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

2022 Committee

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September 2022 ISSUE

Message from the President, George Darnell

August was a traumatic month. We learned of the death of our friend and favorite driver, Gary Clark of Classy Cowboy vans. He died in Winchester Hospital of pancreatic cancer shortly after he and his wife, Lynda, returned from a vacation on the Outer Banks. Lynda is devastated and staying with friends until she gets things sorted out. She is honoring all existing commitments for transportation but is not taking any new requests. She is planning a "Celebration of Life" reception on November 26 because Thanksgiving was Gary's favorite season. If you would like to attend or help Lynda with the cost, please contact me.

Another traumatic event was trying to find another source of transportation for our trips. A neighbor, Janet Clark (no relation) of the Ladies of the Lake, recommended Virginia Rides in Purcellville. After some false starts we finally connected and reserved their 28-passenger deluxe van for our Potomac Eagle train ride on October 24. They charge by the hour rather than by the person, making pricing our trips more difficult. But I figured 28 would be more than enough to handle the train ride.

I figured wrong! Thanks to my email blast and a bulletin on MTL, Gary McDowell, our treasurer and registrar, was swamped with checks, more than two months before the trip. What to do? I had visions of crosses burning in my front yard and angry neighbors marching in the streets. Did Virginia Rides have another bus? Yes – but no driver. A larger bus? Yes -- a school bus, but not really suitable for 55+ Active Adults. Folks were cancelling and making arrangements to take the train on their own with neighbors.

What to do; what to do? Should we schedule a second day and hope we could get the 25 minimum for a group rate? Remember the old system diagrams of the

60's and 70's that had a little box between Input and Output with the words "Magic Happens Here?" Well, it does! When I mentioned our problem to Steve, our substitute driver on the Classy Cowboy van on the museum and wineries trip on August 29th, he passed the word to Lynda. She agreed we could have the 14-passenger van if she could find a weekday driver. Our neighbor and sometimes driver, Jerry Cristiano, volunteered to drive. And Potomac Eagle gave us 14 more seats on the train for October 24. Prayers answered. God is Good! End of story.

We had to cancel two trips: West Virginia Panhandle for lack of interest; and Christmas at The Greenbrier because Amtrak sold out early.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2022
Rachel's Kitchen
11:30 a.m.
Potluck
Please Bring a Dish to Share!

On the bright side, Sam Kerns and Rick Turner did another wonderful job in Gettysburg; the day was cooler; and our bus got us home safely and on time. Read the report in this newsletter. And, our trip through Middleburg to the Air & Space Museum with winery stops on the way home was a lot of fun (also in a trip report.)

Zenith Group will no longer offer trips exclusively for Lake Frederick. We don't have enough travelers to sustain them. But they will pick up and drop off in Lake Frederick on request. Call Ken Broadbent at 540-974-7993 and he will pick up your check at the concierge desk. Shenandoah Tours also offers good trips that we advertise. But they will only pick up/drop off in Lake Frederick if we have at least ten travelers. Don't forget to remind them. I am still working on an Oktoberfest Brewery Tour in Winchester on September 29. Most of them don't open until 4:00 p.m. to catch the evening crowd. So, this will be a late afternoon-evening trip with transportation for at least 14 people at \$35.

If anyone wants to share their adventures send us a report for the newsletter, or just share it with us at our September 12th luncheon. Don't miss our September 12th lunch meeting. Bring your favorite dish and travel stories to share. Our committee will start planning the 2023 calendar of trips after lunch. Save this newsletter and visit our website for information on our trips.

See you around campus,
George



Gettysburg Battlefield Bus Tour August 18, 2022

By George Darnell

Our neighbors, Sam Kerns, and Rick Turner, did it again! Despite parts of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park being closed for renovation, they gave us a good sense of what happened there during the three-day battle that many historians see as the turning point of the Civil War.

