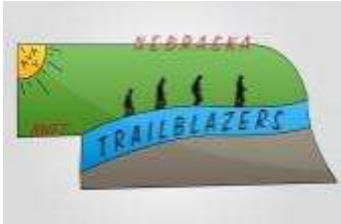


# Footsteps

Volume XVIII Number 5

Fun, Fitness, Friendship

September-October, 2017



## The Prez Sez...

*Moon Shadow, Moon Shadow!* If you are now humming an old Cat Stevens' tune you are of a certain age, but

lived long enough to see one of most fantastic moon-shadows over the sun to cross the U.S. in many lifetimes—and The Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazer (NWFT) pulled off one heck of a four-day party to celebrate the August 21, 2017 Solar Eclipse. Over 150 walkers and swimmers from 21-states and Canada beat the traffic-rush to Grand Island, Nebraska to participate in Friday, Saturday and Sunday activities before the culminating event at the George Clayton Hall County Park and Stuhr Museum. With a gate open for us to slip into the Stuhr property we had more than adequate room to roam-around and see the sun blotted out—an hour after high noon.

Several NWFT dreamers started about two years ago planning walks, blocking out motel rooms, renting park shelters, arranging use of the Edgerton Center, Dark Island Trail, Central City historical sites and the Crane Trust; and marketing our weekend of “fun, fitness and fellowship.” Of course, Volkssporters all know “food” should be a fourth ‘f’ in that AVA motto; and we had food in spades at the Friday night Meet and Greet registration.

So far, I have heard the following words used to describe the eclipse: **super, awesome, phenomenal, mind-boggling, extraordinary, fantastic, marvelous, miraculous, sensational, singular, wondrous** and yes, even

**stellar.** OK, I used a thesaurus for these words while looking to describe the eclipse—and **The Committee** that organized the event.

Sandy Spaulding and Jeanne Miller led a dedicated group of hardworking committee members (Julie Brown, Diana Fenlon, Sheila Goeltz, Jill Champley, and Karen Dix-Johnson), and organized an even bigger group of volunteers, to make this event happen. Ex officio committee members, Jim and Martha McGahan were valuable contact points for everything Central Nebraska. I had planned to list all the volunteers in this paragraph, but knowing I would miss someone, I am just going to say, read the list of eclipse descriptors in bold above and know it means everyone who helped the whole weekend. Also, a big thanks to the Sunflower Sod Stompers Club for organizing swims to coincide with our event. Lastly, without our treasurer and numbers/tech-guy, Butch Spaulding, we could not have had a more organized event sanctioning, tracking and start-finish process.

Thanks again to all who worked or volunteered time on this event, it was truly **stellar.** As one out-of-state couple wrote to the club, “*Please let ‘The Committee’ know how much we enjoyed this weekend... This wonderful weekend has reignited our passion for it (Volkswalking)... you have the people with the skill and energy to organize great walks.*” Enough said! Walk On!

~Lee

Walk to Live, Live to Walk

## Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1
Officer Roster	2
A Note from Jim	2
Meet & Eat Schedule	2
Sandy Speaks	3
Special Walk Info	4
Photos	5-10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	11
Meetings & Dues	12

For the latest on events and news visit our website:  
<http://www.netrailblazers.club/>  
or like us on Facebook



## THANKS to The Committee!

We were in the Grand Island area during the Eclipse and enjoyed the benefits which were provided by our Committee. For over a year our Committee has planned, negotiated, planned some more, and coordinated to set up the Eclipse weekend. We, the other club members, were the beneficiaries of their hard work. Now it is time to give them a salute.

Many thanks to Jeanne Miller, Sandy Spaulding, Diane Fenlon, Sheila Goeltz, Karen Dix-Johnson, Julie Brown, and Jill Champley.

We might also add the name of Butch Spaulding to that group. He lost some sleep as he manned the start point in the Central City walk until 10pm. For over a year the Committee had to coordinate with people in Grand Island, Central City, Aurora, the Stuhr Museum, and some motels. They bought and stored food; solicited gifts for our packets; typed up over a hundred-fifty names for start cards for us; stapled directions together for our walks. Plus a myriad of other administrative tasks, including setting up a swim.

Twice the Committee set up food tables: at the cathedral in Grand Island and at the

park on eclipse day. They had to mark trails and then pick up markers. They had to insure there was enough drinking water for the over 150 volksmarchers on our walks.

