

A Walk in a Susquehanna River Town

April 6 & 7, 2013

It's been twelve years since we have walked in this western most borough of Lancaster County. In 2001 we had our one and only combo walk with the York White Rose Wanderers where they provided a trail on the York County side of the river and we provided a trail on the Lancaster County side in conjunction with Columbia's annual Bridge Bust Event.

This year's trail will include a lot of the historic borough of Columbia that was formerly Wright's Ferry and is the third largest borough (by population) in Lancaster County as well as a trek across the Columbia-Wrightsville bridge with a brief excursion around Wrightsville.

As a background to our walk let's take a look at some Columbia's history.

The area around present-day Columbia was originally populated by Native American tribes. In 1724, John Wright, an English Quaker, traveled to the Columbia area (then a part of Chester County) to explore the land and proselytize to a Native American tribe, the Shawnee, who had established a settlement along Shawnee Creek. Wright built a log cabin and stayed for more than a year. The area was then known as Shawanatown.

In 1729, after Wright had petitioned William Penn's son to create a new county, the provincial government took land from Chester County to establish Lancaster County, the fourth county in Pennsylvania. County residents – Indians and colonists alike – regularly traveled to Wright's home to file papers and claims, seek government assistance and redress of issues, and register land deeds. The area was particularly attractive to Pennsylvania Dutch settlers.

In 1730, John Wright was granted a patent to operate a ferry across the Susquehanna River, subsequently established (with Barber and Blunston) as Wright's Ferry. He also built a ferry house and a two-story log tavern on the eastern shore, north of Locust Street, on Front Street. In 1738, James Wright (John Wright's son), flush with his family's ferry earnings, built the Wright Ferry Mansion, the oldest existing house in Columbia, for his family. The structure can still be seen at Second and Cherry Streets.

Traffic heading west from Lancaster, Philadelphia, and other nearby towns regularly traveled through Columbia, using the ferry to cross the Susquehanna. As traffic flow increased, the ferry grew, to the point of including canoes, rafts, flatboats, and eventually steamboats; it became capable of handling Conestoga wagons and other large vehicles. Due to the volume of traffic, however, wagons, freight, supplies and people often became backed up, creating a waiting period of several days to cross the river. With 150 to 200 vehicles lined up on the Columbia side,

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Why We Need Volunteers

By Carmie Keiser

Previous articles in the Pacer Pulse have covered the need for volunteers for various positions in the club. The most recent one detailed the need for trailmasters and explained their job and how vital they are to our club.

Now let's talk about another type of volunteering. One that is less demanding and requires less time but still makes an important contribution to the club.

As you know 3-4 times a year our club sponsors weekend walks. The trailmasters do a major portion of work in planning the walk

and marking the trail or providing maps for the walkers. But once the walks are planned another group of volunteers suddenly become very important to the success of the walk---the ones who show up on the day of the walk to give their time and talents to make it happen.

As you think about volunteering you may ask yourself –Why do you need volunteers on the day of the walk. Aren't the walks already laid out? What else do you need?

To meet AVA criteria for a sanctioned

walk we need to register walkers, stamp their cards, give out awards to those who want them and collect any fees (some of which we pass on to both KSVA [our state association] and AVA). We need to monitor the walkers to make sure they return safely. Sometimes we sell food at the walks to make extra money for the club. The trailmasters have already done a major portion of the work for the walk. It would be impossible and unfair to expect 2-3 people to also do all the other tasks involved. That's where the rest of us can help by volunteering.

If I volunteer to help at a walk what do I have to do and how long do I have to stay?

You can choose where you want to help. Usually you will be asked for a 2 hour time commitment on the day of the walk. You can give more or less time as you are able. The volunteer spreadsheet is set up in 1 hour increments to allow for greater time flexibility.

Most duties are light.

Here is a brief list of different positions available

Greeter - Meets and greets walkers as they arrive, helps walkers fill out their cards and answers any questions they may have.

Start Table - Make sure the walkers cards are filled out and signed, collect the appropriate fees, attach any awards purchased to the card and give the walkers their portion of the card to carry on the walk

Checkpoints - Mark the list to show which walkers have passed through and stamp or initial their cards.

Finish Table - As the walkers return, locate the original card that was kept and file it as finished, stamp their books and give them

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Annual Dinner Meeting Followup



Back row standing left to right:

Barry Hitchcock (Asst. Trailmaster), Pete Byrne (President), Barry Weatherholtz (Trailmaster), Robert Coonney (Special Programs), Sherry Allamong (Publication Proofer), David Barber (YRE Coordinator), Phil Allamong (Publications); **Middle row**

standing left to right: Marv Albert (Sales), Dale Albert (Food Sales), Kitty Glass (Treasurer), Inge Keonig

(Secretary), Barbara Weatherholtz (Food Sales), Don Young (Asst. Trailmaster), **Front row seated left to right:** Ann Byrne (Proofing), Mary Angeline (Publicity), Rose Angeline (Publicity), Carmie Keiser (Volunteer Coordinator), Elaine Bornstein (Multi-faceted volunteer), Fran Young (Supporter)

On Thursday, January 17th nineteen PDPacers (pictured above) gathered at Isaac's restaurant on the Manheim Pike for the Penn Dutch Pacer Annual Dinner Meeting. Isaac's again provided their meeting room and was a cordial host. Not only did everyone enjoy a meal together but at the meeting which began at the usual hour of 7:00 PM we took care of business including lining up the weekend walking events that will take place this year. (You'll learn more about those upcoming walks elsewhere in this newsletter and in future editions as well.) Every odd numbered year at this gathering is where PDP elections take place. We were excited to get the group picture at the dinner because it will allow those of you who often see names scattered through out this publication know what name goes with which person. It is worth repeating here that all PDP meetings, dinners, etc are open to everyone interested in volkssporting. We encourage participation, we need participation, we need people like those in the picture who feel that what PDP does is worthwhile and thus they are willing to step forward to do whatever needs to be done so that the Penn Dutch Pacers can continue to offer great walking experiences for everyone to enjoy.

Digital Newsletter Launch Followup

Thursday, November 15th marked the release of the first all digital edition of *The Pacer Pulse*. That morning an e-mail was sent to everyone on the PDP e-mail list with a link to the landing page where they could download the newsletter in PDF format.

