



Newsletter

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

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

Gary McDowell
Treasurer

Chris Oxford
Membership Coordinator

Pam Toliver
Communications Coordinator

Dan Mortland
Program Director

Greg Payonk
Cruise & Foreign Travel

Bill Johnson
Domestic & Foreign Travel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2024
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Please bring a dish to share!

MAY 2024 ISSUE

President's Message

Spring is still a work in progress! Just when I thought Spring was here, we had some chilly days and much needed rain. April showers, etc. The Travel Club is gearing up for summer travel with some exciting trips. See the summaries below.

Baltimore Fireworks Tour, July 4-5, 2024: We had to cancel this trip because we did not have enough interest.

Antietam Battlefield Trip, April 5: This trip was fun and educational thanks to Sam Kerns and Rick Turner. Read the trip report in this issue.

Shenandoah River Bluebell Walking Tour, April 8: We had a few hearty souls join us for a walk along the Bluebell Trail in Shenandoah River State Park. Read the trip report in this issue.

Alexandria Walking Tour, April 19: Unfortunately, we didn't get enough travelers to register for this trip. I am as disappointed as those who signed up. We put it back on the calendar for a Christmas Tour of Old Town. Stay tuned.

Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party, May 4: We cancelled this event. You can watch it on your own TV.

Mosby Heritage Wine Tour, May 10: This trip was so popular we added a second trip in May. But remember: you are not really registered until Gary has your check.

Museum of the Bible Trip, May 20: Barbara McMahon arranged for this to be an MTL trip. Watch MTL Announcements and MTL Events for details.

Exploring the Northern Neck with Two Nights at The Tides Inn, July 9-11: This trip is in danger of being cancelled. We need to fill five more rooms to satisfy our contract with The Tides Inn. We also need eleven more checks for \$350 to pay for our bus. The deadline is May 15. I would hate to cancel this trip because Michelle and I are planning to use it to celebrate our 65th anniversary. I hope you will join us!

Endless Caverns, Civil War Museum, & Brethern and Menonite Heritage Center Tour, June 7, 2024:

See the trip announcement in this newsletter and register before it fills up. We added a stop at the Muse Vineyard on the way home after a day of exploring.

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 May 13 at 11:30 a.m. Bring your favorite dish to share. I will have copies of the new membership form that Chris Oxford, our membership chair, designed for new members. Also check out our new website. Pam Toliver has been hard at work. Thanks for supporting our club!

George Darnell, President

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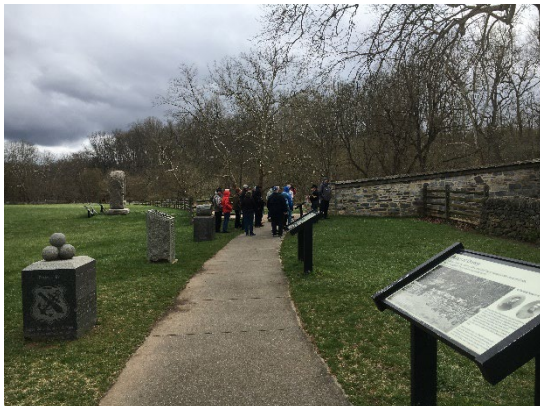
Antietam National Battlefield Tour April 5, 2024, Trip Report by George Darnell



The day was cool and drizzly, but that didn't dampen the spirits of our Lake Frederick travelers as we headed out for the Antietam

National Battlefield Park. We drove through Berryville, Charles Town, Shepherdstown, and Sharpsburg as Sam Kerns and Rick Turner filled us in on the background and events leading up to the bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War. We stopped at the Visitors Center to use the restrooms and watch an excellent film of the battle, using reenactors to bring it to life. Sam collected enough of our NPS passes to cover the admission.

After the film, we walked upstairs to a room with a panoramic view of the battlefield, where a park ranger gave us a thorough explanation of the battle. Afterwards, he posed for a photo with our leaders, Sam and Rick. Then with the help of our driver,



Julie, we

visited the cornfield, Dunker Church, and the "Bloody Lane" or Sunken Road. Sam and Rick, dressed in his Confederate uniform, described the events at each site.

For lunch we left the park and drove to Bonnie's at The Red Byrd. Thanks to Sam, they were expecting us, and we had our meals after a short wait despite



a large crowd of what appeared to be regulars. I enjoyed their special, a catfish platter, and a beer. We paid our checks at the cashier on the way out and shouted our thanks to the cooks through the open kitchen window. They gave us big smiles.

