

DAMASCUS TRAVEL CLUB

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

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

2024-2025 Officers

President	Cathy Burke	202-302-4941	Treasurer	Tammy Monarch	301-253-0044
1 st Vice President	Jim Kemp	301-253-2859	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



JUNE 2025

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 3 SPRING LUNCHEON

1 PM AT the Mt Airy Volunteer Fire Company Reception Hall

from Cathy Burke, President

Hello Travel Club Friends,

For those of us who love summer, June brings fond memories and the ability to spend time outside. For those less thrilled by the heat, bugs, and sweat—perhaps not so much! I hope this season brings you blooming flowers, smooth roads, good A/C, and great trips with our club.

We had a fantastic May 6 meeting with 92 members in attendance. Doug Phebus brought back old favorites with music that had us singing and dancing along. A big thank you to everyone who brought refreshments—it was an outstanding spread! If you have not signed up yet, we still need 6–8 volunteers each month. Once we fill the calendar, we can cross it off the list. Big smile!

We also have a few important volunteer needs:

- ❑ As I shared at the meeting, we are looking for our next **President**. I will be stepping into the 1st Vice President role on July 1, 2025, and focusing first on the August 9th Picnic/Potluck. I am excited to support someone new in leading our club.
- ❑ We are also looking for someone to assist our webmaster, Mandy Buckley, with occasional website updates. It is not a heavy lift, and I would be happy to talk through the details and connect you with Mandy for quick training.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our **June 3rd luncheon** at the MAVFC Reception Hall (1008 Twin Arch Road in Mount Airy.) The menu: Chicken Parmesan, Fried Shrimp, and all the fixings! This will be our last meeting before our **August 9th Picnic/Potluck** at the American Legion. The club will provide fried chicken, drinks, and paper products—please bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert to share. It is always a club favorite—our members are amazing cooks!

June is also a time to celebrate as we welcome our **2025–2026 officers**. Let us thank all our officers and tour leaders for the time and heart they give to keep this club thriving.

Reminder: No meeting in July. Please send in your membership renewal form (included in this newsletter) ASAP so you can enjoy some of our planned adventures.

Wishing you a summer full of good health, joy, and travel! *Warm regards, Cathy*

A QUICK GLANCE AT OUR UPCOMING TRIPS AND LUNCHEON

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

June 3, 2025 Spring Luncheon at Mt. Airy VFC Reception Hall

NOTE: June 13, 2025 Olivet Cemetery Tour RESCHEDULED

June 24-27, 2025 Long Island and Hamptons (Joanne)

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

July 7, 2025 Chester River Cruise (Joanne)

NEW! 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)

DATE CHANGE: October 8-10, 2025 Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown (Casey)

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

NOTE: August 8-18, 2026 Nova Scotia (Helen) RESCHEDULED TO August 2026

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 our members who were born in June.
- **Happy Anniversary** to couples celebrating their wedding anniversary in June. Congratulations!
- **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Please send in your membership renewal form ASAP**
- Get well wishes were sent to Faye Schilling who recently had a stroke and is now at HarborChase of Olney, 17001 Georgia Ave., Room 131, Olney, Md 20833 if you'd like to drop her a card or note.
- We will be happy to publish a former member's passing in this newsletter, but please include a mailing address when requesting a card to be sent to the family

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**.

NEW TRIP TO CONSIDER

NEW!

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATER

The Buddy Holly Story

Tour Leader – Rusty Embrey – August 30, 2025

See the man, hear the music, and relive the life of a legend. In just three short years, he set records with his sound of rock and roll. We will follow him backstage, in the recording studio and his climb up the charts with hits like “Peggy Sue,” “That’ll be the day,” “Well...All Right,” “Not Fade Away” and more.

We will start off with the very large buffet of salads, many hot entrees, veggies, rolls and butter. Pick your favorites from a large selection of delicious desserts of pies, cake, and ice cream. Your beverage of tea and coffee are included in the price. Sodas and bar drinks are on you. The show, lunch, motorcoach, all gratuities and fun for a \$121. This is a very short turn around so don’t hesitate to get your reservations in by August 4, 2025. Thanks! Come join us!



