

Atlantic Region Ramblings #34

1. # OptOutside - Last year REI Outdoor Store started a movement called “#optoutside.” They closed their stores nationwide on Black Friday, paid all their employees for the day and asked everyone to spend it doing something outdoors with family and friends.

This year, the AVA Program Committee, requested that each club at least organize a group walk of a YRE on Friday, November 25, and AVA had been identified as one of the partners with REI for \$OptOutside. There are two events in the Atlantic region:

- Arlington, VA sponsored by the US Freedom Walk Festival Club
- Hershey, PA sponsored by the Susquehanna Rovers. This is the 29th year for the Hershey Walkfest and there are four traditional events at this two day event (Friday, November 25 – Saturday, November 26).

If you are going to be away from home this Thanksgiving, consider participating in at one of the events sponsored by a local volksmarch club. There is a link on the AVA web site that identifies the walks.

#OptOut will probably be scheduled again next year. If your club did not have enough time to organize a group walk of a YRE this year, plan on doing so in 2017. Of course, an option (the preferred option for Pennsylvania and some Maryland clubs) is to just encourage your club members to go to the Hershey Walkfest!

2. If you want to receive your 2017 Centurion Achievement Challenge Booklet by December 31, I highly recommend you mail in the order form and payment in time for AVA to receive it by December 1.
3. Marie Weber no longer works at AVA Headquarters. Marie was the person who was responsible for event sanctioning, participation reports, issuing IVV stamps, issuing the “17” slugs, applications for new clubs, keep track of who had submitted the Annual Financial Report and IRS E-post card, and probably lots of other things that I was not aware of or forgot. Until a replacement is hired, please contact Samanta on issues that you would have contacted Marie.
4. This (with some additional verbage in the first sentence) was in the minutes of the last meeting of the Maryland Volkssport Association:

Sandi Cahill said the Washington DC Area Volksmarch Club is hosting the Scottish Festival event in Alexandria, VA on December 3. There will be no fees collected for the walk. The event is a “thank you” for your years of supporting the clubs’ events. Sandi said you may have heard talk about the club closing. As of now, there is no closing date. Unless things change dramatically, the closing will be sometime next year. Sandi said there is simply not enough manpower. She thanked Pat Astill and Yvonne Pennington for taking over the YRE at the D.C. Mall and at Iwo Jima for 2017. In the Spring, the club would like to host a Saturday and Sunday event at Great Falls. She will need volunteers from the MVA Clubs to help with this endeavor. This two-day event is still in the planning stages. She needs to speak with U. S. Parks folks. More information will be provided as the event progresses.

The brochure for this event (and all other traditional events in the Atlantic Region) is on the MVA web site (www.mdvolks.org). My recommendation is to arrive early. The Scottish Festival draws a big crowd and parking near the start of the walk is limited.

5. The first attachment is the Participation Report for Year Round and Seasonal Events for the 3rd Quarter. Events with 90 or more paid participants, as of September 30, are:

313 – Wood & Dale Wanderers – Y0340 – Manassas, VA
190 - Northern Virginia Volksmarchers – Y0061 – Alexandria-Old Town, VA
185 – Northern Virginia volksmarchers – Y1271 – Reston, VA
178 – Seneca Valley Sugarloafers – Y1539 – Bethesda-Montgomery Mall, MD
149 – Freestate Happy Wanderers – Y1899 - Frederick, MD
133 – Columbia Volksmarch Club – Y1663 – Columbia-Columbia Mall, MD
114 – Seneca Valley Sugarloafers – Y1091 – Bethesda Cherry Blossom, MD
110 – Seneca Valley Sugarloafers – Y1367 – Gaithersburg Lakeforest Mall, MD
109 – Annapolis Amblers – Y0383 – Hanover-Arundel Mills Mall, MD
107 – Seneca Valley Sugarloafers – Y0887 – Rockville-Rock Creek Park, MD
101 – Princeton Area Walkers – Y0736 – Princeton, NJ
97 – Lee Lepus – Y0591 – Richmond-Monuments, VA
95- Peninsula Pathfinders – Y0287 – Williamsburg-Colonial Williamsburg, VA
93 – Gator Volksmarsch Club – Y1870 – Chesapeake-Greenbrier, VA
92 – Seneca Valley Sugarloafers – Y2031 – Silver Springs, MD
90 – Peninsula Pathfinders – Y0874 - Hampton-Fort Monroe, VA

6. The first two pages of the second attachment is the Participation Report for Traditional Events for the 3rd Qtr. Events with 75 or more paid participants were:

114 – Northern Virginia Volksmarchers – Sep 17 – Burke, VA
91 – Nittany Nomads – Sep 23-25 – State College-Penn State Campus, PA
90 – York White Rose Wanders – Aug 20 – East Berlin, PA
89 – Nittany Nomads – Sep 23-25 – State College-Bellefonte, PA
83 – Liberty Bell Wanderers – Sep 10 – Kennett Square, PA
80 - Nittany Nomads – Sep 23-25 – State College-Boalsburg, PA
79 – Columbia Volksmarch Club – July 30 – Columbia, MD
75 – Nittany Nomads – Sep 23-25 – State College West, PA

Hope you and your family have an enjoyable Thanksgiving,

Tom Jackson

Atlantic Region Director