



EMPIRE STATE CAPITAL VOLKSPORTERS

Website: www.geocities.com/walkescv

December 2006/January 2007

“Every mile is two in winter” George Herbert

UPCOMING WALKS

December 2nd- Schenectady*

Walk/Holiday Party at Stockade Inn,

Lunch at 12:00 Noon

Registration 9:00-12:00

Start Point-Stockade Inn, 1 North Church Street at Union Street

January GROUP WALKS

January 1st Albany* Registration 9:30-10:00AM outside McDonalds in the Empire State Plaza Concourse. Parking-outside in Cathedral lot or in front of Museum; underneath parking requires ID.

January 27th Saratoga Springs* Register 9-9:25

Walk at 9:30AM Hilton Garden Inn

December GROUP WALKS

Wednesdays@9:30 AM

Starting point same as YRE

Dec 6th Albany*

Dec 13th Troy-Downtown*

*walk qualifies for AVA special programs

TRADITIONAL WALK EVENT THANKS go to POC's Eileen Skinner and Father John Cairns for our first ever (but promised not to be the last) pasta party. Their efforts along with a fantastic crew of helpers turned a nice day for walking into a wonderful time for fun and fellowship. The day's festivities ended with a nice recognition of the walk accomplishments of Chris Morroni and Eileen & Dave Skinner.

THANKS FOR GROUP WALKS go to the POC's of our year round and seasonal events as we continued our fall schedule of walks on Wednesdays. La Verne Stiles for Saratoga Spa Park (11/1) & Saratoga Springs (11/29), Ellen McNett for Schenectady (11/8), Teresa Kennedy for Albany-Collegiate (11/15) and Mary Agars for Troy-RPI/Environs (11/22).

MEMORIES & REMEMBRANCES OF ESCV HISTORY continues with the start of our 20th anniversary year. As I told those at the pasta party I was impressed by the great start in last month's newsletter of the "Remember When" articles by Ed & Emmy Koch's account of the ESCV Mystery Trip of over 10 years ago. Thus it seemed natural for me to want those who didn't attend the original party on the first Sunday in November to learn something about what was as significant an ESCV party to me then as I look back on it now. Since that first November 1, 1998 date, it has continued as a day for walking and socializing. Thus I decided to ask some of that day's participants who have continued to come back since then to share their memories along with mine as a way of presenting another facet of our history. So if you'd like to learn about another happening in our past twenty years, and how a little reception grew into quite a surprise party, be sure to read this month's article. Also, you can look forward to seeing pictures taken that day at our May 4th Anniversary Party's display area.

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS... As the 2006 walk schedule reaches its last month, our 2007 anniversary year of walking events looms on the horizon. The last traditional event of the old year, our annual holiday walk & party, starts December. In addition, there are two group walks remaining on the first two Wednesdays of the month to complete the fall schedule of all our seasonal & year round events. Then with the start of our 20th anniversary year of 2007 comes the beginning of our kick-off group walks of year round & seasonal events. The Albany capital-historic year round starts the ball on New Year's Day and Saratoga Springs year round keeps it rolling on the last Saturday of the month.

May 4th Anniversary Party

A few people have talked to me since our last newsletter and have offered to help on a couple of our committees. Eileen Sowa is going to contact a few of our members and ask them to help her with center pieces for each of the tables. John Sowa has offered to be our “video man” and will probably be asking many of you to contribute your own personal stories about one of our club walks or events! He will also be videoing us at our party so don’t be camera shy!!

Sue Godshalk, Laura Sheldon and Linda Clark have all signed up for our t-shirt committee with Ed Koch acting as a consultant.

Jack and I are still looking for a few people to help create a memory book and to ask members to write their memories into it.

We hope that you will be contacting Doug Reynolds with an entertainment idea. We know that you have already started thinking of the lyrics to a song that you and your walking buddies will serenade us with at our special anniversary event!

SO please put May 4th, 2007, on your calendar and consider volunteering. Many hands DO make light work!

Vera Weiss & Jack Hickey

A Thank You from Some Visiting Volkssporters

Friday the 13th was anything but unlucky for the Merkels. It found them walking in Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs, New York. It was a perfect fall day, and an interesting seasonal walk. It took us past a natural geyser, which spouted forth from a rock, the only one east of the Mississippi and by the Hayes Mineral Spring where we partook of the “healing water.” Part of the walk was on “The Avenue of Pines” giving a beautiful contrast to the maples that were at peak foliage.

