



Gator News

The Official Newsletter of the Gator Volksmarsch Club
P.O. Box 62262, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2262

Volume 2008, No. 01

January 2008

- Gator Group Walk – Norfolk (MacArthur Memorial) – Jan 26th at 10:00 a.m.
- Pathfinder Group Walk – Newport News (Mariners' Museum) – Feb 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
- Gator Group Walk – Virginia Beach (Rudee Inlet) – Feb 9th 10:00 a.m.
- Membership as of 17 January 2008: 120.
- Treasurer's Report: Net Balance as of 17 January 2008: \$3,875.75

CLUB WEBSITE

www.ava.org/clubs/gators



Gator Volksmarsch Club
(AVA & VVA Affiliated)



www.ava.org



www.walkvirginia.com

THANKS

As you read this newsletter, I want everyone to know that this is first issue of **Gator News**. If the format seems familiar, you may have been reading the Peninsula Pathfinders' newsletter, **The Compass**. I thought **The Compass** was well laid out, and being a fan of "recycling", I asked **Diane and Ron Berard** if they would mind if I "borrowed" their format. They emailed me a copy of **The Compass** and gave me their blessings.

Many thanks, Pathfinders, for sharing!!!!

About the **Gator News**

The last Gator newsletter ("Gator Notes") was published in March 2007. Since the **Gator News** is a totally new format and I've never produced a newsletter before, this issue is going to be very basic. I know there will be some "bugs" to work out as I go along. I will play around with content, fonts, colors, and basic layout in future issues.

If any of you have suggestions for information you would like to see added, please contact Barbara Briggum, your newsletter editor, at **Gator News**. For those of you who do not have access to a computer, please see me at an event, call me or write me at the address on the header of this newsletter.

The Gator board members decided to mail this first issue to everyone on our membership list. Future issues will be sent via email to any who have given us email addresses. If you are unsure whether we have your email address, please email me from the address you want us to use and I will see that your membership record is updated.

The board also decided to publish the **Gator News** quarterly for the time being. If anything important comes to our attention, we can always send out a "special" issue.

Barb, Newsletter Editor

December Meeting Notes

The Gator Club held its annual holiday dinner and meeting at the Tradewinds Restaurant in the Virginia Beach Hotel and Conference Center, which is the starting point for our First Landing Year Round Walk.

The board presented two items that required a vote by the general membership. First was an increase of the club's annual dues, an increase to \$7.00 for individuals and \$11.00 for family. The second item was the recommendation to elect long time club members Charlie Hornsby, Joan Grant and Ed Grant for Honorary Membership. Both items were passed by the general membership. See related articles on both topics in this newsletter.

Next Club Meeting

Place: *Virginia Beach Central Library ***
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd.*

Date	Room
17 January 2008	The Libris Room
21 February 2008	The Libris Room
20 March 2008	The Libris Room
17 April 2008	TBD
15 May 2008	The Libris Room
19 June 2008	The Libris Room

Time: 7:30 p.m.

We will automatically email an invitation, one week prior to meeting date, to members who have provided us

with email addresses. We will also post meeting information on the Gator web site.

*** The Central Library is not always available for our meetings. Please check with any of the club officers before a meeting to make sure there hasn't been a change.

Come one, come all!!!! Take part in deciding the direction your club takes.

Election of Officers

2008 is an election year for club officers. The elected officers of the Club are the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. According to the bylaws of the club, "the President shall appoint a nominating committee, consisting of one member of the Board of Directors and two members at large, in January of even-numbered years." Bill Zimmerman, Trailmaster has agreed to represent the board on the nominating committee. Ken Eberhart is currently seeking two volunteers among the general membership to serve on the committee. The Nominating Committee shall present the slate of candidates to the General Membership meeting in April. The election shall be held at the General Membership meeting in May. Nominations from the floor will be allowed, and will be accepted at the time of the election. The term of office for each elected officer shall be two years, or until a successor is duly elected. The term of office shall begin on July 1. Anyone interested in serving on the nominating committee or in serving your club in one of the elected positions can contact either [Bill Zimmerman](#), Trailmaster or [Ken Eberhart](#), President.

