



## Washington DC Area Volksmarching Club

# WANDERFREUNDE

May 2010

### A Note from the President

Happy Spring everybody!

The weather finally has left winter behind, and some glorious walking has been possible in recent weeks. We had a fine pair of walks in mid-April with 66 walkers enjoying our trails that started and ended at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel in NW DC on April 18, and 27 walkers exploring the trails along the Potomac south of Old Town during our first evening walk two days earlier.

The need to be nimble was evident during the AAG walk, as Trailmaster Marshall Hansen and I twice made modifications to Marshall's trail to accommodate bridges over Rock Creek that the National Park Service closed. So late in the day before our walk, a pedestrian was hit trying to cross Beach Dr. at the point we had our walkers crossing it, and much of the day of our walk, signs and a crossing guard kept glaring at our walkers when they tried to cross the road, with the guard once saying to a volksmarcher, "Oh, you must be part of *that group*." The last dozen walkers or so used trail directions we changed at the start point to avoid that intersection, but the reports we heard from walkers kept us hopping at the start point all day. As the Gilda Radner-played character, Roseanne Roseannadanna, was fond of saying, "It's always something."

We hope for a calmer evening on Tuesday, May 17, when we hold our second evening walk at the Barrett Branch Library at 717 Queen St. in Old Town Alexandria. This month's walk is formally named a "monumental meander," although it's informally known as "the death march," because it weaves through or past all of

Old Town's cemeteries. Officially, you may start walking between 4:30 and 5:30 PM, although realistically, you probably will be able to start as early as 4:00 PM or as late as 6:00 PM (6:30 if you're walking only 5 KM.)

Based on past attendance patterns, we likely will hold our monthly club business meeting while others are out on the trail, although if you would like to participate in the meeting, tell us at the start point so we can delay until your return.

Two items will conclude this column. One is the fact that our club needs to identify an alternate time and/or location for our monthly meetings, because budget cuts are forcing the Barrett Branch Library to close at 7:00 PM on weeknights starting in June. We are open to suggestions regarding alternate locations, and we undoubtedly will spend part of our meeting this month determining how we want to proceed for the May, August, and September meetings. We will continue to host our evening walks at Barrett Branch Library, and if weather permits, club officers likely will conduct the meetings outdoors while we serve walkers. But if weather is inclement, if walkers want to participate, we'll try to find a suitable alternative. We'll also need to determine how we'll proceed the fall and winter.

Second, I wanted to share a lovely note I received from a volksmarcher who spoke very positively about the walks our club and other clubs offer in the DC area. Army Colonel John McClellan will be deployed to Iraq soon, but his kindness in sharing his positive feelings about our walks is very gratifying.

Have a great spring, and enjoy your walks and all else you do!

Thomas Baerwald, WDCAVC President

## ***Looking for a Calendar?***

Please note that the Atlantic Regional Calendar now is attached (or mailed) as a separate file.

You can access that calendar at:  
<http://www.walkvirginia.com/AtlanticRegionCalendar.html>.

You can print paper copies in PDF or Excel format from links at the bottom of that page.

## **Minutes of the WDCAVC Meeting**

April 20, 2010

The meeting began at 7:15 PM on the front lawn of the Barrett Branch Library. Present were President Tom Baerwald, Treasurer Marshall Hansen, Acting Secretary Sandi Cahill, and event participant Ray Beamer.

Walking experiences: Ray told the group about "degree confluences" and the people who have the hobby of locating them. [Ask Tom, Marshall, or Sandi what that is!] Everyone gave their own take on the walk last Sunday at the American Association of Geographers conference.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved. The treasurer's report said \$240 has been paid for this year's sanctions. Incoming funds for April should reflect the multiple activities of the AAG walk, the evening walk, and several groups planning to do the National Mall/Iwo Jima walks.

Old Business:

### A. 2010 events

1. National Mall & Iwo Jima—120 (combined) have done the trails, 21 B awards were distributed.

2. AAG (April 18)—53 credit and 13 free walkers participated. Only a few geographers walked. There were a lot of nice comments about the walk. Tom was caught on NBC News in a story about European geographers who were stranded by Icelandic volcano ash clouds. During the conference Tom shared with geographers the trail information for

the Sugarloafers YRE, which was located nearby. About 11 did that walk, so it was a nice goodwill activity for the other club. Thanks to Tom and Cheryl for the idea of having an event at the AAG location.