That same morning the printed copies of the newsletters having been prepared previously (printed, tabbed, labeled and had postage applied) for those people requesting a printed copy were put in the mail. Things went smoothly as the newsletter was released a little early to facilitate dissemination of information concerning the Lancaster Downtown Walk on December 1.

A lot of people who got the newsletter in the digital form for the first time were delighted at the color scattered throughout as well as the difference viewing pictures in color makes to the overall newsletter experience. Pictures do indeed speak a 1000 words and they speak louder and clearer in color which we could not afford to implement in a printed edition.

One thing that we did learn during this first newsletter delivery after going digital was that the cost of printing and mailing the 15 or so copies that were requested was much higher then we had anticipated. When we made the decision to no longer print and bulk mail to everyone we at the same time realized that not everyone would have access to the digital edition. We realized that it would be necessary to print a small number of copies and then hand tab, label and apply postage and then put them in the mail. The cost of accomplishing all that was estimated to be about \$1.00 per copy or \$4.00 per year but when we actually had it done the cost was in fact twice that or \$2.00 per copy or \$8.00 per year. There were several reasons for this discrepancy in cost the first being that we are printing just a few copies of the newsletter instead of several hundred as was printed before. With quantity comes efficiency and decreased cost. The other is

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Again, mixed messages from the groundhogs. One says six more weeks, the other says no. Regardless, we'll be walking in Columbia before you know it. We have some interesting walks planned for this year, so dust off your shoes and put a new battery in your pedometer.

We've revised two of our year-round events for 2013, to give them a fresh look and to incorporate some of the new Special Programs. The Historic Lancaster Downtown walk now incorporates much of the trail that we used for December's one-day walk from Isaac's, but with the addition of two Fraternal Organizations. The two New Holland YREs were combined into one due to decreased participation. We're looking at revising the trails on some of our other YREs to renew our walkers' interest.

We have agreed to serve as the host club for the seventh biennial Atlantic Region conference, which will be held in Lancaster March 14-16, 2014. Our



Pete Byrne

primary responsibility will be laying out the trails for three sanctioned traditional walks. The clubs from surrounding counties and the KSVA will be responsible for providing volunteers to staff the walks and securing conference speakers. Future newsletters will provide more details about this opportunity to show the Atlantic Region volkspotters what are wonderful town we have.

For now, make plans to join us in Columbia on April 6 and 7. I hope to see you there.

Pete

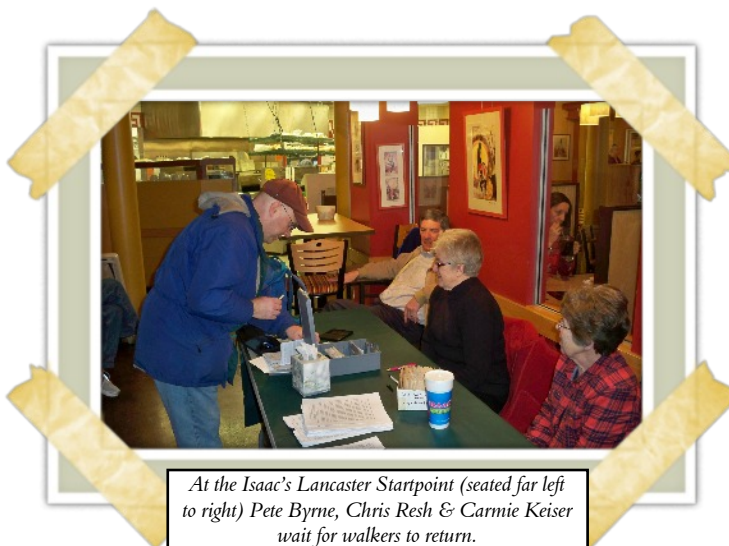
Lancaster December Walk Follow Up

Everything went as planned for the holiday walk in Downtown Lancaster on Dec 1st. Lancaster was decked out for the holidays and was a bustle with activity. Isaac's Restaurant was again an amiable host as our startpoint. The weather was splendid for the first day of December with intermittent sun and temperatures approaching 50 in the afternoon. And we had a reasonable although not abundant attendance with a total of 89 walkers.

	Award & Credit	Credit Only	NON IVV	Total
6K	2	9	5	16
10K	16	48	9	73
TOTALS	18	57	14	89

Walkers on either the 6 or 10K options were provided written directions along with a map to follow and for the second time this year, the other being our walk in Quarryville on the rail trail, having

written directions and a map significantly reduced the after walk work of tearing down streamers, arrows and signs because there weren't any. The only thing to be done at the end of the walk was to wrap up the checkpoints once we were sure everyone had passed and to pack up the start and finish and put back the furniture at Isaac's the way we found it. Thanks go out to all the faithful volunteers who put aside other things that they could be doing to spend some time or all day as the case maybe manning the start, finish, sales or checkpoint so others can walk.



At the Isaac's Lancaster Startpoint (seated far left to right) Pete Byrne, Chris Resh & Carmie Keiser wait for walkers to return.

