

President's Corner by Mary Frink

I'm not sure what's worse...snow or ice. As I sit in my dining room typing this, I can see the sparkle of ice on the street. I haven't been outside walking at all. I mostly walk in my office building or at the mall. Stay safe, wherever you are walking.

I don't have much to say for this newsletter. Remember the streamer making party on March 9! We'll start at 10:00 and hopefully be done by noon. We'll be at St. Michael's Parish Center, 90 Concord Road (Rt. 62), Bedford, MA. Please enter the Parish Center parking lot from Liljegren Way. Many thanks to those of you who already said you could come. If you could bring scissors with you and/or a yardstick, that would be great! I believe I have everything else. There's still lots of space if more people want to come and help. If planning to attend, please let me know so we have a headcount for pizza.

Our first big walking event of the season is the Holliston Soup Walk on March 30. It's a great sign that spring is getting closer. It will be wonderful to see everyone! Do you have one of the mugs from Walk 'n Mass' 25th anniversary? I still have mine! I bring it every year.



The convention planning is humming along. Please start thinking about helping out at one (or more than one) of the pre-convention walks. Even if you can't walk, we need your help! Take the start table, for instance. At our events, we usually have one table with 2 people working a single shift. The convention walks are going to have at least 5 start tables which means 10 people just for that! I don't need to know today, but start thinking about it, so when I do ask for real in a month or so, you can let me know. Basically it's going to be the same things we normally do for a walk, we just need lots more people to do them.

On a completely unrelated note, my email account was hacked recently and a lot of people got an email that looked like it was from me, asking them to buy gift cards and send me the pin number so I could redeem them from wherever I supposedly was traveling. If you ever get an email that looks like that, or asks for money in any way, it's not from me. I wouldn't do that. Hopefully it's all fixed now, but just in case, I wanted everyone to know. Not my usual upbeat ending, but I don't want anyone to get scammed!

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ *Saturday, March 2
Group Walk:
Newton Centre
10:00 am*
- ❖ *Saturday, March 9
Group Walk:
Hartford, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)*
- ❖ *Saturday, March 9
Streamer Assembly
Bedford, MA
10:00 am*
- ❖ *Sunday, March 10
Group Walk:
Boston, MA
Freedom Trail
10:00 am*
- ❖ *Saturday, March 30
Day Event:
Holliston
Soup Walk*

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. Winter group walks subject to surface conditions.



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Membership Renewal Time is Here!

by Monica Hait



With the approach of spring, the annual club membership renewal time is also upon us. Included with this newsletter is the renewal form. Please note the **new address** for mailing your completed form and payment, as **Diane**

Peterson has taken on the Membership Chairperson role. Alternatively, if you'd like to save a stamp, you may drop off your renewal form with payment at the Holliston Soup Walk on March 30 or the March 4 club meeting in Franklin or even the April 1 club meeting in Bedford.



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Trail Master's Diary: Holliston

by Ann Plichta

I don't know about you, but right about this time of year I'm counting the days until spring. Everyone has something different to look forward to. For some, it means thinking about planting their gardens. For others, it's Red Sox Opening Day. I know one of the events I look forward to is the Walk 'n Mass Soup Walk. This year, join us for 5km and 10km walk routes in picturesque Holliston on Saturday, March 30. Enjoy a walk, then stay to savor delicious soups, appetizers, and desserts prepared by fellow members. It's the unofficial start of the walking season, and a great way to catch up with your fellow walkers.

The walk consists of two loops, with the first loop also serving as the 5km route. Even if you've walked in Holliston before, you'll notice some changes that will give you a different view. As you walk through downtown, notice the quaint shops and the new traffic lights. Walkers then continue to the Mudville section of Holliston, where Irish immigrants settled in the 1840s as they helped build the railroad. My favorite part has always been the Casey at the Bat statue from the poem. There's a dispute as to whether this is the actual Mudville, but author Ernest Thayer's family owned a factory nearby. You'll also see a carved rock monument honoring the Irish immigrants and Irish door arches.

