



# 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*

## DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE

### President's Message

#### Thanksgiving

I hope everyone had a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends. I know many of you travelled and I hope your journey was safe and stress-free. The news reports on TV made it look like this year was stressful for many. Michelle and I celebrated at home with the Thanksgiving carryout from Regions 117 and enjoyed the parades on TV. I guess we are showing our age.

#### November Trips

The only trip we had scheduled for November was a Ghost Walk in Winchester. It was a disappointment. Read the trip report in this issue. November was an exciting month around the Lodge with the Marine Corps Birthday celebration in the Event Center and the Veterans Day Ceremony on the lawn. It was great connecting with so many of our neighbors. Oh yes, and there was the standing room only HOA meeting in the Event Center. It seems like the only good news was that we are financially sound.

#### Schedule of trips updated

It is hard to believe that our 2024 travel year is winding down. We have a few trips left and room on a few. In December we were going to team with the Lake Frederick Veterans Association to have a tour of the Quantico Marine Corps Museum on December 10. But it turned out that the Lodge scheduled the Holiday party for the same date. So, we cancelled the trip. It will be rescheduled for next year.

All other trips are still scheduled. The Holiday Tea at Rosemont Manor is sold out and Chris Oxford has notified everyone who is confirmed. We still have room on the bus for the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Winchester National Cemetery. Sign up on MTL Events and write a check for \$15. The Holiday Walking Tour of Old Town Alexandria with dinner at the Warf is confirmed. We still have a few seats if you hurry.

For our December 9<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting we will purchase beer and wine from the Lodge. So, we are asking that you register on MTL and bring \$5.00 to the meeting to cover the cost. Also bring your favorite holiday dish to share. As of November 27, only 12 members have registered. So, it may be a small meeting with only a few bottles of wine and beer.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting  
Monday, December 9, 2024  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.  
Please 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. ([August Newsletter](#)) If you want more information on our Ireland Trip, see our November Newsletter. You can find all this year's newsletters on our website [2024 Newsletters](#).

### Planning for 2025

See our list of trips planned for 2025 in this issue. Bring your ideas to our meetings or send them to me if you can't make the meeting. We will continue to support and advertise Shenandoah Tours in Staunton, but we will not include selected trips in our list of trips for 2025. We will kick off the year with a trip to Luray and Shenandoah Caverns on Jan. 20.

George Darnell, President

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### **Trip Registration Procedure Clarification**

We continue to have trouble with the registration process for our trips. This makes it difficult for our treasurer, Gary McDowell, to sort out who registered and when. Please remember the following:

1. Travel Club trips are not added to MTL Events until they have been announced to members in a newsletter. Registration is NOT open until posted on MTL Events.
2. Register on MTL Events for trips you want to take. That gives us an idea of how registration is going.
3. Write a check made out to the Lake Frederick Travel Club and give it to the concierge after you register online. Do not wait to see if the trip is confirmed. We will destroy your check if the trip is cancelled.

## **WINCHESTER GHOST WALK      NOVEMBER 15, 2024**

By George Darnell

What a disappointment! Seven Lake Frederick travellers drove to Old Town Winchester expecting to meet our guide at the Handley Library at 8:00 p.m. We arrived a little early and waited on the front porch and steps of the house with the big apple pictured here.



Then we crossed the street to the Handley Library, where we met a couple from Winchester who were also going on the walk. Soon a car pulled up and parked beside the library. But, instead of the woman pictured here, whom we were expecting, a man got out of the car. He explained that the tour guide was sick and had sent him to fill in. He took our \$20 cash fee and directed us to the steps of the darkened library, where he proceeded to read from typed notes about the history of the library and why Judge John Handley had left \$250,000 in his will to build a library in Winchester. He struggled to read from his script about the history of the library and the strange apparitions that people had experienced.

Finally, we crossed the street to the house with the big apple. It is now a high-end gift and clothing store, but during the Civil War a Union General had evicted a family from the house because his wife wanted to live there. It had a sad history and some ghosts of its own. The better lighting helped our guide with his script, but he was still struggling.



