

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB

MEETINGS HELD AT American Legion Hall, 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 304, DAMASCUS MD 20872

2025-2026 Officers

President	Sue Wogatske	301-980-6186	Treasurer	Tammy Monarch	301-253-0044
1 st Vice President	Cathy Burke	202-302-4941	Tour Treasurer	Nancy Sutherland	301-788-8008
2 nd Vice President	Diane Dantagnan	301-428-0144	Historian	Barbara Morten	301-253-5824
Recording Secretary	Teresa Brown	240-375-0387	Membership Chair	Barbara Walker	301-253-1519
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Cullen	301-972-0137			

Refreshments: Cheryl Shores: 240-605-6255

JULY 2025
NO JULY MEETING
from Cathy Burke, Retiring President



What an amazing club meeting and luncheon we had! We had 117 members in attendance to welcome our new President, **Sue Wogatske**, and to thank all our officers and many wonderful volunteers.

The camaraderie among our members and guests was inspiring. It’s hard to thank everyone in person, but to all of you who offer a kind word, give a compliment, lend a listening ear, share your heart, or simply smile and let your true self shine—**thank you from the bottom of my heart**. You help make this club the warm and welcoming community that it is.

A very special thank you goes to Eileen Patrick Shannon for her amazing support at the meeting and for stepping up to assist us with securing our new president. She’s a perfect example of someone answering the call with grace, kindness, and dedication.

I’m so excited to begin working with Sue Wogatske—to share ideas, learn together, and continue growing the mission of this incredible club. I can’t thank her enough for raising her hand and saying “yes” when we needed her most.

For those of you who don’t know her yet, here’s a brief introduction:



SUE WOGATSKA

Sue has been a resident of Montgomery County for most of her life. She is currently retired and lives in a 55+ active adult community in Frederick. She volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America for over 15 years and will celebrate her 30th year of service with the American Cancer Society next year. Most people consider her well-organized and known for her attention to detail. Before her husband passed away four years ago they traveled and cruised often. Sue continues to enjoy traveling with friends, family, and the Damascus Travel Club.

Sue brings with her a long and meaningful history of volunteerism and active leadership. We are grateful to welcome her and look forward to the experience and new ideas she will share with us.

With Sue stepping into the President’s role, we are now in need of a volunteer to serve as **Club Chaplain**. This role includes two key tasks: offering blessings at events that include a meal or sharing a light, humorous story—and helping lead the **November Memorial Service** (we have a format you can adapt). The most important qualities for this role are love for people, a caring heart, and a good sense of fun. If you're interested, please reach out to Sue directly.

It goes without saying that our **Board Members, Tour Leaders, Audit Team, Refreshment Team, Webmaster, Joys and Concerns Coordinator**, and our **Newsletter Editor**, as well as many behind-the-scenes volunteers are what keep us going strong. These are the folks who also come early and stay late to get out and put away chairs and tables, rearrange furniture, clean and take out trash, often unnoticed but deeply appreciated. And to my husband, **Bob Burke** — my constant “First Gentleman” and rock. From the day I asked, “*If I say yes, will you help me?*” he has been there through it all. I couldn't have done this without his support.



As a reminder, **THERE IS NO GENERAL MEETING IN JULY**. Instead, we will gather for our **Annual August Picnic/Potluck** on **Saturday, August 9 at 1 PM** at the **American Legion Hall**. There is **NO FEE** for this picnic. The club provides drinks, paper products, and fried chicken. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. It is always one of our most fun and well-loved events of the year—please send in your completed reservation form on page 9 by August 1. You'll be glad you did.

Finally, thank you all for the privilege of serving as your president these past three years. It has been a joy, a journey, and a blessing. Please extend your warmth, patience, and encouragement as Sue steps into this role and learns to navigate all that comes with it. I know she will do a fantastic job—with your support.

With deep gratitude,
Cathy Burke

A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS AND PICNIC

Details of these trips and luncheon will be printed in this and upcoming newsletters.

If you have any questions, please call the tour guide listed with each trip.

Helen Aument: 240-793-6820 Rusty Embrey: 301-871-7069

Joanne Kessler: 301-253-0335 Casey Koontz: 301-831-6746

July 2, 2025 Totem Pole Theater (*9 to 5 the Musical*) (**Rusty**)

July 7, 2025 Chester River Cruise (**Joanne**)

NEW! August 9, 2025 **DTC Annual Picnic/Potluck**

August 30, 2025 Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*The Buddy Holly Story*) (**Rusty**)

September 4, 2025 Shanksville, PA (**Joanne**)

September 15-20, 2025 Chicago, Detroit, Toledo (Prohibition) (**Casey**)

NEW! October 2, 2025 Potomac Eagle Experience (**Helen**)

October 8-10, 2025 Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown (**Casey**)

NEW! October 30, 2025 Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*A Chorus Line*) (**Rusty**)

NEW! November 11, 2025 Sight and Sound Theatre (*Noah*) (**Joanne**)

November 30-December 2, 2025 Greenbrier at Christmas (**Joanne**)

August 8-18, 2026 Nova Scotia (**Helen**)

Note: Please bring your choice of beverage to keep you hydrated on our bus trips.

