



Newsletter

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

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

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Cruise & Foreign Travel

JULY 2025 ISSUE

President's Message

Happy 4th of July!

I hope you survived the heat wave at the end of June. Wow! Even the outdoor pool was not cool and the concrete was miserable. I hope that was not a harbinger for the rest of summer. We are planning only one trip in July, and it begins in an air-conditioned winery on the top of a breezy hill. We still have a few seats left, but hurry.

Join me in the Lake Frederick Fourth of July Parade down Rachel Carson, led by Admiral Larry Marsh, USN, Ret. It is always a fun time. Friends and family are welcome. We step off at 8:30 a.m. on Bald Eagle Drive between the Lodge and model homes. Dress for the weather and for walking in patriotic garb. We sing patriotic songs along the way,

June Recap

June was a busy month, with two outstanding trips to Monticello and Fredericksburg Area Battlefields. Read the trip reports in this issue. Our Potluck Lunch meeting on June 9th in Rachel's Kitchen was special. Our neighbor, Rachel Battles, who works with Main Street Travel in Front Royal told us about a trip to Ireland in 2026, and other services of Main Street Travel. You can find her contact information in the MTL Directory if you want more information.

July Trips

Get ready for an unforgettable experience this July! We have an exclusive trip planned: a delightful Fauquier County Wine Tour on July 22. This tour organized and led by Bill Johnson, promises to be a day filled with exquisite wines, beautiful scenery, and great company. Check out the flyer in this issue and secure your spot by registering on MTL Events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2025
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.

August Trips

Mark your calendars for two fantastic trips this August! First up, join us on August 8 for a thrilling Brewery Tour. Then, on August 22, embark on a delightful Wine Tour, where you'll savor exquisite wines. Don't miss out on these amazing experiences! Check out the flyers in this issue and secure your spot by registering on MTL Events.

PA Disaster & Railroads, October 15 and 16

This outstanding trip, organized and led by Sam Kerns, is sold out, even after increasing the maximum to 28. If you registered with MTL Events, make sure to drop your check with the concierge and confirm your hotel reservation. This outstanding trip, organized and led by Sam Kerns, is already sold out, even after increasing the maximum to 28. If you registered with MTL Events, make sure to drop your check with the concierge and confirm your hotel reservation.

Schedule of Trips Updated

See the updated list of trips (V11) in this issue. Scott McGeary, who is familiar with Deep Creek Lake, is planning our day trip on September 19th. Watch for details in the August issue. I could use some help planning the Loudoun Outlet Mall Shopping Spree on November 14th if anyone is familiar with this area. Our schedule may change again 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 for registration. Mark your calendars and stay tuned to MTL Events.

Foreign Travel 2025.

Check out the cruises and land tours that Greg Payonk has scheduled for 2025 and contact him if you need more information. Copies are available in our August 2024 Newsletter. You can find our newsletters on our website <https://lakefredericktravelclub.com/newsletter>.

Registering for Travel Club Trips

Having trouble registering for our exciting trips? The friendly Lodge Concierge is always ready to assist you. If you have any questions or need further help, feel free to send me an email. We're here to make sure your travel plans go off without a hitch!

Frederick County Parks and Recreation Trips

Frederick County Parks and Recreation conducts day and overnight trips for county residents; some tailored to seniors. You can find them on the web, and they are on Facebook. They contacted me via email, offering to partner with us and identified some trip recommendations. A copy of our email communications is located at the end of this month's newsletter.

July 14 Meeting

I hope to see you around campus and at our July 14th meeting in Rachel's Kitchen at 11:30 a.m. Our member, Peter Himmelberger, will provide a presentation on the current cruise (Ocean, River, Expedition) market composition, vendor differences and segments (mass market, premium, upper premium, luxury), who is aligned with whom, new entrants, and open it for questions on changes to expect going forward. He is a travel advisor in a very large consortium with over 5 billion in yearly sales and is a Lake Frederick neighbor.

George Darnell, President

703-850-2132

darnellgd@hotmail.com

P.S.

I've added some wine tasting tips to help you impress your friends on our tours. As for beer, the best advice I can give is to take a sip, hold up your glass, and confidently say, "Not Bad!"

