



Washington DC Area Volksmarching Club

WANDERFREUNDE

January 2011

A Note from the President

Happy New Year, y'all!

Yes, I know, we're already more than 5 percent of the way through the year, so my greetings come a few weeks late for many, but this is the first newsletter of 2011, and I simply haven't had a chance to give all club members that greeting earlier.

Before we forget the last year, let's update you about our successful Alexandria Holiday Walk last December 10. With our Santa-under-a-palm-tree patch keeping snows away, we had a dandy day for walking, and a total of 186 walkers joined us. That included 50 walkers who claimed awards, 118 who walked for credit only, and 18 who walked for free. Thanks to those who worked that day -- Sandi Cahill, Marshall Hansen, George Satterthwaite, Cheryl Eavey, and me. It was great to see that many walkers. Plans already are underway for the 2011 event, with Santa in a grass skirt being an early favorite for the patch design.

We have no walks planned for the first three months of this year, but we will have two walks in April. The first event will be Saturday, April 23, to explore the historic Hollin Hills neighborhood south of Old Town. The second will be two days later, when we enjoy our first evening walk of the year from the Barrett Branch Library in Old Town.

Please join us for our monthly meetings if you'd like to help the club plan for the future. Remember that we now meet at 7:00 PM on the **4th Monday** of the month. The first meeting will be Monday, January 24, in the staff lounge of the Barrett Branch Library at 717 Queen St. in Old Town Alexandria (2 blocks north of King St. and 1/2 block west of Washington St.)

One item we will discuss at the January meeting is the implications of our forgetfulness when we scheduled our Autumn 2011 Wilson Bridge Walk for September 24. That was done in June 2010, and

with warm temps and leafy trees, we totally forgot that the last Saturday of September long has been the date of the Lovettsville Oktoberfest walk sponsored by the Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club. When the Loudoun club sanctioned the Lovettsville walk for the same day months later, it was noted that this was technically a violation of the Virginia rule prohibiting walks on the same day within 50 miles. That discovery has led to the Virginia Volksmarch Association to consider a proposed bylaws change to "protect" dates for walks that have occurred at the same time for five years or longer. Some might see this reaction as loading up a cannon to get rid of a mosquito, although there is some merit to that proposal. What I'd like to discuss is whether we should consider moving the date of our Wilson Bridge walk, perhaps two weeks earlier to September 10, in order to avoid the scheduling conflict, thereby giving ruffled feathers added space to be smoothed.

Winter can lead to some squirrely walking conditions, but if you bundle up on dry days, you can still enjoy YREs and the occasional scheduled event (like the January 29 walk offered by the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers at the GW Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria). Wherever and whenever you journey out, step safely, and 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. You still can use the web to access event listings for each state if you wish by using the AVA site at www.ava.org.

Minutes of the WDCAVC Meeting

November 22, 2010

The meeting was held at Southside 815 Restaurant during the annual dinner meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Tom Baerwald. People present were Kathryn & Tom Baerwald, Sandi Cahill, Marshall Hansen, George and Dee Satterthwaite, and Teresa She. All were delighted to meet Dee for the first time. Kathryn is recovering from a fall and has become an ace using her crutches.

Minutes were approved. The treasurer reported there is more than \$1,400 in checking.

Miscellaneous items

The club website has been updated.

Nancy Stenger no longer is preparing the Regional calendar.

The AVA is seeking ideas from clubs as it is "remaking itself" with a new executive director.

The National Mall YRE has been approved and renewed. There can no longer be "alternate trails" unless each is sanctioned, but that does not affect either WDCAVC YRE.

Future events

Alexandria Holiday Event on December 4: A single trail has been laid out. Workers should contact Tom to sign up for working times. This is the first time we will not have a suncatcher as a holiday event award. The award is a patch with Santa under a

palm tree. Marshall will bring a box of old awards to give away. Sandi has the box of 2009 awards to bring. Workers can get in the library about 8:00 AM on that morning. Sandi reminded folks there will be a book sale all day at the library, so parking may be more limited than it has been before.

The Hollin Hills event in April will start in the Baerwald carport about 5 miles south of Old Town Alexandria. Kathryn is looking forward to Tom's cleaning the carport, porch, and house for the event.

All 2011 planned events have been sanctioned. Evening walks will be in April, May, July, August, and September. The evening walks and future meetings will be on the 4th Monday of the month. It was agreed there are plenty of old trail guides that can be used again with little or no change needed for these events.

Other items

Initial discussion was held about the AVA convention in June. Because neither Tom nor Marshall are planning to attend, it was moved, seconded, and voted that Sandi should be the WDCAVC's delegate. It was also moved, seconded, and voted to grant Sandi \$300 for convention expenses.

After everyone had a pleasant dinner and no additional club business needed discussion, the meeting was adjourned shortly before 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC Acting Secretary