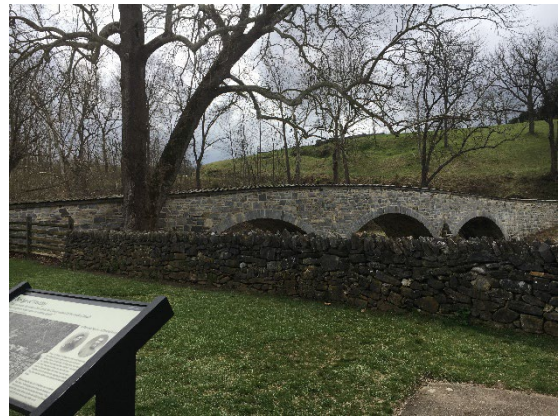


Back in the park, we visited Burnside Bridge, site of the last battle of the day. Some of us chose to walk down to the bridge from the Confederate positions above the bridge, while others took the bus to a level walkway leading to the Union side of the bridge. Antietam Creek was flowing fast and deep under the bridge, thanks to recent heavy rains. We listened as Sam and Rick, now dressed in his Union uniform, described the battle at the bridge. Then we boarded our bus for the short trip to the Bavarian Inn on the other side of the Potomac in Shepherdstown.

The lounge and bar of the Bavarian Inn was a cozy place with a roaring fireplace on a chilly day. We

soon had our beer or wine and snacks, and settled in to discuss the events of the day and life in Lake Frederick. I never cease to be amazed at the talent we have in our community. We lingered a while, but soon it was time to reboard the bus for home. We arrived back at the lodge, tipped and thanked Julie, congratulated Sam and Rick for an outstanding tour, and went our separate ways.

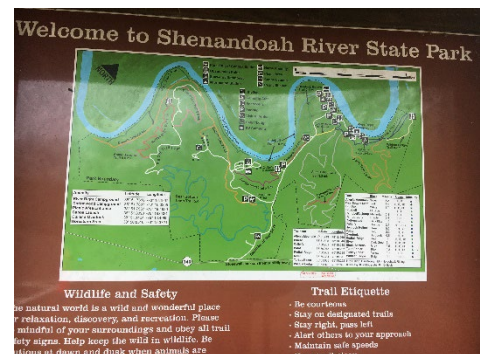
p.s. For those who missed this tour: Widely considered to be one of the most beautiful, pristine, and well-preserved Civil War battlefields, Antietam is a must-see for any Civil War enthusiast. We will return.



Bluebell Walking Tour, April 9, 2024, Trip Report

by George Darnell

A small group of hearty travelers: Wendy Delaney; Marcia Meikrantz; Dick Fonda; and Scott & Trudy Patterson met in the lodge parking lot around noon to carpool to Shenandoah River State Park to hike the Bluebell Trail. The park entrance is on Rt 340 south of Front Royal.





We were surprised to find that the entrance booth was unmanned. After leaving \$10 in a marked envelope and picking up a park map, we proceeded to the park headquarters to get directions to the bluebell along the river. It was on a high bluff with a hiking trail that led down to the river. After speaking to the attendant, we decided to drive to the parking area beside the trail. It was large with plenty of picnic tables, a pavilion, and a clean restroom building beside the river.



The South Fork of the

Shenandoah River is wide at this point, and we could see Massanutten Mountain rising on the other side. Bluebells were everywhere along the river, and we soon found the trail along the river. We explored the loop trail and after an hour or so found ourselves back in the parking lot. Several couples and families had arrived to picnic and enjoy the river. There was a public boat ramp, but we did not see any boats. There was a monument to the dedication of the park in 1999 on the edge of the picnic area.



We took a group photo by the river before leaving the park for a drive through Front Royal back to Lake Frederick. As we drove over Crooked Run we noticed bluebells along the creek. Maybe next year we will take a bluebell hike closer to home.

WHERE IN THE WORLD DO YOU WANT TO GO THIS YEAR?



Trip Ideas for 2024, V8

- May 10—Mosby Heritage Wine Tour #1
- May 20—DC Bible Museum Tour (MTL)
- May 22-25—Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in KY
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- May 24—Mosby Heritage Wine Tour #2
- May 27-Jun 8—Scandinavian Cruise w/Greg
- Jun 7—Endless Caverns, New Market Civil War Museum, Harrisonburg Mennonite Center, Muse Vineyard
- 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 16—Christmas in Old Town Alexandria
- Dec 20—Holiday High Tea at Rosemont Manor

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Trip Registration Deadlines for 2024, V8

- May 1—Mosby Heritage Wine Tour #1
- May 7—Mosby Heritage Wine Tour #2
- May 15—Exploring the Northern Neck; Tides Inn for two nights.
- May 18—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

Mosby Heritage Area Wine Tour #2 May 24, 2024



The first tour was so popular that we added a second one.

Join the Travel Club on Friday, May 24 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.
- 5:0 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 7, 2024**.

