

Chargin' Charlie

February 2025

Winter Wonderlands & Wednesday Walks

While shovels and plows may be needed for a heavy snowfall, hiking shoes and a camera are ideal equipment for a dusting of white snow. Susan and I were fortunate to be in Aspen, Colorado, during the first white flakes of the season. The light powder that settled on the trees enhanced the beauty with their golden colored leaves. Below are few photographs from walks through the town, where the singer John Denver lived.





First snow of the season in Aspen, Colorado

From one of the Aspen volksmarches, walkers can see his former home, and the other visits the John Denver Sanctuary. An inspiring Song Garden at the sanctuary features some of his most famous lyrics etched into large native boulders. It is an ideal location for a winter walk, quiet meditation or summer picnic. Of the more than 200 songs that John Denver wrote, many celebrated the joys of being outdoors in nature.



The John Denver Sanctuary Song Garden located in Aspen, Colorado

Our club's winter holiday walk during the weekend of 7-8 December attracted people from several states. The annual event, co-hosted by Helen Garamone and Greenbelt Volksmarchers, included routes in DC, Maryland and Virginia. The walk through Old Town Alexandria offered an opportunity to view the Scottish Parade, while the route across the Potomac River went into National Harbor. The volksmarch in DC passed

decorated landmarks, including the Botanical Gardens, Capital building, Union Station, and White House Ellipse. Thank you to additional club volunteers that staffed this event; Margaret Wagner, Dianne Purdy, Sandy Koontz, Paul Hancq, Rob Grunewald, Jim Garamone, Susan and Steve Brown.



Scottish pipe bands from around the region converged for the Scottish Walk. This group was from Washington.



Here is a band from York, Pa.



While it did not snow during the holiday walk weekend or our annual party on December 15th, umbrellas were helpful. NVV members enjoyed a warm Sunday evening at P.J. Skidoos Restaurant. It was very worthwhile driving to the eatery, located in the City of Fairfax, for their famous Prime Rib and a fun gift exchange. Everyone went home with a surprise gift and a candy cane reindeer created by Karen Plott. Several members also took home a pink poinsettia plant, which decorated our tables during the banquet. Beginning in March, Northern Virginia Volksmarchers plan to host seven guided group walks on the third Wednesdays through November. Since each walk starts at 10am, please meet the host at the starting point to register 10-15 minutes prior.

<u>Month</u>	<u>3rd Wednesday</u>	<u>Year-Round Walk Location</u>	<u>Walk Host</u>
March	19th	Alexandria - Dyke Marsh	Jim Garamone
April	16th	Burke - Six Ponds	Sandy Koontz
May	21st	Lorton - Workhouse Arts Center	Steve Brown
June	18th	Alexandria - Historic Old Town	Rob Grunewald
September	17th	Alexandria - Waterfront	Jim Garamone
October	15th	Springfield - Lake Accotink	Steve Brown
November	19th	Burke - Lake Barton	Sandy Koontz

NVV's winter club meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of the month on **February 10th**, **March 10th**, **April 14th** and **May 12th**. We meet at 7p.m. in a private dining room at Glory Days Grill, located at 9526 Old Keene Mill Road, in Burke. Everyone is welcome to attend the pre-meeting meal there at 6 p.m. The Glory Days Grill menu is online at <https://www.glorydaysgrill.com/food/menu-with-pricing/burke>

I look forward to seeing you at these club meetings and upcoming Wednesday Walks.
Steve Brown, NVV Club President

January 2025 Minutes

President Steve Brown started the meeting at 7:14 pm, after a lovely meal at Glory Days Grill. Roy and Marge Wagner, Karen and Barry Plott, Helen and Jim Garamone attended.

Notable walks – Helen and Jim did a volksmarch tour of Virginia beginning at Smithfield through Virginia Beach and then crossing the Bridge-Tunnel for walks on the Eastern Shore. The weather was cold, but dry and the seafood wonderful.

The treasury is in good shape, Barry said, with just a few outstanding bills.

Helen briefed on the Holiday Extravaganza saying while it went well, she is going to have a “Come to Jesus” meeting with the hotel to get the parking situation figured out.

Steve said the Fort Belvoir Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 4, and the 2025 version of the Scottish Walk is set for Dec. 6.

Helen has been researching a Black History Walk in Old Town Alexandria, and said as soon as her health allows, she will finalize it. Jim also briefed on a walk in the Collingwood section of Fairfax County along the George Washington Parkway and American Horticulture Association.

The next meeting is set for February 10 at Glory Days Grill. Folks are meeting at 6 pm for dinner and the meeting follows. Steve ended the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Jim Garamone, acting secretary

Upcoming events

Daffodil Festival Walk in Gloucester, Va. April 5. The start point is at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital Emergency Room at 7519 Hospital Drive, Gloucester.

There is a Breakfast Walk in Kensington, Md. April 5. The walk starts at the 4 Town Hall at 8 am.

Quotes

“If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.” – Dolly Parton