CLUB MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

EVENTS

50 Events
Carmelita Keiser

75 Events
Maura Barber

200 Events
Charlotte Haugh

225 Events
Terry Haugh
Caroline Garber

300 Events
David Barber

350 Events
Jeanne Schopf

575 Events
Rose Grumbling

850 Events
Muriel Halsey
Charles Halsey

1350 Events
Michael Quinlan

1400 Events
Michael Quinlan
Letitia Zook
Robert Zook

DISTANCE

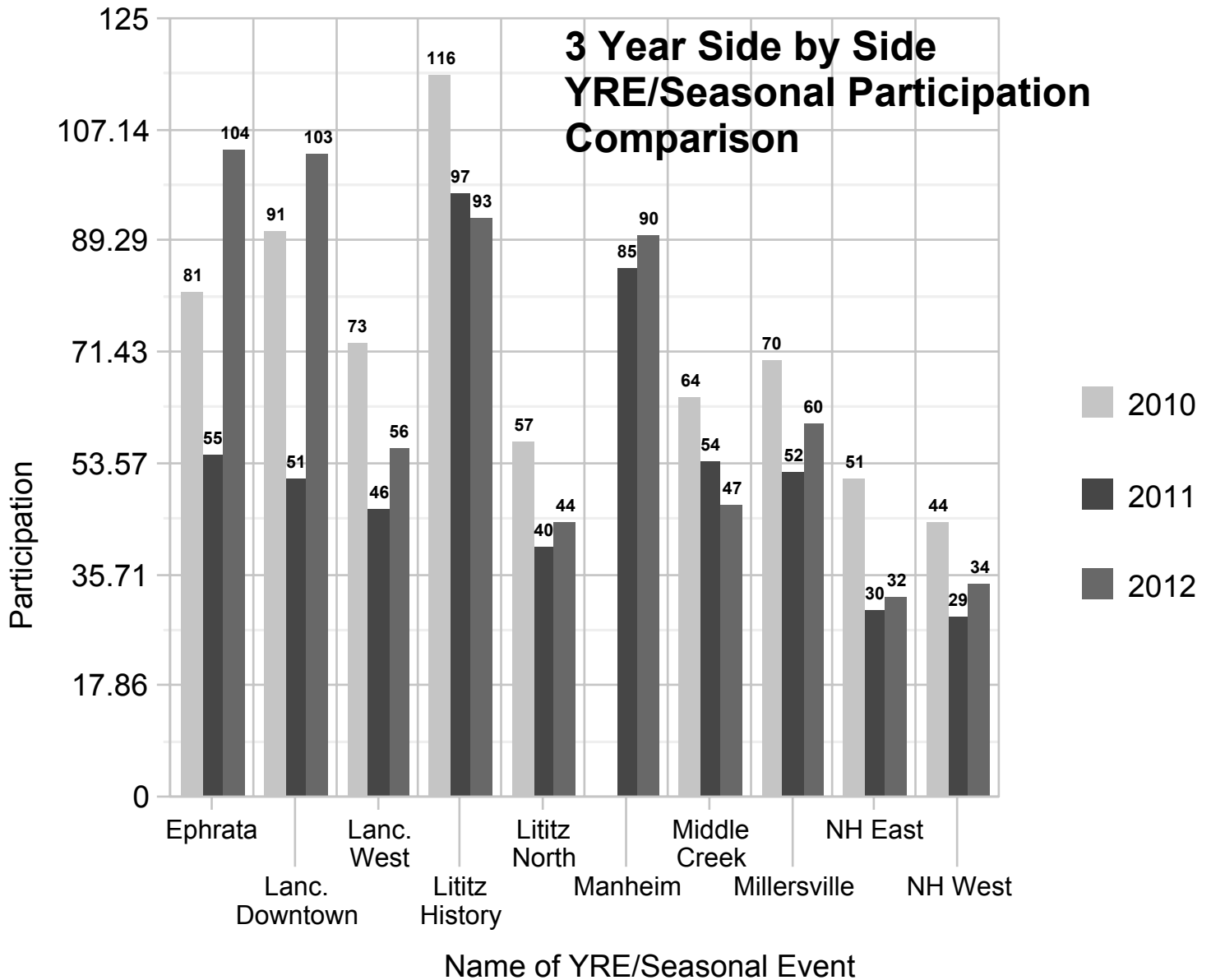
500 KM
Tiernan Barber
Carmelita Keiser

2500 KM
Terry Haugh

3000 KM
Donna Bashaw

4000 KM
Robert Cooney

**Records from
the American Wanderer
Oct/Nov 12, Dec 12/Jan 13
and Feb/Mar 13 Issues**



YRE & Seasonal Walk Recap

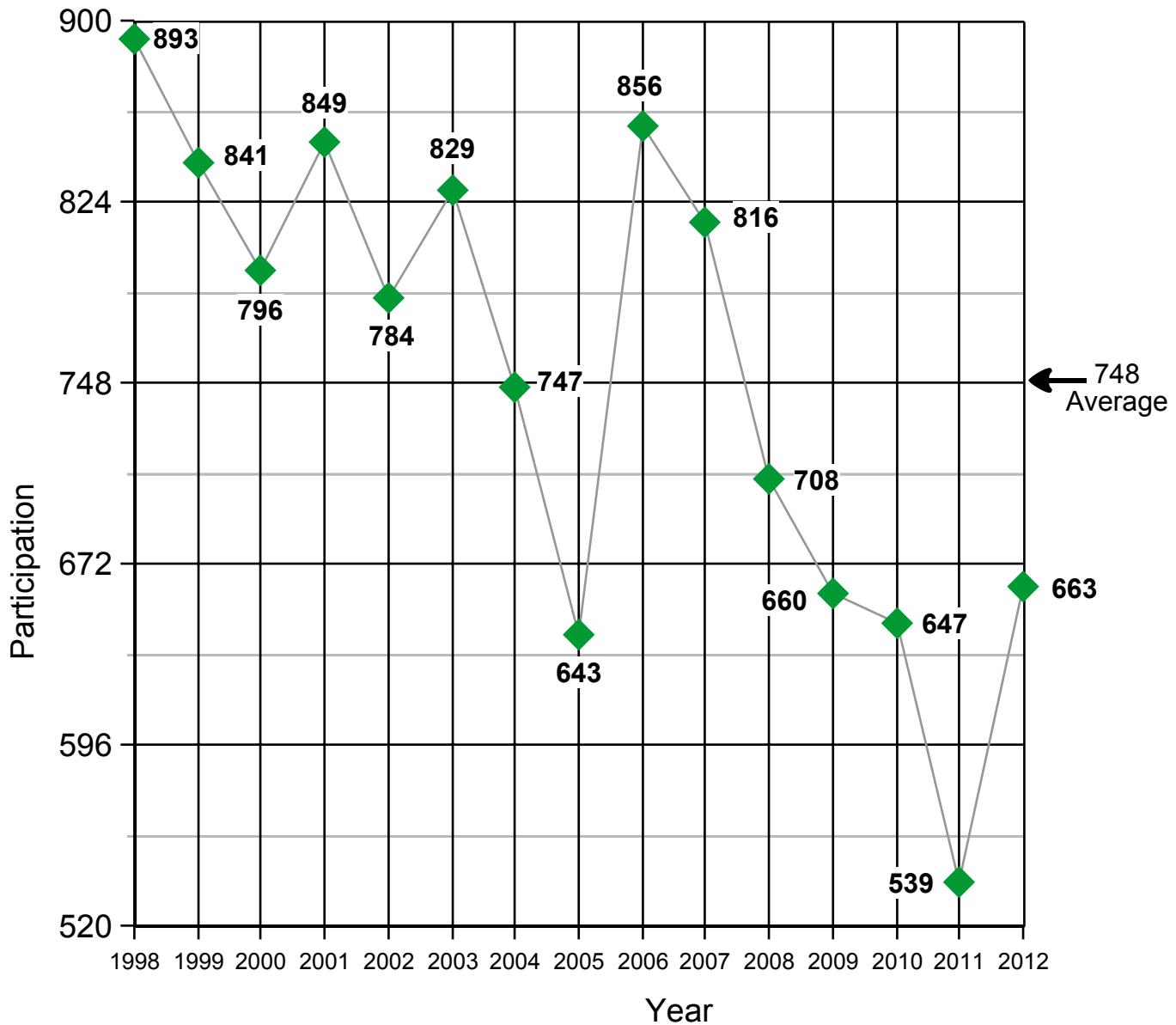
One product that the Penn Dutch Pacers and other volksmarch clubs offer are YRE and seasonal events that folks can walk at their leisure seven days a week. These walks not only provide walking opportunities in between scheduled weekend events but at the same time they provide income, over and above the weekend events, for the club if the participation in the individual YRE/Seasonal event exceeds what it costs the club to provide them. Every year the club, before sanctioning YRE/Seasonal events the middle of the summer for the subsequent year needs to analyze participation in each event compared to what it costs to produce it. This comparison is made easier when we compare participation over a number of years.

