

EMPIRE STATE CAPITAL VOLKSSPORTERS

March, 2006

"March winds bring April showers which bring may flowers"

MARCH WALKS

GROUP

Saturday, Mar 4th -9:30 AM, Albany 12K

Start Point-Albany Visitors Center

POC Teresa Kennedy (518) 370-0585

Sunday, Mar 19th -**1:00 PM**, Troy RPI &

Environs-Start Point-RPI Houston Field House

POC Mary Agars (518) 274-8800

Mark your calendars for next month

April 1st -Williamstown, MA

April 8th - Schuylerville

April 22nd -Catskill

April 29th -Saratoga Spa Park

April 30th -Bennington, VT

YRE EVENTS January1-December 31

Albany-2 Sanctions

Saratoga Springs

Schenectady

Troy-2 Sanctions

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thought, my fellow walkers, is to be thankful for the organized walking opportunities that we have as they should not be taken for granted!

...SPECIFIC WALK THANKS go out to the POC's La Verne Stiles and Ellen McNett for the kick-off group walks they oversaw in Saratoga Springs on January 28 and Schenectady on February 11. In addition, Malcolm Stiles has kindly supplied information about Saratoga railroads to enhance enjoyment of the AVA special events RailRoad Heritage program. Also, we can't forget how Ellen again graciously hosted her soup luncheon after the Schenectady walk.

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS ...

MY THOUGHTS are influenced by the weather as I write this on a computer using electricity while much of the Capital District is without power. Obviously I'm thankful that I don't have to be writing with paper and paper near a window in front of a fireplace, but realize we can take our everyday conveniences as a given. Thus the ...ESCV NEWS in the form of Hot Mail notices continue to remind those wanting them of upcoming events and recently as "Breaking" news

for a change on the day of our monthly club meeting regarding the speaker. However, the notices don't write themselves. In fact, the sender

of them makes me compose mine so I'm using this broader communication source to remind all POC's and others what to do if you'd like a hot mail notice sent. Please e-mail the message as you'd like to see it with a headline and in the font, size & spacing you want to Eileen Skinner at EFSkinner@aol.com or WalkESCV@aol.com . Have it arrive by Monday of the week an event or message is scheduled so the message can be copied and pasted into the Hot Mail.

...ANTICIPATION continues as planning for our 20th anniversary year was again on the agenda for our February club meeting. Historian Jack Hickey informed attendees of the ideas he has and those he has received from others. He spoke of the formation of a steering committee that will meet and oversee all the sub-committees that undertake the various specific projects picked to be part of our year long recognition. I know he's looking for everyone to sign up for an area of their interest and plans to share anniversary news with all of us via our monthly newsletter.

RECEIVING ESCV NEWS E-MAILS

Several members have not been receiving their ESCV NEWS, Hot Mail notices from WalkESCV. There are several possible reasons for this: (1) your e-mail provider thinks it is SPAM and diverts it back to sender, (2) your mailbox is FULL and it is returned, (3) you no longer have that e-mail address and haven't notified us of your new address. To properly receive the HOT MAILS, you should put WalkESCV@aol.com into your address book and make sure to let us know of any changes in your email address. The same is true for the informal WedMorningWALKS@aol.com and their notices.

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS.....

******* MONTHLY MEETING:**

Next meeting Thursday, March 16th, 2006, 6:30PM, at the Latham Fire Department, 226 Old Loudon Road, Latham. Guest speaker, rescheduled from February, is Gina Johnson, Chief of Education and Visitor Services at the Saratoga National Historic Park, will discuss this year's March for Parks at the Battlefield. Her talk will include other 2006 events and activities at all their sites. She is **FIRST** on the agenda, so, be sure to be on time!.

Come one...Come all...to Each and Every One... an invitation to attend our informative monthly meetings. Enjoy strengthening and cultivating new friendships off the trails!

MARCH FOR PARKS WALK

This year on Saturday, April 8th, we will be walking in Schuylerville, starting at the country home of General Philip Schuyler. The brochure will be in this newsletter. We'll have a donation jar set out so please be generous. Your money will go toward improvements in the National Parks. Specifically, the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield. Thanks, come on out, the walk is great. Winnie

GET 'EM QUICK BEFORE THEIR GONE

Only **2, that's right, 2** 2006 Starting Point Books remain in the vault at Winnie's home. This book is a wealth of walking information when you are traveling throughout the USA. \$15.00 is all it takes to own one. Call Winnie at (518) 372-3663 or email her winnieeb@yahoo.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN IDENTIFYING WALKS THAT QUALIFY FOR THE NEWEST AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS

We are looking for information that you may have for any of our walks that will qualify in the newest Special Programs sponsored by AVA.

The two newest programs are Railroad Heritage & Riverwalk America. Starting in July 2006 there will be a Cemetery program. Information on purchasing the books for these programs can also be found on the ava web site.

You may check on the requirements for these programs on www.ava.org, then click on Special Programs on the left hand menu list. Scroll down and the information will be there. As you look at the list of our upcoming one day Traditional Walks (including the Wednesday Guided Walks) please let us know any information/pictures about RR's, Rivers or Cemeteries that we can include in our brochures/website and Ava web site.

Please send your information to EFSkinner@aol.com and tscbernie@hotmail.com. Thank You.

