

Chargin' Charlie

September 2023

What is the difference between our Oktoberfest and Locktoberfest?

In my opinion, September and October are the best two months for a refreshing walk in the woods. This fall the Northern Virginia Volksmarchers are co-hosting a traditional Oktoberfest September 30th plus a new "Locktoberfest" October 14th. While both Saturday events include super volkssport events plus Bavarian food and drink, there are several differences.

The huge annual Oktoberfest at Fort Belvoir will feature two terrific traditional volksmarches, musical entertainment, food and drink, plus festival rides. NVV member Rob Grunewald has created new 5 km and 10 km walking routes that are loops from the start/finish point. The Army base has multiple bands, refreshment vendors and a carnival midway scheduled for September 30th. NVV's brochure with volksmarch details can be downloaded from our club website.

Volunteer today to serve a two-hour shift at the start/finish point by clicking on the SignUp Genius link at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE4DAFA62DA02-fort2>



Photographs from previous NVV Oktoberfest Volksmarches on Fort Belvoir and Burke Virginia

Save Saturday October 14th to join the first "Locktoberfest" along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. This event features exploration of canal locks, lockhouses and lore within the C&O Canal National Historic Park. The guided group 6-mile walk and 15-mile bike ride both start from Fletcher's Cove in Washington, D.C. Walkers have the opportunity for lunch in Georgetown, and

cyclists will share snacks at a furnished lockhouse. Both events begin by following the scenic towpath to a working lift lock where a canal boat will be raised. Other stops include an amazing aqueduct ruin and the world's largest incline plane site. As reflected in the event schedule below, additional highlights on the bike ride include visiting historic lockkeeper's houses on the C&O and former Washington City Canal. Volkssport credit is available online for walkers and cyclists through American Volkssport Association's Online Start Box.

<u>Start</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Volkssport Route Highlights Include</u>
11:30 a.m.	Walk 6 miles	Canal towpath, lift lock with boat, aqueduct ruins and incline plane
12:45 p.m.	Bike 15 miles	Above plus lockkeeper's houses on C&O and Washington City Canals

A brochure with additional information about the Locktoberfest can also be downloaded from



Locktenders raise canal boat in Georgetown lock

I look forward to great fall weather in Northern Virginia and hope that you will join the traditional Oktoberfest on September 30th and new Locktoberfest on October 14th. Our first club meeting this season is Monday September 18th, at Daniels Run Elementary School (3705 Blenheim Boulevard in Fairfax City). NVV's next Wednesday Walk is September 20th around Lake Accotink. The group will depart at 10 a.m. from the parking lot at 5660 Heming Avenue in Springfield, so plan to arrive a few minutes early to register and stamp your volksmarch book(s).

Steve Brown, NVV President

Holiday extravaganza

I know. It is still 90- degrees, but the holidays are coming.

NVV and the Great Greenbelt Volkmarchers are again co-sponsoring the Holiday Extravaganza in December the same weekend as the Scottish Walk in Alexandria December 2-3.

The headquarters for the event is at the Hampton Inn at 5821 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, and once again, the Hampton Inn is offering special rates for volkmarchers who want to make a weekend of the festivities. Reservations must be made before November 1.

There will be a plethora of walks in Old Town shadowing the Scottish Walk Parade route. Yes, there will be pipe bands, there will be cute dogs, there will be the gathering of the Scottish clans, there will be tons of tartans. The new routes will get you closer to the action.

The Greenbelt Club sponsors walks that cross the Wilson Bridge and volksmarchers can get a view of the over-the-top Holiday decorations at National Harbor and the Potomac River. The holiday decorations on the National Mall are also a short Metro ride away.

Tell your family! Tell your friends! It will be fun and a good start to the holiday season in Virginia.



Overachiever

Only one overachiever this issue, but a good one. Robert Grunewald hit 19,000 kilometers. Just as an idea of the distance, Perth, Australia is 18,620 kilometers from Washington, DC.

Upcoming events

Fort Belvoir Oktoberfest – Sept. 30. You will see the fest tents from Tulley Gate. Start table opens at 9 am.

Fredericksburg, Va. Walk – Oct. 15. Starts at the Italian Station 620 Caroline St. Fredericksburg. Open at 9 am.

Freedomfest runs from Oct. 20-22. Walk, bike, swim, the Freedomfest has it all. The headquarters is DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC - Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive Arlington, VA.

Cedarville State Park, Md. – Sept. 23. This is a great walk in the woods down Route 5. Plug 38.652, -76.8156 into Google for the start point.

Halloween in Kentlands, Md. – Oct. 21. The town is very into Halloween. Start at the Whole Foods, 316 Center Point Way, Gaithersburg, Md. 8-11 am.

Quote

“The sum of the whole is this: walk and be happy; walk and be healthy. The best way to lengthen out our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose.”- Charles Dickens

Parting shot

