

President's Corner

Happy Spring! It's so nice to see the snow piles melting and the sidewalks appearing. There are even buds on trees and some flowers are starting to poke their heads up. I'm really tired of stick season. Now there are no excuses for not getting out to walk!

I hope you will come to the **Soup Walk on March 28**. Even if you can't walk, please come and hang out and exchange stories about Chuck Lipson. There will be lots of soup, bread, and dessert. If you are going to bring something (must be **nut-free**) and haven't let me know yet, you can email me at mfwalks2010@verizon.net. It's such a wonderful way to start our walking season.

Registrations for the Boston Signature Event in August have started to come in. We have 17 so far! I know it's early, but that is a very promising start. If you just want to do the walk, you don't have to pre-register. We will have a Start table for both days where you

by Mary Frink

can sign up and pick up directions just like any other traditional event. If you want to go to either of the social events, you will have to pre-register. They should be fun! If you have any board or card games you like to play, please feel free to bring them! I live by myself, so I don't get any chance to play any games very often except Solitaire. I am looking forward to trying other games! If you want, you can bring your registration to the soup walk and give it to me there.

I know this is a short article this month. Do you have anything you'd like me to write about? I'll keep posting updates on things going on and how we're doing with registrations, but there must be something else people want to hear about. Let me know and I'll do my best!



Welcome New Members!

compiled by Diane Peterson

We are happy to announce our newest club members:

- ◆ Phyllis Swartz of Bellingham, MA
- ◆ Svetlana (Lana) Gorenburgov of Needham, MA

We look forward to seeing you out on a trail soon!



Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, April 4*
Group Walk:
Newton 10:00 am
- ❖ *Wed., April 8*
Group Walk:
Roslindale 10:30 am
- ❖ *Sat., April 11*
Group Walk:
Kent, CT AT route
10:00 am (CVVC)
- ❖ *Wed., April 15*
Group Walk:
Quincy 10:30 am
- ❖ *Saturday, April 18*
Group Walk:
Wellesley 10:00 am
- ❖ *Monday, April 20*
Group Walk:
Concord 8:00 am
[Patriots' Day]
- ❖ *Saturday, April 25*
Day Event: Weston
- ❖ *Sunday, April 26*
Group Walk: Boston
Back Bay 9:00 am
- ❖ *Saturday, May 2*
Group Walk:
Fall River 10:00 am

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

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In Memoriam: Dave Berglund

by Beate Hait

Dave Berglund was active in the Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club from September 1994 to October 2016.

He co-chaired the National Trails Day walk in Uxbridge on June 6, 1998, welcoming 116 attendees to the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park from our start point at River Bend Farm. Dave's wife, Elaine, who died in 2024, also volunteered at this event and in Holliston.

Dave volunteered at numerous checkpoints and start/finish tables, and put up or took down trail markings in locations such as Ashland, Deerfield, Holyoke, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Milford, and Worcester.



Dave Berglund

9/17/1943 – 2/25/2026

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open, volunteer needed!

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SMVA: Maine Group Walks

by Monica Hait

Southern Maine Volkssport Association (SMVA) has announced their 2026 group walk schedule. Anyone is welcome to attend group walks (\$4 participation fee), but please RSVP in advance to ensure you have the meeting location details and the coordinator knows to expect you. In-person registration & stamping is offered for group walks.

RSVP to Denise: walkinginmaine@yahoo.com or text/leave a message at 207-245-8233.



SMVA 2026 Group Walks:

Wednesday, **April 1**, April Fools' Day Walk
Kennebunk, ME 10:30 am

Sunday, **May 3**, Daffodil Walk
Saco, ME 1:30 pm

Saturday, **June 6**
Portland, ME (Waterfront) 10:30 am

Saturday, **June 20**, Peony Walk
Falmouth, ME 10:30 am

Monday, **July TBD**, Walk/Concert/Picnic
Cape Elizabeth, ME 4:45 pm

Saturday, **August 8**
Brunswick, ME 10:30 am

Sunday, **September 20**
Augusta, ME (Capital) 1:30 pm

Thursday, **December 31**
Portland, ME 10:30 am

March Meeting Highlights

Meeting held Mar. 2, 2026 in Franklin, MA.

Boston Signature Event:

- Registrations already coming in. Each registrant will receive a free magnet.
- AVA sent an anniversary banner to be displayed at all our 2026 events.

Publicity: Many of the websites previously used for posting events are now charging. Karen Kolaczyk is looking into other web options.

Walk Coordinator:

- Holliston: One new 5km route and one previous 5km loop in reverse.
- Weston: Town permissions received to hold walk in April.
- Picnic walk needed.
- Nantucket: Susanne Landry putting together a route for a seasonal event as well as a group walk date.
- Carol checking a possible Cambridge/ Boston route.

by Marianne Marshall

AVA—January & February Checkpoints:

- AVA's walk app is in the "pre-development" phase.
- AVA's online merchandise store is open with ability to customize selections.
- May 16-20 Northeast Region Weekend Event in Johnstown and Lake George, NY, hosted by the Empire State Capital Volkssporters.
- Be careful of spam emails.

