

menehune marchers news

Spring 2009

Volume 9, Issue 1



Upcoming March Event

Mililani YRE Hui Hele

Carol and Dennis Romig

Upcoming Events

Mar 21 & 22 **Mililani YRE Hui Hele**
Park and Ride
Carol & Denis Romig
626-3575

Apr 19 **Historic Waikiki YRE Hui Hele**
New Otani Hotel
Marsha Okada
395-9724

Apr 26 **Quarterly Business Meeting**
Ho'omaluhia Park
Meeting Room
Mark Brown
234-0476

May **None Scheduled Yet**



Join us at our Newest YRE “Mililani”. This YRE officially started on January 15, 2009. Currently, there is one route available that takes you through Mililani Mauka. Two more routes will be added later in the year.

To kick off this year round event, we will be walking the 10K route on March 21 [Saturday] and March 22 [Sunday]. A 5K route is also available. If you can join us, please meet at the Park and Ride [next to the McDonalds] between 7:30-7:45 am. Here are the directions.

Take H-1 West to H-2 [North Shore/Wahiawa] and exit Mililani Mauka. You will now be on Meheula Parkway [McDonalds is on your left]. Turn left at the next traffic light onto Ainamakua Street, and then left on the next street, Ukuwai Street. The Park and Ride is located on Ukuwai Street and will be on your left.

Are You a Member of AVA yet?

President's Message

Mark Brown

Aloha All,

Many thanks to Bob & Suzanne Iverson and Terry Puuhau for organizing the 9 November Nuuanu Valley Walk; to Gala Tarumoto & Carol Romig for organizing our 13 December Club Christmas Celebration Luncheon at the Seafood Village Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Waikiki; and to Carol & Dennis Romig for organizing the 10 January West Loch Walk. All of these club events were well-attended and much enjoyed!

At our most recent 25 January Club Quarterly Business Meeting, we continued to refine and finalize our events calendar for 2009. A copy of the calendar is included in this newsletter. To date we have eight walk events scheduled but still have open months (no event) in May, June, August and November.

As always, we remain very much in the hunt for volunteers who would like to help in organizing a walk event for the club. You name it, we need your talents! From event mangers, to trail masters, to book "stampers", to folks for set-up and take-down...we need your help! Please come to our quarterly business meetings and let us know what you would like to do and what events or activities you would like to help us add to our 2009 calendar.

Upcoming April Event

Historic Waikiki Hui Hele

Marsha Okada



Hope to see you at our Waikiki Hui Hele on Sunday, April 19, 2009. You have the option of doing either the 11K Historic Waikiki or the new 10K Waikiki YRE.

Club members, if you have the time and energy you could do both for 21K at a bargain price of \$1.50.

Meet at one of the picnic tables fronting the Natatorium between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Parking is available at the Natatorium or on Kalakaua Avenue. For more information call Marsha Okada at 395-9724 or on day of the walk 722-8724.



Completed December Event

Christmas Party



Just take a look at that table above, and make a vow that you will come to next year's Xmas Party.

Thanks to Gayla, we all had a wonderful time at our 2008 Christmas Party, at the Seafood Village of the Hyatt Regency Waikiki.. Good good food, good fellowship, good location, good grab bags [look at the photo below], and for a few lucky members, good fortune.



Completed January Event

West Loch

Carol and Dennis Romig



This was the 2nd year for the West Loch Shoreline volksmarch. It is definitely a winner! We couldn't ask for more...great weather and the perfect setting. We had 22 new walkers from Ewa, Ewa Beach, and Kapolei [thanks to the advance publicity by the local newspaper]. In all, we had a record 76 walkers.

We had two special guests, Becky and Bob Forsyth, from Battleground, WA. Becky is the Northwest Regional Director of AVA. The Forsyth's completed the 10K and following a short lunch break at Zippys, completed the 5K. Thanks for sharing your day with us and also for wonderful volksmarches in the Northwest.

We received so many positive comments on the beauty of the trail and West Loch Shoreline Park from those returning from the 5K and 10K walks. Our walkers from Ewa Beach and Kapolei were thrilled to find this gem just in their backyard and many intended to return. Also, one e-mail simply stated "Wow...it was great". A special thanks to Paul Kelly and his staff for maintaining the wonderful trail and park, and for opening the super clean restroom facilities for us. Also, thanks to everyone who participated in this event and the volunteers at the registration table and on the trails.

Look for this volksmarch next year.

