



Washington DC Area Volksmarching Club

WANDERFREUNDE

November 2010

A Note from the President

It's been a great fall for walking -- at least from a weather standpoint. The long, hot summer did yield a glorious autumn. Our club benefitted from this when we held our walk at Little Bennett Regional Park on October 9, and 111 walkers enjoyed a great trail on a beautiful day.

We're hoping the same will be true for our 28th annual Alexandria Holiday Walk on Saturday, December 4. Our event award is a patch with Santa beneath a palm tree, and we'll hoping for weather than will evoke palm trees rather than the cold, damp rainy snow that made last year's event so miserable. Once again, the event brochure is attached. Please plan to walk with us that day, and if you'd like to join the officers, George Satterthwaite, and Cheryl Eavey in working at the walk, please contact me at tbaerwal@nsf.gov or by calling 703-292-7301 (work) or 703-765-3128 (home).

Prior to the walk, we'll have our annual dinner meeting on Monday, November 22, at Southside 815 restaurant, conveniently and eponymically located at 815 S. Washington St. at the southern end of Old Town Alexandria. We'll meet there at 7:00 pm for beverages, fine food, and as little business as we can manage.

The acting editor of *Wanderfreunde* apologizes for the miserable excuse for a newsletter he circulated last month and for omitting the minutes of our September meeting, which acting secretary Sandi Cahill had sent him less than one week after that meeting was held. Because the minutes weren't circulated earlier, some of the news within it is really out of date.

The issues to be discussed by the AVA National Executive Committee at its early October meeting, for example, found the MVA and WDCAVC going 1 for 4, with the NEC acting in accordance with our recommendations only on the issue of not providing awards for special events at the end of those programs unless the sufficient number of events has

been recorded. The move to allow event credits to be claimed every day failed, as did the reduction of the minimum distance for bike events. In the most controversial move, so-called "alternate trails" were declared immediately illegal by the AVA NEC, with reasons cited by advocates of this change focusing on insurance issues. Little is to be gained by questioning the validity of that claim; what's done is done. The WDCAVC YREs are not affected, but other local clubs will not be able to offer alternate trails as they have been. Perhaps the good news for us is that the Wilson Bridge alternate trail that had been an option for the Dyke Marsh YRE walk no longer is available, so those wanting to walk the bridge for credit will have to wait until our scheduled event next September 24.

Although we will meet for dinner on November 22 and we will walk in Old Town Alexandria on December 4, this will be the last newsletter in 2010.

Very best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season and for a great 2011! Let's look to make it a dandy walking year, with an exciting slate of WDCAVC events and many other good opportunities. Enjoy your walks and all else you do!

Thomas Baerwald, WDCAVC President

Looking for a Calendar?

We regret to inform you that there no longer is an actively maintained Atlantic Regional calendar to which we can direct you. The Atlantic Regional Director has asked for volunteers to maintain the site that Nancy Stenger maintained so well for many years, but to our knowledge, no volunteers have stepped forward. The Wanderfreunde acting editor might try to resurrect the calendar he maintained for a spell, but that's frankly a lot of work, and our sense is that most people now go online for info about future events. Let us know your thoughts about this if you wish

Minutes of the WDCAVC Meeting

September 21, 2010

The meeting was held during the evening walk at the Barrett Branch Library. Tom Baerwald called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present were Sandi Cahill, Cheryl Eavey, Marshall Hansen, and Ken Wilson. Guests included MVA president Bob Schmick, Sue Kenyon, and Jim Hathaway, who "dropped in" by spilling his drink on Sandi's shoe. For walking experiences, Marshall said he did the recent Burke walk and said it was beautiful. He also started a discussion about the current calendar of events. This prompted a reminder that folks should check the AVA website or individual clubs to double check dates and event information.

The minutes were approved as published with one comment that trail "guides" should be called trail "instructions." The treasurer said there is currently \$1,369 in checking. Recent deposits have totaled \$99. There will not be any September deposit except for the funds received at tonight's walk.

Events

The YREs have had little activity this month.

All events for 2011 have been sanctioned and acknowledged.

Tonight's event had 25 paid and 5 free walkers, 2 dogs, and one donation.

Little Bennett preparation: Marshall walked the trail yesterday. The trail is in great shape. All the downed trees have been cleared. Because most of the trail is wooded, there will be rocks and roots to watch for during the event, making the rating 2+. Some arrows may be needed for turns. Checkpoint will be unmanned, but water spots will be available. Club members plan to be at the Start about 8:00 AM. We may need to bring tarps to set up if it rains.

Holiday 2010: Written instructions have been made. Mapping is not yet finished. The sale patch design is Santa under a palm tree, an attempt to appeal to the weather gods for nice weather. Last year's award suncatcher had a snow scene, and we had sleet and rainy snow all day. Tom is preparing the brochure.

MVA

Sandi attended the MVA meeting on September 11. Bob Schmick reported that Steve Arnett is recovering nicely after bypass surgery. The MVA recommendation for votes on upcoming NEC issues is:

- A. Allow each event stamp to be used up to once each day. *Recommendation to vote Yes.*
- B. Allow those who purchase special events books to obtain awards at the conclusion of the special event program regardless of whether they completed a sufficient number of events. *Recommendation to vote No.*
- C. Require a separate event number and sanction for each trail at an event, thereby effectively eliminating alternate trails. *Recommendation to vote No.*
- D. Reduce the minimum bike distance from 25 KM to 20 KM. *Recommendation to vote Yes.*

WDCAVC members present at the meeting concurred with those recommendations, and the President was asked to convey them to the regional director.

WDCAVC members discussed the request for a list from each club of members who have been active for 25, 30 or more years. Sandi will send Tom a list for forwarding.

Other Business

The October meeting will be cancelled due to planned absence of officers. If there are any issues to be handled before or after the Little Bennett event, the officers will follow through with phone calls or e-mails.

The annual dinner meeting will begin at 7:00 PM at Southside 815 restaurant at 815 S. Washington St. in Alexandria. Family members are welcome. Members should notify Sandi or Tom to say they are attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM after all walkers had finished the event. The next scheduled meeting after the dinner will be Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7:00 PM inside the Barrett Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC Acting Secretary