



## Washington DC Area Volksmarching Club

# WANDERFREUNDE

July 2011

### A Note from the President

Woof! Woof! Woof!! No, the Baerwald family doesn't have a new hound. What you're hearing are the dog days of summer settling in with a vengeance. No friendly poodles or cocker spaniels are regaling us this July! It's full-fledged pit-bull weather, with temps exceeding 100°F and dew points well up into the 70s.

It can be difficult to want to go out and walk in such weather, but WDCAVC will offer three more "Fourth Monday" walks starting this month, and we hope that lower sun angles and cool fronts will make many of these pleasant forays.

The third evening walk will be on Monday, July 25, as we reprise the popular "Alexandria Alley Crawl" through backstreets of Old Town Alexandria. The Start/Finish Point will be the Barrett Branch Library at 717 Queen St. in Old Town Alexandria. The official start times are 4:30 to 5:30 PM, although we hope to allow walkers to start as early as 4:00 PM, and we try to accommodate those who arrive as late as 6:00 or even 6:15. If the weather is really steamy, we'll look to work out an arrangement that permits you to walk the trail when conditions are more hospitable.

Although our monthly club meeting officially is set for 7:00 in the staff lounge of the Barrett Branch Library, your club officers (who tend to be the only people who show up for meetings) likely will deal with business while they staff the S/F Point. If there are items of concern to you or you do want to attend, please contact me (tbaerwal@nsf.gov; 703-292-7301 (W), or 703-765-3128 (H)) so we can try to make sure you can participate. In addition to discussing possible walks for 2012, we'll hear updates about the AVA Convention in Des Moines last month from club representative Sandi Cahill. (Sandi's first report is inserted later in this issue.)

To give you a sense of what officially transpired at the Des Moines business meetings, this newsletter is accompanied by a message sent by Atlantic Regional Director Sam Tollett soon after the event. In addition to the new officers, you will note that the convention voted to remove the restriction on stamping IVV event books effective July 1, 2011. You now can stamp your event book once each day for every event, including YREs and seasonal events. There has been considerably discussion in the wake of this action, but it is now the new rule, so if you like to stamp both books for every event, you can do so. If you'd rather keep your event books "pure" and stamp them only once every half-year for each event, that's your choice.

If you're looking forward to our next regular event, remember that we'll host the Wilson Bridge walk from the Barrett Branch Library on Saturday, September 10. The brochure for that event will accompany the next calendar.

Keep cool and keep healthy! Enjoy your walks and all else you do!

Thomas Baerwald, WDCAVC President

### Minutes of the WDCAVC Meetings April 25, 2011

Tom Baerwald, Marshall Hansen, and Sandi Cahill held discussions of various issues throughout the evening walk with members participating in the event (Ken Wilson, Marie Ferrito, and Cheryl Eavey) being available for comment at different times.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were accepted.

The April 23 event in the Hollin Hills neighborhood had 99 participants and many positive comments. The club wishes to express

appreciation to the Baerwalds for allowing their home to be the Start/Finish location. Club members who worked were Tom Baerwald, Marshall Hansen, George Satterthwaite, and Sandi Cahill. Jean Krivjansky and Kathryn Baerwald offered short conversations with other members.

Tonight's evening walk: 20 attendees did the North River Trail.

Report on Regional meeting April 17 in Charlottesville. Sandi Cahill reported that it was a nice inaugural event. Several regional awards were presented by Atlantic Regional Director Sam Tollett. Sam was reelected for another term.

Sandi has sent the credentialing materials in order to be the delegate for WDCAVC. She asked for guidelines for the Club's vote at the Convention. Some of the issues were discussed. It was agreed to wait for additional information to be posted before candidate selection is made.

With reminders that future evening walks will recycle previously enjoyed trails instead of creating all new ones, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on May 23, either during or after the evening walk.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC Acting Secretary

### **May 23, 2011**

The meeting was held on the lawn of the Barrett Branch Library during the evening walk. Attending or offering comments from afar were Tom Baerwald, Marshall Hansen, Cheryl Eavey, Ken Wilson, and Sandi Cahill.

