

Asheville Amblers

October/November
2017



Volume 21, Issue 5

Cobblestoned in Charleston

Our annual Charleston visit is just down the road. We're scheduled for September 29 to October 1 for this annual fall excursion.

We've made arrangements to stay at the Clarion Inn, 310 Johnnie Dobbs Blvd, Mt Pleasant (just across the bridge from Charleston) for \$116 plus tax. We have 10 rooms reserved under Bob Crosby's name confirmation #545058066. To make your reservation under this, call the Clarion at 623-432-0769. Be sure to tell them you want a room under Bob Crosby and the above confirmation number. There is a 24 hour cancellation policy. Hot breakfast is included.

Plans are as follows:

Friday Sep 29 - travel day with informal meeting for supper

Saturday Sep 30 - 8:30 AM registration at Start Point and 9 AM step off on the Historic Charleston Walk.

2 PM do the Ravenel Bridge or spend the whole day in Charleston

6:30 PM meet together for supper at a selected restaurant (we have many to choose and we can decide that Friday or Saturday which one)

Sunday Oct 1 - check out in time to meet and register for the Magnolia Plantation Walk at 10 AM.

After walk, return home

The registration for both Historic Charleston and Ravenel is Hampton Inn-Historic Charleston, 345 Meeting Street. Parking in the Visitor's Center lot across John St from hotel is recommended. Parking garage also available on other side of Visitor Center from hotel.

Registration for Magnolia Plantation is Snack Shop just inside the entrance to the plantation house.

Charleston is a stroll on sidewalks, cobblestones and stone paths. You'll walk through the Historic District, White Point Gardens, the Market area with its myriad of vendors and through the College of Charleston. You can, if desired easily spend a whole day on this one. There are 5/10 KM options, both rated 1A. There is an "A" award for this walk.

Ravenel is a stroll on sidewalks and across the bridge on a dedicated walkway. You'll see spectacular views of Charleston and the waterfront, Mount Pleasant, the ships at Patriots Point - and view the bridge from a park under the bridge. There are 6/12 KM options (6 KM goes to middle of bridge), both rated 2A.

Magnolia is a tour of a 50 acre garden with over 900 camellias and 250 azaleas plus hundreds of other flowering species blooming year round. It also includes a walk through Audubon Swamp Garden where you'll see a typical black water cypress and tupelo swamp complete with gators. See large groups of shore birds along the banks of the Ashley River. Cost to get in is \$20 but we are working on a coupon.

For more information and to let us know you're coming, notify Dennis at dmichblue@aol.com or 828-628-4343

President's Corner

We sure have had some well attended walks of late. Thank you for your faithful participation in club activities and for your word-of-mouth publicity, inviting people to walk with us.

In a recent meeting with our Regional Director, the conversation turned to clubs having not only lots of members, but also lots of core members. One of the strengths of the Amblers is that we have a good number of core members, and we are constantly welcoming more into that core. Our ability to continue to offer top-notch club activities depends on expanding that core.

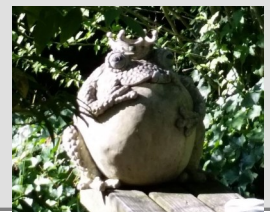
Talk to me if you want to be more involved. It may interest you to know that one of the club officers recently offered to be even more involved. Now, that's a strong club!!

There are a lot of activities this Fall. We have our annual walk at Waynesville during the Apple Festival (with a different start point just for the day, and some different directions to try out). We have our day trip to Columbia with our traditional Dutch treat lunch at 5 Guys.

We have an Adventure Weekend (see the article on selecting where we will go). And (can it be already?) we have our Black Friday #optoutside event: the Black Mountain City walk.

I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

#getupandwalk
Robert Cooper—President



Asheville Amblers

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

Robert Cooper
828-627-9834

Vice-President

Terry Reiling

Secretary

Nicole Shumate

Treasurer

Malory Presley

POC Coordinator

Suzie Whiteside

Traditional Events

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Cathy Crosby

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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

85 Tunnel Rd. Ste.

12A-262

Asheville, NC 28805

Welcome New Amblers

A big Ambler Welcome goes to:

**John Sales, China Barnes,
Connie Clark, Roger Gage**

We're glad to have you!

Pictures: Perry Rawson,
Robert Cooper, Malory
Presley, Mary Lou Joyce

Congrats!