On Saturday we headed to Hadley New York, a small Adirondack community founded in 1801. The highlight of the walk being the Bow Bridge, constructed in 1885. It is unique because of the parabolic truss construction and its dramatic location over the rushing Sacandaga River, near the confluence of the Sacandaga and Hudson Rivers. The weather was great and the scenery fantastic. The Empire State Capital Volkssporters club was having their Oktoberfest and they invited us to join them for lunch. A more-friendly, cordial club you will not find anywhere. We enjoyed a delicious German menu, as well as, meeting many interesting and energetic walkers. It was extra special to meet Marie Klucina whom we had only known via email. Many thanks to all of you who made this a very memorable event for us.

Chuck and Joanne Merkel
Piedmont Pacers

Many Thanks!

The ESCV newsletter mailing committee extends its thanks to the following ESCVers (and visitors) who have filled in to help with the mailings when one or more of us were unable to be present at the “mailing party”: Amy Boyd-Kirksey (home on vacation) Sue Grey, Marie Klucina, Midge Launsbach, John Sowa, Cathy Sowa (home on vacation) and Nancy Wallace

Submitted by Phyllis Boyd

PASTA PARTY BIG SUCCESS

On November 5th, 90+ walkers gathered at St. Edward's Church in Clifton Park to attend our 8th annual November (Pizza Party) & Walk. The day turned out to be perfect for walking.

Earlier in the year after attending a smaller pasta party at church and after much discussion, Fr. Cairns and I decided to switch to Pasta (replacing the Pizza) for this year's party, but still keeping the munchies, dessert, etc. the same, including ordering the pasta from the same restaurant as we have the pizza in the past. From the comments received, we agreed that this turned out to be a good decision.

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to all who volunteered to help both before and after the Party making the work load easy for all. This is a big undertaking (we are not caterers) and it all came together perfectly.

With the donation money you so generously gave, we were able to purchase a 27-piece Farberware Cutlery Set for the St. Edward's kitchen as a Thank You for letting us use the hall.

We have reserved the church hall for next November to host another PASTA PARTY.
See you next year.

Submitted by Eileen Skinner

BOSTON PUMPKIN FESTIVAL – OCTOBER 21st, 2006

by Ed Koch

Emmy signed us up ...great! Pumpkin Festival probably means hundreds, perhaps thousands of pumpkin pies. All kinds of pie: chiffon pumpkin, spicy pumpkin pie, plain pumpkin pie with plenty of whipped cream ... not the fake cream from a spray can. Perhaps there would be pumpkin ice-cream with big hunks of chocolate in the ice-cream. That would be nice. Sitting in the sun with my eyes closed I could see row upon row of pumpkin pies ... what a great festival. Then she broke the news ... the festival would be all about jack o' lanterns ... what a disappointment, but in reality, I could not take away that dream. Perhaps in the future, the people in control would see the wisdom of the pumpkin pie festival.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, just a bit cool. Boston always has new buildings, bridges and roads, but Quincy Market is always there. John Sowa started off with Eileen, Louise, Emmy, Jack and myself in tow. Walking the Freedom Trail through crowded downtown Boston, we saw the 1713 Old State House ... it must have been beautiful in its day, surrounded by stately trees and pasture. The Trail took us through the streets of 18th century Boston ... past Paul Revere's House and his equestrian statue. There was the old North Church ... we just had to look in the window of the tower where the lanterns were hung. From there up the hill is a cemetery where the British shot at the head stones for target practice. We proceeded down the hill and across the bridge over the Charles River, where we could see Old Ironsides and the Monument at Bunker Hill.

After Bunker Hill we made our way to Boston Commons for the highlight of a gorgeous day. ...By the time we reached the Pumpkin Festival, we were running out of gas ... my feet started complaining. I couldn't believe all the jack o' lanterns ... 29,000 of them. They did have pumpkin pie ... wonderful ... no whipped cream, but it was a tasty treat anyway. Sitting in the sun at the Commons, we reflected on the perfect day spent absorbing American History.

Thanks to Marion Burns, we were able to form a noisy crowd at Durgan Park ... it was fun eating with everyone. The management at Durgan Park awarded Marion with a bean pot and Marion ordered a luscious cake to celebrate the 50th trip with **Travelwalk!** What a record ... thanks Marion for another special trip ... no worries, no cares, just lots of fun!

REMEMBER WHEN...

