



Newsletter

WWW.LAKEFREDERICKTRAVELCLUB.COM

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

2026 Committee

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Doc Holladay
Vice President

Nanci Bowers
Treasurer

Cindy Holmes
Membership Coordinator

Nanci Bowers
Newsletter Coordinator

Pam Toliver
Website Coordinator

Dan Mortland
Program Director

Greg Payonk
Cruise & Foreign Travel

JULY 2026 ISSUE

President's Message

Happy Anniversary USA!

I hope you had a chance to celebrate Father's Day and are planning to celebrate the 4th of July with family and friends. I still remember parking at the Pentagon and watching the D.C. fireworks with my family from the Virginia banks of the Potomac River. These days, Michell and I watch the celebration on PBS. Hopefully, she will be home from Lynn Care Rehab in Front Royal by the Fourth for us to do it this year. Many thanks for your prayers, cards, and emails wishing us well.

June Trips

Bill Johnson led a trip to Monticello, Michie Tavern, and Blue Quartz Winery on June 4, 2026. Read the trip report in this issue. Bill, our early American historian and wine enthusiast, was also planning to lead a repeat of our pre-Covid Frontier Heritage Tour in June. Unfortunately, we did not meet our minimum registration for this trip, and we had to cancel it. Bill may consider offering it again this fall.

July and August Trips

We have three great trips scheduled for the summer.

In July, a summer winery tour (July 10), and a trail ride with brewery lunch in Front Royal (July 24). The August Harper's Ferry tour (August 24) is sold out but you can add your name to a "Waitlist" by contacting the Treasurer, Nanci Bowers, at bowers647@verizon.net (if space(s) become available she will notify you on first come first notified basis).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
July 13, 2026
Rachel's Kitchen
(Potluck)
11:30 a.m.

September Gettysburg Motor Coach Trip

Sam Kerns and Rick Turner will be leading their popular tour of Gettysburg on September 16 using a Varsity Motor Coach with onboard restroom. See the trip announcement in this issue and register on MTL Events.

Trip Ideas for 2026 Updated

We try to project our trips for the year on our Trip Ideas page in each newsletter to help you plan. Trip details or cancellations will be included in newsletters throughout the year. Trip registration is not open until a trip's details are included in a newsletter and we have posted it on MTL Events. See our [Trip Ideas](#) for the remainder of

2026 in this issue. 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.

We will include Sam Kerns' Pennsylvania Disasters and Railroads overnight trip on October 13 and 14 using a Varsity motor coach. Watch for future details.

Trip Ideas for 2027

It's not too early to think about our trips for 2027. I am thinking about repeating some of our most popular trips from past years. If you have any favorites, you would like us to repeat, or an idea for something new, let me know.

Shenandoah Tours

We will return to using Shenandoah Tours for some of our trips. See the selection of trips that Doc Holiday made in this issue.

Registering for Travel Club Trips

If you have any trouble registering for our trips the Lodge Concierge should be able to help you. This includes club members who are not MTL members and family and friends travelling with a club member. Or send Nanci Bowers, Treasurer, an email or text with questions at bowers647@verizon.net – 703-832-6925. We do not post our trips on MTL Events for registration until they have been announced in our newsletter. Your registration is not confirmed until our treasurer has your check.

Website Manager Needed – Please Consider Volunteering!

Pam Toliver has done an outstanding job designing and maintaining our club website since the Travel Club was founded. The website includes all our newsletters and serves as the club's historical archive. Because of family obligations, Pam is no longer able to continue in this role. If you have basic computer skills, Pam can provide the training needed to take over the website. Please contact Pam or me if you are willing to help.

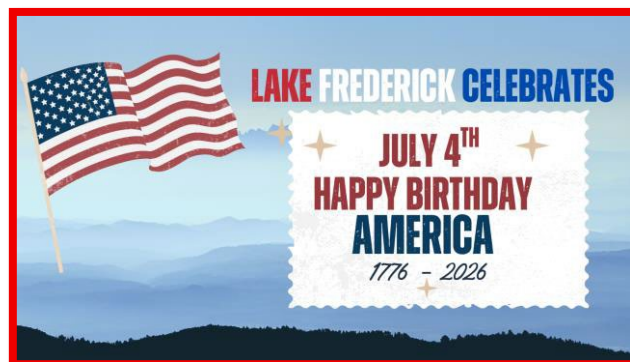
July 13th Meeting

Join us for our July 13 lunch meeting in Rachel's Kitchen from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we will have representatives of Frederick County Parks and Recreation telling us about their trips and activities and how we can join them (see the flyer on the next page). Don't forget your dish to share. *See you around campus and at our monthly meeting*

