



## Ramstein Roadrunners

### Club History

The Ramstein Roadrunners were established in 1973 to promote Volksparts within the American community in Germany. Since that time the Club has risen to the position of the premier US Volksmarching club in Europe and its members and “alumni” have contributed to walking clubs throughout the globe. Members come from throughout the Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC) and consist of a mix of military and civilians of all ages and nationalities (US, German, French, Canadian). The club membership reached its peak in the early 1990’s when there were approximately 1,000 dues paying members throughout the world. Membership is approximately 200-225 members at the present time. Meetings are held twice a month with the Board of Directors Meeting on the 1st Tuesday of each month and the General Membership Meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The Club held its first IVV-Sponsored Walk (10/20km) in 1974. In 1988, event activities were expanded with our first Marathon (42km), the first Bike (25/50km) event was held in 1989 and all these events continue to this day. The abundance of events and the reputation of the club usually permits us to have about 3,000 walkers at our May Event and about 750-1,00 for the Turkey Trot. While the crowd numbers are smaller than when Volksmarching was at its peak in the 1985-1995 period when we would have 5,000-7,000 customers at our May Walk, the sport is experiencing a growing resurgence in popularity.

The club holds two IVV-sponsored events annually, the May Event which is normally held the first weekend each May and the Turkey Trot, which is held on Thanksgiving Day each year. In addition, the club has provided support in the past to the KMC’s MWR “Global Volksmarch” usually held in the early Fall.

We also hold a number of member events throughout the year: An annual Christmas Party for the general membership, a Volunteer Picnic for May Event volunteers, a Turkey Trot Volunteer dinner, periodic Car Pools to events in the local area, and Club Trips (approx quarterly).

The Roadrunners have developed many close relationships with both German and American community and other Volksmarching clubs throughout Europe. Our “sister club”, Ramstein’s TV03, and the Roadrunners have supported each other’s IVV events for several years with great benefit to both organizations. This symbiosis has given the Ramstein area residents the opportunity to have four IVV events each year, much better than the average of 1 event per year for a community. Participation in the Ramstein-Miesenbach Fasching Parade and other German community activities by club members has also contributed to this relationship as well as providing opportunities for members to enjoy their European experience.

Happy Wanderings