Contact Information

Gator News will be available on the official Gator Web site, via email and regular mail. We are trying to "standardize" the contact information.

For those using a computer: Contacts can be reached by doing a ctrl-click on the underlined [email links](#). Just enter your question/comment on the email message and send it on its way. We will try not to use underlines except for email or web links.

For print readers: Use the "Contact Us" table at the end of the newsletter or the telephone numbers included in the article's text.

Membership Dues Increase

An increase in membership dues went into effect on January 1, 2008. While no one likes to see prices go up, it has been many years since the Gator Club has raised their dues. An individual membership is now \$7 and a family membership is \$11. You can fill out a renewal or new member form at Gator Events or fill out the appropriate form at the end of this newsletter and send it, along with your check, to the address on the form.

IVV Books

Did you know our club maintains a supply of IVV event and distance books? We have books for sale at weekend events and club meetings. If you complete a book and need another, but you are in between events, you can contact the club [Ken Eberhart](#) or [Jeff Kline](#) and we will coordinate with you to get the book to you. Cost of Event and Distance books is \$5.00 each.

Club Credit Cards

Did you know our club sells a Credit Card for Gator-sponsored Year Round Events (YRE)? The Gator Club Credit Card is good for 10 YRE walk and bike events and is valid for 1 year from the date of purchase. The cost of the card is \$20.00, \$1.00 off the normal \$3.00 credit-only. Gator Club Credit Cards can be purchased at club meetings or Gator weekend events or by contacting the club [Ken Eberhart](#) or [Jeff Kline](#).

Restriction: The credit card is only valid for the 11 walk and bike events sponsored by the Gators in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Suffolk and Smithfield.

Reminders

- ◆ **Volunteers Needed:** Our next event is April 26. WHRO Radio/TV Station, Norfolk, VA. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact [Jeff Kline](#) to find out what jobs are available.
- ◆ **Next quarter's Newsletter Deadline:** Please send articles and information to the editor no later than 27 March 2008.

Awards

Since April 2007, *The American Wanderer* has reported the following IVV Achievement milestones have been attained by Gator Club members:

Name	Events	Distance (K)
Barbara Bell	75	500
Peggy Bowers	100	1000
Derrick Bradford	150	
Don Bradford	350	
Lisa Bradford		3000
Barbara Briggum	30	
Larry Channel	10	
Ken Eberhart	1250	14000
Linda Eriksen	50	
Ed Grant	450	4500
Ginny Gross	225	
Richard Gross	225	
Dan Horne	475	
Jeff Kline	325	3500
John Kupyar	600	7000
Bill Lowell	325	6000
Faye Meads	30	
Cindy Meier	30	
Charley Seward	1100	
Rolf Siegert	375	5000
Elaine Thompson	100	1000
Bill Zimmerman	850	12000
Chan Zucker	225	

Congratulations!!!!

If we inadvertently missed anyone, please contact the [Gator News](#) editor so we can recognize your accomplishment in our next issue.

Since *The American Wanderer* does not publish a list of walkers completing special programs, please let us know when you have completed a special program, such as "50 States and Capitals," so we can also recognize these accomplishments.

New Members

by Dan Horne, Membership Chair

Since the last newsletter, the March 2007 "Gator Notes," was published, the Gators have added the following new members:

Shirley Boyd	Terri Landau
Ann Boyer	Chris Laws
Camille Coffey	Bev Picano
Kit Coffey	Linda Renolds
Alex Gallagher	Kelly Simms
Jack Gallagher Jr.	Jerry Spiker
John Gallagher	Doug Stetson
Laura Gallagher	Alyssa Weaver
John Graveno	Gordon Weaver
Nichole Graveno	
Traute Graveno	

Welcome!!!!

New Honorary Members

by Ken Eberhart, President

Congratulations to long time club members **Charlie Hornsby**, **Joan Grant** and **Ed Grant** for being selected for Honorary Membership at the December Club meeting/holiday dinner. Charlie has served the club in various positions, such as president and Year Round Walk Coordinator for the Norfolk MacArthur walk. Joan has served the club in the position of Pre-Registration Coordinator for many years. Ed has also served the club in various positions, especially in the position of club treasurer.