George Darnell, President

703-850-2132

darnellgd@hotmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**LAKE FREDERICK TRAVEL CLUB
HOSTS A PRESENTATION
BY
FREDERICK COUNTY PARKS
& RECREATION**

**MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026
11:30 A.M.
RACHEL'S KITCHEN**

(DURING THE TRAVEL CLUB MONTHLY MEETING & POTLUCK LUNCH)

- **A SHORT PRESENTATION ON 55+ ACTIVITIES/TRIPS**
 - **PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO LAKE FREDERICK RESIDENTS**
 - **OPEN DISCUSSION:**
 - **-YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS**
 - **-DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE TRANSPORTATION PICK UP OPTION AT LAKE FREDERICK FOR EVENTS OR TRIPS ***
- (PLANNING)**

**QUESTIONS CONTACT: GEORGE DARNELL DARNELLGD@HOTMAIL.COM
OR CATHY BERLOW CATHY.BERLOW@GMAIL.COM**

Monticello, Lunch & Winery Tour - June 4, 2026, Trip Report

By: **Bill Johnson**

Photo Credits: Nanci Bowers and Jane Symionow

It was a beautiful summer day as 15 of us boarded a bus to visit Thomas Jefferson's home of Monticello, have lunch nearby and then visit a winery on the way home. Everyone arrived well before departure time and we managed to leave about 10 minutes early, which was fortunate as we encountered an accident on our way south, which thankfully turned out to be the only upset on the trip.



We arrived at Monticello only a few minutes later than planned, but in plenty of time to board the complimentary shuttle at the Visitor Center than would take us to the house. Construction on the house began in the late 1760s or early 1770s, and much was redesigned in 1784 after Jefferson returned from serving as Minister to France where he fell in love with their architecture.



After taking a guided tour of the house, we had a little time to explore the grounds, including having a special visit by Mr. Jefferson himself who gave us some thoughts on where the young United States stood in 1826.



Trivia Question: Where can you find the image of this building on a commonly used item. (Answer provided on July 13th at the Travel Club Monthly Meeting)



After too short a time to enjoy all that Monticello offered, we returned to the Visitor Center to reboard the bus and travel a half mile down the road to Michie Tavern, which has been in existence since 1784.

The Tavern only offers a buffet lunch consisting of fried and roasted chicken, black-eyed peas, Southern style green beans, coleslaw, pickled beets, mashed potatoes, gravy, biscuits and cornbread. Peach cobbler and a few other specialties are offered for dessert.



After an enjoyable lunch, we reboarded the bus and headed back north, stopping off midway at the Blue Quartz Winery and Brewery, located near Madison. Open only 7 years, this winery serves some excellent wines, both red and white, as well as a few beers. *(Pictured on the right a photograph of Blue Quartz vineyard on rolling hills under a clear blue sky, showing rows of grape vines).*



The tasting room was decorated with quilts and other locally produced art, making for a very pleasant and inviting ambiance, though most of us sat outside to enjoy the view of the vineyard. As we had missed a turn in Charlottesville on our way to the winery and lost a few minutes, we extended our stay there so that no one would feel rushed.



Reboarding the bus the final time we arrived back at the Lodge a little before 6 p.m.

TRIP IDEAS 2026, VERSION 13

JULY

- 10--Summer Wine Tour
- 24--Trail Ride & Brewery Lunch

AUGUST

- 14--Harpers Ferry Tour

SEPTEMBER

- 16--Gettysburg Tour

OCTOBER

- 13-14--PA Disasters & Railroads Overnight Trip
- 30--Sperryville & Little Washington Tour

NOVEMBER

- 13--Fall Wine Tour

DECEMBER

- 12--Wreaths Across America
- 17--Candlelight Christmas at Mount Vernon

Summer Wine Tour - July 10, 2026

This tour will take us to three wineries in nearby Fauquier County.

Our first stop will be the popular winery off Rout 17, Mediterranean Cellars. It is a boutique winery with excellent wines in an old-world atmosphere. This will be our first visit.

Our second stop will be Gray Ghost Vineyards on Route 211 headed toward Sperryville. Its manor house has colonial charm, and it is one of the oldest vineyards in the county. We are also visiting them for the first time.



Our last stop, Philip Carter Winery, sits on a ridge with views of the east side of the Blue Ridge. They have a large outdoor area with seating and games for children and adults. Their wine and food are also excellent. We have visited them a few times before.



