



Newsletter

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

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

2025 Committee

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Greg Payonk
Cruise & Foreign Travel

NOVEMBER 2025 ISSUE

President's Message

Welcome to Fall!

Well, here we are at the beginning of the joyous holiday season when we gather to celebrate love and friendship with family and friends. There are many events at the Lodge and Athletic Center to help us get ready. Check out the Events Calendar and do not wait too long to register for events you want to attend. That includes Travel Club events. Our events fill up fast. We have had several last-minute cancellations on our trips and that is understandable given the age and obligations of our members. But we hate to see spaces on a trip go empty. If you find you can't make a trip let us know, and, if possible, call a friend to take your place. If you have any ideas on how we can handle this, please let me know. Gary McDowell, our treasurer and registrar, is working on this and would appreciate your input.

September Trip Report

Mike Erickson's report of our Bridges and Breweries trip in September is included in UPCOMING this issue because the trip occurred so late in the month. Once again, the club appreciates the time and effort that Mike put into scouting, leading, and reporting this outstanding trip.

October Trips

We had three great trips in October: the Potomac Eagle train Ride; and two Fall Colors Wine Tours in the Charlottesville area. Read the trip reports in this issue. My thanks to Bill Johnson for leading the second trip to make sure everyone interested had a chance to sample three great wineries. His trip report may be included in our December newsletter to give him time to put it together.

Schedule of Trips Updated

See the updated list of trips (V16) in this issue. There is still some room on Bill Johnson's Leesburg Outlets Shopping spree with lunch and wine stops on November 14. Check out the flyer in this issue. And Doc Holaday completed plans for a Christmas Candlelight tour of Mount Vernon in December. This trip is already sold out, but Gary has started a wait list. Mike Erickson is leading this trip. We usually post our trips on MTL Events at least a month before

the trip for registration after they have appeared in the newsletter. Mark your calendars and stay tuned to MTL Events. Creek Lake in this issue. Oktoberfest Bridges and Breweries will be in the November issue.

Registering for Travel Club Trips

If you have any trouble registering for our trips the Lodge Concierge should be able to help you. This includes club members who are not MTL members and family and friends travelling with a club member. Or send me an email with questions.

Wreaths Across America, 2025

Our club will be joining other groups in Lake Frederick to support Wreaths Across America in Winchester National Cemetery again this year. Deadline for sponsoring wreaths is November 15. See the flyer in this issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2025
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Bring a dish to share!

Trip Ideas for 2026

It's not too early to start thinking about our trips for 2026. If you have any suggestions, especially if you can help in the planning, please send them to me with as much information as you can. An overnight trip that I am thinking about for after Easter is a "Blue Ridge Spring Odyssey." It would include Natural Bridge State Park, lunch in Lexington, tour of Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke, the Roanoke Star overlook, supper and overnight stay in the historic Hotel Roanoke, Smith Mountain lunch cruise on The Virginia Dare, tour of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest summer home, and dinner at Devils Backbone Base Camp on Route 151. Let me know if you want to help plan this.

See our tentative list of trip ideas for 2026 in this issue. We will return to using Shenandoah Tours for some of our trips. Doc Holaday has selected several of their trips to include in our calendar. See his list in this newsletter. Shenandoah Tours will be joining us again this year for our January coffee and cookies lunch to give us a preview of their 2025 calendar of trips.

November 10 Meeting

Greg Payonk, our cruise coordinator, will be speaking at our November 10 Lunch Meeting in Rachel's Kitchen. He has some tips for making your foreign trips and cruises less stressful, safer, and more enjoyable. Don't forget to bring your special dish to share with us. I hope to see you around campus and at our meeting in Rachel's Kitchen at 11:30 a.m.

Sad News

Please keep Admiral Larry Marsh, USN Ret, and his wife, Barbara, in your prayers. Larry was called home suddenly on the Eve of the Feast of All Saints to be with Our Lord. Our community mourns the loss of a leader and friend who served us in so many ways, especially in the Veterans Association and Men's Bible Group. May he rest in peace.

George Darnell, President

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To All Our Lake Frederick Friends and Neighbors



Potomac Eagle Fall Foliage Train Ride

by George Darnell

Twenty-six travelers left the Lodge in the driven by Julie. My youngest daughter, throughout the day. Julie took Route 50 Eagle Railroad, which follows the South Petersburg, WV.