Also, we want to recognize the many other club members who offered their services along the way. Too many names to mention but they know who they are. Thanks to them also.

If we forgot some thing or someone, we apologize. But many thanks to all who contributed for a very successful and enjoyable weekend!

*~Jim Goeltz*

<b>Meet &amp; EAT</b>			
<b>2017 Meet &amp; Eats</b>			
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>
September	—	—	No Meet & Eat
October	14	10:00 a.m.	Bennington, lunch at the Warehouse
November	18	TBA	Hanscom Park, lunch at Leavenworth Café
December	—	—	No Meet & Eat



Questions?  
Suggestions?  
Call!!!  
➔

<b>NTB Officers</b>	
<u>President</u> Lee Frantz	<u>Vice President</u> Larry Boehm
<u>Secretary</u> Tricia Abel	<u>Treasurer</u> Butch Spaulding

## A Publication of the Nebraska Trailblazers

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### Sandy Speaks

This will be an unusual article for me. It is filled with appreciation. First for all of you who supported me after the passing of my father. It meant so much to me. Every card and well-wishing message filled me with gratitude.

Second-for all of you who volunteered at the Eclipse events. We pulled off this extreme weekend because of the great volunteers and walkers that we had for each event. Thanks to all. I am humbled by the great group that I am part of.

For those of you who could not make it, here is a little recap. Day one, Friday. As most of you know, we had a great response from across the country with up to 155 walkers from 21-22 states and British Columbia. Because of this, we had to move our meet and greet from the small hotel conference room to a church hall. The food was plentiful and amazing. The tables were beautiful with Diane's talent for making great centerpieces and the food was displayed artfully. There were ham and turkey sliders, pinwheels, chips, veggies and other finger foods. All topped off with homemade cookies. There were also individually wrapped treats including moon pies. Those who had preregistered were able to pick up their registration packets and check out all the great raffle prizes. Because we were close to the downtown area, we included an evening walk in Grand Island, passing many historic sites. It was perfect weather for an evening walk.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear. We headed to Crane Trust for a walk on the prairie. It was warm, but that did not stop the walkers from enjoying the blue skies. The Crane Trust staff were very welcoming. If you haven't been there in a while, there is lots to see just in the center itself. The bison herd is thriving in its prairie habitat. Before the walk was even finished, some were off to either the swim at the YMCA with it's perfect temperature pool or to the Moonlight Ridge Winery to sample some of those yummy wines. We were planning to finish off our day with a star party on the prairie, but the threat of thunderstorms caused a cancellation. We were all tired anyway, so not too disappointed.

Sunday morning came early with a walk in Aurora. This friendly town rolled out the red carpet. Friendly neighbors even offered walkers some free tomatoes from their gardens. Those young at heart enjoyed the Explorit Center after the walk, exploring virtual reality, crashing an airplane or making shadows. Some walkers enjoyed a hamburger and watermelon feed in the park before taking off for Central City and our last walk of the day, the Dark Island Trail. Many came early to purchase concessions from the Future Farmers of America. They had hotdogs, popcorn and cold pop. The first loop took walkers into town to visit Christ Church, a beautiful historic church filled with gorgeous woodwork, and Wright Morris's boyhood home. The second loop was on the Dark Island Trail. The beginning of the trail was a warm walk past the cornfields. At the end of the trail was the Dark Island Trail Bridge, where many enjoyed the sunset over the Platte River. Well worth the walk. For those that delayed their return, they walked along the trail in the dark, using their glow sticks and following the glow stick trail back to the start.

In spite of the gloomy forecast predicting cloudy skies, Monday greeted us with just a few scattered clouds. Our parking attendants did a great job parking everyone. Many arrived early to grab those spots. They took off to enjoy the museum, returning in time to purchase a hotdog from us before the eclipse started. And, for the raffle winners, to collect their prizes. The Eclipse-what can I say. It was phenomenal!! From the little rainbows around the sun, the crescent shaped shadows on the ground and the 360° sunset to the awesome eclipse itself, it was totally what everyone said it would be!

*~Sandy*

## Walk with the "Tots"



Tater Tours is a longtime tour group for Volkswalkers.

