



New York

Car &  
Travel

## SUMMER VACATION BUDGET SAVERS

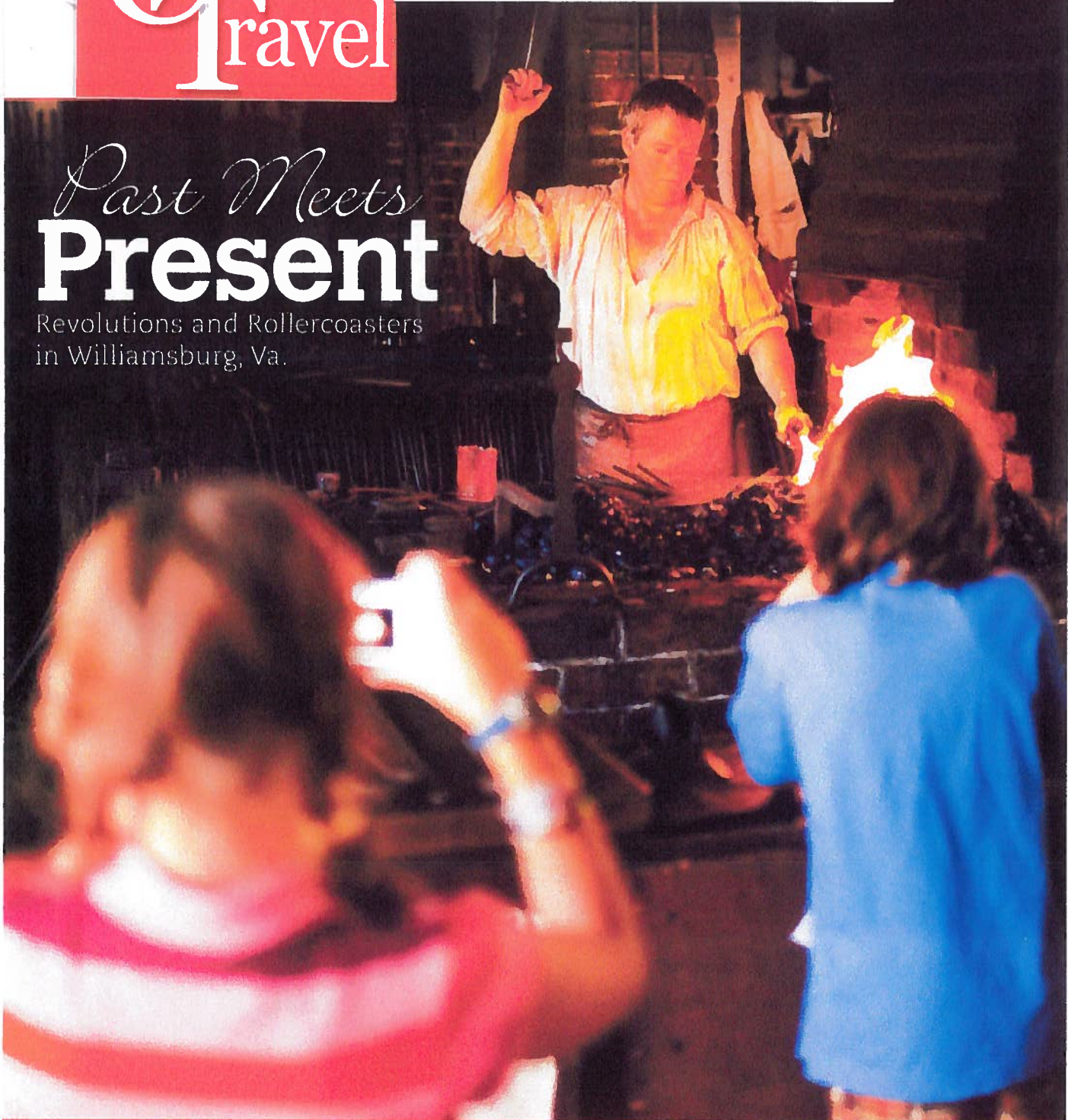
7 tips for affording your next trip