"Black Stallion," a large Shenandoah Shuttle Becky Jett, joined us on this trip and helped me straight for Romney, WV, home of the Potomac Branch of the Potomac River from Romney to

We arrived ahead of schedule, picked up our tickets, and waited in line to board our train. Since it was a little cooler in Romney, some of us, me included, decided to wait on the bus until closer to time to embark. There was a group of Amish travelers dressed in traditional clothing, including white bonnets and straw hats, traveling with us.

Boarding was well organized and handicapped accessible. We were soon seated in groups of four at dining tables in one of the cars. Our group was seated in the same car, where we waited for our bag lunches to be served. Lunch included a turkey, ham, or veggie sandwiches with chips, apple, cookie, and a bottle of water. Additional food was available in a concession car.

The train crossed the South Branch and proceeded South on the West side of the river, between the mountainside and the river. Those on one side of the train marveled at how the rail line had been cut into the side of the mountain, and an occasional homestead in a hollow. Those on the other side had view of the river and a narrow valley with some homes dating to the 1700's. A woman on a car speaker system narrated the trip, pointing out sites of interest.



During lunch, I told my daughter about the train trip that my family had taken when I was 12 years old. We moved from San Antonio, TX, to the Washington, DC, area when my father was transferred. We rode the MKT to Chicago and then the B&O to DC. I remember being awestruck at seeing the U.S. Capitol from the front of Union Station. It is still spellbinding.

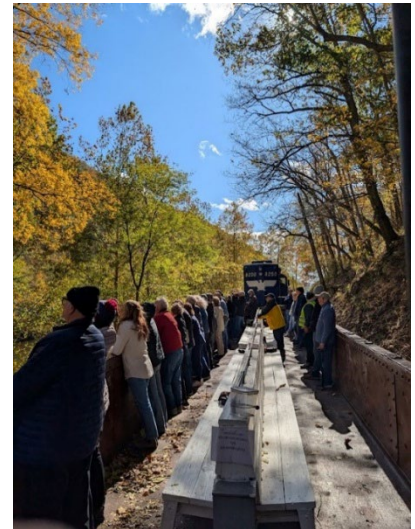


After lunch, we were invited, car by car, to make our way to an open gondola car to get a better view of the area, particularly the eagle's nests in the trees. I don't know if anyone saw an eagle. The train crossed the river after about 90 minutes and reversed its course back to Romney. Groups continued to take turns until everyone had a chance to view the fall colors.

The Potomac Eagle has Polar Express trains in December that are very popular with children. Make reservations early because they sell out quickly. Also, dress warmly because the in-car heaters are not that warm.

The train arrived back in Romney on schedule, and we were soon back on our bus headed for Lake Frederick. We arrived about 6:00 p.m., tipped Julie, and said goodbyes.

Many thanks to Susan Sunukjian and Jane Symionow for sharing their photos of the trip. You can find more and some video clips at [Google Play](#).



Oktoberfest & Covered Bridges of Frederick, Maryland

By Mike Ericksen

Seventeen travelers enjoyed the sights travelled about 48 miles to Frederick, Maryland on for a great Oktoberfest & Covered Bridge adventure. Our group arrived to the City of Frederick Tourist Information Center & Museum, where we were warmly greeted by a delightful and informative curator named Wendy. The small museum was packed with interesting exhibits highlighting Frederick County, Maryland and facts about the covered bridges. We were entertained by a 10-minute video presenting the highlights of the county. The 30-minute stop at the Welcome Center was time well spent.

After a delightful visit at the welcome center the group boarded the bus to continue our adventure to view three covered bridges. The covered bridges are located between 15 and 20 minutes by tour bus from downtown Frederick. The bridges are open to civil automobile traffic, but compliance with posted weight and height limitations is required. The height of our tour bus was a limiting factor, which necessitated a slightly longer circuitous route to visit each covered bridge.

By road, all three bridges are within 12 miles of one another. The detour for all three bridges added no more than 10 minutes to the total travel time. Twenty minutes per stop seemed about right, without anyone feeling rushed. We traveled to each bridge without incident, even though the second bridge was unfortunately closed to through traffic due to damage caused by an oversized truck on the day before our visit.



Each covered bridge is a charming piece of 19th-century heritage. Each is a wooden wonder that transports you back to horse-and-buggy days. During the Civil War, soldiers used these bridges to move between positions, boots thudding on their wooden planks.

After visiting the last covered bridge, we had about 30 minutes of spare time before our lunch reservation, so we made a short stop at Catocin Mountain Orchard. It is a charming family-owned fruit and vegetable market stocked daily with delicious bakery items, such as pies, breads, and muffins, as well as jarred jellies and apple butter.