Next, we crossed Braddock Street and proceeded to a large house with a wrought iron fence that had served as a hospital during the Civil War. Our guide continued to try to tell us its history and gory stories, but it was painful to listen to him. When he tried to move the group down Piccadilly Street to the next stop, the Lake Frederick folks decided that we had enough and returned to our cars.



The next day, the regular tour guide sent us an email apologizing for the evening and offering us a free tour at a time of our choosing. We decided to let each person make their own arrangements with her, rather than try to schedule another group tour. Yale and Erica Lewis, who were on the tour with us, may try to get the guide to speak to the History Club about Old Town Winchester history.

The best laid plans of mice and men, etc.

## Trip Ideas for 2024, V15

- Dec 5—Holiday Tea at Rosemont Manor (Sold Out)
- Dec 10—Quantico Marine Corps Museum Tour (CANCELLED)
- Dec 14—Wreaths Across America Laying Ceremony in Winchester
  - Dec 16—Christmas in Old Town Alexandria

## Trip Ideas for 2025, V3

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|--|--|
| • Jan 20—Luray, & Shenandoah Caverns Tour                        | • Jul Fauquier County Wine Tour                                  |
| • Feb—Wine & Chocolates Pairing                                  | • Aug 7-21—Norwegian Fjords & Arctic Circle Cruise w/Greg Payonk |
| • Mar—St. Patrick's Brewery Crawl                                | • Aug—Wine & Beer Tours  |
| • Mar 31—Cherry Blossom Lunch Cruise on the Potomac (confirmed)  | • Sep—Lexington Upper Valey Tour                                 |
| • April—Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party                         | • Sep—Outlet Mall Shopping Spree                                 |
| • Apr 20—Easter  | • Sep—Oktoberfest Beer Tour                                      |
| • Apr 28—Battle of Balls Bluff w/Lunch & Wine                    | • Oct 15-16—Pennsylvania Disaster and Trains Tour                |
| • May 2-11—Globus Land Tour: Budapest to Prague with Greg Payonk | • Oct 23—Fall Colors Lunch Cruise on Smith Mountain Lake         |
| • May 30-Jun 9—Trip to Ireland (confirmed)                       | • Dec—Christmas at Mount Vernon                                  |
| • Jun—Monticello & Wine Tour                                     | • Dec 3-5—Christmas in Williamsburg VA                           |
| • Jun 5-6—Fredericksburg Area Civil War Battlefields Tour        | • Dec 4-18—Seaboard Antarctica Exploration with Greg Payonk      |
|  | • Dec 13—Wreaths Across America in Winchester                    |

**Wreaths Across America:  
Winchester National  
Cemetery  
Saturday, December 14,  
2024; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
\$15 for bus transportation &  
Sponsor at least 3 wreaths**

Thanks to Peggy Sabato's initiative, the Travel Club is joining several groups in Lake Frederick, including the Veterans Association, in sponsoring "Wreaths Across America" in Winchester National Cemetery on Saturday, December 14. Please sponsor at least three wreaths and we will provide bus transportation to the wreath laying ceremony.

Everyone loves to sponsor and lay wreaths at Arlington, but the smaller local National Cemeteries, like Winchester, are often overlooked. I hope you will join your neighbors and me in sponsoring at least three wreaths. The website and more information along with how you can also support local organizations involved in the ceremony. at [Wreaths Across America](https://www.wreathsalong.com/)

Please indicate that you would like your wreath to go to the Winchester, VA, National Cemetery (VAWNCW). Thank you so much for supporting Winchester National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America!



**The deadline for online sponsorship is Nov 27, 2024**

**Schedule:**

- 10:00 Bus leaves lodge
- 10:30 Arrive Winchester National Cemetery
- 11:00 Volunteers lay wreaths
- 12:00 Ceremony begins.
- 1:00 Board bus
- 1:15 Arrive 50-50 Tap House for lunch
- 2:30 Board bus
- 3:00 Arrive lodge.