## SCOOT COMMUTE

A plan to speed up your daily drive

# *Past Meets* **Present**

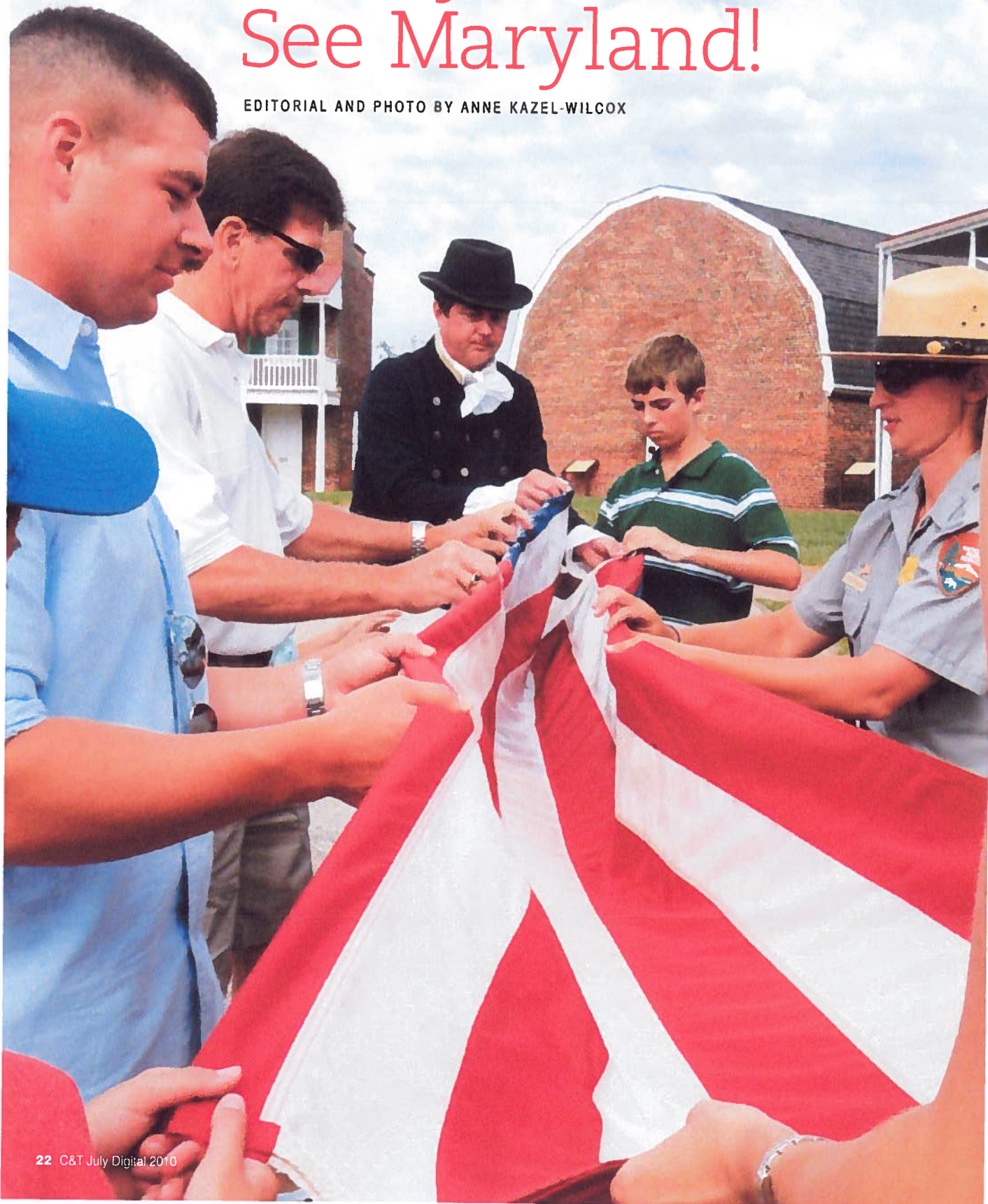
Revolutions and Rollercoasters  
in Williamsburg, Va.