Ambler Achievements

EVENTS

Gerri Gurbuz 10, Pat Limeri 10, William Asman 30, Lorraine Asman 30, Mary Joyce 30, Suzie Whiteside 125, Jon Whiteside 175, Robert Cooper 200, Debbie Beam 400, Ralph Barnes 1350, Sandra Barnes 1350.

KILOMETERS

Robert Cooper 1500, Debbie Beam 3500

Car Pool Information

When car pooling—the cost per person will depend on price of gas at the time of the trip. Please use the following guide lines:

\$2.01 -\$2.50 per gallon the cost **\$1.00 per 30 miles**

Interested in car pooling or Driving a Car pool?? Contact Malory at mpresley72@hotmail.com

High Country Recap

Four Walks, Four Days, Four Counties - Newland/Avery County, West Jefferson/Ashe County, Doughton Park/Allegheny County and Lenoir/Caldwell County. Walkers from 8 States (NC, CO, VA, AL, GA, WI, IN, FL) completed 196 walks!

Thank You to the Meet/Greet committee, Teresa Buckner, Joretta Corpening and Sue Bauman for a scrumptious evening (and leftover snacks every day). Thanks to Suzie Whiteside's Asheville Ambler Popcorn and Perry Rawson's cookies for keeping hiker's energy up. Thank You to the Reilings for arranging the supper and cake, Thank You to Jon and Suzie Whiteside for manning the Registration- Information- Finish Point all four days with Dennis and I. And a special Thank You to the folks who dropped in on us frequently to keep us sane.

Amblers Upcoming Events

	<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>Publicity and Reg. Volunteers</u>
Thru 12/31/17	Seasonal Events: Dupont Forest (2 Walks)		Dennis & Judy Michele
9/29-10/1	Charleston (3 walks) See Article		Bob & Cathy Crosby
10/21/17	Waynesville (Apple Festival)		Robert Cooper
11/4/17	Columbia (5 Guys Lunch—Dutch)		Robert Cooper
11/18-19	Adventure Weekend (TBD)		Judy Michele
11/24/17	Black Friday Blk Mountain City		Terry & Holly Reiling
12/2/17	Greenville Christmas Walk /Lunch		Perry Rawson/Terry & Holly Reiling

ADVENTURE WEEKEND—SUGGESTION DEADLINE OCTOBER 2

What is Adventure Weekend? A Sat/Sun trip which includes 2 AVA walks not sanctioned by the Ambler. It may also have places of interest not on the walks and maybe a suggested Sat night supper restaurant and a moderately priced hotel for that night. Carpooling is encouraged, but no one 'must' do everything on the schedule.

Where are we going for 2017? You decide. Look at the other walks in your Mtn to Sea booklet, look at the SC, GA, TN and even VA walks at AVA.org. Maybe you heard about a walk you wanted to do; find another nearby and develop the itinerary. Submit your idea* to jumianc@aol.com no later than 8pm Oct 2.

On Oct 3, I will send out an email with all the ideas and you have until midnight Oct 9 to vote. Give me your first choice and your second choice (but only vote for trips you will attend). All first choice votes get 5 points and all second choice votes get 3 points. It is possible a trip with more second choices will beat the most popular first choice. We want to please. The winner will be announced at the October 10 Ambler meeting - and also sent out via email Oct 11.

Important. If your idea wins, you get to put out informational email(s) to all the members (via dmich-blue@aol.com) with all the specifics, find out who is coming and make sure they all have directions to the walks, activities, supper, hotel - whatever you suggested. Participants do make their own hotel reservations.

* Your idea submission must include:

Specific walks and start times. What will we see/learn there.

Any suggested activities, restaurants, hotels

Mileage and travel time starting in Asheville and for each leg of the trip. Use MapQuest or Google Maps or similar. Keep in mind that most people really don't want to spend all non walk time driving.



Questions et al? Ask Judy jumianc@aol.com or 828-628-4343

WAYNESVILLE WALK—APPLE FESTIVAL BECKONS

One of the highlights of the Asheville Ambler year is walking the town of Waynesville during the annual Apple Festival, which coincides with peak leaf colors.

This year's walk will be October 21. It will feature a new Start Point. We have permission to park in the lot of Mariner Finance, 472 N. Main Street, Waynesville NC 28786. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m., with step-off at 10:00 a.m. As always, the public is invited.