Minimum for this trip is 10 and maximum is 24. Registration is \$15 for transportation. Lunch and driver 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 Noon Dec 1, 2024.

George Darnell

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## Old Town Alexandria Christmas Walking Tour Dec 16, 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, we will have an early dinner at The Wharf before meeting our guide and beginning our walking tour around the Cobblestone streets to historic sites

Alexandria is so close to D.C. that it used to be a part of the federal district, yet it manages to feel as it belongs to another world ... another era. Home to one of the oldest historic districts in America, Alexandria boasts a heavy dose of colonial charm. Wander the streets decorated for the holiday spirit to learn about Alexandria!

From its founding in 1749, you'll learn about this pre-Revolutionary home where George Washington worshiped and occasionally stayed, Robert E. Lee grew up, and other stories of this historic town.

### **Sights we see or talk about on the Old Town Alexandria Walking Tour:**

- Market Square
- Carlyle House
- Gadsby's tavern
- Secret Garden Walkways
- Christ Church (pictured)
- and more

We will discuss the history and development of this old town.

### **Schedule:**

- 3:00 Bus leaves Lodge
- 5:00 Dinner at The Warf (Not Included)
- 7:00 Meet guide and begin walking tour.
- 9:00 Board bus for ride home.
- 11:00 Arrive Lodge

**The minimum for this trip is 14 and maximum is 25.**

Registration is \$90 for transportation and guided walking tour. Dinner, 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 **Dec 1, 2024.**

George Darnell

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## Luray and Shenandoah Caverns Trip

**Jan 20, 2025**

The Shenandoah Valley is home to many beautiful caverns. For this trip we will visit two of them and top off the day with a trip to a vineyard.

We will explore eastern America's largest and most popular caverns. Luray Caverns is a US Natural Landmark noted for the profuse variety of formation and unsurpassed natural color. From well-lighted, paved walkways explore cathedral-sized rooms with ceilings 10 stories high, filled with towering stone columns and crystal-clear pools. Also hear the haunting sounds of the world's only Stalactite Organ creating music of symphonic quality from stone formations.

In addition, we can experience the history of America at the Car & Carriage Caravan Museum in an exhibit featuring over 140 items relating to transportation including cars, carriages and coaches dating from 1725, along with the Shenandoah Heritage Village, a collection of restored historic buildings creating a small 19th farming community including the Luray Valley Museum showcasing artifacts from the 1750's to the 1920's. We can have lunch at the Hard Times Café on site before visiting Shenandoah Caverns.



Shenandoah Caverns has been thrilling for visitors for almost 100 years. Explore a world of breathtaking natural wonders, incredible geology and extraordinary crystalline formations waiting to be admired and photographed. You'll be delighted by soaring rooms like Long View Hall. And you'll be amazed at the variety of unique, intricate and unexpected formations like Capitol Dome, Diamond Cascade & Rainbow Lake. Also see our other attractions: American Celebration on Parade (open seasonally), Main Street of Yesteryear, and the Yellow Barn.

Our final stop will be Wolf Gap Vineyard, which we missed on our Fall Colors trip in 2024.

### Schedule:

- 7:45 a.m. Check in at Lodge
- 8:00 a.m. Depart Lodge
- 9:00 a.m. Arrive Luray Caverns
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Depart
- 2:00 p.m. Arrive Shenandoah Caverns
- 3:30 p.m. Depart
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive Wolf Gap Vineyard
- 5:00 p.m. Depart
- 6:00 p.m. Arrive Lodge

- Admission to Luray Caverns is \$34 all inclusive.
- Admission to Shenandoah Caverns is \$29.
- \$60 covers round-trip bus transportation.
- Admissions, lunch, wine tasting, and driver's tip are additional expenses.

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

**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 date of the trip, with the lodge concierge no later than January 13, 2025.**

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