

Asheville Amblers

Oct/Nov
2020



Volume 24, Issue 5

ALFLGAKSMONCMDTNTXVA - Asheville Amblers 40 years old

What? That title is the abbreviations for the 10 States who were represented at our event to celebrate the Amblers 40th Birthday. It started at 1pm Friday September 4 when we arrived at the Franklin Comfort Inn (registration place) and had 15 people keeping social distance in the lobby as they waited for us to get set up. By the end of the event we had 50 people out on the trails: Franklin and Tallulah Gorge were event walks and Cherokee and Highlands were available seasonal walks in the area. Most people signed in for all 4 walks. These were serious walkers.

On the social side we had our Birthday party at Fat Buddies. Good food; but great cake! This was surpassed by the 32 Bratwurst Plates served Sunday Midday at the Pavilion in Tallulah Gorges State Park (GA).

We are sorry so many people were unable to attend with Covid-19 lurking. And we look forward to a much simpler pair of walks, the Catawba Walks October 31 and November 1. And even more we look forward to Covid -19 being history.

THANK YOU! To all who helped make our 40th Birthday Event a success.

To Dennis Michele, trailmaster, who kept track of changes in the four walks from January 15 when we reserved the Terrorah Pavilion and checked out the Short Line loop -- to Sept 4 when we reached someone in Highlands who was able to tell us the boardwalk, which we were repeatedly told was 'certain to be approved long before Labor Day', had not been permitted.

To Robert Wolf (a Swain County friend of the Amblers) for cleaning out the stairway up to the Cherokee Auditorium.

To Jon Whiteside and Marie and Harold Weber who prewalked selected walks to see if the directions were clear and accurate.

To Jack and Ann Blake and JJ who were able to steer us to accommodations and restaurants in Franklin where we might stay and where we might have our 'birthday party.' And they kept us informed of the myriad changes in the restaurant availability as the Pandemic restrictions changed. And ordered and picked up the delicious Birthday Cake.

To the Blakes, JJ, Jon and Suzie Whiteside, Sue and Don Colbath and Sherry and John Boyer who cleaned the Pavilion, grilled the Brats, filled the plates, gave drinks and greeted the 32 hungry and thirsty walkers Sunday at the Pavilion.

To the manager of the Franklin Comfort Inn who kept the rates for walkers unchanged from first negotiated in Feb until the day the walks started. And who allowed us to take over a section of the hotel lounge from Friday noon until Monday noon.

To the Tallulah State Park who kept our January negotiated terms of the use of the

Terrorah Pavilion through all the GA changes/restrictions. And they even made sure our people could get to the pavilion when the Park was full and the gates closed.

And a special Thank You to Marrieta and Gary Pritchard, who are AVA walkers from Alabama - not Amblers - who gave Dennis and I a 2 hour lunch break at the registration/information/check out table on Saturday. Judy Michele

President's Corner Jon Whiteside

This is the time of year when all our year-round events (YRE) are sanctioned/approved for next year. It's a process we go through each year, reviewing and updating the event information which will ultimately be published on-line and in the 2021 Start Point book.

If you read the recent minutes from our last Board of Directors meeting, you saw that we were opting not to renew our Travelers Rest and Greenville SC events. These events have been a point of contention between our club and the Upstate Pathfinders (located in Greenville). They felt it was inappropriate for an out-of-state club to host events/YRE in their hometown area, one of them being on their main street.

The Board was faced with a tough decision. We clearly understood the Upstate Pathfinders position, while at the same time knowing that the Ambler Greenville walk has always been a very popular walk with our members. The Travelers Rest Bike event decision was a little easier as we not had great success promoting that in recent years. In the end, in the interest of good relations with our nearest neighboring club and for regional harmony, our decision was to let these two events go. We hope that the Upstate Pathfinders will be able to take the Travelers Rest Bike event and turn it into a successful event that all can enjoy. As for Greenville, the Upstate Pathfinders have two walks, one of which was quite similar to ours and goes down Main Street, so you can still go down and enjoy a city walk.

I understand that some of you will be disappointed by this. I know I'll miss that annual outing too. Still, I believe the board made the decision that was in the best interest of both clubs. And who knows, maybe in the next year or two we will convert a seasonal walk to a YRE or develop a whole new YRE to fill this opening in our schedule. WNC has lots of beautiful places yet to be tapped.

**Asheville
Amblers
Walking
Club**

The Asheville Amblers Walking Club exists to provide people of average athletic ability opportunities for leisurely, non-competitive walks in scenic and historic areas.

President

Jon Whiteside

Vice-President

Don Colbath

Treasurer

Sue Colbath

POC Coordinator

Suzie Whiteside

Traditional Events

Coordinator

Judy Michele

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Newsltr Editor

Malory Presley

Editor-At-Large

Gerri Gurbuz

Facebook Page

Cathy Crosby

Circulation

Sherry and John Boyer

Trail Master

Dennis Michele

828-628-4343

Dues are \$10/yr. for single and \$15 for couple or family. These dues are good until Jan 1 of the following year.

