

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

MEETS EVERY MONTH THE 2ND MONDAY AT 11:00 – 12:30 A.M. IN RACHEL'S KITCHEN

2021 Committee

George Darnell
President

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Pam Toliver
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Membership Coordinator

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TBD
Website Manager

Judy Bogner
Member at Large

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, July 12
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.

Potluck
Please Bring a Dish to Share!

AUGUST 2021 ISSUE

Bears Den Hike & Veramar Winery - June 21, 2021 By Margy Nolan

Twelve members of the Lake Frederick Travel Club gathered at the Shenandoah clubhouse on June 21, 2021, for a 10 a.m. departure. The destination was the Bears Den hiking trail; part a of the local Appalachian Trail, with a 30-minute travel time via route seven to the parking lot. Gary, our Classy Cowboy driver, let most of us off in the parking lot to take the approximately one-mile trail up to the Bears Den Overlook. Two people chose to ride the van to the top where there was a hikers' hostel and we met them at the overlook.



The hike itself was labeled as "Easy," but some felt it was steeper and rockier than was expected of an easy hike. The beginning of the trail seemed a little overgrown, but very soon into the hike, the trail widened and was comfortable. At a few points, there were large sections of slippery boulders we had to traverse, but with hiking sticks, or even just watching your balance and your footing, this was not a problem.

It was a very hot day but most of the way was shady during our hike, which helped. Once

we reached the overlook, we saw the beautiful vistas the area is known for. Within the outcropping of large rocks, we saw the "bears den" the overlook and trail are named for. It looks like one or two bears could very comfortably snuggle up for the winter inside the nook, so you would want to be careful in the winter!

The man told us there are several bunk rooms and in total, sleeps about 36 people. The outside was beautiful and looked like an old stone castle. Many flowers made the experience very pleasant, and we took a few group photos.



Our driver picked us up at the hostel and took us to the other side of the mountain for lunch at Bear Chase Brewing Company. Bear Chase Brewing Company is a wonderful place to visit with plenty of seating and the usual breathtaking views. They serve a variety of craft beers, non-alcoholic drinks, and food that we all enjoyed at tables inside, overlooking the Loudoun Valley. We sampled different types of beers and other beverages, and we all had lunch. Some of the favorite lunch items were very fresh shrimp tacos, freshly made pizzas and very large, hot pretzels with crab dip or dipping cheese. Afterwards, we were able to walk around the beautiful lawn where they have Adirondack chairs and picnic tables on the lawn overlooking the valley.



Following Bear Chase, we drove through the town of Bluemont to see the historic area which has a few small shops that would be fun to return to visit, including an ice cream shop! Further into Bluemont, we drove up to Dirt Farm Brewing Company and Bluemont Winery, both owned by the same family and boasting incredible views. After an impromptu tour, we reached our destination, Veramar Vineyard. We had reserved a time slot, so they set up tables for our group outside. Most people ordered the tasting flight (four wines to taste) and some ordered glasses of wine. It was a hot day, so the wines were refreshing. As we were having our wine, we noticed the sky darkening and the thunder and lightning starting in the distance. We quickly reboarded the bus and headed home through torrential rains and winds. We appreciate Gary's careful driving and we arrived back at the lodge around 4:30pm, safe and sound!



Front Royal Walking Tour - July 15, 2021

By George Darnell



Six frequent Lake Frederick travelers braved the heat to join George Darnell for a walk around downtown Front Royal. We gathered at the Gazebo in the town park on Main Street to review the history the town's history, from colonial times to its current focus on family recreation in the Shenandoah National Park and on the Shenandoah River. No one knows for certain how the town got its name. But the most likely is from the French calling it "Le Front Royal" during the French and Indian War, indicating it was English territory because of the land grant to Lord Fairfax by King Charles II. Local legend has it that the "Royal Oak" that the local militia would "front" during drill was in the town square where the Gazebo now stands. "Hell town" was the name given to the area by boatsmen transporting merchandise on the forks of the Shenandoah from the upper valley to Harpers Ferry. They stopped in town to find alcohol and have a good time before continuing their journey.



