

# Chargin' Charlie

October 2024

## Fantastic Fall

Crisp temperatures, golden aspen leaves, and colorful sunrises greeted me during week of walking and photography in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks last month. Both majestic parks feature two inspiring seasonal volksmarches, that are available between July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. My favorites were a hike to overlook above the unique Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone, and a very scenic stroll to Jenny Lake in Grand Teton, where we watched a family of moose. Other large mammals spotted while exploring these national treasures included bison, coyote, elk, grizzly bear, and wolf.



*Grand Teton peak reflected in river and bison herd near Yosemite National Park*

The weather during our club's Oktoberfest Volksmarch at Fort Belvoir on October 5<sup>th</sup> was also ideal. The event attracted 113 registered walkers plus dozens of children and dogs. Participants agreed that host Rob Grunewald's exemplary organization and route marking resulted in a hugely successful event. Thank you to the additional club volunteers that staffed the start, finish and sales tables; Margaret Wagner, Dianne Purdy, Susan and Jack Jeter, Helen Garamone, Susan & Steve Brown.



*Our annual Oktoberfest Volksmarch at Fort Belvoir was the largest in years!*

Northern Virginia Volksmarcher's conducted two guided group walks this fall and have two more scheduled during November. Sandy Koontz hosted the Lake Barton Walk from the Starbucks coffee shop in Burke on October 16th. Rob Grunewald and I led a 10 km hike from the new Bunnyman Brewing Café in Lorton on September 18th. Join the Fredericksburg Walking Club for stroll around scenic Lake Accotink on Saturday **November 16<sup>th</sup>**. Helen Garamone plans to host a Wednesday Walk from Jones Point to Old Town Alexandria on **November 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Ensure that your calendar also reflects the annual Holiday Extravaganza on **December 7-8<sup>th</sup>**, that she co-organizes with the Maryland Greenbelt Volksmarching club.

Speaking of the upcoming holidays, our popular annual party is scheduled for Sunday **December 15<sup>th</sup>** at P.J. Skidoos (9908 Fairfax Blvd in the City of Fairfax) starting at 5:30 pm. Kindly RSVP to Dianne Purdy at [reddianne@aol.com](mailto:reddianne@aol.com) by December 10<sup>th</sup>. Check out their delicious choices on the menus at <https://pjskidoos.com/restaurant> and each person can bring a wrapped gift ~\$10 to exchange with another club member.

I look forward to hearing about your latest fall walks at our monthly club meeting on Monday **November 18<sup>th</sup>**. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the private dining room at Glory Days Grill, located at 9526 Old Keene Mill Road, in Burke. Everyone is welcome to join the optional pre-meeting meal at Glory Days Grill, scheduled for 6 p.m. The food menu is online at <https://www.glorydaysgrill.com/food/menu-with-pricing/burke>

Enjoy the fantastic fall and super six upcoming club events.

Steve Brown, NVV Club President

## **October minutes**

NVV President Steve Brown called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm on Nov. 21 at Glory Days Grill in Burke, Virginia. Present were: Vice President Rob Grunewald, Roy and

Marge Wagner, Barry and Karen Plott, Bonnie Recore, Ralph and Sandy Koontz and Helen and Jim Garamone.

Notable events – Barry and Karen sold their house Nov. 7. Roy and Marge are still recovering from the flood in the basement. Steve and Susan are getting close to having their house remodel finished.

Notable walks – Helen did the Fredericksburg, Va. Civil Rights Trail. Said it was a good walk and that the city is still working to place explanatory signs along it.

The Fort Belvoir Oktoberfest was an outstanding success with 113 walkers. This even though entrance to the base was severely limited. Rob and crew are already working on ways to improve the walk next year, and are working to devise ways to get civilian walkers on the base.

The budget is in good shape and the club donated money to AVA through “The Big Give.” All the year-round walks are sanctioned, Barry said.

Ron Jones is establishing a Volksmarch club at Smith Mountain Lake.

The Holiday Extravaganza is Dec. 7-8 at the Route One Hampton Inn in Alexandria. There is a sign up document on the website for volunteers. Karen delivered the stamp for the walk to Helen during the meeting.

The Holiday Party is at PJ Skidoos in Fairfax on Dec. 15. Please send Dianne Purdy an email by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> so we can get space. Her email is [reddianne@aol.com](mailto:reddianne@aol.com).

Other upcoming activities are the Williamsburg, Va. Weekend on Dec., 13-14. The AVA Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico April 28-May 4, 2025 and the IVV Olympiad in Tampere, Finland Aug. 14-17, 2025.

The Meet-up site title has changed slightly to “Northern Virginia Walkers” with a short explanation about what a volksmarch is.

The next meeting is at Glory Days at 7:30 pm Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, but come early (around 6 pm) and we can have dinner together. Two entrees I recommend are the salmon salad and the Impossible Burger. Both excellent!

The meeting ended at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Jim Garamone



### **Freedomfest Walkers**

Dianne Purdy, Dana Beales, Heather Warden and Ron Jones represent NVV at the Freedom Fest Walk.

### **Upcoming events**

Nov. 2 – The Greenbelt Volksmarchers have a walk at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge with the start point at the visitor center at 10901 Tanager Loop, Laurel, Md. The walk begins at 9 am.

Nov. 16 – The Seneca Creek club is sponsoring a Moonlight walk in Seneca Creek Park. The start point is at the park offices around 117 Clopper Road. Bring a flashlight!

Dec. 28- The Fredericksburg Walking Club will do its annual Holiday Walk beginning at The Italian Station at 620 Caroline St. It begins at 3 pm and they have cookies!

### **The Last Word**

“Few people know how to take a walk. The qualifications are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good speech, good silence, and nothing too much.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson