



The Rover Reporter



The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club

January-February-March 2024

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www.avaclubs.org/SRVC

President's Message



Greetings Fellow Rovers,

There is much to cover in this letter. Effective January 1, the AVA is increasing the amount the clubs may charge per walker to a maximum of \$4, of which \$2 is sent to AVA, with the various clubs retaining the remainder. This increase is automatic for events on the online start box for both of us who use it. The free walker designation is now gone, they are now called guests. The AVA will still get the \$2 for these participants, it is up to each individual club whether they will charge the guests or pay out of their coffers. At the November meeting, it was decided that the Susquehanna Rovers would increase walk fees to \$4, with youth and guests still walking for free, as we get enough from donations to cover them. The club also sends 10 cents for each walker to our state organization.

I can hear it now. That's a big increase. How long has it been since the walk fee was raised last? 20 years? Everything else went up in the meantime too. The AVA needed to increase fees. It is what it is. The AVA only gets 25 cents additional per participant, while the club gets 75 cents more. Also, they came up a little short on the Big Give this year. Pavilion rent increased too, and it was hard to make a traditional event work with what funds it would have brought in.

Speaking of meetings, the November meeting was held on the KSVa meetup site and appeared to work well, but I'm still getting the hang of setting up the meetings. The meeting software sends the email invitations and I probably missed more than a few. Sorry about that, I'm still learning.

I was told we had a good turnout for the Hummelstown group walk. In typical fashion, I caught whatever bug is going around and had to go into hiding so I wouldn't share it with everyone like I did with my mom. So I missed the group walk. If anyone has any ideas for walks let me know.

Hope to see you on the trail. - Bill

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Group Walk Schedule

Definition of Group Walk - Several walkers get together to walk a Traditional, Seasonal or Year Round event. They start off together and then walk at their own pace. Maybe they get together to eat along the way or at the end. This type of walk will not be on ava.org list of events. GP is used on our listing for these events.

York White Rose Wanderers (YWRW) are hosting their group walks 2024. They make these walks feel like a traditional event by giving walkers a range of time to start usually 9 am to noon. The complete list for the year is on their website. Call Art Kasper at 717-968-8250 to check if they will be walking if weather is iffy. **January 6** - York Rail Trail #6, New Freedom Train Station, 117 N Front St, New Freedom. **February 3** - Dillsburg, Tucker & Co Café Bakery, 148 S Baltimore St, Dillsburg. **March 2** - York Rail Trail Extension, John Rudy County Park, 400 Mundis Race Rd, York. **April 13** - Manchester, Goodyear Brooks/Huff Tire, 95 Sunset Dr, Manchester.

The **Susquehanna Rovers** meet at a certain time to sign up and go at our separate paces and maybe meet for lunch. If you can't meet us, these are year-round events and can be walked anytime during daylight hours. The time to meet is with the event.

January 1 - Harrisburg Special Year-round. Meet at 9 in Quality Inn-Riverside, 525 S Front St lobby.

January 27 - Chambersburg Ice Festival. Meet at 9 at the Episcopal Church on 2nd St. They always have a pancake breakfast on that day. I will send the address in an email closer to the event.

February 17 - Lititz Ice Fire Festival. Meet in lobby of Lititz Community Recreation Center, 301 W Maple St. at 10.

March 16 - Carlisle, lobby of Comfort Suites, 10 S Hanover St, Carlisle.

Contact Pat 717-379-8945 for information or if weather is bad to see if we are walking.

Please join us. We miss seeing you.

Be sure to use this address when mailing your books.

AVA Headquarters
1008 S. Alamo St
San Antonio TX 78210
210-659-2112



Meeting Location

The next three club meetings are being held at over the internet at 6 pm.

January 30
February 27
March 26

There is no meeting in December.

Contact Bill with questions at 717-847-3567

All are invited to attend. You must contact Bill or Regina to be invited. Please attend.

Two Seasonals

for your enjoyment!

Fort Hunter

This event is open from April 1 until September 30.

It is an online start box, or contact Regina Zapotosky at 717-545-4982, rmzapoto@gmail.com for directions.