The railroad arrived in Front Royal via the Manassas Gap in 1854. We began our walk at the Visitors Center which occupies the old railroad station next to the park. The staff was very helpful, giving us maps and tips on places to see, including the Bing Crosby Baseball Stadium and Confederate Spy “Belle” Boyd’s house on Chester Street. We enjoyed their air-conditioning.

Two blocks east, on Main Street is Stokes General Store, a family-owned business for several generations, which sells everything a family would need: cast iron cookware, sporting goods, and “penny” candy. It’s hard to believe how much stuff they have in this old-fashioned brick building. The staff greeted us warmly as we spent some time browsing the crowded but orderly aisles. After leaving the store we returned to the park for a photo opportunity on the old red caboose that sits on a section of original track near the visitor center.



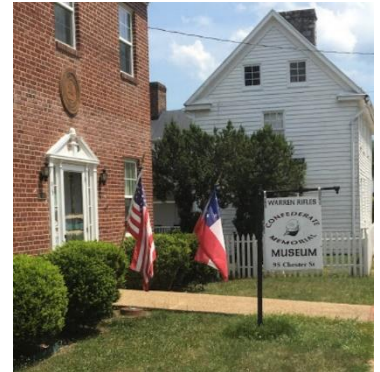
On Saturdays, the park hosts a Farmers Market, and on Thursday nights in Summer, it has free concerts. A block house with restrooms and a playground for children make the park a family friendly destination. It is just a few steps away from the restaurants, breweries, theatre, and shops on Main Street. From the park we turned onto Chester Street, a remnant of the original road that, via Chester gap, linked the Valley to the eastside markets over the Blue Ridge. It was named for Thomas Chester, who operated a ferry across the Shenandoah River as early as 1736.

Chester Street is lined on both sides with historic homes described in the walking tour brochure we picked up in the visitor center. <https://frontroyalva.com/DocumentCenter/View/166/Front-Royal-Walking-Tour-PDF>



One of the first places we noticed was the Virginia Beer Museum, which occupies a renovated house on Chester Street next to the municipal parking lot. It has a delightful lighted beer garden behind the house. Unfortunately, it was not open yet or we might have lingered a while. Farther down the street we saw the

Warren Rifles Confederate Museum and discovered it was open. The curator welcomed us in, and we browsed through relics and merchandise in the front room. There was an entry fee to tour the whole museum, which we decided it could wait for another day. The curator took us outside and pointed out “Belle” Boyd’s House and several outbuildings from the Civil War period. We thanked him for his hospitality and continued up Chester to a left on 2nd Street and another left on Royal Avenue.



Several old homes on Royal Avenue have been converted into law offices, apartments, churches, and other businesses. We continued our journey onto Main Street visiting the grounds of the Warren County Court House with its many memorials. The courthouse and the clock on Main Street remind us of hometown USA. As we strolled along Main Street with its variety of stores and shops it felt like walking through a Hallmark Movie.

Continuing, we arrived at a familiar dinner destination, Front Royal Brewing Company. They offer a variety of their own brews, as well as other craft and commercial beers and wines. We were seated at a long table, where the staff took our drink and dinner orders. Following dinner, we proceeded to our vehicles and the short drive back to Lake Frederick.

