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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*

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*Treasurer*

Chris Oxford  
*Membership Coordinator*

Pam Toliver  
*Communications Coordinator*

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Greg Payonk  
*Cruise & Foreign Travel*

Bill Johnson  
*Domestic & Foreign Travel*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting  
Monday, April 8, 2024  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.  
Please bring a dish to share!

## APRIL 2024 ISSUE

### President's Message

#### Spring is here!

It is still a little chilly around the edges, but I hope you had a Happy Easter, or you are looking forward to a Blessed Passover. We had two great trips in March and have several more planned for the next few months. See the summaries below.

**Winter (St. Patrick's Craft Beer Tour, March 15):** This trip was rescheduled from January, but we still got it in in the last winter month. Read the trip report in this newsletter.

**High Tea at Rosemont Manor, March 23:** Chris Oxford led this rescheduled trip to this nearby historic site. Read her report in this newsletter.

**Cherry Blossom Walking Tour, March 27:** We had to cancel this trip because not enough people signed up. Maybe next year.

#### **Baltimore Fireworks Tour: July 4-5, 2024**

We have a few people interested in this proposal from MARS Tours & Travel for the following 2-day trip that includes:

- Round Trip transportation from Lake Frederick to Baltimore, MD
- 1-night room at the Renaissance Baltimore Harbor Hotel
- Admission and self-guided tour of B&O Railroad Museum
- Admission and self-guided tour of National Aquarium
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic at Hotel
- Inner Harbor July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration
- Inner Harbor Fireworks Cruise
- Breakfast at Hotel
- Guided Bus Tour of Baltimore Highlights
- Tour of Fort McHenry
- Baggage Handling

Cost: \$755 pp single; \$669 pp double

We need a minimum of 20 refundable deposits of \$100 by May 1 to accept this proposal.

Mike Erickson, our guide for Harpers Ferry, has agreed to be the guide on this trip. A full description is included in the March newsletter. We can take more than 20 if we register early before the hotel fills up.

**Antietam Battlefield Trip, April 5:** This trip is sold out and we have a waiting list. We are looking forward to another Sam and Rick Civil War battlefield tour.

### **Shenandoah River Bluebell Walking Tour, April 9**

The plan is to carpool to Shenandoah State Park near Front Royal and pack picnic lunches for the park. We have room for a few more on this trip. See the announcement in this newsletter and sign up on MTK Events

### **Alexandria Walking Tour, April 19**

This trip will include a three-mile guided walking tour of Old Town Alexandria and lunch at Gadsby's Tavern. We have room for a few more on this trip. See the flyer in this newsletter and sign up on MTL Events.

### **Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party, May 4**

We were hoping to watch a live stream of the Winchester Apple Blossom Parade on a large screen TV in the lodge. But all the rooms are already booked for that day. So, if any member who has a Rec Room with a large screen TV would like to host this party, let me know. We can make it a potluck watch party.

### **Mosby Heritage Wine Tour, May 10**

Rick Turner and I planned this great tour of Piedmont, Virginia with its historic buildings and Civil War battle sites. In addition to some wine stops, we will have lunch in this historic area. See the flyer in this newsletter and register on MTL Events.

**Museum of the Bible Trip, May 20:** Barbara McMahon is arranging for this to be an MTL trip. Watch MTL Announcements for details.

**Exploring the Northern Neck with Two Nights at The Tides Inn, July 9-11:** Watch for a special bulletin on this three-day trip. We will visit historic sites, wineries, and Tangier Island, with a two-night stay at The Tides Inn, a five-star resort in Irvington, Virginia,

Check out the cruises that Greg Payonk has scheduled and contact him if you need more information. They may be full already.

I hope to see you around our wonderful campus and at our potluck lunch meeting in Rachel's Kitchen on April 8 at 11:30 a.m. Bring your favorite dish to share. Thanks for supporting our club!

George Darnell, President  
703-850-2132  
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## WHERE IN THE WORLD DO YOU WANT TO GO THIS YEAR?



## Winter 2024 Craft Beer Tour

by George Darnell

## March 15, 2024

This trip was delayed from January because of snow and wound up being a St. Patrick's Brewery Tour. Fourteen travelers joined us for this trip: George Darnell; Mike Ericksen; Jack & Patty Kolb; Yale Lewis; Marshall & Cheryl Moss; Tom Ryan; Bob & Charlotte Suchan; Gene & Debby Szczenski; and Mark & Lauren Young. It was nice having some ladies join us on this tour.