From there, walkers will pass under the smallest railroad bridge in the world...one narrow arch. If weather and trail conditions permit, walkers will explore a newly completed portion of the Upper Charles Rail Trail. They will continue over the recently renovated Boston and Worcester Railroad 8-Arch Bridge, also known as the Bogastow Brook Viaduct. If weather doesn't permit, the route will follow along the street offering a view of the bridge from below. Walkers will then continue on Washington Street, passing the police station, before heading to the finish and soup for the 5km, and checkpoint for the 10km.

The second loop of the 10km route heads to the high school, passing a wood sculpture of a panther by Holliston chain saw artist Jesse Green. The route continues by athletic fields before heading through residential neighborhoods to return to Washington Street. Walkers will then pass through the Thomas Hollis Historic District with antique colonial homes dating to the early 19th century. Then back to the finish and soup!

Both routes are on mostly flat, paved surfaces, with a couple of inclines in the second loop. There is a short, unpaved incline to reach the Upper Charles Rail Trail. The routes are rated 1A, doable for baby joggers, but difficult for wheelchairs due to lack of curb cuts in places.

Celebrate spring with 5km and 10km walks in Holliston on March 30. Then join your fellow walkers for appetizers, soup, and dessert. It is not necessary to bring anything, but food contributions are always welcome. Hope to see you on the trail at the Walk 'n Mass Soup Walk!



8-Arch Bridge

Photo by Beate Hait

Soup will be served at **noon** and you are invited to join fellow walkers for this social gathering. If you would like to contribute an appetizer, soup, bread, or dessert (**no nuts** please since **our host location is a nut-free facility**), please notify Chris Lipson (c2lipson@msn.com or 781-275-0464) to indicate what you are planning to bring. Remember to bring your favorite soup bowl and spoon! Beverages and paper goods will be provided by the club.

Bulletin Board

If you are participating in the **Carousels Across America Special Program**, you'll probably want to be in Ohio on **June 22**. Two clubs are teaming up for a Carousel Mania day, each hosting an event qualifying for the Carousels program.

Akron, OH

http://clubs.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=111095

New Philadelphia, OH

http://clubs.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=111125

Looking for a natural trails summer adventure? The **NorthStar Trail Travelers** are hosting a weekend of Minnesota state park events **July 20 & 21**. Learn more: <http://home.earthlink.net/~nstt>

The CVA, California's state folksport association, is convening **May 3-5 in San Diego**. There will be walks each day, in addition to a Meet & Greet on Friday. Visit the Low Desert Roadrunners website for further details and pre-registration form (deadline April 15).

www.lowdesertroadrunners.org

Next Club Meeting Monday, March 4

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

*Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk*

On February 6, the **Lowell National Historical Park Quarter** was released. It is the 46th overall in the United States Mint *America the Beautiful* Quarters Program and the first of 2019. The design highlights much of Lowell's story, from women workers to technology to historic preservation. The compact tableau depicts a female textile worker, one of Lowell's "mill girls," tending to a power loom in the weave room of one of Lowell's cotton mills. Prominently featured is the large circular bobbin battery that kept the loom's shuttle supplied with yarn. In the background, a view of the iconic Boott Cotton Mill clock-tower and smokestack appears through the window. The design appears on the reverse of the quarter, with the familiar bust of George Washington on the obverse.

<https://www.nps.gov/lowe/learn/lowell-national-historical-park-quarter.htm>



A thank you oversight!

I am so sorry to have forgotten to include the walkers who volunteered to mark the Attleboro walk routes in my article last month. Doesn't it make you wonder, if walkers had just taken the directions without the markers, how many would have gotten lost? Thank heavens we will never know and the job was done correctly for this event. We want to thank Jack Fernandes, Ann Plichta, and Diane Bucher for marking the 10km and Marianne Marshall and Joanne Izbicki for marking the 5km. A job well done! Everyone made it to the finish points on time! — Margo Craven

Photographs from Sandwich

Top photos courtesy of Beate Hait



Left: At high tide, Margo Craven stands at the base of the boardwalk bridge that crosses Mill Creek in the salt marsh.

Right: Beate Hait and Margo Craven point to the Walk 'n Mass Volkssport plank. The club donated to the maintenance fund in the early 1990s. Our plank has survived many winter storms; much of the boardwalk needed to be replaced in 2018.