3. Evening walks—27 walkers (25 credit, 2 free) attended today's walk. Tom will prepare the May 18 trail instructions for the cemeteries trail, "Death March". Club members will try to review it in the next couple of weeks. Other previous trails will be re-used for June 15 (Del Ray), Aug. 17, and Sept. 21.

4. Little Bennett (Oct. 9)—Sanction is done. The brochure and trail instructions need to be finalized. Trail info will be forwarded to Sandi and Marshall for review. A picture of a giant anthill will be sought for the brochure.

5. Holiday (Dec. 4)—Sanction is done. There will be *no* suncatcher award this year. Nancy may do a patch in limited numbers.

B. 2011 events—Holland Hall is still a consideration.

C. Club meeting locale—due to pending changing hours for the Barrett Library, discussion will be needed soon about how to continue with evening walks and meetings. Definite closing info will be available at the May meeting.

New Business:

A. Regional Conference (March 19, 20, 21)—Sandi commented on the Atlantic Regional Conference in Annapolis. There were 2 walks in Annapolis, another one in Columbia, workshops, and a general session run by Regional Director Sam Tollett. Sandi received a Regional Director's Award. The 2012 Conference will be in Fredericksburg, Va.

B. Electronic after action reports are now mandatory. So far, it is working fine.

C. MVA—the next meeting will be May 8.

After all walkers returned and the equipment was stored, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC Secretary

**Notice of Reduction in Hours  
for Alexandria Libraries**

*E-Mail Message Send on May 12, 2010*

Effective Tuesday, June 1, 2010 Alexandria Library\*s new hours will be the following:

BEATLEY LIBRARY, 5005 Duke Street  
Mon-Thurs 10am-9pm; Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 1pm-5pm

BARRETT BRANCH, 717 Queen Street  
Mon 1pm-9pm; Tues-Thurs 10am-7pm; Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm

DUNCAN BRANCH, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue  
Mon-Tues 10am-7pm; Wed 1pm-9pm; Thurs 10am-7pm; Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm

BURKE BRANCH, 4701 Seminary Road  
Mon-Wed 10am-7pm; Thurs 1pm-9pm Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm

LOCAL HISTORY / Special Collections, 717 Queen Street Mon 1pm-9pm; Tues 2pm-7pm; Wed 10am-7pm; Fri 10am-6pm; and the first Saturday of the month, 10am-5pm.

Due to declining tax revenue and the Citywide financial challenges, it is necessary to implement this service reduction.

**Message from U.S. Army  
Colonel John McClellan to**

**WDVAVC President Tom Baerwald**

*E-Mail Message Send on May 9, 2010*

Tom,

I've been in Wash D.C. this past week and have walked or jogged all the AVA trails in town. (Including the N'atl Arboretum - which I know is another club.)

Just wanted to pass on that these are some great trails and you / your club are doing a terrific job in both scouting out interesting routes, maintaining your start points and providing clear directions with good maps and engaging information on the points of interest. **Great job!**

Really enjoyed the full length 17km option on the mall walk! In Germany, walks of 20km or more are common. Most any weekend event will have 5, 10, 20km trails; and there are many 30, 42 and 50km events. We don't see the longer trails much here in the USA, unless its the convention or one of the annual festivals like in Vancouver, WA. The national mall is a great place to have mapped out an extended route!

Your walks obviously benefit from a target rich environment for points of interest along the trail. I have been talking with Curt Myron (AVA Prez) about taking advantage of new technology like the internet, ipods and iphones with "apps" for just about everything. AVA could really grab a share of the younger market if we found a way to put the directions for walks like this into an "application" for these hand-held devices such that the directions would be downloadable directly onto the device - which then would serve as the all-in-one navigation aid + tour guide. With the young professional community in D.C. and all the avid walkers / joggers I see out everywhere - might be a worthwhile initiative for your club to pursue. At 46, I believe these are the kinds of things we need to be doing to connect Volksporing to the younger generations.

I'm a service member (Army, Colonel) and about to deploy soon for another year in the Middle East. There won't be any AVA trails in Iraq (I might have to start a few...) so I will be keeping the memories of your trails and our Nation's capital in mind during my absence. Your trails were a great way for me to see and connect to the Capital as I depart to serve the Nation abroad.

Again, my sincere thanks. Keep up the great work! Please pass along to your club and the Annapolis club if you see them!

v/r

John McClellan  
Colonel, USA

member/former member of Dogwood Trailblazers (MO), Walk-n-Mass (MA), Falcon Wanderers (CO), HIWC (Heidelberg), and Schweinfurt G-American club