We left the lodge about 11:15 in a Shenandoah Shuttle and headed through Berryville to our first stop, Bear Chase Brewery. It sits on a ridge of the Blue Ridge with a view of the Loudoun Valley. It gets its name from its proximity to Bear's Den, a popular spot for hikers on the Appalachian Trail, which passes nearby. Our driver, Steve, told us that a walkway over Rt. 7 is planned so hikers don't have to cross the road. He dropped us at the front entrance around noon.

Bear Chase has a long serving bar

just inside the entrance, and all of us soon had a glass of beer in our hands. We selected a long high-top table with a view of the lawn and valley. Some of us ordered pizza or huge pretzels to share with neighbors while enjoying beer and conversation. We noticed that the open sides of the main floor room had roll-down clear plastic shades that could be lowered in cold or rainy weather. This is what the lodge has planned for the veranda.



Around 1:30 we reboarded our bus to head for Escutcheon Brewery in Winchester. We arrived about 2:00 in the industrial area north of Winchester. The tasting room was sparse, with groups of high-tops, but no long one. So we split up to enjoy our beer and conversation in groups of three or four. Behind a large glass wall on one end, we could see the brewery tanks and a huge stack of canned beer for distribution. The only food available were snack bags of chips and pretzels. The beer was good, but we were soon on our way down I-81 to Woodstock.

Steve took the Toms Brook exit and we drove up the Valley Pike (Rt. 11), through Toms Brook and Maurertown, to Woodstock. Along the way we saw farm equipment for sale, a reminder that the Valley is still agricultural. Woodstock Brewhouse occupies a former WWII uniform factory on a side street off Rt



11. The brewery is on the street level and the brewhouse is one level up. They have tables outside in a biergarten and inside on the brewhouse floor. They were expecting us and had us set up at a long low-top table in the main room.

We ordered our beer and food at the main counter and took our seats. Our food was delivered to our table, and we dug in. My



fisherman's platter was perfect for a Friday in Lent. Several families as well as groups of adults inside and outside were enjoying themselves. It seemed to be a popular place in Woodstock. After enjoying our beer, food, and stories of life before Lake Frederick, we paid our checks and headed home.

Our van got us back to the lodge about 7:00 p.m. After thanking and tipping Steve, we said our goodbyes and headed to our homes. So many breweries—so little time!



## High Tea at Rosemont Manor

by Chris Oxford

**March 23, 2024**



Saturday, March 23, dawned cold and rainy, but the dreary weather could not put a damper on our trip to Rosemont Manor in Berryville for Tea.

The original Rosemont Manor was built in 1811 by the first High Sheriff of Clarke County, George Norris, for his bride, Jane Bowles Wormley. Whether his motive was to build the home for his bride's pleasure or because of her father's promise to bequeath him 5,000 acres is not known.

The house has been added to, deleted from, added to again, and updated many times over the past 213 years and passed through the hands of several owners. The Norris family lived at the property until 1854 when Norris' granddaughter married into the wealthy Tyson family of Baltimore. Since women were not allowed to hold property in their own name, her husband became the owner of Rosemont when she was bequeathed the property. The Tysons added the Grand Portico which became the main entrance to the house.

The grounds were the site of a battle during the Civil War Battle of Berryville as Northern troops assembled on both sides of the manor. Many Civil War relics have been found on the grounds and the current owner is hoping to someday have established a museum with them. He currently stores the relics in china cabinets in buildings on the grounds. Excavations are ongoing.

Rosemont changed hands numerous times just after the turn of the 20th century. In 1910, New York attorney J. Low Harriman and his wife bought the property to be their country home. They made extensive remodeling of the house including the addition of a two-story wing to provide more quarters for the frequent guests they entertained, changed the floor plan, added the grand staircase, a south extension onto the library with a sleeping porch above, and a sunroom off the dining room. Perhaps Harriman's greatest renovation was adding indoor plumbing to the house. Many of those bathrooms are currently in use with the original fixtures and tile.

In 1917 the Harrimans sold the property to William and Anne Smith who kept the home as their primary residence until 1929 when the widowed Anne Smith sold it to former Virginia Governor Harry F. Byrd, Sr. Byrd continued to rise to political power as a U.S. Senator and turned his home into a haven for politicians. Several presidential helicopters landed on the grounds as Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, and Johnson. President Franklin D. Roosevelt also visited, presumably arriving by car.

