



# STEPPING OUT!

## VOLKSSPORT CLUB OF WEST POINT— NOVEMBER 2009

### STARTING POINT

2010

### BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ORDERING!



Club Secretary Joan Kimmel has a small number of *Starting Point 2010* books for 2010 from the AVA. These books list all of the 2010 AVA-sanctioned walks across the United States. The cost is \$17.50 and by ordering through the club you SAVE a mailing and postage fee.

So if you'd like a copy, please email Joan at the club address (see back page) and she'll reserve a copy for you when they come in. First come, first serve. We already have (as of this writing) about 6 people who want a copy.



READ ALL ABOUT THREE CLUB MEMBER'S TRIPS OUT WEST ON THE TATER TOURS SOUTHWEST TRIP ON PAGES 2-3 IN THIS EDITION OF *STEPPING OUT!* (DORIS, DOROTHY, NANCY, AND FARRELL ARE PICTURED)

### NEW MEMBERS!

Recently, we've received renewals and membership dues from the following people and/or families:

- Ed Choma
- Eileen Skinner

Thank you all and welcome to the new and returning members above! Although we do maintain our email mailing list for free, and people are welcome to walk on our walks without charge, those people who voluntarily join the club do their part to help support our club. Dues provide needed funds for many of the activities that do not generate covering income and make up some of the shortfall for other events.



### SECURITY NOTICE

Any club activities listed (walks, events, cruises, social events, etc.) taking place on the US Military Academy (USMA; West Point campus) require ALL persons to provide government-issued photo IDs (e.g.: driver's license, Military ID) ; any automobiles passing through Thayer Gate will be searched by security.

Although unusual, note that access to the West Point campus may be revoked at any time due to security restrictions.

### NEXT CLUB GROUP WALKS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES!

**NEXT GROUP WALK**  
21-NOV SAT-CORNWALL

Our usual breakfast meeting will be held at 9 AM at the PARK Restaurant, 451 Main Street, in the Village of Highland Falls. All are welcomed to the breakfast and meeting! Register at 10:15 A.M. at the West Point Visitor's Center, then you need to make a short drive to the Cornwall starting point - Directions provided at the Visitor's Center - Walking at 10:30 AM or shortly thereafter once we all arrive!

**NEXT GROUP EVENT**  
COLD SPRING—SUNDAY,  
8 NOVEMBER

See [http://www.ava.org/gen3/data/event\\_details.asp?eventid=85300](http://www.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=85300) for the details!

**THIS COMING  
SUNDAY,  
8 NOVEMBER!**

**NEXT ACTIVITY**  
HOLIDAY PARTY—13  
DECEMBER??

Watch our newsletter and / or emails for the details of the upcoming annual Holiday Party, tentatively being planned for 12/13/2009.

The date and venue subject to change!



**2009 Regional Calendar!** Our Northeast

Regional Director Phil Hait has provided us with the current calendar of events updated as of **6 August 2009** (including tentative) events. Please mark your calendars, and check with the Point of Contact or official AVA website to ensure the event is sanctioned.

We have placed it in the Yahoo! Groups file section as "Northeast Regional Calendar.xls".

Every active walker should be a subscriber (or least check frequently) to our Yahoo! Group. No need to be a member. And thanks Phil!



## CLUB MEMBERS ON TATER TOURS!

### TATER TOUR TO THE SOUTHWEST PARKS

BY CLUB PRESIDENT NANCY PATRICK

Farrell and Nancy Patrick were part of a group of 50 enthusiastic Tater Tour walkers who visited six National Parks in the southwest. Two other club members, Doris and Dorothy, became "Tater Tots" for the first time. We all flew into Denver, getting acquainted and meeting friends from previous tours. Arriving a few days earlier, we walked in Vail. This is a beautiful walk in a very upscale town. The Betty Ford Botanical Garden is an added bonus for walkers.

The first walk was Denver, an opportunity to stamp a capitol book. At Estes Park, a herd of elk made themselves at home on the town golf course. Rocky Mountain National Park brought an unexpected surprise to Farrell as the local club member that greeted our bus turned out to be his West Point classmate. Snow and sleet added interesting views to the majestic rock formations. We moved on to another capitol, Cheyenne, where we pulled out winter weather gear from our suitcases. Weather improved as we moved on to Grand Teton National Park with our overnight stay at the booming western town, Jackson, Wyoming.

