

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
Communication Coordinator

Dan Mortland
Program Director

Greg Payonk
Cruise & Foreign Travel

Bill Johnson
Domestic & Foreign Travel

October 2024 ISSUE

President's Message

Fall Begins

The cooler weather and rain we have been waiting for are finally here. I hope you are staying dry and looking forward to some Fall trips. Please pray for all the folks devastated by the storms in the South as they try to recover.

September Trips

We had two good trips in September: The Trail Ride and the Gettysburg Battlefield Tour. Many thanks to those who joined us, to John Toliver for writing the Trail Ride report and to Sam Kerns and Rick Turner for leading the Gettysburg tour for the third time. The rain did not dampen their enthusiasm.

Schedule of trips updated.

Our travel year is winding down and many of our trips are already sold out. Check our Trip Ideas V13 and review the trip announcements in this newsletter for the latest information. We revised our Oktoberfest Tour to be closer to home and now it is sold out, as is our Fall Colors Museum and Winery Tour.

November is quiet except for the deadline to order Wreaths Across America for the Winchester National Cemetery. Chris Oxford suggested a Ghost Tour for the Fall. I found a walking tour in Winchester and have added it as a tentative trip on November 15. If you are interested, let me know and I will make it happen. In December, Chris Oxford arranged, and will lead, a Holiday Tea at Rosemont Manor. It is already overbooked, and we have a waiting list.

A Christmas Tour of Old Town Alexandria is still in the planning stage, awaiting the schedule of our tour guide. If you have any ideas of what we could do to make our December 9 lunch meeting special, let me know.

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 Newsletter.

Planning for 2025

Dan Mortland led a discussion of trip ideas for 2025 at our September Luncheon. The results of what our travelers want, based on a limited sample are:

1. One- or two-day local trips organized and conducted by the travel Club.
2. Multi-day trips to sites in the US, such as Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon. We will rely on Shenandoah Tours to fill this need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, October 14, 2024
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Please bring a dish to share.

3. Foreign travel by air or cruise. We will rely on our members to share their plans in our newsletter, as Greg Payonk does, to encourage members to travel together. We will also be open to inviting reputable travel agents to speak to our members at our monthly meeting.

Doc Holaday and Bill Johnson are already talking about a trip to Ireland in Spring 2025. Sam Kerns is planning a "Disasters and Railroads" overnight trip to Pennsylvania in Fall of 2025. We are also thinking about a two-day tour of the Civil War battlefields in the Fredericksburg area. Bill Johnson is working on a Christmas tour of the Williamsburg area in 2025. See the consolidated list of trip ideas for 2025 in this issue. Bring your ideas to our meetings or send them to me if you can't make the meeting. We will continue to support and advertise Shenandoah Tours in Staunton, but we will not include selected trips in our list of trips for 2025.

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. Write a check made out to the Lake Frederick Travel Club and give it to the concierge after you register online. Do not wait to see if the trip is confirmed. We will destroy your check if the trip is cancelled.

Pot Luck Lunch Meeting, October 14, 2024

I hope to see you around our wonderful campus and at our potluck lunch meeting in Rachel's Kitchen on October 14, at 11:30 a.m. Bring your favorite dish to share. Thanks for carrying on without me at our last meeting.

George Darnell

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Royal Horseshoe Farm Trail Ride & Back Room Brewery Lunch

September 6, 2024

By John Toliver

Meet Chaco.

Meet Chaco, my horse, on the left, and Stoney, Tracey Minnifield's horse, our mounts on the trail ride! We also had



Cindy Minnifield on Cutter; Susan Ditter on The Grey AKA King; Regina Walker on Toby; George Darnell on Chief; and Zoe Ann Brown at Royal Horseshoe Farm near Front Royal in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley.

It was a beautiful and enjoyable bus ride down Rt. 522, right on Fairground Road and across the Shenandoah via the new Morgan Ford Bridge and Road to the horse barn. There we all met our guides and horses, received instructions on how to ride and guide them up and down the

hills and around trees, etc.

Within a few minutes we mounted our horses and were off through a bubbling stream and casually riding through the forests, fields and creek bottoms. We



quickly learned the horses go by trees providing just enough room for their sides to clear them, but not our legs. Hence, you better guide them further to the left or right of the big tree or your foot/leg will hit the tree. Otherwise, they just pretty well followed the leader.