George Darnell (703-850-2132) darnellgd@hotmail.com

Endless Caverns, Virginia Civil War Museum, and Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center Tour, June 7



For this trip we travel to the New Market and Harrisonburg areas to visit three outstanding attractions and have lunch at the Southern Kitchen in New Market. On the way home we will stop for wine at <https://musevineyards.com>. We will start with a 75-minute guided tour of Endless Caverns near Massanutten Mountain. The walking tour covers uneven floors and some stairways. It is not recommended for anyone who has limited mobility. The gift shop and grounds are alternatives. Read more on their website [Endless Caverns](https://endlesscaverns.com). Next, we will visit the nearby Virginia Museum of the Civil War, which provides opportunities to reflect upon the Battle of New Market which raged just outside on May 15, 1864. Students from the Virginia Military Institute as young as 15 years old fought in the battle. In addition to museum exhibit galleries, the site features the state-certified Shenandoah Valley Tourist Information Center, an Emmy-winning film, *Field of Lost Shoes* shown every hour, and a 300-acre battlefield park preserving the core areas of the battlefield and historic Bushong Farm. [Virginia Museum Civil War](https://virginiacivilwar.org).

For lunch we will stop at The Southern Kitchen Restaurant in historic New Market, a favorite, known for its good food and hospitality, serving the community since 1955. Hometown folks and visitors find a welcome atmosphere and home cooking that keeps them returning often. The most important thing that Southern Kitchen offers is its American home-style cuisine. From their award-winning peanut soup to their delicious southern fried chicken, Southern Kitchen will leave you satisfied and ready to dive into dessert.

After lunch, we will visit the Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center near Harrisonburg, where our tour begins in the Welcome Center and can include: Shoemaker shop, from the late 1790s; Pre-Civil War log house; Civil War-era brick farmhouse, with washhouse and garden; Blacksmith shop; One room school house, from the early 1900s, later used as meetinghouse for a rural Mennonite congregation; Video overview, providing broad context for who Brethren and Mennonites are, their origins in Europe, and their place in the history of the Shenandoah Valley;

Schedule:

- 8:30 Leave Lodge
- 9:45 Endless Caverns
- 1130 Civil War Museum
- 1:00 Lunch
- 2:15 Brethren & Mennonite Heritage Center
- 4:15 Muse Vineyards
- 600 Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 15 and maximum is 20. Registration is \$60 for transportation and. Tours (~\$50), lunch, 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 29, 2024.

Exploring the Northern Neck of Virginia



A MEMBER OF THE

National Heritage Area System

July 9-11, 2024

[The Northern Neck](#) is an historic peninsula between The Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers from Fredericksburg to the Chesapeake Bay. We will explore this area by bus and spend two nights at the Tides Inn in Irvington.

This three-day tour is limited to 20-24 travelers.

Day 1: Travel by bus to [Ferry Farm](#), boyhood home of George Washington, and then to his [birthplace](#) on the Potomac before lunch at [Wilkinson's Seafood](#). After lunch visit [Stratford Hall](#), home of the Lee family, and then enjoy wine at [Ingleside Winery](#) before checking into [The Tides Inn](#) for dinner and an evening of relaxation at this waterside resort.



Day 2: Morning and breakfast on your own before boarding our bus for historic [Christ's Church](#) and the [Steamboat Era Museum](#) in Irvington. Return to the Tides Inn for lunch and an afternoon of leisure on your own before visiting the [Dog & Oyster Winery](#) in Irvington. Afterwards, return to the Tides Inn for dinner and an evening of leisure on your own.



Day 3: Have an early breakfast before checking out and boarding our bus for [Reedville](#). Stroll by the Victorian homes in this historic fishing village on the Bay before boarding our [cruise boat](#) to [Tangier Island](#). Have lunch and tour this quaint fishing village before returning to Reedville. Board our bus for home and arrive at the Lodge in time for a late dinner or just return to your home.



We will be staying overnight, July 9 & 10, at [The Tides Inn](#), a Forbes recommended waterside resort in Irvington, Virginia. They are offering us special rates on a limited number of two classes of rooms. A deluxe king-bed room, suitable for a single or couple, is \$459 per night, plus taxes and resort fees. A double queen-bed deluxe room, suitable for two singles sharing a room, is \$519 per night plus taxes and resort fees. Meals, drinks, and other resort services may be charged to your room and paid at checkout. Please make your reservation by May 15 by calling 855-420-9316 and identifying yourself as a member of the Lake Frederick Travel Club.

The cost of transportation and all admission fees is \$350 per person. Meals, tastings, and other expenses are not included.

Please register for a room at The Tides Inn (see above) and drop off a \$350 check with the concierge made payable to "Lake Frederick Travel Club" no later than May 15.

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