Thirty-five travelers left the lodge on a comfortable Varsity Bus at 8:00 a.m. and traveled Rt. 340 through Harpers Ferry. The bus turned onto Rt. 15 in Frederick, MD, and headed for Gettysburg, PA. Along the way, Sam, dressed in both blue and gray, and Rick, dressed in a Confederate sergeant's gray uniform, told us how General Lee was able to move 70,000 Confederate troops from Chancellorsville, VA, as far north as Harrisburg, PA, without alerting Federal troops.



In brief, they entered the Shenandoah Valley at Chester Gap near Front Royal and used the Blue Ridge Mountains to shield their movement as they crossed the Potomac into Maryland and Pennsylvania. They would have passed right by the wheat fields where Lake Frederick is today. Along the way, they cleared the Valley of Federal troops and captured 40 cannons at the Second Battle of Winchester north of the city.



Where were the Federal troops? Rick tried to give us a sense of their location by telling us they were camped at Wegmans, the Wegmans near Haymarket, that is, not the one near Leesburg. General Jeb Stuart

kept them diverted with several cavalry engagements.



We made a rest stop at the Sheets in Thornburg, and a stop at park headquarters to pick up a permit and then proceeded to our first stop, near the Eternal Light Monument overlooking the first day's battle. We stood on



the edge of an open field before moving under a large oak tree, which still had marks of the battle, while Sam and Rick described the battle. John Toliver, our retired forester and photographer, pointed out that not many of the trees on the battlefield survived because of lead poisoning from the mini balls and canon fire.

Our next stop was the Lee Monument, erected by Virginia near the center of the Confederate line in a grove of trees. From there, Sam and Rick described the battles on days two and three. If you saw the movie, "Gettysburg," you may remember the Confederates charging out of this line of trees while their cannon blasted the Union line on the ridge in front of them.

We stopped for lunch in Gettysburg at the Appalachian Brewery, which is located on what was the battlefield. If you would like to visit on your own, menu and beer selection can be found at abbrew.com/battlefield. Service was prompt and courteous. Credit card payment of individual checks at our tables expedited our lunch.

We reboarded our bus for our next stop in the Peach Orchard where we heard about Little Roundtop (closed for renovation) and Day Two of the battle. We also stopped at the First Minnesota Regiment Monument to get another perspective on Day Two of the battle.





Our last stop was the Angle (Pickett's Charge Day Three), the highwater mark of the Confederacy. The spot is marked by a small clump of trees surrounded by an iron fence with cannons and another monument.

As we stood on the high ground that was attacked by the Confederate Army, Rick described to us in detail the pincer movement that almost won the day. It was clear and warm as we looked out on the fence the Confederates, unable to push it over, had to climb through or over to charge across open ground.

Rick told us that the smoke from canons and muskets was so thick that the Federal cannon that the Confederates thought they had silenced were still operational and defending the ridge. They won the day for the Federal troops. We were glad to reboard the bus and enjoy its air conditioning for the ride home to Lake Frederick.

At the Maryland Welcome Center rest stop our driver, Ed Richards, discovered that our route home was blocked by a bad accident on Rt. 340. So, he took us home via I-70 and I-81. We crossed the Potomac River near the shallows where Lee and his army crossed. As we exited the bus, everyone thanked our neighbors, Sam and Rick, as well as our driver, Ed, for making it an informative and enjoyable trip.



After the trip Sam Kerns sent an email to all the travelers, inviting them to see the display of the Gettysburg Battlefield that he built in his basement (pictured above).



The travelers on this trip were Mary Supik, Michael Soules, Scot & Pamela Wynfield, Ronda Hall, George Darnell, Walter & Marissa Grudzinskas, Kristen Decker, Cookie Jones, Richard & Susan Bodane, Roger Wickboldt, Mary Rose Lehman, Mark Rosenbaum & Marjorie Morrison, Robert & Nancy Burrowes, John Toliver, Kevin & Mary Wardlow, Patricia Paczan, Kurt & Chris Koller, Frank & Dorothy Hale, Steve & Yvette Billington, Nancy Bowers, James Walker, Joyce Ann Tolman, Dave & Greg Kent