The great thing about graphs and charts is that just like photos they are worth a thousand words, although as you are experiencing we are adding some words for clarification and emphasis.

This year it's awesome to see a positive trend, if you can call one year a trend that is. The good news is this is the first year since 2006 (looking at the line graph now at the top of the next page) that we have seen an overall increase in YRE and seasonal participation and we have (by a margin of three in 2008) surpassed participation in the last three years and we also beat 2005.

The line graph shows dramatically the ups and downs (mostly downs) that PDP has experienced with YRE and seasonal walk participation in the last fifteen

15 years of YRE/Seasonal Walk Totals



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years. While participation is headed up total participation in 2012 is about 88% of the average number (748) of walkers that we have had over the last 15 years.

The bar graph (on the previous page) shows participation in each YRE/Seasonal event that PDP has sponsored over the past three years beginning in 2010. The far left bar for each event represents 2010, the middle bar is 2011 participation and the far right bar is participation in 2012. The only event that doesn't have three bars is Manheim which doesn't have a 2010 bar because it didn't start till 2011.

The bar graph gives you the micro view and shows walk by walk the results for the last three years with the first bar extending way past the others (except in the case of Manheim as previously explained) and the

middle bar dipping down and the 2012 bar recovering and exceeding the 2011 bar in all cases except Middlecreek which continues its down slide.

So there you have it, the latest info on the YRE events. Yes in 2012 we had our first upward trend since 2006 and hopefully that will keep going. But then you look at the average number of walkers over the last 15 years which is 748 and realize that in seven of those 15 years participation is below and sometimes well below the average. And even with the up tick last year, all of the last 5 years are below the 15 year average.

Thanks to Bob Gast YRE Chair Emeritus who had supplied the figures up to this year and to David Barber, current YRE chair who compiled and supplied the figures for this year as well as going forward.

2013 Atlantic Region Calendar

This calendar is a compilation of the data taken from the AVA Walking Events list on the AVA website. Since new walks are always being added we would suggest referencing the AVA calendar for a definitive up to the minute list of current walking events in the region.

March 2013

Date	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
2	2W	Baltimore Walking Club	Baltimore MD	410-592-3171
16	W	Peninsula Pathfinders of Virginia	Newport News VA	757-890-9220
21	M	PDP Meeting • Diagnostic Imaging Center • Patient & Family Education Conference Room •Lancaster Health Campus at 7:00 PM		
30	W	Virginia Vagabonds	Williamsburg VA	757-766-3065

April 2013

Date	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
6	W	Piedmont Pacers	Westminster MD	301-922-1592
6	W	Virginia Vagabonds	Gloucester VA	757-766-6065
6-7	W	Penn Dutch Pacers	Columbia PA	717-203-1725
13	W	Lee Lepus Volksverband	Midlothian VA	804-768-0055
13	W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Laurel MD	410-290-6510
14	W	Cavalier Volksmarching Club	Charlottesville VA	434-924-3791
18	M	PDP Meeting • Diagnostic Imaging Center • Patient & Family Education Conference Room •Lancaster Health Campus at 7:00 PM		
20	W	Peninsula Pathfinders of Virginia	Hampton VA	757-890-9220
22	NW	Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club	Alexandria VA	571-405-4808
27	W	Seneca Valley Sugar Loafers	Rockville MD	301-294-1191
27	W	Loudon Walking & Volksmarch Club	Leesburg VA	703-737-2175
27	W	Gater Volksmarch Club	Norfolk VA	757-421-0070

May 2013

Date	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
16	M	PDP Meeting • Diagnostic Imaging Center • Patient & Family Education Conference Room •Lancaster Health Campus at 7:00 PM		
11	W	Germanna Volkssport Association	Fredericksburg VA	540-455-0772
11	W	Loudoun Walking & Volksmarch Club	Leesburg VA	703-737-2175
13	NW	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	Fairfax VA	703-971-6468
18	W	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers	Kennsington MD	301-926-0915
18	W	Peninsula Pathfinders of Virginia	Hampton VA	757-890-9220
18	W	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	Occquan VA	703-455-1878
20	NW	Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club	Alexandria VA	571-405-4808

June 2013

Date	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
1	W	Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers Inc.	Greenbelt MD	301-937-3549
1	W	Loudon Walking & Volkssport Club	Serling VA	703-737-2175
8	W	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	Centerville VA	703-449-0615
8	W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Clarksville MD	410-290-6510
10	NW	Northern Virginia Volksmarchers	Fairfax VA	703-971-6468
20	M	PDP Meeting • Diagnostic Imaging Center • Patient & Family Education Conference Room •Lancaster Health Campus at 7:00 PM		
24	NW	Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club	Alexandria VA	571-405-4808
29	W	Virginia Vagabonds	Williamsburg VA	757-766-3065
29-30	W	York White Rose Wanderers	Shippensburg PA	717-309-6088
29-30	W	Susquehanna Rovers	Carlisle PA	717-991-5232
29-30	W	Cumberland Valley lead Foot Club	Chambersbrug PA	717-263-9532

