

President's Corner

by Mary Frink

I had a great time walking Weston. My first walk of the season! I've driven through Weston, but I had never stopped and looked around. There were so many beautiful flowers and flowering trees. The bike path really felt like a rail trail. You could imagine you were riding a train through there. Many thanks to Marianne Marshall and all the volunteers for making the walk possible. I'm glad the rain held off for the walkers but sorry the trail takedown crew had to deal with it. I hope we get to do it again when I am back up to my walking 10K shape.

Our next event walk will be Medway on August 16 at Choate Park. This is our annual picnic walk and I am in charge of coordinating the food! It is going to work like it did last year where we ask you to bring your own lunch and if you would like to bring an appetizer or dessert to share that would be great. Please send me an email at

mfwalks2010@verizon.net and let me know if you are bringing something to share. Not that there's anything wrong with a whole table full of desserts, but it will help me to know ahead of time how to organize the tables. The club will also be getting a **cake** to celebrate our 40th anniversary! I joined the club during the 25th anniversary year. Hard to believe it's been 15 years!

We are working on a few walks for the fall, but can always use more ideas. As you walk around, keep an eye out for good places with sidewalks or trails and nearby locations we could use as starting points. Be careful if you walk outside in the summer heat. As I write this, they are predicting actual 100-degree heat, not just heat index heat. Stay hydrated and use lots of sunscreen! That's the public service announcement for this newsletter. See you on the trail!

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Sunday, June 29*
Group Walk:
Boston Back Bay
9:00 am [see p. 4]
- ❖ *Monday, June 30*
Group Walk: Oak
Bluffs 9:30-11:00 am
[see page 2]
- ❖ *Tuesday, July 1*
Group Walk: Oak
Bluffs 9:30-11:00 am
[see page 2]
- ❖ *Saturday, Aug. 16*
Day Event & Club
Picnic:
Medway, MA
- ❖ *Saturday, Sept. 6*
Day Event:
Blackstone, MA

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.

Hello, New Members!

compiled by Diane Peterson

We are happy to welcome our newest club member:

♦ Nancy Banton of Boston, MA

We hope to see you out on the trails soon!



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Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard

by Beate Hait

Ready for a summer adventure? Come to Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard on either June 30 or July 1 and look for me at the Steamship Authority ferry terminal between 9:30 and 11:00 am to register for the 5K or 10K volkswalk routes.

There are numerous departures from the Woods Hole terminal for the 45-minute ride to the island.

Leaving in the morning on the 8:35 or 9:30 ferry will get you to the island by 9:20 and 10:15, respectively.

Please allow an hour before ferry departure to park at one of the off-site parking areas (\$25 per day) with free shuttle bus to the Woods Hole terminal. One of the recommended lots is the Thomas B. Landers Lot, 22 Technology Park Drive, E. Falmouth, MA 02536. Another is at 286 Palmer Avenue.

Walk-on ferry passengers need a ticket but not a reservation, and tickets are valid for 2 years from

date of purchase. eFerry tickets can be bought and redeemed on your smartphone (app.steamshipauthority.com), or purchase a ticket at the terminal.

Of the multiple return trips from Oak Bluffs in the afternoon, the 2:50, 3:45 or 5:20 ones are the most likely for our walkers – but there are three more with the latest one at 8:30 pm if you want to make it a full day of adventure on the island. After all, this is the 50th anniversary of the filming of the classic movie Jaws, and many special tours and activities are planned. Who knows what will pique your interest?

See steamshipauthority.com for full ferry schedule, parking and directions.

Can't make it on either of these days? Register for this volkswalk through OSB until Sept. 30, 2025.

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Walk in Weston

by Marianne Marshall

Would it dare rain for the twelfth Saturday (June 7) in a row? It did indeed, but the majority of walkers came early enough that they had only gray skies and finished in time to return to their cars to head to lunch or home before the heavens opened up. A HUGE THANK YOU to the following people who capably carried out the responsibilities to ensure a safe event: Miriam Boucher, Marianne Brinker, Diane Bucher, Margo Craven, Barbara Denton, Verna DeVine, Carol Giesecke, Beate Hait, Dawn Harlow, Keith Harlow, Joanne Izbicki, Paul Kelly, Bev Lange, Linda Perrotto, Ann Plichta, Karen Plichta, Janet Razulis, and Brian Timmons.



Lee West



Lee West



Mary Frink



Mary Frink



Carol Giesecke



Mary Frink



Mary Frink

Sights from Weston

At right: how to dry off after a wet walk



Marianne Marshall

Bulletin Board

AVA held a special meeting on June 18 regarding the open AVA Finance Chair seat. Candidate **Seth Werner** of the York White Rose Wanderers (Pennsylvania) was approved for this position. This election completes the AVA leadership slate, the others of which were approved at convention May 2025 in Las Cruces, NM.