Air & Space Museum and Middleburg Wine Tour

August 29, 2022

By George Darnell



For this trip we started with a tour of the [Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum](#) in Chantilly and then visited two wineries off Route 50 on either side of Middleburg: [50 West](#) & [Slater Run Vineyards](#). Fifteen travelers, Richard & Susan Bodane, Robert Burrowes, George Darnell, Frank & Dorothy Hale, Stephanie Pendleton, Douglas Smith & Donna DeMaio, Frank & Dorothy Hale, Linda Robbins, Roger Shaver, Tina Sherrets, and Mae Yono, left the lodge at 8:30 a.m. in a Classy Cowboy Van driven by Steve. We took Rt. 50 over the Shenandoah River and through Ashby Gap. It became a two-lane road after passing Rt. 17 until we crossed Rt. 15 in Aldie. This is one of the most scenic drives in Virginia as it weaves across the county line of Loudoun and Fauquier counties, Northern Virginia horse and wine country.



Along the way, folks pointed out favorite restaurants, like Hunter's Head Tavern in Upperville, and the Oyster House and Salamanders in Middleburg. Middleburg gets its name from being the half-way point in a journey from Alexandria to Winchester before the days of modern transportation. Today, it is lined with fine shops and restaurants serving tourists and the rich and famous who live nearby. Back in the day, you might have seen Jackie Kennedy there on weekends. The suburban sprawl begins on the outskirts of Aldie and Rt. 50 becomes a huge four-lane highway through housing developments, shopping centers, and office buildings. We turned north on Rt. 28 toward Dulles Airport and took the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum exit. Our van dropped us off at the entrance a little before the 10:00 a.m. opening time. There was time to stretch our legs before entering the museum and going through the checkpoint. Several young families with children joined us to see the over 170 highlights of the museum.



The entrance ramp is on the upper level and as you walk to the rail, there, staring you in the face, is the SR-17 Reconnaissance Aircraft. As a retired member of the Intelligence Community, it always gives me a thrill. A remote docent on a two-way monitor reminded me that it was designed and built in the age of slide rules (wore one on my hip at UMD in the 60's) before computers. It still holds the record for altitude and speed for air breathing aircraft.

Other highlights of the museum include the Enola Gay B-29 that dropped the first A-bomb in WW II, the Space Shuttle Discovery, the Gemini IV space capsule, the supersonic Concorde which flew into Dulles until 2003, and many WW II aircraft from the USA, Germany, and Japan, as well as small Piper and Beechcraft civilian aircraft.



We stopped for lunch in the café and browsed the gift shop before counting heads and boarding our van for our first wine stop, 50 West Winery and Vineyard. It is located just east of Aldie on Rt. 50. It is one of the smaller wineries and sits on a knoll overlooking the vineyard with a wonderful view of the Bull Run Mountains. We made our selections of wines for tasting and enjoyed them on the covered patio outside. Since it was a Monday, we almost had the place to ourselves.

Our next stop was Slater Run Vineyard, located on a gravel road between Middleburg and Upperville. The property has been in the same family for over 200 years. They have an upscale tasting room and outdoor patio seating on a rise overlooking the vines. They were expecting us and let us select seats around tables before selecting our wines. The day had grown warmer, and we were glad to be inside in the comfort of air conditioning. Slater Run offers wine-pairing dinners to wine club members. Michelle and I enjoyed one with our son, Mark, and his wife, Mary, before they moved to Roanoke.



Once again, the wine and conversation were good. But we were glad to board our van and head for home in time for dinner. We arrived safely at the lodge around 5:00, tipped and thanked our driver, Steve, said our goodbyes, and headed for our cars.



So many places to go – so little time . . .