Honorary Membership may be granted to those persons designated by a vote of the membership of the club for outstanding service to the club and to volkssporting in general. An Honorary Membership will last for the life of the designee, and the individual will enjoy all rights and privileges of and Active Member, except that no dues need be paid.

In Memoriam

by Ken Eberhart, President

We sadly report the deaths of the following Club members during 2007

Allison Stafford	Club Founder & Honorary Member
David Stephens	
Margaret Claverie	Honorary Member
Olive Knowles	Honorary Member

Recent Club Events

by Ken Eberhart, President

The Gator Club held its annual two day event on New Years Eve and Day at Smithfield Virginia. The weather cooperated to make this a very successful turn out for the event. The following is a summary of the participation.

Smithfield New Years Eve Walk 12/31/2007

Award and Credit:	29
Credit Only:	69
Free Walker:	25
Total:	123

Smithfield New Years Day Walk 01/01/2008

Award and Credit:	2
Credit Only:	95
Free Walker:	14
Total:	111

Group Walks

by Ken Eberhart, President

On weekends when there is no walk scheduled locally (which could mean up to the Richmond area), we join with the Peninsula Pathfinders, Virginia Vagabonds or Lee Lepus Volksverband to walk one of the local Year Round Event (YRE) trails as a group. The idea is for everyone to gather at the start point of the YRE in time to walk as a group. If you are a new club member, this is a great way to learn about the YRE process, and meet club members. Register either before or after you walk. Gather at the start point in time to begin walking at the time indicated. Here is the schedule of "group walks" for the first part of 2008.

Date	Club	Location	Time
Jan 26	G	Norfolk (MacArthur Memorial)	10:00 a.m.
Feb 02	PP	Newport News (Mariners' Museum)	10:00 a.m.
Feb 09	G	Va. Beach (Rudee Inlet)	09:00 a.m.
Feb 16	VV	Ivor	09:00 a.m.
Feb 23	LL	Richmond (Legend's Brewery)	09:00 a.m.
Mar 08	VV	Dismal Swamp	09:00 a.m.
Mar 15	PP	Fort Eustis	09:00 a.m.

Club Key:

G	Gator
LL	Lee Lepus Volksverband
PP	Peninsula Pathfinders
VV	Virginia Vagabonds

You can get directions to the start point, walk restrictions and other useful information from 3 sources:

1. Pick up YRE flyers at Gator Club Meetings.
2. Pick up YRE flyers at Walk Events.
3. Look it up in a **Start Point** book (available for \$15 from www.ava.org or contact the club president, [Ken Eberhart](#)).

Regular Events

by Ken Eberhart, President

The following is the schedule of regular weekend events in our area. If you are missing a flyer for an event and need detailed directions, you can visit the AVA web at www.ava.org and click on "Find Walking Events," then click on the state you are interested in. The regular Volkssport events will be listed by date. You can view the detailed information on each event, including start time, driving directions and a detailed description of the trail.

Date	Club	Location
Mar 01	VV	Reedville, VA
Mar 22	PP	Franklin, VA
Mar 29	PP	Gloucester, VA
Apr 05	VV	Yorktown, VA
Apr 12	PP	Hampton, VA
Apr 19	LL	Mineral, VA
Apr 26	G	Norfolk, VA

Club Key:

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LL	Lee Lepus Volksverband
PP	Peninsula Pathfinders
VV	Virginia Vagabonds

The Club's Next Events

by Bill Zimmerman, Trailmaster

The event we have planned for April 26th will start at the WHRO Radio & TV Station in Norfolk. You may start between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., with a finish by 4:00 p.m. The walk route we've almost finalized will go through the campus of Old Dominion University, along the Elizabeth River and through the surrounding Edgewater neighborhood. For everyone working on the Presidents Special Event book, the walk will pass the house where President Jimmy Carter and his wife lived while serving in the navy. Hope to see all of our club members on the 26th of April. Thanks to WHRO Radio & TV for the use of their facility.

