

## President's Corner

I am woefully out of shape. I realized this after the Wellesley walk a few weeks ago. I did the 10K and seemed to be fine, but was I sore the next day! That's not good for the convention in June when I'll be walking a 10K every morning for 5 days. I'm taking it as a challenge to get myself back into full walking frame! It's a good thing we have so many events coming up! There are group walks almost every weekend, traditional events coming up, and even a guided walk in Boston on May 2. Hopefully I'll see you at one or more! If you do the early 5K guided walk in Boston, I'll be leading the group with purple bunnies on my head.

I just found out that April is Volunteer Month, so I thought I'd give a big **THANK YOU** to all of our volunteers, past, present, and future! If you didn't know, Walk 'n Mass has no paid positions. Everything is done by volunteers: Board members, POCs, everyone you see working at a traditional event, are all volunteers. We do it because we want to keep Walk 'n Mass going and offer fantastic walks. We wouldn't be a club without volunteers. If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer for anything, and would like to, please let me know at [mfwalks2010@verizon.net](mailto:mfwalks2010@verizon.net). If you get a call from someone from the club (usually Bea Hait) asking for help at a walk, I hope you will say yes!

Every time you volunteer with WnM, the hours you work or the job you do

by Mary Frink

are assigned points in our volunteer reward program. As you hit point milestones, you get coupons to buy things at the specialties table. Once you hit 1000 points, you get free membership to Walk 'n Mass for life! How cool is that? When I first joined, Karen Kolaczyk and I did take down for Tuesday night walks because we couldn't make it any earlier. Before I'd been a member for a year, I had 10 points and received an award! I was shocked! As far as I knew, I was just walking and keeping Karen company while she took down streamers. I still have the patch I got.

AVA is also run by volunteers. There are a few paid positions, but for the most part, the national organization is made of people who love it and want to keep it going. A big thank you to Chris Mellen who has been our Regional Director for the past 4 years and to Andrew Schmidt for being our Deputy Regional Director for the past 2 years. They have been our connection to the national offices, sanctioning our walks, and keeping us informed of everything going on with AVA. Starting right after the 2021 convention, **Wayne Knapp** of Empire State Volkssport Club will be our new Regional Director and our own **Carol Giesecke** will be our new Deputy Regional Director. I'm sure they will do a fantastic job!

I can't say it enough. **Thank you to all past, present, and future volunteers!**

## Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, May 1*  
Group Walk:  
Westport, CT  
9:00 (CVVC)
- ❖ *Sunday, May 2*  
Day Event:  
Boston, MA  
Special Places
- ❖ *Saturday, May 8*  
Extended Group:  
Bristol, RI  
Sign-in: 10 am-  
Noon; Group  
walks at 10:30 am
- ❖ *Saturday, May 15*  
Day Event:  
Devens, MA
- ❖ *Saturday, May 22*  
Extended Group:  
Shelburne Falls &  
Greenfield, MA  
Sign-in: 10 am-  
Noon; Group  
walks at 10:30 am

See club or AVA website for starting location details on these events. For group walks, please aim to arrive 15 minutes earlier to sign-in.



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# Boston Bricks: Special Places

by Carol Giesecke

I wanted to share a treasure from the Boston Special Places walk. I rode the T downtown yesterday [4/19/2021], for the first time in over a year!

I wanted to explore more fully some of the places mentioned in the 2013 walk description. And I discovered the Boston Bricks! I know I walked over them about 5 or more times in preparing this walk with Marianne, but yesterday I actually looked at them!! They are not all there anymore, but I saw about 10 or 12. I'd like to encourage walkers to see how many they can find on **May 2**. The "You are Here" brick that was mentioned in the original description is sadly not there anymore, but there are still quite a few. I hope they can be restored some time in the future.



Boston Bricks art installation celebrating the city's history



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## Trail Master's Diary: Devens

by Ann Plichta

Last May, Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club planned to celebrate Armed Forces Day with 6km and 11km walks in Devens, the site of a now closed United States Military Installation. Of course, those plans were upended. Happily, many walkers enjoyed the routes on a nice November day a few months later. This year, you're invited to Devens once again for 6km and 11km walks on **Armed Forces Day, May 15**. If you missed the November walk, or if you want to check out Devens in a different season, this is your chance. The first military base on the site was established in 1656 by Major Simon Willard. During the Civil War Fort Stevens occupied the site, home to the 53rd Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Camp Devens was established in 1917 as a temporary military quarters for training soldiers during World War I. It became a permanent installation in 1931 and was named Fort Devens the following year. At the beginning of World War II, it was designated as a reception center for all New England men serving one year as draftees. More than 1200 wooden buildings and an airfield were constructed. It also served as a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian prisoners from 1944 to 1946. Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service.

