



# The Rover Reporter



The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club

July-September 2024

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[www.avaclubs.org/SRVC](http://www.avaclubs.org/SRVC)

## President's Message



Greetings Fellow Rovers,

I can't believe it is June already. I am heading to Kentucky for the Mid America Region Conference. This is their version of the recent conference held in Dover, Delaware.

On September 7 we will be holding the Alice Eckardt Memorial Walk in Palmyra, PA. She was an avid walker and big volunteer for the club. When we had a traditional event, she would be the volunteer coordinator. (See page 6.)

Unfortunately, volunteers have been hard to find lately. We need someone to step up to take my place as president, as my mother's decline in health has taken a toll, and I need some time off. I was informed that if we do not find another president, we might have to fold the club. I don't want this to happen, and I'm sure you don't either, but we need a hero to stand up or it doesn't look good.

We will again be holding a seasonal memorial event in Hummelstown. Our group walk will be the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Changing the subject, we just passed the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings. I had three uncles who served in World War II, all of whom are no longer with us. One fixed transports in the air corps and was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1946. One served in the pacific under General MacArthur during the liberation of the Philippines and on occupation duty. He never said one word about what happened. The third was captured at Anzio and served time in a POW camp. From the stories he told it was not an ordeal I would wish on my worst enemy.



Hope to see you on the trail. - Bill

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## Group Walk Schedule

**Definition of Group Walk** - Several walkers get together to walk a Traditional, Seasonal or Year Round event. They start off together and then walk at their own pace. Maybe they get together to eat along the way or at the end. This type of walk will not be on ava.org list of events. GP is used on our listing for these events.

**York White Rose Wanderers (YWRW)** are hosting their group walks 2024. They make these walks feel like a traditional event by giving walkers a range of time to start usually 9 am to noon. The complete list for the year is on their website. Call Julie Geyer 717-624-5627 to check if they will be walking if weather is iffy. **July 6** - Rail Trail #1 - North Brillhart Station, 2400 Brillhart Station Rd, York. **Aug 3** - Rail Trail #4, Hanover Junction Station, 2433 Seven Valley Rd, Seven Valley. **Sept 7** - Rail Trail-Downtown York, Parking lot of Rt 30 and Loucks Mill Rd, York. **Oct 5** - Rail Trail #2, South, Brillhart Station, 2400 Brillhart Station Rd, York.

The **Susquehanna Rovers** meet at a certain time to sign up and go at our separate paces and maybe meet for lunch. If you can't meet us, these are year-round events and can be walked anytime during daylight hours. The time to meet is with the event. Call Pat if you want a ride. 717-379-8945

**July 13 - Camp Hill plus picnic** Meet anytime after 8 at Pat Eby's house 19 N 27th St, Camp Hill 17011 to walk. Food should be ready by 10. If weather is bad, we will still have the picnic. You can bring a dish to share.

**August 10** - We will meet to carpool to **Milton** at 8 am at the Park N Ride off of Rt 322 west of Harrisburg. Get off at the Halifax Rt 225 exit, then bear right, then left onto the Water Gap ramp, then turn left to the Park N Ride.

**Sept 7** - Alice's Walk in Palmyra See page 6.

**Oct 12 - Ephrata** Meet at 9 at Hampton Inn & Suites, 380 E Main St, Ephrata.

Contact Pat 717-379-8945 for information or if weather is bad to see if we are walking.

Please join us. We miss seeing you.

Be sure to use this address when mailing your books.

AVA Headquarters  
1008 S. Alamo St  
San Antonio TX 78210  
210-659-2112



## Meeting Location

The next three club meetings are being held at East Shore Library at 6 pm.

**June 25**

**July 30**

**August 27**

**There is no meeting in December.**

Contact Bill with questions at 717-847-3567

All are invited and encouraged to attend.

## Two Seasonals

for your enjoyment!

### Fort Hunter - Dauphin County

This event is open from April 1 until **September 30**.

It is an online start box, **or** contact Regina Zapotosky at 717-545-4982, rmzapoto@gmail.com for directions.

The walk starts at Fort Hunter Park - West Pavilion parking lot, 5300 North Front St, Harrisburg PA. It is rated 1A with a 5K or 10K trail. It is on grass paths, paved walkways, and gravel trails. It uses the Capital Area Greenbelt connection trail between Fort Hunter Park and Wildwood Park. The trail also goes around Fort Hunter Park. A lovely walk along the river.