We counted heads and returned to downtown Frederick for lunch and a couple of hours of free time to explore and shop. The remainder of our visit was spent in the City of Frederick, along Carroll Creek (images #14 to #24). We arranged to have lunch at the Wine Kitchen located by Carroll Creek's walking path.



Facts About Covered Bridges

The number of covered wooden bridges continue to decrease in number throughout the United States. Today there are only 8 covered bridges remaining, out of at least 52 such known covered bridges in Maryland, according to Richard Allen in [Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States](#). The three covered bridges in Frederick County have been in continuous use since the mid-1800s. Each of the three is of a unique engineering design. Here is a short description of the bridges in the order of viewing:

Utica Mills Covered Bridge. Built around 1850, this bridge originally spanned the Monocacy River. This is an example of a Burr-Arch design. In 1889, the Johnstown Flood washed away the original bridge. It was reconstructed in its current location and underwent a \$337K restoration in 1996. Utica Mills Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 23, 1978.

Loy's Station Covered Bridge. The Loys Station Bridge is a one-lane, twin-span, multiple king-post, wood truss covered bridge that crosses Owen's Creek above Creagerstown on Old Frederick Road in Frederick County, MD. The wood bridge is ninety feet in length and rests on two stone abutments. The Loy's Station Covered Bridge was built in 1848 and was burned by an arsonist in 1991 who was trying to fraudulently collect insurance money. Using surviving framing, the bridge took three years and \$300K to rebuild. Most of the cost of reconstructing the bridge was covered by insurance. This bridge is surrounded by Loys Station Park (images #6 and #7). This historic bridge was closed to traffic as of the day before our visit.



Roddy Road Covered Bridge. It was built in 1856 and rests just north of Thurmont off of US 15, where Roddy Creek Road meets Roddy Road at Owens Creek. Roddy Road is a single-span Kingpost design bridge measuring 40 feet long. It is Maryland's shortest covered bridge, built between 1850 and 1860.



Confederate General JEB Stuart and his cavalry crossed Roddy Road Covered Bridge on July 5, 1863, during the Gettysburg campaign. The original bridge at this location was heavily damaged by oversized trucks in 1992 and again in 2016. Volunteers made repairs.



Carroll Creek is the showcase of the city, alive with vibrant culture, captivating history, endless charm, and unique flavors. Carroll Creek Park began as a flood control project in the late 1970s and was completed in 1993. A 40-foot-wide, 1.3-mile channel waterway with brick pedestrian paths, water features, pedestrian bridges, and landscaping.

The Iron Bridge near the [Delaplaine Arts Center](#) and the All Saints Street Parking Garage was completed in 2006.

The 250-foot wrought-iron bridge features beautiful iron trees, scrolling plants, flowers, and even the occasional water feature.



The Community Bridge, also by the Delaplaine Arts Center, began as a plain, concrete traffic bridge. It was transformed into one of Frederick's most popular pieces of public art.

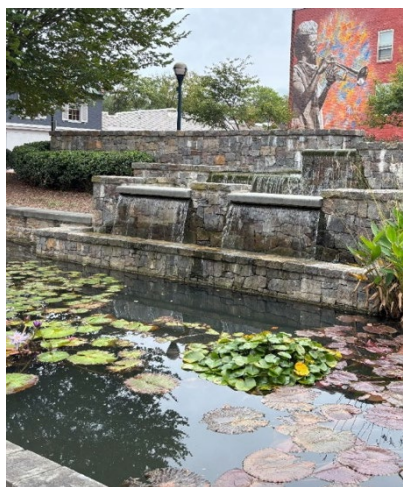


The Stone Arch Bridge is located near Market Street public art, it features a Zodiac-themed



Street. Both functional bridge and sculpture with a working clock.

The East/West Fountain is located past Market Street, across from La Paz, and features beautiful stonework. A replica spring house was built with a tiered waterfall on either side.



Born in Frederick, Claire McCordell influenced the development of women's clothing that focused on comfort, usefulness, and flexibility. In 1950, she was recognized with an award presented to her by President Harry Truman.