Calendar of Trips for 2021

- Aug 6—Tour Belle Grove Plantation, lunch at Shaffer's Barbecue in Middletown, tour Gen. Jackson's Winchester Headquarters, and tastings at Winchester Cider Works. \$45 covers transportation and tours. Lunch and Cidery are not included. Gary McDowell is leading this trip: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Aug 26—Harpers Ferry Whitewater Rafting on Shenandoah River: \$90 for transportation and guided rafting adventure; stops for refreshments not included (minimum of 12; maximum of 24) by George
- Sep 16—Antietam National Battlefield and Shepherdstown Tour: \$55 for transportation includes admission to the park and onsite guided tour. Lunch at the Bavarian Inn before tour of Shepherdstown not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 14). John Toliver is leading this trip: 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Oct 7—Little Washington and Sperryville for wine, beer, spirits, shops, and dinner at Griffin Tavern in Flint Hill: \$30 for transportation. Shopping, tastings, and dinner not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 14) by George
- Oct 28—Western, MD, Frostburg Flyer 4.5 Hour Train Ride: \$100 for transportation & train ride (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- Nov 12-13—Queen Esther & Miracle on 34th Street in Lancaster, PA, by motor coach: 2 days/1 night/3 meals; \$389 pp double/ \$469 single; filling fast. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 26-29—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN, by motor coach: 4 days/3 nights/2 meals; \$1089 pp double/\$1429 single; Deposit \$150 pp. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 30-Dec 1—Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Grove Park Inn by motor coach; 2 days/1 night/2 meals. \$479 pp double/\$659 single; deposit \$100 pp. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 10-11—Pennsylvania's Christmas Treasures (incl. Longwood Gardens) by motor coach; 2 days/1 night/2 meals. \$329 pp double/\$389 single; deposit \$100 pp. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 13-18—Christmas in New Orleans by Train; 2 days on train r/t; 2 days & 3 nights in New Orleans; 1 meal. \$1720 per couple; single pricing available. Upgrade to sleeper on train available. Call Amneris Delgado of Avoya Travel at 866-588-9088 for Lake Frederick Travel Club trip. (R/T shuttle to train station will be arranged by George.)
- Apr 9-26, 2022—Panama Canal Cruise on Holland America; 18 days/17 nights; from \$2799 per person plus R/T airfare TBA. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>

NOTE: For Shenandoah motor coach tours we need a minimum of 8 people for pick up in Lake Frederick. Otherwise, pick up is at Routes 522 & 50 in the Red Roof Inn parking lot.

George Darnell, darnellgd50@verizon.net

**Queen Esther &
Miracle on 34th Street
Lancaster, PA
November 12-13, 2021**

**2 Days / 1 Night
3 Meals**

Price per person:
Twin/Double \$389
Single \$469

Deposit: \$100.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before October 13, 2021.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$47 per person.

Tour #21009



Queen Esther ... a brand-new original stage production at Sight & Sound's Millennium Theatre in 2020! Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament as it comes to life with magnificent sets, special effects, and live animals. Witness how Esther's life changed, and how she found the courage to trust in God's plan. In addition, enjoy *Miracle on 34th Street* at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre.

Day 1 - Friday - November 12

Arrive in Lancaster / *Queen Esther*

Today we travel to the heart of Pennsylvania's Amish Country - Lancaster. Flowing meadows, patchwork farmlands, and quiet countrysides where local farmers still plow the fields with teams of horses. This afternoon we're off to Sight & Sound's Millennium Theatre to enjoy the brand-new stage production, *Queen Esther*. Set in the opulent, perilous Persian Empire, *Queen Esther* is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. Her ordinary life changed forever when she was taken through the palace doors, entering a new world of royalty and risk. With a crown on her head and a secret in her heart, can she find the courage to trust in God's plan and believe that she was made for such a time as this? Following this amazing show, we'll enjoy dinner at one of our favorite Amish restaurants, and our overnight stay at the Country Inn of Lancaster. (D)

Day 2 - Saturday - November 13

***Miracle on 34th Street* at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre / Travel Home**

Explore Lancaster's backroads, stopping at a local quilt shop, pretzel bakery, or bake shop. On to Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre for lunch followed by *Miracle on 34th Street*, a heartwarming musical set in New York City and recounts the story of a little girl's belief in Santa Claus. You don't want to miss this one! Following the show, we'll board our coach for the trip home. (B,L)

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Reserved seats for *Queen Esther*
- Dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord
- *Miracle on 34th Street* at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
- Also included: Accommodations, Motorcoach Transportation, Shenandoah Tours Escort, & Luggage Handling.
- 3 Meals = 1B, 1L, 1D
-

A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel November 26-29, 2021

**4 Days / 3 Nights
2 Meals**

Price per person:

Twin/Double \$1089

Single \$1429

Traditional Rooms

Deposit: \$150.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before September 21, 2021.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$112 per person. (Twin/Double), \$138 Single

Tour #21041



Get in the spirit of the holiday season at the fabulous Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Stroll through acres of lush indoor gardens and along winding pathways and waterfalls. See brilliant displays of holiday ornaments and huge, sparkling trees. It's truly a sight to behold as everywhere we look, Christmas is coming to life! Our days and evenings will be filled with wondrous holiday festivities. Highlights include a spectacular Christmas Dinner and Show, General Jackson luncheon cruise, Delta River Flatboat ride, ICE Exhibit, and the legendary Grand Ole Opry. This tour is one you don't want to miss!