We saw huge oak, walnut and yellow poplar trees and a lot of beautiful green native vegetation. All was peaceful and quiet with some chatter going on among riders and our horses.



Chaco and I were about mid-pack just trotting along and I noticed a rock in the middle of the path, but didn't think much about it. I heard his back hoof hit it and suddenly he/we were charging through the woods like a bucking bronco with his head down totally out of control. I jerked and pulled back as hard as I could to the left, trying to get his head up and in control and he just kept going. I was thinking he's going to hit a tree and we'll both go down. You don't easily stop a thousand pounds of horse. Somehow, we got back out on the trail and semi-calmed down. The trail guide got to us, asked me if I was ok and I said yes. She said: You sure handled him well. I thought, hell I was just trying to hang on and hoping I/we would live. I actually thought Chaco had hurt his foot and was concerned about him. Told the guide I thought his back right foot was hurt bad. As it turned out his foot apparently knocked the rock over and stirred up a swarm of Yellow Jackets 🐝 One thing that immediately went through my mind when Chaco broke loose, was on the TV show Yellowstone when they were breaking horses, they kept yelling hang on and pull back, pull back, and that's what I did. Thank you, Chaco for getting us away. The others behind us had to take a little detour getting around the Yellow Jackets, and we all mozied on to the barn enjoying our ride.



Comments Made by the Riders:

"Our horses were good and easily responsive to commands. Although the trails were tight, the ride was mostly safe and definitely enjoyable."

"The ride was easier than expected but am chagrined that I had to climb a step stool to mount my horse." We all did.

The beer, lunch, and conversation at Backroom Brewery was enjoyable. It was nice to meet Jason, the owner of Shenandoah Shuttle when he relieved Steve.

"The guide was knowledgeable and engaging. I thought it was a beautiful day to be out riding. I remember thinking that it took almost as much time to mount up and get in line as our trail ride." "I too am feeling quite sore."

"Don't know about you but I'm kinda sore and bruised up today. Happy Trails to you."



Gettysburg Battlefield Trip Report

By George Darnell

September 23, 2024

This was the Travel Club's third trip to Gettysburg with Sam Kerns and Rick Turner. Eighteen travelers joined them on a Shenandoah Shuttle at 8 a.m. as we headed north on a cool, drizzly morning. Rather than traveling through Harpers Ferry, Frederick, and Thorton, as we did on previous trips, Sam and Rick took us along Lee's route into Pennsylvania along the Valley Pike across the Potomac River at Williamsport, MD. Then we turned east through Chambersburg, where we make a rest stop at Sheetz. From there it was a short drive to the Gettysburg Battlefield along the route that Lee's troops followed.

As we rode to the battlefield, Sam and Rick explained what Lee was trying to accomplish by invading the North and gave us backgrounds on the military commanders on both sides. They had provided us with PDF handouts in advance.



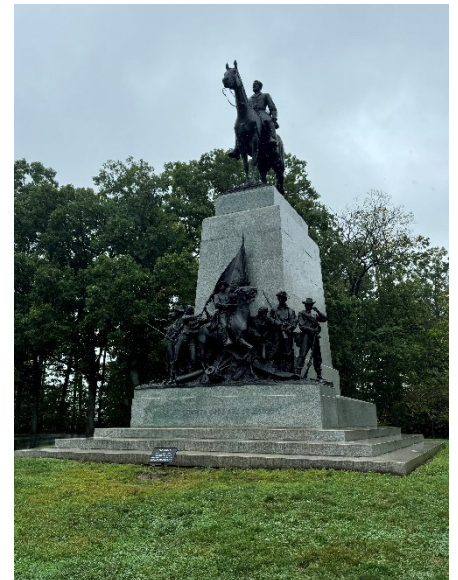
By the time we reached the battlefield, it was raining steadily and those who brought umbrellas and rain gear were pleased that they did. I was not one of them. The bus parked near the Eternal Light and travelers gathered on the sidewalk around Sam and Rick as they used briefing boards to explain the first day of battle on July 1. Bill Johnson made the boards for use in military training sessions that he did before retirement. He donated them to Sam

for use in Gettysburg trips and they were very helpful, but a little challenging to get on the bus.



described Confederate troop movements. Confederate cannons are still lining the road in the woods facing the hill that Pickett's Brigade assaulted on Day 3.