Road Trips

- ◆ **York, PA:** The York White Roses is offering a Winter Walks Event February 2-3. Contact [Pat & Joe Strausbaugh](#) (717)764-6150 or [Gloria & Jim Reedy](#) (717)292-3777 for more information.
- ◆ **Martinsburg, WV:** The 4th Biennial Atlantic Region Conference will be held March 14-16. Read the "2008 Atlantic Region Conference" article below to learn more about this event.
- ◆ **Nova Scotia:** The Canadian Volkssport Convention in 2008 will be held in Wolfville, Nova Scotia from May 23 -25, 2008. All the convention information can be found at www.valleytrekkers.com or call Lynne Kanne at (902)847-1772.

2008 Atlantic Region Conference

The Atlantic Region Director in cooperation with the Riverfront Ramblers, AVA-0664 and the All American Walking Club, AVA-0906 will host the 4th Biennial Atlantic Region Conference on March 14-16, 2008 at the Holiday Inn — Martinsburg, Martinsburg, West Virginia. The Registration Brochure contains all information necessary to register for the conference. It also contains lodging, socials, events and other general information. Please join us for a weekend of activities and walking events. Learn about health and fitness, how the Atlantic Region operates, and maybe a little bit of West Virginia history. The Club has a limited number of Brochures that will be available at meetings. For additional Information you can contact Nancy Stenger, (703) 631-8512 or Joan Lampart, (215) 529-5686, Email: atlantic.conference@yahoo.com.

Idita-Walk 2008

Here is a fun event you can participate in during the winter season by either doing Volkmarsch events or just a brisk walk around your neighborhood or favorite mall.

Each year Boy Scout Troop 298 Nome, Alaska sponsors the Idita-walk, an event, to promote physical fitness in the spirit of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. During the 2007 event 763 people and 56 dogs participated in the event. That's right you can even enter your K9. The Iditarod Sled dog race is 1049 miles long from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. This year is the 10th anniversary of the Idita-walk. To complete the Idita-walk, walk 30 minutes a day for 35 days between February 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008 for a total of 1049 minutes or any combination of days and time between the two dates. The entry fee for this year's event is \$10 for all participants. All proceeds go to the Boy Scout Camp Bronson maintenance, scholarships, and numerous youth related programs. All participants receive a collectible Idita-Walk 2008 lapel pin. To find out more information or to register for the event go to www.idita-walk.com.

Iditarod Trivia

The following information was extracted from the web pages of Idita-Walk...

What does Iditarod Mean?

We have come across three different definitions — take your pick!

The following is from an article in the “Anchorage Times” following the 1973 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, written by Gordon Fowler, Times Sports writer:

Iditarod means clear water and was named by the Shageluk Indians for the Iditarod River.

Another explanation comes from one of the Anchorage papers during the 1983 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race:

The word comes from the Ingalik Indian word Halditarod which was the name for the river on which the town was built. It means distant place.

And this one comes from James Kari, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Native Language Center in 1979:

The name Iditarod came from an Ingalik and Holikachuk word hidedhod for the Iditarod River. This name means distant or distant place. This word is still known by elders in the villages of Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling and Holy Cross.

Iditarod Fact

The first Iditarod race to Nome started March 3, 1973.

Q&A Corner

by Peggy Bowers

Question: I already have 500km in my distance book, but the book isn't full. Does my entire distance book have to be filled before I send it in?

Answer: Having reached 500 km send your book in even if there are blank spaces left.

Question: What can I do when I come to the first check point on the walk and discover I've left my start card behind?

Answer: Punch, stamp or write the answer(s) on your direction sheet.

In the Next Issue

- ◆ AVA Membership
- ◆ Things You Can do For Volkssporting
- ◆ Merchandise Corner
- ◆ What Your Club Officer's Do

Today's TIP: Check out this article on "Walking for Fitness" at the www.emedicinehealth.com web site. It gives sound advice as you prepare for this years walk events (or any exercise routine consisting of a walking program).

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