Harry F. Byrd, Sr., also entertained such notables as Winston Churchill (for whom Byrd's 15-year-old son sent to procure some local moonshine since legal alcohol was not available during Prohibition), Charles Lindbergh, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and more. Byrd, older brother of polar explorer Admiral Richard E. Byrd, lived at Rosemont until his death in 1966.

The Byrd family, a Virginia powerhouse for years, held on the property until 1997 when they sold it to Randy and Sue Jones of Northern Virginia who extensively renovated the house while continuing the home's legacy of hosting notables and charity fundraisers.

In 2009 William and Barbara Genda of Clarke County purchased Rosemont in part to save it from development. Securing permission from the town prior to the purchase to open the property as a bed and breakfast and event center, the Gendas undertook a year of renovations to the house before opening it to the public.

Rosemont Manor currently hosts teas several times a month and many, many weddings who use the mansion and spectacular grounds for unforgettable pictures.

Our Spring/Easter Tea featured three courses of savories (cucumber and dill open-faced sandwiches, Shepard's Pie and croissants filled with egg salad and tomato), scones (Irish cheddar cheese scones and Irish scones with Devonshire cream and strawberry jam), and dessert (chocolate pots de crème, Irish apple cake, and peppermint snowball). Each course was accompanied by a different tea: Signature Byrd Blend Black Tea, Signature Rosemont Blend Green Tea, and Lemon Souffle Rooibos, all curated by Tea for All Reasons.





## Trip Ideas for 2024, V6

- Apr 5—Antietam Battlefield Tour
- Apr 9—Shenandoah River Bluebell Walking Tour
- Apr 12-13—Lancaster/Daniel/Ragtime at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Apr 19—Alexandria Walking Tour
- May 4—Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party
- May 10—Mosby Heritage Wine Tour
- May 20—DC Bible Museum Tour
- May 22-25—Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in KY  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- May 27-Jun 8—Scandinavian Cruise w/Greg
- Jun 7—Endless Caverns, New Market Civil War Museum, Harrisonburg Mennonite Center
- Jun 19-22—Kentucky's Backroads/Toyota Plant Tour  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Jun 23-25—Niagara Falls / Moments to Remember  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- July 9-11—Exploring the Northern Neck; Tides Inn for two nights.
- Jul 22-25—Hudson River Valley  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Aug 4-11—Canadian Rockies by Rail (fly in)  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Aug 9-17—Nova Scotia & Canada's Maritimes (fly in)  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Aug 19-31—Japan Celebrity Cruise w/Greg
- Aug 23—Loudoun Wine Tour
- Sep 8-11—Niagara Falls/Ontario  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Sep 20-21—Lancaster/ Daniel/ Bird-in-the-Hand Theatre  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Sep 23— Gettysburg Battlefield Tour
- Oct 4—Oktoberfest Route 151 Beverage Tour
- Oct 6-12—Autumn in New England – Rails & Sails  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 25—Graves Mountain Fall Adventure
- Nov 13-15—Smoky Mountain Christmas  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 29-Dec 2—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 3-4—Candlelight Christmas at the Biltmore <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 14—Wreaths Across America in Winchester
- Dec 20—Holiday High Tea at Rosemont Manor

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## Trip Registration Deadlines for 2024, V6

- Apr 6—Autumn in New England – Rails & Sails  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
  - Apr 9—Alexandria Walking Tour
  - Apr 15—Exploring the Northern Neck; Tides Inn for two nights.
  - Apr 17—Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party
  - May 1—Mosby Heritage Wine Tour
  - May 13—Smoky Mountain Christmas  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
  - May 27—Endless Caverns, New Market Civil War Museum, Harrisonburg Mennonite Center
  - May 29—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
  - Jun 8—Christmas in Charleston & Savannah r/t DC on AMTRAK Palmetto
  - Jun 3—Candlelight Christmas at the Biltmore  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
  - Jul 1—Exploring the Northern Neck; Tides Inn for two nights.
  - Aug 13—Loudoun Wine Tour
  - Sep 19—Gettysburg Battlefield Tour
  - Oct 15—Graves Mountain Fall Adventure
  - Nov 14—Wreaths Across America in Winchester
  - Dec 1—Holiday High Tea at Rosemont Manor
- [darnellgd@hotmail.com](mailto:darnellgd@hotmail.com)



## Old Town Alexandria Walking Tour April 19, 2024

Old Town Alexandria and Old Town Winchester share a rich Colonial Period history. The Potomac River Seaport of Alexandria was linked to Winchester by colonial roads through Appalachian Mountain gaps and fords across the Shenandoah River, for transportation of goods and people. Those roads, Route 7, and Route 50, still connect the cities, although much improved.



