



Newsletter

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

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SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE

President's Message

Happy Labor Day!

I hope you enjoyed the celebration at the Lodge! Do you remember when school didn't begin until after Labor Day, and folks took beach vacations after Labor Day to avoid noisy children? Well, I guess the second part of that is still true. For the Travel Club it marks the beginning of our busiest travel season. Some of our trips are already sold out.

August Trip Reports

We were blessed with perfect weather and friendly travelers for our beer and wine trips in August. We recommend all the places we visited. Read the trip reports in this issue.

September and October Trips

We still have room for a few more on some of our trips in September and October. Check MTL Events and get your check to the concierge.

Sam Kerns had to reschedule the Pennsylvania trip to October 14-15 because some of the National Parks are closed on the original dates. See his message below. The Fall Colors Wine Tour filled quickly, so we added a second one led by our wine expert, Bill Johnson.

Message from Sam Kerns

Dear Fellow Travelers, I apologize for this, but I had to **change the date by one day**. Two of the Federal site's visitor's centers are not open on both the days we were going. The trip was rescheduled to Tuesday and Wednesday, October 14 and 15, to ensure that all destinations would be open. The Hampton Inn has already moved your reservation to Tuesday night. **If you have already booked your room and you plan to go, you do not need to do anything.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, September 8, 2025
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Bring a dish to share!

If you need to cancel, please notify the Hampton Inn directly. That way I stay out of the booking. To cancel, please call at 814-941-3500.

I will double check that you have your reservation when we get closer to the trip. I apologize for any inconvenience, but when I first planned the trip, the sites were open. I stopped at the Portage RR visitors center last week and was going over the visit with the ranger when he mentioned the changed open dates. It took me a while to put all the pieces together. Like Rick Steves says, "You have to stay flexible when you travel."

Please mark your calendars that we will leave the Lodge parking lot on Tuesday **October 14 at 7:30**. My goal is that you "fall" in love with central Pennsylvania and make plans to return often. Sam Kerns (kerns64@gmail.com).

Schedule of Trips Updated.

See the updated list of trips (V14) in this issue. Bill Johnson completed plans for our 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 we need someone to lead it. 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, supper and overnight stay in the historic Hotel Roanoke, Smith Mountain lunch cruise on The Virginia Dare, D-Day Memorial in Bedford, and dinner at Devils Backbone Base Camp on Route 151. Let me know if you want to help plan this.

September 8th Meeting

I hope to see you around campus and at our September 8th meeting in Rachel's Kitchen at 11:30 a.m. No speaker this month; so, bring your favorite dish and travel story to share.

George Darnell, President

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Trip Ideas for 2025, V14

- Sep 19—Deep Creek Lake Trip
- Sep 29—Oktoberfest Bridges & Breweries Tour
- 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
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- Nov 14—Leesburg Outlet Mall Shopping Spree with Lunch & Winery Tour
- Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with Greg Payonk
- Dec 8—Bull Run Winery & Festival of Lights
- Dec 12—Christmas at Mount Vernon
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America in Winchester

Check out the [Shenandoah Tours](#).
Early registration is recommended.
They sell out quickly.

Summer Brewery Tour, August 8, 2025 Trip Report

Seventeen travelers checked in at the Lodge before boarding a Shenandoah Shuttle van driven by Bridget. We drove through Berryville to Route 7 East on our way to our first stop, [Chilley Hollow Brewing Company](#). It was the newest brewery, only open since November 2024. They are a family friendly brewery with a large playground near the brewery and plenty of seating inside and outside for large crowds. They remembered us from our visit on St. Patrick's Day earlier this year and volunteered to take a group photo just before we left. Chilly Hollow has a good variety of beers and an excellent kitchen.



Our second stop, Bluemont Station Brewery & Winery, offers craft beer, local wine, and a variety of food in a manor house on a 50-acre farm. It gets its name from the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad that ended in Bluemont. They have a vintage red caboose on site. The area was known as Snickersville during the Civil War because it is near Snickers Gap over the Blue Ridge. I had a generous serving of spiced steamed shrimp with my beer and enjoyed it outside at a table under the trees with friends from Lake Frederick. This was my favorite stop of the day, although all of them were good.

