

President's Corner

A nor'easter in May? Really? When I was stuck in the house, all I could think about was getting out and walking around. I would have settled for just walking around my block. Now that I can get out, the weather is not cooperating. I hope you are dealing with this rain better than I am.

I have talked about this before, but do you prefer walking by yourself or with a group? Maybe because I'm still mostly in my house I've been thinking about group walks and how nice it would be to walk with a group and chat as we go. Many thanks to Pat Damiani and all of the POCs for keeping our group walk schedule so full. Group walks are really what keeps us going. Do you have a favorite walk that we haven't done a group walk for recently? Please reach out and let us know so we can get one on the schedule. You can go to a group walk and not walk with a group if you prefer to walk by

by Mary Frink

yourself. It's really just a way to put a walk on your calendar. I find I do better if it's scheduled and someone is waiting for me to show up. Hopefully this wet weather pattern will change soon and I'll see you at a group walk!

Don't forget about **Weston on June 7!** Unless there's a monsoon that day, I expect to be there! I know I've driven through Weston, but I don't think I've ever stopped there. I love walking in new places and seeing new things. We are still looking for places to have day event walks this year. Do you have a place you'd like everyone to walk and see? Maybe you have a walk we did in the past that you really liked or you noticed a new trail just opened near you. Let us know! Everyone has input in what walks we do, not just the board.

See you on the trails!



Hello, New Members!

compiled by Diane Peterson

We are delighted to welcome our newest club members:

◆ Luiza, Bob, and Heather McDougall of Glastonbury, CT

We look forward to seeing you out on the trails!

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Sunday, June 1
Group Walk:
Freedom Trail
9:00am*
- ❖ *Saturday, June 7
Day Event:
Weston, MA*
- ❖ *Sunday, June 8
Group Walk:
Back Bay 12:30pm*
- ❖ *Saturday, June 14
Group Walk:
Branford, CT 9:00am
(CVVC)*
- ❖ *Saturday, June 21
Group Walk:
Cheshire 11:00am*
- ❖ *Sunday, June 29
Group Walk:
Back Bay 9:00am*
- ❖ *Monday, June 30 &
Tuesday July 1
Group Walk:
Oak Bluffs 9:30-
11:00am at dock*

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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May Meeting Highlights by Marianne Marshall

Meeting held May 5, 2025 via Zoom

Walk Coordinator: Discussion about holding a picnic walk in either Medway (most likely) or Blackstone. Carol to expedite sanction approval process if needed.

Webmaster: WnM website was temporarily offline while transitioning to new server. Bill to explore possibility of supporting WnM email addresses for board members once system is uploaded and running.

New Business—AVA Convention, Las Cruces, NM:

- Mary Frink able to vote by Zoom.
- Elected Carl Cordes, Chairperson; Ed McCabe, Vice-Chairperson; and Leslie Stone, Secretary. Unfortunately, Chris Mellen had to remove himself from slate (Treasurer) due to health issues.

- Two by-laws passed: (1) administrative/efficiency changes and (2) membership types.
- AVA sought interest in next convention locale, results in highest to lowest interest: Springfield, MO; Rogers, AR; and Norman, OK. Still need clubs willing to support any of these areas as well as tourism board involvement & assistance.
- Carol Giesecke put together a selection of items to represent the Northeast at the Silent Auction.

Upcoming Club Meeting:

Next meeting Monday, June 2 to be held 6:30 pm at Stop & Shop in Franklin.

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Trail Master's Diary: Weston

by Ann Plichta

It seems like every weekend this spring has had some rain. It's really put a "damper" on outdoor activities. Let's hope for better weather on June 7 as Walk 'n Mass invites you to join them to walk a 5km or 10km route in beautiful Weston.

Weston was first settled in 1630 as part of the Watertown settlement. The land was mostly used for grazing cattle until it was incorporated in 1713. Agricultural and water-powered industry use was limited, but Weston had the advantage of being situated along the main route from Boston. By the 18th century, services were being provided to travelers along the Boston Post Road. Two taverns remain today, the Josiah Smith Tavern and the Golden Ball Tavern which is now a museum. Grist and sawmills were then established, along with manufacturing. Today, Weston is known as a residential semi-rural town despite being located just 15 miles from Boston. It features one Local Historic District, 10 National Register Districts, 26 Historic Areas, and seven houses listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places.