Dave Skinner with help from Winnie Balz,
Bob McElroy, Joe Piffat and Eileen Skinner

The origination of ESCV parties on the first Sunday in November dates to 1998 when that day started the month. A walk and congratulatory reception was publicized to celebrate Ron Hersh walking the 50 states. While Ron knew that much, little did he know what else was to happen that day with the secretive help of numerous people including his own family! To my memory it was the first club event to have a master of ceremonies (admirably filled by Bob McElroy) and there even was a printed program (produced by Eileen) to follow after the walk. However, I've gotten ahead of myself so back to a little about the planning and those that made things happen.

A site was acquired as Father Cairns graciously offered the use of St. Edwards for all the day's festivities. Besides a normal brochure for the guided walk, a separate flyer was sent out to club members and Ron's multitude of walking friends, but obviously not him! A big **Shhh!** was on the flyer for everyone to be quiet about the extent of the party. Winnie Balz handled the resulting pre-registration for the walk, reception and/or dinner reservations. Individuals were solicited to set up and decorate the church social room along with securing photographers to record the event for posterity (as a plug for our 20th Anniversary party, they'll be on display there!).

The day's activities started with a normal registration, but Ron got an early clue that it wasn't going to be a normal walk based on the tremendous turnout of walkers. It included volkssporters from all the northeast region clubs (including two past and current AVA NE region directors) and much to Ron's surprise, Mary Ptacek of Tater Tours (provider of trips for numerous of his states) who flew in from Las Vegas. She actually arrived on Saturday and while the Skinners had only met her once (5 trips with her were yet to come), we were her transportation and lodging host because of what Ron meant to all of us. Father Cairns even sequestered her in his office during the registration period in order to really surprise Ron at the start of the walk. The trail was set up with ten checkpoints that had each had a list of five states (attached that morning by Eileen) and Ron gathered them to put in a "Quest for the 50 States" bag he carried from point to point. Thus by the end of the 10 Km route he had completed the 50 states again!

The program started with welcoming remarks by emcee Bob. It was followed by a reception time that included Cathy & Frank Edwards presenting on the club's behalf a beautifully framed picture of Ron & his wife Janet "On the Trail". A blessing by Father Cairns was next for those staying for the dinner. A delicious Italian buffet supper was catered by Ron's oldest son Ed so in a way it set a certain ethic theme for our future St. Edwards parties. Dessert was a USA shaped cake with a US flag sticking up at the Clifton Park location and a message congratulating Ron "On your journey through all the States!!" After putting him to work to cut the cake, the program had "**OUR TURN TO TALK**" for friends and family to make appropriate comments. This led to a special presentation of the AVA President's Award by region director Joe Piffat. Joe had been in the process of recommending Ron for the award and, since AVA President Ted Ballman couldn't make the party, got approval to do the honors by presenting it on this special occasion. The award was given to Ron for his exemplary service and leadership in volkssporting in a spirit worthy of national recognition.

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Festivities were not over yet as musical merriment took over with the “ESCV Singers” leading a Sing-A-Long that included words in the program for *The Happy Wanderer*, *On the Road Again*, *This Land Is Your Land*, but the hit of the night (according to one of my sources) was *Fifty Nifty United States* (I only remember the challenge it presented being one of those singers standing by the piano while Eileen played!). It’s already been suggested (by that same source) that our Anniversary Party program include singing, especially that last one again! Ron’s younger son Mark also furnished music and all the Hersch family including daughter Dale, their children’s spouses, and five grandchildren enjoyed dancing along with Ron & Janet.

At sometime, to provide a semblance of closure, the program had Father Cairns say a benediction. However, it’s debatable whether that, the dancing or a lot of picture taking was really the end of the day’s events! As I previously “rambled”, it certainly was a party to remember and hopefully our 20th Anniversary Party will rival it with its program and festivities.

2007 Starting Point Books For Sale

There will be a table set up at the Holiday Party with the 2007 Starting Point Books for sale. For new members who don’t know about the Starting Point Book, it contains the Year-Round and Seasonal Walks of all the States in the USA. The information is listed by State, gives the location of the walk, where it starts/finishes and some highlights along the route.

Nine (9) people have already paid for books and they will be set aside for you. There will be 26 books available for sale at the party. The cost is \$15. Checks should be made out to ESCV.

Interested In Carpooling?

