



# 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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*Vice President*

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Dan Mortland  
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Greg Payonk  
*Cruise & Foreign Travel*

## **JUNE 2025 ISSUE**

### **President's Message**

#### **Welcome to Summer!**

I was glad to see so many of you enjoying our Memorial Day celebration behind the Lodge on May 25<sup>th</sup> and honoring our deceased service men and women at Taps Across America on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Michelle and I also watched the moving celebration of Memorial Day on the National Mall on PBS. It was very well done, with stories of our deceased military veterans. It is one of the highlights and public services done by Public Broadcasting.

#### **May Recap**

It was good to see so many of you at our May 12 Coffee and Cookies meeting. Thanks to Dan and Cheryl Mortland for arranging for our speakers representing Celebrity Cruises. They gave us useful information and handed out some door prizes.

We had a mixed group of newcomers and seasoned Lake Frederick Travelers on our trip to Luray and Shenandoah Caverns with a wine stop on the way home. The weather was perfect and the company cordial. Read the trip report in this issue.

#### **June Club Meeting**

Join the Travel Club for our June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in Rachel's Kitchen at 11:30 a.m. Jeannie Higgins has arranged for Shenandoah Shores Management Group to tell us about the travel services they provide. Jeannie believes that some of our members may be interested in using their services. This will be our usual potluck lunch meeting; so, don't forget your dish.

#### **June Trips**

We have two exciting trips planned for June: the first to Monticello on June 2; and the second to Fredericksburg Battlefields on June 13. Registration for both trips is full, but you can leave a check with the concierge asking to be put on the waiting list.

Since July is a busy month for personal travel, we only have one trip planned: a Fauquier County Wine Tour on July 22, organized and led by Bill Johnson. See the flyer in this issue and register on MTL Events.

#### **August Trips**

We have two planned trips. The first is a Brewery Tour on August 8. And the second is a Wine Tour on August 22nd. See the flyers in this issue and register on MTL Events.

#### **PA Disaster & Railroads, October 15 and 16**

Sam Kerns has this overnight trip ready for registration. See the flyer in this issue and make your hotel reservations and register on MTL Events.

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

See the updated list of trips (V10) in this issue. I could use some help planning the Deep Creek Lake Tour on September 19 and the Loudoun Outlet Mall Shopping Spree on November 14 if anyone is familiar with these areas. This may change again during the year, and more details will be added as we get closer to each trip. 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.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Next Meeting  
Monday, June 9, 2025  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.  
Bring a dish to share!

## **Foreign Travel 2025**

Check out the cruises and land tours that Greg Payonk has scheduled for 2025 and contact him if you need more information. You can find copies in our August Newsletter. You can find our newsletters on our website [Lake Frederick Travel Club](#).

## **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.

I hope to see you around campus and at our June 9 potluck meeting.

**George Darnell, President**

**703-850-2132**

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

## **Luray and Shenandoah Caverns**

**May 19, 2025**

by George Darnell

Sixteen travellers left the Lodge at 8 a.m. in a Shenandoah Shuttle, driven by Julie, and headed for Luray Caverns. As we crossed the bridges over the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River on Routes 522 & 340 into Front Royal we talked about the town's history, name, places to eat, and sites to see. These routes split in Front Royal, with 522 going east of town over Chester Gap, and 340 going west along the South Branch of the Shenandoah, passing the entrances to Shenandoah National Park and Shenandoah State Park. Front Royal may have derived its name from the fact it was on the Indian Frontier of the Royal British Colony of Virginia. They have free summer concerts at the pavilion on Main Street.

We arrived at Luray Caverns about 9 a.m., just as they opened. They are America's largest and most popular caverns. From well-lighted, paved walkways, we explored cathedral-sized rooms with ceilings 10 stories high, filled with towering stone columns and crystal-clear pools, and heard the haunting sounds of the world's only Stalactite Organ creating music of symphonic quality from stone formations. When we finished our tour, we noticed a busload of students arriving; glad we were ahead of them.