Wine Tasting TipS



1. Leave your fragrances home. They interfere with the “nose” of the wine.
2. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for uneven terrain, gravel parking lots, stairs, and wooden decks.
3. Bring a wine carrier or sturdy bag to carry wines you decide to purchase.
4. Bring a small note pad and pencil in case the winery doesn’t provide anything for taking notes. Develop a consistent rating scale for the wines you taste; 1 to 5 works.
5. Visit wineries when they are not too busy and noisy. You don’t want your tasting to be rushed. Be polite to other guests. You may make some new friends.
6. Listen to what the attendant says about each wine. Don’t be afraid to ask questions.
7. Look at your wine first. Hold your glass up to the light by the stem and check the color and clarity. Tilt the glass and notice the viscosity of the wine.
8. Swirl the wine around in your glass. Swirling adds oxygen to the wine and makes you look like a pro.
9. Stick your nose to the glass and take a few sniffs. Put the glass down and think about what you smelled. Was it appealing or disagreeable? Can you describe the aroma?
10. Hold your glass by the stem and take a small taste, breathing in the aroma as you do. Let it linger on your tongue and swirl in around before swallowing. Is there a pleasant aftertaste, a “lingering finish?”
11. Three sips should be enough to tell if you would like to drink more later.
12. Rate the wine in case you want to take some bottles home or drink one on site with meat and cheese while you enjoy the view or local entertainment.
13. Limit the number of wines you taste at a single winery because your senses diminish with each tasting.

Monticello Tour Trip Report

By George Darnell

June 2, 2025



Eighteen Lake Frederick Travelers, including two visitors from Belgium, left the lodge at 7:00 a.m. headed south on I-81 for Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson. We made a rest stop, south of Harrisonburg, before turning onto I-64 towards Charlottesville. As we passed the overlooks on the beautiful Blue Ridge we were inspired to repeat this drive in the fall to catch the upcoming autumn colors.



Our driver found her way to the entrance to the Monticello visitors center, and we passed through a security check to make sure we were not entering with any prohibited items. We made our way to the other end of the Visitor Center Atrium, where there was a broad stairway leading up to the stop for the shuttle that would take us to the estate. Fortunately, there was an elevator inside the museum next to the foot of the stairs, for those who could not manage the stairs. It was a short ride tour drop off point, where we met our guide for an introductory briefing on benches under a tent. Then we walked a short way to the house and climbed the porch stairs to the main entrance.

Our guide showed us through all the rooms on the main floor, beginning with the entrance hall decorated with Native American artifacts and souvenirs of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Pacific Ocean. One of the interesting features in the drawing room was a dumb waiter in the side of a fireplace that carried wine from the



cellar below.



After touring the first floor, our guide took us to the expansive grounds behind the house to tell us more about Jefferson and his relationship with the slaves on his estate, particularly Sally Hemmings and her children.

Thomas Jefferson is buried on the estate with a tombstone of his own design. There is a shuttle stop at the gravesite for those who do not want to walk the

considerable distance to it. Following the tour, we had time to visit the grounds, including the large vegetable garden, stables, slave quarters, and other out-buildings, before catching one of the frequent shuttles back to the Visitor Center.



We had time at the Visitor Center to view a short film on Jefferson and Monticello, use the restrooms, visit the museum, gift shop, and café before reboarding our bus for the short drive to Mitchie Tavern. They were expecting us, and we were ushered to a private room with our own buffet lunch of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, black eyed peas and other southern favorites, including sweet tea. We also had our choice of bar drinks and desserts to top off the meal. Fully satisfied with our lunch in this Colonial Era tavern, we paid our checks and reboarded our bus.



Our next stop was Jefferson Vineyards, on the grounds of the original estate. We had our choice of tasting flights or glasses of our selection of white or red wines. The red wine I selected, with the help of Roger Shaver, was quite good and I savored it at an outside table with other travelers.

One of our groups commented that she had seen that the Lodge had offered a Virginia wine labelled "Well Hung." She wondered if they had a nearby location. After searching the Internet on our phones, we discovered that Well Hung Wines was in Gordonsville, which would be on our way home if we decided to go that way. Since we were a little ahead of our schedule, no one objected to making this detour on our way home.

Monticello Tour Trip Report (Continued)

Our driver found directions on her navigation device, and we were soon traveling along roads that parallel the railroad track from Alexandria to Charlottesville through Gordonsville. What we found was not a vineyard or a winery, but a restaurant downtown, with ample outdoor seating. They told us that they were the major outlet for Well Hung Wines, which were produced by a local vintner using grapes from a variety of vineyards. They asked our driver to park the bus next to the nearby railroad track so it would not block the parking lot.