We now have a carpool coordinator for ESCV. Sandy Gordon has volunteered to head up this committee and Sue Grey has agreed to help her. If you are interested in carpooling to a walk or event give Sandy or Sue a call. Their names and phone numbers will now be added to the list of club officers found in the newsletter each month. This is a great way to save on gas, parking spaces and also a way of getting to know fellow volkssporters in your area. Thanks Sandy and Sue for helping out and adding another reason why our ESCV club is successful

Sandy Gordon	346-0982	ecow2004@juno.com
Sue Grey	399-0159	susanbg@earthlink.net

DUES REMINDER

Dues for 2007 will be due on January 1st, 2007. Dues may be paid in cash or by check at the Christmas Party December 2nd. If you pay your dues at the party, please have check or exact change in a sealed envelope with your Membership Renewal Form enclosed. Place your name on the outside of the envelope. Give envelope to Marie Klucina. I will not have access to cash for change, so please follow the instructions carefully. It is also very IMPORTANT that you write legibly when submitting your e-mail address. If you joined after October of 2006, your dues are not due until 2008. Dues can also be mailed to ESCV Membership, PO Box 5464, Clifton Park, NY 12065-5464.

Renewal Dues for 2007 will be \$10.00 for single, \$18.00 for family.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION: EMPIRE STATE CAPITAL VOLKSSPORTERS 2007

Membership entitles you to receive newsletters, brochures, membership perks and voting privileges at meetings.

Date: _____

RENEWAL Membership (Single: \$10, Family: \$18) _____ (Checks are preferred!)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Are you a member of AVA? _____

Email address: _____

Is it OK to add your email address to the ESCV Directory? _____

Do you want to receive hot mails via email? _____

Send application form along with a check made out to ESCV to:

ESCV Membership, PO Box 5464, Clifton Park, NY 12065-5464

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday January 18th, 2007 6:30 PM

Latham Firehouse

226 Old Loudon Road, Latham

All are welcome.

FROM THE EDITORS

Articles for the February newsletter are due on Saturday January 20, 2006. Please send us any news items that you feel would be interesting to our membership. Your reflections on a past or upcoming volkswalk and/or trips are always welcome.

Lea Darling lea.darling@att.net 399-7229 21 Van Vorst Dr., Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Sue Godshalk lgodshal@nycap.rr.com 399-6041 9 Hillock Ct., Glenville, NY 12302

ESCV CLUB OFFICERS

President Dave Skinner (518) 371-4352

DHS4774@aol.com

Vice-President Bernie Geren (518) 399-8400

TSCBernie@hotmail.com

Rec. Secretary Kathy LeRoux (518) 438-1947

Kleroux1@nycap.rr.com

Cor. Secretary Pat Lanphear (518) 456-4969

pmlanphe@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer Joe Padula (518) 371-9591

ASPCA1bany@aol.com

Newsletter Editors

Lea Darling (518) 399-7229

lea.darling@att.net

Sue Godshalk (518) 399-6041

lgodshal@nycap.rr.com

Membership Marie Klucina (518) 393-1800

mklucina@nycap.rr.com

Webmaster Eileen Skinner (518) 371-4352

EFSkinner@aol.com

Publicity Chase Pugliese (518) 473-6710

chasepugliese@hotmail.com

Historian Jack Hickey (518) 399-8331

jHickey1@nycap.rr.com

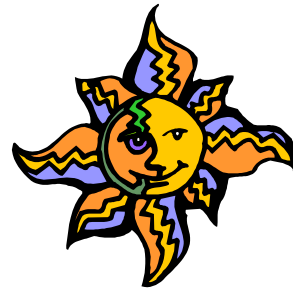
Car Pool Coordinators

Sandy Gordon (518) 346-0982

Eow2004@juno.com

Sue Grey (518) 399-0159

susanbg@earthlink.net



Please let our Sunshine Secretary Kathy LeRoux know if you hear of anyone in our club who is recovering from surgery, in the hospital or is sick as well as any individual achievements they may be celebrating. She can be reached at her home phone 438-1947 or by E-mail Kleroux1@nycap.rr.com. You can also see her at the monthly ESCV club meetings.

**MEMBERSHIP AND EMAIL
UPDATES**

If your email has changed, let Marie know. mklucina@nycap.rr.com



Chris Morroni, Dave & Eileen Skinner were surprised with these cakes and good wishes from fellow ESCVers for their walking accomplishments at the November 5th Pasta Party at St. Edwards Church in Clifton Park

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Empire State Capital Volkssporters
PO Box 5464
Clifton Park, NY 12065-5464