Both the 5km and 10km routes explore the town and its many lovely residential neighborhoods. As you leave the library, take note of the sculpture on the front lawn by Weston sculptor Jamie Burnes. Both routes pass the First Parish Church, built out of fieldstone in the Norman Gothic style in 1888. It is the fourth church built at this location, with the first one being a meetinghouse built in 1698. They also visit the Mass Central Rail Trail which is part of an effort to restore a 104-mile trail from Boston to Northampton, following the right of way of former railroads. So far over 60 miles are open, and 94.5 miles are open or protected for trail development. Walkers continue through more residential neighborhoods to Boston Post Road where you can grab a bite to eat with your choice of several nearby restaurants. The routes then head to Weston Town Hall, where there is a memorial for the Great War at the



Weston Public Library

far end. Inside the Town Hall is the Horace Scudder Sears Auditorium which is the main performance space of Weston Friendly Society of the Performing Arts. Walkers then head back to the finish at the library.

The 10km route begins by passing by several schools before heading into the woods to walk part of the 90 miles of trails in Weston set aside for hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. It then returns to the library before heading into town.

Both routes are mostly flat and on paved surfaces, giving them an AVA rating of 1A. The trails are doable for strollers, but difficult for wheelchairs due to the wooded trails and uneven pavement in some places. Hope for good weather and join Walk 'n Mass for 5km and 10km walks through the pretty town of Weston on Saturday, June 7. See you on the trail.



Weston Town Hall

Photos courtesy of Marianne Marshall



Sculpture by Jamie Burnes

Bulletin Board

For **Group walks of our Boston YRE routes**, please meet inside Quincy Market near the first floor seating area. In-person registration & physical stamping is offered for those who did not already register using the Online Start Box. Any questions, please contact Carol (carolclay101@gmail.com).

- Boston Freedom Trail, June 1, 9:00am group walk begins
- Boston Back Bay, June 8, 12:30pm group walk begins
- Boston Back Bay, June 29, 9:00am group walk begins

Re Walking Oak Bluffs: There's starting to be more talk about activities for **Jaws 50th anniversary** on Martha's Vineyard.

The Steamship Authority website does say that if you're traveling without a vehicle, no reservation is necessary.

Walk-on passenger tickets can be purchased at the ticket office or online. E-Ferry tickets can be purchased in advance and are valid for 2 years from purchase date, but no date of sailing is requested when making the purchase. If carrying capacity is reached before sailing time and the ticket cannot be accepted for passage, it may be redeemed within one year.

Next Club Meeting Monday, June 2

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop

40 Franklin Village Drive

Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past

Customer Service Desk

Do you have a volksmarching travel story or favorite walking memory to share? Send it to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for possible publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.

AVA Special Program: **Anniversaries Hurrah** to run January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, celebrating the **250th anniversary of the United States** and the **50th anniversary of the AVA** in 2026.

Record twenty-five stamps of same or different events representing our national or volksmarching history in \$14 booklet with a 4" x 6" oval patch as award; completed booklets must be redeemed by December 31, 2027.

Order booklets after November 1, 2025 from: Falcon Wanderers, c/o Anniversaries SP, P.O. Box 17162, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-7162.

Learn more about current AVA Special Programs at: cb.ava.org/specprog.php

More about future AVA Special Programs available at: cb.ava.org/futureprog.php

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: June 21st

Columbia River Volkssport Club is planning a multi-event from **Thurs., October 16 to Sunday, October 19**.

They will feature 6 walks in and around **Shady Cove, Oregon**. More details forthcoming, check www.walking4fun.org or my.ava.org/find-a-fest.php



Walks Word Search

by Monica Hait

In celebration of the club's 40th anniversary, this puzzle uses location names (C, D, and E) of prior WnM events. Happy finding!