### Milton - Northumberland & Union Counties is New

This event is also open from April 1 until **September 30**.

It is an online start box **or** contact Bill Rhoat at 717-847-3567, rhtpr@aol.com with questions.

This is a pleasant walk in Milton State Park in Northumberland County which then ventures into the town and a brief section in West Milton which is in Union County. It is rated 1B with a 5 or 10K trail. The walk is about 65 miles north of Harrisburg which takes about 1 and 1/4 hours to drive.

This is a brand new area for us to walk. Make this a fun day trip. We hope you try it out.





### Group Walks

April 20 - Columbia had Marcy Lucas, Bill Rhoat and one other person that left early.

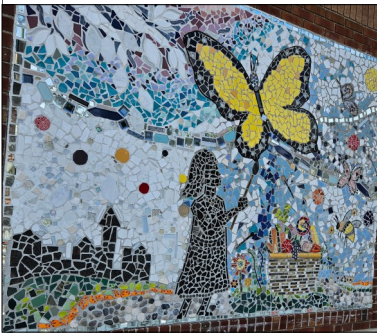
May 11 - Lebanon. We had 5 walkers. Yeah!



Ginny Huntsberger, Judy and Dave from Maryland, Bill Rhoat and me. I didn't get very far but I did get some interesting pictures on Cumberland St and 8th St. If you ever see this sign in front of a health food store, and feel brave enough to try it, please let me know what you think of it.



These two mosaics were on the corner. They were done in 2022.



This painted mural is on 8th Street across from the Farmers Market Building. When Bill and I walked the year round last year, we saw a woman painting this with a spray can. It is very large and quite lovely.

You find such interesting things on trails/walks. But you have to go and walk to see them.

These things are what make volksmarching so much fun.

June 15 - Ft Hunter in Harrisburg. We had 13 walkers. Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! This is a seasonal and will end 9-30.



It was a beautiful day. The best one in a long time. Sunny, not too hot and a breeze. No Mayflies.

First came Betty Jo McCoy and her son. She had called and asked if they could start at 8 instead of 9. No problem.

are Jan & Ben Lardozabal and Jen & Jeb Betar. This was the fourth event in

four days for them, the others in South Eastern PA.



Below are Roy & Sis Clugston, Julie Geyer, Tom & Lorraine Jackson and Regina Zapotosky. Lorraine had a great write-up about the walk on her Facebook page.



## 2024 Seasonal and Year Round Events

Events listed are year rounds unless stated as seasonal.

### Susquehanna Rovers

These walks will have a start box unless stated OSB.

#### Altoona - Blair County

Wingate by Wyndham Hotel, 909 Chestnut Ave. Altoona.  
Walk Dawn to Dusk. 5 or 10K Rating 1A Ask at reservation desk for walk box.

Judy Yost jpost820@gmail.com 814-932-3334

#### Camp Hill - Cumberland County **New**

Pat Eby's house - front porch, 19 N 27th St, Camp Hill.  
Dawn to dusk. 5 or 10K Rated 1A

Pat Eby, patriciaeby@verizon.net 717-379-8945

#### Carlisle - Cumberland County

Comfort Suites, 10 South Hanover St. Carlisle Dawn to Dusk. 6 or 10K Rating 1A Ask at reservation desk for walk box.

Pat Eby 717-379-8945 patriciaeby@verizon.net

#### Columbia and Marietta - Lancaster County

Northwest Lancaster County River Trail - **Bike** 35k Rated 2A and **Walk** 5 or 10K Rated 1A

Columbia **Walk** - 5 or 10K Rated 1A

Marietta **Walk** - 5 or 10K Rating 1A

Columbia Crossing River Trail Center, 41 Walnut St.

Columbia Open 10 am to 5 pm Wed - Sun

Ask at desk for the walk box. They open at 10.

Sharon Miller 717-805-9540 millersd@ptd.net

#### Ephrata - Lancaster County

Hampton Inn & Suites, 380 E Main St, Ephrata. 5 or 10K Rated 1B

Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

#### Harrisburg - Dauphin County

Capital and Wildwood Park

Quality Inn -Riverfront, 525 S Front St. Harrisburg Dawn to dusk. 5 or 10K Capital Trail Rating 1A

Wildwood Trail Rating 3C; 5K trail is easier can be a 1A.

Ask at reservation desk for the walk box.