The walk starts at Fort Hunter Park - West Pavilion, 5300 North Front St, Harrisburg PA. It is rated 1A with a 5K or 10K trail. It is on grass paths, paved walkways, and gravel trails. It uses the Capital Area Greenbelt connection trail between Fort Hunter Park and Wildwood Park. The trail also goes around Fort Hunter Park. A lovely walk along the river.

Milton is New

This event is also open from April 1 until September 30.

It is an online start box or contact Bill Rhoat at 717-847-3567, rhtpr@aol.com with questions.

This is a pleasant walk in Milton State Park in Northumberland County which then ventures into the town and a brief section in West Milton which is in Union County. It is rated 1B with a 5 or 10K trail. The walk is about 65 miles north of Harrisburg which takes about 1 and 1/4 hours to drive. This is a brand new area for us to walk in. Make this a day trip. We hope you try it out.



Charlie Baeckert Memorial Walk September 16, 2023



Union Canal Tunnel Park

We had a great day to walk. The sun god was with us for a change.

We had 35 walkers that had a choice of two 5K trails. One was flatter and the other had a good hill or two. The Park is very well maintained with volunteers doing all of the maintenance. All of the trails were mowed even as they went through some woods.

We had rented the pavilion in the park. There was only one port a pottie so we had the two 5k trails that started at the pavilion. The one trail went over to the rail trail with an out and back and went by the canal. The other went up into the woods and traveled around the park to see the canal and then through the meadows to get back to the pavilion.

We served a nice fried chicken lunch to all of those that came. We had found some old scrapbooks from long ago events. So some had fun looking back and smiling. Charlie's daughter Barb came by and stayed awhile.

Everyone got back safely and had a full tummy when they left. I hope Charlie smiled at our efforts.



Rover got a ride to the pavilion from Bill.

Cookie Little and her Daughter Dawn.



Betty Jo McCoy with Rover and Julie Geyer

Dave Brown with Rover.

Rover received a lot of attention at this walk.



2024 Seasonal and Year Round Events

Events listed are year rounds unless stated as seasonal.

Susquehanna Rovers

These walks will have a start box unless stated OSB.

Altoona - Blair County

Wingate by Wyndham Hotel, 909 Chestnut Ave. Altoona.
Walk Dawn to Dusk. 5 or 10K Rating 1A Ask at reservation desk for walk box.
Judy Yost jpost820@gmail.com 814-932-3334

Camp Hill - Cumberland County **New**

Pat Eby's house - front porch, 19 N 27th St, Camp Hill.
Dawn to dusk. 5 or 10K Rated 1A
Pat Eby, patriciaeby@verizon.net 717-379-8945

Carlisle - Cumberland County

Comfort Suites, 10 South Hanover St. Carlisle Dawn to Dusk. 6 or 10K Rating 1A Ask at reservation desk for walk box.
Pat Eby 717-379-8945 patriciaeby@verizon.net

Columbia and Marietta - Lancaster County

Northwest Lancaster County River Trail - Bike 35k Rated 2A and Walk 5 or 10K Rated 1A
Columbia Walk - 5 or 10K Rated 1A
Marietta Walk - 5 or 10K Rating 1A
Columbia Crossing River Trail Center, 41 Walnut St.
Columbia Open 10 am to 5 pm Wed - Sun
Walk 5 or 10K Rating 1A; Bike up to 35K Rating 2A
Ask at desk for the walk box.
Sharon Miller 717-805-9540 millersd@ptd.net

Ephrata - Lancaster County

Hampton Inn & Suites, 380 E Main St, Ephrata. 5 or 10K Rated 1B
Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

Harrisburg - Dauphin County

Capital and Wildwood Park
Quality Inn -Riverfront, 525 S Front St. Harrisburg Dawn to dusk. 5 or 10K Capital Trail Rating 1A
Wildwood Trail Rating 3C; 5K trail is easier can be a 1A.
Ask at reservation desk for the walk box.
Sharon Miller 717-805-9540 millersd@ptd.net

Fort Hunter - **Seasonal** 4-1 to 9-30. 5 or 10K Rated 1A
OSB or contact Regina Zapotosky at 717-545-4982
rmzapoto@gmail.com