**The Asheville
Amblers**

**PO Box 18957
Asheville, NC 28814**

**Like us on facebook
ashevilleamblers.com**

Welcome

A big Ambler Welcome goes to:

**AnneMarie & Nigel Bowmer
Mark & Marcella Leshner
Janet Arnold**

We're glad you're here!

Happy Ambling

**Kathy Cockrell 75 events
Robert Cooper 750 and 800
Events and 5500 KM
Allen Michele 450 events**

An Ambler Thank You

To Flo Byron who has for more years than I can remember helped us with distribution of the bimonthly newsletter. Someone even told me (although they might have exaggerated a tad) that when Flo started, they were still using 2 cent stamps. Our newsletter is critical for keeping everyone informed of what we have been doing and what events are coming up, especially now that we can't hold our monthly meetings. The Amblers would cease to function without volunteers like Flo. Thank you again Flo for doing this for so long.

Ambler Announcements

Due to the Covid -19 situation as well as restaurant restrictions. The Amblers will not have any monthly meetings for the remainder of the year.

Also, we will not have our Christmas lunch following our Hendersonville walk on Dec 12 2020.

Amblers Upcoming Events

	<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>WALK LEADERS</u>
10/3/20	Waynesville	10:00AM	Robert Cooper
10/10—10/12	Hilton Head Weekend HH, Bluffton, Beaufort SC		Craig/Deb Beam
10/31—11/1	Lk James/Catawba Falls Traditional		Judy Michelle
11/14	Columbia	1:00PM	Robert Cooper
11/27	Blk Mountain Blk Friday	1:00PM	Holly Reiling
12/12	Hendersonville (No Holiday Lunch)	10:00AM	Perry Rawson

Promised Color on the Old Waynesville Route

The weather forecasters say that with the wet and cool weather we have been having, Fall color should be early and way above average. That means when we walk in Waynesville on October 3, we should have a real treat!

We will assemble at the corner nearest Mast General Store, 63, N. Main St., Waynesville 29896, 828-452-2101. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., with step-off at 10:00 a.m.

Walkers may choose either a 5k or 10k route. Rated 3A, this walk is almost entirely on pavement, but has some significant hills. Tennis shoes are fine. A walking stick for pavement use might help some. As always, please bring water and a protein snack

The route will experience a cemetery walk with the best color vistas of the day. It will include downtown (with no festival crowds, for a change) and Frog Level. The 10k route includes some charming neighborhoods.



Fall for Fall in Columbia SC

November 14th, the Asheville Amblers will walk in Columbia at 1:00 p.m. (Register at 12:30 a.m.) Rated 2A (2=Some moderate hills and stair climbing; A=Almost entirely on pavement), you will have 5k and 10k options. This walk is suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. Sneakers will be fine, but as always, we recommend carrying drinking water and a protein snack. You probably won't feel like you need a walking stick.

As always, practice the 3 W's. Bring exact change for credit payment and any other purchases. Let's keep up safe practices so we can keep enjoying walking together.

From I-26, take I-126 (downtown Columbia) to exit for Huger. Take Huger to Gervais. Left on Gervais to Lincoln. Right less than one block on Lincoln to the entrance to the Hampton Inn parking lot. Registration is in the lobby. Plan to join us.



Ghosts, Goblins and Fall Foliage

Come and enjoy Halloween in the beautiful uplands of Lake James and Catawba Falls. The days will be warm, the nights cool and the air crisp. Be surrounded by splendid autumn colors as the trees are decked out in vivid reds, oranges and yellow interspaced with the permanent greens of the pines. See waterfalls, swift flowing rivers and one of the largest lakes in our area. See Fall as it can only be enjoyed in our region.

When and where can you find these wonderful things? Well, we invite you to join us for our two Catawba Walks October 31-November 1 where you can experience all of this. The Lake James/Catawba River Walk (10 KM rated 3B and 5 KM 2B) features shaded wooded trails to and along the clear waters of Lake James/Catawba River. A guided walk is available at 9:30 Oct 31 starting at registration point. The walk is also available both days on your own.

Catawba Falls (6 and 10 KM rated 2C) takes you along the head waters of the Catawba River with spectacular cascades to Lower Falls (50 foot drop) and Upper Falls (100 foot drop). You will view remnants of an old dam and building built by the early settlers. An optional guided walk is available Sunday Nov 1 at 10 AM but the walk is available both days on your own.

Save the dates now. We will be sending you a brochure with more details. For more information, contact the POC at jumianc@aol.com. We promise to keep the ghosts and goblins under control so you can fully enjoy



Spend Black Friday in Black Mountain

Nestled deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains, 15 miles East of Asheville, NC, walk through the quaint and picturesque town of Black Mountain called the "front porch of Western North Carolina" with its specialty shops and great dining. It has been ranked "*One of the 50 Safest Towns in North Carolina*" as well as the "*Best Small Town in Western North Carolina.*" Boasting spectacular mountain views, it was recently voted by Trip Advisor as one of the "Prettiest Small Towns in America to Vacation." Formerly home to renowned Black Mountain College, Black Mountain is nationally recognized for arts, crafts, furniture, and music. It is currently home to over 200 businesses, including restaurants, bed and breakfasts, specialty shops, and four breweries.