Sharon Miller 717-805-9540 millersd@ptd.net

**Fort Hunter, Harrisburg- Seasonal** 4-1 to 9-30. 5 or 10K Rated 1A, OSB or contact Regina Zapotosky at 717-545-4982 rmzapoto@gmail.com

#### Hershey - Dauphin County

Bullfrog Valley Trail (5 or 10K) and Town (5 or 10K) Both are rated 1A

**Hummelstown Seasonal - Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2024**

Karns Food, 731 Cherry Dr. Hershey

Ask at the Service Counter for the walk box.

Dawn to dusk.

Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

#### Lebanon - Lebanon County

Lebanon Valley Family YMCA, 201 N 7th St. Lebanon  
Hours vary - call 717-273-2691

5 or 10K Rating 1A

Ask at the service counter on the right for the walk box.

Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

#### Mechanicsburg - Cumberland County

Rutter's #29, 714 W Main St. Mechanicsburg Dawn to Dusk 5 or 10K Rating 1A

Walk box is on window sill in café area.

Pat Eby 717-379-8945 patriciaeby@verizon.net

**Milton - Part in Northumberland and other in Union **New Seasonal**** - 4-1 to 9-30. 5 or 10K rated 1B. OSB or

**contact** Bill Rhoat 717-847-3567 rhtpr@aol.com

#### Mifflintown - Juniata County

Juniata County Library, 498 Jefferson St, Mifflintown, PA 17059 Closed Wed and Sun. Open Mon, Tue, Thurs 9 am to 5 pm, Fri 2 pm to 7 pm and Sat 9 am to 3 pm.

5 or 10K Rated 2B

Walk box is in the library under a table.

Joyce Krow 717-527-4798 jakrow@centurylink.net

#### State College - Centre County

Arboretum, Boalsburg, Town and Campus

Super 8 Motel, 1663 S Atherton St. State College Dawn to dusk Arboretum Trail Rated 1A, Boalsburg Trail Rated 2B,

Town & Campus Trail Rated 2A

All have 5 or 10K trails.

Ask at reservation desk for walk box.

Pat Eby 717-379-8945 patriciaeby@verizon.net

### KSVA Events

**Appalachian Trail** - Walking across PA - Many options are available. **OSB only.** Marcy Lucas 717-979-3960

Lucas\_mj@hotmail.com

Contact person for other events is Tom Jackson

717-677-6511 thomasjackson@embarqmail.com

#### Biglerville - Michaux State Forest - Piney Ridge Rd

Jan 1 to March 31 **Snowshoe** 5K to 10K Rated 1C  
1287 Shippensburg Rd, Biglerville PA 17307

#### Fayetteville - Michaux State Forest "Smoke Zimmerman"

Jan 1 to March 31 **Snowshoe** 5K to 10K Rated 1C

Rutter's, 6837 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville PA 17222

#### Fayetteville - Pine Grove Furnace State Park - walk and

swim, Rutter's, 6837 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville PA 17222, 5K, 10K or 14K Rated 3C

#### Harper's Ferry WV - Online or physical start point

ATC Visitor Center, 799 Washington St.

5K, 10K, 15K or 20K Rated 3C

#### Waterville - Bike Pine Creek Rail Trail - 10K to 240K. OSB

**Group walks on the AT: Oct 2** Meet at SR225 Peters Mountain Parking Lot Hike #13 going north.

**Nov 6** Meet SR309 PA Game Comm Parking Lot Hike #19 going south. **Dec 4** Meet at Boiling Springs Iron Furnace

Trailhead Hike #19 going South. Times and other info call Marcy at 717-979-3960 or Lucas\_mj@hotmail.com



## PLEASE HELP!

As mentioned in Bill's letter, we will be needing a new president. Marcy is the Vice President, but she lives part of the year in Maine, which wouldn't work if she became president.

The club has been hanging by a thread for many years. We also have not seen the Sales Manager since the pandemic nor have we had a Volunteer Coordinator since Alice got sick. That is why you only see the same five people helping at events and showing up at meetings. We ask you to call but no one does.

Luckily when we asked for folks to help on the day of the big move of our stuff to Pat's garage, we were thrilled that Roy and Sis Clugston and Ed Sandnes answered our call along with our president.

Our meeting sites have changed over the years depending on the president. If you are interested in being the president and Colonial Park Library isn't convenient, the site could easily be changed.

