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

## 2023 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting  
Monday, November 13, 2023  
Rachel's Kitchen  
11:30 a.m.  
Please bring a dish to share.

## November 2023 ISSUE

### President's Message

The Good Lord favored us with two beautiful Fall days for our trips in October. They were outstanding, and we had many new members joining us for the first time. Read the trip reports in this newsletter. He also brought our members, Dan and Cheryl Mortland, home safely from their intended cruise to Israel and Egypt. This is what Dan wrote me:

*"Our cruise ship was 10 hours away from docking in Israel and was rerouted to Cyprus. And the next day the Egypt portion of the itinerary was also cancelled. A substitute itinerary in the Greek isles was then initiated. It was the correct decision, but very disappointing. It is a very sad situation over there. We need to pray for everyone."*

We have only one trip planned for November: A Night at the Charles Town Horse Races and Casino on November 16. We reduced the cost of transportation to \$60, but we still have not reached our minimum. We may have to cancel this trip.

Looking ahead to December we cancelled our potluck luncheon so we could have a member appreciation holiday party for members who have traveled with us or Shenandoah Tours in the past 12 months. If you are interested, reply to this newsletter and we will send you the details.

Also in December, we will provide bus transportation to the wreath laying ceremony in Winchester National Cemetery on Saturday, December 16, for \$15 to anyone who sponsors at least three wreaths. We will stop for lunch in the Piccadilly Public House for lunch on the way home.

Finally in December, on the 21<sup>st</sup>, we will repeat our Christmas Lights in DC trip with the addition of the U.S. Botanical Gardens, which are open late on Thursdays during the Christmas season.

Looking ahead to 2024, we have included a tentative schedule of trips, including selected trips by Shenandoah Tours. Look it over and let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. I am really excited about the possibility of a tour of the Northern Neck with overnights at the Tides Inn, and a round-trip Christmas excursion on Amtrak to Charleston and Savannah.

That's it for this month. I hope to see some of you at the many Shenandoah Lodge events scheduled in November. Thanks for all the well wishes for Michelle. She is now seeing a wound specialist once a week and is hoping to be totally healed by next year.

See you at our November 13 potluck luncheon. Safe travels, especially during the holidays. See you around campus. Peace and blessings!

George Darnell  
President

# Oktoberfest Trip

By George Darnell

## October 19, 2023



We delayed our Oktoberfest trip from September in hopes of seeing some fall colors and enjoying cooler weather. We were not disappointed. Eighteen members, many joining us for the first time, gathered at the lodge to turn in their waivers and pick up their lanyard name tags before boarding our Shenandoah Shuttle for Winchester. Our driver, Steve, was able to drop us off on Kent Street right in front of our first stop, Vibrissa Beer and Kitchen, in the old Winchester Star Building, located adjacent to Mount Hebron Cemetery. It has plenty of metered on-street parking and a parking lot next door.

We sat at a long table and were served by attentive wait staff. Vibrissa has a variety of beers and ales on tap and in cans for takeout, as well as a full-service kitchen.

Beers and tasting flights arrived quickly and we enjoyed them and conversation until our food arrived. Michelle and I enjoyed a huge German pretzel. The interior is very plush for a brewery, with comfortable lounge chair and table grouping, as well as traditional high-top and low-top tables and chairs. Their bar is huge, and they have a delightful biergarten in front of the building. This place must be hopping on weekend nights, but we had it almost to ourselves. After taking advantage of their large modern restrooms, we boarded our bus for Shepherdstown, WV.

The fall colors of Virginia and West Virginia on the way to Shepherdstown and the Bavarian Inn did

not disappoint as we drove through countryside dating to the colonial period. We arrived about 2:00 p.m. and were seated at two tables in the main dining room. We enjoyed beer, wine, cocktails, and other drinks while we looked over the menu. After placing our lunch orders, we were offered a tour of their micro-brewery, where they explained the process of brewing ale and beer.



Following lunch some of us enjoyed dessert, including a piece of apple strudel or Black Forest cake, before visiting the gift shop and restroom on the way to the parking lot for a group photo before boarding our bus.

The trip to our final stop, beer tasting at the Abolitionist Ale Works, took us through beautiful West Virginia countryside and new developments on the outskirts of Charles Town. Abolitionist Ale is downtown in a storefront. It has an extensive list of Farmhouse ales and sours along with traditional pilsners and IPAs. We were seated in a nice outdoor patio at a long table under a sailcloth canopy. We enjoyed our tastings and conversation before joining our driver, Steve, for the ride back to Lake Frederick. It was a delightful day, but we were glad to be home. Many thanks to Marjorie Morrison for sharing her photos.



## Fall Foliage Wine Tour

By George Darnell

October 27, 2023

On this trip, we visited four wineries in a whirlwind tour of the Blue Ridge foothills to capture views of the Fall colors while sipping our wine. All had good wines, good views, and good hospitality.



We stopped for breakfast about 9:30 a.m. at a Front Royal favorite, Mom's Restaurant, where they seated us in a private room. After breakfast and conversation, we headed up Route 522 to Chester Gap, named for Thomas Chester, who operated a ferry across the Shenandoah River and a road over the gap in the early 1700's. Our driver, Steve, turned into Chester Gap Cellars and dropped us off right at the door just as they opened at 11:00 a.m. They were expecting us and served us quickly at the small wine bar inside. We



settled down with our wine to enjoy the Fall colors from the deck and lawn. A food truck arrived shortly after us to serve the afternoon and evening crowd.



Our next stop was Little Washington Winery on Clark Lane near the feed store on Route 522. On the way, we passed Rappahannock Cellars and drove through Flint Hill, enjoying the scenic countryside. Steve dropped us off at the cellar door of the downstairs tasting room of a huge Victorian mansion with a wrap-around porch. Some of us decided to stay downstairs in a lounge near the bar, while others, in groups of two or three, chose tables on the porch with views of the mountains. Again, we had the place almost to ourselves.