Hershey - Dauphin County

Bullfrog Valley Trail (5 or 10K) and Town (5 or 10K) Both are rated 1A
Karns Food, 731 Cherry Dr. Hershey
Ask at the Service Counter for the walk box.
Dawn to dusk.
Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

Lebanon - Lebanon County

Lebanon Valley Family YMCA, 201 N 7th St. Lebanon
Hours vary - call 717-273-2691
5 or 10K Rating 1A
Ask at the service counter on the right for the walk box.
Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

Mechanicsburg - Cumberland County

Rutter's #29, 714 W Main St. Mechanicsburg Dawn to Dusk 5 or 10K Rating 1A
Walk box is on window sill in café area.
Pat Eby 717-379-8945 patriciaeby@verizon.net

Lebanon - Lebanon County

Lebanon Valley Family YMCA, 201 N 7th St. Lebanon
Hours vary - call 717-273-2691
5 or 10K Rating 1A
Ask at the service counter on the right for the walk box.
Pat Eby 717-379-8945 patriciaeby@verizon.net

Milton - Part in Northumberland and other in Union **New Seasonal** - 4-1 to 9-30. 5 or 10K rated 1B. **OSB** or contact Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

Mifflintown - Juniata County

Juniata County Library, 498 Jefferson St, Mifflintown, PA 17059 Closed Wed and Sun. Open Mon, Tue, Thurs 9 am to 5 pm, Fri 2 pm to 7 pm and Sat 9 am to 3 pm.
5 or 10K Rated 2B
Walk box is in the library under a table.
Joyce Krow 717-527-4798 jakrow@centurylink.net

State College - Centre County

Arboretum, Boalsburg, Town and Campus
Super 8 Motel, 1663 S Atherton St. State College Dawn to dusk Arboretum Trail Rated 1A, Boalsburg Trail Rated 2B, Town & Campus Trail Rated 2A
All have 5 or 10K trails.
Ask at reservation desk for walk box.
Pat Eby 717-379-8945 patriciaeby@verizon.net

KSVA Events

Appalachian Trail - Walking across PA - Many options are available. **OSB only**. Marcy Lucas 717-979-3960
Lucas_mj@hotmail.com

Contact person for other events - Tom Jackson 717-677-6511 thomasjackson@embarqmail.com

Biglerville - Michaux State Forest - Piney Ridge Rd
Jan 1 to March 31 **Snowshoe** 5K to 10K Rated 1C
1287 Shippensburg Rd, Biglerville PA 17307

Fayetteville - Michaux State Forest "Smoke Zimmerman"
Jan 1 to March 31 **Snowshoe** 5K to 10K Rated 1C
Rutter's, 6837 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville PA 17222

Fayetteville - Pine Grove Furnace State Park - walk and swim, Rutter's, 6837 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville PA 17222, 5K, 10K or 14K Rated 3C

Harper's Ferry WV - Online or physical start point
ATC Visitor Center, 799 Washington St.
5K, 10K, 15K or 20K Rated 3C

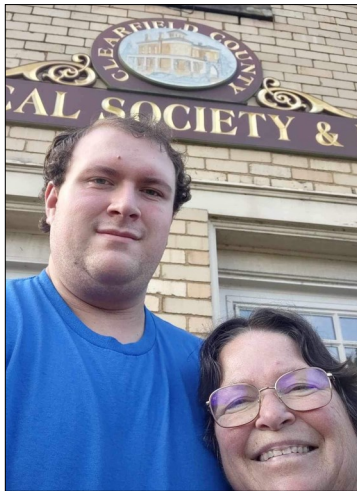
Waterville - Bike Pine Creek Rail Trail - 10K to 240K. OSB

67 County Special Program

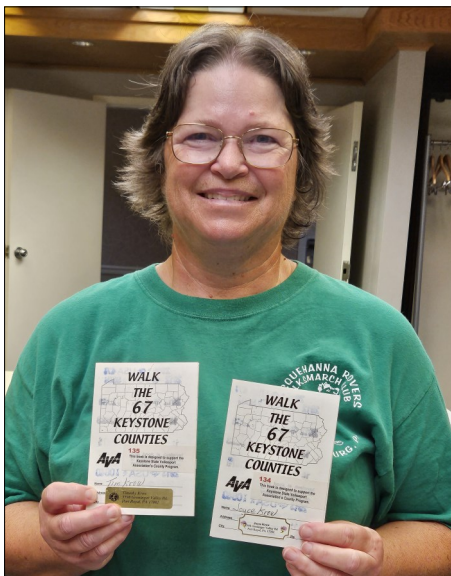


Their final two counties!