From the Eternal Light we drove to the Lee Monument in the area occupied by Confederate troops on Days 2 and 3, where Sam and Rick

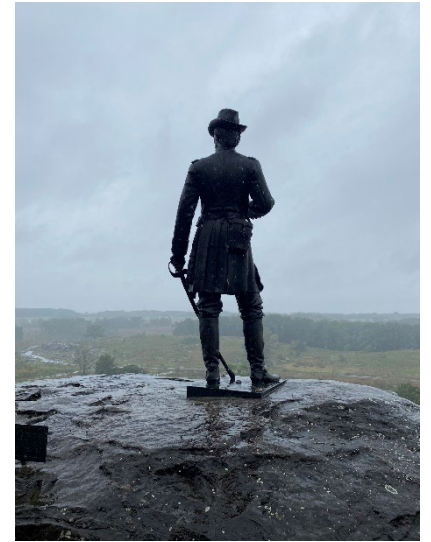




Our next stop was lunch at the Appalachian Brewery located in a commercial area on what was part of the battlefield. We took advantage of the comfort of the restrooms before gathering around low-top and high-top tables for lunch. The beer, food, and service were outstanding.



Before reboarding the bus, Sam and Rick used the briefing boards to orient us to the battlefield and prepare us for the afternoon. We drove past Devil's Den on our way to Little Round Top, where we walked in the rain to boulders near Chamberlain's Monument. There Sam and Rick described the battle there and how Chamberlain's bayonet charge had saved the Union flank.



Our final stop on the battlefield was by the clump of trees, surrounded by an iron fence, that was the objective of Pickett's charge, where he lost 60% of his men. There, Rick, now dressed in Union Blue, described the Confederate offence and Union defense, that ended Day 3, and the Battle of Gettysburg.



Before leaving Gettysburg, Sam asked our driver, Julie, to stop in the parking lot near the Union cemetery and old visitors center. There he read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, a fitting end to our tour of the battlefield.

On our way home we made a rest stop at the Maryland Welcome Center on US 15, before heading through Frederick, Harpers Ferry, Charles Town, and Berryville, all sites of Civil War conflict, before arriving at Lake Frederick and home. We tipped Julie, thanked Sam and Rick, said our goodbyes, and noticed that it was not raining in Lake Frederick. Another outstanding trip! Thanks to those who shared their photos.

Trip Ideas for 2024, V13

- Oct 4—Oktoberfest Blue Ridge Beverage Tour
- Oct 6-12—Autumn in New England – Rails & Sails <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 23—Fall Colors Tour of Fort Valley & Edinburg with Wine Stops
- Oct 27-31—Golden Isles of Georgia <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 29-Dec 2—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 5—Holiday Tea at Rosemont Manor
- Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Laying Ceremony in Winchester
- Dec 16—Christmas in Old Town Alexandria

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Trip Registration Deadlines for 2024, V13

- Nov 11—Wreaths Across America in Winchester
 - Nov 24—Holiday Tea at Rosemont Manor
 - Dec 9—Christmas in Old Town Alexandria

Oktoberfest Blue Ridge Breweries Tour, Oct. 4, 2024

The Lake Frederick Travel Club has selected four popular breweries near us on both sides of the Blue Ridge for our Oktoberfest Brews tour. We will visit three established breweries, and one White Post.



Harpers Ferry, overlooking the Potomac will be our first stop. It has great views, and a variety of beers. <https://harpersferry.com/>

Notaviva Farm Brewery & Winery will be our second stop. This family operation has beer, cider, and wine to please your palate in an award-winning pondside facility. <https://www.notaviva.com/>



Harpers Gap Brewery located on a family farm in operation for over 250 years will be our third stop. I hope you will leave room to sample at least one beer in this beautiful location with views of the Blue Ridge. <https://harvestgap.com/>



Our final stop will be 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://twistedoakfarmbrewery.com/>



Schedule:

- 11:15 Leaves Lodge.
- 12:00 Harpers Ferry Brewery
- 1:30 Notaviva Family Brewery & Winery
- 3:00 Harpers Gap Brewery
- 5:00 Twisted Oak Brewery
- 6:30 Arrive Lodge.