We do have cups and limited water if someone needs water for medicine.

REVIEW OF OUR CHECK AND MONEY POLICIES

REMEMBER: All money is non-refundable after the final payment **FOR ALL TRIPS**. This has always been our policy. However, if you cancel after your final payment and someone wants to take your spot, your money will be returned when/if they have paid in full.

CHECK POLICY: Remember the club will not cash your check until we know the trip is a go. This is in case the trip needs to be canceled and we would therefore need to return your money. Please note your check could be cashed weeks **BEFORE** your trip once all seats have been reserved and the venue needs to be paid.

PLEASE send **ONE CHECK** for each activity. **DO NOT COMBINE** payments for trips and luncheons. It makes it too complicated for our treasurers. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL ANYTHING TO THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 304, DAMASCUS MD 20872**

JOYS & CONCERNS

- *Happy Birthday* to all members born in July.
- *Happy Anniversary* to members celebrating their wedding anniversary in July, especially our newsletter editor Judy and Dave Cullen. They will celebrate 55 years on July 25.
- If any of the club members have a special birthday, anniversary, or a special event to report, we would be happy to publish the event. Just give me a call or send me an email.
- ***Welcome to all new members!***
- We will be happy to recognize a former member's passing in the newsletter, but you will need an address when requesting a card to be sent to the family.
- Sympathy and prayers were sent to the family of current member Merhle Eugene Dutrow who passed in May. Funeral services were held at Molesworth-Williams funeral home June 5, 2025.
- Sympathy and prayers were also sent to the family of our member Fay Schilling who passed away June 9, 2025. A private internment was held at Gate of Heaven.

Help keep us current on the status of our DTC members by contacting me, **Ann Gray**, at 301-758-5350 (just leave a message and I will return your call) or email me at **anngray1@gmail.com**.

UPCOMING TRIPS

TOTEM POLE THEATER – 9 to 5 THE MUSICAL

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Wednesday, July 2, 2025



THIS TRIP IS A GO! We will start our day with a delicious lunch at Hickory Bridge Farms. We board the bus at 9:45 AM at Weis Market (26075 Ridge Road) in Damascus (park on the side of the store parallel to Ridge Road.) We return home at approximately 5:30 PM. Any questions call me at 301-871-7069. Day of trip my cellphone is 202-304-7407.

CHESTER RIVER CRUISE

Chestertown, Maryland

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – July 7, 2025

Thank you to all who responded to my email request for more members to register for this trip. We have met our quota and will have a wonderful day exploring Chestertown, Maryland. We have a unique trip scheduled for this full day of exploring, touring, and cruising.

We leave from Weis Market, 26075 Ridge Road, Damascus at 8:30 AM. Please allow time for traffic. We need to leave on time to stay on schedule throughout the day. Day of the trip my cellphone is 240-454-4742. It will be a great day trip. We will arrive home at approximately 6:45 PM.



NEW TRIPS TO CONSIDER

NEW!

POTOMAC EAGLE EXPERIENCE

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – October 2, 2025

This train excursion on the Potomac Eagle is a 3-hour trip that goes southbound through the Trough to Sycamore Bridge and back. (It is approximately 35 miles round-trip.) There is no layover. Passengers stay on board.

- This popular adventure offers a deep connection to West Virginia's wilderness, showcasing its natural splendor and iconic eagles. Named by George Washington during his 1748 surveying expedition, Trough Canyon's historical significance enriches this memorable experience.
- Our meal will be Baked BBQ Chicken or Vegetable Lasagna with Mac & Cheese. All entrées served with green beans, coleslaw, Chefs Choice of cookie or brownie, and water.

Scenic Wilderness: Journey through Trough Canyon's breathtaking landscape.

- Eagle Watching:** Spot American bald eagles in their majestic canyon home.
- Nature Immersion:** Engage in birding, photography, and sightseeing.
- Stunning View:** Take in the iconic view from Sycamore Bridge.
- Historic Journey:** Travel 35 miles southbound and cross Sycamore Bridge.
- Historical Significance:** Learn about the canyon named by George Washington.
- Authentic Experience:** Connect deeply with West Virginia's heart.
- Dining Excellence:** Choose from five classes of service.
- Duration:** Enjoy a 3-hour round trip with no layover.