Our third stop, [Lost Barrel Brewing](#), is a favorite of the Middleburg crowd. It is a large facility with a variety of food and drink with indoor and outdoor seating. Bridget took the historic and scenic Snickersville Turnpike to get us to Middleburg and then weaved around neighborhood streets until we arrived in the large parking lot. We announced ourselves, placed our food and drink orders and were soon seated in small groups outside enjoying the mild summer day.



Conversations turned to: where do you live in Lake Frederick; why did you move here; where did you live before; what did you do before you retired; maintaining certifications and credentials “just in case,” and our favorite travel destinations. It seems that our lives before retiring are so much of our identity that it is hard to just stop. Perhaps that is why we have so many clubs in Lake Frederick to keep us busy.



We had a little time left on our way home. So, we decided to stop by [Twisted Oak Brewery](#) in nearby White Post. Bridget found the sign on White Post Road, not far from the ruins of the colonial estate of Lord Fairfax and drove on a gravel driveway through the woods about a mile to their parking lot. We almost expected to see young George Washington, with his surveying gear, pop out of the woods. This is definitely a boutique brewery with limited, but gracious, seating inside and out. They are only open weekends. Some individuals ordered an additional round and continued their discussions. It was a brief visit, and we were soon back on the bus heading to nearby Lake Frederick. If you want a beer on a Friday or Saturday in quiet surroundings away from everything, this is the place.

We arrived back at the Lodge right on time, tipped Bridget, said our goodbyes, and headed home. Another good trip!



Summer Wine Tour, August 22, 2025, Trip Report

Fifteen wine enthusiasts gathered in the Lodge to drop off travel waivers and pick up lanyard name badges before boarding a Shenandoah Shuttle van driven by Julie. Our first stop was Valerie Hill Vineyard in Stephens City. It is the closest winery to Lake Frederick and occupies a manor house, built in 1807 by Revolutionary War Captain Peter Rust. The Federal-style brick house, with its original features like floors and walls, served as a hospital during the Civil War. Today, the winery offers wine tastings, lite fare, and hosts paranormal tours due to local ghost stories, including that of a child who was sequestered in the attic.

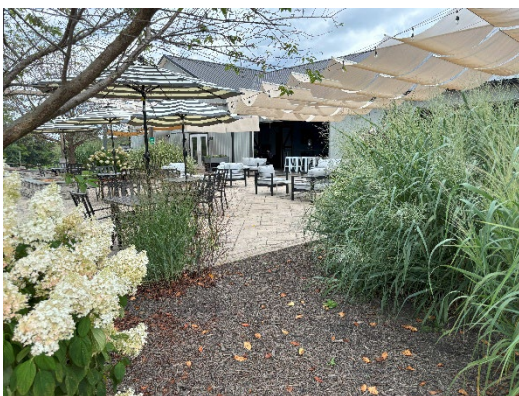


We arrived about noon and were greeted by Josh, our attendant, who remembered us from previous visits, and another server at the small tasting bar in the former dining room. We soon had our selections of wine and retired to the umbrella covered bistro tables on the patio outside, where we enjoyed our wine and conversation. (My photos disappeared from my phone, but the picture on the left at the top is representative.) Soon, it was time to move on.

Julie drove us to James Charles Vineyard in the countryside west of Winchester. The tasting room and lounge are in a large industrial style building with a long serving bar facing an open-seating area with tables and lounge chairs. The side garage-style doors open to an outside patio seating area with bistro tables with umbrellas and lounge chairs around low-top tables. It is surrounded by a manicured garden.



James Charles, which is named for the owner, James Charles Bogati, has a kitchen offering a variety of food to accompany their wine. Some of us did a tasting of their wines and others chose a glass of their favorites before gathering around tables inside and outside to enjoy our selections and conversation. Later in the day we would have been joined by folks enjoying the wine and some entertainment. But we had to leave before the evening to make it to our final stop, Veramar Vineyard. East of Berryville in Clark County.



