

President's Corner by Mary Frink

Winter has finally come to New England! At least it had. While I write this, the radio is saying it's going to be 60 degrees on Thursday! I have to admit I'm not a huge fan of winter. I like the change of seasons, so I try not to complain, but after New Year's Day, I wish it could just be Spring again! All the snow can make it hard to get out and walk. The sidewalks near my office are hit or miss for cleared snow, so we end up walking inside where we can. There is a bike path behind my house and for some reason, they plow it all winter long. There's only one bad patch where it gets really icy. It's nice to get out and walk it once in a while when I have cabin fever. Where do you walk when there's too much snow? I tried the mall, but then I ended up spending too much money!

It was great to see everyone at the After-Holiday Party! Thanks again to Chris and Chuck for organizing everything. It's nice to have something to look forward to after all the chaos of the holidays. I'm sorry I had to leave before the swap started. I hear it went great!

Our next big event is the soup walk in Hopkinton on March 25. My very first event with the club was the soup walk in 2010. I can remember everything about it. I still have the soup mug I bought there for the 25th anniversary of the club. I bring it with me every year.

We are looking for new places to walk! Is there something interesting in your town or a beautiful place you like to walk that you'd like to share? Maybe you have a favorite restaurant that would be willing to be a start point. We can help you come up with a walk route or if you have a route, we can help with a start point. All the wonderful walks we've done have started with someone saying "We should do a walk in..." Please let me know if you have somewhere in mind. Don't forget that the Ice Cream Parlor Special Program has started. A walk can even start with your favorite ice cream!

See you in Hopkinton if not before!



Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, March 11
Group Walk:
Cheshire, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)*
- ❖ *Saturday, March 18
Group Walk:
Saratoga Springs, NY
10:00 am (ESCV,
City route)*
- ❖ *Saturday, March 25
Day Event:
Hopkinton, MA
(Soup Social)*
- ❖ *Sunday, April 2
Group Walk:
Albany, NY
1:30 pm (ESCV,
Capital route)*

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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AVA Achievement Awards (compiled from American Wanderer)

Congratulations to the following people on their achievements as shown:

Name	Events	Distance
Eileen Anderson	225, 250	2,500 KM
Janet Sherrod	275	
Valerie Kirley	2,400	

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

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One of my favorite signs of spring is the Walk 'n Mass Soup Walk. Although I've already done a few group walks this winter, for me the Soup Walk is the official kick off to our walking season. This year, it will be held on March 25 with 6km and 11km walks through the town of Hopkinton.

With a new start point from prior years, both routes will travel through downtown Hopkinton from a different angle. Walkers will head to the police station and observe the Flame of the Marathon Run historical marker on the lamp post in front. This commemorates a gift from the city of Marathon, Greece, honoring Hopkinton as the start of the Boston Marathon. In 2008, Hopkinton was the first U.S. community to receive the flame. The mayor of Marathon presented it along with Dimitri Kyriakides, son of the 1946 Boston Marathon winner who battled Johnny Kelley in one of the most memorable finishes ever.

From the police station, walkers will continue into town, passing the Post Office and town offices. Note the building at #26-28 Main Street on the corner of Walcott. It's a single story pressed metal building, built in 1906. It's a locally unusual example of a mail order commercial storefront and is on the National Register of Historic Places. As the route passes by the Korean Presbyterian Church, the starting line for the Boston Marathon will be visible in the road on the right. Walkers continue through the picturesque Hopkinton Town Common, passing the

Claffin Fountain. This century old fountain was recently restored, including designing a completely new middle section that was removed about 70 years ago. A lot of research was done to determine what that section looked like. The fountain is now fully functional and stands 16 feet tall. The 6km route then continues through some residential neighborhoods before returning to the finish and soup!

The 11km route continues through residential neighborhoods not visited by previous walks, before passing by Water Fresh Farm and Market with its ice cream silo, and the Hopkinton Center for the Arts, a visual and performing arts center. Walkers will pass by the school complex before heading back to town and the finish for delicious soup!

The walk routes are completely on paved surfaces, but due to some inclines and lack of curb cuts they have an AVA rating of 2A, doable for baby joggers, but difficult for wheelchairs. Get the official walking season off to a good start with 6km and 11km walks in Hopkinton on March 25. Then join your fellow Walk 'n Mass members at the Soup Social for great food and company. Hope to see you there!

Note: *The Hopkinton brochure was printed prior to the official route measurements, which revealed they were slightly longer than we thought. The routes are **11km** and **6km** with an AVA rating of **2A**.*

Bulletin Board

Save the Date!

We just booked a start point for a walk in **Historic Deerfield** on **Saturday, May 6**. Details coming soon!

Plan a walking weekend as there are 3 seasonal events within 30 minutes of Deerfield: Greenfield, MA; Shelburne Falls, MA; and Brattleboro, VT.

