

WALKING TOUR OF ORANGE

Date: Saturday, September 4th

Location: Orange Armory, 135 East Main Street, Orange, MA

Start time: 9:30 A.M. until noon.

End Time: 3 P.M.

Sponsors of walk: 200th Orange Anniversary Committee, Walk'nMass Volkssport Club

Special Acknowledgements: Orange Historical Society and Orange Methodist Church

The Walk'nMass Volkssport Club is a non-profit organization and is associated with the American Volkssport Association (AVA) based in Universal City, Texas. The AVA was founded in 1976 and is an educational non-profit corporation. The AVA dedicates itself to promoting Volkssporting non-competitive physical fitness activities such as walking, swimming, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, roller blading, and biking. "Volk" stands for "People".

Volkssporting is the sport of the "People". Massachusetts has 2 clubs Walk'nMass and The Two Town Walking Club located in the North Shore. There are more than 350 clubs located in the United States and more than 25 countries are allied in the International Volkssport Federation (IVV). Volkssports are free and open to the public. Trails are selected for safety, scenic interest, historic interest, natural beauty, and walk ability. Walks are between 5km (3.1 miles) and 10km (6.2 miles) and are rated at a difficulty level between one and five, one being the easiest, accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. Scheduled events are held rain, shine, or snow. Clubs welcome new members but you don't have to be a member to participate in a volkswalk event. Walking is free unless you want to be credited for each walk/event you participate in. To keep track of how you are achieving your fitness goals you can join an Individual Achievement Award program.

After the Pancake breakfast, in Celebration of Orange's 200th Anniversary, the Walk'nMass Volkssport Club will be conducting two historical volkswalks. A 5km (3.1 mile) and 10 km (6.2 mile) walk. Both walks are noncompetitive, follow marked routes, maps will also be provided, and are accomplished at your own pace. Anyone may participate regardless of age or physical fitness. Both walk routes are suitable for baby joggers. Due to some hills wheelchairs are not suitable for these walks. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Leashed pets are welcomed, and clean-up laws apply. These events are free to the public. You may register for these walks on the day of the event. Each participant must register, sign an insurance waiver and receive an Event Card at the start. Cards are validated at checkpoints along the route, and must be turned in at the finish table. Restrooms are located at the Start/Finish point, checkpoint and on the walk routes. Water will be provided at the Start/Finish and Checkpoint. You may carry refreshments, but please do not litter.

Trail Description: The Town of Orange was the site of the first automobile factory in the U.S. The factory was built in 1900 and is now the home of Pete's Tire Barn. Walkers will be able to see the factory from the Armory. Both walk routes will pass by the Orange Historical Society, which will be open to walkers from 9:30 until 1 P.M. The Orange Historical Society is housed in a Victorian home and is furnished in that period. Included are a special children's room, military room, and alumni room. Barn exhibits include a fire pumper, steam automobile made in Orange by the Grout brothers. Walkers will pass by the Wheeler Memorial Library and Wheeler Mansion built in 1903 which later became the Eastern Star Home. John Wheeler was the founder of New Homes Sewing Machine Company located along the Miller River. The Sewing Company spanned both sides of South Main St which were once connected by a wooden walking bridge. He was also the owner of the Grout Automobile Company. Also on the route is Riverfront Park

and Orange's Veterans Park both along the Miller River. Veteran's Park holds the nationally known Commonwealth's Peace Statue. Walk routes will weave through Orange's neighborhoods.

Updates will be added as the event draws near. For more information contact Karen at kola500@aol.com or 508-826-7250.