



# Newsletter

[WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM](http://WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM)

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

## **2024 Committee**

George Darnell  
*President*

Doc Holladay  
*Vice President*

Gary McDowell  
*Treasurer*

Chris Oxford  
*Membership Coordinator*

Pam Toliver  
*Communications Coordinator*

Dan Mortland  
*Program Director*

Greg Payonk  
*Cruise & Foreign Travel*

Bill Johnson  
*Domestic & Foreign Travel*

## **JANUARY 2025 ISSUE**

### **President's Message**

#### **Happy New Year!**

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyous Holiday Season and that you are looking forward to a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Michelle and I celebrated a quiet Christmas together and then hosted a family celebration on December 28. All four of our children and their spouses were able to join us, along with three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. It was a wonderful day, with everyone pitching in to help Michelle with dinner. The weather was nice enough for us to spend some time on the back porch and outside around the fire pit table catching up on family events. I had a great time playing with three of my great grandchildren on the porch. The fourth one, Emma, is only one-month old. And is adorable. The rest of our nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren were unable to join us.

#### **December Trips**

We had three great trips in December. Chris Oxford led a visit to Rosemont Manor in Berryville for a Holiday Tea. Some of us braved chilly weather to lay wreaths on Winchester National Cemetery graves and have lunch at the 50-50 Taphouse with others from Lake Frederick. Finally, we had a guided holiday walking tour of Old Town Alexandria. Read the trip reports in this issue.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

See Gary McDowell's report in this issue. Our expenses exceeded our income in 2024, but we still have a nice cushion in our bank account to start 2025.

#### **Schedule of Trips**

See the updated list of trips planned for 2025. This may change during the year and more details will be added as we get closer to each trip. For January, we have planned a tour of Luray and Shenandoah caverns, with some wine on the way home. See the trip announcement in this newsletter and register on MTL. We were to have an Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party on the large screen TV in the Crow's Nest. But it is on the same day as the Kentucky Derby and someone has the room reserved for the race. We may be able to watch a recording of the Apple Blossom Parade on a later date if we have enough interest.

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

#### **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. You can find copies in our August 2024 Newsletter. You can find our newsletters on our website [Lake Frederick Travel Club](http://LakeFrederickTravelClub.com).

#### **January 13 Coffee and Cookies Meeting**

No potluck this month—just bring your leftover holiday cookies or bake some new ones for our meeting. The Lodge will be supplying the coffee. Shenandoah Tours in Staunton will be paying us a visit and telling us about the single and multi-day trips they have planned for 2025. Many of our members have enjoyed their trips in the past. They will have copies of their catalog for you to take home.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Next Meeting  
Monday, January 13, 2025  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.  
Cookie share!

## Trip Registration Procedure Clarification

We continue to have trouble with the registration process for our trips. This makes it difficult for our treasurer, Gary McDowell, to sort out who registered and when. Please remember the following.:

1. **TRAVEL CLUB TRIPS ARE NOT ADDED TO MTL EVENTS UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED TO MEMBERS IN A NEWSLETTER. REGISTRATION IS NOT OPEN UNTIL POSTED ON MTL EVENTS.**
2. **REGISTER ON MTL EVENTS FOR TRIPS YOU WANT TO TAKE. THAT GIVES US AN IDEA OF HOW REGISTRATION IS GOING.**
3. **AFTER REGISTERING, WRITE A CHECK MADE OUT TO THE LAKE FREDERICK TRAVEL CLUB AND GIVE IT TO THE CONCIERGE. DO NOT WAIT TO SEE IF THE TRIP IS CONFIRMED. WE WILL DESTROY YOUR CHECK IF THE TRIP IS CANCELLED.**

Stay safe and warm and enjoy our wonderful campus.

