

President's Corner

Have you ever been to an AVA convention? I've been to 6 in person and 1 virtual so far. The first one I went to was in Des Moines, Iowa in 2011. I did it as part of a Walking Adventures tour. We went all over the north central United States before we even got to the convention! Bea Hait was the delegate from Walk 'n Mass. I went with her to all of the general meetings and I found it fascinating. It was so interesting to see how things worked behind the scenes and what the issues being discussed were. If memory serves (correct me if I'm wrong, Bea!) I was the delegate for the 2013 convention in Orlando, Florida, and Bea was the alternate. I was nervous, but also very excited. I've been the delegate to all the conventions since then and have had so much fun. You get to go to new places and meet all kinds of people who share at least one thing in common. Walking! I do take the business part very seriously and always vote the way the club wants unless new information is presented. I am bringing this up because next year is a convention year!

by Mary Frink

The 2025 AVA convention will be in Las Cruces, New Mexico, April 29 – May 3, 2025 with some events happening before and after these dates. If you can, I hope you will consider going. As I find out more details, I will let you know! Right now, the tag line on the website (ava.org/2025-convention) is "3 Cities, 3 States, and 2 Countries." That sounds like a great opportunity to me! If you are interested in being the delegate, let me know. I love doing it, but am always willing to give someone else the opportunity.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to reschedule things when we had to move the date of the Warren Traditional Event. If you haven't heard, we had to move the Warren walk to June 29. There were a lot of things to switch around, including group walks and the workers' walk, to make this work. I hope you will still be able to come!



Do you have a favorite walk memory or volksmarching travel story to share? Send it to footnotes.editor@gmail.com for possible publication in a future edition of **Footnotes**.

Come Friends, Let's Walk

- ❖ Saturday, June 8
Group Walk:
Branford, CT
9:00 am (CVVC)
- ❖ Saturday, June 8
Group Walk:
Quincy, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, June 22
Group Walk:
Newton, MA
10:00 am
- ❖ Saturday, June 29
Day Event:
Warren, RI

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.



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May Meeting Highlights

by Marianne Marshall

Meeting held May 6, 2024 in Franklin

Walk Coordinator:

- Warren, RI on Saturday, June 29
- Medway: S/F at Choate Park on August 3
- Hopkinton soup walk had 44 participants
- Year-round/seasonal events: 89 participants at the 7 WnM events for the first quarter
- Fall River seasonal: new S/F is Work Out World
- AVA Northeast Region Weekend in NY/CT: correct zip code to submit preregistration is 10996
- Providence YRE: S/F is open Thursday through Sunday

AVA News from April Checkpoint:

Active AVA Associate Members may find and view details for past events based on the year and event number found on an event stamp imprint by logging into their my.ava.org account and clicking on the My Awards tab.

AVA News from May Checkpoint:

- Constant Contact is AVA's new email platform. All email from AVA will read: AVA: America's Walking Club and have hector@ava.org as the associated email address until otherwise notified.
- 2025 AVA Biennial Convention is in Las Cruces, New Mexico from April 29 to May 2, 2025 with additional pre- and post-events on week-ends before and after these dates.

New Business:

Upcoming club meetings, all below scheduled for Stop & Shop in Franklin:

- Monday, **June 3** at 6:30 pm
- Monday, **August 5** at 6:30 pm

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Trail Master's Diary: Warren

by Ann Plichta

There are many ways to enjoy beautiful summer days in New England. Some people like to head to the beach or to the park. Maybe take a walk through a seaside town. Walk 'n Mass invites you to join them on June 29 to explore the pretty town of Warren, Rhode Island with 5km and 10km routes. Warren was originally part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony until it was ceded to Rhode Island in 1747. It was the original home of Brown University and was well known as a whaling and ship building center in the mid-18th century. By the mid-19th century, whaling had declined and Warren turned to textile manufacturing. Today it still has several thriving waterfront businesses.

The first 5km loop heads down Water Street through the Warren Waterfront Historic District featuring homes and businesses built in 19th century revival and Victorian architectural styles. It has been the center of Warren since the mid-18th century and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Note the historic plaques featured on many buildings along the way. Walkers will pass by Maxwell House, the oldest brick house in Warren, built between 1752 and 1756, along with many shops and restaurants. Be sure to look down the side streets for a glimpse of more historic homes.

The route then heads to Warren Town Beach along the Warren River before heading to Main Street and downtown Warren. Across the street is the George Hail Free Library, built in 1888 in the Romanesque revival style, and the Warren Town Hall, built in 1900 in the Renaissance revival style. Walkers will pass by the Warren Armory, a Gothic revival building given to the town of Warren in 1842 from the state of Rhode Island for its support during the Dorr Rebellion. The route continues through the Warren Town Common past the Wall of Honor listing the names of Warren residents who died defending their country through the various wars. It passes the First Methodist

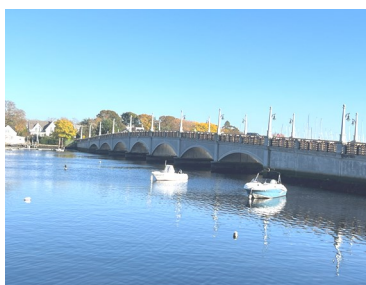
Church, the first in Rhode Island and the second in New England before heading back to Main Street passing various shops and restaurants. Walkers will continue past the East Bay Government Center before heading to the East Bay Bike Path and the finish for 5km walkers and checkpoint for the 10km route.