NEW MEMBER BENEFIT: RENEW YOUR VEHICLE REGISTRATION AT AAA - PAGE 4

# Oh, Say Can You See Maryland!

EDITORIAL AND PHOTO BY ANNE KAZEL-WILCOX



VACATIONS OFTEN MEAN exotic escapes to far-off locations, but with a tight budget, my family decided to save and instead explore some of our own country's history. We chose a "Star-Spangled Banner" route around Maryland, touring some of the most notable places and events involving America's independence and on to more current times. When asked what they enjoyed most, my children summed up the experience by declaring, "everything!" From the fort in Baltimore that served as inspiration to Francis Scott Key's star-spangled poem, on to the historic homes of signers of the Declaration of Independence in Annapolis, Maryland offers sites that awe and inspire.

Baltimore is at the heart of this star-spangled route, with the city's Fort McHenry having served as a point of defense during the War of 1812 against the British. Key penned his famous poem (his original manuscript is on view at the Maryland Historical Society in downtown Baltimore) as he witnessed one particularly brutal battle and the enormous American flag that withstood the mayhem. Time a visit correctly and you can enjoy reenactments of soldiers firing off cannons and muskets as though still in battle.

Many other interesting Baltimore sites are intertwined with the legacy of our flag, including the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, but the city offers modern stories of triumph as well.

The Inner Harbor is Baltimore's renaissance, developed in the 1990s, and, today, the tourism hub of the city. The gorgeous Hyatt Regency Baltimore overlooks that harbor with spectacular views and skywalks to more than 70 shops and restaurants. The Inner Harbor also offers the city's popular aquarium and science museum, as well as a museum featuring several noteworthy military ships. I loved touring the *USS Torsk* submarine, which was the last vessel to sink an enemy craft in World War II, and the *USS Coast Guard cutter Taney*, a warship that saw action in Pearl Harbor.


Free, guided walking tours depart from the Inner Harbor's visitors' center and include the Heritage Walk and the Cultural Walk. (Guided tours run from April to October, weather permitting; self-guided tours at other times of year ([heritagewalk.org](http://heritagewalk.org), 877/225-8466).) But no one needs a guide to find Federal Hill, a well-known lookout point during the Civil War and War of 1812. Just walk south of the Inner Harbor to the historic park for beautiful, panoramic views of downtown Baltimore.

Then move on to tour the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, which was the United

## Baltimore and Annapolis offer lighter sides when you've finished touring history:

**Baltimore**—For sheer childlike pleasure, discover the Port Discovery Children's Museum. There, your children can ring up food orders and wait on you in the 50's-style diner or get joyously wet (though slickers are available) in Wonders of Water. For the kid in all of us, visit the former railroad center at historic Camden Yards, just 12 minutes by foot from the Inner Harbor, which plays host to the Baltimore Orioles baseball team in season.

**Annapolis**—First and foremost, Annapolis is a sailing town. Enjoy viewing races from the fine Carroll's Creek Waterfront Restaurant or the Boatyard Bar & Grill, with one of the world's best nautical-themed bars. The Loews Annapolis Hotel also offers a nautical theme and is conveniently just a few blocks from the city center.

States' capital for one year in 1783-84. Weekdays at noon, also weather permitting, you can witness the spectacle of thousands of midshipmen conducting brigade formations. Spread over 300 acres near the Chesapeake Bay, the academy features the crypt of John Paul Jones, the legendary naval hero. Also in Annapolis are several homes of signers of the Declaration of Independence, including that of William Paca; the Banneker-Douglass Museum is a fascinating look at African-American troops who fought for America's freedom. Top off an historical tour with a visit to the beautiful, dome-capped State House, the oldest state house in continuous use and the site where Congress ratified the treaty that ended the Revolutionary War. 

### Tourism Information:

[VisitMaryland.org](http://VisitMaryland.org);

[Baltimore.org](http://Baltimore.org);

[VisitAnnapolis.org](http://VisitAnnapolis.org)