Above Tim and mom, Joyce Krow in Indiana PA
Below Tim and Joyce in Clearfield PA



Turning in their books at the Fall Foliage Festival!
Great Job!



The Garage Move

What Lydia Hack organized finally happened. On moving day, Sis and Roy Clugston, Bill Rhoat and Ed Sandnes made the move happen.

It took only two hours and five minutes to accomplish the move. Ed and Roy brought pick-up trucks, Sis, Bill and I had our cars. They moved everything from the New Cumberland garage to Pat Eby's Camp Hill garage in two trips. They were really amazing. This move will save the Rovers \$750 a year. It was nice to have the garage originally because when there was an event, the coordinator had to go to several peoples basements to get the stuff needed to put on the event. So having it in one place was great. It does not take as much stuff to put on an event as it did in 1986 when the trails were marked. We now use written directions. There were usually at least 10 people that would show up to mark and tear down the trail.

But our coffers have been dwindling since covid and since Hershey Recreation Building was under repair. Our walkers are not showing up to walk and we don't have the volunteers to put on really large events. We ask for help in the newsletter, but since Alice passed away, we don't have anyone to call our members to help. So it is usually Bill, Marcy, Regina and Pat that run the walks.



We did have two injuries - Bill cut his palm on one of the steel shelves and Sis smashed her finger when it got caught between something heavy and the truck.

Other than those injuries, we were lucky as the cabinets and shelves were extremely heavy.

A big thank you to those four. Now it all has to be organized in the Camp Hill garage.



Foliage Festival of Walks

Centre, Mifflin, & Huntingdon Counties

Five Volkswalks
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
October 5-8, 2023

Lewistown



Rex & Nancy McRoberts and Kurtis Kenton enjoyed the trail. Marcy Lucas and Joyce Krow worked to design it for everyone's walking pleasure.

Walkers seemed to enjoy the geese and murals that they saw along the way. We met to register walkers on the 5th and then they walked whenever they wanted to on the rest of the weekend. We had a total of 81 walkers for the four days. They came from PA, MD, NY, NC and VA.



Tom and Lorraine Jackson had four other events for people to enjoy. One at Stone Valley, Tudek Park in State College, the campus and then there was the Seven Mountain event. He had 10 different short trails that folks could walk and then add them up for the distance.

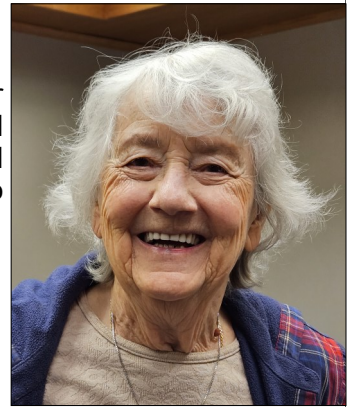
It did rain one day for a while, but then was nice on the two other days. Thursday was beautiful.

The York White Rose Wanderers made a pizza night and a social night happen which were fun. The Susquehanna Rovers were responsible for the start-finish.

Folks enjoyed the walks and left happy. Success!

We saw two strangers.

The founders of the former Nittany Nomads stopped by for a little visit, Pat and Fred Welch. It was so wonderful to see them.



Bill Rhoat and Paula Bergstrasser helping with registration.



The Meet and Greet

Enjoyed by all that attended, especially Bill Lore shown to the left.

2024 ATLANTIC REGION CALENDAR of EVENTS

From ava.org as of 12-9-2023

Be sure to check with the [ava](http://ava.org) website or contact number before traveling a great distance to an event.

