

SPRING PICNIC – 20 May, 2018

Over the weekend of May 18-20 (*the weekend between Mother's Day and Memorial Day*), the Greater Baltimore Model 'A' Ford Club (GBMAFC) and the



George Washington Chapter are hosting a joint picnic at the James Monroe Presidential Estate (*Oak Hill*) in Aldie, VA. (Aldie is at the intersection of US-50 & US-15). Members of both the Skyline and Old Dominion Clubs have been invited to join us.

The picnic itself will be on Sunday, May 20th (11:00 to 4:00), but a number of the Baltimore members have expressed interest in coming down a day or two early to visit the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport, and the Winmill Carriage Museum at Morven Park in Leesburg (Open Saturdays 12-5:30). Plus touring Virginia Horse Country and some shopping at the quaint village of Middleburg, about 6 miles west.

The picnic on Sunday can handle about 60 cars (Model 'A's only) and participants will be treated to open access to the formal gardens, a short lecture on the history of the estate as well as a tour of the mansion (preliminary designs for which were drawn for President Monroe by his friend Thomas Jefferson with additional features

presented by Monroe's friend the Marquis de Lafayette). The 2,000 acre estate is the last remaining presidential home of the Revolutionary Era still in private hands and is not open to the public. This is a one-off by invitation of the owners who have specifically requested the *'Model 'A's Only'* restriction.

The Baltimore and Washington Clubs will handle structural and entertainment expenses of the day – bluegrass band, tents, tables, toilet facilities, parking attendants, signage, etc. A local caterer will provide the picnic for which each participant will be assessed \$15 in advance. Club members will be asked to please bring lawn chairs. Of course, should Mother Nature hit us with a tropical storm or some such, and we have to cancel, the fee will be refunded but please do your *“beautiful weather”* chants & dances.

Mid-May is the start of “wedding season” and horse shows in the Virginia countryside. If we delay we will soon be out of luck on room reservations for anyone who would like to spend the weekend close by. Accordingly, blocks totaling 50 rooms (1 king or 2 queens) have been set aside in Chantilly, around the corner from Udvar-Hazy. (Chantilly is about 20 minutes from Aldie). The hotels are:

First Choice: The *Wingate by Wyndham*, 3940 Centerview Drive, Chantilly (571) 203-0999. \$84 + tax (25 rooms - Complementary breakfast)

Second Choice: *Courtyard by Marriott*, 3935 Centerview Drive, Chantilly (703) 709-7100. \$89+ tax (25 rooms - No breakfast)

(The *Marriott* and the *Wingate* are in the same complex which includes several restaurants – LongHorn, Bob Evans & Santini's)

Also reserved is the 19th Century B&B in the village of Aldie (*Little River Inn*) which has 7 rooms, some with private baths, some without, with full breakfast (see: www.aldie.com). *Little River Inn*: (703) 327-6742. Cancellation policy: 7 days

Note: For prices approaching the stratosphere, the Middleburg-Aldie area also has several other charming inns and B&Bs to choose from (see *TripAdvisor*). Alas, some of the best, such as *The Briar Patch B&B*, are already booked solid for weddings.

Please **RSVP** to John Leydon < jkleydon@gmail.com > as soon as possible, but no later than April 1st, and send your \$15 per person contribution made out to “*GWC*” to J.K. Leydon, P.O. Box 146, Aldie, VA 20105-0146. For the roster and name-tags, please include the name of each attendee, e-mail address, cell phone number and the year & version of your Model ‘A’. (A form for this purpose has been e-mailed to each club). As soon as we reach 60 cars (60 completed forms with payment), we will begin a wait list for cancellations.

When you make your reservations for accommodations, please identify yourself as part of “**The Model ‘A’ Club**”. Reservations for the blocks of rooms set aside for us will be accepted through April 15th. Please book early, and if you have to cancel, cancellations at the *Wingate & Marriott* will be accepted up to 72 hours prior to scheduled arrival.

All acceptees will be sent a map of Oak Hill showing driving directions to the grounds and picnic area. Also sent will be details for the group wishing to join a curated tour of the Udvar-Hazy Museum on Saturday (5/19) which will gather and leave from the *Wingate* at 9:30 a.m.

Lastly and **IMPORTANT**: Once you have decided you would like to participate, please notify or cc: Jason Cunningham who will be coordinating travel, side excursions, and tracking accommodations for those staying in Chantilly or out in the country.

Once again: *Model ‘A’s Only*