After the caverns we explored the grounds, which includes a café and souvenir shop, an antique car museum, a huge evergreen maze, and a small frontier village with a museum of early American artifacts. One of the large buildings, which may have been a schoolhouse, had a café on the lower level, with a covered outdoor seating area. This is where we had lunch, I ordered a generous brisket sandwich with Route 11 chips and a Devils Backbone Vienna Lager served in a souvenir mason jar. Others in our group had similar sandwiches and sides. The cafe had a limited selection of wine and soft drinks. We gathered at tables on the patio to enjoy our lunch and conversations.



Julie picked us up at the entrance to the village and headed our bus to our next stop, Shenandoah Caverns. We drove through Page Valley and over Massanutten Mountain on Route 211 to the town of New Market, where we headed north on I-81. When we arrived at Shenandoah Caverns, a more modest site, they were expecting us and soon took us on a group tour of the caverns, which took about one hour. The tour ended on an upper level, named Main Street USA, with animated storefront displays from a bygone era, and a huge display of goldilocks and the Three Bears. Wow! The main floor of the caverns has an old-fashioned soda fountain, complete with bar stools and tables. I had a vanilla milkshake that took me back to my teens while I waited for the tour to end.



Wolf Gap Vineyard was our last stop. This is not a place you find by accident. After making several turns on country roads west of I-81 and passing two country churches, we found the vineyard. It is a modest winery with indoor and outdoor seating and a broad selection of wines. The two attendants welcomed us and explained our options. We soon made our selections and gathered around tables inside and outside to enjoy wine and conversation. All too soon, Bill Johnson (pictured here) reminded us it was time to leave if we were to remain on schedule. We returned our trays and glasses, thanked our attendants, boarded the bus and headed home.

Julie's GPS surprised me by taking us to the Lord Fairfax exit rather than I-66. It was a better choice, and we were soon back at the Lodge. We tipped Julie, said our goodbyes, and headed home. Another successful trip!

## Trip Ideas for 2025, V10

- Jun 2—Monticello, Michie Tavern Lunch, & Pippin Hill Vineyard Tour
- Jun 13—Fredericksburg Area Civil War Battlefields Tour w/Lunch
- Jul 21—Fauquier County Wine Tour
- Aug 7-21—Norwegian Fjords & Artic Circle Cruise w/Greg Payonk
- Aug 8—Summer Brewery Tour
- Aug 22—Summer Wine Tour
- Sep 19—Deep Creek Lake Tour
- Sep 29—Oktoberfest Bridges & Breweries Tour
- Oct 15-16—Pennsylvania Disasters & Trains Tour
- Oct 23—Potomac Eagle Train Ride
- Nov 14—Outlet Mall Shopping Spree & Wine Tour
- Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with Greg Payonk
- Dec 13—Wreaths Across America in Winchester
- Dec 19—Christmas at Mount Vernon

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

## Fauquier County Wine Tour

July 21, 2025



Fauquier County is home to a diverse collection of award-winning wine makers. Located on the same latitude as Napa and southern Italy, a large variety of grapes can be grown providing the wine enthusiast with world class flavors and bouquets. All the wineries being visited today have cheese and charcuterie plates for purchase, and Naked Mountain also has a selection of sandwiches, or you are welcome to bring your own food to enjoy outside. Barrel Oak also has a brewery for those who might be interested in that.

### Schedule:

- 10:15 Check in at the Lodge
- 10:30 Leave the Lodge
- 11:05 Arrive at Slater's Run Vineyards, Upperville
- 12:30 Depart
- 1:00 Arrive at Naked Mountain Winery, Markham
- 2:30 Depart
- 2:45 Arrive at Barrel Oak Winery & Brewery, Delaplane
- 4:15 Leave
- 5:00 Arrive at the Lodge (approximately)

*All times are approximate and subject to change 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 **July 14, 2025**.

## Summer Brewery Tour - August 8, 2025



Some of these breweries were closed for our St. Patrick's Day Tour because it was a Monday. We will attempt again on Friday. Our area is home to many popular breweries. For this trip we have selected three not far from Lake Frederick. Our first stop will be Chilly Hollow Brewing Company [Lake Frederick Travel Club](#) a new craft brewery located on the rolling hills of an operating cattle farm near Berryville, Virginia. It offers beer crafted on site by an award-winning brewmaster as well as local wine, cider, bar food, and grass-fed beef raised right in the brewhouse's backyard.