C	L	I	C	K	E	T	D	E	E	P	U	Z	S	N	P
A	A	F	O	D	E	E	R	F	I	E	L	D	D	O	R
N	M	S	L	N	N	Z	O	V	M	L	S	A	I	C	E
T	B	W	T	A	G	O	C	X	J	O	N	K	G	A	V
O	F	T	S	L	U	D	N	D	E	V	E	N	S	M	I
N	T	H	T	R	E	V	O	W	E	E	K	T	I	B	R
Z	E	M	A	E	L	I	C	R	K	T	H	E	L	R	S
O	H	I	T	B	C	U	S	F	O	A	V	A	N	I	E
U	C	G	E	M	A	R	L	L	M	A	R	S	Y	D	L
L	A	T	P	U	R	B	A	E	A	H	C	T	R	G	R
E	P	D	A	C	L	I	N	T	O	N	R	W	U	E	A
T	E	E	R	O	I	K	E	R	O	Y	D	A	B	Z	H
E	H	D	K	A	S	D	U	L	P	N	U	L	X	D	C
S	C	H	A	R	L	E	S	T	O	W	N	P	U	J	E
S	T	A	W	R	E	T	S	E	H	C	R	O	D	E	F
A	I	M	H	O	M	C	E	L	X	E	G	L	Y	S	M
H	C	I	W	N	E	E	R	G	T	S	A	E	B	D	R
O	N	J	Y	S	M	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	H
C	H	A	T	H	A	M	D	E	C	O	L	O	G	I	C

- Cambridge
- Canton
- Carlisle
- Castle Island
- Charles River
- Charlestown
- Chatham
- Chepachet
- Clinton
- Cohasset
- Colt State Park
- Concord
- Cumberland
- Danvers
- Dedham
- Deerfield
- Devens
- Dorchester
- Duxbury
- East Greenwich
- East Walpole
- Eastham

Group Walk Photo

by Carol Giesecke



On April 27, the Back Bay group walkers posed for a photo at the foot of Acorn Street, "the most photographed street in Boston."

L-R: Bev Lange, Brian Timmons, Carol Giesecke, & Beate Hait

Walk Coordinator Speaks

SAVE THE DATE:

Medway, MA – Sat., August 16 or 23 — Walk and Club Picnic — I will be attending the Medway Parks & Rec Commission meeting on May 28 to make a presentation and receive permission to hold our event at Choate Park in Medway. Yes, this is the same location as last year, so I fully expect to receive permission. Details in the next newsletter.

Blackstone, MA – Sat., Sept. 7 — Dawn Harlow is working on a route. Stay tuned for details.

Northeast Region Lighthouse Weekend – May 16–18 — This was a great get-away walking weekend attended by just over 100 folks representing 14 states. So much fun to get to know or reconnect with volkswalkers from around the region and beyond. The host hotel in York, ME, where the Meet & Greet took place on Friday night, was convenient to the featured walk routes in Gloucester, MA, Portsmouth, NH, and Cape Elizabeth, ME.

The forecasted heavy rains on Saturday didn't materialize, but heavy fog on Saturday did limit water and lighthouse views. At the dinner on Saturday night, Northeast Region Director (and Walk 'n Mass member) Carol Giesecke was joined by AVA Chair Carl Cordes to present awards, one of which was accepted by Marianne Marshall, current secretary and one of the founding members of our club, acknowledging the 40th anniversary of Walk 'n Mass.

Looking for continued opportunities for socialization after the Meet & Greet on Friday and the dinner on Saturday, Karen Plichta shuffled Uno cards in the lobby of the hotel and soon had from four to eight volkswalkers join her for a few games. There were lots of laughs, fun, and new friendships with each game lasting much longer than anticipated—beyond the hotel's "quiet time" that started at 10 pm—before a winner emerged. A few night owls then played Scattergories into the early hours of the morning!

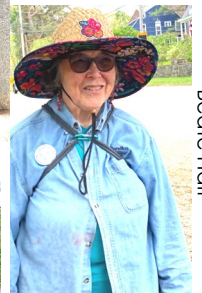
by Beate Hait

Many thanks to Two Town Walking Club, Southern Maine Volkssport Association, and Twin State Volkssport Association who planned and executed this Tri-state Lighthouse Weekend.

I encourage you to join the fun at our next regional weekend (date and location TBD)—and also look for multi-day volkswalking events around the country, which are publicized on my.ava.org (click on Find A ... and then choose Multi-Day Events). Fun, fitness, friendship, and food await the adventurous volkssporters.



Bev Lange



Beate Hait



Lee West



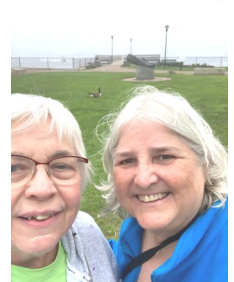
Bev Lange



Beate Hait



Beate Hait



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