All too soon we had to leave and head for our next stop. Since we had so many first-time travelers, Corinne Osius suggested we make a stop in Little Washington so folks could see this picturesque village that young George Washington surveyed. We were not disappointed as we stopped briefly in front of the famous Inn at Little Washington.

Soon we were on our way back through Flint Hill and past Rappahannock Cellars on our way to Philip Carter Winery. It is on a plateau on Route 688 between Hume and Markham, back from the parking lot. So, we had to walk a short distance on a level stone paver path to the tasting room. By the time we arrived, breakfast was wearing off and a few of us purchased cheese and crackers to go with our wine. We sat outside on a patio or on a covered deck enjoying the wine, conversation, and Fall surroundings.



Our final stop was Fox Meadow. It is close by and one of our favorites. Until recently, it was owned by our neighbors, Dan and Cheryl Mortland. It was crowded and the sun was beginning to set. But they were expecting us and seated us at long tables on the deck overlooking the Blue Ridge. They took our orders and served us at our tables. Watching the sunset as we finished our wine and cheese was a fitting end to our Fall Foliage Wine Exploration. We were soon back at the lodge, thanking our driver, Steve, and saying our goodbyes.



## **Trips Planned for 2023 v19**

- Nov 16—Night at Charles Town Horse Races - \$60
- Nov 28-30—Longwood Gardens/Miracle of Christmas in PA; 3 days, 2 nights, 4 meals; \$769 pp dbl, \$899; \$100 dep by Sep 15, R/ Coach - Call 540-885-1528 <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 16—Wreaths Across America in Winchester National Cemetery – Sponsor 3 Wreaths & \$15 for r/t bus; lunch at Piccadilly Public House
- Dec 21 – Christmas Lights in DC \$75

Please note: Shenandoah Tours fill quickly; make reservations early!

## **Registration Deadlines for 2023**

- Nov 2—Night at Charles Town Races
- Dec 1—Wreaths Across America in Winchester
  - Dec 10 – Christmas Lights in DC

## Trip Ideas for 2024, V1

- Jan 12—Endless Caverns, New Market Civil War Museum, Harrisonburg Mennonite Center
- Jan 26—Winter Wine Tour
- Feb 12—Couples Wine and Cheese Party in Rachel's Kitchen
- Mar 1—Women's History Tour
- Mar 15—St. Patrick's Brewery Tour
- Mar 27—Cherry Blossom Walking Tour
- Apr 5—Gettysburg Battlefield Tour
- Apr 8—Shenandoah River Bluebell Walking Tour
- Apr 12-13—Lancaster/Daniel/Ragtime at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Apr 19—Ladies Wine Tour
- Apr 27—Apple Blossom Parade Watch Party
- May 10—Mosby Heritage Wine Tour
- May 22-25—Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in KY  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- May 23-31—Scandinavia Cruise
- Jun 7—Men's Brewery Tour
- June 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 10-12—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 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 29—Antietam Battlefield and Oktoberfest Tour
- Oct 6-12—Autumn in New England – Rails & Sails  
<https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Oct 9-20—American Cruise Lines Tennessee Rivers Paddlewheel Cruise
- 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 8-13—Christmas in Charleston & Savannah r/t DC on AMTRAK Palmetto
- Dec 14—Wreaths Across America in Winchester

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## An Evening at the Charles Town Races November 16, 2023



We don't need to travel to Kentucky for Thoroughbred Racing, or to Las Vegas to try our luck at the gambling tables and slots. We have both right here in nearby Charles Town, WV. For this trip we will take a bus to Charles Town for a seated dinner in the Barstool Sportsbook restaurant with separate checks. After dinner, we will have time to visit the Hollywood Casino and paddock, before placing our bets and watching the races from the grandstand. When we have had our fill of the "high life," we will board our bus for the short ride back to the lodge.

### Schedule

- 4:30 Leave Lodge
- 5:15 Arrive Hollywood Casino
- 5:30 Dinner at the Barstool Sportsbook
- 7:00 Visit casino and paddock – First Race Starts
- 10:00 Board bus for home
- 10:15 Bus leaves
- 11:00 Arrive Lodge

The minimum for this trip is 12 and maximum is 18. Registration is \$75 for transportation only.

Dinner, purchases, bets, and tip for the driver are not included. 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 November 2, 2023.

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## DC Christmas Lights Tour Dec 21, 2023



It is hard to find a more wonderful city for Christmas than nearby Washington, DC. For this holiday trip we will take a bus to the U.S. Botanical Gardens Christmas display and then the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree before going to Union Station for a walking tour of the decorations and dinner. Following dinner our tour guide will direct us around the city to see other lights, including the Canadian Embassy Christmas Tree, City Center decorations, and the National Christmas Tree behind the White House. We will get off the bus at some locations for a closer look on foot. Our tour guide has some surprises for us depending on how much time we spend at each site and traffic. Bring your camera and comfortable shoes. Pray for good weather.

### Schedule:

- 2:00 p.m. Leave Lodge.
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive U.S. Botanical Gardens and Capitol grounds for guided tour.
- 5:00 p.m. Arrive Union Station for walking tour and dinner.
- 6:30 p.m. Board bus for guided tour of D.c. Christmas Lights.
- 8:30 p.m. Depart for Lake Frederick.
- 10:00 p.m. Arrive lodge

Minimum for this trip is 16 and maximum is 26

Registration is \$75 for transportation and guide. Dinner and tips for driver and guide are not included.

Please register on MTL 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 10, 2023.

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