July 2013

Date	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
13	W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Columbia MD	410-290-6510
18	M	PDP Meeting • Diagnostic Imaging Center • Patient & Family Education Conference Room •Lancaster Health Campus at 7:00 PM		
27	W	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers	Rockville MD	301-980-6982

August 2013

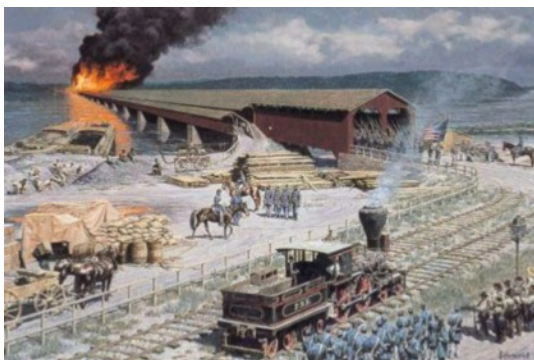
Date	Type	Sponsoring Club	Event Location	Contact Phone
10	W	Columbia Volksmarch Club	Savage MD	410-290-6510
24	W	Piedmont Pacers	Hagerstown MD	301-922-1592
26	NW	Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club	Alexandria VA	571-405-4808

Legend: W=Walk, GW=Guided Walk, GNW=Guided Night Walk, NW=Night Walk, B=Bike, S=Swim
Sk=Ski, XSk= Cross Country Ski, IS=Ice Skate, RS=Roller Skate, SS=Snowshoe M=Meeting

}] = Penn Dutch Pacer Event

Why the Columbia Walk Qualifies for the Civil War Battlefields

If you saw the Columbia Walk brochure and you noticed the Special Programs that the walk qualifies for you may have noticed that we indicate



that it qualifies for Civil War Battlefields. And after reading that you may have scratched your head and said, "I thought the closest Civil War battle was in Gettysburg." Not so! Read on and learn why in fact it does qualify.

The [Confederate] brigade of Brigadier John Gordon, consisting of six Georgia regiments, moved through York and arrived on the outskirts of Wrightsville about 5 pm on June 28, 1863. Their goal was the Columbia Bridge across the Susquehanna River. If the Confederates could seize the bridge, they would be able to threaten Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia.

Within an hour, the Confederates were attacking the Pennsylvania militia units – untrained Infantry without artillery support. Once the Union forces realized the strength of the Confederates, they began to execute a plan. The militia units would retreat across the bridge and the 200 foot long fourth span, about 800 feet from the Wrightsville side, would be blown up.

The order was given at 7:30 pm to blow the bridge. However when the black powder charges were detonated, only small portions of the support arch splintered, leaving the span passable. Large barrels of coal oil and kerosene had previously been rolled onto the bridge. They now knocked in the barrel heads and soaked kindling and the oak floor with the volatile liquids.

Shortly before 8 pm, torches were thrown onto the oil-soaked floor and timbers. Soon the span was fully engulfed.

Some of the Rebels rushed in and tried to extinguish the fire but they could not succeed. General Gordon sat on his horse along the riverbank at dusk watching as the flaming span collapsed in the river. Along with it went the Confederates hopes of traversing Lancaster County.

By 10:00 pm, fire engulfed the entire Wrightsville end of the bridge and wind-blown embers spread to the roof of the lumber mill. More riverside buildings caught fire. Burning embers threatened the Iron Works and dozens of homes. Frustrated in their failed efforts to save the bridge, the Confederates now turned their energy toward waging a more humanitarian fight. Without orders, Georgians began assisting the shopkeepers in

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AVA Website Redesigned

In case you haven't been on the AVA website lately, we'd encourage you to do so, simply go to www.ava.org. On December 18th AVA launched a long overdue completely redesigned website which brings the design and layout into the twenty teens. Instead of a website that fills your monitor no matter how big your monitor is with never ending menu options down the left hand side you will now see a website which looks the same no matter what size monitor you view it on. It has consistent design to all its pages and up to date categorized drop down menus along the top as well as offering a predominant slider that shows a variety of volksmarch related pictures.

AVA describes the changes to the website as follows: "We have created more user friendly and faster navigation schemes to help streamline communications and to enhance and simplify your overall online experience. As part of this, we added a Google search link to retrieve specific subject matter from anywhere on the site.

The homepage features a customized photo slide show. Easy access links to revenue producing programs such as membership, donations and sponsorship have been prominently displayed and grouped together on the homepage. The donations page was created to provide an alternative for companies unable to support a major sponsorship with AVA, to donate a lesser but still substantial amount. And individuals who wish to donate more than the current membership amounts can do so. Two new updated fact sheets and a second walking video have been included under the *About Us* link. Other materials for this link are currently being developed.

Duplicate and unnecessary information listings have been eliminated. Subject matter areas have been reorganized and some major links consolidated. The existing links from the old site have been consolidated from 19 to 11.

In keeping with social media demands, individuals can now access the AVA website through their smart phones or tablets using multiple browsers. We installed an AVA Facebook page link on the homepage. However, you need a personal Facebook account to access it. Click the blue "F" button and follow the Facebook sign up instructions. Another new feature is a blog with direct postings to the AVA Facebook page. A feasibility study will be conducted regarding use of Twitter.

The listing of Associate and Lifetime individual membership benefits has been clarified, and new benefits have been added, with more on the way. Administratively, selected forms are being made interactive so you can enter requested information and e-mail them, thus eliminating the fax or postal mail process. This process is ongoing.

Constructive comments be addressed to avawebmaster@ava.org. The AVA website is a wonderful resource and is the place people who are interested in Volksmarching should be referred to in addition of course to the Penn Dutch Pacer website at www.penndutchpacers.org. By the way you can always get to the AVA site by clicking on the AVA links menu option on the PDP website.

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many surrounding Lancaster County towns bypassed Columbia for the remainder of the 20th century.

Our startpoint in Columbia is unique in that the building has been re-purposed. The building originally a mill was built in 1899 and was known as the Ashley & Bailey Silk Mill. The Ashley & Bailey company, which also built a silk mill in nearby Marietta in 1897 and owned several other mills around the country, used the mill to support the growing demand for silk products in the 19th and 20th century. The mill used raw silk imported from China

and Japan and weaved it into thread and cloth to create all sorts of silk-based goods. At its peak, the mill employed several hundred members of the local community.

