

Chargin' Charlie

September 2017

President's Message

Good news! We have had several people join our club over the summer. I'm delighted to get these new members and hope we get them involved in club activities as soon as possible.

While we are lucky that many of us have decades of experience and are very competent at our responsibilities, it's important that we listen to new voices and new ideas. They may have great ideas for new walks or how to recruit even more new members. I'd love to get someone who's willing to write articles publicizing upcoming walks for The American Wanderer.

I hope these new individuals come not only to our walks, but to our meetings. This is more likely if we ask them to assist in some way. Let's make them feel welcome to the group!

Helen Garamone

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE!

Our September meeting has been moved from Monday, Sept. 11 to Monday, Sept. 18 because the Daniels Run Elementary School is holding its "Back to School" Night on our original date. Hope you can make it!

Time of year for Oktoberfests

Have a hankering for a bratwurst? Enjoy German music? Two great opportunities are coming up this month.

On Sept. 16 we're holding the 8th Annual Burke Lake Oktoberfest at the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church. Not only a great walk but an opportunity to enjoy German refreshments and listen to the Kings Park German Band.

On Sept.30-Oct 1 we're assisting the Belvoir MWR with its annual volksmarch - a part of the post's annual

Oktoberfest. The weekend comes not only with German food and music but a carnival and dancing. The walk will be both Saturday and Sunday. The "A" award is a red six-pack cooler lunch bag. Please remember to allow extra time to enter post for an ID check.

Vice President Jack Jeter is still looking for volunteers to help with registration. If available, give him a call at 703-360-1991.

New and improved website

Webmaster Roy Wagner has updated our website and moved it to a new address: northernvirginiavolksmarchers.club. Before it goes final, he's interested in any feedback/corrections from NVV members. Comments/suggestions can be emailed to Roy at RoyandMargWagner@gmail.com. Thanks to Roy for all his hard work.

Upcoming walks

Maryland

Sept 9 Columbia (Owen Brown) Start 7:30 - 9 a.m.
POC: John Dye, 410-290-6510

Sept 10 Laurel 9/11 Commemorative Event NEW TRAIL Start 9 am-noon
POC: Phil Wilder, 301-717-3604

Sept. 20 Greenbelt Night Walk Start 4 - 5:30 p.m.
POC: Yvonne Pennington, 301 431-6668

Sept 24 Annapolis Start 8 a.m. - Noon
POC: Diane Messer, 410-224-0907

Sept 30 Frederick Start 9 a.m. - Noon
POC: Yvonne Pennington, 301-431-6668

Oct. 28 Derwood Start 8:30 - 11:30
POC: Colleen Biasco, 301-208-3224

Virginia

Sept 16 Burke Lake Start 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

POC: Susan Brown, 703-644-0189

Sept 23 Lovettsville Start 8 a.m. - Noon

POC: Bob Wright, 703-737-2175

Sept 30 - Oct 1 Fort Belvoir Start 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

POC: Kristin Mayer, 703-805-2394

Oct. 7 Fredericksburg Start 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

POC: Paul Farrow, 540-455-0772

Oct. 13-15 Freedomfest Arlington Start Noon - 3 p.m.

(Friday), Depends on distance (Saturday and Sunday)

POC: Dolores Grenier, 703-209-0174

Awards!

Dana Beales is the first club member to achieve Centurion status for 2017.

IVV Event Awards

350 Events

Elizabeth Clements

550 Events

Rose Breece

900 Events

Dana Beales

1150 Events

Robert Grunewald

2900 Events

David Ackerman

IVV Distance Awards

5500 KM

Rose Breece

15000 KM

Helen Garamone

40000

David Ackerman

Northern Virginia Volksmarchers meetings

Here are the dates through the year. All are at Daniels Run Elementary School except for December. The dates are: October 9, November 13, December TBD, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14 and June 11.

Quote of the month

The moment my legs begin to move my thoughts begin to flow."

—Henry David Thoreau

The Last Word

Autumn is meant for walking. The air is crisp. The days are getting shorter, but there is still enough light for a brisk morning or evening walk. The mosquitos start disappearing.

And then there are the colors. There is a row of sugar maples as you enter Fort Hunt Park off the George Washington Parkway that are positively fluorescent at the end of September and early October. People stop and take their pictures in front of these trees.

Northern Virginia is lucky to have a variety of trees that change and the West Virginia mountains look psychedelic. And many times we are simply too busy, too in a hurry, too preoccupied, to appreciate them.

You don't really appreciate the colors unless you are walking. You can take the time to admire them, to breathe the air around them and to watch a few leaves fall off.

Savor these colors, savor the time. Recharge for the long months ahead. Soon will come the dark monochromatic winter, when long shadows will appear at 3 in the afternoon, and we will find ourselves wishing for that other great walking season of Spring.

Enjoy. The next deadline for the newsletter is Sept. 23.

