

Chargin' Charlie

November 2023

Ten Tidbits

With so much happening this fall, I hope you enjoy the choice morsels below.

1) Welcome New Members !!

- Seven people joined our club after participating in the Wednesday Walk on September 20th and the super-successful Oktoberfest Volksmarch on September 30th. Welcome Phil Margeta-Cacace, Marlene Gonzalez, Cathy Jabara, Jerry Lawson, Michael & Kerri Luoma, and Tracey Mc Neil.



15 walkers enjoyed scenic loop around Lake Accotink on September 20th

2) Locktoberfest

- Despite the rain on October 14th, over 30 people participated in the first Locktoberfest in the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal National Historical Park. Participants joined a 10-km guided walk, 25-km group bike ride and open house at Lockhouses in Maryland and Washington, D.C. National Park Service Rangers and volunteers, C&O Canal Trust staff members, C&O Canal Association, and Lifelong Learning Institute members also participated.



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toured and enjoyed bratwurst, Bavarian pretzels and cider served by Susan Brown. After the cyclists observed a canal boat “locking through” in Georgetown, they pedaled to the Lockkeepers House in Washington, D.C., which is located at the western terminus of the former City Canal. On their return route, they rode through the remaining arch of Alexandria’s Aqueduct.

3) Social Hour -- November 20th

- Pre-meeting dinner is scheduled at the Ornerly Public House (3950 University Drive in the City of Fairfax) on Monday at 5:30 pm. Enjoy super food and drink specials if you order before 6pm. See the Ornerly brewpub menu full of delicious appetizers and entrees at <https://www.ornerybeer.com/menu>

4) Club Meeting -- November 20th

- Our last monthly meeting of 2023 will be held in the Daniels Run Elementary School Art Room (3705 Blenheim Boulevard in Fairfax City) at 7:30 pm. Join discussions about plans for December holiday walks, party and 2024 events.

5) Guided Group Walk -- November 22nd

- Wednesday Walk will depart from Brickmakers Café in Occoquan Regional Park (9751 Ox Road in Lorton) at 10 am. The 7-km route includes a visit to the Workhouse Arts Center. Enjoy lunch at the popular café after the walk.

6) Holiday Extravaganza Volksmarches -- December 2-3rd

- Two Volksmarches are scheduled starting at the Alexandria Hampton Inn (5821 Richmond Highway) the first weekend in December. Event co-organizer Helen Garamone highly encouraged all club members to volunteer for two-hour shift(s) at the indoor Start/Finish Table using the Signup Genius page at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DAFA62DA02-45404444-holiday>

7) Holiday Party -- December 17th

- Save the date for our annual holiday gathering scheduled at P.J. Skidoos (9908 Fairfax Blvd in the City of Fairfax) that starts at 5:30 pm. A fun gift exchange is planned, so bring a gift costing less than \$10 and take home one from another club member. 😊 RSVP no later than December 10th to NVV Recording Secretary, Dianne Purdy (reddianne@aol.com) to ensure that you have seat(s) reserved. Barry Plott is planning a pre-party walk, departing from P.J. Skidoos. Details will be published in the December newsletter.

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8) Year-Round Walks -- 2024

- NVV has sanctioned a record eleven walks for 2024. Nine of the 10 year-round walks in Fairfax County include an option for participants to use the AVA Online Start Box. For the first time the Lake Accotink walk in Springfield and Workhouse walk in Lorton will be available during all 12 months in 2024. New 5-km and 10-km routes at Smith Mountain Lake State Park were submitted for AVA sanctioning by former club Vice President Ron Jones.

9) Chargin' Charlie -- 2024

- The NVV Board voted during the October meeting to modify the frequency that our club newsletter will be published next year. Starting in January 2024, "Chargin' Charlie" will be distributed every other month. Editor Jim Garamone will continue to email a copy with articles and photos to club members, and Webmaster Roy Wagner will continue posting a copy on the NVV website at <https://www.northernvirginiavolksmarchers.club/newsletters>

10) Anniversary Volksmarch -- April 20th, 2024

- The club's 41st anniversary walk is on the third Saturday in April at Villa Bella Restaurant in Burke. Organizer Sandy Koontz encourages everyone to enjoy lunch at the Italian eatery following a scenic stroll along Burke Centre trails.

Steve Brown
NVV Club President

Holiday Extravaganza



The Fourth Annual Holiday Extravaganza is set December 2-3. The Extravaganza happens the same weekend as the Scottish Walk in Old Town Alexandria, so this gives you an excuse to drink Scotch in the morning.

This year, as in the past, NVV is working with the Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers to give a fitting start to the Holiday season.

On the Virginia side of the Potomac, there will be an event with a choice of two distances starting at the Hampton Inn and Suites at 5821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Va. Both routes take you to the route of the Scottish Walk, which generally starts at about 10 am, Saturday.

There will be pipe bands, Scottish clans, Scottish reenactors marching through the city ending at Market Square at the conjunction of Fairfax and King Streets. All of the pipe and drum units gather there and play at the end of the parade. It's a lot of fun and the restaurants in the city open earlier – hence the Scotch.

But wait, there's more!

