

Hi,

As webmaster for the Volkssport Club of West Point (VCWP), I would like to thank the 2011 AVA Publicity Award Committee for selecting the VCWP website to receive a 1<sup>st</sup> Place award in the Website category.

Below is the slightly edited content of the application for the 2011 Website award that explains the notable features of the VCWP website, <http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/> that combines a traditional layout and graphics with a new calendar and mapping feature that other AVA club websites might want to emulate.

## **Embedded Google Public Calendar**

The VCWP website home page displays the Club calendar maintained as a Google Calendar. Google has put together a very simple to use Calendar capability that has the following features:

1. The ability to create a "public" calendar that other users (even those without a Google e-mail account) can see.
2. The ability to display this public calendar using an HTML iframe element on any website.
3. The ability for the user to change the display format of the calendar between week, month, or agenda formats. The agenda format is probably the most useful for a club with one or two activities a month.
4. The ability for the user to specify an email be sent whenever a club updates any calendar information for a club activity.
5. The ability to include the the club calendar events in one's own personal Google calendar.

The VCWP website was the first in the Northeast Region to use a Google calendar for our club activities. The Albany NY Empire State Volkssport Club (ESVC) soon followed our lead and placed a Google calendar on their website. The 2011 Convention Website has also employed a Google calendar for all of their event walks.

Google provides a special webpage to help customize the HTML iframe element for a public calendar. Here is the helper link for the VCWP calendar (after "src=").

[https://www.google.com/calendar/embedhelper?src=volkssportclubofwestpoint%40hotmail.com&ctz=America/New\\_York](https://www.google.com/calendar/embedhelper?src=volkssportclubofwestpoint%40hotmail.com&ctz=America/New_York)

## **MapQuest for Traditional Event and Year Round Event Maps**

Clicking on the "Walking Events" on the left hand menu on the VCWP home page will display the 4 Traditional Events and the 9 YREs now sponsored by VCWP. This page includes a map of the lower Hudson Valley with pin markers showing the location for each of the walking event starting points, based on MapQuest technology. The user may zoom in on a particular starting point via the widget in the upper left corner of the map and optionally choose

to activate the "Street Map" view via the widget in the upper right corner. Placing the mouse over one of the map marker stars displays the YRE's name. Clicking on the displayed YRE name extends the pop-up display to include the starting point name.

The table cells on the left are also mouse rollover sensitive, such that a rollover not only highlights the table cell but also displays the Walk Event name for the corresponding map marker star. Each table cell includes a link to a traditional page describing the walk as well as "map" link. The selection of the map link brings up a new page on the MapQuest site. This new page shows a mapped close-up of the event's starting point whose latitude and longitude determines the map pin location. The event's name and address are also displayed just below a convenient "Get Directions" link. Selecting this link allows the user to enter his current address and generate directions to the displayed event's starting point.

Other AVA clubs can also employ this MapQuest technology. The first step is to register with MapQuest (for free) and get an "AppKey" as described at

<http://developer.mapquest.com/web/products/featured/javascript>

The club webmaster should be somewhat JavaScript knowledgeable but does not need to be an expert. The examples in the "API Documentation" are very good. But copying the source from the VCWP Walking Events page is a good way to get started. If the later approach is followed, the copied source should be changed to use the webmaster's MapQuest "AppKey". In particular, the JavaScript source fragment

*...key=Fmjtd%7Cluu7n90b20%2C8n%3Do5-5ranq...*

must be changed to reflect the Webmaster's AppKey. If this is not done, the JavaScript will fail since the MapQuest server confirms that the supplied AppKey value was sent from the website that it was registered against. (The key value listed above is registered against the VCWP website.)

The JavaScript is written so that nearly all of the event specific information is contained in the JavaScript array, "walkInfo[]" where each array element contains labeled fields with values specific to a particular event.

After extracting Javascript form this page, the webmaster needs to:

1. Edit the contents of the Walk info array, walkInfo[] to reflect the walking events to be mapped (either a YRE or SE as determined by the value of "type")
2. Edit the contents of each of the "Traditional Event" and "Year Round and Seasonal Events" html tables to reflect the walking events to be mapped.
3. Adjust the geographic center location (lat and lng) of the SE and YRE maps by editing the lat and lng values shown in the following Javascript fragment:  

```
window.mapSE = new MQA.TileMap(document.getElementById('map_SE'), 7,  
{lat:41.4, lng:-73.961}, 'map');  
window.mapYRE = new MQA.TileMap(document.getElementById('map_YRE'), 7,  
{lat:41.553299, lng:-74.020803}, 'map');
```

4. Set the values of width and height in the mapInfoSE and mapInfoYRE structures to resize the respective SE and YRE maps as needed.

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