The second 5km loop is comprised of a portion of on the East Bay Bike Path, a 14.5-mile route between Bristol and Providence. Many of us are familiar with the southern terminus of the path since it is along the Walk 'n Mass Bristol SE. Walkers will head into Barrington over the Palmer River, then cross another bridge over the Barrington River to Police Cove Park. Note the "sunbathers" in the park. The path continues to downtown Barrington, crossing County Road and passing the Barrington Shopping Plaza. The turnaround point is near the Bayside Y along the path as walkers head back to the finish.

Both loops are on paved, mostly flat surfaces and have an AVA rating of 1A. They are doable for strollers, but some uneven sidewalk spots could make it difficult for wheelchairs. Join Walk 'n Mass for a 5km or 10km summer walk in the seaside town of Warren, RI on June 29. Hope to see you on the trail!

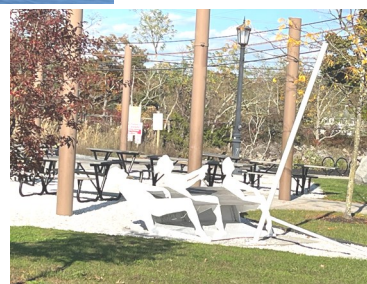


Methodist Church



Bridge along East Bay Bike Path in Barrington; art in Police Cove Park

Photos courtesy of Ann Plichta



Bulletin Board

Carol Giesecke (NERD and co-POC for Boston YREs) is hosting a **group walk of the Freedom Trail route on Sunday, July 14**, meeting at 9:00 with walkers heading out at 9:30. This is an Online Start Box event so if you register with that method, please do not sign-in on that day's physical log. Carol says the labyrinth on the Rose Kennedy Greenway is not to be missed, so this is a great opportunity to see the labyrinth. Please advise Carol if you plan to attend: carolclay101@gmail.com

WnM plans to distribute the new electronic version of *The American Wanderer* (TAW) via email to club members who receive our *Footnotes* newsletter by email. If you'd like to get the TAW emails directly from AVA, see ava.org to signup or try <https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001FfF6u4OICoHaxXxvKBULjzHFkTO2LVJ7Yst6pxPbXsWa16wdS768C5XcyV7GcSfo12xjZIVS8lNeJnDNwFlIVc9tm8ovPla9>

Next Club Meeting Monday, June 3

6:30 pm

Stop & Shop
40 Franklin Village Drive
Franklin, MA 02038

Up the stairs past
Customer Service Desk

Reminder of \$4 fee for all walk/bike participants. Benefit of WnM membership is \$1 discount when participating in a WnM seasonal or year-round event. So, for example, a member can enjoy walking in Newport or Lowell and pay \$3.

If your summer plans include visits to the Cape, please remember the lovely routes we offer in **Sandwich, Hyannis, Provincetown**, as well as **Oak Bluffs** on Martha's Vineyard.

Newsletter Submissions to:
footnotes.editor@gmail.com
Deadline for next issue: June 21st

The Provincetown and Oak Bluffs events are available through the Online Start Box.

Seen it?

Do you recognize this emblem from a WnM route?

Photo courtesy of Joanne Izbicki



****Note new Start/Finish & driving directions****

PSB

Fall River, MA

April 1 - December 31, 2024

10 and 5km Battleship Cove Walks

START/FINISH:

Work Out World (WOW!)

18 Pocasset Street

Fall River, MA 02721

Tel: 508-679-2900

wownewengland.com/fall-river/

Times: Daily 6-6, walk during daylight.

Please call to confirm holiday hours.



Walk Box at front desk.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS: The walk route traverses Battleship Cove, home to the world's largest collection of World War II naval ships, including the Battleship USS Massachusetts, affectionately known as "Big Mamie" (fee to tour museum). The route then proceeds to the Columbia Street Cultural District, an ethnic Portuguese neighborhood with cobbled streets and sidewalks, filled with enticing smells from the numerous bakeries & restaurants. Next, the walk route visits Kennedy Park, the first of two Frederick Law Olmsted designed parks on the route. Enjoy spectacular water views before continuing to the downtown area passing Saint Anne's Church, a large Gothic building constructed by Canadian immigrants, and Lizzie Borden's house. The infamous Borden axe murders that took place in 1892 remain one of America's great unsolved crimes. The route also explores the second Olmsted designed park, North Park; enters several historic neighborhoods; visits Veterans Memorial Bicentennial Park with impressive tributes including an Iwo Jima sculpture & 80% replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall; and returns via a boardwalk which hugs the Taunton River to Heritage State Park.