We will leave from Weis Market’s left side parking lot in Damascus, loading the bus at 9:15 AM and returning at approximately 7:30 PM. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-871-7069. Day of the trip my cell is 202-304-7407

TRIP TO REVIEW... *Look Where We’ve Been!*

OUR VERY POPULAR MYSTERY TRIP

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Monday, April 28, 2025

The mystery of this trip was solved on April 28 when 50 members journeyed to Hershey, Pennsylvania. Our first stop was the Hershey Story Museum in downtown Hershey. The museum follows the life and story of how Milton Hershey began processing candy and never gave up until he discovered chocolate, refining the processing and presentation to the public. The first machine to shape and wrap Hershey Kisses was on display. We all attended a lab where everyone made their own Hershey Bar. We learned the story of how chocolate is processed from a tree to chocolate. We then pushed ahead on our next journey to Manheim, PA, to the Mt. Hope Winery and Estate. We enjoyed lunch in a large barn which has been converted to an event facility. We were served a “Farm to Table” lunch, after which we enjoyed surprise entertainment from a group of talented improv performers who brought laughter to all. Several members participated in their program! Thanks to all our brave members who join this mysterious adventure every year.

UPCOMING TRIPS

LONG ISLAND, GOLD COAST AND HAMPTONS NEW YORK

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – June 24-27, 2025

This trip is a GO and I thank you for joining this great excursion! If you are interested in coming on this trip you can call me and you would be added to the waiting list. There are often cancellations. See the April newsletter for the reservation form. Please call me ASAP at 301-253-0335.

TUES, JUNE 24 at 7:30 AM: LEAVE DAMASCUS to begin our trip to downtown Riverhead, NY, which is the entrance to the “East End” of Long Island, known as South Fork.

FRI, JUNE 17: LEAVE NEW YORK for our trip home to Damascus with stops along the way.

We will board the bus from Weis Market, 26075 Ridge Road, Damascus at 7:30 AM. **Please arrive early** and allow for traffic. Bus will park in the front section next to the store. We have an arrangement with the store to leave our cars in their lot.



RESCHEDULED MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY HISTORY TOUR

Tour Leader – Helen Aument – Friday, June 13, 2025

Please see all the details and driving directions for this trip in the April Damascus Travel Newsletter (www.damascustravelclub.org). Only the date has changed. **Please follow-up with me by June 6 to let me know if you can make this new date.** The event includes a 2-hour tour, and 1-hour lunch. Price includes Historian Tour Guide, Lunch and Gratuity

Meeting Time: 9:30-9:45 AM. Tour begins at 10:00. We will meet at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 515 S Market St, Frederick, MD, in the Chapel. If you have any questions, call Helen Aument 240-793-6820.

TOTEM POLE THEATER – 9 to 5 THE MUSICAL

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

THIS TRIP IS A GO! This is a hilarious musical about a super-efficient office manager, a divorcee, and a sexy secretary enduring an outrageous work place who decide to turn the tables on their sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigoted boss. For revenge they take charge of the work place with a makeover and take control of the company.

We will start our day with a delicious lunch at Hickory Bridge Farms. We board the bus at 9:45 AM at Weis Market in Damascus (park on the side of the store.) 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

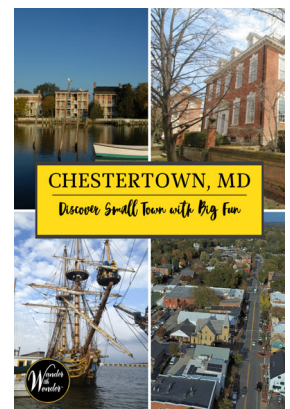
We have a unique trip scheduled for this full day of exploring, touring and cruising, and need several additional reservations to make this trip a go. Please call me ASAP at 301-253-0335. It is a great day trip.

8:30 AM Leave Damascus and arrive at Fort Meade, MD, and the National Cryptologic Museum, adjacent to NSA Headquarters for our first stop. If you have ever watched the movie “*Imitation Game*” about the cryptologist Alan Turing you are in for a real treat. Here visitors can catch a glimpse of some of the most dramatic moments in the history of America. Some events in American history and world history may take on a new meaning. We will have a self-guided tour of the facility with time to explore on our own.