We arrived at Yellowstone National Park just in time to see Old Faithful put on a performance. The eruptions occur less frequently than in the past...now about every 90 minutes. Walking the boardwalk trail we stopped to watch a coyote emerge from the woods, move through the grass and cross over the boardwalk very close by. As the day progressed tourists were keeping watch as smoke clouds seemed to become larger. Rangers told us that lightning had started a fire three days prior and it had not yet been controlled. Sightseeing continued the next day as we drove to another part of the park known as the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone. There are magnificent waterfalls with walking trails to observe both upper and lower falls.

Leaving the park our bus was stopped as a herd of buffalo galloped out of the woods, crossing the road and heading to a pond for water. We counted 68 animals and probably missed a few! As we continued down the road another dozen or so ran along the

roadside in the woods.

The walk in the old mining town of Virginia City, Montana was extremely interesting. With a population of 150 the town keeps the look of a western movie set. We huffed and puffed our way up a steep hill to the Boot Hill cemetery, burial site of five very bad guys that were hanged in one of the town stores. Walking through a residential area it was startling to see three cows amongst the flowers beds in a yard.

Craters of the Moon National Park was our next destination. It was unlike anything we had previously seen. Most people had a preconceived idea of the area and most were wrong! This is an area of black volcanic rocks. A nice trail goes through the park and it is amazing to see tiny plants managing to grow in the rocks.

We moved on to Salt Lake City and had two days to enjoy this capitol. After a tour of the Kennecott Copper Mine (largest in the world), our assistant tour guide, Reesa, directed our bus to a popular local ice cream shop.

Our last two national parks, both in Utah, were Bryce and Zion. Both were breathtaking and very different. Bryce had towers and pillars of red rock (called hoodoos) and dangerous outcroppings. Zion had trails through woods, where we saw a doe and her fawn, and along a beautiful river. We had another "small world" experience here as we happened to strike up a conversation with a woman that had gone to our same high school!

The tour ended in Las Vegas with walks along the famous "strip". Farrell and I continued our trip for a few days more and did a Route 66 walk in Flagstaff. This trip was a photographer's dream. The Tater Tours will be returning to different southwest national parks in 2010.

Check the website for more information,  
[www.tatertours.com](http://www.tatertours.com).

## TATER TOURS TO THE SOUTHWEST PARKS

BY CLUB MEMBER DORIS ROGERS

The Western parks have always been my favorite vacation destinations. The recent Tater Tours was outstanding not only for the daily hikes but for the exceptional weather and the brushes with calamities.

It was mid September and we awoke the second morning to snow mixed with thunder and lightning. We delayed our trip to Rocky MT. Park about 45 min until the bus driver felt the roads were safe. When we stopped at the Visitors Center they had to check to see if the road ahead would be open to the trail at Cub Lake as it closes when there is snow. The bus was allowed to go to the entrance of the trail and the pictures taken there show traces of snow still falling. An hour into the hike the weather turned into perfect hiking weather, even warm for the elevation gain of 540 feet to the top of the trail. It was one of those thrills of a lifetime standing in the golden aspen and pine forest looking at the snow falling on the top of the nearest peak. This was my favorite hike on our trip.

We evaded misfortune in Yellowstone. When we arrived we did not check into Old Faithful Snow Lodge at Yellowstone but did our walk first. Smoke was spotted on the horizon but the ranger said it could be a control fire need to keep the forest healthy. We checked into the lodge and in the laundry room a stranger asked me if we had been at the lodge earlier in the day when they had evacuated the lodge. It seems that when the smoke was sighted and reported the lodge had been told to have the guests pack up and leave the lodge. It was determined that the fire was not a threat and the lodge was allowed to check in the guests.

The next day we rode the bus to the northern area of Yellowstone to the Upper and Lower Waterfalls. We encountered such dense smoke on the road for one or two minutes that was just like riding through fog. On our return thru this area the smoke was rising straight up instead of lying on the ground but that night when we arrived at our motel in West Yellowstone we learned that the road had been closed. The next morning Yellowstone had been closed and everyone had to leave as there were three fires in the park.

We eluded snow in Salt Lake City, we were there Monday and the weather was beautiful, they had snow on Wednesday. The best weather of all was at Las Vegas. The temperature had been running 109 the whole week and the day we arrived it was in the low 80's.