Day 1 - Friday - November 26

Travel to Nashville

All aboard!! We're on our way to Nashville for a three-night stay at the fantastic Opryland Hotel. We arrive at the hotel all decked out in its finest array just as dusk settles over the city. What a spectacular sight as over two million Christmas lights sparkle in the night. A free evening to enjoy the amenities of the hotel.

Day 2 - Saturday - November 27

ICE / General Jackson Showboat / Grand Ole Opry

A special day filled with wonder and amazement. Visit "ICE!" the awe-inspiring experience where more than 2 million pounds of ice come to life under the skillful hands of talented artisans. We'll watch ice sculptures being carved before our very eyes at the live carving zone. Next, we enjoy a wonderful luncheon cruise and holiday musical revue aboard the General Jackson Showboat. This evening, we attend the legendary Grand Ole Opry, a great opportunity to see and hear our favorite country music entertainers. (L)

Day 3 - Sunday - November 28

Delta River Flatboat Ride / Christmas Dinner & Show

Our morning is free to enjoy the amenities of the hotel and to take a ride aboard the Delta River Flatboat, surrounded by the lush indoor gardens of this beautiful resort. See the 85 foot fountain, three waterfalls and, hopefully, "Danny," the 80 plus pound catfish that lives in the river! A special evening of dining and entertainment awaits at the Christmas Dinner and Show. Enjoy a traditional holiday meal including all the trimmings, followed by a spectacular Christmas show. (D)

Day 4 - Monday - November 29

Travel Home

Filled with good tidings and holiday cheer, we bid farewell to Nashville and return home with wonderful memories of "A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel." Please note: The tour itinerary is established by the Opryland Hotel and is subject to change.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- 3 Nights at Opryland Hotel
- Admission to ICE
- Lunch on the General Jackson Showboat
- Grand Ole Opry
- Services of a Shenandoah Tours Escort
- Delta River Flatboat Ride
- Christmas Dinner & Show

Pennsylvania's Christmas Treasures December 10-11, 2021

**2 Days / 1 Night
2 Meals**

Price per person:

Twin/Double \$329

Single \$389

Deposit: \$100.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before November 10, 2021.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection is \$47 per person.

Tour #21040



It's the most wonderful season of the year! Visit Lancaster and enjoy The Christmas Tree Ship, an inspirational, heartwarming musical at Bird-in-Hand Theatre. And see the amazing beauty at spectacular Longwood Gardens, a holiday experience that is sure to make your season merry and bright! Join Shenandoah Tours for this two-day getaway and make holiday memories to last a lifetime.

Day 1 - Friday - December 10

Travel to Lancaster / Bird-in-Hand Theatre

Join fellow travelers and we're off to Lancaster in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Upon arrival we'll visit one of the local farmers' markets...so special during the holiday season...and always brimming over with delightful foods, pastries and specialty items. Afterwards travel along backroads with flowing meadows, patchwork farmlands, and quiet countryside where local farmers still plow their fields with teams of horses. Stop by a local quilt shop, pretzel bakery, or bake shop. Check into our local hotel before enjoying the evening at Bird-in-Hand for our included dinner followed by a delightful evening featuring The Christmas Tree Ship...one family's unsinkable mission to save Christmas. This heartwarming inspirational musical is based on the true story of Herman Schuenemann known as Captain Santa who goes down with his ship in a storm on Lake Michigan. This, unfortunately, leaves his widow to raise their daughters, run the family business and continue her husband's mission of giving away thousands of Christmas trees to the less fortunate. Enjoy this Christmas tale of heroic proportions, filled with the importance of kindness and the joys of Christmas. (D)