11:45 AM Depart for Chestertown

1:15 PM Board our chartered yacht, the *River Packet*, for lunch while cruising for two hours. A PACKET BOAT was used to transport mail, passengers, and freight and more in the 18th and 19th centuries up and down smaller rivers across Europe and North America. Cruise the Chester River and enjoy your lunch of filet mignon sliders, cold shrimp, pasta or potato salad, green salad, and cookies. We will have some time in Chestertown after the cruise before we depart for home at **4:45 PM**.

6:45 PM Approximate arrival in Damascus

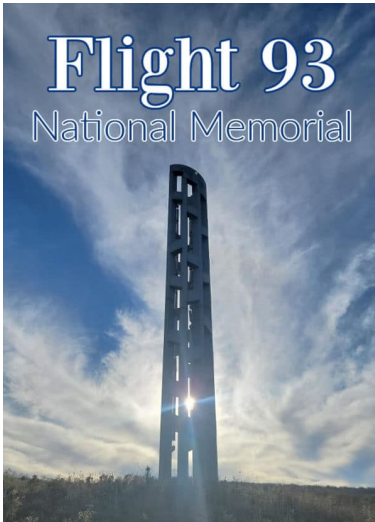


Price is \$189 pp. Includes motor coach, National Cryptologic Museum, cruise on the river, lunch, tax, tip for the inclusions, and tip for the driver. DEADLINE FOR YOUR RESERVATION for this great trip IS JUNE 1, 2025. If you would like to join us, please call me ASAP at 301-253-0335, even though the deadline is passed.

HEROES, SAINTS AND A RESCUE

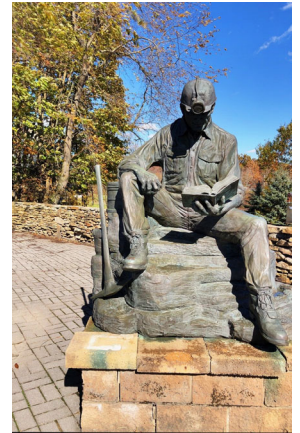
Shanksville, Pennsylvania

Tour Leader – Joanne Kessler – Thursday, September 4, 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, landed. 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.

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



There is still time to join this exciting "themed" trip where we will embark on a unique adventure exploring cities that were havens for the Gangster Era in the 1920s and early 1930s during Prohibition. To enhance our experience, we will have a number of costumed guides board our bus to give us an account of gangster and bootlegging activities while we visit famous locations throughout the cities of Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, and Windsor, Canada. Details of the full itinerary can be found in the April and May newsletters which can be found on our website, www.damascustravelclub.org.

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 at (301) 831-6746 or email her at liontonyjames@comcast.net with any questions.

Cost of Package – based on 35 paid reservations

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

Deposit of \$800.00 pp due by June 30, 2025. Final payment due August 9, 2025

Williamsburg, Jamestown & Yorktown – The Historic Triangle

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

(PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE)



Put this one on your calendar as you won't want to miss discovering the wonders of Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown, Virginia this fall. This will be the perfect blend of storied attractions, exhilarating indoor and outdoor adventures, and enriching entertainment.

As outlined in the May newsletter, we'll visit the Jamestown settlement, a living history museum that illuminates the Virginia Indians who occupied the landscape for centuries, the arrival of English colonists to Jamestown in 1607 and arrival of the West Central Africans, leading to cultural encounters and events that planted seeds of a new nation. Near the site of the original colony, you'll experience immersive films, gallery exhibits and outdoor historical re-creations of daily life in early Jamestown and where you can climb aboard replicas of the English colonists' three sailing ships, the Godspeed, the Discovery and the Susan Constant. A box lunch (included) will be provided upon arrival to Jamestown. After our visit we'll travel a short distance to our hotel, The Woodlands, located in historic Williamsburg. Dinner (included) at the Shields Tavern will be provided.

The next day, after breakfast at the hotel, we'll have a guided walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg in the morning followed by an afternoon to explore the area on your own. The historic area of Colonial Williamsburg is a 301 acre living history museum that recreates the lifestyle of Virginia's colonial capital that includes 89 original 18th-century buildings and hundreds of buildings reconstructed based on historical records and archaeological research. Landmarks include the Governor's Palace, the Capitol, the Raleigh Tavern, and historic Duke of Gloucester Street.