George Darnell, President

703-850-2132

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	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
<b>Starting Balance</b>			<b>\$6,423.32</b>
Winter Wine Tour	\$900.00		\$7,323.32
Winter Wine Tour- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$800.00	\$6,523.32
Wine and Cheese Party- LODGE		\$235.93	\$6,287.39
Wine and Cheese Party- George Darnell		\$285.07	\$6,002.32
Wine and Cheese Party	\$580.00		\$6,582.32
Craft Beer Tour	\$840.00		\$7,422.32
Craft Beer Tour- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$800.00	\$6,622.32
Rosemont Tea	\$1,440.00		\$8,062.32
Rosemont Tea- George Darnell		\$1,392.00	\$6,670.32
Antietam	\$1,380.00		\$8,050.32
Antietam- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$1,400.00	\$6,650.32
Mosby #1	\$1,140.00		\$7,790.32
Mosby #1- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$825.00	\$6,965.32
Mosby #2	\$1,185.00		\$8,150.32
Mosby #2- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$825.00	\$7,325.32
Endless Caverns	\$1,020.00		\$8,345.32
Endless Caverns- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$1,100.00	\$7,245.32
Northern Neck	\$4,725.10		\$11,970.42
Northern Neck- various cash fees		\$275.00	\$11,695.42
Northern Neck- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$4,700.00	\$6,995.42
Fox Meadows Wine Paring	\$1,200.00		\$8,195.42
Fox Meadow		\$808.04	\$7,387.38
Fox Meadow- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$625.00	\$6,762.38
Loudoun Cty Wine Tour # 1	\$810.00		\$7,572.38
Loudoun Cty Wine Tour #1 - Shenandoah Shuttles		\$800.00	\$6,772.38
Loudoun Cty Wine Tour # 2	\$810.00		\$7,582.38
Loudoun Cty Wine Tour #2 - Shenandoah Shuttles		\$800.00	\$6,782.38
Trail Ride	\$800.00		\$7,582.38
Trail Ride - Shenandoah Shuttles		\$128.75	\$7,453.63
Trail Ride -Royal Horse Shoe Farms		\$400.00	\$7,053.63
Gettysburg	\$1,170.00		\$8,223.63
Gettysburg- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$1,200.00	\$7,023.63
Oktoberfest	\$1,330.00		\$8,353.63
Oktoberfest- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$1,100.00	\$7,253.63
Fall Colors	\$960.00		\$8,213.63
Fall Colors- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$1,000.00	\$7,213.63
Holiday Tea- Rosemont	\$1,860.00		\$9,073.63
Holiday Tea- Rosemont- Chris Oxford		\$1,860.00	\$7,213.63
Wreaths Across America	\$165.00		\$7,378.63
Wreaths Across America- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$400.00	\$6,978.63
Old Alexandria Walking Tour	\$1,350.00		\$8,328.63
Old Alexandria Walking Tour- DC by Foot		\$365.00	\$7,963.63
Old Alexandria Walking Tour- Shenandoah Shuttles		\$1,200.00	\$6,763.63
Go Daddy		\$463.89	\$6,299.74
Harland Clarke- Checks		\$45.85	\$6,253.89
DC by Foot Cherry Blossom Walking Tour cancelled		\$325.00	\$5,928.89
Doc Holiday reimbursement for folks and plates		\$32.50	\$5,896.39
Holiday Party to Lodge for bartender		\$109.30	\$5,787.09

## Rosemont Manor Christmas Tea

by Chris Oxford

Thirty-one members and friends of the Lake Frederick Travel Club traveled to Berryville's Historic Rosemont Manor on a very cold and blustery Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Although a couple of guests wore traditional hats for the tea, most eschewed them in deference to the wind which would have sent them flying.

We carpoled to Berryville and first gathered in the Carriage House for cider and a film depicting the history of the Manor house. Since its first iteration in 1811, Rosemont Manor has entertained both national and

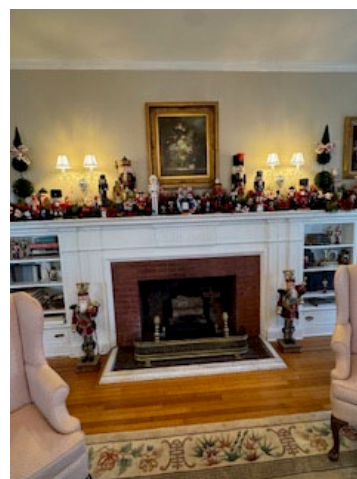
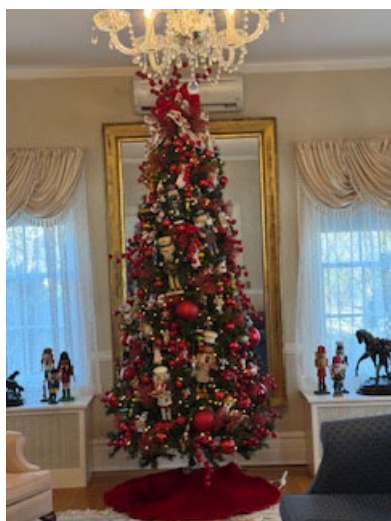
international notables including Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon Baines Johnson, Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN, Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Charles Lindberg, and John Wayne. Rosemont has been owned by a succession of notables including the Tyson and Harriman families and Senator Harry Byrd. It was bought by William and Barbara Genda in 2009 who finished restoration started by a previous owner and opened as a Bed and Breakfast the following year. Since then, Rosemont Manor has become a premier wedding venue and hosts teas throughout the year.



Following the introduction to Historic Rosemont Manor, our group braved the wind to walk over to the Manor house for our tea.