Also new this year, we will be walking a slightly modified route in the direction backwards to the direction we have walked in recent years. This makes the uphill climbs significantly gentler, plus it gives a different perspective on the Points of Interest along the route.

Be sure and leave time at the end of the walk to return to the Apple Festival to make purchases. Also many Amblers enjoy eating together following this walk each year.

The Waynesville walk is rated 3A (some significant hills, almost entirely on pavement). There are 5k and 10k options. Tennis shoes are fine, but you may want a walking stick on some of the downhill portions. As always, we encourage walkers to bring water and a protein snack.

How to Get There: Take I-40 Exit 27 (Waynesville, Hwy 19, 23, 74) to Exit 102. Turn right on Hwy 276 (South) (Russ Ave. becomes Walnut St). Continue to "T". Left down hill to Mariner Finance on right. (Note that last direction is different from what is in Start Point and in From the Mountains to the Sea.)

2017 Eclipse Walkers



Greenville Christmas Walk and Holiday Party

The Amblers Annual Christmas Lunch is just around the corner. Get ready for a delicious Christmas Lunch, just the meal to top off a hearty walk with our Ambler friends. Our lunch will be in charming & historic Greenville, SC. The restaurant - Smoke on the Water - is easy to find, just a 1 minute stroll from the Westin Hotel, the start location of our walk.

Not joining us for the walk? Welcome to come for lunch! We plan to gather about 12:30 at Smoke on the Water. Join us for holiday cheer, laughter & friendship, alongside a tasty meal. Directions to the restaurant and lunch info follow walk details.

Walk Details: There has been lots of construction along the walking route (and still is); the current (and third) revision to the route includes all those great features of our walk: enjoying the Reedy River Falls and park, strolling along the Reedy River, crossing that award winning bridge across the Reedy, walking through Cleveland Park, listening to the lions roar and monkeys chatter as you pass the zoo, viewing the memorial to Major Rudolf - the only combat loss in the Cuban Missile Crisis - and last but not least, finding the 9 mice (mouse 10 has been retired due to construction). As an added treat, you'll get a full view of the changes to the river walk. A great walk in a bountiful vibrant city!

We'll meet at the Starting Point - Joel's Java Coffee Shop, Westin Hotel, 120 S. Main St) at 9:30 AM for step off at 10. The walk is rated 2A but the only serious hill has been deleted by the revision; the walk is completely on paved surfaces.

Arguably the best barbeque in Greenville, Smoke on the Water is a favorite of locals and a must-experience for out-of-town visitors. Anchoring Greenville's West End at the corner of Augusta and Main Streets, it's a short walk from downtown's center.

Wait, wait – it gets better. The Amblers will contribute \$10 toward each member's meal. Yes, come enjoy Ambler holiday cheer at a bargain price.

Walking directions from Westin Hotel to Smoke on the Water:
Turn right with back to the hotel. Walk west along Main Street, crossing over the bridge. Just a couple blocks more & on the left is Smoke on the Water.

Terry Reiling will take Christmas Lunch reservations, and you may email him at tereiling@yahoo.com.
(SUBJECT: AMBLERS' 2 Dec Christmas Lunch)

RSVP with Terry on or before 25 Nov 2017

Smoke On the Water
1 Augusta St 202
Greenville SC
(864) 232-9091

<http://www.saucytavern.com/kitchen.html>

Eclipse Stories of the Road Warriors

Email jumianc@aol.com to vote

Delores Mlotkowski—Yesterday was so awesome and I never would have even considered going if it weren't for our club. In retrospect, it was well worth the 10 hours it took us to get home. Yes, we got home after midnight. We tried a few alternate routes but they were all backed up, traffic didn't thin until after Old Fort. The smartest thing we did was to stop at the first Dairy Queen on I-40. The other one closer to Black Mountain was definitely closed by the time we got there. But we made it home alive and well though tired. Our sojourn home along with the interesting commentary from our GPS is definitely a tale worth retelling. (we laughed so hard at times it brought tears to our eyes and I thought we would run off the road).

Judy Michele—We returned to the mini-van with smiles - all 7 of us. The Library had been a great location with easy parking, greenway walk access, library (bathroom) access, shady spots for a picnic with great views of the eclipse just steps away. And we had seen the perfect Corona.