Note: 5km route returns to the finish after visiting the downtown area.
Restrooms: From Battleship Cove, cross wooden pedestrian bridge from parking lot to Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. Memorial Building and enter through main entrance or bear left to reach outside restroom door.

RATING: On paved surfaces & pathways with some hills, these walk routes have an AVA trail rating of 1B, **difficult for strollers but not suitable for wheelchairs.**

AWARD: This is an IVV Credit Only event; no award.

AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Lighthouses, Par for the Course, Step to the Beat, Town Halls/City Halls, and Walking with America's Veterans

DIRECTIONS:

From the North:

1. Take either I-495 South or Route 128/I-95 South to Route 24 South.
2. 24 South to Exit 7 (Route 79 South). *Follow the Battleship Cove signs.*
3. 79 South to third exit (Route 6 East/New Bedford).
4. Straight on Davol Street to right on Central Street passing Battleship Cove to first left on Anawan Street.
5. Straight through traffic light. Parking lot is on the right.

From Cape Cod:

1. I-195 West into Fall River to Exit 11 before the Braga Bridge, and bear **RIGHT**.
2. Merge onto Central Street, stay in middle lane to go straight.
3. Pass Battleship Cove to first left at Anawan Street.
4. Straight through traffic light. Parking lot is on the right.

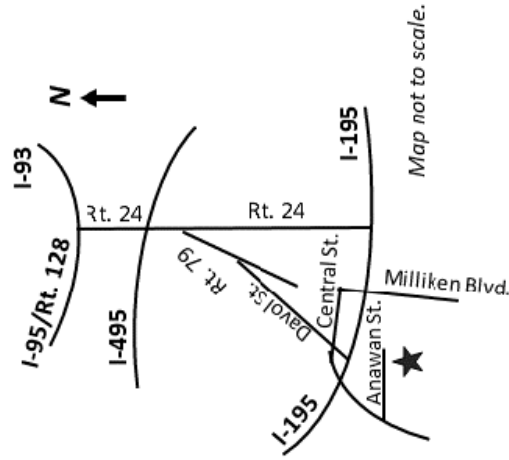
From the West:

1. I-195 East into Fall River. Take Exit 11 (Routes 79/138).
2. Stay in **RIGHT** lane to continue on Route 79 North, merging onto Davol Street.
3. **RIGHT** at first traffic light onto Pocasset Street. Parking lot is on right.

From parking lot, enter WOW! building under the black canopy and proceed down two flights of stairs (WOW! is on ground floor). Ask for Walk Box at the front desk.

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Walk Coordinator Speaks

by Beate Hait

Warren, RI – Sat., June 29 — FINALLY! Two weeks before our originally scheduled May 18 date to walk in Warren, RI, we learned that our start point could not accommodate us on that day. So, here we are and very much looking forward to walking in this charming town and along the East Bay Bike Path at the end of June. The 5km town loop explores the town and returns using a short stretch of the bike path. The second 5km loop is entirely on the bike path. Hope to see YOU there!

Medway, MA – Sat., August 3 – Walk and Club Picnic — Our club picnic walk is in early August this year. The covered pavilion at Choate Park is where we'll meet to walk and then enjoy one another's company when the picnic begins at noon. As in 2022 when our picnic walk was in Lincoln Woods, RI, we ask that you **bring your own lunch**. If you'd like to offer a snack/appetizer or dessert to share, that would be welcome. See more details in the brochure included with this newsletter.

Northeast Region Weekend – Hudson to Housatonic – September 6 to 8
Exemplifying the unofficial motto of the AVA, Fun, Fitness, Friendship—and Food, volkssporters from around the region – and, to date, from FL, MI, and PA — will converge along the Hudson River to participate in two walks (Hyde Park and Walkway Over the Hudson in Pough-

keepsie) hosted by Volkssport Club at West Point and a walk on Sunday in Kent Village, CT hosted by Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club. There's also a Meet & Greet at the Germania's Oktoberfest on Friday night and a dinner Saturday at Longobardi's Restaurant in Wappingers Falls. Pre-registration is required for the walks and Saturday dinner. Access the brochure at nodegreen.com/hudtohou/ or contact Bea if you'd like a hardcopy by post-mail. Deadline to register is August 1.

Walking a volkswalk or biking a volksbike route when it fits your schedule — Don't forget that there are a multitude of seasonal and year-round event routes ready when you are—wherever you are. Clubs around the country (and internationally) have planned scenic 5km and 10km routes for your enjoyment one step at a time. See ava.org then click Find A Walk to start exploring US events.

TAW – *The American Wanderer*, AVA's quarterly newsletter that features articles of events throughout the USA, is now available online through www.ava.org. Scroll down to find & read the online version or download the PDF file. If you'd like a printed copy sent by US postal mail, please contact Hector at hector@ava.org.

Group Walk Pictures

by Beate Hait



Left: group walkers with the mayor in Fall River on April 27



Middle: Rayna and Priya found a dolphin statue in Bristol



Right: Bristol group on May 4