Walkers on the 6km route pass by Devens Commons before heading to Robbins Pond, named for Marcus M. Robbins, a Medal of Honor recipient. The trail continues past the fire headquarters before heading to the Rogers Field parade grounds. The 44-acre formal parade ground was where the Army trained soldiers and held ceremonial parades. It contains 11 soccer and lacrosse fields and was named for U.S. Representative John Rogers. The route then passes by the entrance to the Bob Eisengrein Community Center. Note the Warrior Memorial with tablets dedi-

cated to those who died from World War I through the Vietnam War. Walkers then continue down Elm Road with historical brick residences, former officers' homes, now listed on the National Register. The route also goes down Walnut Street with more historical residences. Walkers then pass by Devens Commons again, crossing McArthur Avenue, which is the former main gate of Fort Devens, and on to the finish.

The 11km route heads past Mount Wachusett Community College on the way to Fort Devens Cemetery. In addition to the graves of soldiers and their families of six American wars, there are also graves for 22 German and Italian POWs. The route continues to Mirror Lake, an example of a kettle pond that formed when the glaciers that had covered New England melted away. Walkers then pass by the Red Tail Golf Club, the first Audubon International Signature Sanctuary golf course in New England. The 11km route also visits Robbins Pond before passing the Fire Headquarters and heading to the Rogers Field parade grounds. After passing by the flag pole and war memorials, the route continues by Memorial Circle containing a plaque honoring Fort Devens' first commander, Colonel William A Smith before heading to the finish.

As you walk, note the signs on the poles along with the street signs. They explain the person or battle for which each street is named. The 6km route is on mostly paved roads with one small dirt path. There are some moderate hills, giving it an AVA rating of 2A. The 11km has areas where there are no sidewalks, and also contains moderate hills, giving it an AVA rating of 2B. Join Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club and celebrate Armed Forces Day on May 15 with 6km and 11km walk routes in Devens. Hope to see you on the trail!

**Brown Bag Lunch on May 15:** Participants at the volkswalk in Devens are invited to bring a brown bag lunch for themselves. There are a few picnic tables at the Start/Finish and at the gazebo at the Robbins Pond Checkpoint. You might want to bring chairs to facilitate social distancing while eating and chatting with fellow walkers. There is a pizza place near the start finish if you prefer to purchase a lunch item. Walking ... talking ... eating – three favorite pastimes.

# Bulletin Board

Reminder for folks mailing completed **Event and Distance books** to AVA that they should be mailed to AVA's new address:  
1008 S. Alamo Street  
San Antonio, TX 78210

**Wellesley** main library closed 4/24/21 onward for extensive renovations; temporary interim location at 50 Central Street expected to open in May and our walk box should be available shortly thereafter. Until that occurs, please contact POC Marianne Marshall to receive directions, stamp, etc.



## Next Club Meetings Saturday, May 1

10:00 am

*the Harlows' backyard*  
32 Bellingham Road

*Blackstone, MA*

## Saturday, June 5

10:00 am

*Joe & Blake's backyard*  
83 Robin Hill Road

*Holliston, MA*

## KSVA's Fall Foliage Festival of Walks in State College, PA November 4-7, 2021

Host Hotel: Super 8 State College, discounted rate of \$59/night with code VOLKS2021 by calling front desk at 814-237-8005.

5 walks available (Mifflinburg and Pearls of Penn Valley offered all 4 days; other 3 walks available Fri-Sun).

Social events pending decision in mid-September based on state and local restrictions due to COVID.

More information: Tom Jackson  
thomasjackson@embarqmail.com

Please note: sign-in for both the **May 22 extended group walks** (Shelburne Falls & Greenfield) will be outside the **CVS** start point in Greenfield. Those choosing to walk Shelburne Falls will then drive to the route start.

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Newsletter Submissions to:  
footnotes.editor@gmail.com  
Deadline for next issue: May 21st

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**Keith Harlow** plans to **walk weekly on Tuesdays** in his new retirement life, weather-permitting, and invites others to join him if they wish. No obligation to come each week, just check-in with Keith in advance for the Tuesday plan when it fits your schedule. Multiple YRE/SE will be visited in the coming months. Lunch and/or ice cream stops during or after walking optional.

Keith can be reached at 508-353-3336 or krhguy13@yahoo.com



# Super-Volunteer Appreciation

by Marianne Marshall

From June 2007 to January 2021, **VERNA DEVINE** captured the information on future Walk 'n Mass events for submission and publication in AVA's *The American Wanderer* (TAW). These articles—six a year and then recently reduced to four a year to match the publication changes at TAW—provided the AVA audience nationwide with insight on not only the locations and dates of the walks, but also descriptions on the places, buildings, and historic sights to see on the walk and in the nearby area. Attendees knew in advance

what to expect and whether extra time might be needed to enjoy the area. How fortunate WnM was to know that Verna would get timely, well-written and informative articles submitted for our Club. Thank you, Verna, for your years of dedication!



