

Chargin' Charlie

December 2022

On the Twelfth Day Before NVV's Holiday Party ...

I hope that you enjoyed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the winter holidays. As countdowns are popular this time of year, the "**Twelve Days of Northern Virginia Volksmarchers**" below was created for your enjoyment.



12) Volunteer Leaders: A dozen members served in key roles throughout 2022 enabling our club to conduct 34 walks, socials and meetings, which expanded "*Fun, Fitness and Friendship*" to over 1,000 participants! Consider joining the team in 2023.

Corresponding Secretary	Karen Plott
Membership	Margaret Wagner
Newsletter Editor	Jim Garamone
President	Steve Brown
Recording Secretary	<i>Your name here?</i>
Sales	Bob McLean
Social Media	Ron Jones
Trailmaster	Bob McLean
Treasurer	Barry Plott
Vice President	Ron Jones
Website	Roy Wagner
VVA Representative	Helen Garamone

11) Volksmarch Volunteers: Average number of people needed for setup and start / finish tables during our traditional Saturday events, which are scheduled from 9am-3pm.

10) Newsletters, Meetings and Socials: 'Chargin Charlie' is published the first week and club gatherings are typically scheduled on the second Monday at Daniels Run Elementary School. Our popular holiday party is Sunday December 18th at PJ Skidoos.

9) Year-Round and Seasonal Walks: These popular NVV club activities attract 800-700 walkers each year. For additional information see numbers six and five below.

8) Wednesday Walks: Guided group strolls along NVV's 10-km or 5-km routes are scheduled on third Wednesdays and often include lunch. Six members enjoyed Mia's Italian Kitchen during the Alexandria walk on November 16th. Join the final 2022 Wednesday Walk on December 21. Organizer Ron Jones and repeat walk leaders Susan Brown, Helen Garamone, and Sandy Koontz are exemplary and appreciated!



7) Online Start Boxes: Walkers can register, download instructions, and obtain stamps on AVA's website. In 2023 Helen Garamone plans to increase walks with OSB.

6) Hosts of Year-Round and Seasonal Walks: Thanks to Dave Ackerman, Steve & Susan Brown, Helen Garamone, Robert Grunewald, Sandy Koontz, Barry & Karen Plott.

5) Cities with Year-Round Walks: Alexandria, Burke, Fairfax, Reston and Springfield.

4) Traditional Volksmarches: Lorton (April 9th), Warrenton (May 14th), Oktoberfest at Fort Belvoir (October 1st) and Holiday Extravaganza in Alexandria (December 3-4th).

3) Decades Since Founding: Our club was originally chartered as the 'Burke Centre Volksmarchers' and is planning a 40th Anniversary Volksmarch there on April 8th 2023.

2) Volkspots at Atlantic Region Conference: Nine NVV members enjoyed multiple Volksmarches plus Volksbiking events April 22-24th around Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

1) Evening Walk: A pre-meeting 5-km stroll around City of Fairfax was resurrected on October 17th by Barry & Karen Plott. They plan to host routes from March - June 2023.

Everyone can look forward to more member recognition, fun, food and fellowship at our Holiday Party on December 18th at P.J. Skidoos (9908 Fairfax Blvd) starting at 5:30 pm. RSVP to Ron Jones at outdoorsy_guy1@yahoo.com by December 10th and join us!

Happy Holidays

Steve Brown, NVV President

NVV Minutes for 11/21/22

Submitted by Sandy Koontz

Present: Karen, Barry, Helen, Bonnie, Ralph, Sandy, Steve, Dianne

October minutes were approved.

Notable Club Walks:

Susan & Steve, AVA Volksbike in Delaware

Helen & Jim, 3 walks in Gettysburg, PA

Bonnie & Steve + others, Jones Point Wednesday walk with lunch at Mia's Italian Kitchen

Diane, trip to Morocco with Walking Adventures

Club Reports

Treasurer, Barry, account is up \$115.04 for year despite \$296 PO Box fee & quarterly AVA payment

Corresponding Secretary, Karen, 31 walkers so far in November

Traditional Weekend Walks

12/3 – 12/4 Holiday Extravaganza, nearly all missing slots filled during meeting

Year-Round & Seasonal Walks

Lake Barton walk box is now at the Starbucks located at 5749 Burke Centre Pkwy; Helen will add an OSB to the walk early next year

