

*President: Dee Wojtysiak*  
*Vice President: Steve Koluch*  
*Secretary: Debbie Kruep*  
*Treasurer: Jack McKeon*  
*IT Database Manager, Gary Staley*

*Directors-at-Large*  
*Shirley Martin*  
*Mark Kruep*  
*Mary Monett*

**About our Members**



Our condolences to Gary Staley and family on the passing of his mother, Lucille Stale, 91y, of Collinsville, Ill on September 4th.

**Popeye Volksmarch Sails Into the Sunset**

*(Tom Boyd)*

After 17 years of cruising the streets of Chester, Illinois, the hometown of Popeye creator Elzie Segar, Popeye and his many cartoon friends have called it quits and sailed off into the sunset.

Over the years many walkers have traveled to Chester to attend the Annual Popeye Picnic weekend of festivities, to take part in the volksmarch, watch the parade, taste the great food, enjoy the free entertainment, and, in general, have a very enjoyable day.

From a high of over 200 participants at our walks during the early years our participation has fallen to less than 50 over the past several years. The economy has, unfortunately, been a major contributor factor to the declining attendance. With no improvement in sight it became apparent that it was time to cut our losses and discontinue the annual event.

It is with regret that we end our long relationship with Chester, the Popeye Picnic Committee and all the cartoon characters that have been a part of our events. Our thanks to all the individuals who have joined us over the years and we hope to see you at future Illinois Trekker events.

A special thanks to all the Trekker club members who have worked the Popeye event over the years and made the events a success.

**New Procedures at POSP**

Attendees at the Club's monthly meetings will notice several major changes. First, Cecil has had to retire due to health. We will sincerely miss him. He was a big help to Shirley Renner and a congenial greeter to us all.

Because of this and some other issues, we will have a standard luncheon arrangement of the room. Now we'll have a table to lean on! A custodian may be around, but doing other things besides monitoring the door. If this comes to pass, the door will be locked at 7:00 p.m. People inside will be able to open the door, but once we are all out—it's tomorrow! There will be a phone number late arrivals can call to get someone in.

PSOP has been a good host and hopes to continue to be able to accommodate us.

**National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows**

**YRE Group Walk,**

**August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

*(Jack & Shirley McKeon)*



Shirley McKeon & Betty Boyd at Shrine Start Point

Phyllis Herring was already waiting for the rest of us when we arrived for the walk about 7:45 a.m. It was early, but we were graced with super weather and a pretty good attendance of 22 persons. Betty Boyd and Shirley McKeon had a wonderful visit at the check in/out table. The 'group walk' turned out to be a 'many groups walk' and a good time was had by all

## ***Gingerbread Walk*** (Debbie Kruep)

I am busily working on the very first Gingerbread Cookie Walk. In case you haven't heard this walk will be on Saturday December 13. We will be start at the Bank of Belleville and get reacquainted with downtown. If you would like to collect cookies along the way, I recommend you preregister. Cookies will only be available to walkers with an official cookie bag. My goal is to have 24 merchants, each with a different cookie. This would be a fun event to walk with a group of friends. I hope to have a very festive atmosphere. There are a lot of fun things going on downtown, like free trolley rides, gingerbread creations in the storefronts and maybe even some carolers. The feel should be very old town Christmas. Don't worry if its cold, with lots of participating vendors, there will be plenty of places to stop in and get warm and the checkpoints will have hot chocolate.



Of course as always help is appreciated. I need workers on that day. If you can only work an hour, that would be great. There will be a pre-walk on the day before if you don't want to miss out on your stamp. If you are afraid you will miss out on the cookies, ask someone to carry your bag for you on Saturday!!!! I am also looking for 40 brown paper grocery bags. These will be used to make gingerbread men. Anyone who would like to donate to the cause, please bring them to the October meeting. How about bringing a pair of scissors and cutting gingerbread with me after the meeting? Can't make it to the meeting but

want to help, give me a call. Debbie Kruep 277-0830.

### ***Dee's Trail Notes***

This month has been a busy month walking. I have walked a total of 145 Ks attending 21 events. The walks have been in Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Illinois. Leonard and I attended the Black Hills Black Jack 21 five-day event in South Dakota. The walks were organized by different clubs, each club being responsible for a town's walks/bikes/swims. The last day food and beverages were provided for all of us by the clubs giving everyone time to socialize and talk about the events. Club participation help spread the responsibilities between different people, not relying on the same people to help at all the events. Even with our club events, all members are invited to help. I have seen a few more walkers at the last walks but I am always hoping to see more. Fall is a beautiful time to walk; it is time to call family, friends and neighbors to start walking. Plan to see you on the trail in October.