Trip Ideas for 2025, V16

- Nov 14—Leesburg Outlet Mall Shopping Spree with Lunch & Winery Tour
- Nov 15—Deadline for Wreaths Across America Sponsoring 3 wreaths for \$15 bus transportation
- Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with cruise leader
- Dec 6—Antietam National Battlefield Park Grand Illumination drive & dinner at Harpers Ferry Brewery
- Dec 10 Travel Club Holiday Catered Luncheon in Rachel's Kitchen
- Dec 12—Christmas at Mount Vernon
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America Ceremony in Winchester
- Dec 15—Bull Run Winery & Festival of Lights Drive Through

Trip Ideas for 2026, V1

- Jan –Winter Wine Tour Surprise
- Feb – Presidents Day Outing to Smithsonian History Museum
- Feb – Museum of the Bible Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit
- Mar – St. Patricks Pub Crawl
- Apr – Blue Ridge Spring Odyssey (Overnight in Roanoke)
- May – Mosby in Loudoun County
- June – Frontier Heritage Tour
- June – Shenandoah County Wine Tour
- July – Trail Ride & Brewery Lunch
- Aug – Harpers Ferry Tour
- Sep – Gettysburg Tour
- Oct – Sperryville & Little Washington Tour
- Nov – Fall Wine Tour
- Dec – Wreaths Across America
- Dec – Candlelight Christmas at Mount Vernon

Note: We will include selected trips from Shenandoah Tours when their 2026 catalogue is published.

Outlet Mall Shopping Spree, Lunch & Wineries Tour

Friday, November 14, 2025



Join the Travel Club as we spend the morning shopping at a popular outlet mall, then visiting some local wineries. After the shopping spree, we will have lunch together at the historic and popular Tuscarora Mill Restaurant which is only a few minutes away and serves a variety of food and drinks. Following lunch, we will visit two nearby Loudoun County wineries before returning to Lake Frederick.

Schedule:

8:45 a.m.	Gather at the Lodge
9:00	Leave the Lodge
10:00	Arrive at Leesburg Premium Outlets
12:00 p.m.	Depart
12:15	Arrive at Tuscarora Mill for lunch
2:00	Depart
2:15	Arrive at Firefly Cellars, Hamilton
3:30	Depart
3:50	Arrive at the Williams Gap
5.15	Depart
6:00	Arrive back at the Lodge

All times are approximate and subject to changes 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 **November 7, 2025**

Wreaths Across America: Winchester National Cemetery Saturday, December 13, 2025

The Travel Club is joining Veterans Association, in Winchester National Cemetery. Everyone loves to sponsor and National Cemeteries, like will join your neighbors and me website and more information organizations involved in the ceremony. at [Wreaths Across America](https://www.wreathsalong.com/).



several groups in Lake Frederick, including the sponsoring “Wreaths Across America” in on Saturday, December 13, 2025 lay wreaths at Arlington, but the smaller local Winchester, are often overlooked. I hope you in sponsoring at least three wreaths. The along with how you can also support local

Please sponsor at least three wreaths and we will provide bus transportation to the wreath laying ceremony. Following the wreath laying ceremony, we will ride over to the 50-50 Tap House for lunch on your own. \$15 for bus transportation and Sponsor at least 3 wreaths

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! Deadline for online sponsorship is **November 15, 2025**

Schedule:

10:00 a.m.	Bus Leaves Lodge
10:30	Arrive Winchester National Cemetery
11:00	Volunteers Lay Wreaths
12:00 p.m.	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, 2025**.



HISTORIC ROSEMONT CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, November 30th
3:00 PM-5:00 PM**

Step into the Manor and let the sparkle of the season surround you. Christmas magic awaits around every corner, with our decorated manor, picture with Santa, face painting, cookies, and more!

Tickets at the door: \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, and free for children 5 and under. All proceeds will be given to non-profits! Cash, checks, and Venmo ONLY

16 Rosemont Manor Ln, Berryville, VA 22611

Candlelight Christmas at Mount Vernon

Friday, December 12

(SOLD OUT/WAIT LISTED)

Visiting Mount Vernon is special any time of year, but a candlelight tour during the Christmas season is a real treat. For this trip we will travel to Mount Vernon on a Shenandoah Shuttle and have dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn before taking a guided candlelight tour of Mount Vernon. We will have time afterwards to explore the grounds before returning to the Visitor Center to board our bus for home. For more information visit [Mount Vernon](#).

The Mount Vernon Inn is an upscale restaurant, with menu pricing as follows: Soups/Salads (\$6/\$7), Sandwiches (\$15-\$20), Entrees (\$16-\$38), Desserts \$4-\$6

Schedule:

2:15 p.m.	Gather in Lodge
2:30	Depart Lodge
4:30	Arrive Mount Vernon Inn for dinner
6:00	Walk to Visitor Center-start tour (note: It is a 10-minute walk to Mount Vernon on gravel paths.)
8:00	Assemble in Visitor Center
8:15	Board Bus
10:15	Arrive Lodge



Minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 24. Registration is \$100 for tour and 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 October 1, 2025. Tickets purchased for the tour are non-refundable but may be transferred to another member. **Please note early deadline!**