Day 2 - Saturday - December 11

Longwood Gardens / Home

This morning we travel a short distance to enjoy the Beauty of the Holidays at Longwood Gardens. This is truly a sight to behold and will make our holiday oh so merry and bright! In the conservatory stroll among beautifully adorned trees and plant palettes ranging from delicate winter white to rich reds to the greenest of evergreens. From poinsettias to living wreaths to floral trees, the warmth and cheer of the holiday is ours to enjoy this special season. By mid-afternoon we'll board our coach for the trip home, bringing with us treasured memories of this special holiday tour. (B)

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Reserved seats for The Christmas Tree Ship - Bird-in-Hand Theatre
- Visit a Local Farmers Market
- Admission to Longwood Gardens
- Also included: Overnight Accommodations, Motorcoach Transportation, Shenandoah Tours Escort, & Luggage Handling.
- 2 Meals = 1B, 1D.

Panama Canal Cruise Holland America's *ms Amsterdam* April 9-26, 2022

18 Days / 17 Nights
All Meals onboard Ship

Price per person:

Category E \$2799
Ocean-view Stateroom
Plus Airfare TBA

Deposit: \$700.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before January 4, 2022

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection, please call
for details.

Tour #22002



Today we embark on an amazing cruise aboard Holland America's *ms Amsterdam* bound for the fascinating Panama Canal, one of the world's engineering masterpieces. We'll sail along the Florida coast, transit the Panama Canal, and discover the color, culture and sunny disposition of Mexico.

The Panama Canal has always inspired wonder. Now the "Big Ditch" is even bigger, with yet another set of locks and wider shipping lanes to accommodate today's super-size ships. Experience history in the re-making as our luxurious ship navigates the locks, its illustrious story brought to life by an onboard Canal commentator. See the sunny beaches and lush rain forests on either side.

CARTAGENA, COLUMBIA

In this land of tropical wonders, there's nothing like Half Moon Cay, Holland America Line's 2,400-acre private paradise. Miles of unspoiled white-sand beaches await!

PANAMA CANAL

The wonders of this 51-mile engineering feat continue as the Panama Canal celebrates its 106th anniversary.

PUERTO CALDERA, COSTA RICA

This small town makes an ideal base from which to explore the country's multiple national parks. Activities include snapping photos of gushing waterfalls, sightseeing near active volcanoes, and bird-watching in nature reserves and sanctuaries. Enjoy shopping as well as sampling traditional Tico cuisine, especially gallo pinto, a combination of rice and beans eaten any time, day or night.

CORINTO, NICARAGUA

Nicaragua is the next great spot for cultural and culinary tourism. The port town of Corinto boasts colonial-era architecture, and is close to Leon, the beautiful city established by Spanish conquistadores in 1524. Be sure to sample the traditional dish called vigoron, a hearty plate heaped with pork, boiled yuca and cabbage salad.

PUERTO QUETZAL, GUATEMALA

In the cultured little country of Guatemala, modern Maya still weave their stories on backstrap looms, and the great stone temples of Tikal stand in silent testament to ancient Mayan ingenuity.

PUERTO CHIAPAS, MEXICO

The Pacific gateway to the Mayan world, this port offers excursions to coffee plantations and botanical gardens, as well as the Izapa River.

HUATULCO, MEXICO

Warm sun, sandy beaches and nine beautiful bays in every shade of blue await. Jungles teem with birds and are the nesting grounds of endangered sea turtles.

MANZANILLO, MEXICO

The busiest seaport in Mexico is home to peaceful bays, a tropical climate, and is the saltfish capital of the world.

PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

"PV" (as it is affectionately known) retains the essence of the fishing village it once was. Viejo Vallarta, the old town, is a mix of red-tiled buildings, cobbled streets, chic shops and busy open markets.

CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

Stunning historic sites, beautiful beaches, and famous rock formations at Land's End make this a popular vacation destination.

U.S. citizens must carry a valid passport for this cruise.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Round trip transportation to/from and pier
- Variety of Ship Board Activities
- All port taxes
- Accident insurance
- 17 nights cruising on the *ms Amsterdam*
- Use of the ship as our hotel
- All Meals while onboard ship
- NOT INCLUDED: Ship Personnel Gratuities