### ***National Volkssporting Month***

October is National Volkssporting Month. The club did not order any 2008 award patches. When attending an October walking event check with the club if they have the 2008 Volkssport Award patch. The other option is to check with the AVA for the patch.

"Footnotes" is a monthly (except January) publication of the Illinois Trekkers Volkssport Club

#### **FOOTNOTES SUBMISSIONS**

Send articles and/or comments to "Footnotes" via email to [wilburclark@att.net](mailto:wilburclark@att.net)

#### **WEBSITES**

HQ AVA – <http://ava.org/>

Illinois Trekkers –

<http://www.illinois-trekkers.org/events.html>

## **Illinois Trekkers Volkssport Club Meeting Minutes September 4, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 by Dee Wojtysiak

**VISITORS:** none

**NEW MEMBERS:** none

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Debbie Kruep- Minutes are attached to the Footnotes.

**Corrections:** none **Motion:** Betty Boyd; **Second:** Len Wojtysiak

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jack McKeon- Balance as of August 31, 2008 \$3200.37 Motion: Shirley McKeon Se  
Gary Staley

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Len and Dee Wojtysiak attended the Black Jack Weekend in South Dakota. The program was nice. Check out the new year round map on the AVA website.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards and Achievements: Phyllis Herring & Wil Clark: No one has submitted names yet.

X Committee: Steve Kuloch- absent

Services and Properties: Wil Clark - The PSOP building will close at 7:30pm on meeting nights.

We will be locked in.

Publicity: Debbie Kruep - POC's send your event info to Dee or Deb to make it into the Tourism Magazine. The deadline is Sept 15.

Special Activities: Shirley Martin - absent

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Refreshments: Shirley Renner - October is Sue and Packy Botula.

Footnotes: Wil and Carol Clark- Thank you for articles. Keep them coming.

Club Points Manager: Dee Wojtysiak - Points are up to date.

Website News: All 2008 footnotes are updated and brochures are up to date.

Data Base Admin: Gary Staley- Gary is establishing a data base contact list for footnotes and mailing of brochures for non club members with Wil. Also to merge with the current list so the president can send upcoming walk reminders.

REPORT ON YEAR ROUND EVENTS (YREs):

Our Lady of the Snows: Jack & Shirley McKeon - 85 walkers for year.

Richland Creek: Tom and Betty Boyd - 53 walkers for year.

Glen Carbon Walk: Dee Wojtysiak - 55 walkers for year.

Glen Carbon Bike: Gary Staley - 37 bikers

Belleville YMCA Walk/Bike: Packy/Sue Botula - 64 walkers - 21 bikers

REPORT ON UPCOMING WALKS:

(1) Popeye Walk Chester Sept 6<sup>th</sup> - Awards are ready. Everything is set.

(2) Eckert's Walk Sept 20<sup>th</sup> -Ready to go. We will be finalizing the trail.

(3) Mascoutah Chili Walk Oct 18<sup>th</sup> -Award will be a patch not a glass.

(4) Richland Creek Group Walk Nov 1- 7:45 am registration and walk 8:00am

(5) YMCA Group Walk Nov 8- Registration 8-9 am

(4) Our Lady of Snows Shrine Walk- Tues Nov 25, Brochures are ready.

(4) Gingerbread Cookie Walk Dec 13<sup>th</sup>- Brochure is ready and we are sanctioned.

OLD BUSINESS:

(1) Branson trip October. Carol Neff explained the Trip is open to all.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Dues structure changed to \$11 per family, \$8 per single. If you provide email address dues will be reduced to \$6 and \$3 starting the second year.

ATTENDANCE DRAWING: Shirley McKeon

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, Oct 2, 2008 at 7pm

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mary Monet; Second: Shirley McKeon

Meeting adjourned 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Kruep  
Secretary Illinois Trekkers

### October-December Events\

- Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Regular Meeting
- Saturday, October 18th - Mascoutah Fall Festival, Mascoutah, IL
- Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, November 25th - Our Lady of Snows, Belleville, IL
- Friday, December 5 – Annual Christmas Party Meeting,
- Saturday, December 13 - Gingerbread Walk, Belleville, IL

### 2008 YREs

- Belleville “Richland Creek” Greenway  
618-233-6348
- Belleville-YMCA (Walk)  
618-236-9521
- Belleville-YMCA (Bike)  
618-236-9521
- Glen Carbon “Heritage Trail” (Walk)  
618-632-4164
- Glen Carbon “Heritage Trail” (Bike)  
618-344-0225
- National Shrine of Our Lady of the  
618-210-0679

**Trekker Meeting: October 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at PSOP**



**4019 N. Illinois in Swansea**  
(By map add - just 2 blocks south of Frank Scott Pkwy)  
**618-222-9988 & 618-257-8295**  
Hrs: M-F 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-6pm

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**