TIME TO RENEW IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN. If your dues expire this month, it's time to renew.

Your membership expiration date appears on the address label for the this newsletter ... if it says '**012006**', that means it expires this month (January, 2006). Please fill in the following renewal form and send it in ASAP. We want to change that '**012006**' to '**012007**'!

-----clip and mail to address below -----

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: EMPIRE STATE CAPITAL VOLKSSPORTERS **2006 - 2007**

Date: _____

RENEWAL Membership (Single: \$10, Family: \$18) _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Are you a member of **AVA**? _____

Email address: _____ Is it OK to use your email address in club directory? _____

Do you want to receive emails about club events? _____

If you would like to receive a new membership card, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for our use.

Send renewal form along with check made out to **ESCV** to:

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

AMERICAN REVOLUTION WALKS

We now have identified the first recipients of the 30 American Revolution Walks pin. There was a tie for being the first to receive the award, since their books arrived in the same envelope, so the honors go to Dave and Eileen Skinner. A third pin was awarded shortly thereafter to Jack Cairns.

I have had a number of people ask me if there will be enough walks in the area to enable them to fill a second book. That's a little difficult to answer since it all depends on what you used to fill your first book. Essentially, the rule is you can't use a walk with same sanction number twice. This means YRE's and seasonals can't be repeated. However, traditional events change sanction numbers from year to year and, also, although they may be in the same area, they often use a different route than the previous year. This means, for example, that you can use Schuylerville again this year even if you used last year's walk there. You can also use Waterford and the Christmas walk in Schenectady again.

However, the real purpose of the program, in addition to walking, is to view different Revolution sites. So make an effort to do some new walks, including those of our neighboring clubs. The May 20 Lake George walk is a Revolution Walk and the Wednesday walk at Thacher Park on June 7 has been designated as a qualified walk for the first time. Our friends at Twin States Volkssport Association are hosting two qualified events: Mt. Independence, VT (across Lake Champlain from Ft. Ticonderoga) on July 22, and Crown Point, NY on July 23. The West Point Club has a walk at Ft. Montgomery on April 22 and Newburgh on August 8. Travelwalk is going to Boston in October which will give you an opportunity to do the Freedom Trail walk.

The program runs until Dec. 31, 2008, so you still have three years to do another book. New walks are being added to the list fairly frequently, so keep checking the website or the listings included in the ESCV newsletter.

NEW WALKS ADDED THIS MONTH:

One day events

4/22 Ft. Montgomery, NY
7/22 Mt. Independence, VT
7/23 Crown Point, NY
8/8 Newburgh, NY

YRE's

Lititz, PA YR123
St. Augustine, FL YR1128
Salem, MA YR809

YRE and Seasonal Walks qualify for Railroad Heritage

Since the Sanctioning and Publication of our YRE/SRE Booklet, more research has been done on Railroads in NY State. The following walks are now in the Railroad Heritage Program. There are many web sites dealing with trains and former train stations. Please check out <http://www.ginosrailpage.com/railpage1.html> and another on Existing former RR stations <http://ny.existingstations.com/>. Then choose the county at the bottom/ there are many pictures as well.

Saratoga Springs, NY -City Walk YRE #169 Delaware and HudsonThe **Former D&H railroad Station** - used to be at the present location of Price Chopper and the entrance faced Railroad Place. Besides the former D&H station on the route is the

former site of **the The McGregor Railway**: The current home located at the corner of North Broadway and the arterial (on the east side of North Broadway) was actually once the rail station that transported visitors to the Hotel Balmoral on top of Mt McGregor for weekend dancing & activities. "Nearly all the young society folk journeyed each week to the Hotel Balmoral via the railway, that looked so dizzily unsafe, but was very safe, to hear a famous All Girl orchestra which played there in the brilliant season of 1890." - Chronicles of Saratoga.

Troy, NY - Downtown YRE#1332 (Walk crosses the current Green Island Bridge)

In 1834, **the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad** spanned Troy to Green Island with a covered wooden bridge. It was the first bridge in Troy and the only bridge between New York City and Waterford. It was the fuel for Troy's largest fire when a spark from an idling train engine ignited the timbers of the bridge in 1862. More than 507 buildings burned to the ground. A second railroad bridge was built to take its place between 1876 and 1884. **D&H and the New York Central** had reciprocal passenger train trackage rights from around the turn of the century. The D&H abandoned the segment between Green Island and Troy in 1964.

Johnstown, NY SRE #1156

Fonda, Johnstown & Gloversville Railroad

A former Train Stations exist on State St - only the former RR station's bottom floor remains. Another station was on North Perry St.

COOK BOOKS - There are only a few cookbooks remaining ... If you would like to purchase a cookbook, please call **Phyllis Boyd** on (518) 372-6226 or **Emmie Koch** at (518) 374-3588. For only \$10, you'll have a treasury of good recipes.

An opportunity for ESCVers to Support The Saratoga Battlefield

Every year the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield have their own March for Parks and a Silent Auction. In the past the funds raised have been used for such things as the new introductory film and the lighted board explaining the battle. The Friends will be sponsoring the March and Silent Auction on April 22nd. I urge you to think about walking or at least bidding on the items as a way to support one of our great venues of volkswalking and local history. By Natalie Smith

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