On our final day after breakfast at the hotel we'll depart for Yorktown, the site of a decisive battle pitting the Continental Army and its French allies against a hemmed-in British force. The allied siege was successful, the British surrendered and the outcome of the Revolutionary War was sealed. While here we'll receive a guided tour, visit the American Revolution Museum seeing indoor galleries interactive exhibits and films as well as outdoor living-history areas where you can witness artillery demonstrations, drill with wooden muskets at a re-created Continental encampment and explore a Revolution-era farm. We'll depart Yorktown with a snack. As a special treat for the ride home we'll make a stop in historic Fredericksburg, Virginia. We'll be greeted by a Visitors Center Representative with maps and suggestions for time on your own to explore this charming city and have dinner before continuing home to Damascus.

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 at (301) 831-6746 or email her at 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



Enjoy the Greenbrier's exclusive services and amenities, such as fine dining, more than fifty activities, designer boutiques, a world-class spa, and a gaming and entertainment venue. There is a swimming pool, movie theater, afternoon tea, historic hotel tour and more! Don't forget the classic dress code after 6 PM. Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket, and ladies are asked to wear a dress, skirt or pants suit.

The Greenbrier has hosted 27 U.S. Presidents, has a medical center, offers a tour of the Presidents' Cottage Museum and has many surprises. The decorations for the holiday should not be missed!

The trip includes transportation, two nights lodging, two dinners, two breakfasts, afternoon tea, access to the Casino Club (including \$20 free slot play), nightly champagne toast at the casino, all taxes, resort fees, luggage handling and driver's tip. Additional activities (workshops, carriage ride, bunker tour, spa treatments and more!) are by reservation.

Even though the reservation deadline was June 1, there is room for several more people to join us on this great trip. Please call me ASAP and let me know you'd like to experience the world-famous Greenbrier this Christmas.

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

\$500 Deposit due June 1, 2025. FINAL PAYMENT DUE SEPTEMBER 24, 2025.

Questions: Call Joanne at 301-253-0335.

NOTE!

**Please send in your membership renewal form
in this newsletter and on our website
and join us for another year of fun and travel!**



Rescheduled

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

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

Due to a slow response to our original trip to Nova Scotia, I decided to research other trips offered to this area and agreed to join Collette Tours for their trip scheduled for NEXT YEAR, 2026. Anyone who signed up for the trip this year will have their check returned. Checks will be given back at the Spring Luncheon on June 3. If you are NOT attending the luncheon, please call me at 240-793-6820 or our Tour Treasurer Nancy Sutherland at 301-788-8008.



HIGHLIGHTS... Cabot Trail, Peggy's Cove, Fundy Trail, Hopewell Rocks, Mahone Bay, Lunenburg, Cape Breton Island, Prince Edward Island, Anne of Green Gables Museum, Grand-Pre National Historic Site

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1-3: Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Day 4-5: Inverary Resort, Baddeck, Nova Scotia

Day 6-7: The Holman Grand Hotel, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Day 8-9: Hilton Saint John, Saint John, New Brunswick

Day 10: The Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax, Nova Scotia

(On some dates alternate hotels may be used)



Deposits are refundable until February 8, 2026.

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 pp.

For detailed itinerary or questions contact Helen Aument @ 240-793-6820 or shirlelu123@yahoo.com

Pricing for this package is: \$6,399 pp single / \$5,299 pp double / \$5,199 pp triple

Deposit of \$698 pp is due by June 30, 2025 to receive a \$200 DISCOUNT

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, 2026, 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>

RESERVATIONS

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

Chester River Cruise – July 7, 2025

Payment of \$189 pp due NOW

Name _____ Phone _____ Encl. \$ _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone _____

ARE YOU A DTC MEMBER Y ___ N ___

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 ___

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 ___

Greenbrier, West Virginia – November 30-December 2, 2025

Deposit of \$500 pp due by June 1, 2025

\$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 ___

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

June 2025



Keep these newsletters for future reference!



Remember...

JUNE 3 SPRING LUNCHEON

Our wonderful Spring Luncheon will be held Tuesday, June 3, at 1 PM
at the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company.

Hope to see you there!