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

## 2018 Committee

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*Member at Large*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, March 10**  
Monthly Meeting  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.  
Shared dish

## March 2019 ISSUE

### Winter Wine Trail Tour Was Cold but Fun!

**January 21, 2019**  
**by George Darnell**

With the weather clear but very cold, a group of ten Lake Frederick Travelers set out from the Lodge for our first stop, Apple House, in Linden. It has been around since 1963 and was the unofficial gateway watering hole for folks using Route 55, John Marshall Highway, to visit nearby orchards and Blue Ridge Mountains before I-66 was finished. We had a bite to eat in the diner-style restaurant with a wood-burning fireplace roaring and then did a little souvenir shopping. The inviting bar-lounge area with overstuffed couches and chairs had another cozy fireplace going.



We left Linden for our first winery, Aspen Dale, in Markham. This winery is in a converted barn on a family farm. Unfortunately, they had no heat that day; so we kept our coats on. The owners' son is the vintner and was our host. He paired each wine serving with a food nibble to suggest what types of food would complement their wines. He told us he was self-taught via Internet and coaching from our Virginia vintners. Aspen Dale does not have a vineyard. They buy their grapes from a vineyard in Rappahannock County that does not have a winery. After paying individually for our tasting and purchases, we boarded our Classy Cowboy Van for the next stop, Philip Carter Winery and Vineyard.

The van followed winding Rt. 688 from Rt. 55 toward Hume, Va., in the Blue Ridge foothills of the Piedmont. Philip Carter is on a high plateau with a great view of the Blue Ridge. Our hosts were expecting us and set us up in a large room with a fireplace for our tasting. Unfortunately, they had run out of propane the night before and the room was chilly. The Carter family has a long history of winemaking in Virginia. In 1759, a committee of the Virginia assembly was formed and charged with the question of economic diversification. Its chairman, Charles Carter, fifth son of Colonel Robert "King" Carter, entered into correspondence with London, that discussed vine growing and winemaking in Virginia. Carter's correspondence reveals that the prospects and methods for the cultivation of the grape in Virginia were an important subject. More recently, between 2005 and 2007, Philip Carter Strother, a direct descendant of the pioneering Carter family, was instrumental in the passage of The Virginia Farm Winery Zoning Act, a law intended to promote the economic vitality of the Virginia Wine Industry by restricting the ability of localities to regulate activities at farm wineries. In 2008, the Carter family returned to the production of wine in Virginia, when Philip Carter Strother founded Philip Carter Winery. They were celebrating their 10th anniversary when we

arrived. After sampling their wines and viewing handmade crafts made from wood from a nearby barn, we paid our bills and moved on to our next stop, Desert Rose Ranch and Winery.

Desert Rose was a horse and cattle farm before owners Bob and Linda decided to convert it to a vineyard and winery. The tasting room is filled with cowboy memorabilia, and the tasting bar features cash and coins they collected from around the world during Bob's Federal career. From the outside, the tasting room looks like a Western bunkhouse overlooking a pond. Bob and Linda were gracious hosts, and after sampling their wines in heated comfort, it was time to move on.





Since we were ahead of schedule, we decided to add one more winery on our way home. We stopped unannounced at Rappahannock Cellars near Rt. 522. The staff was gracious enough to set us up at a separate tasting bar and help us explore their fine wines. Rappahannock Cellars is owned and operated by a family that sold their California vineyard and winery to start a new one at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is one of the most respected wine operations in Virginia and is expanding into a distillery. The picture shown here was taken in their tasting room.

We finished the day by taking Rt. 522 through Chester Gap and Front Royal back to Lake Frederick. We enjoyed the company and stories of Fred and Nancy Grondhuis, Sandy and Cindy Sanders, Robert Paysour and his daughters, Devon and Abby, Thomas and Linda Carroll, and George Darnell. We are already thinking about where to go next. Many thanks to Lynda and Gary of Classy Cowboy Chauffeurs for transportation and guiding us through the wineries.

### March 23—Winery Tour \$35/person

We will be visiting three beautiful wineries in the Delaplane Virginia area. All three are on beautiful large farms and each offers something a bit different:

- Desert Rose Winery in Hume
- Aspen Dale Farm Winery in Delaplane
- Winding Roads Cellars in Markham

Lunch is included and wine tasting is on your own. This is a special offer that includes a free lunch from Classy Cowboys. Linda is making her delicious lunch for us at no charge, so don't miss this trip. Price per person-\$35 including transportation and lunch.

### April 2—Cherry Blossom Tour \$130/person



#### ENTERTAINMENT CRUISES

#### Cherry Blossom Dining Cruises

Set sail on the Odyssey or Spirit of Washington and enjoy dining and enchanting views of the cherry blossoms. Lunch cruises available.