Schedule

- 11:00 a.m. Gather in Lodge
- 11:15 Leave Lodge
- 12:00 Noon Arrive Mediterranean Cellars
- 1:45 Leave
- 2:15 Arrive Gray Ghost Vineyard
- 4:00 Leave
- 4:30 Arrive Philip Carter Winery
- 6:00 Leave
- 6:30 Arrive Lodge

Minimum for this trip is 10 and maximum is 15.

Registration is \$60.00 for transportation. Food, tastings, and driver's tip are not included.

Register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, payable to "[Lake Frederick Travel Club.](#)" Please include your contact information, the name and date of the trip, with the Lodge Concierge representative **No Later than July 5, 2026.** The Travel Club Treasurer will confirm receipt of your check.

Contact George Darnell (703-850-2132) darnellgd@hotmail.com regarding questions about this trip.

Trail Ride & Brewery Lunch - July 24, 2026



Join the Lake Frederick Travel Club for an exciting trail ride at Royal Horseshoe Farm in the Shenandoah Valley followed by lunch at nearby Vibrissa Brewery

About Royal Horseshoe Farm in Front Royal:

- Our trails pass through the Shenandoah Valley's rich meadows, woods, and hills.



- You can ride across Manassas Run, pass the old cannon emplacements that used to guard Morgan's Ford, visit the old barns that used to hold US Cavalry ponies, and see the house where George Washington stayed when he was a young man surveying for Lord Fairfax.
- One or more trail guides lead each ride. Riding experiences range from gentle pastures to wide sloping trails, crossing small or medium sized streams, and even some trails that are narrow, windy, wooded and steep.

About Vibrissa Brewery

- After visiting historic Front Royal, hiking the Appalachian Trail, or taking in the views of [Shenandoah National Park](#), or even floating down the Shenandoah River, stop by our brewery on Main Street for great food and beer served to you in a full-service restaurant.
- We can't wait to have a beer with you!

Schedule:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| • 9:00 a.m. | Meet at the Lodge |
| • 9:15 | Leave Lodge |
| • 9:30 | Arrive Royal Horseshoe for fitting |
| • 10:30 | Begin Trail Ride |
| • 11:30 | End Trail Ride |
| • 12:00 Noon | Lunch at Vibrissa Brewery |
| • 2:00 p.m. | Tour Main Street Front Royal on your own |
| • 3:00 | Board bus |
| • 3:30 | Arrive Lodge |



Minimum for this trip is 10 and maximum is 15.

Registration is \$100.00 for transportation and trail ride. Lunch, trail guide and driver tips are not included. Please wear comfortable and sturdy clothes and shoes for the trail ride.

Register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, payable to "[Lake Frederick Travel Club](#)." Please include your contact information, the name and date of the trip, with the Lodge Concierge representative **No Later than July 19, 2026**. The Travel Club Treasurer will confirm receipt of your check.

[Contact George Darnell](#) (703-850-2132) darnellgd@hotmail.com regarding questions about this trip.

Harpers Ferry, WV, Tour - August 14, 2026

Nestled in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is a must visit destination for anyone looking to explore America's past in a picturesque natural setting. Sitting at the junction of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, and bordered by Virginia and Maryland, Harpers Ferry has been a strategic and majestic site since the time of Washington and Jefferson, who visited here often.

For this trip, our leader, Mike Ericksen, has arranged for a professional tour guide to board our bus and show us around this historic area. After the guided tour we will



have time to explore on our own before meeting our bus to travel to "The Rabbit Hole" for lunch overlooking the railway station. Following lunch, we will travel to Harpers Ferry Brewery for stunning views of Harpers Ferry from Bolivar Heights while sipping a cool beverage in this popular watering hole. Then we will take the scenic ride back to Lake Frederick. Bring your National Park Service Senior Pass or cash for entrance to the park.

Schedule

- 8:15 a.m. Meet at the Lodge
- 8:30 Bus Departs from the Lodge
- 9:30 Meet professional guide at Harpers Ferry Historical National Park Visitor Center
- 9:30 - 12:00 Tour by bus historical museums and points of interest around Harpers Ferry
- 12:00 Noon Lunch and group photo at "The Rabbit Hole" followed by free time to visit shops, walk the footbridge over the river, revisit historical sites, etc.
- 2:30 p.m. Board bus and depart Harpers Ferry
- 3:00 Arrive Harpers Ferry Brewery
- 4:30 Depart
- 5:30 Arrive Lodge

Sold Out!