Our second stop, Bluemont Station Brewery & Winery, offers craft beer, local wine, and a variety of food in a colonial mansion setting near Bluemont, Virginia, on the east side of the Blue Ridge. Visit their Facebook page for more information.



Lost Barrel Brewing, a favorite of the Middleburg crowd is our third stop. It is a large facility with a variety of food and drink with indoor and outdoor seating [Lake Frederick Travel Club](#).

If we have time we may revisit Twisted Oak Brewery in nearby White Post. This is a recent startup with a limited selection of beers to try. Who knows, it might become our local favorite. [Lake Frederick Travel Club](#).

### Schedule:

- 11:15 Leave Lodge.
- 12:00 Chilly Hollow Brewing Company
- 1:15 Leave
- 1:30 Bluemont Station Brewery & Winery
- 2:45 Leave
- 3:00 Lost Barrel Brewing
- 4:15 Leave
- 5:00 Twisted Oak Brewery
- 5:45 Leave
- 6:00 Arrive Lodge



**Minimum for this trip is 14 and maximum is 24.** Registration is \$60 for transportation. 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 **July 31, 2025.**

## Summer Wine Tour - August 22, 2025



What better way to celebrate summer than to enjoy a glass of wine on the grounds of one of our neighborhood vineyards. For this trip we have selected three great vineyards in our own backyard, so to speak. We will start with Valerie Hill near Stephens City, then move to James Charles Vineyard near Winchester, and end at Veramar Vineyard near Berryville.

### Summer Wine Tour Schedule:

- 11:15 a.m. Check in at Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. Leave Lodge
- 12:00 p.m. Arrive Valerie Hill Vineyard
- 1:30 p.m. Depart
- 2:00 p.m. Arrive James Charles Vineyards
- 3:30 p.m. Depart
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive Veramar Vineyards
- 5:30 p.m. Depart
- 6:00 p.m. Arrive Lodge



**Minimum for this trip is 12 and the maximum is 18.** Registration is \$60 for transportation. Food, wine, and driver's tip are not included.

Please 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, with the lodge concierge no later than **August 12, 2025.**

## Pennsylvania Disasters & Railroads Tour October 15 and 16, 2025

Join the Travel Club for this exciting two-day tour of Pennsylvania Disasters and Railroads arranged by Sam Kerns. As a bonus, it may be the peak for fall foliage in the beautiful Allegheny Mountains. Cost \$175 for the bus and entrance fees. Meals and room are not included. Special discounted room rate of \$165.39 at newly remodeled Hampton Inn of Altoona (see details on the next page).



### Day 1 - October 15

- Check in at Lodge at **8:00 a.m.**
- Depart Lodge at 8:15 a.m.
- Visit Flight 93 Memorial, an experience you will not forget.
- Lunch at the Coal Miner's Daughter Diner
- Visit Johnstown Flood National Memorial, see and learn how the 1899 flood destroyed Johnstown.
- Dinner at Champs Sports Bar or Cracker Barrel (both in the same parking lot as the Hampton)
- Overnight Stay at Hampton in Altoona. For the special

discounted rate. Call 814-9411-3500 or use the link: [Lake Frederick Travel Club](#).

### Day 2 - October 16

- **8:30 a.m.** Depart Hampton Inn Parking Lot
- Visit Allegheny Portage Railroad, Includes the Lemon House and features how canal boats traversed the Allegheny Mountains.
- Visit World Famous Horseshoe Curve Where we take a very short ride on a funicular up to the main line.
- Lunch at Al's Tavern in Altoona
- Visit Railroaders Memorial Museum (Altoona is on the mainline) A museum dedicated to the men and women who built the railroads.
- Dinner at the Jean Bonnet Tavern in Bedford (founded in 1779)
- 10:00 p.m. Arrive Lodge (The Tavern is 101 miles or 2 hours from Lake Frederick)



**Minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 18.** Registration is \$175 for transportation and admissions. Food, drinks, lodging, and driver tip are not included. See above for hotel registration information. 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**.

For additional information see the Bulletin on MTL posted by Sam Kerns.