



# 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

## **2025 Committee**

George Darnell  
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## **OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE**

### **President's Message**

#### **Welcome to Fall!**

In October we begin our busiest travel season. We have four trips scheduled for October: PA Railroads and Disasters; Potomac Eagle Train Ride; and Fall Colors Winery Tours I and II. All are sold out. Don't forget to drop off your check with the concierge to confirm your reservation to avoid someone on the waiting list from taking your place.

#### **September Trips**

We had two great trips in September: Deep Creek Lake; and Bridges and Breweries. Read the report for Deep Creek Lake in this issue. Oktoberfest Bridges and Breweries will be in the November issue.

#### **Schedule of Trips Updated**

See the updated list of trips (V15) in this issue. Bill Johnson completed plans for our Leesburg Outlets Shopping spree with lunch and wine stops on November 14. We haven't reached our minimum for this trip; so there is plenty of room for you to register. 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 we need someone to lead it. Don't forget your check; we have a long waiting list. 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.

#### **Registering for Travel Club Trips**

If you have any trouble registering for our trips the Lodge Concierge should be able to help you. Or send me an email with questions.

#### **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 Popular 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.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Next Meeting  
Monday, October 14, 2025  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.  
Bring a dish to share!

### October 13 Meeting

We have a real treat this month. Those of you who have been around since the Lodge opened in 2016 will remember Nicole Burrows as our first concierge. She was the face of Trilogy at Lake Frederick. Today she is the assistant manager and gives classes on MTL to new members. Nicole has agreed to give us a refresher on MTL, especially on finding and registering for new events before they are sold out. 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.

**George Darnell, President**

**703-850-2132**

**[darnellgd@hotmail.com](mailto:darnellgd@hotmail.com)**



## Deep Creek Lake Trip

By George Darnell

September 19, 2025



The Good Lord blessed us with a perfect day for our trip to Cumberland and Deep Creek Lake. Fifteen travellers began gathering in the Lodge about 7:45 to turn in waivers and pick up lanyard name badges. Then we left the Lodge in a Shenandoah Shuttle van driven by Julie and headed for Route 522 to Berkley Springs. Julie took the unofficial outer beltway around Winchester (Tasker Road and Route 37) to pick up Route 522 North on the other side of Winchester. (US 522 is a North-South highway that begins in Powhatan, VA, passes through Front Royal, passes by Lake Frederick, and ends in Selinsgrove, PA. It is a winding divided 4-lane highway from Rt. 37 to the West Virginia border, where it narrows to 2 lanes.) About a mile past Rt. 37 we passed the famous Apple House farmers market of Frederick County with hundreds of pumpkins lining the road.

We arrived in Berkley Springs about 9:00 to use the public restrooms in the state park. Unfortunately, the museum and gift shop were not open, but we enjoyed walking around the park and looking at the mineral spring waters flowing through the park. Stephanie had the courage to take off her shoes and wade in the shallow channel of water flowing through the park, sharing in an experience that George Washington enjoyed many years ago. There is a classic hotel next to the park, where Michelle and I spent the night while visiting the town and “took the waters” in a large tub in our room.



Soon, it was time get back in the van and head toward Hancock, Maryland, to pick up I-68 to Cumberland. As we drove along the interstate, we noticed how the road had been blasted right through the mountains, leaving sheer rock cliffs on either side. It was a very scenic ride. When we reached Cumberland, we drove around town for a while until we found the C&O Canal Museum. Julie left us off right at the door and waited for us to finish our visit.

There is no fee for the museum, which tells the history of the construction and operation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (C&O Canal), George Washington's dream of connecting the Potomac and Ohio Rivers, which never got past Cumberland. The museum is in the large Western Maryland Railroad Station. In a large plaza out front, there is a statue of a mule that pulled the barges along with his youthful driver. We sometimes forget how young some of our pioneers were when they started earning a living. Today the canal is a national historic park and is a popular hiking biking, and camping route for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. We met a young couple at the museum who had peddled and camped their way from the beginning of the canal in Georgetown.



Julie picked us up about 11:45 by a large mural next to the museum that depicts the history of the area. Our next stop was Deep Creek Lake, and we drove through the beautiful Western Maryland countryside with just a hint of Fall on the trees. We arrived at Firewater Kitchen & Bar, right on the lake just before 1:00 p.m. We were seated in a large outdoor covered pavilion with a view of the lake. Our server took our drink and food orders and informed us that the bar features many local craft beers. I had an Oktoberfest that was delightful. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch with good food and conversation before one of the staff took a group photo for us. Then it was back on the bus for our journey home.



We passed by a variety of homes bordering the lake on our way back to I-68. Deep Creek Lake is about three hours from Washington, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh. That

makes it a popular vacation home location for those who can afford it. For others, there are plenty of rental properties and commercial hotels open year-round. Deep Creek Lake and Lake Frederick have one thing in common: they are both man-made. Visiting Deep Creek Lake is special any time of year, but mid-September, when summer vacationers are back at work and school, is a real treat.



It began to rain a little as we made our way back to Berkley Springs, but by the time we got there it had stopped. We turned right off the main road and drove up a hillside overlooking the state park we were in in the morning. Berkley Springs Castle is there, and it might make an interesting stop for a future trip. We drove through the countryside until we



reached our last stop, Berkley Springs Brewing Company.

It's not much to look at from the outside, especially compared to some of the local breweries we visited this year. The place was fairly crowded, but the staff welcomed us like we were regulars, and we soon had our food and drinks. Some of us wished we hadn't had a beer with our lunch as we waited for the one-seat restroom. After we had our fill of local color, it was back on the bus for our ride home.



We passed the Apple House Farmers Market again and shortly afterwards drove through the gates of Trilogy. We said our goodbyes, tipped and thanked

Julie, and headed to our homes. Another fun day!

A special thanks to Marjorie Morrison for her help on the trip and for sharing the photos she took.



## Trip Ideas for 2025, V15

- Oct 14-15—Pennsylvania Disasters & Trains Tour
- Oct 23—Potomac Eagle Train Ride
- Oct 27—Fall Colors Winery Tour
- Oct 30—Fall Colors Wine Tour II
- 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 through preceded by early 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

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

## 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. Patrick's 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 Monday, 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  | Gather at the Lodge                 |
| 9:00  | Leave the Lodge                     |
| 10:00 | Arrive at Leesburg Premium Outlets  |
| 12:00 | 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 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**

George Darnell

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