



Washington DC Area Volksmarching Club

WANDERFREUNDE

May 2009

A Note from the President

May has been much more April-like this year, with lots of clouds and rain. The rain has often been sporadic, so there's been ample time for good walks, but it's difficult to generate enthusiasm to get up early, drive an hour or more to a scheduled event, and look to spend a couple of hours walking when a check of the weather radar shows the screen largely covered with green and yellow, with lots of orange and red blobs wandering across it. Nonetheless, we need to view this spring's weather in a positive light. Except for a few days, we haven't had to deal with excessive heat, and our sunscreen supplies should be in really good shape.

The WDCAVC will host its second evening walk on Tuesday, May 19. This month's route will take folks north beside the Potomac River to the northern boundary of Alexandria at Four Mile Run. This trail has been popular in the past, and it's a dandy one to enjoy the river as well as airplane operations at the southern end of DCA.

Before our next newsletter, we also will conduct a one-day event on Saturday, June 13, at the Beatley Library in western Alexandria. The brochure for that event is in the same message (or envelope) as this newsletter. Please plan to join us there, and if you'd like to work that day, please contact me to let me know when you'd like to help us out.

Please take a close look at the minutes to our April meeting, which closely follow this message. You'll note that we are continuing our "downsizing" of club operations by vacating the storage area we've occupied at Uncle Bob's for many years. We've already made arrangements to donate our large tables to a local church, and we're looking to find good homes for other items

that we don't think we need in the future. For the short run, the club's remaining assets will be stored at the homes of the present club officers who live in the Eastern time zone. This arrangement is not ideal, but we need to get on top of our club finances and make sure that storage costs do not ensure that our club loses money every year despite whatever success we have in staging walks.

Continued discussion about our club, its future events, and how to function effectively in the future will continue at our monthly club meetings. Please join us at those if you can. If you can't attend, but you'd like to provide some input, suggestions, or reactions, please zap them to me at tbaerwal@nsf.gov or mail them to me at 7735 Wellington Rd; Alexandria VA 22306.

Many more good events are on the schedule for this spring and early summer, so get out and support the activities of other clubs, just as we ask others to support us. Some photos on the back page provide evidence of this. Enjoy your walks and all else you do!

Thomas Baerwald, WDCAVC President

Minutes of the WDCAVC Meeting

April 21, 2009

The meeting was opened at 6:50 PM by President Tom Baerwald. Attending were Steve Arnett, Ed Blodgett, Sandi Cahill, Marshall Hansen, and Ken Wilson. For walking experiences, Ed commented on the evening's walk taking him through a tunnel he had not known about before.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$623 in checking. It was approved after Ed's perusal.

Old Business

1. Uncle Bob's storage unit: Treasurer Marshall Hansen corrected a previous statement regarding the cost of the unit. It is still under \$1,000 a year, but not by much, and we have the option to pay month to month instead of annually. Doing so would take away the free 13th month for annual payment. A list of inventoried items was circulated for discussion. Many items were deemed unnecessary to current club operations. Some will be given to club members who want them. Other items will be offered to other organizations or for sale to members' acquaintances. Additional decisions will be made in Mid-May when Tom and Marshall can review the unit together. The aim of the Club is to vacate the unit entirely by the end of Summer 2009.

2. 2009 events: The National Mall YRE has had 46 walkers, the Iwo Jima YRE has had 58. There was a concern about the envelope and card supply, but there are plenty. Marshall suggested a certificate of recognition for the Columbia Plaza Apts. staff.

Evening walks: Tonight's event had 20 credit walkers and 1 free participant. Marshall developed the trail for tonight's event. Tom will do May. (If she is awake from her travels and research by then), Cheryl Eavey will plan either the July or August trail. Tom will do the remaining trail.

Spring 2009, Beatley Library: Sanction has been approved for the June 13 event in western Alexandria. The trail will be a variant of the 2002 Holmes Run trail used for a previous evening walk. The brochure is pending approval, but is available on the website. Copies were circulated among the members. Sandi reminded members to encourage early participation due to the Library's concern for parking.