Hot lunch

- Baked BBQ Chicken with Mac & Cheese
 - Vegetable Lasagna
- (All entrées served with Green Beans, Coleslaw, Chefs Choice: Cookie/Brownie, & Water)

Depart 8:30 am and return by 7:30 pm.

Package Includes:

- Transportation – Wolf
- 3-hour Train ride
- Hot Lunch
- Taxes and tips for meals and attractions
- Tip for driver

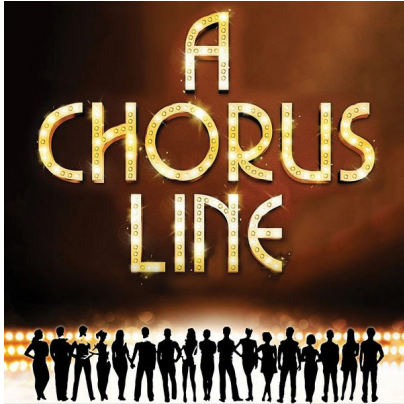
Price for package is \$244 per person. Please send your reservation in by August 25, 2025. Any questions just call me at 240-793-6820.

NEW!

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATER

A Chorus Line

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – Thursday, October 30, 2025



A Chorus Line is a celebration of those unsung heroes (dancers) of the American musical theater. Set on a bare stage of a Broadway theater seventeen dancers audition for spots on a chorus line. The story provides events into their lives, personalities and decisions that have shaped them into becoming dancers. Classics such as “What I Did For Love,” “One,” “I Can Do That,” “I Hope I Get It” and more will be heard. Of course, lots of dancing. This show earned 9 Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama!

We start off with a buffet with salads, meats, veggies, bread and butter. It will meet everyone’s appetite.

The price of \$121 includes Lunch, Show, Motorcoach and all tips and taxes. Reservations must be in by September 30, 2025. Any questions call me at 301-871-7069 and day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407.

NEW!

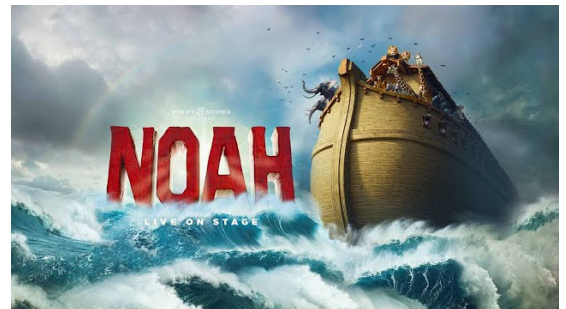
SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE / NOAH

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Running for one season only, this landmark production at this impressive theatre takes you on board one of the world’s best-known voyages as live animals fill the stage and aisles. Set sail inside the enormous ark as this extraordinary story comes to life in this special 30th Anniversary Special! Experience the biblical story of Noah building a massive boat to save his family and animals from a devastating flood and hear a powerful narrative about faith and obedience in the face of overwhelming odds.

This trip has always been a popular trip and tickets go quickly! Send in your reservation soon! This show sells out long before the due date. We will enjoy eating at Millers Smorgasbord. The menu features American favorites as well as their distinctive heritage dishes and fresh baked desserts.

The price for this wonderful experience is \$212 pp. It includes motor coach, lunch, show and tips for driver and wait staff. Reservations and your check must be in by **October 5, 2025**. We will leave Damascus at 7:30 AM and return at approximately 6 PM.



TRIPS TO REVIEW... *Won't you please join us?*

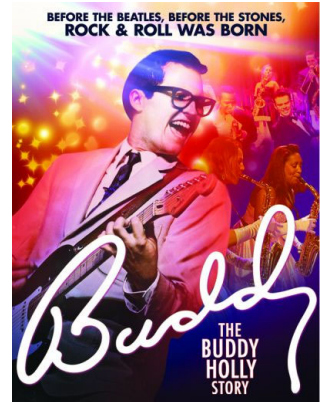
THE BUDDY HOLLY SHOW

Dutch Apple Music Theater

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – August 30, 2025

You still have time and space is available for the amazing Buddy Holly Show and Lunch at Dutch Apple Music Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Please help me make our minimum reservations so we can enjoy the show, lunch, motorcoach, all gratuities and fun for \$121. This is a very short turnaround so don't hesitate to get your reservations in by August 4, 2025. Thank you for sending in your reservations now!!!