On **Monday, September 11**, one of their bus tours is scheduled to bring walkers to do our Omaha Downtown walk.

If you have the time and opportunity to join in, meet at the downtown walk start-point at **10:30 a.m.** Start cards and the stamp **will be at the Gallup campus parking lot**, no need to go to the Comfort Inn for the stamp.

Current plans are for the "Tots" to start walking at 11:00 a.m.; but their director said she thought they would be early as they are driving from Des Moines.

**Directions to start:** Use I-480 and the North Freeway, or go North from I-80 on 13<sup>th</sup> St., to Cuming St. Turn Right on Cuming to Gallup Drive (Cuming becomes Abbott Drive as you pass TD Ameritrade Park and cross the bridge over the RR tracks). Turn right on Gallup Drive and go toward *Aaron Ferer Plaza*. Turn right, the entrance to the parking lot is on your right.

## Important Info About our Plattsmouth Walk September 9, 2017

Several things have come up with the Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> Plattsmouth walk to lead us to cancel having breakfast at the same time.

1. One we will not have tables because the city is moving them from all parks to downtown. All we get is the shelter.
2. Our few NWFT tables and chairs are needed for the start-finish point.
3. Parking is limited at the shelter (in fact all over Plattsmouth that day). **Carpooling is strongly encouraged for this event.**
4. There are a lot of food vendors to support (and our walks will pass) at the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival, such as:  
**7 AM - 10 AM:** Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Feed Fire Station, North 5<sup>th</sup> St. & Ave. A and  
**11 AM - 8 PM:** Plattsmouth Band Parents Food Stand, North 5<sup>th</sup> St. & Main

So, bottom line, no need bring food to the walk on September 9, just come walk.

***We will be stamping books at the start-point since you can walk around the festival before following the walk map back to your cars at the park. This will prevent someone having to sit in the park waiting for hours to stamp books.***

A hint on the directions for Sept. 9 (and all of this will be sent as a reminder the week before the walk). Our directions say to get on Kennedy Freeway south (from I-80) and go about 17 miles to the first traffic light you find. However, there is now a temporary traffic light in the construction south of Offutt, so follow this:

**From Omaha:** Take I-80 to Kennedy Freeway (US-75). Go South on US-75 for approximately 17 miles to Ave. B, **the first stop light after crossing the Platte River** (this corner has the Plattsmouth Hy-Vee gas station on the southwest corner and a Casey's on the northwest corner). Turn left (east) on Ave B to N. 15th St. Turn right (south) on N. 15th St. to 4th Ave. Turn right (west) on 4th Ave. to first park entrance on the left, turn left to the start-point.

Map of Memorial Park

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Memorial+Park,+Plattsmouth,+NE+68048/@41.0041657,-95.9038455,15.57z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x7e5c32beb5cf2597!8m2!3d41.0052232!4d-95.8980538>



# Meet & Greet





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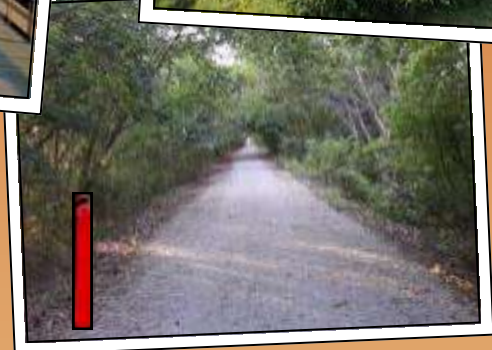