The tea consisted of three courses: a savory course of cucumber and dill open-faced sandwiches, hot chicken salad phyllo cups, and bacon, apple, and brie puff pastry; a scone course of ham, rosemary, and parmesan and maple cinnamon scones with Devonshire cream and jam; and a dessert course of Byrd Blend shortbread, chocolate mousse, and citrus tartlet. Each course was accompanied by a different tea: Signature Byrd Blend Black tea, Signature Rosemon Blen Green tea, and Christmas Memories.

Traci Fulk was the lucky winner of the door prize, tea for two at a future time. Tea participants were able to tour the gorgeously decorated mansion before heading back to Lake Frederick.







## Wreaths Across America: Winchester National Cemetery by George Darnell

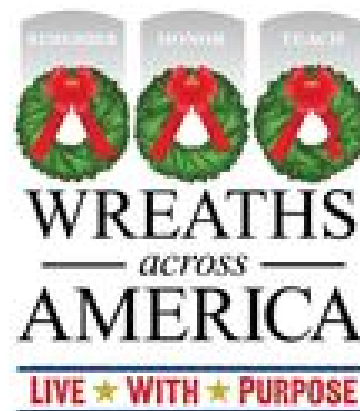
Dec. 14, 2024

Twelve travelers joined other groups from the Winchester area laying wreaths in the Winchester National Cemetery on December 14. We left the lodge in Shenandoah Shuttle at 10:00 a.m. with Julie driving and headed for the cemetery.

Julie dropped us off on a side street on the west side of the cemetery about 10:30 a.m. and we joined a long line of volunteers waiting to enter at 11:00 a.m. We chatted about where we were from and what trips we had taken until the Civil Air Patrol Cadets opened the gates. Once they did, the line moved fairly quick, and we soon had a wreath and our instructions on how to lay them. We were supposed to read the deceased name before placing the wreath in front of the tombstone. But that was hard to



do because most of the graves were from the Civil War and the names of the soldiers were unknown.





After laying our wreath, we could pick up more under a clump of trees on one edge of the cemetery. The wreath laying continued until the formal ceremony by the front gate. Chairs were available as well as hot chocolate, which was welcome on this bright chilly day. The cadets posted the colors, we said the Pledge of Allegiance, and Taps was played. A Park Ranger explained the history of the cemetery and a representative of each military service laid special wreaths on some of the graves. Several local and national dignitaries were present, including Congressman Ben Cline.

After the ceremony, we gathered our group, called Julie, and



returned to our drop-off point for pickup. Julie maneuvered the bus through Winchester to the 50-50 Tap House. She let us off across the street and we joined other volunteers, led by Ron Waltman, to the high-tops near the bar. The restaurant is known for its 50 burgers and 50 beers, and it took some time to decide on our orders. Our waiter took our orders, and we continued our conversations while we waited for our orders. Soon, our orders were delivered, we ate, paid our bills, and reboarded our bus on Cork Street. Julie had us back at the Lodge about 2:30 p.m. We tipped her, said our goodbyes, and returned to our homes. A nice day!



## Old Town Alexandria Christmas Walking Tour

by George Darnell

**Dec. 16, 2024**



Fourteen adventurous travelers left the lodge at 3:00 p.m. in a Shenandoah Shuttle headed for Old Town Alexandria. Our driver, Eddie, soon had us on I-66 headed for the Beltway. He skillfully guided our bus through heavy rush-hour traffic to the US-1 Exit into Alexandria. Our restaurant was on a pedestrian only street; so, he dropped us off at the corner on a cross street. We walked a short distance to our restaurant, The Warf. When we entered and announced we had arrived the manager said that we did not have reservations. I showed him my phone with the confirmation phone call confirming our reservation. He said that was not their number and that I may have called the nearby Warehouse Restaurant. He offered to let us stay since we had arrived at 5 p.m. and they had room. We accepted the

offer, and they seated us at a long table near the entrance. I called the Warehouse to apologize and cancel our reservation. They were gracious about it.

The Warf is an upscale seafood restaurant (no fish and chips). We placed our orders and soon had our food. Everyone enjoyed their meal and got better acquainted. Dinner did not take the full two hours allotted; so, we had some time to wander around the streets decorated for Christmas. Some of us walked to the dock area to see the Christmas tree and boats decorated for the season. Others did some shopping in the Old Town. We gathered back in front of the restaurant just before our guide, Wayne, met us and it began to drizzle.