The secretary's report was presented and accepted. Both the April and May minutes will be presented in the next newsletter. The Treasurer's report was presented. The checking account balance is \$1716.55. This included \$263.00 earned from the Hollin Hills event, \$60.00 from the April evening event, and book sales of \$5.00. The \$150.00 donation to Friends of Little Bennett Regional Park and \$13.00 in fees were deducted.

Events:

5/23 evening walk: 17 credit and 3 free walkers participated in "Lattice Weave You a Walk." Some folks seemed thoroughly surprised to see

the start area had been moved 25 yards across the library lawn.

YREs: So far this year, the Iwo Jima Memorial walk has had 31 walkers and the National Mall has had 41.

Future events:

9/10 Wilson Bridge Walk: Instructions are in the planning stage. 6/11/17 KM trails will be available. Start time is 9 am to 1 pm. Finish is 4:00 pm. The VVA will be meeting in Fredericksburg, VA that day. Tom will offer to allow attendees of the meeting to begin our event at 8:00 IF they make early arrangements with us first.

12/3 2011 Holiday Walk—A design is being presented to Nancy Stenger. Marshall will plan a trail.

2012 possibilities: Cheryl wants to have trails on Smart Phone apps. She may explore a garden walk possibility. Sandi will research the possibility of having a regular event at River Farm, which is off the GW Parkway south of Alexandria. It is a historical garden that was originally part of Mt. Vernon estate.

Other business: Discussion centered on the candidates for national office and issues that will be voted on during the AVA convention in Des Moines. Sandi was directed to consider the information that is available during the convention and to vote appropriately for the club. Marshall was reminded to get Sandi the check for expenses.

New officers must be elected in November. If anyone would like to serve on the nominating committee they should contact Tom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandi Cahill, WDCAVC Acting Secretary

### **WALKING I-O-WA-TER**

A report from WDCAVC Delegate and Acting Secretary Sandi Cahill

The theme for the 17<sup>th</sup> biennial AVA convention held June 18-25 was Walking A-Maize-ing Iowa. However, with some kind water-related effect with each event I have changed the name of my 13<sup>th</sup> convention adventure to *Walking I-O-WA-ter*.

I did not do the first event in Council Bluffs, but saw many folks coming to the finish totally covered in mud. The trail was along a hilly area that had been recently flooded by the Missouri River. Some called it the Mud Climb.

The second event started at the same site, but went in a different direction. Walkers were bussed around a partially flooded levee area to begin the walk across the pedestrian suspension bridge into Omaha. Many walkers paused at several points along the trail to view the still rapidly flowing river and observed how far outside the normal boundaries it had spread. I will mention two points of interest in Omaha. First, it was the sight of the World Series of College Baseball, so there were many enthusiasts wearing their colors walking about all over town. At times it was difficult finding the next turn on the VM trail because of the crowds. The other sight I found interesting was a life-size sculpture area showing western-bound pioneers. This scene covers six city blocks and includes a bronze display of wagons, walking families, horses, buffalo, and rugged terrain. I thought it was fascinating. Further along there are more bronze buffalo that appear to be coming through walls of city buildings.

The third event was at Whiterock Conservancy in Coon Rapids. There was such a fog covering the area early in the day that I drove past it twice before I saw the parking area. The walk criss-crossed the Middle Coon River through a large prairie farm including a buffalo meadow, and then went through most of the small town. Markers told of the history of corn hybridization. I was a-maized (couldn't resist it!) that the corn I saw in late June was no more than 18-24" tall and not at all ripe enough to pick. It's been a tough year for Iowa farmers.