Veramar Vineyard has an Italian-style villa tasting room with a large stone patio facing the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is a picture-postcard setting. Veramar is also owned by the Bogati family. So, James Charles gave us coupons worth \$7 towards a tasting at Veramar.



Some of us took advantage of that, while others chose a glass of wine to enjoy in the gazebo they had reserved for us. Shortly after we settled in, a Country-Folk troubadour with a guitar began entertaining folks on the patio and taking requests.



Bill Johnson, our wine and travel advisor, joined us on this trip to round out our information on each winery. Just before we left, James Charles Bogati arrived to greet a special group of guests, who would be arriving shortly after us. Bill struck up a conversation with him in the tasting room about wine and their service in the U.S. Marine Corps. It was hard to tear him away to stay on our schedule.

We were soon back in the van and Julie guided it back to Lake Frederick right on time. We tipped and thanked her, said our goodbyes, and headed home to dinner with perhaps more wine. A really satisfying day



Coming Up

Deep Creek Lake Trip - September 19, 2025

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. The weather is still warm, but not hot, and everything is green and peaceful. For this trip we selected a lake-side restaurant with outdoor and indoor seating. We will have plenty of time to enjoy our lunch and the view.



On our way to Deep Creek Lake, we will pass through areas frequented by George Washington, Berkley Springs, WV, where he “took the waters,” and Cumberland, MD, where his Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal ended. In Berkley Springs State Park we can use the public restrooms and wade in the mineral waters flowing by a monument to Washington. In Cumberland, we will visit the National Park Service C&O Canal Museum and learn the history of this monumental early American transportation project that never realized Washinton’s dream of a link

between the Chesapeake Bay and the Ohio River. It did, however, provide transportation for Shenandoah Valley and Western Maryland produce to seaports. On our way home, we will stop again in Berkley Springs at a local brewery for refreshment.



Schedule:

- 8:00 a.m. Leave Lodge
- 9:15 a.m. Arrive Berley Springs State Park
- 9:45 a.m. Leave
- 10:45 a.m. Arrive C&O Canal Museum in Cumberland
- 11:45 a.m. Leave
- 1:00 pm. Arrive Deep Creek Lake Restaurant (Firewater Kitchen & Bar, 20128 Garrett Hwy, Oakland, MD 21550)
- 3:00 p.m. Leave
- 4:45 p.m. Arrive Berkly Springs Brewing Company
- 7:00 p.m. Leave
- 7:15 p.m. Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 24. Registration is \$60 for transportation only. 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 9, 2025.**

Oktoberfest Bridges & Breweries – September 30, 2025

Celebrate Oktoberfest with the Travel Club by visiting historic covered bridges in Frederick County, MD, followed by a walking tour of the Carroll Creek historic area in downtown Frederick MD. Frederick County is home to three historic bridges in the Route 15 corridor, north of the city of Frederick, that are listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. The Utica, Loy's Station, and Roddy Road covered bridges all cross streams in northern Frederick County, within twelve miles of one another. Besides their beauty, the bridges are also structurally interesting, as all three have different truss systems (which is what keeps a bridge standing). Visit [Frederick County Bridges](#) for details about each bridge.



Spanning more than a mile through the heart of hip and historic Downtown Frederick. This creek-walk offers more than just a beautiful view; specialty shops, outdoor dining, breweries and a distillery are among the businesses located along the park. Located at the east end is a cluster of breweries that provide the perfect opportunity to enjoy a variety of drinks and atmospheres. Before exploring the breweries, we will stop for lunch at The Wine Kitchen to satisfy the wine lovers on our tour. Afterwards, we will stroll the park and visit a few of the breweries described at this website [Downtown Frederick Breweries](#).



Schedule:

- 7:45 a.m. Gather in Lodge
- 8:00 a.m. Board bus
- 9:30 a.m. Visit bridges
- 12:00 p.m. Arrive Carroll Creek
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch at The Wine Kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. Walking tour with brewery stops
- 5:00 p.m. Depart Frederick
- 6:30 p.m. Arrive Lodge

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

Minimum for the trip is 14 and the maximum is 18. Registration is \$60 *(includes round-trip bus transportation)*. Lunch, breweries, and driver's tip are not included.