We proceeded on Hwy 441 with traffic moving well. Every intersection had lines of cars coming to join us; it was like watching ants evacuating their hills. Traffic slowed then it stopped; it stayed stopped.

The empty left lane beckoned and we found ourselves on the way to Cherokee. Crossing Hwy 23 turnoff, we saw the situation. Hwy 23 gridlock, Hwy 441 south gridlock. We were moving quickly - in the wrong direction. We passed through Cherokee and headed for the Parkway. Heavy traffic on the Parkway spells trouble! But there was virtually no one on the Parkway!!! The scenery was magnificent. We were happy when Dennis stopped at a pullover to get out and unwind. The van wasn't meant for 7 adults. We were almost to Graveyard Fields when the gas light came on. Dennis let the car coast down 276 to Brevard (wrong way again) and a gas station. Whew!

We soon realized we would not make it to our planned supper place before closing. Airport Rd Olive Garden to the rescue. Another unwinding. From there to I-40 to Hwy 74A and home. The consensus as we sipped a glass of wine - happy we went. It was awesome.

Jan and Derrick Weeks— For our eclipse experience we wanted to go someplace new! And we chose Kansas City, MO, or more specifically, St Joseph, MO.

We had a couple of wonderful days playing tourist and getting to know the area, but then the clouds started rolling in. There were threats of thunderstorms everywhere. We were prepared to drive in any direction to stay away from the storms, so on Sunday night I started picking out towns that were in the path of totality, and Derrik started checking the forecast on various websites.

We got up at 5:00 on Monday, did a final check of the weather, and headed towards Illinois. After four hours we crossed the Mississippi and then headed south towards Chester, IL. We parked under the welcome shade of a big maple tree, and luckily the clouds kept their distance. Little did we know that we had chosen to view the eclipse in the town that was the birthplace of Popeye! So, surrounded by statues of Popeye, Wimpy and Bluto, we experienced the otherworldly event.

When we finally left, we thought we'd take some back roads to avoid St Louis. But because of the crowds and various accidents we couldn't even get to the back roads! So we got on I-70 and started the long trip back to KC. Traffic finally let up around Columbia, MO, and we arrived back at our hotel at 9:00. Eleven hours of driving for 2 ½ minutes of eclipse!

But it was so worth it!

Suzie and John Whiteside

It only took us an 1 1/2 hours to get to the Macon County Library, but 8 hours to arrive home. We left the library about 3:30pm. It took us 2 1/2 hours to reach Dillsboro (which is normally a 30 minute drive). We were tired, frustrated, and hungry, so we decided to turn off to find a resting place around 6pm. We stumbled on the Sneak E Squirrel Brewery and Tap Room. We wandered in and grabbed a table. The kitchen was running behind on their orders so we ordered some cool drinks and watched the staff going crazy. They hadn't expected to be so busy and they were running out of food. We did get some fries, and later, a most delicious brownie. Jon would periodically check the road in front of the building, see that nothing was moving and come back to order another beer. Even though the restaurant eventually ran out of food, they never ran out of beer! Finally, about 9:00pm, the road cleared and we headed back to US-74 to head home. Our excitement was short lived. About 10 minutes later, the traffic slowed, and we crawled along. The traffic finally broke when we reached I-40.

We finally arrived home (North Asheville) at 11:30. But you know, we would do it all over again! And we'd go back to the Sneak E Squirrel again.

It was a day that eclipsed all others!!

Four Counties, Four Clubs, Four Walks October 6-8, 2017

The Metrolina Walkers, Rowan Roamers, Triangle Trailblazers and Winston Wanderers of North Carolina invite you to walk in Granville, Halifax, Person and Warren counties, located along the North Carolina and Virginia border, over the weekend of October 6 through 8. The central start point will be at a Red Roof Plus in Henderson, NC (200 Simmons St – 252-438-6300). Special rates are available, just mention the Tarheel State Walkers. The Special Rate is available until September 29, so be sure to grab it! Registration, maps and driving directions will be available starting Friday evening and then again both Saturday and Sunday mornings as the walks can be done at any time during the weekend. Guided walks for each location are being planned for those who wish to walk with a group, as well as Saturday dinner at a local restaurant (select from the menu). Carpooling could be arranged for those interested.

Registration and guided/group walks are scheduled as follows:

Friday Registration at Red Roof from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday Registration at Red Roof from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

30 minute drive from Henderson to Warrenton for a 9:30 group start.

