 per person twin, \$93 single.

Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Grove Park Inn Gingerbread Houses

December 3-4, 2019

2 Days / 1 Night / 3 Meals

Double Occupancy \$429 per person

Single \$499

**Deposit of \$50 per person
Balance due October 21,
Trip Protection \$39 each**

Come along and enjoy the most wonderful time of the year by celebrating the Biltmore Estate 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 at historic Grove Park Inn. This is a one-of-a-kind holiday experience we'll never forget.



Winery at Bull Run & Festival of Lights Tour

December 16, 2019

\$35 for Transportation & Tour



<<https://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights>>

Every year from Thanksgiving until just after New Year's Day, you can experience the Bull Run Festival of Lights, 2.5 miles illuminated by holiday light displays. Drive the festival route from the comfort of your car (our van); turn out your headlights and just follow the magical glow. After viewing the lights, visit the holiday village to enjoy rides, refreshments, and of course, photos with Santa Claus.



**The Winery at
Bull Run**

Travel Back in Time to the 1800's
Closest Winery to Washington DC

If you have driven I-66 between Manassas and Centreville on a December night, you have probably seen these lights on your right. The entrance to the park is off Route 29, North of the Bull Run Battlefield and the Winery at Bull Run.

<<https://www.wineryatbullrun.com/>>

Our van(s) will depart from the Lodge at 4:00 p.m. We will start our tour at the Winery at about 5:00 p.m. with tastings and food. The Winery offers a variety of artisan meats, cheeses, dips, spreads, and baguettes fresh from the oven for purchase at the main bar. Water, apple juice, and a variety of sodas are also available for purchase.

After touring the grounds and viewing their collection of Civil War era artifacts, we will board the van about 6:30 p.m. to visit the light show and village before returning to Lake Frederick about 9:30 p.m.

\$35 covers van transportation and the light show. All other purchases are the responsibility of each traveler.

Please drop off your check with the lodge concierge with your contact information and the date of the trip.

Minimum for this trip is 8 and maximum is 14.

*Christmas Tea at Rosemont Manor
Berryville December 19, 2019
\$79 per person includes Transportation*



A Special Christmas Tea in the beautifully decorated manor house all dressed up for Christmas. A welcome talk and holiday beverage, a beautifully served lavish three course Christmas Tea in the dining room, and time after

Tea to explore the Manor House highlight this trip. We will spend several hours enjoying the Tea and Tour, and we can walk around the grounds and enjoy the views and peaceful grounds. This is not a Tea especially for women. The men attending our Rosemont Tea in the Spring enjoyed it just as much as the women. Transportation to and from the Lodge is included and we plan to include an additional historic home tour. More details will be coming in the November newsletter.

Looking Ahead

Travel Club Trip Information

I have often been asked about the planning of our trips because sometimes my name is attached for information and sometimes it is George's name that is attached. To put it simply:

- George is in charge of the Winery, Brewery and some one day trips.
- I, Judy, am in charge of the longer trips and the one day historical tours.

Our 2020 tours will be listed as **Trips by George** or **Trips by Judy**.

Trip planning requires a great deal of work because of the details involved. Our in-club planned trips are non-profit trips which can make planning challenging. I owned a Travel Agency in Winchester and for 20 years I planned, priced and led group tours. They were for-profit tours and easier to price because I had a profit margin to work with. When I am pricing all components of our Travel Club tours, I have no margin for pricing, and **that** means I must be as exact as possible—a difficult task when the trip includes many components such as hotel rooms, meals, special events, and transportation—some of which are priced as a group even before I know the size of the potential group. So it may sometime become necessary to make a small price change. When there is a price change I ask for your understanding.

The trips we book with a for-profit agency such as Shenandoah Tours are understandably higher priced than our own club-planned trips. I book these trips because they have something we don't have—buses. They have been in service for many years and have a very wide customer base. This means that the trips for which I expect to have fewer participants where we will not be able to provide transportation, I can book through

another agency and feel confident that the trip will actually go. I especially like working with Shenandoah Tours and have a good working relationship with them. They will do whatever they can to provide good service for our smaller groups. And as it has worked out, sometimes our smaller groups have become large groups. They like us. Of course they do—what's not to like! And we often make the difference for them of filling their buses or cancelling the trip. It is a win/win situation—but they do cost more than our own. They now have most of our club members on their mailing list, so if you see a trip in their catalog that you would like to take, let me know and maybe we can get a small group together for that trip. I have two December, 2019 trips and two 2020 trips planned through them.

We may eventually become large enough to book our own bus and that would make planning our trips much easier. We are becoming too large for the vans we use and not quite large enough to fill a bus. Transportation is priced on numbers, and we will need to have about 40-50 people per trip before we can cost effectively use bus transportation. Our current trips are filling very quickly and we often need to turn people away which causes disappointment and we are not happy about that. We look for ways to make it work, if possible. Unfortunately, it sometimes is not yet possible.

George would like your input in planning his 2020 trips. Please look over these possible day trips and let him know which you are interested in. George's trips are usually priced on the transportation only and the participants pay on their own for any other expenses. This allows for a lot of trip ideas. Please contact George with your ideas at darnellgd50@Verizon.net.

Planning Trips for 2020

Our trips in 2019 have been very successful. We have had wait lists for several of our day trips and our overnight trips. And we had to add a second date for our popular Fall Train Ride. Many thanks for your support. But it is not too early to be thinking about next year. So, here are a few trips we are considering. Let us know what you think and tell us of any trips you want us to add. You can email me at darnellgd50@Verizon.net.

- Visit the most popular caverns in the Shenandoah Valley with group lunch or dinner
- Visit the battlefields of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign and nearby wineries, breweries, and restaurants
- Visit Charles Town for dinner and evening at the horse races
- Visit nearby stable for a trail ride and group lunch
- Visit Antietam National Battlefield and Shepherdstown with lunch
- Visit Route 11 Chips factory and other sites in Mount Jackson
- Watch Shenandoah Apple Blossom Parade
- Visit Vint Hill for Cold War Museum, Winery, Brewery and lunch at the Covert Café
- Visit Paw Paw Tunnel and locks on the C&O Canal with picnic lunch (some hiking involved)
- Visit Little Washington and Sperryville for wine, beer, spirits, shops, and dinner at Griffin Tavern in Flint Hill
- Visit popular wineries, breweries, and distilleries selected by our members
- Overnight tour of Lancaster, Pennsylvania Amish Country
- Visit Monticello and other Presidential homes in Virginia
- Overnight visit to Greenbrier Resort in WV
- A West Virginia Scenic Train Ride
- Overnight trip to Gatlinburg and Nashville
- Visit the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley with lunch on the Winchester Walking Mall