Trips Planned for 2022

- Sep 15-16 — WV Panhandle Tour with overnight at the Bavarian Inn, Shepherdstown CANCELLED for Lack of interest.
- Sep 19-22—Cape Cod/Martha's Vineyard Tour \$1,310 dbl; \$1,626 sgl incl r/t train fare. Tips & meals not included; min 14; max 28 www.zenithgrptravel.com
- Sep 25—Commanders vs Eagles tailgate all-inclusive R/T bus excursion \$270 each www.zenithgrptravel.com
- Sep 29— Oktoberfest Winchester Brewery Tour & Dinner 4-8 p.m. R/T transportation only; \$35 each: min 14; max 28
- Oct 5-11—Iceland Land Tour R/T Dulles; 7 days/6 nights/7 meals; \$3999 pp double/ \$4850 single incl airfare— Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 19-21-- Wonders of WV: Hawks Nest State Park & New River Gorge; 3 days/ 2 nights/ 5 meals/ RT Coach; \$609 pp double; \$809 single - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 24 Potomac Eagle Fall Foliage 3-hour Train Ride w/3 course lunch; \$140 all inclusive; SOLD OUT
- Oct 27--Fallingwater Tour: R/T transportation, guided tour, grounds access, and bagged lunch incl. \$192 <www.zenithgrptravel.com>
- Oct 28-30—Fall Foliage Road Trip to North Carolina mountains, 3 days/2 nights/ some meals/ \$662 pp double; \$928 pp single. <www.zenithgrptravel.com>
- Nov 3-14—11-day American Cruise Lines Chesapeake Bay American Revolution Cruise R/T Baltimore; from \$5,110 pp dbl plus R/T shuttle (Sold Out) <https://www.americancruiselines.com/>
- Nov 25-28—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville; 4 days/3 nights/2 meals; \$1169 pp double, \$1579 single, R/T coach - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 29-30 — Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Grove Park Inn; 2 days/1 night/2 meals; \$529 pp double/\$609 single; R/T motor coach - Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 4-7—Christmas at the Greenbrier by Amtrak R/T Manassas; CANCELLED Amtrak sold out
- Dec 7-- Illuminated Christmas Bus Tour; \$79 each by Nov 5 <www.zenithgrptravel.com>
- Dec 9 — Christmas at Union Station in DC by MARC train R/T from Charles Town

Please note: Shenandoah Tours fill quickly; make reservations early! They will pick up in Lake Frederick for ten travelers.

Zenith Group will pick up in Lake Frederick on request.



ESCAPE TO THE CAPE – 9/19/22 – 9/22/22



ITINERARY

DAY 1 – Monday 9/19

- **6:00am:** Meet your motor coach at your designated pick-up spot to ride to Union Station in DC.
- **7:45am:** Arrive at the train station and check-in; board the train.
- **4:30pm:** Arrive at the Westwood Train Station in MA.
- **5:00pm:** Meet your motor coach at the train station to depart for **Cape Cod**.
- **6:00pm:** Arrive at **The Hyannis Travel Inn**. This charming and quaint hotel is located right off of Hyannis Harbor, and features outdoor and indoor swimming pools, nearby shopping and dining, and a complimentary daily continental breakfast. Have some free time to settle into your room.
- **Evening:** Take some time to check out the area. Take a short walk over to Main St., located a block across the road, to enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants in the area. There's also lots of cool shops located nearby, so feel free to explore before going to the hotel for the evening!

ESCAPE TO THE CAPE ITINERARY – Page 2

DAY 2 – Tuesday 9/20

- **8:00am:** Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and get ready for the day's excursions.
- **10:00am:** Meet your motor coach at the hotel.
- **10:15am:** Arrive at the **John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum**. This museum serves to educate on the legacy of one of the nation's most beloved presidents, and his connection to Cape Cod.
- **12:15pm:** Meet your motor coach to depart for Sandwich, MA.
- **1:00pm:** Arrive at **Heritage Gardens and Museums**. This picturesque, historical property celebrates the culture, work, and leisure lives of people in Southeastern New England. With over *100 acres* of trees, shrubs, and blooms; and *over 18,000 antique items* in their collections, there's something for everyone to see! Be sure to check out their **American Automobile Collection**, which features 42 unique automobiles from 1899 to 1965. Stop by The Cafe for lunch while you're here and check out their Heritage Shop for an eclectic souvenir inspired by property's surroundings.
- **3:00pm:** Meet your motor coach to return to your hotel.
- **3:45pm:** Arrive back at Hyannis Travel Inn. Freshen up and grab a light jacket for the evening's events.
- **4:30pm:** Meet your motor coach again to take a short drive over to Hyannis Harbor.
- **4:45pm:** Arrive at Hyannis Harbor. Walk around and enjoy the harbor views for a bit, and then head over to **Bay Spirit Tours**.
- **5:30pm:** Arrive at Bay Spirit Tours and check-in for your 6 o'clock **sunset cruise!** This relaxing, 75-minute ride allows for *brehtaking views of the sun setting over Hyannis Port*. With music, drinks, and light snacks, this cruise is the perfect way to relax at the end of the day.
- **7:50pm:** Arrive back at Hyannis Harbor and enjoy dinner on your own at one of the many restaurants in the area.
- **9:45pm:** Meet back with your motor coach to return to the hotel for the evening.