They soon had us seated at outdoor tables and gave us menus with their wine selections. Some of us chose tiered sampling flights and others chose glasses of a particular wine. I selected a Pino Grigio style wine that was quite good.

Soon it was time to leave before the dinner crowd began to arrive. Our driver found our way back to I-66 headed to Front Royal. We arrived back at the Lodge close to our schedule, thanked and tipped our driver, said our goodbyes, and headed to our homes. Another interesting trip!



Fredericksburg & Chancellorsville Battlefields Tour Trip Report

June 13, 2025

By George Darnell

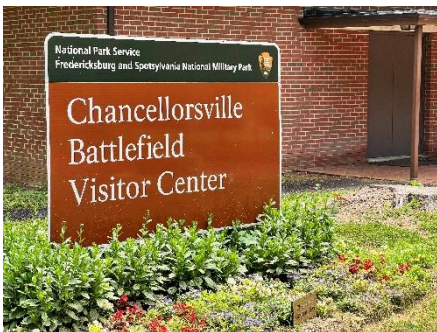


Sam Kerns and Rick Turner did their homework for this tour of these Civil War Battlefields. We left the Lodge promptly at 8:15 with Bridget at the wheel of our Shenandoah Shuttle. As we travelled along I-66 and Route 17 to Fredericksburg, Sam and Rick filled us in on the background to these two major Confederate victories in the Civil War. Generals Lee and Jackson use a smaller force to outmaneuver and defeat Union Generals Burnside and Hooker.

Our bus arrived only a little behind schedule at the National Park Service Visitor Center on the grounds of the Battle of Fredericksburg. After watching a film that showed how General Burnside's troops were able to cross the Rappahannock and destroy the town of Fredericksburg before being defeated at the battle of the Sunken Road, we went outside to visit the battlefield. A young Park

Ranger walked us around the battlefield near the Sunken Road and described how the entrenched Confederate troops had decimated the Union troops charging their position. The battlefield lies in the middle of town, with the campus of the University of Mary Washington only a few blocks away.

As the day grew warmer, we headed for lunch at Brock's Riverside Grill. After a brief wait while the staff set up a long table in the main dining room, overlooking the river, we were seated, and the wait staff took our drink and meal orders. We enjoyed conversations before and during our meals, mostly about life in Lake Frederick and what we did before moving there. After paying our separate checks and taking advantage of the restrooms, we rejoined Bridget on the bus in a parking lot nearby.



Sam and Bridget's GPS directed her to our next stop, the Battle of Chancellorsville. As we drove along the road that parallels the Rappahannock, we noticed the beautiful park and nature trail that the city has built along the river. Our bus continued to parallel the river as we headed to Chancellorsville, passing upscale houses on large lots along the way.

Bridget parked the bus in the parking lot of the visitor's center, and we followed Sam and Rick to mulched paths in the tangled woods on the battlefield grounds.

They describe how Lee and Jackson had divided their forces to surprise and defeat the Union forces. Rick described how General Jackson was wounded by his own troops during an evening reconnaissance of the area, probably on the very spot where we were standing. He went on to describe the events that followed, leading up to Jackson's eventual death from pneumonia.





Sam led us back to a spot near the Visitors Center, where he opened his battle in a box. After Rick's talk, I was sure Sam was going to bring Jackson's arm out of the box. But instead, he took out ropes and blocks to describe the Battle of Chancellorsville. Then we went inside to view a film, browse the displays, and use the restrooms. After we got back on the bus, Sam directed Bridget to various spots on the battlefield that he had described with his display. It gave us a good sense of the size and complexity of the battle.

Our final stop was the Wilderness Run Vineyard and Brewery. It is near the Civil War Battle of the Wilderness and looked like it dated from that era. I have never visited such a primitive venue. The main building looks like it was a large barn. One end houses a brewery with a small indoor lounge with overstuffed chairs and couches reminiscent of a gentleman's club of a bygone era. I had a pint of Oktoberfest Beer and chatted with John Toliver and other distinguished Lake Frederick gentlemen.



The other end of the building houses the winery, and our folks lined up to make their selections before sitting at outdoor metal tables and chairs. They were entertained by chickens roaming the grounds, which include another serving area with covered seating, what appeared to be a wedding venue, and a fishpond. The grounds were sheltered by mature trees, which shaded us from the afternoon sun. Soon, it was time to leave to keep on our schedule.