Wayne took us to Market Square, which he said was the oldest continually operating farmers market in the country, dating back to the Colonial Period. It had a large Christmas Tree in front. Our next stop was Caryle House, which the owner had moved by barge on the Potomac from Dumfries to Alexandria: quite a feat for colonial times. No tour of Old Town would be complete without a stop at Gadsby's Tavern. It is not open on Mondays. So, Wayne told us some of the history of this favorite tavern of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. He added some ghost stories to the history of the tavern to add more chill to the evening. We entered the grounds of Christ Church (pictured at the beginning of this article) through the Secreter Garden Walkway/. Wayne explained that George Washington and others had their own pew in the church to help support it and guaranteed they had a seat on Sunday. All but a few US Presidents have worshipped there after being inaugurated.

From there Wayne took us to George Washington's Town Home. Unlike Mount Vernon, which George inherited from his half-brother, Lawrence, his town home, was completely his own and he enjoyed quiet time there without family or servants. It was his man-cave. By this time, some of us were beginning to fade and fall behind. So, Wayne took us to the lobby of a nearby hotel and finished some highlights of Alexandria while we waited for our driver to pick us up. Eddie was soon there. So, we thanked and tipped Wayne and boarded the bus.

Eddie soon had us back on the beltway headed for I-66. Just before we reached Manassas, we passed the Festival of Lights in Bull Run Regional Park. As usual, once we passed Haymarket, the highway was very dark, but we finally made it to the bright lights of Riverton on Rt. 522. The visitors' gate was wide open; so, we had no problem getting into Lake Frederick. Eddie dropped us at the Lodge, and we thanked and tipped him for a safe trip before heading to our homes.



## Trip Ideas for 2025, V4

- Jan 20—Luray, & Shenandoah Caverns Tour
- Feb—Wine & Chocolates Pairing
- Mar—St. Patrick's Brewery Crawl
- Mar 31—Cherry Blossom Lunch Cruise on the Potomac (confirmed)
- Apr 20—Easter
- Apr 28—Battle of Balls Bluff w/Lunch & Wine
- May 2-11—Globus Land Tour: Budapest to Prague with Greg Payonk
- Jun—Monticello & Wine Tour
- Jun 5-6—Fredericksburg Area Civil War Battlefields Tour
- Jul—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—Outlet Mall Shopping Spree
- Sep—Oktoberfest Beer Tour
- Oct 15-16—Pennsylvania Disaster and Trains Tour
- Oct 23—Fall Colors Lunch Cruise on Smith Mountain Lake
- Dec—Christmas at Mount Vernon
- Dec 3-5—Christmas in Williamsburg VA
- Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with Greg Payonk
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America in Winchester



# Luray and Shenandoah Caverns Trip

## Jan 20, 2025

The Shenandoah Valley is home to many beautiful caverns. For this trip we will visit two of them and top off the day with a trip to a vineyard.

We will explore eastern America's largest and most popular caverns. Luray Caverns is a US Natural Landmark noted for the profuse variety of formation and unsurpassed natural color. From well-lighted, paved walkways explore cathedral-sized rooms with ceilings 10 stories high, filled with towering stone columns and crystal-clear pools. Also hear the haunting sounds of the world's only Stalactite Organ creating music of symphonic quality from stone formations.

In addition, we can experience the history of America at the Car & Carriage Caravan Museum in an exhibit featuring over 140 items relating to transportation including cars, carriages and coaches dating from 1725, along with the Shenandoah Heritage Village, a collection of restored historic buildings creating a small 19<sup>th</sup> century farming community including the Luray Valley Museum showcasing artifacts from the 1750's to the 1920's. We can have lunch at the Hard Times Café on site before visiting Shenandoah Caverns.



Shenandoah Caverns has been thrilling visitors for almost 100 years. Explore a world of breathtaking natural wonders, incredible geology and extraordinary crystalline formations waiting to be admired and photographed. You'll be delighted by soaring rooms like Long View Hall. And you'll be amazed at the variety of unique, intricate and unexpected formations like Capitol Dome, Diamond Cascade & Rainbow Lake. Also see our other attractions: American Celebration on Parade (open seasonally), Main Street of Yesteryear, and the Yellow Barn.

Our final stop will be Wolf Gap Vineyard, which we missed on our Fall Colors trip in 2024.

Schedule:

- 7:45 a.m.: Check in at Lodge
- 8:00 a.m.: Depart Lodge
- 9:00 a.m.: Arrive Luray Caverns
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:30 p.m.: Depart
- 2:00 p.m.: Arrive Shenandoah Caverns
- 3:30 p.m.: Depart
- 4:00 p.m.: Arrive Wolf Gap Vineyard
- 5:00 p.m.: Depart
- 6:00 p.m.: Arrive Lodge

Admission to Luray Caverns is \$34 all inclusive. Admission to Shenandoah Caverns is \$29.

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

**\$60 covers round-trip bus transportation.** Admissions, lunch, wine tasting, and driver's 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 date of the trip, with the lodge concierge no later than January 13, 2025.**