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 September 20, 2025**.

Potomac Eagle Fall Foliage Train Ride -- October 23, 2025



This trip was so popular in 2023 that we decided to repeat it in 2025. The Lake Frederick Travel Club has reserved 20 to 28 seats on October 23, 2025, for a three-hour round-trip ride along the South Branch of the Potomac River in West Virginia. We will be riding in reserved seats in a vintage dining car with a boxed lunch. The meal selections are Ham, Turkey, or Vegetarian sub. Menu choices are due with your reservation. We will be taking round-trip bus transportation from the lodge to the train station in Romney, WV. Potomac Eagle gets its name from the American Eagles that are frequently seen along the train route. You can also enjoy views from an open gondola, weather permitting.

All-inclusive cost is \$150 per person (excluding bus driver tip).

STANDARD DINING CAR BOXED LUNCH CHOICES:

1- Ham Sub

2 – Turkey Sub

3 – Vegetarian Sub

(All lunches include chips, seasonal fruit, brownie, and bottled water)

For more information you can view their website at [Potomac Eagle](#).

There is also an overview video at [Overview Video](#).

Schedule:

- 10:15 a.m. Check in at Lodge
- 10:30 a.m. Bus leaves Lodge
- 12:00 p.m. Arrive Romney train station
- 12:30 p.m. Board train
- 1:00 p.m. Train departs
- 1:30 p.m. Meal service
- 4:00 p.m. Train returns
- 4:30 p.m. Board bus
- 6:00 p.m. Arrive Lodge

The minimum for this trip is 20 and maximum is 28. The deadline for reservations and meal choice is **September 30**.

Please register on MTL Events and drop off a check made payable to "Lake Frederick Travel Club" with your contact information, date of the trip, and meal choice at the concierge's desk.

Fall Color Wine Tour II – October 30, 2025



This trip was so popular that it sold out quickly. So, we added a second one. Fall Colors in the Blue Ridge Mountains can be spectacular. Hopefully, we picked another date when they will be in full color. For this trip we will travel through the Shenandoah Valley on I-81 to I-64 East, on our way to three of our favourite wineries in the Charlottesville area: Veritas; Barboursville; and Early Mountain. We will also stop for lunch at Michie Tavern, near Monticello. This trip will be a long day.

Schedule:

- 9:45 a.m. Check in at Lodge
- 9:00 a.m. Leave Lodge
- 10:30 a.m. I-81 Rest Stop
- 10:45 a.m. Depart
- 11:30 a.m. Arrive Veritas Vineyard
- 1230 p.m. Depart
- 1:15 p.m. Arrive Michie Tavern for buffet lunch
- 2:15 p.m. Depart
- 3: 00 p.m. Arrive Barboursville Vineyard
- 4:00 p.m. Depart
- 4:45 p.m. Arrive Early Mountain Vineyard
- 5:45 p.m. Depart
- 7:30 p.m. Arrive Lodge

Registration is **\$60** for transportation only. Food, drinks, and driver tip are not included.

Minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 18. 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 17, 2025.**

Outlet Mall Shopping Spree, Lunch and 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.

Registration for this trip is **\$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**

Candlelight Christmas at Mount Vernon Friday, December 12, 2025 (**SOLD OUT**)



Please Note Early Deadline for Registration Check

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 Visitors Center to board our bus for home. For more information visit [Mount Vernon Christmas](#).

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 p.m. Depart Lodge
- 4:30 p.m. Arrive Mount Vernon Inn for dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Walk to Visitor Center to start tour (note: It is a 10-minute walk to Mount Vernon on gravel paths.)
- 8:00 p.m. Assemble in Visitor Center
- 8:15 p.m. Board Bus10:15 Arrive Lodge

Registration is **\$100.00** (includes tour and transportation). Food, drinks, and driver tip are not included.

Minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 24.

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.