Minimum for this trip is 15 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 September 25, 2024.

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Fall Colors Tour of Fort Valley & Edinburg with Winery Stops, Oct. 23, 2024

Our Fall Colors trip this year will take us to Shenandoah County museums preserving Valley life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Our first museum is in Fort Valley, hidden in the heart of Massanutten Mountain, just a short drive from Lake Frederick. George Washington surveyed the area for Lord Fairfax and later considered it an ideal spot for a last stand against the British in the American Revolution. Today, it provides access to many recreational areas in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests that surround it, and it is home to family farms and estates. The museum is a local grass roots effort to preserve the history of the area from pre-Civil War to the present.



Our second museum, wine shop, and restaurant is in the restored Edinburg Mill. We will visit the museum, browse the shop, and have lunch, perhaps with a glass of local wine, before heading to our first Shenandoah County winery/vineyard. If nature cooperates, we should see plenty of fall color along the way before returning to the lodge, perhaps for a late supper.

Schedule:

0800 Check in at Lodge
0815 Leave Lodge
900 Arrive Fort Valley Museum
1030 Depart
1100 Arrive Edinburg Mill
1300 Depart
1315 Arrive The Winery at Kindred Point
1430 Depart
1445 Arrive Cave Ridge Winery
1600 Depart
1615 Arrive Wolf Gap Vineyard
1730 Depart
1900 Arrive Lodge

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

\$60 covers roundtrip bus transportation. Museum donations, meals, tastings, purchases, 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 October 13, 2024

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Holiday Tea & Tour of Rosemont Manor

December 5, 2024, \$60

SOLD OUT



To celebrate the Holidays the Travel Club has arranged a private tour and formal tea service at historic Rosemont Manor in nearby Berryville. Return to the "Gilded Age" to enjoy this formal three-course tea in an elegant setting decorated for Christmas. This dress-up event is open to ladies and gentlemen. We will be carpooling from the lodge at 10:15 a.m. and returning at 2:00 p.m. Chris Oxford will be leading this trip.

Please drop off a check with the concierge for \$60 each (tax & gratuity included) made payable to "**Lake Frederick Travel Club**" by November 15, 2024. Please note any dietary restrictions (gluten free or vegetarian).

The minimum for this event is 18 and the maximum is 24.

For information on Rosemont Manor check their website at <<https://www.rosemont1811.com/teas>>





Wreaths Across America: Winchester National Cemetery
Saturday, December 14, 2024; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
\$15 for bus transportation & Sponsor at least 3 wreaths

Thanks to Peggy Sabato's initiative, the Travel Club is joining several groups in Lake Frederick, including the Veterans Association, in sponsoring "Wreaths Across America" in Winchester National Cemetery on Saturday, December 14. Please sponsor at least three wreaths and we will provide bus transportation to the wreath laying ceremony.

Everyone loves to sponsor and lay wreaths at Arlington, but the smaller local National Cemeteries, like Winchester, are often overlooked. I hope you will join your neighbors and me in sponsoring at least three wreaths. The website and more information along with how you can also support local organizations involved in the ceremony. at [Wreaths Across America](https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/).

Please indicate that you would like your wreath to go to the Winchester, VA, National Cemetery (VAWNCW). Thank you so much for supporting Winchester National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America!

Schedule:

- 10:00 Bus leaves lodge
- 10:30 Arrive Winchester National Cemetery
- 11:00 Volunteers lay wreaths
- 12:00 Ceremony begins.
- 1:00 Board bus
- 1:15 Arrive 50-50 Tap House for lunch
- 2:30 Board bus
- 3:00 Arrive lodge.

Minimum for this trip is 10 and maximum is 24. Registration is \$15 for transportation.

Lunch and driver 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 with the lodge concierge no later than Noon Dec 1, 2024.

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Trip Ideas for 2025, V1

- Jan—Caverns Tour
- Feb—Wine & Chocolates Pairing
- Mar—St. Patrick's Pub Crawl
- Mar—Cherry Blossom Lunch Cruise on the Potomac
- April—Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party
- May 2-11—Globus Land Tour: Budapest to Prague with Greg Payonk
- May—Trip to Ireland
- 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—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