

# NE Trailblazers set summer program

By Jim Goeltz

The constitution of the Nebraska Trailblazers Volksmarch club specifies that the club will have at least one activity each month. Since a regular monthly club meeting is suspended for the months of July and August, we must come up with a club activity. In the past we have had a club picnic, dined out at a restaurant gone to a local baseball game. At our April meeting club members decided on a slightly different course of action. We chose a Monday night in July to visit Omaha's Old Market and single out one of the Market's older businesses.

We chose Ted and Wally's ice cream parlor. Ted and Wally make their own homemade ice cream and the butter fat content of their ice cream is 18 percent, which is much higher than any

other local competitor. After all, it's the amount of butter fat that makes the best ice cream. Ted and Wally's is not your average ice cream parlor. A fixture in the Old Market for 26 years, the layout and the theme of the store are unique. According to Ted and Wally's web site, it's the antique furniture, vintage signage, and outdoorsy-feel that make a visit there more of an event than just a pit stop. They have added old-fashioned gas pumps and signage littered throughout the store. Coupled with Ted and Wally's homemade product satisfaction is a sure thing. Our club will put Ted and Wally's ice cream to the test.

Our activity for August will be a group walk in Ashland, Nebraska where we have a Year Round event. Following the walk we will venture a few miles east and visit the Strategic Air and Space Museum. This museum was originally situated next to Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska where the displays were outside. A few years ago the museum built a new inside facility near Ashland where all the displays are now out of the weather. Today the museum is a popular spot as it sits adjacent to Interstate-80. A visit to the museum is like a walk through living history.



Tricia Abel with Java and Biscuit.

Tricia Abel is the secretary for the Nebraska Trailblazers Volksmarch club. She can be seen on various trail in Nebraska and Iowa with her two 'boys.' Her boys, of course, are her pet dogs, Java and Biscuit (pictured below). Tricia acquired Biscuit from a rescue shelter in January 2010. Biscuit is a Visla Lab mix and the more docile of the two. Java, on the other hand, is a pure bred Lab and quite the extrovert. Biscuit is content to walk calmly along the trails and enjoy the sites as they come to him.

While Biscuit stays on the trail and

walks by the side of his master, Java wants to roam the countryside and voice his excitement to anyone who will listen. He wanders off the trail from side to side, sniffing each tree and obstacle, desiring to know what

lies ahead and if there are any other Volksmarching dogs out there. This writer has walked on Volksmarches a few times with Tricia and her boys and found that they are very friendly dogs and happy to have an additional walking companion. Neither Biscuit nor Java have their own Volksmarch log book thus they don't earn any points nor medals. However, a nice drink of water and the occasional pat on the head will do them until something better comes along, like the next trail.

Tricia is originally from Toledo, Ohio and joined the U.S. Navy in 1994 for one tour. She was trained as an aviation storekeeper and stationed in exotic places like Hawaii, Guam, Bahrain, and Misawa, Japan. It was in Misawa where she met her future husband, who also served in the Navy. They now live in Bellevue where Tricia is working as a civilian for the Air Force at Offutt AFB. Tricia just recently started Volksmarching in 2013 when a seasoned member introduced her to the club. Her enjoyment of the club and concept led her to accept the position of secretary. As she travels for work and fun she looks for more opportunities to walk and expand her log book. ☺