

Walkers and runners will take to Bishop Hill streets Saturday, marking event's 10 years

Galva soldier Wallenfeldt, other military personnel, will be recognized

Organizers of the Swedish Stomp and Skamperoo — two Bishop Hill footraces — will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the events in a special way Saturday, April 24. They'll honor local military personnel, especially a Galva soldier who's participated in the Swedish Stomp.

Tom Wallenfeldt of Galva, currently serving in Iraq with the Illinois Army National Guard unit, will be recognized at the start of Saturday's race. His mother, Maria Wallenfeldt of Galva, will be on hand, as will State Rep. Don Moffitt, the honorary race starter.



Tom Wallenfeldt

"This event has always been real special to us, especially in the last couple years since our young people have enlisted in the service," said race director Andy Larson. "They're out there protecting us and we think it's important to recognize what they're doing. We want to show them we appreciate every minute they're serving in uniform."

The Stomp is a 5K run/walk for all ages. It begins at 9 a.m. at the Colony School and winds through the

historic Bishop Hill downtown before heading westward into the country and returning to the village. Moffitt will offer brief remarks at 8:45, followed by a flag raising and salute to Tom Wallenfeldt, and then a singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

"It's quite a stirring event," said Larson of runner Rick Sundin's vocal leading of the Star Spangled Banner, something he's done the past four years.

Race day registration is \$16 for adults and \$8 for ages 7-19. Advance registration is \$14 for adults and \$7 for ages 7-19. The registration fee includes the special 10th anniversary T-shirt designed by Stan Hutchinson, a descendant of the Bishop Hill Colonists.

There are 13 age divisions for the Stomp, with medals being given to the top three in each age group. The top men's and women's finishers will also each receive the traditional Stomp trophy: a hand-carved wooden boot.

The Skamperoo is a 1/8-mile walk/run for kids ages 6 and under. It is free. Adults are welcome to accompany children.

Race-day registration begins 7 a.m. at the Colony School.

Through the 10 years of its existence, the Stomp has developed a reputation for having the best post-race refreshments. Runners and walkers can enjoy fresh fruit, muffins, vegetables, and other surprise treats. There is even some pickled herring and hard tack, which have proven popular.

For more information, call (309) 927-3833.