

Chargin' Charlie

October 2023

More legs than a centipede and fun for hundreds!

The Oktoberfest Volksmarch at Fort Belvoir on Saturday, September 30th was a huge success by any measure. The weather was ideal for walking. The two loops organizer Rob Grunewald created were shady, and the trail surface was dry. The sound of Bavarian music and smell of grilled bratwurst were in the air at festival grounds adjacent to the colorful NVV flag and tents.



Participation in this event was the highest in as many years as any club member could remember. In addition to the 160 walkers who registered, dozens of kids and dogs completed the 5- and 10-km routes. Over a dozen NVV members contributed to the success of this traditional walk co-hosted by Fort Belvoir Morale, Recreation and Welfare. Thank you to club members Ginny Durr, Mary Fazio, Helen Garamone, Paul Hancq, Jack & Susan Jeter, Sandy Koontz, Barry Plott, and Dianne Purdy for serving at the start, finish and sales tables. Rob Grunewald skillfully orchestrated the terrific event, with planning assistance from Ron Jones, and transportation support from Jim Garamone. Rob looks forward to continuing this popular annual volksmarch in 2024. Here are photos of volunteers and volksmarchers who enjoyed the event.



Trivia: A centipede can have between 30 to 382 legs, depending on the species. However, no centipede has exactly 100 legs, because they always have an odd number of pairs of legs.



Locktoberfest

“Locktoberfest” – a celebration of all things about the C&O Canal – was a bit wet, but that didn’t stop NVV stalwarts from enjoying a 10 kilometer walk along that American treasure. Departing from Fletcher’s Boathouse, the walk headed to Georgetown along the towpath of the canal. When we started, there was a light rain falling. That morphed into something a bit more significant as we proceeded to Georgetown. We arrived at the National Park Visitor Center and berthing area just as the canal boat went through the lock.

On the way back to Fletcher's Boathouse we opted to walk along the Capital Crescent Trail which parallels the canal, as that was paved and the towpath had become somewhat puddled.

We were supposed to have about 30 people for the walk, but many canceled because of the weather. Eight of us braved the elements. We had two Meet-Up folks, two Maryland volksmarchers and Roy and Marg Wagner and Helen.

But the rain did have its benefits as the towpath was pretty deserted and we weren't dodging runners and bikers the whole way. The canal is beautiful with views also across the Potomac River and up into the Palisades of Georgetown.

I would love to do this again next year – maybe with better weather – but it was worth the jaunt.



The intrepid C&O Canal walkers.

Planning for the Future

The Northern Virginia Volksmarchers Board plans to get together before the next club member meeting on Monday, October 16th. We will discuss 2024 activities, things worth continuing, new things the club could try, and things that could possibly be reduced. Please share your ideas about how our club can continue to grow and improve with any NVV Board member;

President: Steve Brown

Vice-President: Rob Grunewald

Treasurer: Barry Plott

Recording Secretary: Dianne Purdy

Corresponding Secretary: Karen Plot

Former President: Helen Garamone

Former Vice-President Ron Jones plans to start a new volksmarch club in southwest Virginia during 2024. He sanctioned a year-round walk at Smith Mountain Lake State Park that will be available next year through AVA's Online Start Box. His many contributions to NVV were recognized at our June meeting, and we wish Ron and his wife Heather wonderful walking along the 40-mile-long lake.

Steve Brown, NVV President

September Minutes

Meeting attendees: Steve Brown, Barry Plott, Helen and Jim Garamone, Dianne Purdy and Tony Fasio.

Barry advised we have a gain of almost \$600. He proposed we give \$300 to the AVA Big Give.

Walks: Barry walked Bear, Delaware in July.

Dianne walked in Oslo Norway in August (while on an OAT trip).

Helen and Jim walked in New England, doing 5Ks (Provincetown and Plymouth, MA , and Newark, Delaware and Mystic, Connecticut.

Steve and Susan walked in Toronto - and saw the world's largest rubber duck!

We will have a board meeting on 16 October at the Orney restaurant in Fairfax at 5:30. Then our monthly meeting will be held at 7:30 that same evening.

Barry mentioned he has accumulated 3,200 events. Way to go Barry!

Ron changed the ending date of seasonals to 31 December. In 2024, they will become year round events.

Upcoming events

Next weekend is the FreedomWalk Festival running from Oct. 20 to the 23. It is headquartered at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City at 300 Army-Navy Drive, Arlington.

The next big Virginia event is the Holiday Extravaganza/Scottish Walk volksmarch that we are sponsoring with the Greenbelt Club Dec. 2-3. This starts at the Hampton Inn at 5821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Va.

Our friends in Greenbelt are also hosting a walk at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge at the Visitor Center at 10901 Tanager Loop, Laurel, Maryland, on Nov. 4. It is in conjunction with a Holiday Bazaar.

Quote

“The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn't matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark.” Barbara Hall, Author and TV producer

Parting shot