On the way home, we passed near Lake of the Woods, a popular vacation and retirement area in Piedmont. We also passed near Brandy Station, the site of the largest Cavalry Battle of the Civil War. It was pretty much a draw. Arriving at the Lodge close to our schedule, we tipped and thanked Bridget, and thanked Sam and Rick for another outstanding Civil War Battlefield tour, before heading to our homes. Another successful trip!



Trip Ideas for 2025, V11

- Jul 21—Fauquier County Wine Tour
- Aug 7-21—Norwegian Fjords & Arctic Circle Cruise w/Greg Payonk
- Aug 8—Summer Brewery Tour
- Aug 22—Summer Wine Tour
- Sep 19—Deep Creek Lake Tour
- Sep 29—Oktoberfest Bridges & Breweries Tour
- Oct 15-16—Pennsylvania Disasters & Trains Tour
- Oct 23—Potomac Eagle Train Ride
- Oct 27—Fall Colors Monticello Wine Trail Tour
- Nov 14—Outlet Mall Shopping Spree & Wine Tour
- Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with Greg Payonk
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America in Winchester
- Dec 19—Christmas at Mount Vernon

Check out the Shenandoah Tours at
< <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/> >
Early registration is recommended.
They sell out quickly.

Fauquier County Wine Tour - July 21, 2025

Fauquier County is home to a diverse collection of award-winning wine makers. Located on the same latitude as Napa and southern Italy, a large variety of grapes can be grown providing the wine enthusiast with world class flavors and bouquets. All the wineries being visited today have cheese and charcuterie plates for purchase, and Naked Mountain also has a selection of sandwiches, or you are welcome to bring your own food to enjoy outside. Barrel Oak also has a brewery for those who might be interested in that.

Schedule:

- 10:15 Check in at the Lodge
- 10:30 Leave the Lodge
- 11:05 Arrive at Slater's Run Vineyards, Upperville
- 12:30 Depart
- 1:00 Arrive at Naked Mountain Winery, Markham
- 2:30 Depart
- 2:45 Arrive at Barrel Oak Winery & Brewery, Delaplane
- 4:15 Leave
- 5:00 Arrive at the Lodge (approximately)

All times are approximate and subject to change depending on the conditions of the day of the trip.



\$60 covers roundtrip van transportation. Meals, tastings, purchases, and driver tip are not included.

The minimum for the trip is **12** and the maximum is **18**. Register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, payable to "Lake Frederick Travel Club," with your contact information and the date of the trip, at the Lodge Concierge no later than **July 14, 2025**.

Summer Brewery Tour - August 8, 2025



Some of these breweries were closed for our St. Patrick's Day Tour because it was a Monday. So, this tour is scheduled on Friday. Our area is home to many popular breweries. For this trip we have selected three not far from Lake Frederick. Our first stop will be Chilly Hollow Brewing Company <https://lakefredericktravelclub.com/newsletter> a new craft brewery located on the rolling hills of an operating cattle farm near Berryville, Virginia. 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.



Our second stop, Bluemont Station Brewery & Winery, offers craft beer, local wine, and a variety of food in a colonial mansion setting near Bluemont, Virginia, on the east side of the Blue Ridge. Visit their Facebook page for more information.



Lost Barrel Brewing, a favorite of the Middleburg crowd is our third stop. It is a large facility with a variety of food and drink with indoor and outdoor seating <https://lakefredericktravelclub.com/newsletter>

If we have time we may revisit Twisted Oak Brewery in nearby White Post. This is a recent startup with a limited selection of beers to try. Who knows, it might become our local favorite.

<https://lakefredericktravelclub.com/newsletter>

Schedule:

- 11:00 Check in at the Lodge
- 11:15 Leave the Lodge
- 12:00 Chilly Hollow Brewing Company
- 1:15 Leave
- 1:30 Bluemont Station Brewery & Winery
- 2:45 Leave
- 3:00 Lost Barrel Brewing
- 4:15 Leave
- 5:00 Twisted Oak Brewery
- 5:45 Leave
- 6:00 Arrive Lodge



Minimum for this trip is 14 and maximum is 24. Registration is \$60 for transportation. Food, drinks, 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 **July 31, 2025.**

Summer Wine Tour - August 22, 2025



What better way to celebrate summer than to enjoy a glass of wine on the grounds of one of our neighborhood vineyards. For this trip we have selected three great vineyards in our own backyard, so to speak. We will start with Valerie Hill near Stephens City, then move to James Charles Vineyard near Winchester, and end at Veramar Vineyard near Berryville.