We will leave from Weis Market's left side parking lot (parallel to Ridge Road), 26075 Ridge Road, in Damascus, loading the bus at 9:15 AM and return approximately at 7:30 PM. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7404.



HEROES, SAINTS AND A RESCUE

Shanksville, Pennsylvania

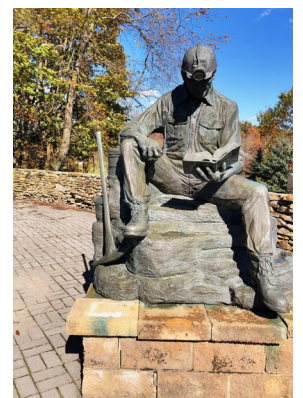
Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Thursday, September 4, 2025



The deadline for this unique trip is July 29, 2025. There is still time to send in your reservation form for this trip. We will visit two areas in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, crashed. It will be 24 years since this horrific day in American history. The trip includes the Tower of Voices, Visitor's Center and Museum, and the Wall of Names. If you have not visited this site, come and learn the stories as we pay homage to all of them. You will not forget your visit.

We will also visit the site of the nine coal miners rescued at Quecreek in 2002, and the saints that saved them. Shanksville, Pennsylvania, lies on the Stoney Creek which is designated a Pennsylvania Scenic River as it rolls from its headwaters to the State Game Lands. Less than a year later, about 15 miles from the crash site, nine coal miners at Quecreek Mine site were trapped after mining activities breached an adjacent mine filled with water. This picture-perfect community showed everyone selfless actions that affected the whole world.

The trip includes transportation, time at the Flight 93 Memorial, Tour of Quecreek Mines, Lunch at the Coal Miner's Café, all taxes and tips, including the driver. Please join us on this memorable trip to revisit two historic events. **Price is \$151 pp. Full payment is due before July 29, 2025.**



PROHIBITION & ALL THAT JAZZ

Chicago, Detroit, Toledo & Windsor, Canada

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – September 15-20, 2025

**LOOKING FOR MORE RESERVATIONS TO MAKE THIS TRIP A GO!
DEPOSITS ARE DUE JUNE 30.**

Step back in time and immerse yourself in the roaring 1920s, an era of speakeasies, jazz clubs, and the thrilling dynamics of Prohibition. This journey will take you through iconic cities that played pivotal roles in shaping the culture and intrigue of the Jazz Age. From Chicago's bustling streets to Detroit's historic alleys, Toledo and across the border to Windsor, Canada, each destination offers unique stories of resilience, rebellion, and rhythm. Details of the full itinerary can be found in the April and May newsletters.

This trip includes coach transportation, 5 nights' accommodation, 5 breakfasts, 3 dinners (one with a show), 3 lunches (one with a show), spirit tastings, admissions and guide services, taxes and tips for all inclusions. Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.



Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations

\$2,605 pp single / \$2,050 pp double / \$2,000 pp triple / \$1,950 pp quad

Deposit of \$800. pp due by June 30, 2025. Final payment is due August 9, 2025

WILLIAMSBURG, JAMESTOWN & YORKTOWN

The Historic Triangle

Tour Leader – Casey Koontz – October 8-10, 2025



Enjoy this Fall trip as we embark on a historic journey through America's history. Start in Jamestown where the first English settlers built their new world in 1607. Then stroll through Colonial Williamsburg where the 18th century comes alive with reenactments and period architecture. Finally, honor the pivotal battle of Yorktown where the revolution reached its triumph. It is a trip that promises to be as educational as it is inspiring.

Trip details are in the April and May newsletters. Your tour includes coach transportation, 2 nights and 2 breakfasts at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel in Colonial Williamsburg, 1 dinner, 1 box lunch, 1 snack, admission to Colonial Williamsburg (during the full length of your stay), a morning guided tour and an evening ghost tour of Colonial Williamsburg, admission and guided tours of Jamestown and Yorktown and time in Fredericksburg, VA, taxes and tips on all inclusions. Contact Casey Koontz (301) 831-6746 or liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.

Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations

\$814 pp single / \$627 pp double / \$605 pp triple / \$594 pp quad

Deposit of \$300 pp due by July 16, 2025. Final payment due August 26, 2025.

GREENBRIER AT CHRISTMAS

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – November 30-December 2, 2025



We have met our quota and this trip is a GO for November. If you are interested in joining us **PLEASE CALL ME ASAP**. I will do my best to accommodate your reservation and will request more rooms. BUT the sooner the better for me to be successful. \$500 deposit and your reservation form is required to request additional rooms. Please see earlier newsletters for more information or call me at 301-253-0335.