Fall 2009: Discussion centered on 30 years anniversary. Ken had a list of the first 5 events of the club. Andrews Air Force Base was the site of the first event on 27 October 1979. The logistics of returning to AAFB are not practical for civilian walkers. Other sites are being considered.

Alexandria Holiday walk: Sanction has been approved for one trail on Sat. Dec. 5. starting at the Barrett Library. An award is being designed. Only 50 suncatchers and NO patches will be ordered.

3. 2010 events: Little Bennett is still in consideration for Fall. Occoquan area may be another site.

4. Donation: With the treasurer's recommendation the members agreed to give \$50 to the Friends of the Barrett Library to be used for anything they choose that will benefit the Barrett Branch. Staff has been very generous in allowing the holiday walk to start from their lounge, and has continued to allow the night walks and club meetings to be held there.

New Business

1. Future of the club: The main concern is how the group will have to change and adapt to lower participation numbers and different ways of presenting events.

2. AVA Convention: Sandi was given \$300 as the traditional delegate expense amount. Ken announced that for personal reasons he is unable to attend the convention, and therefore must decline as alternate delegate. Carl Cordes was suggested as a possible alternate, with Nancy Stenger another possibility. Tom will follow up with appropriate candidate. Voting instructions to the delegate will be given at the May meeting.

3. MVA: At the May 16 event at White's Ferry all fees will be paid by a couple who will get married on the walk. The next MVA meeting will be Sunday, April 26. Sandi cannot attend. Steve was directed to speak on our behalf, even if he believes that he cannot officially vote because he is an MVA officer. (Tom's conversations with MVA President Bob Schmick led Tom to believe that Bob had no problem with an MVA officer voting on behalf of a club if he was that club's representative at a meeting.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC Secretary

Atlantic Region Schedule

May 2009	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
16	W	Liberty Bell Wanderers	Quakertown PA (Quakertown Library)	215-529-5686
16	W, B	Maryland Volkssport Assn	Dickerson MD (White's Ferry on the C & O Canal)	717-337-1667
16	W	Loudoun Walking & Volkssport Club	Leesburg VA (Morven Park Equestrian Center)	703-737-2175
16	W	Gator Volksmarsch Club	Norfolk VA (Lafayette Branch Library)	757-490-9324
19	NW	Washington DC Area VM Club	Alexandria VA (Barrett Branch Library)	703-765-3128
23	W	First State Webfooters	Smyrna DE (Blackbird State Forest)	302-697-1191
30	W	Virginia Vagabonds	Newport News VA (Lunch Bell)	757-766-3065
30	W	Princeton Area Walkers	Manasquan NJ (La Bella Cucina)	732-536-4073
June 2009	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
05	NW	Virginia Vagabonds	Gloucester VA (Gloucester HS)	757-766-3065
06	W	Chesapeake Bay Country Wanderers	Upper Marlboro MD (Patuxent River Park)	301-805-4278
06	W	Liberty Bell Wanderers	Huntingdon Valley PA (Pennypack Ecological Trust)	215-317-3326
06	W	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	Fairfax VA (Van Dyke Park)	703-352-5135
06	W	Loudoun Walking & Volkssport Club	Sterling VA (Claude Moore Park)	703-737-2175
06	W	Virginia Vagabonds	Gloucester VA (Gloucester HS)	757-766-3065
08	NW	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	Fairfax Station VA (Fairview Elem Sch)	703-455-1878
13	W	Gator Volksmarsch Club	Chesapeake VA (Northwest River Park)	757-490-9324
13	W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Columbia MD (Oakland Mills Village Ctr)	410-290-6510
13	W	Washington DC Area VM Club	Alexandria VA (Beatley Branch Library)	703-765-3128
20	W	Baltimore Walking Club	North East MD (North East Town Park)	410-642-6514
27-28	W	Penn-Dutch Pacers Volksmarch Club	Lancaster PA (Lancaster County Park)	717-625-3533
July 2009	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
05	W	Freestate Happy Wanderers	Severna Park MD (Elks Lodge)	410-437-2164
11	W	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers	Poolesville MD (Riley's Lock on the C&O Canal)	301-926-0915
18	W	Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club	Harrisburg PA (Wildwood Nature Sanctuary)	717-599-5033
18	W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Columbia MD (Harpers Choice Village)	410-290-6510
21	NW	Washington DC Area VM Club	Alexandria VA (Barrett Branch Library)	703-765-3128
25-26	2W	York White Rose Wanderers	York PA (York Expo Center)	717-624-4808
Aug 2009	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
1	W	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers	Rockville MD (Caribou Coffee, Rock Creek)	301-294-1191