# Aurora





# Dark Island Trail





# Wine Tasting at Moonlight Ridge





A Publication of the Nebraska Trailblazers



08/21/2017

The Diamond Ring Effect taken in the last moments of totality by Larry Boehm

Leaf Patterns



Weather Balloon Launch







## Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events

### September

- 2 Summit Ridge Lookout, Custer SD ..... Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 9 Plattsmouth Harvest Festival Walk, Plattsmouth NE ..... Nebraska Trailblazers
- 9 Holy Terror Days Walk, Keystone SD ..... Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 9-15 Traveling Guided Walks (Minnesota): East Grand Forks (9<sup>th</sup>), Argyle (10<sup>th</sup>),  
Lake Bronson (11<sup>th</sup>), Roseau (12<sup>th</sup>), Williams (14<sup>th</sup>), Waskish (15<sup>th</sup>) ..... NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 11 March to the Arch, St Louis MO ..... Gateway Milers
- 11 Tater Tours Walk, Omaha ..... Tater Tours
- 16 Fall Foliage Stroll, Canton SD ..... Prairie Wanderers Volkssport
- 16 American Heart Walk, Rapid City SD ..... Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 16 Historic Hastings Walk, Hastings MN ..... Twin Cities Volkssport
- 23 Outdoor Expo Walk, Des Moines IA ..... Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn
- 23 Polk County Walk, Bolivar MO ..... Dogwood Trailblazers
- 23 Cedar County Walk, Stockton MO ..... Dogwood Trailblazers
- 30 Outlaw Ranch Volksmarch, Custer SD ..... Black Hills Volkssport Assn
- 30 Augusta Lake Stroll, Augusta KS ..... Pace Setters Volkssport Club
- 30 Rendezvous on the Prairie, Fredonia KS ..... Sunflower Sod Stompers

### October

- 1 Rendezvous on the Prairie, Winfield KS ..... Sunflower Sod Stompers
- 7 Bones Walk, Omaha NE ..... Nebraska Trailblazers
- 7 Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri ..... Rolla Roadrunners Volkssport Club
- 7 TCV Annual Meeting Guided Walk, St. Paul MN ..... Twin Cities Volkssport
- 21 Walk for Life, Maxwell IA ..... Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn
- 22 Maple Leaf Festival, Baldwin IA ..... Sunflower Sod Stompers
- 28 Halloween Walk, Lincoln NE ..... Lincoln Volkssport Club
- 28 Brown's Creek Guided Night Flashlight Walk, Stillwater MN ..... NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 29 Bellefontaine Cemetery/Arboretum, St. Louis MO ..... St Louis/Stuttgart Volksmarch Club

### Event Awards for Club Members

	<u>Events</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Donna Campbell		2,000
Lois Venta	300	



Sept	21	Dave & Mary Brown
Oct	7 24	Wayne & Gretchen Fry Rex & Becky Holford

## Happy Birthday to You!!!!

### September

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Judy Zikund       | 16 Anna Nelson (Boehm) |
| 5 Walt Bayerle      | 22 Ruth Stotler        |
| 5 Rex Holford       | 24 Jim Ochsner         |
| 6 Joe Schwartz      | 26 Jim Fenlon          |
| 8 Mary Jean Holcomb | 26 Teresa Merrick      |
| 10 Kathy Goodman    | 29 Wayne E Fry         |
| 11 Diane Fenlon     | 30 Robin Higley        |
| 13 Steve Miller     |                        |



### October

- 5 Lynda Ogden
- 10 Ray Richardson
- 17 Lee Frantz
- 21 Jasmine Cashin
- 26 Butch Spaulding
- 30 Rita Eldrige

## Meeting News

The next club meetings will be September 11, October 2, November 6 and December 4, at Morning Star Lutheran Church, located at 331 S 85th Street in Omaha. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. We try to have a short program before the business meeting. Just a reminder that the club meetings are the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with some exceptions: no meetings in January, July or August, and it is the 2nd Monday in September. Don't forget that at each meeting, we have a drawing for a \$10 door prize. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be a club member to win this.

## Membership Dues

May and June dues are now past due (check your mailing label—email message will be sent out as a reminder). Renewal is \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership. Please send renewals to:

NWFT  
PO Box 8147  
Omaha NE 68108

## Newsletter Info

To place info/articles/photos in the next newsletter:



email: [glfrantz@cox.net](mailto:glfrantz@cox.net)



snail-mail by August 15 to:  
NWFT  
PO Box 8147  
Omaha NE 68108

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Be sure to visit the festival while you're walking in Plattsmouth!!



The **Plattsmouth Harvest Festival** is the oldest, continuous harvest festival in Nebraska. Now in its 86th year, the family-friendly event is 4 days of pageantry, parades, carnival rides, antique tractor show, chicken chariot races, vendors, car show and shine, cow chip drop, contests and games, cake walk, and lots of music and entertainment for all ages. Dates are Sept. 7-10, 2017, downtown Plattsmouth, just south of the Omaha metro, across the Platte River, in Cass County. In tribute to Nebraska's sesquicentennial, this year's Harvest Festival theme is "Celebrating 150 Years of Harvesting the Good Life".