Our Maryland friends have a walk that takes you over the Wilson Bridge to National Harbor. The holiday decorations at the Harbor bring new meaning to the term, "Anything worth doing, is worth overdoing." If you can't make the long walk to Maryland on Saturday, come on Sunday.

And because it isn't Scottish Walk without Mexican food, all are invited to come to El Paso Restaurant at 6151 Richmond Highway in Alexandria at 6 pm. Give Helen a call at 571 225-2644 so we can get an idea on how many people will attend. Believe me that you will like a chimichanga better than a haggis.

So, get your kilts, sporrans, and sgian dhus (look it up!) ready so you can have a grand time at the Extravaganza.

October Minutes

We had a NVV board meeting at the Ornerly Beer Company prior to our monthly meeting. Attendees were Steve, Helen, Barry, Dianne and Ron. We then attended our regular meeting at Daniel Run school.

Attendees at our regular mtg: Steve, Barry, Dianne, Bonnie, Helen, Rob, Sandy & Ralph and Margaret & Roy.

Steve talked about the Locktoberfest walk, which included a walk, bike, and open house. Susan hosted a bratwurst lunch. A good time was had by all in spite of the rainy weather. Helen & Jim and Roy & Margaret were also there (along with Steve and Susan).

Rob is our new vice president. Congrats, Rob!

Thanks to Rob our Oktoberfest walk at Fort Belvoir was a success with 160 total attendees, with included 57 paid walkers. There were two routes (5 or 10K) with the checkpoint being our start table. We also sold several newcomer packets.

Barry sent \$300 from the club to the AVA Big Give.

We discussed sending out our newsletter on a bi-monthly basis, vice monthly. Both the board and club members agree with this suggestion. Jim is doing a terrific job, so this should lighten his load a bit!

Our web site is up to date.

Jack and Susan Jeter will be the new POCs for our Lake Accotink walk.

Our Holiday Extravaganza walk/s will be held on December 2 and 3. This is a combined effort with the Greenbelt club. It starts at the same hotel as last year.

We will hold our NVV anniversary walk on April 20, 2024. We still start the walk from the Villa Bella restaurant in Burke.

Our next guided walk will start at 10 am from the Lorton Workhouse on Nov. 22nd.

Our Holiday Party will be held on 17 December at PJ Skidoos at 5:30 pm. We talked about a possible walk prior to the dinner and Barry volunteered to scope out a short walk route.

Steve (I believe) thought it would be fun to have a Gift Exchange at the Holiday Party. Anyone who wants to participate would bring a small (\$10) gift to the dinner. So, anyone coming with a gift - will go home with a gift! RSVP to Dianne (reddianne@aol.com; or text 703-586-0426) if your plan to attend the dinner.

Our next meeting will be held on Nov 20. (I'll be traveling, so someone will need to take some notes for me).

Since the Board enjoyed our repast at the Orney Beer Company, it was suggested that it would be fun to meet there for dinner at 5:30 before heading to our monthly meeting.

Helen gave us an update on the construction on our Dyke Marsh walk.

Rob advised there was construction near the Masonic Temple in Alexandria. Please note the Temple is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Sandy advised that the Starbucks at Lake Barton, Burke, moved the Walk Box by the door. The manager also asked for a "mission statement" - it was suggested she use the AVA's mission statement.

Steve talked about maybe sanctioning part of the Gerry Connolly Cross County trail. Dianne talked about reinstating the Walney (Eleanor C. Lawrence) Park walk. (Depending upon my travel schedule, I could "try" to get it set up as a seasonal by April.)

Dianne Purdy, Secretary

In Other News

The Freedom Walk Festival October 20-22 in Arlington was successful. This International Marching League event drew participants from 32 states and 10 countries. There were 208 walkers on Friday; 250 on Saturday; and 235 on Sunday. This was Dianne's third IML event and there were a number of NVV participants including Steve, Helen and Bonnie.

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Dec 2-3rd --Holiday Extravaganza Volksmarches -- Choose from two Volksmarches at the Alexandria Hampton Inn (5821 Richmond Highway). Volunteer for Start/Finish Table on Signup Genius page at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE4DAFA62DA02-45404444-holiday>

Dec 17th --Holiday Party -- Save the date for party at P.J. Skidoos (9908 Fairfax Blvd in the City of Fairfax) starting at 5:30 pm. A fun gift exchange is planned, so bring a wrapped item costing less than \$10 and take home one from another club member. Details about pre-party walk, departing from the restaurant will be in the December newsletter. RSVP no later than December 10th to Dianne Purdy at reddianne@aol.com

Upcoming events

Dec. 8-10 – Williamsburg Holiday Walks. The headquarters for the event is the Best Western at 351 York Street in Williamsburg.

Dec. 9 – Annapolis Boat Parade. Start point is the Annapolis Athletic Club in Eastport from noon to 5 pm.

Dec. 16 – Fredericksburg Holiday Walk 3-5 pm start time, at the Italian Station 620 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, Va.

Dec. 31 – Savage New Year’s Walk at the United Methodist Church in downtown Savage. Start times between 9 am and noon.

Quote

Not in doing what you like, but in liking what you do is the secret of happiness.” —J.M. Barrie

Parting shot

Two great authors in Asheville, North Carolina – Helen Garamone and Thomas Wolfe.