The mill building sat empty for more than 25 years. It had no roof, the bricks were crumbling and the windows were gone but it has come back to life as the Turkey Hill Experience. So come to the walk and enjoy the many aspects of this historic river town and don't forget to leave time for the Turkey Hill Experience as well. See you in Columbia.

Candidate for Atlantic Region Director David Scull



From the moment I happened upon a manned checkpoint for a Garden State Wanderer event in 1989 while out bicycling I realized volkssporting was an activity I would enjoy and became active in the sport. In 1994 I founded the Princeton Area Walkers (initially the Delaware Valley Volkssporters) where the club grew to achieve gold star status in 1999 and 2000. We established the first YREs in New Jersey and had walks voted in the top 10 YRE in '96 and '98. With only 21 counties, it did not take the club long to hold events across all of NJ. We sure discovered some interesting locations to walk in the process. Today PAWs hosts 17

YRE and consistently has over 1000 participants per year.

Personally I am working on the 1800 event, 25,000 Km walking distance and 15,000 Km bike distance books. I support bike events and one year did all bike events east of the Mississippi. It was a wonderful adventure. I have completed walks in each of the 50 states and a dozen international countries. Several of the AVA special programs have caught my interest (50 states, lighthouses, original 13 colonies, bakeries, churches, and college degree.) The murals program has been full of surprises. I have been a Lifetime associate member since 1998.

In 2003 I moved from New Jersey to Wilmington, NC where I joined the Winston Wanderers and assisted Rowan Roamers as POC for the Wilmington and Southport YRE. The significant distances to events in North Carolina resulted in far fewer events per year, unfortunately.

In 2010 I returned to the Atlantic region part time, and made a full time move to Fredericksburg, VA in August, 2012. I currently serve as Treasurer and YRE trailmaster of the Germanna club. I am excited to be back in a region with so many well organized volkssport events.

When I worked it was in technical operations of Bristol Myers Squibb where I was involved in international supply chain management for pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution for 30 years. My management style is to listen more than I speak. Educationally I have an MBA in Operations Research from Rider College, a Masters in Industrial Management from Clemson and a BS in Industrial Engineering from NJIT. I am currently age 65 and retired.

The most important issue in volkssports is the continuing decline in participation. I support lots of experimentation on ways to increase the number of participants within the region and nationally. Spread techniques that work to other clubs – I have no hesitation about copying what works. I support continuing the open communication pattern within the region that has been established by Sam Tollett, and pledge my best to maintain it. My pet peeve is a YRE with no map or one without sufficient detail to find my way back to the trail when I get lost (which seems to be happening more often). This is also a safety issue which has become more important to me as I get older and no longer like to walk in thunderstorms. If elected, I would be dedicated to serving all the clubs of the Atlantic Region.

Contact: AVAwalkNJ1@aol.com phone 540-846-1133

Editor's Note: At the time newsletter went to press Dave Scull is the only candidate that has announced for the position of Atlantic Region Director. The election will take place by mail March 18-30, 2013.

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ferryman used chalk to number the wagons.

Samuel Wright, son of James and Rhoda Wright, was born on May 12, 1754. He eventually became the town proprietor and created a public grounds company to administer the land. Through his trusteeship, the town's first water distribution system (later the Columbia Water Company) was established, as well as the Washington Institute (the town's first school of higher learning) and the Locust Street Park, located at what is now Locust Street and Route 462.

In the spring of 1788, Samuel Wright had the area surveyed and formally laid out the town into 160 building lots, which were distributed by lottery at 15 shillings per ticket. "Adventurers", as purchasers were known, included speculators from many areas of the country. Wright and town citizens renamed the town "Columbia" in honor of Christopher Columbus in the hope of influencing the new U.S. Congress to select it as the nation's capital, a plan George Washington favored; a formal proposal to do so was made in 1789.

Unfortunately for the town, when Congress voted in 1790, the final tally was one vote short. Later, Columbia narrowly missed becoming the capital of Pennsylvania; however, Harrisburg was chosen instead, being closer to the state's geographical center.

Columbia became an incorporated borough in 1814, formed out of Hempfield Township. The same year, the world's longest covered bridge was built across the Susquehanna to Wrightsville, facilitating traffic flow across the river and reducing the need for the ferry. The bridge was 5,690 feet (1,730 m) long and 30 feet (9.1m) wide, and had 54 stone piers. After handling traffic across the Susquehanna for 18 years, it was destroyed by high water, ice, and severe weather in the winter of 1832. A replacement covered bridge, the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge, was built within two years.

In February 1826, the Pennsylvania state legislature approved \$300,000 for the construction of a canal along the Susquehanna's eastern shore to bypass rapids and shallows and make the river navigable anywhere along its route. Begun in 1832, the Pennsylvania Canal went into operation in 1833. It started at Columbia, stretching 40 miles (64 km) north to the junction of the Juniata River. Travelers could use the canal system to go west from

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Columbia to Pittsburgh, Lake Erie, Ohio and [present-day] West Virginia, north into New York State, and east to Philadelphia. During this time, Columbia also became a stop on the Underground Railroad. Slaves seeking freedom were transported across the Susquehanna, fed and given supplies on their way north to other states and Canada. To slave hunters from the South, the slaves seemed to simply disappear, leading one hunter to declare that there "must be an underground railroad here."

1834 saw the completion of another bridge spanning the river. Built by James Moore and John Evans at a cost of \$157,300, this bridge, too, enjoyed the distinction of being the world's longest covered bridge. This year also saw construction of the first railway line linking Columbia and Philadelphia, which subsequently became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Named the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, it officially opened in October, 1834.

By 1852, regular rail transportation from Columbia to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg made the town the commercial center for the area halfway between the county seats of Lancaster and York.

On June 28, 1863, during the Gettysburg Campaign, the replacement covered bridge was burned by Columbia residents and the Pennsylvania state militia to prevent Confederate soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia from entering Lancaster County. General Robert E. Lee had hoped to invade Harrisburg from the rear and move eastward to Lancaster and Philadelphia, and in the process destroy railroad yards and other facilities.

Under General Jubal A. Early's command and following Lee's orders, General John B. Gordon was to place Lancaster and the surrounding farming area "under contribution" for the Confederate Army's war supplies and to attack Harrisburg from the east side of the river, while another portion of Lee's army advanced from the west side. General Early was given orders to burn the bridge but hoped instead to capture it, while Union forces under the command of Colonel Jacob G. Frick and Major Granville O. Haller, hoping to save the bridge, were forced to burn it.