DAY 3 – Wednesday 9/21

- **7:30am:** Have some free time to enjoy breakfast at the hotel and get ready for the day.
- **9:10am:** Meet your motor coach to depart for Woods Hole.
- **10:25am:** Arrive at The Steamship Authority to board the ferry en route to Martha's Vineyard. - **11:30am:** Land at **Martha's Vineyard**. Meet your motor coach and tour guide in the ferry pick-up area. **HomeGrown Tours** of Martha's Vineyard will take your group on a 5-hour, guided journey through the area. This tour is *fully narrated by a third generation islander*, goes through all six towns on the island, and includes step-offs for shopping, dining, and sightseeing.

Some sites included in this tour are:

- The iconic Gingerbread Cottages
- **Menemsha**, a small fishing village
- **Aquinnah**, featuring breathtaking clay cliffs and a lighthouse
- **Edgartown**, the group will have free time here to explore

* *Please Note: This tour involves a bit of walking on some uneven ground, please wear comfortable footwear.*

ESCAPE TO THE CAPE ITINERARY – Page 3

- **6:15pm:** Board the ferry to return to Woods Hole
- **7:15pm:** Meet your motor coach to return to the hotel in Hyannis.
- **8:00pm:** Arrive back at your hotel. Have some free time in the area before tomorrow's departure.

DAY 4 – Thursday 9/22

- **Morning:** Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and check-out.
- **9:30am:** Meet your motor coach at the hotel to depart for the Westwood Train Station to board the return train.
- **7:30pm:** After arrival in DC, meet your motor coach at the train station to return home.

PRICING:

DOUBLE: \$1,310.00 per person SINGLE: \$1,626 per person

RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE & FINAL PAYMENT DUE: 8/1/22

Included: All motor coach transport; Round-trip train ticket; Tour escort; Ferry transport; 3-night hotel stay; Kennedy Museum admission; Heritage Gardens and Museums admission; Bay Spirit sunset cruise tour; guided day tour of Martha's Vineyard.

Not Included: Gratuity for drivers and guides; meals



visit FALLINGWATER



Date: 10/27/22

Designed in 1935 by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, Fallingwater is a widely acclaimed work of organic architecture in the Laurel Highlands in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The native sandstone building sits over a waterfall and is surrounded by 5,100 acres of natural land, streams, and trails, creating a scenic coalition of art and nature. With original Wright-designed furniture still intact, this landmark was named the "best all-time work of American architecture."

Itinerary

- 8:00 am: Meet your motor coach at Lake Frederick or designated pick-up location.
- 11:00 am: Arrive at Fallingwater
- 11:30 am-12:30 pm: Private guided-tour of property and interior.
- 12:45pm-2:00pm: Enjoy bagged lunch provided by Fallingwater Cafe.
- 2:00pm-4:00pm: Free time to explore the area which includes gardens, trails, and iconic views.
- 4:30pm: Meet back with motor coach for departure
- 7:30 pm: Arrive back at designated pick-up location

Pricing:

- 20 guests: \$195 each
 - 25 guests: \$169 each
 - 35 guests: \$140 each
- Minimum Guests: 20 Reservation Deadline:
Maximum Guests: 55 9/25/22

Includes: All transportation, private guided tour, grounds access, lunch