Cherry Blossoms are predicted to be at peak bloom from April 3-6th this year and several people have asked if we can arrange for our Travel Club members to be able to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival as a group and without the hassle of driving, parking, etc. I have 16 seats held for us **until noon on Saturday (tomorrow)** with Schrock

Travel on their bus tour to The Cherry Blossom Festival on **April 2nd**. If you are eager to go please let me know ASAP so I can keep our reserved seats. After noon tomorrow we can book your seat if it is still available, but there are only 16 seats left on the bus and we are holding those for 24 hours. Drop off your check for \$130/person at the Concierge desk today or tomorrow morning and look forward to the festivities and beautiful cherry blossoms.

The price will be \$130/person and includes transportation, a cruise of the tidal basin area with lunch included and 3 hours to spend on the National Mall.

#### Itinerary

- 8:30 a.m. Coach Departs from Schrock Travel--220 Imboden Drive, Winchester
- 11:00 a.m. Board Odyssey Cruise
- 12:00 p.m. Depart and Enjoy Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Depart Odyssey Cruise and head to National Mall
- 5:00 p.m. Depart DC
- 6:45 p.m. Return to Charles Town Food Lion, W.V.
- 7:30 p.m. Return to Schrock Travel Winchester

### 14 Day Northern Isles Cruise to England, Scotland, Norway and Iceland August 4-18, 2019

Our most exciting trip this year will be our two-week cruise to Iceland, England, Norway and Scotland. In my opinion, there is no better way to visit this land of the Vikings and the Northern Lights than a cruise. There is no packing and unpacking, no struggling with luggage, no wondering about how to find good food, and we are going to be able to visit fantastic ports and see parts of Iceland that we probably would not get to see without a cruise—especially this cruise because it cruises around more of Iceland than most other cruises.

The itinerary is fabulous and, in addition, we will be sailing on Holland America's Nieuw Statendam. This is Holland America's newest ship. The first voyage was in December, so we will be experiencing her

debut season. This ship offers state-of-the-art enhancements that chart a bold new course forward in cruising. The Nieuw Statendam will be our welcoming sanctuary at the end of each eventful day.

Best of all, we will be traveling with a group of friends from Lake Frederick. And I will be helping to make arrangements for our group. There are about 20 people going so far, and I know that several of you have expressed interest in joining us. Prices vary depending on the stateroom and the amenities you choose. Prices start at \$2499 person plus \$245 port taxes and plus airfare.

Call Jaime at Holland America to discuss options, 800-355-3017 ext 29344.

The ship will depart from Amsterdam on August 4, 2019, and return on the 18th. You can book your flights now through Jaime and she will get you the

best airfare for the dates you select. Some folks want to spend more time in Amsterdam and some of us are leaving on August 3rd and arriving in Amsterdam August 4th at 7:15 a.m. and returning to Dulles on the 18th. I have arranged my flights for those times and most of the people going have also booked flights for those days. We will have transportation available to take the people on that flight schedule from the Lodge to and from Dulles airport. The flight prices change constantly so talk with Jaime about booking as soon as possible. We hope you will join us. And if you are traveling alone and would like a roommate, let me know because we have several single travelers.

Our Group # TQR

Our Voyage # is J955

Call Jaime at 800-355-3017 ext. 29344 to book your stateroom or ask whatever questions you might have. It will be a fantastic trip!

PLEASE CHECK THE TRIPS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING.  
PRINT THIS FORM AND BRING TO MONDAY'S MEETING OR  
SEND A LIST OF THE TRIPS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN BY RETURN EMAIL TO  
[ptoliver@soft-spec.com](mailto:ptoliver@soft-spec.com)

- ☐ March 23: Winery Tour—\$35 per person
- ☐ April 2: Cherry Blossom Festival—\$130 per person
- ☐ May: Tour of Historic Clarke County and High Tea at Rosemont Manor
- ☐ June 14-15: Lancaster, PA—Jesus at the Millennium Theatre/Camelot at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre—\$379 per person
- ☐ August 4 -18: Cruise to Iceland, England, Scotland and Norway from \$2499 per person
- ☐ October: Asheville and The Biltmore Estate
- ☐ November 22-24: New York City Christmas Showtime—\$899 per person
- ☐ December 8-10: Christmas in Williamsburg

The prices are based on double occupancy. You will be receiving more detailed information on each trip in the April Newsletter. This calendar gives you a sketch of the trips offered for the rest of this year so that you can plan for the trips you are interested in. We will continue to offer day trips spontaneously throughout the year.

**Make checks payable to Lake Frederick Travel Club when you drop them off at the Concierge desk.**