



## A Short History of the Volkssport Club at West Point

The Volkssport Club at West Point was founded in 1987 by Colonels George Paul and Thomas Tesch. They were dentists at Saunders Dental Clinic at West Point.

In the fall of 1986, Lieutenant General David Palmer, Superintendent, was contacted about the formation of a Volkssport club. Although he said he could not approve the club, he had interest in making it happen. His support ultimately convinced the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to approve the club after the appropriate paperwork (such as constitution and bylaws) was created. Colonels Paul and Tesch each seeded (subsequently reimbursed) \$2000 from their personal funds to establish the club's original treasury. The club was officially incorporated by the NY Secretary of State on 30 June 1988.

Col Tesch and Tammy Hongor, a hygienist at the dental clinic, established the routes and directions for all events until 1990. Col Paul was reassigned in 1988 and Col Tesch served as first club president until his reassignment in the summer of 1990.

The club began participating in Traditional Events at the annual Hudson Valley River Rambles on 17 September 2005 with 13 walkers in the City of Poughkeepsie. We received a Proclamation from Mayor Nancy J. Cozean noting that day as "Volkssport Club Day" in the City of Poughkeepsie.

The club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a three day weekend 4-6 October 2013. It was filled with four walking events, an award banquet, and tours. We had 95 different individuals participating that weekend.