Upcoming Club Meeting:

Next meeting Monday, Apr. 6 at 6:30 pm at the Stop & Shop in Franklin.



Bulletin Board

Answer to Walking
Quote Cryptogram from
March 2026 *Footnotes*:

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

– Dolly Parton



At left: Did you recognize the mystery photo location shared in March from Miriam Boucher? The rubber ducky was spotted in a fountain along the WnM seasonal route in **Concord, MA** last autumn.

Next Club Meeting
Monday, April 6

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk

Rocky Mountain Rendezvous

July 28 to August 2, 2026

Colorado Springs, CO

www.falconwanderers.org and more details through Find a Fest on ava.org (<https://my.ava.org/find-a-fest.php>)

Rocky Mountain Rendezvous includes multiple scenic walks:

Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, Commerce City

Paint Mines Interpretive Park, Calhan

Stratton Open Space, Colorado Springs

City of Gold Mines, Victor

Black Forest, CO

Next AVA Convention
June 20 to July 2, 2027
Springfield, MO

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: April 21st



Registration details, walk information, and more available through their website:

ESCWALKS.org

A Piece of WnM Trivia

by Marianne Marshall

Ever wonder how the club got its name or the how the logo was developed?

In 1984, four people who worked at Hanscom Air Force Base—Rick Waibel, John Magill, Bob Marshall, and Marianne Marshall—found themselves wishing there was a volkssport club nearby. At that time the only local event was the annual military Global event where once a year an event was held on a specific date on every base in the world. Rick with several years of participation in volksmarching events and involvement in volksmarch clubs, Bob and Marianne with a background of helping form one club in Florida, and John with no prior knowledge at all decided to form a club.



To see the animated walking logo, courtesy of Mike Conway, visit our website: www.walknmass.org



At one meeting fairly early on, the question came up “What do we name our club and what about a logo?” Fortunately, we struck gold with Rick Waibel and his creativity. Using the first letters of the last names, we had a “W” and “M”’s which made up the core shape of the walker. Since the club was based in Massachusetts, that took care of an “M” in the club name. Of course, what else could the “W” stand for but “walk.” In our minds, these two letters with an “n” in between could stand for Walk in Mass, Walk en masse, Walk in Massachusetts, Walking in Mass—we had it covered and could move on to solving the other aspects of establishing a club.

For those of you who think there might be an error in the date—particularly as we celebrated the club’s 40th anniversary in 2025—1984 is when the idea took place. The first walk, and the official AVA date for the club, is 1985.

AVA Achievement Awards (compiled from TAW)

Based on the IVV Event and Distance Award information provided in the December 2025 & March 2026 issues of *The American Wanderer*, **congratulations** are due to the following people. Included are the highest level of achievement to date per individual.

Name	Events	Distance
John McClellan	1,800	
Kathryn Piffat	700	
Mary Saratora	575	6,500 KM

Did I overlook either your event or distance award? Please let me know so I can submit it for the next issue of *Footnotes*.

-Marianne Marshall,
mrbwalker@verizon.net

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Weston, MA – Saturday, April 25 – The brochure for this event was included with the March newsletter. Hope to see you there. If you are available to work a 2-hour shift at the Start, Finish, or Checkpoints, or to help with trail marking or trail take-down, please contact me.

Year-round and Seasonal Events – On April 1, 10 seasonal events open to join the 10 year-round events on our roster. Information regarding start point locations, hours of operation and route descriptions can be found in multiple areas: in the YRE/SE booklet that was mailed to members last December, on the club website (walknmass.org) and on the AVA: America's Walking Club website (ava.org). If you have questions, please contact the respective POC.

Some of these events use the Online Start Box (OSB) registration process. However, **in-person registration will be available at each scheduled group walk of year-round and seasonal events.** You may then choose to walk with the group or walk on your own. Group walk dates are noted in *Footnotes* and posted on the club website, Facebook (AVA Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club), and Meetup. Announcements and reminders of club activities are sent by email. To be added to that email list, please contact Brian at brianptimmons2017@gmail.com

May 16-20 (Sat.–Wed.) – Northeast Region Weekend / AVA 50th Anniversary Signature Event – Walk the Story that Changed the World: A Multi-day Event on Revolutionary War Battle Sites – Sponsored by ESCV, walks are in these NY towns: Johnstown, Crown Point, Ticonderoga, Schuylerville, Lake George, and Round Lake. For more information and registration, go to escvwalks.org

August 28 and 29 (Fri. & Sat.) – Boston Castle Island and AVA 50th Anniversary Signature Event – The brochure with pre-registration information (required for the two social events) was included with the March newsletter. We expect attendance by the participants of the AVA Walking Waves Boston & Beyond AVA Fundraising Cruise that departs Boston on Sunday, Aug. 30. Would be great to have a robust contingent of local volkssporters in attendance as well – for walking and also for staffing.

Other events – Please contact me to suggest a location and date for a day event. Would especially like a location for a picnic walk and one or two walks this fall. Details for a walk event need to be submitted to AVA at least 90 days prior to the event date, so time is of the essence to schedule walks for this year.

Group Walk Pictures

by Beate Hait

Snow was on the ground, but weather cooperated for a pleasant group walk in Wickford, RI on March 7.