There was nothing to dislike on this trip. All the people were great traveling companions and every day the walks were interesting and/or breathtaking. Our country is filled with beautiful and exciting places to visit. **See America first.**

---

## TATER TOUR TO THE SOUTHWEST PARKS

BY CLUB MEMBER DOROTHY BASINI

This was my first trip taking a bus tour and it was just spectacular and thrilling to visit state capitols and the national parks in this way. Tater Tours was very well organized and all the accommodations were great. "On the Road Again" was our theme song. Every time we started out in the morning for our next stop we sang our song. It would wake me up and put me in gear for that day's adventure.

I enjoyed walking (10K or 3K ) the awesome trails of the national parks. Having never seen a real live elk before, it was out of sight to see over 50 of them coming across the highway to an open golf course while people were playing golf.

The elk have the right of way.

The game continued it happens everyday in Estes Park, Colorado during the mating season. The national parks were each different in their own way, snow covered mountain tops, flowers, aspens trees, hoodoos, rocks, lava, waterfall, rivers, lakes and geysers. What wonderful, magnificent sights to see. Of course I took 400 photos to help me remember. It was truly a memorable trip and I hope in the future I will visit other places in these United States. I think you should too.



## CLUB ELECTIONS HELD!

At the October 25th monthly meeting of the club, club elections for 2009-2010 were held. As no one from the membership were nominated against the incumbents, the following were elected by acclamation:

- President—Nancy Patrick
- Vice President—Farrell Patrick
- Secretary—Joan Kimmel
- Treasurer—Andrew Schmidt

Congratulations to the winners!

- Officers will receive a coin
- Members who have given special service to the club will receive a coin. This could be acting a trailmaster, organizing a special event, etc.
- A coin would be presented to a tour leader / director who brought a bus tour to a club walk.
- Any person who pays for membership at the West Point New Personnel reception would get a coin.

MWR will be asked if the club would be able to purchase more coins in the future. This initial order was given to the club at no cost.

---

## MINUTES OF THE 25 OCTOBER 2009 CLUB MEETING

Volkssport Club met at the Eveready Diner, Hyde Park, NY, for a pre-walk breakfast and meeting. Nine members were present.

Treasurer's Report: \$1232.78

### Old Business:

It was agreed that membership dues will increase to \$15.00 for those members who do not have email and cannot receive the newsletter electronically. The increase in dues is to help cover the cost of postage to mail the newsletter and brochures. The increase will begin in January 2010.

Joan Kimmel will submit an order to AVA for 10 copies of the new Starting Point directory.

Andrew Schmidt reported that there had been no offers from any members to run for officer elections. Therefore, a motion was given and seconded to cast one unanimous vote for the current slate of officers to serve another term of office.

Farrell Patrick reported that the coins, provided by Nancy Patrick MWR, have been received. He proposed the distribution of the coins as follows:

- Coins must be "earned".

Joan Vorbach has contacted the West Point Club about the holiday party. However, since that facility has gone to a "order from the menu" breakfast, it was suggested we look to another venue. Joan Kimmel suggested Shadows in Poughkeepsie as a possibility. They have advertised a brunch buffet in the newspaper. Joan Vorbach will make that contact and report back.

### New Business:

Changes were made to some of the future walks:

- Cold Spring YRE will begin on 2 January. Fort Montgomery seasonal will begin in April.
- Group walk of Hyde Park will be 21 February.
- Walk across the Mid-Hudson walkway will be 24 April.
- Walk at Manitoga will be 12 June.
- Walk at Central Valley will be 19 June. (This is on the condition that the diner / start point is available)
- Walk at Mills Norrie Park will be 31 July.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned for the Hyde Park group walk.