Summer Wine Tour Schedule:

- 11:15 a.m. Check in at Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. Leave the Lodge
- 12:00 p.m. Arrive Valerie Hill Vineyard
- 1:30 p.m. Depart
- 2:00 p.m. Arrive James Charles Vineyards
- 3:30 p.m. Depart
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive Veramar Vineyards
- 5:30 p.m. Depart
- 6:00 p.m. Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 12 and the maximum is 18. Registration is \$60 for transportation. Food, wine, and driver's tip are not included.

Please register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, payable to "Lake Frederick Travel Club," with your contact information and the date of the trip at the lodge concierge no later than **August 12, 2025.**

Frederick County Parks and Recreation Trips Emails by George Darnell

The following provided for information. Email discussions between George Darnell, President Lake Frederick Travel Club and Tanner Lippold, Program Supervisor, Frederick County Parks & Recreation.

(Begin Quote)

“Thanks for the great information! We have a few CDL drivers on staff that we use and that keeps the trip rate very low. Varsity is also good to us and they give us a fair price! I will look at your trips below and see if we can plan something. I know we are going to the Inner Harbor for a brunch cruise in October 18th!

Thanks!

Tanner Lippold

Program Supervisor

Frederick County Parks & Recreation



From: George Darnell <darnellgd@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 4:31 PM

To: Tanner Lippold <tanner.lippold@fcva.us>

Cc: James Holaday <doc.holaday@sbcglobal.net>; Gary McDowell <garymcd@outlook.com>; Pamela Toliver <ptoliver@soft-spec.com>; Dan Mortland <dsmortyl@gmail.com>; William Johnson <usscout15690@aol.com>; Gregory Payonk <gpayonk@gmail.com>

Subject: '[External]'RE: Trips with Frederick County

Tanner,

Thanks for contacting me. Yes, we have a travel club in Lake Frederick for our members. We usually do day trips for 18 to 24 people. We did Monticello and Fredericksburg Battlefields in June. We use Shenandoah Shuttle in Winchester for most of our trips, although we have used Varsity Travel for large trips to Gettysburg.

A trip of particular interest to us, and perhaps the public as well, would be a Trolley Tour of Winchester, pointing out sites of interest and making a few brief stops at places like Washington's Survey Office. Other trips that would be of interest to seniors would be:

A visit to Natural Bridge and tour of Lexington;

A visit to the Bedford County D-Day Memorial with a Lunch Cruise on Smith Mountain Lake;

Overnight visits to the Homestead and Greenbrier;

Overnight trip to Williamsburg and Busch Gardens

Overnight trip to Baltimore for Fort McHenry, the Aquarium, and Inner Harbor Cruise.

You can find our monthly newsletter with reports of past trips and announcements of upcoming trips on our website <Lakefredericktravelclub.com>

We would really appreciate advance notice of any trips that the Parks & Rec has planned.

I am copying members of our board in case they have anything to add.

Regards,

George Darnell

703-850-2132

From: Tanner Lippold <tanner.lippold@fcva.us>

Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 10:42 AM

To: darnellgd@hotmail.com

Subject: Trips with Frederick County

Good morning,

My name is Tanner Lippold and Sarah Young passed along your information. Sarah and I both do trips for the county and she mentioned that Lake Frederick has their own travel club. Sarah specializes in trips for seniors and I do trips for the entire general public. Some of our recent trips include a Potomac River Cruise, Beach Boys at American Music Theatre, Overnight Trip to Annapolis, Hillwood Estate and Garden Tour, Baltimore Orioles Games, and much more!

We have a few CDL Drivers that operate our 20 passenger bus, and we also utilize Varsity for large charter buses!

We would love to collaborate on possible trip offerings in the future! One thing that we can't do is offer specialized trips to just a certain group, as we need to give the public a chance to sign up for the trip too. What we've done in the past was come up with a trip idea, schedule the trip, make the trip live on our website, and then tell the group leader to have their people sign up fast. I will give you an update when the trips goes live so you can sign everyone up!

If you guys have any ideas for the fall, please reach out and let me know! Those are due on July 21st so you have some time to brainstorm. Please feel free to email me or give me a call so we can talk more!

Thanks!

Tanner Lippold

Program Supervisor

Frederick County Parks & Recreation

(End Quote)