			Village Shopping Center)	
8	W	Finger Lakes Volkssports Club	Montrose PA (Montrose Village Green)	607-754-1979
15	W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Columbia MD (Lakeside Coffee & Cafe)	410-290-6510
18	NW	Washington DC Area VM Club	Alexandria VA (Barrett Branch Library)	703-765-3128
22	W	Piedmont Pacers	Hagerstown MD (Augustoberfest Fest Tent)	410-795-7855
29	W	Annapolis Amblers	Annapolis MD (Annapolis Maritime Mus)	410-960-6226
Sept 2009	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
11	W	Freestate Happy Wanderers	Laurel MD (Montpelier Art Center)	301-717-3604
12	W	Piedmont Pacers	Brookeville MD (Rachel Carson Cons Park)	301-829-3685
12	W	Peninsula Pathfinders	Newport News VA (Riverview Farm Park)	757-890-9220
12	W	Susquehanna Rovers VM Club	Fort Loudon PA (Cowans Gap State Park)	717-599-5033
14	NW	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	Fairfax Station VA (Fairview Elem Sch)	703-455-1878
15	NW	Washington DC Area VM Club	Alexandria VA (Barrett Branch Library)	703-765-3128
19	W	Gator Volksmarsch Club	Norfolk VA (Van Wyck Branch Library)	757-490-9324
19	W	Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers	College Park MD (College Park Airport)	301-937-3549
19	W	Penn-Dutch Pacers Volksmarch Club	Elizabethtown PA (Masonic Village)	717-625-3533
20	W	Liberty Bell Wanderers	New Britain PA (Peace Valley Park)	215-317-3326
26	W	Virginia Vagabonds	Norfolk VA (San Antonio Sam's)	757-490-9324
26	W	Loudoun Walking & Volkssport Club	Lovettsville VA (Game Preservation Assn)	703-737-2175
26	W	Freestate Happy Wanderers	New Market MD (Grange on South Alley)	410-531-3873
27	2W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Ellicott City MD (Centennial Park)	410-290-6510

Legend:

W=Walk, GW=Guided Walk, GNW=Guided Night Walk, NW=Night Walk, B=Bike, S=Swim

Sk=Ski, IS=Ice Skate, RS=Roller Skate, SS=Snowshoe

Seneca Valley Sugarloafers "Star" on the AVA Web Site After Walking the WDVAVC's Iwo Jima Memorial YRE

The AVA web site (at <http://www.ava.org>) now rotates pictures submitted by AVA members depicting recent walking experiences. For a few days during the end of April and early May, the two following pictures submitted by SVS club member Maribeth Evans and the captions that follow were featured on the AVA home page.



The Seneca Valley Sugarloafers/Red Hat Ramblers AVA-0419 Gaithersburg, MD walked the Iwo Jima YRE in Washington, DC March 14, 2009. Photo taken along Memorial Drive going into Arlington Cemetery. Event Y1563 found on page 135 of the 2009 Starting Point Book hosted by the Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club AVA-0021 Alexandria, VA. Thanks to both Clubs who volunteer countless hours of their time to make AVA the best it can be for all participants. Photo submitted by Maribeth Evans, a member since 2005.



The Seneca Valley Sugarloafers/Red Hat Ramblers AVA-0419 Gaithersburg, MD walked the Iwo Jima YRE in Washington, DC March 14, 2009. Photo is of the Iwo Jima flag raising at the Marine Corps War Memorial along Custis Walk Way. Thanks to both Clubs who volunteer countless hours of their time to make AVA the best it can be for all participants. Photo submitted by Maribeth Evans, a member since 2005.