Chairman: Carl Cordes

Vice-Chair: Ed McCabe

Secretary: Leslie Stone

Finance Chair: Seth Werner

The summer hours for the **Providence Start Point, the Roger Williams National Memorial**, are now in effect. The building will be open Thursday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. OSB is available anytime.

- Ann, P.O.C.

Next Club Meeting Monday, Aug. 4

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk

Back Bay group walk on June

29. Meet inside Quincy Market in the first floor seating area at 8:30 with walk to begin at 9. Books will be stamped at this time so no OSB required! --Carol Giesecke

2026 Starting Point

Photo Contest

Entries due Aug. 31, 2025 by email or postal mail, see full rules at https://cb.ava.org/checkpoint/2025/Jun/Submission_Form.pdf [Editor: misspelling is part of link]

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



June Meeting Highlights

Meeting held June 2, 2025 in Franklin, MA

Activities: Picnic walk on Saturday, August 16. Bring your own lunch and, if you wish, appetizers or desserts to share. Mary Frink food coordinator.

Awards: See AVA award winners [below].

Sunshine: Get well card to Chris Mellen; thinking of you to Herman Day.

Walk Coordinator:

- Connecticut Valley club discontinuing East Greenwich, Block Island, and Wickford, RI walks. WnM to decide at Autust meeting whether to take over any with CVVC's documentation and blessing.
- Luisa McDougall wondering if WnM would take on development of walk in Ninigret Park, Charlestown, RI, where trolls created by Thomas Dambo are located.
- Northeast Region weekend: Agreed makes sense to adjust to every other year, opposite years from AVA conventions. Based on volunteers identified for key roles, WnM agreed to support a RI weekend in 2026.

by Marianne Marshall

- Fewer events being scheduled and participation down are of great concern. Also, due to anticipated changes with Walking Adventures International and Tater Tours, bus participation/walking tours may decrease.

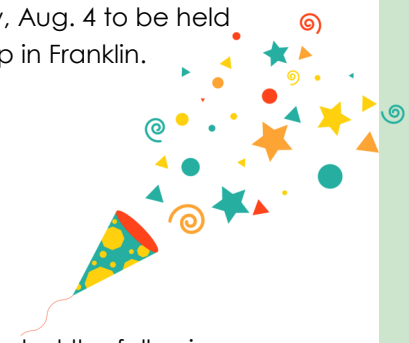
Webmaster: With transition to new web host, WnM website temporarily without pictures and may have lost ability to offer email addresses for those wanting "@walknmass.org" masking addresses.

AVA—May Checkpoint:

- AVA taking on role of identifying host locations for biannual conventions. Considerations include unique walking trails, affordability, and financial support from host city.

Upcoming Club Meeting:

Next meeting Monday, Aug. 4 to be held 6:30 pm at Stop & Shop in Franklin.



AVA Awards

by Marianne Marshall

One of the features of the AVA Biennial Conventions is the AVA Recognition Awards Program. At the 2025 Convention in Las Cruces, New Mexico, this past May, the following AVA awards were presented to WnM members and one of the club's supporting organizations:

Meritorious Service – individuals who have given at least five years of outstanding service to the AVA

Keith Harlow, Marianne Marshall, Andrew Schmidt, Carol Schmidt

Commendable Service – individuals who have given a significant amount of service, regardless of the amount of time they have been a member

Denise Macaronas, Kathryn Piffat, Mary Saratora

Certificate of Appreciation – individuals, organizations, and businesses for service to AVA on a regional, state, or club level

The General Store, Newport, RI; Beate Hait, Carol Giesecke, Wayne Knapp, Kathy Mack, Bob McDougall, Andrew Schmidt, Carol Schmidt, Carol West, Lee West

In addition, AVA presented the following awards:

Walk 'n Mass – 40th year of membership in AVA

Hall of Fame – honors an individual who has given at least ten years of service to AVA at the national, state and local level and has made exceptional contributions to volksmarching across several AVA regions

- **Chris Mellen**, 2025 Inductee

Distinguished Achievement – individuals who have given at least eight years of extraordinary, unequalled, and exemplary service to the AVA. Personal contributions must have been made at an exemplary level at several stages of service, including the national level

- **John McClellan** (John was a member of WnM from 2007-2008 during which time he served as Vice President, was POC for a Boston YRE, co-chaired an event at Fort Adams, and was the Event Coordinator for AARP-Boston.)