Also the treasurer and secretary and Membership Chair have been the same people for more than 20 years. If you are interested in any of these jobs, talk to Bill. I'm sure that these devoted folks would also enjoy a break from these duties.

Penn Dutch Pacers club just closed down due to a lack of officers. It would be awful if the Rovers had to do the same.

You know the saying - many hands make the load light. I add that it makes it fun too.

Don't forget we also need walkers at our events.

### Ft. Hunter Walk

Thanks for the Ft Hunter walk. It was awesome, beautiful, really great! Even walking by myself it was good. Wish I'd had the camera along because the view of the Rockville Bridge looking south was beautiful. I have a picture of myself, maybe age 2, sitting in our back yard with the bridge in the background. Much later you couldn't see the bridge from our yard because the trees grew too big in neighbors yards. I grew up at 4022 Green St between Houser Lane and Parkway Blvd, between 6<sup>th</sup> St and Front St. - Julie Geyer

## Las Cruces, New Mexico

### The Real New Mexico 3 Cities, 3 States, and 2 Countries

The 2025 AVA Biennial Convention will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The dates, pending availability will be Tuesday, April 29th thru Friday May 2nd. Added to these convention dates will be pre-convention events Saturday thru Monday April 26-28, and post convention events Saturday and Sunday May 3rd and 4th. National Office staff, Convention Committee members, nation-wide volunteers, local volunteers and local visitors bureau representatives are working to provide a great event! We want to see **you** in New Mexico in 2025! Hold these dates and travel dates.

**Registration and more information is coming soon!**

### Atlantic Regional Conference in April

Bill Rhoat attended the conference and enjoyed it. He sent me these pictures from the Dover event.

The Capital Building, a chilly start point with March and Shari, and the river.

Bill didn't have much to say about the conference since he was getting ready for the Mid Atlantic Conference in Kentucky. Maybe more next time.



## Alice Eckardt Memorial Walk September 7, 2024



### Palmyra Memorial Park

Intersection of E. Spruce St and N. Lincoln St,  
Palmyra, PA

Trail is 6K or 10K with a rating of 1A. It involves sidewalks, along streets, and through parks. The 10K route will take you to see more of the town's historical sites than the 6K route. You must be aware of trains and traffic as you walk.

Start between 8 and 12, finish by 4 pm.

AVA Special programs: Par-for-the-Course, Step to the Beat, Walking with America's Veterans.

KSVA program: Lebanon County

There will be **free picnic food** at the finish for your enjoyment. Please bring memories of "Walking with Alice" to share while you eat. We love to hear stories.

Alice was a rare individual. She was inspired by walking and family. She had to get out every day. I think it centered her. Nature was very important to her well being.

She was also adventurous and unafraid to try new things. One year she went off in her van for a month or two. She wanted to camp and walk in national parks in the southwest. I remember that she stopped to visit her daughter in Montana before she came home. Her friends were nervous about her until she came home. This was before cell phones.

She was devoted to Volksmarching and Wildwood Park in Harrisburg. She volunteered at Wildwood Park for many years. She got some of us to leave our homes on cold winter nights to hear experts in all types of environmental topics at Wildwoods Winter Lectures.



She started volksmarching in 1991. She walked in all 50 states, Michigan being her 50th and 51 capitals, Springfield IL was her final capital. That was in August of 2009. The picture above shows her joy with Trish Bowra, Amy Trommer, Sue Wheeler (Pat took the picture) at that last state capital.



She planned many events for the Rovers especially in natural settings. As you can see from the picture above, it didn't matter the weather, although she preferred sunny. She is pictured getting ready to mark the trail with Louise Clouser, Trish Bowra, Amy Trommer and Pat took the picture at Cowans Gap in September of 2009.

Directions to Palmyra Memorial Park: **From Hershey:** take SR 422 East. In Palmyra turn Left onto N Grant St. After crossing a bridge, you will see the park on your left. Turn Left onto E Spruce St and then Left into the parking lot.

**From Lebanon:** take SR 422 West. In Palmyra, turn Right onto N Grant St. After crossing a bridge you will see the park on your left. Turn Left onto E Spruce St and then Left into the parking lot.

Point of Contact Bill Rhoat, [rhtpr@aol.com](mailto:rhtpr@aol.com) or 717-847-3567



## 2024 ATLANTIC REGION CALENDAR of EVENTS

From [ava.org](http://ava.org) as of June 17, 2024

Be sure to check with the [ava](http://ava.org) website or contact number before traveling a great distance to an event.