Congratulations to **Margo Craven** for completing the **Marathon Challenge!**

Next Club Meeting Tuesday, March 7

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

*Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk*

At the After-Holiday Party on January 28, four winners of a free year of WnM membership were drawn from the All the Old Familiar Places 2016 entries. Congrats to:

Joanne Izbicki

Pat Damiani

Donna Daub (of Jensen Beach, FL)

Monica Hait

Newsletter Submissions to:

footnotes.editor@gmail.com

Deadline for next issue: March 21st

Solar Eclipse Events: August 18-21, 2017

The Nebraska Wanderfreunde Trailblazers are hosting 4 walks, 1 swim, a wine tasting, and a star party. A special eclipse walk will be held in Grand Island, NE which is in the path with the longest expected total solar eclipse time.

Learn more about the events, activities, goodies, & register for the whole package by May 25, 2017.

www.netrailblazers.club

See you in the shadow!

Did you know there is an autumn **Crazy Horse** walk in addition to the famous June offering? See the Black Hills Volkssport Association website for details on both the June 3-4 and October 1 events. www.bhva.org

Walk Travels: Punta Gorda, or Fat Point

by Ted Wall

Some New Englanders might recall intense marketing during the 1970s and 1980s aimed at luring retirees to the area around Charlotte Bay, the second largest bay in Florida behind Tampa Bay. About an hour and a half drive south of our winter digs in Bradenton, Punta Gorda sits on the south bank of the Peace River, itself an eastward extension of the bay, facing Charlotte Harbor and Port Charlotte across the river. Punta Gorda is the only incorporated city in Charlotte County, and the county seat. If this sounds repetitious, it is. Princess Charlotte had a lot of influence.

Florida developers market two lures – sunshine and warmth – and two activities – golf and boating. The Charlotte Bay area offers much of all four. Tempting!

Except on August 13, 2004 when Hurricane Charley passed directly up Charlotte Bay about 11:00 am. Simply put, it flattened Punta Gorda.

So bad was the hurricane's devastation that the local AVA walk was "decommissioned." Literally every street sign and every other reference point in the city was gone.

But Americans, Floridians, Charlotteans, and Gordaans are not quitters. It took 10 or 12 years, but the city was rebuilt, shinier and better than ever. And up to present-day storm resistance codes. Even with a few new parks added. Charley imposed urban renewal on Punta Gorda. How's that for making lemonade?

When the post-Charley reconstruction was nearing completion the good citizens of Punta Gorda settled on a memorial sculpture to honor their perseverance. It features two palm trees, one straight and tall to reflect the

steadfastness of the citizens, the other bent over about ninety degrees to reflect the resilience. The bent tree leans in the direction the storm traveled and both trees are mounted on a "sundial" base with the gnomon fixed at the eleven o'clock hour Charley struck.



Memorial Sculpture

Punta Gorda shares a tradition among west Florida communities of public murals, often decorating private structures.

Charley obliterated these, but most were restored and new examples created. One impressive mural the AVA walk passes shows a cattle drive passing down the main street on their way to market. The "cowboys" driving



Cattle Drive Mural

the cattle controlled their charges with the cracking sound made by a sudden jerk of their whips. Hence the name cracker cattle. And the "cracker" name spread to the cowboys, then to many hard-working residents of the South.

Finally, Florida loves its alligators. They were restored too.



Do you have a volksmarching travel story to share?

Send it to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.

January Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

Meeting held January 28, 2017

- **Secretary's Report:** December report accepted as presented
- **Treasurer's Report:** accepted as presented
- Soup Walk in Hopkinton posted on Facebook
- As of meeting date, 128 **Ice Cream Parlor** program books have been sold.
- **Membership renewal** notice will go out with the March *Footnotes*
- Karen Kolaczyk has updated her press release contacts and submitted information for the Hopkinton walk.
- Sympathy card sent to Myrt Walker acknowledging Sid's death
- Total participation in day events down but net income positive due to donations and not needing to pay for certain facilities.
- AVA thanked WnM for participating in the **#OptOutside** program (events held on Friday after Thanksgiving)
- Future **After-Holiday Parties** will be planned with a snow date as back-up to original date.
- **Congratulations** to Emily Goyette and Jean Jackman on their 93rd and 94th birthdays, respectively.

Trail Master's Diary: Providence

by Ann Plichta

Did you know that the 10km route for the Walk 'n Mass Providence YRE has changed? The route still takes walkers down S. Main Street and along the Providence River through Waterplace Park. But once the route reaches the Providence Place Mall, it takes walkers to Atwells Avenue and Federal Hill. Pass under the pineapple arch on the way to the area known as Little Italy. Federal Hill has been famous for years with its Italian restaurants, but now has a variety of delicious places to eat. Explore De Pasquale Square with its picturesque

fountain, reminding one of a European scene. Visit Venda Ravioli, an Italian food emporium with groceries, a deli, and coffee shop. It's an experience by itself. Stroll by the local shops and bakeries, or stop in and take a look. Enjoy pizza at Caserta's, a local favorite. You won't leave Federal Hill hungry! If you haven't done the Providence YRE in a while, or even if you have, check out the new 10km route.

Reminder: YRE Events Are Open Now

by Monica Hait

Since New England weather can be mercurial at this time of year, but nice sunshiny days do happen, remember that we have several events open for you to enjoy. Please keep in mind that it can take a few days for sidewalks to be

cleared following snowstorms and plan your activities accordingly.

Lowell	Boston & Beyond
Newton Centre	Boston Back Bay
Sandwich	Boston Freedom Trail
Providence	