## 2009 YEAR ROUND EVENTS SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

This is the club's 2009 schedule of Year Round Events as listed on the AVA Website and the special programs that are to be available for these walks in 2009. Many thanks to Joan Kimmel and the other club members who helped compile the information on the events

### 1. Cornwall

Y0252 10km

<http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/cornwallyre.html>

- Authors and Literary Landmarks
- Europe in the USA
- Firehouses
- Historic Churches
- Museums
- Railroad Heritage
- Riverwalk America

### 2. Highland Falls

Y1145 10km

<http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/hfyre.html>

- Authors and Literary Landmarks
- Cemetery Stroll
- Courthouses
- Historic Churches
- Museums
- Riverwalk America
- US Presidents
- Veteran Memorials
- Walkin' Waterfalls
- Firehouses

### 3. Hyde Park

Y1108 6km/13km

<http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/hydeparkyre.html>

- America's Gardens
- Authors and Literary Landmarks
- Cemetery Stroll
- Courthouses
- Europe in the USA
- Firehouses
- Historic Churches
- Museums
- Railroad Heritage
- Riverwalk America
- US Presidents
- Walkin' Waterfalls

### 4. Rhinebeck

Y1094 5km/10km

<http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/rhinebeckyre.html>

- Artistic Heritage
- Authors and Literary Landmarks
- Cemetery Stroll
- Courthouses
- Firehouses
- Historic Churches
- Veteran Memorials

### 5. West Point

Y0037 7km/11km

<http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/usmayre.html>

- Artistic Heritage
- Authors and Literary Landmarks
- Cemetery Stroll
- Firehouses
- Historic Churches
- Museums
- Riverwalk America
- US Presidents
- Veteran Memorials

Information on all of these YREs can be found on our club's website—

<http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/>



## 2009 Calendar of Club Events -

We are sometime asked what a “Group Walk” (as opposed to a Year Round Event, or YRE) is. A “Group Walk” \* means all meet and signup together at the same time, get the trail directions and start together, then you proceed at your own pace. There are NO GUIDES for this kind of walk, nor does a group have to stay together. We usually have fast walkers, slow walkers, and medium walkers, there’s almost always someone you can walk with if you join us for your first time in a GROUP WALK! ; “Events” are one-time only walks. AVA credit is provided, and these are usually a one-time deal ; perhaps repeated yearly.

**RED** items are items updated from our last issue; **CONFIRMED** events still to be held are in **BOLD** face; **TENTATIVE** (planning dates) are listed in plain text—Due to unforeseen circumstances, we always reserve the right to cancel ANY event, but try very hard not to do so with **CONFIRMED** events. (\*-Thanks to ESCV for this!)

### 2009

Date	Day	Type	Venue or Details
11-Jan	Sun	Group Walk	West Point Group YRE – was cancelled due to snow
21-Feb	Sat	Group Walk	Rhinebeck Group YRE – was held
7-Mar	Sat	Group Walk	Highland Falls Group YRE – was held
15-Mar	Sun	Event	Goshen / Girl Scouts—was held See <a href="http://www.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=83530">http://www.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=83530</a>
29-Mar	Sun	Group Walk	West Point Group YRE - was held
19-Apr	Sun	Group Walk	Cornwall Group YRE – was held
25-Apr	Sat	Event	Fort Montgomery — was held
9-May	Sat	Group Walk	New York City Group YRE— was held
17-May	Sun	Event	Central Valley—was held
7-Jun	Sun	Group Walk	Hyde Park Group YRE — was held
18-Jul	Sat	Group Walk	West Point— was held
16-Aug	Sun	Group Walk	Highland Falls (Farmer’s Market)—confirmed! NOTE SUMMER HOURS! Breakfast club meeting at 8 AM, Register at 9 AM, walk at 915 AM!
30-Aug	Sun	Activity	Annual Hudson River Cruise — Cancelled
5-Sep	Sat	Group Walk	Greenwich Village— was held
13-Sep	Sun	Event	Nyack Street Fair—was held
26-Sep	Sat	Event	City of Hudson Event—was held
4-Oct	Sun	Event	Beacon— was held
25-Oct	Sun	Group Walk	Hyde Park—was held
<b>8-Nov</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>COLD SPRING—CONFIRMED!</b> See <a href="http://www.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=85300">http://www.ava.org/gen3/data/event_details.asp?eventid=85300</a> for the details
<b>21-Nov</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>Cornwall—CONFIRMED!</b>
<b>13-Dec</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Holiday Party—date, time, and venue to be determined</b>
<b>19-Dec</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>Rhinebeck—CONFIRMED!</b>