Club Officers 2007-2009

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Mark Brown |
| Vice President | Carol Romig |
| Secretary | Lan Char |
| Treasurer | Terry Puuohau |

Completed February Event

2nd Annual

Diamond Head Hui Hele with R&C Hawaii Tours

Marsha Okada



Sunday, February 15, was a cool, breezy day for walking around Diamond Head (7K) or trekking to the summit (12K). Thirteen Menehune Marchers and newcomers were joined by 10 volksmarchers from Iwate Japan, escorted by tour conductor Kana Takahashi and local guide Yoshihisa Koga. Mahalo to Dennis Romig and Fred Delaney for guiding the group up to the summit and taking the scenic shoreline route back to Waikiki.

The usual refreshments (chilled pineapples, fruitcake, mango bread, and cold water) were available at Fort Ruger Park. Kathy Tschappat fluently chatted in Japanese with the visitors and was able to sell some mementos. Domo arigato, Kathy.

Mahalo to Charlotte Sullivan and Ruby Fukuyama who assisted Marsha at the start and all others who rallied to help set up the tables at Fort Ruger Park and to help clean up afterward.

Janet Hanamoto of R&C Hawaii Tours Group Operations extended her appreciation to Marsha for arranging the Diamond Head Walk for the group from Japan. She also wrote that “they truly enjoyed their walk and are looking forward to having this experience again next year.”

[Note: Total participation: 25 (2 for “A” award, 16 IVV credit, 7 free)
Sales: 1 club button, 1 New Walker Packet



Milestones

January-February 2009 TAW

Events

200

Richard Pickens



China

with Walking Adventures International

Mark Luppino and Kathy Tschappat

In October 2008, Menehune Marchers Mark Luppino and Kathy Tschappat took a 19 day trip to China with Walking Adventures International. The tour included 6 walks sanctioned by the Chinese Volkssport Association, and there were 35 walkers on the tour. (Among the 35 was former Menehune Marcher Calei Ewing.)

The first walk took the travelers through central Shanghai, a huge city of 20 million people, with new facades and buildings going up everywhere in preparation to host the 2010 World Exposition. The route started at the group's hotel, on the end of Shanghai's "culture street" and wound its way past several beautiful parks, through Shanghai's choking traffic, to many of Shanghai's most famous sites. The broad riverfront promenade along the Bund, landmark of grandiose western commercial architecture, crowded though it was, offered magnificent views of the amazing skyscraper forest that has gone up in the last 20 years.

The hikers visited the Yu Gardens and Bazaar for lunch, proceeded past a remnant of the old city wall, through a huge bird and flower market, where large crickets were the hottest item. Continuing on was the Dongtai Lu Market, called an antique market, but really a permanent 'swap meet.' Mao shirts and satchels were plentiful, along with movie posters from the first half of the 20th century. The group wound up the hike on the Nanjing Road, one kilometer of which is closed to vehicles, packed with pedestrians, and lined with huge shopping emporiums and hotels.

The group flew to Guilin in the south to visit the Li River, a region noted for the spectacular limestone mountains jutting precipitously out of the plain. A 10 Km walk through the countryside outside the tourist town of Yangshuo featured farmland dotted with the limestone peaks, including rice paddies, orchards, ponds for raising ducks, and no traffic. In the 'It's a Small World' department, our travelers met up with Armando, one of Gordon Tyau's former UH graduate architecture students.

After touring along the Yangtze River and the famous Three Gorges, the next 10 K walk was in the ancient capital of Xi'an. The walk included the Ming Dynasty era wall and the colorful Muslim quarter. Of course, the highlight of the stop in Xi'an was the spectacular Qing terra cotta warriors.

The tour concluded in Beijing with two walks, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, sites that defy description. There's so much more to see. We'll just have to go back.

President's Message

[Continued]

On the good news front, I am very pleased to announce that Carol & Dennis Romig have organized a new AVA-sanctioned Year Round Event (YRE) walk. The walk began in January with the start box located at the Mililani Mauka McDonald's Restaurant. Like our Manoa YRE walk; you will be able to get great exercise, have fun, and enjoy an inexpensive lunch all in one stop. The addition of the Mililani YRE will bring our total on Oahu to nine

On the bad news front, we were all very saddened by the recent passing of one of our most longstanding and highly contributing members – **Mr. GILBERT SEIJI OKADA** 69, of Honolulu, who died Jan 15, 2009. Gilbert was born in Ewa, retired as a University of Hawaii Hamilton Library librarian, and was a U.S. Army veteran. Gilbert is survived by his wife, Marsha; son, Garrett; daughter, Marcy; and brother, Mitsuru. He will be greatly missed.