Beate Hait

## April Meeting Highlights

**Meeting held April 5, 2021**

**Group Walks:**

Extended sign-in available 10:00 am-12 noon;  
group departs at 10:30 am unless noted

- Sat., May 8, Bristol
- Sat., May 22, Greenfield/Shelburne Falls (register at Greenfield CVS start & determine which route you want to enjoy)
- Fri., June 18, Concord
- Sat., June 19, Fall River (10:00)
- Sat., Sept. 11, Providence (10:00)
- Sat., Nov. 6, Provincetown (rain date Nov. 13)

**Publicity:** Metrowest Visitors Bureau posts current-month events only..

**Sunshine:** Get well card to Agnes Laviolette following shoulder surgery.

**Walk Coordinator:**

- Boston Special Places, Sunday, May 2
  - Devens, Sat., May 15 (Armed Forces Day)
  - Pawtucket, RI, Sat., June 12
  - Turners Falls, MA, Sat., Oct. 9 (in conjunction with Twin State holding Middlebury, VT walk on Sun., Oct. 10)
  - Attleboro, Sat., Dec. 4
- \* Bea sent YRE/SE POCs (except Newport) updated registration log sheets and quarterly report forms.

by Marianne Marshall

- \* All physical stamps received and mailed to POCs (except Newport and Boston as start points remain closed).
- \* Walk in Barrington, RI being explored.
- \* Bedford bike route qualifies for Rockin' Around the Clock special program.

**AVA News:**

- Confirmation received after WnM meeting date that the revision of AVA's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws passed.
- 2021 AVA Convention in Madison, WI proceeding as of WnM meeting date.

**New Business:**

- **Saturday, May 1** club meeting will be outside in Harlows' large backyard in Blackstone starting at 10:00 am.
- **Saturday, June 5** club meeting will be outside in Blake & Joe's backyard in Holliston starting at 10:00 am.
- **Ice Cream Parlor:** WnM will accept completed books through the end of December 2021.

**Other:**

- Anyone interested in walking on Tuesdays, YRE/SE locations to be determined, contact Keith Harlow (508-353-3336 or krhguy13@yahoo.com).
- Anyone up for a Tri-State collaboration in 2023? Charlotte Phillips (VT) is proposing the idea.

# Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

**Traditional Day Events in May** – Looking forward to welcoming participants to our day events. First up is the Special Places event in Boston on **Sunday, May 2**, followed by Devens on Armed Forces Day, **Saturday, May 15**. Details on both can be found on the club website.

## Seasonal Event Start Point Changes –

\* **Wellesley, MA** – The library closed on April 24 for extensive renovations and will reopen in a temporary location in a few weeks. Between now and then, please contact POC Marianne Marshall for route directions, etc. We plan to have the Walk Box at the temporary location when it opens. Look for updates on [ava.org](http://ava.org) and our club website.

\* **Newport, RI** – We thank Verna Devine for diligently managing this event for so many years. Dawn Harlow is the new POC (thank you, Dawn), and with the Visitor Center still closed due to COVID, Dawn found a new start point (The General Store at the Long Wharf Mall). The Walk Box should be in place shortly; check [ava.org](http://ava.org) and our club website for updates.

**Upcoming Traditional Day Event – Saturday, June 12, in Pawtucket, RI.** If you are able to staff a 2-hour shift at the Start, Finish or Check-point or help with trail marking or trail take-down, please contact Bea ([beateh1@aol.com](mailto:beateh1@aol.com) or 774-292-9098).

**Online Start Box** – Five of our events (Boston Freedom Trail, Boston Back Bay, Cheshire Appalachian Trail, Provincetown, MA and Providence, RI) use the OSB registration process. However, on days we schedule a group walk of these events, we use the traditional sign-in procedure and will have the physical stamp available for use on event, distance, and special program books.

**Extended Group Walks** – Hope to see more of you on our scheduled group walk days, but there is no requirement to walk with the group. You may certainly arrive when most convenient during our sign-in window and take the written directions to walk on your own and at your own pace.

Two Town Walking Club invites you to a Guided Group Walk scheduled for **Salem, MA, on Saturday, May 8, 2021**. Gather at 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. in front of Brothers Taverna, 283 Derby Street, Salem to register, stamp books and begin the walk of the 5K trail. Those who wish to walk the 10K trail may do so on their own. Restrooms are NOT available at the Taverna. Restrooms might be available at National Park Service locations if open. The closest one is at the 1K mark on the trail. The date will give us a chance to walk in Salem before the summer tourist season. **RSVP to Joe Piffat** at [jpiffat@aol.com](mailto:jpiffat@aol.com) if you plan to attend.

## Pictures:

Group walkers in Wellesley enjoyed a delightful spring day on April 10.



Beate Hait