30 minute drive from Warrenton to Medoc Mountain for a 2:00 group start

Another hour drive back to Henderson for a 6:30 supper at Mayflower Seafood. Please RSVP by first of October.

Sunday checkout and registration at Red Roof from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

30 minute drive to Oxford for a 9:30 group start.

45 minutes for drive to Roxboro for a 2:00 group start

Then Safe trips home for everyone!

Come walk the historic (the city's history dates to 1761) town of Oxford, county seat of Granville County. The 1A rated walk, with 5K and 11K options, takes you through the historic downtown, along tree shaded streets in neighborhoods with beautifully preserved Victorian, Federal, Greek and Neo-Classical style homes and buildings. It is stroller and wheelchair accessible.

Located in Halifax County, Medoc Mountain State Park is cloaked in a forest of green, its trees masking the peak. There are no scenic panoramas, no distant views of a majestic pinnacle rising to the sky (the highest point is only 325 feet above sea level). Instead, the park has a more intimate beauty, and is meant to be explored and appreciated up close. Winding along creeks, ridges, and through the forests, the trails are the best way to appreciate the beauty and diversity of Medoc Mountain. Trails wander through a variety of terrain, past an artesian well, granite outcroppings and miniature rapids along Little Fishing Creek.

Mayo Lake Park (in Roxboro, Person County) is 120 acres adjacent to Mayo Lake. Named for Major William Mayo, an English engineer and surveyor who was partly responsible for making the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina, Mayo Lake was formed by the Carolina Light and Power Company and is set in a landscape of gently rolling hills and farmlands. Because the shoreline was left undisturbed, the lake is habitat to much of North Carolina's native animals such as the black bear, white-tailed deer, red fox, opossum, skunk, beaver, and bobcat. Hundreds of species of birds can be sighted and heard: grebes, herons, ospreys, hawks and owl are only a few. On the many trails around Mayo Lake, you will find plaques that identify the lake's shoreline flora and learn about the plants and trees that characterize North Carolina's natural landscape. Markers in the water provide additional education about the fish and wildlife in and around the lake. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed.

Named for Dr. Joseph Warren, the patriot and soldier who fell at Bunker Hill, Warrenton was incorporated in 1779. As county seat of Warren County, the town was an early center of education for both men and women and reputedly one of the wealthiest towns in the state from 1840 to 1860. Warrenton benefited from prominent architects Jacob Holt and Albert Gamaliel Jones who designed and built houses in the Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The National Historic District was established in 1976, comprising nearly half the town and over 50 structures. Warrenton is maintaining its storybook character of small town North Carolina. Come Explore! The trail also passes through a beautiful and highly unusual cemetery.

For more information, contact Joan Melville, Metrolina Walkers, 704-568-1501 (melville@bellsouth.net).

Other Events in the Carolinas

10.7 4 County/4 Clubs (see Article to the left)

10.8 Furman Univ 10:30AM UP (Sunday)

10.14 Davidson 9:00AM MW
Cornelius 1:00PM MW

10.15 Camden, SC 10:30AM UP (Sunday)

10.21 Dan Nicholas Pk 10AM RR

10.28 Winston-Salem-Salem Lk 9:00AM WW

11.4 Concord 10:00AM RR

11.4 Cary Bond Pk 9:00AM TT
Prestonwood 1:00PM TT

11.10 Greenville Veteran's Day 10:30AM (Friday) UP

11.11 Paws & Effect Veteran's Day Old Fort 10:00AM UP

11.18 Mt. Airy 10:00AM WW

11.24 Kernersville Triad Pk 1:00PM WW

For More Information:

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

Triangle Trailblazers
919-876-3714 or
farawaytravel@hotmail.com

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

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

Ready, Set, Walk!
252-747-5683
readysetwalk10@gmail.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.