**Join Our Wait List. Contact the Treasurer
Nanci Bowers at Bowers647@verizon.net
To be Contacted If Space(s) Becomes Available**

The minimum for this trip is 16 and maximum is 24

Registration is \$60.0 for transportation. Lunch, purchases, tips for the guide and driver are not included.

Register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, payable to "[Lake Frederick Travel Club.](#)"

Please include your contact information, the name and date of the trip, with the Lodge Concierge representative **No Later than August 8, 2026.** The Travel Club Treasurer will confirm receipt of your check.

[Contact George Darnell](#) (703-850-2132) darnellgd@hotmail.com regarding questions about this trip.

Gettysburg Battlefield Bus Tour - September 16, 2026

If you have always wanted to learn more about Gettysburg—the largest battle ever fought in North America—join two of our own Gettysburg enthusiasts, Sam Kerns and Rick Turner, for a day trip to the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg National Military Park. We will follow Robert E. Lee's route to the battlefield while learning about the Gettysburg Campaign, including events that took place in our own backyard. Our time on the battlefield will provide an overview of the battle, along with interesting stories about some of the 165,000 participants.



We make several stops on the battlefield and walking is over paved walkways.

Schedule

- 7:45 a.m. Check in at Lodge
- 8:00 Depart the lodge. Sam and Rick will present material on the way.
- 9:30 Rest Stop at the Sheetz in Chambersburg, Pa; then on to Gettysburg Battlefield
 - **Stop 1:** The Eternal Light (Day 1 of Battle)
 - **Stop 2:** Lee Monument (Days 2 and 3)
 - **Stop 3:** Lunch at the Appalachian Brewery located on the battlefield, Menu and beer selection can be found at <abcbrew.com/battlefield>.
 - **Stop 4:** Little Round Top (newly renovated) (Day 2)
 - **Stop 5:** Short walk to Joshua Chamberlain's 20th Maine battle line (right down the hill from the summit of Little Round Top)
 - **Stop 6:** First Minnesota Regiment Monument (Final stop of Day 2)
 - **Stop 7:** Short walk to The Angle (Pickett's Charge Day 3) High-water mark of the Confederacy
- 4:15 p.m. Return home with rest stop just south of Gettysburg at the Mason/Dixon Welcome Center
- 6:15 Return to lodge.

The minimum for this trip is 32 and maximum is 50

Registration is **\$60.0** for transportation (**Varsity Motor Coach (Restroom on Bus)**).

Lunch, purchases, tips for the guide and driver are not included.

Register on MTL Events and drop off your registration check, payable to "[Lake Frederick Travel Club.](#)" Please include your contact information, the name and date of the trip, with the Lodge Concierge representative **No Later than August 31, 2026.** The Travel Club Treasurer will confirm receipt of your check.

George Darnell (703-850-2132) darnellgd@hotmail.com or **Sam Kerns** kernss64@gmail.com

Calendar of Shenandoah Tours Trips for 2026, V11



Sep 14-17 – Niagara Falls “Moments to Remember” by motor coach. 4 Days/3 Nights/ 4 Meals; \$1029 pp double/\$1419 single; Deposit \$100 pp. (Page 11) Contact: Shenandoah Tours.	Nov 27-30 – A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel by motor coach. 4 Days/3 Nights/ 2 Meals; \$1499 pp double/\$1999 single; Deposit \$150 pp. (Page 43) Contact: Shenandoah Tours.
Sep 23-29 – Iceland “Land of Fire and Ice.” 7 Days/6 Nights/7 Meals; \$4618 double/\$6377 single; Deposit \$699 pp. (Page 33) Contact: Shenandoah Tours.	Dec 1-3 – Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate by motor coach. 3 Days/2 Nights/4 Meals; \$979 pp double/\$ 1099 single; Deposit \$100 pp. (Page 44) Contact: Shenandoah Tours.
Nov 18-20 – Magical Smokey Mountain Christmas by motor coach. 3 Days/2 Nights/3 Meals; \$709 pp double/\$879 single; Deposit \$100 pp. (Page 42) Contact: Shenandoah Tours.	Dec 8-10 – Virginia’s Festival of Lights by motor coach. 3 Days/2 Nights/4 Meals; \$819 pp double/\$999 single; Deposit \$100 pp. (Page 46) Contact: Shenandoah Tours.

NOTE: For Shenandoah motor coach tours, we need a minimum of 8 people for pick up in Lake Frederick. Otherwise, pick up is at Routes 522 & 50 in the Red Roof Inn parking lot.