Stroll through Black Mountain's attractive Town Square, with beautiful landscaping and oversized rocking chairs, as well as numerous gift shops, galleries, antique stores, ice cream parlors, and craft stores. There is also an authentic old fashioned general store – Town Hardware, Art Center, Valley Museum, and restored train depot selling arts & crafts. Meander along a serene greenway and around Lake Tomahawk. Visit the "Oaks" mansion repurposed for use by Montreat College. The start point itself is a shopping jewel.

The best thing to do in Black Mountain is to lean back in one of the many rockers that line the streets of "the Little Town that Rocks," take in the scenery, and breathe in magical, rejuvenating mountain air.

Credit Walker or Free Walker - That is the Question?

Most newcomers to the Amblers have the same question – what is the difference between a credit walker and a free walker. Hopefully we can clear this up for you.

Credit Walker – Have you seen those walkers standing in line to “stamp their books”? What exactly are they doing? They are receiving ‘credit’ from the AVA for the walks they do. They can receive credit for number of walks and/or number of kilometers they walked. When certain milestones are reached, the books are sent to the AVA and, in return, the walker receives a reward – usually a pin and patch. Walkers like to receive credit. It motivates and encourages them. It also supports the Amblers and the AVA. Credit walkers pay \$3.00 per walk to participate. Credit walkers come from other clubs across the country, not just from our club.

It costs the Amblers almost a \$1000.00 per year to host and maintain all our walks, so credit walkers help contribute to that cost.

Free Walker – As the name implies, the free walker doesn’t pay for their walk. Some walkers don’t want to keep up with tracking their walks. They just want to enjoy the walk. Many free walkers are visitors, newcomers, spouses or friends of credit walkers.

Not all clubs allow free walkers, but the Amblers welcome free walkers. We want to encourage everyone to come out for a walk to exercise for health and fitness. And we hope that you enjoy the socialization and the opportunity to make new friends.

Of course, if a free walker would like to make a donation at a walk, we will gladly accept it and appreciate the gift.

Important Notice from the Triangle Trailblazers

I’ve got some good news and some bad news about which walks are currently available. Thanks to Jan Weeks for checking with the individual start points.

Cary Bond Park: Taylor Family YMCA is only open to members, but they’ll give you the start box if you ask at front door.

Cary Prestonwood: Taylor Family YMCA is only open to members, but they’ll give you the start box if you ask at front door.

Chapel Hill: The walk is available. But it’s not recommended now because it goes through UNC-Chapel Hill’s campus. Call Carolina Coffee Shop for their hours.

Durham Duke Gardens: Walk is suspended because Duke University is closed to visitors.

Durham Historic: Start point is closed but we have the walk box. Contact Jan Weeks at jansanwee@gmail.com if you want to do the walk.

Hillsborough: Weaver Street Market has modified hours so call before you go.

Kerr Lake: Walk is closed.

Raleigh Lake Johnson: Walk is closed due to an ongoing road project. The walk will reopen in April.

Raleigh N.C. Museum of Art: Start point at Whole Foods is open but on reduced hours. Call before you go.

Raleigh Oakwood: Start point has reopened but is closed on Mondays.

Raleigh Wolfpack: Walk is available but it’s not recommended because it goes through N.C. State’s campus. Start point is closed on Mondays.

Raleigh Umstead Park: Visitor center has reopened. But park is limiting number of visitors so drivers may be turned away.

Wilson: Start point is open

In addition, our next club walk is scheduled for Oct. 24. It was originally going to be part of a multi-club event that weekend, but that’s been canceled due to COVID-19. We are currently considering doing the Museum of Art walk or the Wolfpack walk that day. If you have a preference, let me know.

Thank you for your continued support of the Triangle Trailblazers.

Other Events in the Carolinas & Tennessee

For current walk status for other clubs in the region please check with the clubs listed below.

For More Information:

Metrolina Walkers
704-564-1013
Mail@metwalk.freeservers.com

Triangle Trailblazers
919-610-1710
tkhui@rushpost.com

Winston Wanderers
276-403-0608 or
treb03@gmail.com

Rowan Roamers
704-857-9657
larrybrown@hotmail.com

Upstate Pathfinders
864-505-5051
www.upstatepathfinders.com

Editor’s Note:

Club/Group Walks are usually held at YRE locations and are open to all.

For directions call or e-mail the club contact person or see your *From The Mountains To The Sea* guide.



Interested in joining the Asheville Amblers?

Just go to the home page at our website:

<https://www.ashevilleamblers.com>

There you will find a link to our membership form.

Print it out and mail it in with your check or bring it to one of our meetings or walks and turn it in.

That's all there is to it. See you soon!



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