### July

<b>6</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>York PA Rail Trail</b>	<b>York White Rose Wanderers</b>	<b>717-624-5627</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Camp Hill PA, and Picnic</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b>	<b>717-379-8945</b>
17	NW	Greenbelt MD	Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers	301-431-6668
<b>30</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Harrisburg PA</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b>	<b>717-847-3567</b>

### August

<b>3</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>York PA Rail Trail</b>	<b>York White Rose Wanderers</b>	<b>717-624-5627</b>
3	W	Columbia MD	Columbia Volksmarch Club	410-290-6510
<b>10</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Milton PA</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b>	<b>717-847-3567</b>
17	W	Hagerstown MD	Antietam Pathfinders Volksmarch	240-675-1028
21	NW	Greenbelt MD	Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers	201-431-6668
<b>27</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Harrisburg PA</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b>	<b>717-847-3567</b>

### September

<b>7</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Palmyra PA</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b> <i>(Alice Eckardt Memorial Walk)</i>	<b>717-847-3567</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>York PA Rail Trail</b>	<b>York White Rose Wanderers</b>	<b>717-624-5627</b>
18	NW	Greenbelt MD	Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers	201-431-6668
21	W	Havre de Grace MD	Baltimore Walking Club	717-968-6611
<b>24</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Harrisburg PA</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b>	<b>717-847-3567</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>GW</b>	<b>Collegetown PA</b>	<b>Liberty Bell Wanderers (40 Annv)</b>	<b>610-413-0159</b>
28	W	Curtis Park VA	Fredericksburg Walking Club	845-988-6049
28	W	Frederick MD	Seneca Valley Sugarloafers	301-828-5257

### October

<b>2</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>AT in PA</b>	<b>Keystone State Volksmarch Assn</b>	<b>717-979-3960</b>
5	W	Ft Belvoir VA	Northern VA Volksmarchers	703-303-5543
<b>5</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>York PA Rail Trail</b>	<b>York White Rose Wanderers</b>	<b>717-624-5627</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Ephrata PA</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b>	<b>717-847-3567</b>
18	WBS	Arlington VA	US Freedom Walk Festival	703-209-0174
19	W	Arlington VA	US Freedom Walk Festival	703-209-0174
20	W	Arlington VA	US Freedom Walk Festival	703-209-0174
26	WBS	Rehoboth Beach DE	First State Webfooters	410-802-6106
<b>29</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Harrisburg PA</b>	<b>Susquehanna Rovers</b>	<b>717-847-3567</b>

(M is Meeting; G is a Guided Walk; NW is a Night Walk; GP is a Group Walk; TGW is a Traveling Guided Walk, W is a Walk, S is a Swim, B is a Bike)

**PA events are in bold; Susquehanna Rovers are bold and italicized.**

### Walkers Reaching Milestones.



On the left is Eleanor Garcia receiving her Outstanding Academic Excellence Award 2024 in the Presidents Educational Awards Program.

On the right is Dan Grabenstein at his 90th birthday party. Celebrating with him is his wife Gloria.

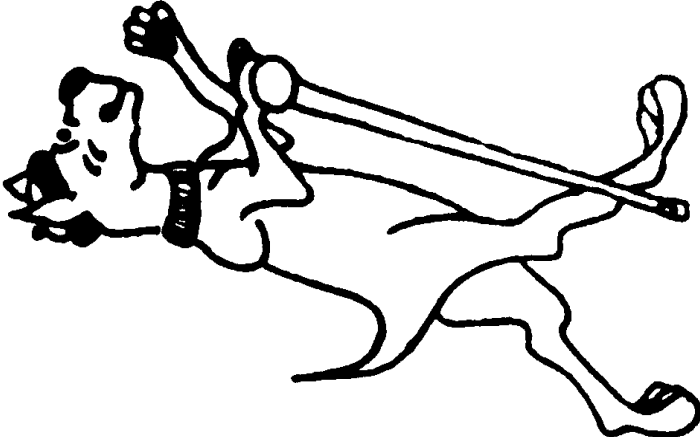
Congratulations to both of them.



Susquehanna Rovers Volksmarch Club  
797A Academy Heights Avenue  
Ephrata PA 17522-6915

**Dated Materials**

**The Rover  
Reporter**



**July - August - September 2024**