## 2010 Calendar of Club Events

**2010**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Venue or Details</b>
<b>2 Jan</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Informational Item</b>	<b>Cold Spring YRE - Permanent YRE trail opens</b>
<b>23-Jan</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>West Point YRE - CONFIRMED!</b>
<b>21-Feb</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>Hyde Park YRE - CONFIRMED!</b> <b>(swapped with Central Valley YRE Group Walk from 19 June)</b>
<b>6-Mar</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>Rhinebeck YRE - CONFIRMED!</b>
14 or 21 Mar	Sun	Event	Goshen St. Patrick's Day Celebration - tentative (Greens, POC)
<b>1-Apr</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Informational Item</b>	<b>Fort Montgomery YRE - Permanent YRE trail opens</b>
<b>10-Apr</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>Cornwall YRE - CONFIRMED! (with new 'extreme' route option!)</b>
<b>15 Apr</b>	<b>Thur</b>	<b>Informational Item</b>	<b>Central Valley YRE—Tentative date—Permanent YRE trail opens</b>
<b>24-Apr</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Poughkeepsie Bridges Event - tentative (Andrew, POC)</b>
15-May	Sat	Event	West Point President's Event - tentative (Patricks, POC)
23-May	Sun	Group Walk	Fort Montgomery YRE - tentative
12-Jun	Sat	Event??	(open date for an event, perhaps Manitoga in Garrison) - tentative (Nancy/Farrell, POC)
<b>19-Jun</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>Central Valley YRE - tentative (pending YRE sanctioning)</b> <b>(swapped with Hyde Park YRE Group walk from 21 Feb)</b>
<b>26-Jun</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>David Skinner Memorial Walk, sponsored by the Albany AVA Club</b>
17-Jul	Sat	Group Walk	Cold Spring YRE - tentative
<b>31 Jul</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Mills-Norrie—tentative (Joan, POC)</b>
14 or 21 Aug	Sat	Event	West Point Round Pond Event - tentative (Patricks, POC)
<b>29-Aug</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>West Point YRE + tentative BOAT RIDE afterwards for picnic - CONFIRMED!</b>
12-Sep	Sun	Event	Nyack Street Fair - tentative (Peggy, POC)
<b>25-Sep</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Hudson River Valley Ramble (Location TBD) (Andrew, POC)</b>
<b>3-Oct</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>Highland Falls YRE - CONFIRMED!</b>
24-Oct	Sun	Event	Beacon - tentative (Joan, POC)
<b>6-Nov</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Group Walk</b>	<b>New York City Greenwich Village YRE - CONFIRMED!</b>
4-Dec	Sat	Group Walk	New York City Central Park YRE - tentative (Andrew soliciting opinions)
?? Dec	TBD	Event	Annual Holiday Party - Tentative (Date and Venue TBD)

STEPPING OUT!  
VOLKSSPORT CLUB OF WEST  
POINT  
PO BOX 30  
WEST POINT, NY 10996-

Officers:

Nancy Patrick, President  
Farrell Patrick, Vice President  
Joan Kimmel, Secretary  
Andrew Schmidt, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor  
Thomas Scuccimarra, Trailmaster  
Mike Green, Webpage Master

Web Page:

<http://www.ava.org/clubs/WestPoint/>

email:

[volkssportclubofwestpoint](mailto:volkssportclubofwestpoint@hotmail.com)

[@hotmail.com](mailto:volkssportclubofwestpoint@hotmail.com)

Yahoo Group!:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/volkssportclubofwestpoint/)

[volkssportclubofwestpoint/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/volkssportclubofwestpoint/)



Your privacy is important to us!

If you received this email from us and you do not wish to receive electronic mail from the Volkssport Club of West Point, please send us a note to the email address to the left, let us know, and we will remove your name from our email list immediately.

The club ONLY uses the email lists for club business, and does not provide them to other organizations or people without specific individual authorizations.

We hate SPAM just as much as you do!

**DISCLAIMER:**

The Volkssport Club of West Point is an officially registered private organization operating on the installation of the US Military Academy at West Point. Membership and participation in all activities is open to all, regardless of military affiliation. We welcome all who wish to participate in our programs and comradely!

The Volkssport Club of West Point's website is privately owned and operated. The contents of the site, including words, images, and opinions, are unofficial and not to be considered as the official views of the United States Military Academy, United States Army, or Department of Defense. The site is not endorsed by the United States Military Academy, United States Army, or Department of Defense. Users accept and agree to this disclaimer in the use of any information obtained from this website.

We wish to thank the Garrison Commander and the Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Office of West Point for their support, as well as saluting all the men and women of the Army and other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States serving on our behalf.