**Pricing for package: \$1499 pp single / \$1129 pp double
\$1005 pp triple / \$945 pp quad**

**\$500 Deposit due NOW. FINAL PAYMENT DUE SEPTEMBER 24, 2025.
Questions: Call Joanne at 301-253-0335.**

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, BAY OF FUNDY, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – August 8-18, 2026

10 days of travel in beautiful Nova Scotia from Halifax to Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and more. See more details in the June newsletter, available on our website (damascustravelclub.org) or on the gateway link (see below).

**Pricing for package is: \$6,399 pp single / \$5,299 pp double / \$5,199 pp triple
Deposit of \$698 pp is due with your reservation form.**

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers. **Not Included:** Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$429 per person. **For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>**

Reservations for this trip are already open. Please go online at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802> to make a reservation. Once you have made your reservation online, you will also need to send the DTC reservation form found in this newsletter to DTC for our records. **If you have any questions at any time, please call Collette Tours at 1-800-340-5158 and mention trip ID 1349802. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. 20 seats have been reserved by Colette for our members until February 1, 2026. Reservations made after February 1 are based upon availability. The refund deadline is February 8, 2026. Final payment is due May 10, 2026. Call Helen Aument at 240-793-6820 for details on how to make reservations or use the gateway link below.**

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>

SOME TRAVEL NOTES – *Look where we've been!*

Little Switzerland of Ohio / Sugarcreek, Ohio

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – May 27-30, 2025

Thank you to the 31 people who joined us on this trip. From quaint shops and boutiques to the amazing cuckoo clock with its handcrafted figurines it was a unique trip. Over three days we saw Amish Mennonite life and manufacturing, the buggy maker's shop, a basket shop, Amish quilters, and delicious food with a trip to the Amish Country Theatre which starred our own Rick Monarch and Helen Aument. We ended our trip with a guided tour of the Warther Museum which displayed David Warther's intricate carvings of ivory, ebony, and abalone.

RESERVATIONS

Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP
Mail to: Damascus Travel Club * P.O. Box 304 * Damascus, MD 20872

PICNIC/POTLUCK – August 9, 2025 **NO FEE!** **RSVP due August 1, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (*Buddy Holly Story*) – August 30, 2025 **Payment of \$121 pp due August 4, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Shanksville, Pennsylvania – September 4, 2025 **Payment of \$151 pp due by July 29, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Chicago, Detroit, Toledo – September 15-20, 2025 **Full Payment due by August 9, 2025**
\$2605 pp single / \$2050 pp double / \$2000 pp triple / \$1950 pp quad

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Potomac Eagle Experience – October 2, 2025 **Payment of \$244 pp due August 25, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

Williamsburg, Jamestown & Yorktown – October 8-10, 2025 **Deposit of \$300 pp due by July 16, 2025**
\$814 pp single / \$627 pp double / \$605 pp triple / \$594 pp quad **Final payment due August 26, 2025**

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

RESERVATIONS

**Please remember: SEND ONE CHECK FOR EACH TRIP
Mail to: Damascus Travel Club * P.O. Box 304 * Damascus, MD 20872**

Dutch Apple Dinner Theater (A Chorus Line) – October 30, 2025 Payment of \$121 pp due September 30, 2025

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

Sight and Sount (Noah) – November 11, 2025 Payment of \$212 pp due October 5, 2025

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

Greenbrier, West Virginia – November 30-December 2, 2025 Deposit of \$500 pp due NOW
\$1499 pp single / \$1129 pp double / \$1005 pp triple / \$945 pp quad Full Payment due by September 24, 2025

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

**FOR THE TRIP TO NOVA SCOTIA, PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE with Collette at
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>**

Then send us the appropriate reservation form below to P.O. Box 304, Damascus MD 20872

Nova Scotia – August 8-18, 2026 Deposit of \$698 pp due upon reservation /Full payment due May 10, 2026

Name _____ Phone _____

REQUESTED ROOMMATE:

Name _____ Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y___ N___ _____

**Pricing for package is: \$6,399 pp single / \$5,299 pp double / \$5,199 pp triple
Deposit of \$698 pp is due with your reservation form.**

Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. 20 seats have been reserved by Collette for our members until February 1, 2026. Reservations made after February 1 are based upon availability. The refund deadline is February 8, 2026. Final payment is due May 10, 2026. Call Helen Aument at 240-793-6820 for details on how to make reservations or use the gateway link – <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1349802>

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB
P.O. BOX 304
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
July 2025



Keep these newsletters for future reference!



Please send in your reservation ASAP
for our free PICNIC/POTLUCK at the American Legion Hall
on SATURDAY August 9 at 1 PM.
This is a great time for all our DTC members
to come and meet everyone!
Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!