For this tour we will take a bus to Old Town. There, Becca, the guide we had for our DC Christmas Lights tours, will guide us around the cobblestone streets to historic sites. Our last stop will be for lunch at Gadsby's Tavern, a favorite of George Washington. Here is a list of the places we will visit:

- Christ Church (pictured)
- Lloyd House
- Lee Fendall House
- Spite House
- George Washington Townhouse
- Suffragist Marker
- Stabler Leadbeater Apothecary
- Carlyle House
- Torpedo Factory
- City Hall
- Gadsby's Tavern

### Schedule:

- 8:00 Bus leaves Lodge.
- 10:00 Arrive Alexandria, meet guide, and begin walking tour.
- 12:00 Arrive Gadsby's Tavern for lunch (not included).
- 2:00 Board bus for ride home.
- 4:00 Arrive Lodge for Happier Hour (not included).

**Minimum for this trip is 15 and maximum is 25.**

Registration is \$75 for transportation and tour guide. Lunch, and driver and guide tips 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 **April 12, 2024**.

George Darnell (703-850-2132) [darnellgd@hotmail.com](mailto:darnellgd@hotmail.com)

## Mosby Heritage Area Wine Tour May 10, 2024



Join the Travel Club on Friday, May 10, for The Mosby Heritage Area Tour with lunch and winery stops. Our neighbor, Rick Turner, a Civil War enthusiast, will be our guide. He will answer the question, "Who was Confederate Colonel John Singleton Mosby?"

We will visit many of the historic locations of Mosby's operations during the Civil War that took place just east of Lake Frederick, over the mountain in Fauquier and Loudoun Counties. This area, known as "Mosby's Confederacy," was also the exact location of the running cavalry battles between Union and Confederate forces during the beginning of Lee's Gettysburg Campaign. Much of that multi-day cavalry action will also be covered in this 2 for 1 tour!

Those on the tour will have lunch at the famous Hunters Head Tavern in historic Upperville. Additionally, the tour bus will stop at several hunt country vineyards along the way. If we have time we may stop at the Lone Oak Tavern for refreshments and a Q&A recap before returning to the Lodge.

### Schedule:

- 8:00 Bus leaves Lodge.
- 8:30 Begin Civil War stops.
- 11:30 Lunch at Hunters Head Tavern.
- 1:00 Continue tour with wine stops at Boxwood, Chrysalis, & Greenhill.
- 5:00 Lone Oak Tavern stop.
- 6:00 Arrive Lodge.

Minimum for this trip is 15 and maximum is 20.

Registration is \$60 for transportation and tour. Lunch, wine tastings, 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 May 1, 2024.

George Darnell (703-850-2132) [darnellgd@hotmail.com](mailto:darnellgd@hotmail.com)

## Bluebell Walking Tour

April 9, 2024



The banks of rivers and streams are decorated in early Spring with a beautiful wildflower, the Virginia Bluebell. You can find some along Crooked Run near the wastewater plant on Crape Court. But for an abundant display one must hike along the Shenandoah River. Fortunately, there is a state park near Front Royal with a trail along the river. This 2.8-mile out-and-back trail is considered an easy route and it takes an average of 90 min to complete. There is a parking area nearby. The parking fee is \$10 per car or an annual parking pass, which you can buy at the entrance.

We will carpool from the parking lot between the Lodge and the model homes to the park.

### Schedule:

- 12:00 Meet at Lodge and form carpools
- 12:45 Park in Shenandoah State Park
- 1:00 Start hike
- 2:30 Gather in parking lot and drive back to Lodge
- 3:15 Arrive Lodge

All times are approximate, except departure time, and subject to change depending on how much time we want to spend on the trail. Walking sticks, bottled water, and waterproof hiking shoes are recommended. If the weather is bad, we will reschedule.

Minimum for this trip is 8 and maximum is 24. Register on MTL Events.

**Deadline is April 1, 2024**

George Darnell (703-850-2132), [darnellgd@hotmail.com](mailto:darnellgd@hotmail.com)