Severe winter storms in the 2017-2018 season damaged parts of the boardwalk and stairs. In April 2018, Margo Craven (immediate right) stood where the stairs had been. In February 2019, Beate Hait (far right) stands at the base of the rebuilt stairs—much closer to the repaired dune.



Joanne Izbicki



Margo Craven

Get Registered for Albany

by Monica Hait

Registration is now open for the 2019 AVA Convention centered in Albany, NY. To learn about all things convention-related (the walks, awards, speakers, workshops, evening activities, food & lodging options, plus so much more), & complete the online registration process, please see the website: <http://walkescv.org/ava2019convention/welcome.html>

If you have never been to an AVA convention, I encourage you to take this opportunity to attend. Being so close by, it would be delightful to have a good turnout of “local” North East region folks to show our visitors this amazing area. And check out the volunteer page if you can spare a few hours to help out during the convention week!

Pre-convention walks will start Sunday, June 9 and the final post-convention walk will be held Sunday, June 16.



Do you have a volksmarching travel story to share?

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

Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Soup Walk on March 30 – We return to Holliston again this year for the Soup Walk. The walk route has been reversed so walkers will get a different perspective of the sights in and around the downtown area. There are some new things to see in addition to the railings on the 8-Arch Bridge. If the weather cooperates, the first loop will include the option of walking a 1.5-mile section on the Upper Charles Rail Trail from the Arch Street bridge to our checkpoint at Blair Square and then over the 8-arch Bogastaw Brook Viaduct before rejoining the route along the street. Of course, if the trail is snow covered or icy, we'll be walking along street sidewalks that parallel the Rail Trail.

Pre-Convention Event Volunteers – We need help to staff our walk in Springfield, MA on **Tuesday, June 11** and the two other pre-convention walks sponsored by our sister clubs in Portsmouth, NH on **Sunday, June 9**, and Danvers, MA on **Monday, June 10**. For these convention walks we expect participation numbers in the 300 to 500 range. (Up from our typical 50 or so!!!) Please contact me or Mary Frink if you can help on any of those dates. Usually two-hour shifts are scheduled for these tasks: **Start** (register walkers, issue start cards and directions, collect money); **Finish** (collect walk cards, stamp IVV books); **Checkpoint** (greet walkers, mark start cards); **New Walker Info** (answer questions, hand out information); **Specialties** (sell volkssport items and club apparel); **Trail Marking** (on team of 2-4, arrive 1 ½ hours prior to start time to mark the route), and **Trail Take-Down** (on team of 2+, one-half hour after end of start time, walk the route and take down ribbons and arrows).

Year Round and Seasonal Events – Have you participated in all 20 of the YREs and SEs offered by Walk 'n Mass? Have you walked the same event at different times of the year? Have you walked the same event in each of the last five or ten years?

It's fun to see how things change from year to year and season to season. I was reminded of this as I participated in the group walk in Sandwich on Feb. 17. Coming around the corner from Main Street to Jarvis Street, I knew to look to the ground on my left in this sunny, protected location where typically the first blooms of spring are visible. Sure enough, bell-shaped flowers of snowdrops were a welcome sight, and there was a promise of grape hyacinths and other spring flowers to follow shortly.

Further along, it was great to see that our Walk 'n Mass plank on the boardwalk was still intact (look for it between the last "bumpout" and the beach) and that the rebuilt stairs to the beach after last winter's storms washed them out were in great shape. The boardwalk through the salt marsh is my favorite part of this route: a different experience depending on the season and the tide.

Do you have favorite parts of routes that you walk or bike each year? Send your stories to footnotes.editor@gmail.com.

Save the date: Saturday, Sept. 14 – Lowell, MA. We will be revisiting an adaptation of the route planned by National Park Service Ranger David Byers when we experienced a rain-drenching day in 2016. Hoping for better walking weather this year!

Providence Pictures:

A cold, sunny day brought out a small group for the walk on Feb. 9. They posed at the sculpture on campus (left, courtesy of Carol Giesecke) per tradition. Upon reaching the Roger Williams statue, Beate Hait felt it necessary to pose daughter Monica beneath his outstretched hand (right).