After the wartime bridge burning, a tugboat, *Columbia*, was used to tow canal boats across the river. In 1868, yet another replacement covered bridge was built, but was destroyed by a hurricane in 1896. The next bridge, the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge, was a steel open bridge which carried the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad and a two-lane roadway for cars. It was dismantled for scrap by November 1964, but its stone piers, which supported the Civil War-era bridge, can still be seen today, running parallel to the Veterans' Memorial Bridge on Route 462. The piers have become the site of present-day "Flames Across the Susquehanna" bridge-burning reenactments sponsored by Rivertownes PA USA.

The Columbia Market House (pictured on the patch for this walk) was constructed in 1869 for nearly \$20,000. The Market House is 118 feet long, 80 feet wide and was once furnished with 180 inside stalls and 37 outside stalls. The Columbia Market House was constructed on the site of an earlier open air market and takes the form of a long, enclosed shed structure. The large interior open space was spanned with arched, Howe trusses, a cross-braced wood truss reinforced with iron tension rods that was popular for railroad bridges. The design mimics the open market sheds that were in use in the first half of the nineteenth century, while incorporating the same construction technique used in train

sheds. Construction of the Columbia Market House was funded by the municipality, an anomaly in Pennsylvania during 1850-1890, when many of the newer market buildings were being constructed by private corporations. However, the Columbia Market House did follow the trend to tear down open air markets and construct off-street market houses.

In 1875, a new three-story grand town hall opened, featuring a second-floor auditorium that seated over 900 and was used as an opera house. The second floor's ceiling was higher than those of the first and third floors; each level contained 60 windows. The building also included office shops, council chambers, storerooms and market stalls. A 140-foot (43 m)-high bell tower, holding the town clock, crowned the building. The clock was visible from all over the borough, and its bell was audible throughout the surrounding countryside. The building was destroyed by fire in February 1947, but was rebuilt as a one-story municipal building that exists today.

By the mid-19th century, Columbia had become a busy transportation hub with its ferry, bridge, canal, railroad and wharves. It was a major shipping transfer point for lumber, coal, grain, pig iron, and people. Important industries of the time included warehousing, tobacco processing, iron production, clock making, and boat building.

From about 1854 to 1900, an industrial complex existed in and around Columbia, Marietta and Wrightsville that included 11 anthracite iron furnaces and related structures, as well as canal and railroad facilities servicing them. By 1887, that number had grown to 13 blast furnaces, all operating within a three-mile (5 km) radius of Columbia.

By 1900, the town's population had grown to over 12,000, with a 50% increase from 1880 to 1900. Some of the items produced by its industries were silk goods, lace, pipe, laundry machinery, stoves, iron toys, flour, lumber, and wagons. By this time Wright's Ferry had ceased its operations, having been supplanted by rail and bridge traffic.

In 1930, yet another bridge, the Veterans Memorial Bridge (we will be walking across this bridge), was opened to improve traffic flow across the Susquehanna. It first opened as a toll bridge; to avoid the toll, in the coldest winter months some daring motorists would cross on the firmly frozen river. Later that same decade, many of the city's brick sidewalks were converted to concrete; the bronze plaques of the concrete installers are still visible today.

The start of the 20th century brought economic challenge to Columbia as local industries declined. The lumber industry eventually disappeared as surrounding woodlands became depleted. As Chestnut Hill iron ores became scarce as well, the iron furnaces shut down. Eventually, the steel rolling mills also ceased operation. In 1906, the Pennsylvania Railroad opened a new facility in Enola, across the river from Harrisburg, which decreased the significance of Columbia's railroad. By 1920, the population had dropped over 10% to 10,836.

The Great Depression accelerated Columbia's economic slide. The Pennsylvania Railroad's service to the north and the south was eliminated. World War II increased employment, but did not bring long-term prosperity to the borough.

By 1960, population had returned to its 1900 level. In 1965 a detailed study of Columbia's basic strengths and weaknesses was released, but its suggestions went mostly unheeded. The Wright's Ferry Bridge, which opened in 1972, only served to divert traffic around Columbia. The growth and prosperity experienced in

*Cont'd in the next column**Cont'd on Page 7, bottom, A Walk in a...*

KSVA Year Round Booklet

As they do every year. The KSVA, Keystone State Volksmarch Association, publishes a booklet that includes the current listing of available YRE and seasonal volksmarching opportunities in Pennsylvania. The booklet for the following year usually becomes available at the walk in Hershey Thanksgiving weekend. Each of the clubs in Pennsylvania helps pay for the booklets and is billed based on the number of YRE or seasonal events that the club has listed in the booklet.

For 2013 PDP had seven YRE and seasonal events included in the booklet and we were billed \$238.00 or 7 times \$34.00 for

including our seven events. The 64 page PA YRE & Seasonal Booklets are available at all PDP weekend events during the year til they are gone. If you haven't had a chance to pick one up you can look for them at our walks in 2013 or as has been the case for the last several years you can also view a PDF copy anytime on the PDP website at

www.pennndutchpacers.org, click on the YRE Events menu option and then on the YRE Events page look for the click here link under the Pennsylvania YRE Events heading or you can simply click [here](#) to get the PDF copy as well. Or since you are probably reading this newsletter on some sort of digital device you can simply click on the booklet image above to get your PDF copy right away.

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Cont'd from Page 7 - Why the Columbia Walk...

their effort to save their merchandise. Two regiments formed a bucket brigade and passed water from the river. A few houses were torn down and piles of lumber were moved to safer locations. Gordon's men worked until well after midnight - Wrightsville was saved.

Meanwhile, fire was consuming the bridge east towards Columbia. Shortly before 9:00 pm, authorities began fearing for the town's safety. Union troops removed floor planks and dismantled the supporting beams with axes in a vain effort to check the fire. They worked for two hours but the flames advanced so quickly that they had to abandon the structure. Shortly before midnight, the raging inferno finally engulfed the easternmost span. Columbia's fire department had already rolled its two fire engines into position. Columbia firefighters lost one Front Street house to the flames but they saved the remaining homes and businesses.

The Confederates departed Wrightsville the next morning, June 29, and returned to York. There they joined up with the other two brigades of Major General Jubal Early's Division and left York before dawn the next day. On July 1, Early's Division would be in the battle at Gettysburg.