December 2023

16	GW	Marietta PA	Susquehanna Rovers	717-379-8945
16	W	Fredericksburg VA Holiday	Fredericksburg Walking Club	540-809-6227
31	2W	Savage MD New Year's Eve	Freestate Happy Wanderers	410-437-2164
31	W	Smithfield VA New Year's Eve	Gator Volksmarsch Club	757-427-0081

January 2024

1	GW	Harrisburg PA New Year's Day	Susquehanna Rovers	717-379-8945
1	2W	Savage MD New Year's Day	Freestate Happy Wanderers	410-437-2164
1	W	Smithfield VA New Year's Day	Gator Volksmarsch Club	757-427-0081
2	TGW	Princeton NJ	Princeton Area Walkers	609-658-7727
6	GW	New Freedom PA (YRT #6)	York White Rose Wanderers	717-968-8250
27	GW	Chambersburg PA Ice Fest	Susquehanna Rovers	717-379-8945
30	M	Via Internet	Susquehanna Rovers	717-847-3567

February

3	GW	Dillsburg PA	York White Rose Wanderers	717-968-8250
17	GW	Lititz PA Ice & Fire Fest	Susquehanna Rovers	717-379-8945
27	M	Via Internet	Susquehanna Rovers	717-847-3567

March

2	GW	York PA (YRT N Exten)	York White Rowe Wanderers	717-968-8250
16	GW	Carlisle PA	Susquehanna Rovers	717-379-8945
26	M	Via Internet	Susquehanna Rovers	717-947-3567

April

5-7	BS	Dover DE (AR Conf)	First State Webfooters	410-802-6106
5	W	Wyoming DE (AR Conf)	First State Webfooters	410-802-6106
6	W	Dover DE (AR Conf)	First State Webfooters	410-802-6106
7	W	Killens Pond St Pk (AR Conf)	First State Webfooters	410-802-6106
13	W	Rockville MD	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers	301-787-5410
13	GW	Manchester PA	York White Rose Wanderers	717-968-8250
20	W	Burke VA	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	703-867-1073
20	W	Swarthmore PA	Liberty Bell Wanderers	215-767-5079
20	W	Annapolis MD 35 Anniv	Annapolis Amblers	301-509-6748
27	GW	Columbia PA	Susquehanna Rovers	717-379-8945

(M is Meeting; G is a Guided Walk; NW is a Night Walk; GP is a Group Walk; TGW is a Traveling Guided Walk, W is a Walk, S is a Swim, B is a Bike)

PA events are in bold; Susquehanna Rovers are bold and italicized

**The Atlantic Region Conference will be held in Dover DE April 5 to April 7.
See the events listed above. Go on their website to register for the event.**

It should be great.

Don't forget that Delaware is mostly flat.

Great for walking!



Take your dogs Volksmarching -

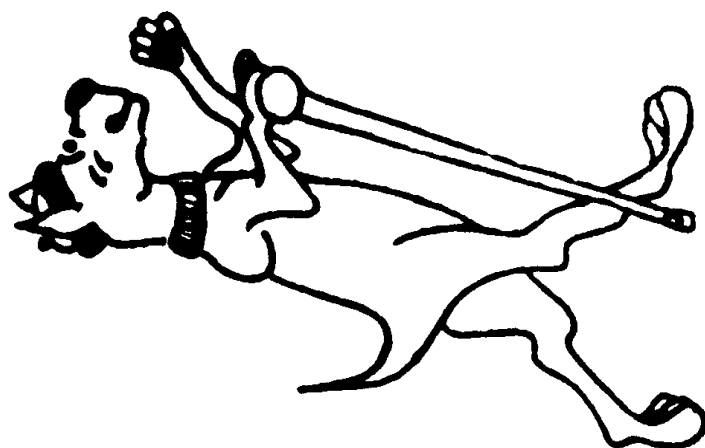
They need exercise too! We even have books for them.
Don't forget water for both you and your pet.



Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club
797A Academy Heights Avenue
Ephrata PA 17522-6915

Dated Materials

The Rover Reporter



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