Steve is making a year-round Occoquan walk with start box at the Work House

Wednesday Walks

12/21/22, 10:00 a.m., Court House Plaza Shopping Center in Fairfax

4/8/23 40th Anniversary Walk will be using Sandy's new Lake Barton 10K; no decision on whether it will be advertised to Meetup; no decision if we will meet for lunch (maybe 2:00) or just have a cake – Sandy will check with Villa Bella after those decisions are made; Ron will then sanction; Steve will make up certificates to give businesses that have kept our walk boxes; Jim will write an article for The American Wanderer; Steve showed the Land's End Business catalog with explanations about adding the logo to any item we buy there; Steve showed a wood prototype Ron made which looks like Challenge Coins, about \$100 for 100 of them to be given out in connection to our 40th anniversary

New: Helen announced that Virginia Vagabonds will be resurrecting some older walks (e.g. Belle Isle & Matthews) as seasonal walks with OSB's

Future Club Meetings: 2nd Mondays at 7:30pm; Barry will plan a spring pre-meeting walk for 3/13 and/or 4/10, 6:00

Anniversary article

Here is the 40th Anniversary article for the American Wanderer.

Northern Virginia Walkers Mark 40 Years

By Jim Garamone, NVV

On April 30, 1983, Ronald Reagan was president of the United States and conferred often with Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister of the United Kingdom. "Beat It" by Michael Jackson ruled the airwaves, and "Dallas" was the most watched TV show in the United States. On movie screens, Dustin Hoffman was showing the world how a lady should act in "Tootsie."

In Burke, Virginia, a new type of walk for the Northern Virginia area debuted as 1,137 walkers ambled through the then-rural area of Fairfax County. It was the first event by a group that eventually morphed into the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers.

Two Army officers, Ralph Hibler and Tom Ogles, had recently returned from service in West Germany. There, they were exposed to volksmarching and wanted to duplicate the experience in Northern Virginia. Both lived in Burke, Virginia and set up their first routes in that community. Originally called the Burke Centre Volksmarchers, the club's first walk was on the April 30 and May 1, 1983 weekend.

Spurred by the success, the club held three more volksmarches in Burke before broadening the location of events and changing the name of the club to the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers. The club's events were held mainly in Fairfax County, Virginia, until 1988 when it sponsored a walk in Winchester, Virginia, during the Apple Blossom Festival. Since then, the club has held walks in the total northern Virginia area. Given the nature of the region, the routes of some of the walks go into the neighboring District of Columbia and Maryland. In the past, the club also sponsored walks in West Virginia.

The club continues to chug along with walks in Alexandria, Fairfax, Springfield and - yes - Burke, Virginia. In fact, NVV will mark the occasion of the 40th Anniversary with a walk in Burke on April 8, 2023. Come join one of the older clubs in the region as we celebrate.

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to former NVV President Pat Hyland whose husband John Magyar passed away at home Nov. 20. The family will receive visitors Monday, December 5, 2022 from 2-4pm at Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Blvd., Woodbridge, VA 22192. Donations to the Salvation Army in remembrance of John Magyar welcomed in lieu of flowers

Achievements

Rob Gruenwald is the club's overachiever this month with 18,000 kilometers! That is like walking from here to Cairo, Egypt and back.

Upcoming events

Dec. 9-10 - The Williamsburg Walks. The start point is the Best Western at 351 York Street in Williamsburg, Va.

Dec. 10 - The Annapolis Lighted Boat Parade Walk. Start point is the Annapolis Athletic Club, 1031 Bay Ridge Ave. Eastport, Md.

Dec. 17 - Fredericksburg Holiday Walk - 620 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, Va.

Dec. 31 - Smithfield New Year's Eve Walk. The start point is Smithfield Station in Smithfield, Va.

Dec. 31 - Savage New Year's Eve Walk. Start point is the United Methodist Church in Savage, Md. There is usually a New Year's Day Walk, but that is not listed yet.

Reminder

The Holiday Extravaganza is headquartered at Hampton Inn and Suites at 5821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Virginia Dec. 3-4. It is NOT the same hotel as in years past. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the multiple walk event.

Quote

"Go outside, life in storage fades..."

-Nanette L. Avery, Author

Parting shot



Sunrise over the Potomac off the GW Parkway.