As always, please participate in as many of the club events as you can. Also please volunteer to help where you can and always be sure to thank those who have kindly offered their precious time and talents to organize club events. Just a reminder that our next Club Quarterly Business Meeting will be held on **Sunday, 26 April at 1-3 PM.** at the Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden Visitor Center lecture room. Please come for the meeting and contribute to the planning of our many enjoyable club activities! *See you on the trails...*

Downtown YRE Annual Report

January – December 2008

Barbara Mateo-Kihano

The totals for 2008 came to **214 walkers** with **33 doing it for the award, 160 for the IVV credit and 21 for free.**

Besides club members, we had people from California, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington state. On Jan 4th our only international walker was Orm Hansen of Niva, Denmark.

Noteworthy were:

January 2008: On Jan 4th, our only international walker for this year was Orm Hansen of Niva, Denmark

February 2008: Monetary donation received from club member Mark Luppino

March 2008: Monetary donations received from out of state walkers Ellen Callahan & Jim Tompkins

May 2008: We mailed a thank you letter and yearly monetary donation to YMCA Nuuanu Executive Director Ms. Jean Reiderer along with a copy of the first quarter YRE report

June 2008: Ken & Daralyn Schubert of Huffman, Texas had this to say: "Thank you, very beautiful walk. Flowers, trees and statue, buildings are wonderful. *Great, Great Directions. Clear and concise as to where to go. Thanks again*"

July & Sept 2008: Club member Carol Romig left monetary donations in our start/finish box

October 2008: On Oct 6th, Pacific Region Director, Wayne Holloway of his wife Grace walked with club treasurer Terry Puuhau and her grandchildren Bear & Elizabeth. On Oct 16th, Ron & Marybeth Kresnicka of California had this to share: *Thanks so much, we get another capitol walk-YAH!*

November 2008: We received monetary donations from Patricia Mountjoy of PA, Charles & Donna Dasho of MO and Joyce Azama (friend of club member Faye Miyamasu).

- We continue to use our "state capitol" patch that was designed by Gordon Tyau in 2006.
- KUDOS to our club president Mark Brown and Molly Brown. Mark continues to "lead by example" doing our downtown historic YRE at least two times each month for this year.

Kailua 4th Quarter

Maria Brasher

Total 29
Award 3
Credit 25
Free 1

Downtown 4th Quarter

Barbara L. Mateo-Kihano

Total 59 Award 9 Credit 49 Free 1

Kona 4th Quarter

Terry Puuohau

Total 38
Credit 37
Free 1

This quarter, we had walkers from California, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington state and Wisconsin.

On Oct 6th, Pacific Region Director, Wayne Halloway & his wife Grace walked with club treasurer, Terry Puuohau and her grandchildren Bear & Elizabeth. On Oct 16th, Ron & Marybeth Kresnicka of California had this to share: *Thanks so much, we get another capitol walk-YAH!*

Laie 4th Quarter

Maria Brasher

Total 11
Award 4
Credit 7

During the month of November, we received donations from Patricia Mountjoy of Pennsylvania. During her stopover in Honolulu, she walked from the Aloha Tower Marketplace where the ship was docked and did our walk. On Nov 17th, Charles & Donna Dasho of Missouri also left a donation in the box. On Nov 19th, Joyce Azama (friend of club member, Faye Miyamasu) also left a donation. *Mahalo nui loa!*

Manoa 4th Quarter

Lan Char

Total 22
Credit 22

Manoa Annual Report

Volcano 4th Quarter

Terry Puuohau

Total 38
Award 1
Credit 37

Lan Char
Total 124 Award 119 Free 5
International walkers from Denmark. Mainland walkers from NC, NM, OR, PA, MI, Tx and WA. Hui Hele walk in September had 15 walkers.

2009 Events

Schedule

March 22

Mililani YR Hui Hele

April 19:

Waikiki YR Hui Hele

April 26

Quarterly Business Meeting

May and June Open

July 12

Ho'omaluhia Anniv. Walk

Quarterly Business Meeting

August Open

September 13

Manoa YR Hui Hele

October 3

Moiliili Walk

October 25

Quarterly Business Meeting

November Open

December 6 or 13

Mililani YR Hui Hele

Waikiki, Diamond Head, Kahala 4th Quarter

Marsha Okada

| Waikiki | Diamond Head | Kahala |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Total walkers 66 | Total Walkers 40 | Total Walkers 28 |
| Award 7 | Award 6 | Award 2 |
| IVV Credit 55 | IVV Credit 33 | IVV Credit 26 |
| Free 4 | Free 1 | Free 0 |

Waikiki, Diamond Head, Kahala Annual Report

Total Walkers:
Waikiki 254 Diamond Head 206 Kahala 105

Waterfront 4th Quarter

Terry Puuohau

Total walkers 48
Award 0
IVV Credit 42
Free 6

In Memory of
Menehune Marcher

Gilbert Okada