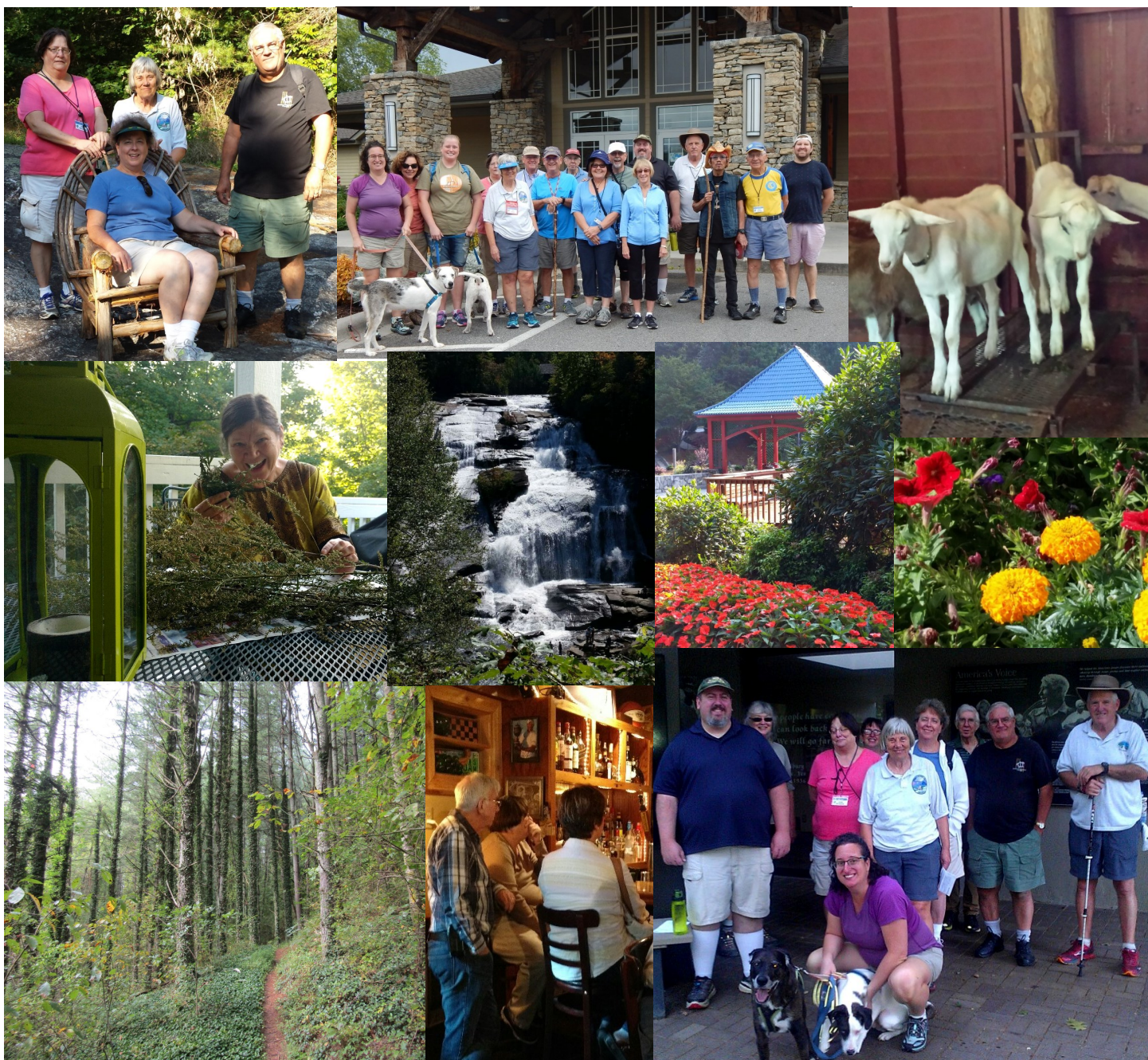
Day Tripping in Columbia—November 4

Walk historic downtown Columbia and stroll along manmade waterfalls in a scenic park. Follow the trail through the USC campus and through a memorial park honoring SC servicemen. See the Governor's Mansion, amble around the State House grounds, and travel the historic section of Columbia. An "A" award is available.

November 4th, 2017, the Asheville Amblers will walk in Columbia at 10:00 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.

From I-26, take I-126 (downtown Columbia) to exit for Huger. Take Huger to Gervais. Left on Gervais to Lincoln. Right one block on Lincoln to the Visitor Center.

There is a 5 Guys restaurant adjacent to the Start/Finish Point. It is an Ambler tradition to eat there following the Columbia walk. Please plan to join us.



**ASHEVILLE AMBLERS MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

Membership Application for 2017

MEMBER NAME (S)

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

ANNUAL DUES (\$15 per yr. family or \$10 singles)

How did you find out about us?

Website ____ **Facebook** ____

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Please make check payable to:

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