



## Washington DC Area Volksmarching Club

# WANDERFREUNDE

September 2010

### A Note from the President

The long, hot summer seems to have finally abated, and we can look ahead to far more pleasant conditions for walks in the coming months.

Our last evening walk will be held on Tuesday, September 21, with all four trails from our previous evening walks available for you to enjoy. If you missed a trail, you can walk it on Tuesday, or you can choose to walk a trail you really enjoyed.

Our start point for the evening walk is the Barrett Branch Library in Old Town Alexandria. Officially, you may start walking any time between 4:30 and 5:30 in the afternoon, but we hope to allow folks to head off as early as 4:00 PM, and if you're only walking 5 KM, you likely can head out as late as 6:00. Come to enjoy this final evening walk if you can do so.

Our final weekend walks of the year will occur on Saturdays. October 9 will be the date when we return to Little Bennett Regional Park near Clarksburg MD (near Exit 18 off I-270). Marshall Hansen has designed a great trail, which leads through some lovely wooded areas on well-maintained natural and gravel trails. This walk also will appeal to your myrmecological instincts, because you'll have a chance to see the very impressive homes of the largest colonies of Allegheny mound builder ants in the region. The event brochure is attached so you can make plans to join us.

We're also finalizing the trail and other plans for the December 4 walk from the Barrett Branch Library. This Alexandria Holiday Event will feature another great trail developed by Marshall Hansen, and it will provide walkers with the opportunity to enjoy the Scottish Christmas Parade that day. More details will follow in the next couple of months.

All 2011 walks have been sanctioned, so we are planning well in advance for what should be a great year, with Saturday walks on Saturday, April 23, in the Hollin Hills area south of Alexandria; on

Saturday, September 24, across the Wilson Bridge; and on Saturday, December 3, in Old Town Alexandria. Evening walks will be held on the 4th Mondays of April, May, July, August, and September, and we'll again offer the National Mall and Iwo Jima Memorial YREs.

Please note that the September meeting will be the last one conducted by club officers staffing the start/finish point during the evening walk, because the library now closes early on Tuesdays. If you want to participate but can't be present at the time, please let us know your thoughts on issues beforehand, or chat with us before you start your walk.

We are scheduled to hold our first meeting during the new 4th Monday meeting time on Monday, October 25, but because officers may be unable to attend and there may not be pressing business, the meeting may be cancelled. Check the November issue of *Wanderfreunde* definitive word as to whether the meeting will be held.

Please note that this issue of *Wanderfreunde* is being distributed later than it should be because both the Acting Secretary and I were on travel for the last week. We apologize for the delay, and we will make sure the October issue is distributed in a timelier manner.

So be sure to walk with us this Tuesday, and enjoy other walks that are scheduled for this autumn season. 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**

August 17, 2010

The meeting was held during the evening walk at the Barrett Branch Library. Tom Baerwald called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM. Attending were Sandi Cahill, Cheryl Eavey, Marshall Hansen, and Ken Wilson. Recent walking included Marshall doing the Wheaton Regional YRE and Tom's trail checking for Alexandria Holiday Walk. The August 5 windstorm caused lots of debris and downed trees.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved. The treasurer reported there is currently more than \$,1400 in the checking account.

### ***Events***

The August 17 evening walk today had 23 credit and 4 free walkers. Sandi and Tom will check to see that there are plenty of copies of directions (with corrections, if needed) for all four of the summer walks on hand for the September 21 evening walk. Members were reminded the 2011 summer walks will be on the fourth Mondays instead of third Tuesdays. After the September 2010 meeting, WDCAVC meetings will be held on the fourth Mondays of appropriate months.

The YREs will need more trail guides. The National Mall trail has had about 200 walkers and the Iwo Jima walk has had almost 100 walkers.

For the Little Bennett Regional Park walk on October 9), Marshall is reasonably sure all the permissions are in place. Tom suggested some minor changes for the Little Bennett trail. All club members are reminded to contact Tom or Marshall for volunteer opportunities. Brochures are being distributed. Because Tom will be out of town for the five days immediately before the walk, he will get needed supplies and stamp to Sandi beforehand.

The Alexandria Holiday Walk will be held only on Saturday, December 4. There will be a patch, but no suncatcher award. With falling attendance, the

club cannot bear the expense. An Old Town trail has been planned. The trail guide should be finalized in September.

Sanctions for 2011 events have been approved for scheduled events on April 23, September 25, and December 3. Details are being worked out. Evening walks have also been sanctioned for the 4th Mondays of April, May, July, August, and September. Brochures for all are being planned.

### ***Correspondence***

The e-post card for IRS has been completed and mailed.

Recent issues from the Regional Director and Checkpoint were discussed. No action from the club was needed at this time.

### ***MVA***

Sandi said she will attend the MVA meeting on September 11 before going on vacation. There were no topics of concern for her to bring up.

### ***Future of the Club***

A discussion was held regarding what the club will do in the near future in order to survive. The last year has been one of downsizing. We are no longer a large club. The working membership is usually 6 or fewer folks. Working as a smaller club will require new ways of operation as well as developing new ways to draw interest. Rotating officer positions may have to be considered for 2011 elections. A request for a copy of the by-laws was made to review what procedures may be necessary. The main question will be "WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO SURVIVE?"

After all walkers had safely returned to the Start/Finish Point, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC Acting Secretary