Northeast Region Lighthouse Weekend

by Denise Macaronas

Denise served on the SMVA Planning Committee for the Lighthouse Weekend

The 2025 Tri-State Lighthouse Walking Weekend has come and gone. Thanks to everyone who played a role in its success: the planning committee, the many volunteers who helped behind the scenes prior to the event, the willing volunteers who helped out during the 3-day weekend, and of course, a BIG thank you to the 114 people who registered for this event, representing 14 states.

We were pleased to have Carl Cordes [at left], the newly-elected AVA Board Chair, join us from Las Vegas. He complimented the Northeast Region for sponsoring this multi-club event and encouraged us to keep up the effort.

Carl commented that the future of AVA depends on similar collaborations as there was between the 3 small clubs of northern New

England: Two Town Walking Club, Twin State Volkssport Association, and Southern Maine Volkssport Association. None of us could have taken on such a huge undertaking by ourselves, but together, we made it happen!

He also encouraged us to attend the many multi-event weekends that are held throughout the US as these are great opportunities to get to know volkswalkers from around the country while exploring this great land, one step at a time.

Each of the 3 Lighthouse Weekend walks offered something special. In Gloucester, walkers were greeted at the start point with lighthouse cookies and smiles by Barbara and Joe Piffat. The walk was full of lighthouses, gardens, statues, veterans

memorials, and a drawbridge that some walkers had to stop for while a boat traveled down the canal to the open water.

For several walkers in Portsmouth, that walk offered a very romantic experience. Some of us saw a wedding procession - a

young Navy man with a huge grin on his face and his bride by his side. Shortly after that, we saw a man get down on one knee, present "the box," and proposed to the shocked, then delighted, fiancée. Two members from SMVA, Ed and Kathy Dyson, completed this romantic experience by



enjoying the walk, hand in hand, celebrating 62 years of marriage!

(continued -->)



Northeast Region Lighthouse (cont.) by Denise Macaronas

Sunday's walk at Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth offered "up close and personal" views of the most photographed lighthouse in the United States.



Besides the walks, there were other opportunities to socialize such as the Meet and Greet at the host hotel, a group dinner at The Weathervane, and some relaxing time in the hotel lobby for chatting and playing games.

Again, thanks to everyone who made this event a success. See you at the next Northeast Region weekend!



*Lighthouse Weekend
Photos by
Denise Macaronas*

Scrambled Walks by Monica Hait

In celebration of the club's 40th anniversary, this puzzle scrambles location names of prior WnM events. Happy solving!

Hint: there are only 2 starting letters used, 1 for each set.

CLGEREUSOT RBOHRA

NOOGTR

TESOCGUERL AKPR

REDOCPIVEN

EWPTKACEUT

DBOEPAY

ULPYOHMT

WRENPONVECIN

VELAPNILI

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Weston in Review – Many thanks to Marianne Marshall for spearheading this walk in Weston on June 7. There were 37 walkers, and those who arrived early were able to complete the route before the rains began (the 12th Saturday in a row when it has rained!). As one walker who finished in a rather damp condition said, "This heavy mist is not too bad; lovely flowers to see on the route, great checkpoint on the Mass Central Rail Trail, and at least it's a warm rain!"

Medway, MA, Saturday, August 16 – Come to this walk and club picnic and eat a piece of 40th anniversary cake as Walk 'n Mass celebrates 40 years of volkswalking in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We will also have our annual meeting with volunteer awards presented to those members who achieved a milestone in volunteer hours.

Blackstone, MA, Saturday, September 6 – This walk starts at Roosevelt Park and the route includes the Blackstone Gorge, Southern New England Trunk Line Trail, the Blackstone River Greenway/Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park, and the Blackstone Historical Museum. Thanks to Dawn Harlow for designing this event and walk routes for 5km and 10km distances.

Boston: Special Places, Sunday, September 21 – Thanks to Carol Giesecke for spearheading this map-guided walk that explores some hidden but notable sights to see in Boston. Meet in the lobby across from the US Post Office in the Prudential Center during the a 2-hour start window (8am to 10am), and books will be stamped before walkers head out on the 5km or 10km walk routes. Take your time to walk in Boston on the Esplanade along the Charles River and past the Hatch Memorial Shell before returning to city streets.

Group Walk Pictures:



Joanne Izbicki



Joanne Izbicki



Keith Harlow



Left: Boston Freedom Trail group on June 1

Middle: Plichta cousins enjoying a brief respite in Bristol, RI on May 25

Right: an intrepid group enjoyed the weather and vistas in Cheshire, MA on June 21