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

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## February 2022 ISSUE

### Shenandoah Caverns Trip by George Darnell

September 28, 2021

On September 28, 2022, fourteen travelers left the lodge at 8:30 a.m. in a Classy Cowboy Van and headed south to our breakfast stop at Woodstock



Garden Café: Richard & Susan Bodane; George & Michelle Darnell, Michael Dillon, Ellen D'Sa, Frank & Dorothy Hale, Mark Rosenbaum, Marjorie Morrison, Roger & Sandra Shaver; John Toliver; and Mae Yono

It is located inside the Woodstock Nursery on the west side of I-81 at the Woodstock exit. They were waiting for us and had a long table set up for us to eat together. The menu included a variety of breakfast foods and specialty coffees. The café is nestled in an indoor garden with gift shop items for sale. They serve lunch and dinner with beer and wine available.



After breakfast and a little browsing and shopping, we were on our way to Mount Jackson and the Route 11 Chips factory. They were expecting us and told us how they turn two trailer-loads of potatoes a week into bags of chips. They used placards to describe the process and we could watch it through two-story windows and a catwalk. Local farmers use the refuse for animal feed. We enjoyed free



samples of a variety of chips and bought chips and other goodies before heading a short distance down the road to Shenandoah Caverns where they gave us group rate and tour

Shenandoah Caverns is the only caverns in Virginia with an elevator. The gravel path through the caverns is not suitable for wheel or transport chairs. The floor was uneven and the ceiling very low in some spots. We did a lot of ducking as we admired the beauty of these limestone formations, including one that looked like slices of bacon.







The caverns building has a second story filled with automated department store displays from days of yesteryear. They were amazing and brought out the kid in all of us, especially the animated bears.

The Caverns Café, where we expected to have lunch, was closed. But the staff made reservations for us at the Southern Kitchen in New Market, about five miles south on Route 11, The Valley Pike. We had hoped to visit Meem's Bottom Covered Bridge to see one of the few remaining covered bridges in Virginia. It is near the Caverns but was closed because of damage by a tractor trailer. Boo! Hiss!

The Southern Kitchen, which has been in business in New Market since 1955 took us back to our childhoods. It is the kind of place Mom and Dad would take us to eat out on special occasions. They have authentic southern dishes, like peanut soup, that you won't find at Cracker Barrel. Their fried chicken is out of this world. Service was prompt and no one left hungry.



No Lake Frederick day trip would be complete without a visit to a winery. So, we travelled the backroads of the countryside west of I-81 in search of the Winery at Kindred Pointe. They were closed even though they, too, were expecting us. I suppose the snow that began to fall after lunch lead them to close.

So, go to plan B, a winery closer to home. After checking with them, we chose the Winery at Valerie Hill in Stephens City. We arrived just as the snow turned the winery into a winter postcard. Josh, our host, welcomed us, gave us the history of Valerie Hill, dating back to 1807, described their wines, and served us flights or glasses of red and white wines of our choice. They even had some mulled wine that Michelle really enjoyed. It was hard to tear everyone away from the dining table in the parlor to head home to Lake Frederick. We arrived safely a little after 5 p.m., thanked our driver, Gary Clark, and said our goodbyes after a fun trip.



# Calendar of Trips Planned for 2022

- Feb 14—Valentine's Day Wine, Cheese, & Chocolates Lunch in Rachel's Kitchen; \$10 each for cash bar service
- Mar 17—St. Patrick's Pub Crawl on the Mall
- Mar 23—Battle of Kernstown, with lunch
- Mar 25-26—David & Singin' In The Rain; Lancaster, PA; 2 Days/1 Night/ 3 Meals; \$415 pp dbl, \$489 sgl, R/T coach - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Apr 9-26—Panama Canal Cruise on Holland America; 18 days/ 17 nights; from \$3539 pp double plus R/T airfare TBA. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Apr 30—Apple Blossom Parade
- May 14-19—Royal Caribbean 5-day Cruise from Baltimore to Bermuda; 6 days/ 5 nights; from \$658 pp double before Feb 9 plus R/T shuttle
- Jun 3—Vint Hills Farm for Cold War Museum, Brewery, Winery, and Lunch TBA
- Jun 5-8—Niagara Falls Moments to Remember; 4 days/3 nights; \$719 pp double, \$929 single, R/T coach - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Jun 28-30—Exploring the Northern Neck: Lee Family Estate, Tangier Island, Steamboat Museum, Wineries, Tides Inn for two nights, TBA
- Jul 19-21—Great Smoky Mountain Memories: Dollywood, Titanic Museum & Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Feud; 3 days/2 nights; \$659 pp double, \$889 single R/T coach - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Aug 18 —Gettysburg Tour
- Aug 26—Wine Tour
- Aug 1-13—The Best of Alaska: Klondike, Denali & nights Glacier Bay Cruise & Train Tour; 13 days/12; from \$4742 plus airfare (TBA) - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Sep 15-16— WV Panhandle Tour with overnight at the Bavarian Inn, Shepherdstown TBA
- Sep 29— Oktoberfest Brewery Tour
- Oct 5-11—Iceland Land Tour R/T Dulles; 7 days/6 nights/7 meals; \$3999 pp double/ \$4850 single incl airfare— Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 19-21-- Wonders of WV: Hawks Nest State Park & New River Gorge; 3 days/ 2 nights/ 5 meals/ RT Coach; \$609 pp double; \$809 single - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 27--Fallingwater Tour TBD
- Nov 3-14--11-day American Cruise Lines Chesapeake Bay American Revolution Cruise R/T Baltimore; from \$5,640 pp double before Feb 28 plus R/T shuttle
- Nov 25-28—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville; 4 days/3 nights/2 meals; \$1169 pp double, \$1579 single, R/T coach - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 29-30 — Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Grove Park Inn; 2 days/1 night/2 meals; \$529 pp double/\$609 single; R/T motor coach - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 4-7—Christmas at the Greenbrier by Amtrak R/T Manassas; \$1597 per couple
- Dec 9 — Christmas at Union Station in DC by MARC train R/T from Charles Town