The preceding was excerpted from the book, *Flames Beyond Gettysburg* by Scott L Mingus Sr. and was provided by Tom Jackson.

any awards (patches) they may have purchased.

Refreshment Table - Help to set up the table, get food ready to sell, sell food during the walk and clean-up after. NO cooking skill is needed since it is usually hot dogs and bratwurst, food already prepared and served from a crockpot, baked goods, snacks and drinks.

Is there training for these jobs? No advance training is really necessary. But first time volunteers do not need to worry about what to do. Most duties are light and easy to learn.

Someone will be available to explain what needs to be done and to help someone who is new to the job.

Why volunteer, I just want to walk and/or I can no longer walk why volunteer?

The answer to both questions is essentially the same.

This is a not for profit group.

Volunteers are all we have and they are essential to the clubs existence. We have volunteers who regularly help even though they no longer walk. Their reasons are varied but most appreciate what the club has been to them in the past and want to see it continue. Another important reason is the social interaction and camaraderie of like-minded people. It's a fun activity with a minimal amount of work and time commitment.

Okay. I want to volunteer to help. What do I do?

There are several ways to volunteer. You can go to the PDP website and click on the volunteer tab. This will take you to the spreadsheet where you can type in your name and phone number in the spaces for the time and place and day you want to volunteer.

You can call or e-mail the volunteer co-ordinator who welcomes any offers to help. The volunteer coordinator will take your information and enter it on the spreadsheet for you and answer any questions you may have about volunteering.

At each walk there is a sign-up sheet for volunteers. You can sign-up there and someone will call and confirm your volunteer position and time.

About 3 weeks before the walk the volunteer coordinator will start making calls to members requesting their help. You may get a call if positions are still unfilled.

So fellow Penn Dutch Pacers looking forward to the 2013 walks check the Pacer Pulse for the scheduled walks. See which dates you may be free to help. Decide where you would like to volunteer. Put your own name and number on the volunteer sign-up sheet (accessible on the PDP website at

www.pennndutchpacers.org by choosing the Volunteer Page) . If you prefer, call the volunteer coordinator who welcomes phone calls and e-mails and is happy to assist you in your volunteer efforts. If positions are still not filled you can expect that someone may call you and ask for your help. So be proactive and volunteer in advance for the time and position that suits you best. Every effort to help is appreciated. Thanks to the many members who already volunteer at our walks on a regular basis. Your help is truly appreciated. When considering whether or not to volunteer remember the old adage - *Many hands make light work.* The more volunteers we get the less all of us will have to do. Please----say Yes, I can help• .

To contact the PDP Volunteer Coordinator, Carmie Keiser by phone call 898-1959 or by e-mail at tk.ck@verizon.net



Cont'd from Page 2 – Digital Newsletter...

the fact that we are sending the newsletter first class mail instead of bulk mailing it as we did before. Since bulk mail savings also relies on quantity (a minimum of 200 pieces is required) we have no choice but to use first class mail for the few newsletters that we now mail.

When we decided to go digital we also decided that there would be a transition period where PDP would print and mail for free two editions of the newsletter to those requesting it. This copy of the newsletter is the second and the last one that will be printed and mailed FREE to those requesting it. Beginning with next issue, the June, July, August newsletter, if you have not paid to have the newsletter printed and mailed to you via the USPS you will no longer receive it in the mail, but of course you

can always access it online for FREE by signing up to the PDP e-mail list.

The good news in this increased costs issue is that if you have already paid for a membership which includes a mailed copy of the newsletter, i.e. a regular one, two or three year membership with the mailed newsletter option or you are a life-time member who has already paid for a one, two or three year mailed newsletter at the introductory \$4.00 per year rate, your \$4.00 per year rate is locked in for the length of your membership or subscription. All memberships or subscriptions going forward for a mailed newsletter are at the new rate as will be the renewals when they come due. Thanks for your understanding and continued support of the Penn Dutch Pacers.

The folks listed below are the people that have stepped forward & give their time & talents to make PDP work for you. An encouraging word & a *Thank You* occasionally is a small price to pay for what they do.

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*Trailmaster

Crockpot Lentil Soup

This recipe originated as two separate recipes which were combined in a quest to have a very yummy and easy lentil soup. The idea was to be able to dump all the ingredients into a 6 quart crockpot in the morning, turn on the crockpot and then to come home to a delicious, hot, warm and soothing lentil soup. This recipe delivers all of the above and more. It's almost too easy.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| * 2 cups lentils* | * 1 tsp salt (or to taste - more or less) |
| * 4 cups water | * 1/4 tsp black pepper |
| * 4 cups of vegetable broth | * 1/2 tsp oregano |
| * 1 onion, diced | * 1/2 tsp thyme |
| * 3 stalks celery, sliced | * 1 28 ounce can diced or crushed tomatoes |
| * 2 carrots, chopped | * 2 tablespoons lemon juice |
| * 2 cloves garlic, minced | * 4 bay leaves (remove before serving) |

Stir together lentils with all ingredients in a crock pot. Cook on medium heat in the crockpot for 8 to 10 hours on low. **A word about the lentils. It is best if you soak the lentils for at least 2 hours or over night. If you don't get to soak them that's OK, just add maybe two cups additional water. Since if you didn't soak the beans they are going to soak up a lot of water from the soup and it will be thicker than you expect if you don't add the extra water. Enjoy*

The Pacer Pulse

The Pacer Pulse is published for the membership and friends of PDP and is produced 4 times a year with the intention of keeping everyone up-to-date with what is happening within the club and also within the world of Volksmarching. We encourage contributions from members and non-members alike. Our deadlines are November 1 for Dec/Jan/Feb edition, February 1 for the Mar/Apr/May edition, May 1 for the Jun/Jul/Aug edition and August 1 for the Sep/Oct/Nov edition. We prefer that articles for inclusion be submitted via e-mail either as a Word attachment or as native e-mail. We also accept articles typed or in long hand. All submissions will be included on a first-come first-included space available basis. Thanks in advance for your submissions. The Individual views expressed in articles published in The Pacer Pulse do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of the Penn Dutch Pacers.

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Check us out at www.penn dutch pacers.org

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 TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____ CHILDREN'S NAMES _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Please) _____

I hereby make application for membership in, and agree to conform to the bylaws or any amendment thereof in the PENN DUTCH PACERS VOLKSMARCH CLUB, INC., and with the rules and regulations of the AVA in the IVV and in application I certify the above.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

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