Walks 4 and 5 were five miles apart. The first was in Clear Lake during a constant rain. It began at the Surf Ballroom, sight of the last Buddy Holly concert. The hall is absolutely packed from floor to ceiling in every room with Rock 'n' Roll memorabilia. The town is situated on a glacial lake and has a wide variety of lakefront homes and eclectic city buildings,

including a historical firehouse. The second walk of the day was in Mason City, home of Meredith Wilson, the creator of "The Music Man." The town was the inspiration for the musical, including a long footbridge over Winding Creek, and a Carnegie Library. The Start was in Music Man Square, which has an indoor re-creation of the street scene from the musical and some of the words of "76 Trombones" carved into a "banner" around the outside of the building. While I enjoyed walking where the concept of Marian the Librarian came from, I did not do well with the extreme humidity after the rain stopped. This walk had my longest finish time of all convention events.

Living History Farms, north of Des Moines, was the next event. This is a collection of historic buildings and working farms that present farm and early town life of different periods to modern visitors. The water element here was a tornado-force storm the night before caused mud on some of the farm roads and washout of about 1/3 of the trail, causing a section to be changed to out-and-back. The trail team did a very good job of last minute fixes to keep the event enjoyable.

Winterset, Iowa is well-known for two things: First, it was the setting for several movies, including "Bridges of Madison County." Yes, we saw a couple of bridges and the cafe used in the film. Second, it also is the hometown of Marion Morrison, better known as John Wayne. His home/museum and statue were on the trail, but I walked too early to visit the museum. There was a cooler section of trail near a stream at the beginning and end of the walk, which gave a break from another day of high humidity.

I found the walk on the campus of Iowa State University at Ames to be quite interesting. There were frequent plaques telling about various breakthroughs and discoveries in agriculture and biology that happened here, the country's first agricultural university. There are horses on campus with *brick* stable houses. The university library has several Grant Wood murals on display. The start point was near a

butterfly house and a sculpture garden of giant flowers and bugs. A downpour the night before reactivated the high humidity that had started to dissipate the afternoon before.

The Des Moines walk was my last event before I traveled onward to visit family and friends. This walk proved, if anyone was not yet convinced by previous walks, that Iowa is not as flat as people believe. We went up and down several hilly neighborhoods, noting significant homes of famous Iowans of different time periods. Water element? The checkpoint had watermelon!

There were several social gatherings at the convention. At the Meet-and-Greet in the Exhibit Hall the food was "everything-on-a-stick." They meant *everything*, including the tossed salad and the cheesecake. A trivia contest got people mingling. The barn dance was at the Fairgrounds, complete with chicken buffet and NEC members bussing tables. It also included a live auction of some of the items that had been in the Silent Auction. The Friday banquet was a 35th birthday party for the AVA.

I attended several workshops during the convention. My favorite was the discussion about the huge 3-rotor wind turbines (AKA

Danish windmills) that are plentiful across the landscape by the dozens, or even hundreds in some areas. They are not individually owned and used by a single farm like traditional windmills. The space is rented from the landowner and the turbines work together to provide power to most of the state.

Several of Domie's other friends were at the convention. Carl Cordes came from Florida. Paul Lamb came from Arizona. Fred Lopez was another Virginian. Nancy Stenger had the shortest distance to go, coming from Nebraska.

There were certainly enough activities to keep attendees busy during convention week. I went to all the meetings, workshops, and get-togethers I considered necessary as the club delegate. I also managed to work in time to see some libraries and quilt shops, both on and off the trails. In 8 walks I saw 9 libraries, including 2 former Carnegie libraries. I visited 6 quilt shops, supporting the local economy.

I reconnected with an Ohio friend I first met in 1985 who was in the same hotel as I was.

Overall, I enjoyed the latest AVA convention.

### **Atlantic Regional Calendar**

For an interactive calendar of events in the Atlantic Region that permits you to access event brochures, go to:  
**[http://www.mdvolks.org/new\\_walklist.php](http://www.mdvolks.org/new_walklist.php)**