



Volume 2023 – April, 2023 No. 4  
Next Meeting – 4/12/23

A member of the American Volkssport  
Association (AVA) & the International  
Federation of Popular Sports (IVV)  
The Public is always welcome

Randolph Roadrunners  
Volkssport Club  
A Walking Club Established 1980  
PO Box 2744  
Universal City, TX 78148-1744  
*Elected Officers*

*President:*

Ellen Ott 210-723-8574

*Vice President:*

John Ives [jbives@texas.net](mailto:jbives@texas.net)

*Treasurer:*

Pat Gunter 210-479-0805

*Secretary:*

Jill Troyer 830-237-6230

*Committee Chairs*

*Membership:*

Suzanne Markgraf 210-710-4842

*Publicity:*

Susan Alton [daxkitten@aol.com](mailto:daxkitten@aol.com)

**SALES: - OPEN-**

*Webmaster:*

Randy Baker [Randy826@gmail.com](mailto:Randy826@gmail.com)

*Newsletter:*

Audrey Vertucci – [AudreyVe@aol.com](mailto:AudreyVe@aol.com)  
210-861-5588

*Year-round Events: Boerne*

Pat Gunter 210-479-0805

*Year-round Events: DeZavala Daily Bread,  
Broadway Daily Bread, Leon Creek,  
Salado-1604, Land Bridge at Hardberger  
Park, CrownRidge, Friedrich Park.*

Ellen Ott 210-723-8574

*Year-round Events: Eisenhower Park*

Susan Medlin 210-325-3523

*Year-round Events: Schertz*

Patricia Heller [paheller001@gmail.com](mailto:paheller001@gmail.com)

*Club Website:*

[www.randolphroadrunners.info](http://www.randolphroadrunners.info)

AVA Website: [www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org)

TVA Website: [www.walktexas.org](http://www.walktexas.org)

*TVA President:* Dave Roberts

*Deputy SW Region:* Andy Thomas

*SWRD:* Helen Hull

## Renewal Time

The following membership renewals are currently due:

**January 1:** Melanie Grizzel and Norman & Antje Klaunig.

**February 1:** John Debner, Susan & John Ives.

To renew your RR membership, fill out the attached application or print it off our website:

[www.RandolphRoadrunners.info](http://www.RandolphRoadrunners.info) and send it with \$4 for 1 year or \$10 for 3 years, to Suzanne Markgraf c/o: RR, PO Box 2744, Universal City, TX 78148. Lifetime Memberships are available for \$30 per person.



## Welcome New Walkers!

Ginah Vrooman Selma  
Juanita Hernandez San Antonio

The next RR club meeting will be held April 12 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Universal City Library, 100 Northview Drive, Universal City, TX 78148.



## From the Desk of the Pres--

**First Friday:** The First Friday walk is held each month starting at the AVA headquarters, 1008 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210 starting any time from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The walk this month will be April 7 in King William district for a free stamp.

## MEDAL MANIA!!

Mark your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Medal Mania fundraiser sale will be held at the AVA headquarters front yard from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 29. We also are accepting all donations

of old walk medals to support the Medal mania booth at AVA HQ.

National  WALKING Week! April 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB ESTABLISHED 1976

The RRs will feature a YRE on:  
Thursday, April 6 at Crown Ridge  
Friday, April 7 at DeZavala Daily Bread

## National Walking Week Events - April 1 to 7

**April 1** - Tour De Castroville

**April 2** – Shearer Hills/Ridgeview YRE, 101 Jackson Keller Rd., SAT 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

**April 3** – No walk planned

**April 4** – Medical Center Indie Walk YRE. Jogging Trail parking lot off Hamilton Wolf near Babcock Rd. 8:00 to 10 a.m.

**April 5** – No walk planned

**April 6** – Crownridge Canyon YRE. 7222 Luskey Blvd. SAT 7:30 to 10 a.m.

**April 7** – DeZavala Daily Bread YRE. 5011 DeZavala, SAT 8:00 to 10 a.m.

**AND**

**April 7** - King William 1<sup>st</sup> Friday YRE 1008 S. Alamo St. SAT. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Upcoming RR events:



## Maifest:

**Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** at 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Beethoven Mannerchor Halle on 422 Pereida St., SAT. The walk fee includes admission to the Beergarten.



## Taco Cabana Sunrise walks this summer:

**July 8** – 19231 Stone Oak Pkwy., San Antonio, 6:15 to 8:15 a.m.

**August 12** – 1533 Pat Booker Rd., Universal City, 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.

**September 23** – Land Heritage Institute – info to follow.

**November 24** – Black Friday-Opt out walk at Southside Lion's Park with a hotdog lunch.

**December 9** – Boerne Christmas walk – Free pancake and sausage breakfast.

**Hardberger Park YRE:** Our walk box for the Land Bridge-Hardberger Park YRE is no longer at Starbucks. Registration is through the online start box but Ellen has the physical start box with her at the walks and you can register with her if you don't want to do the OSB.



## Texas Traditional Events for April, 2023: (Please check the AVA website for any changes or cancellations)

4/1/2023 - 4/1/2023 - Walk

**Event Number:** 124063

**Event City:** Castroville - 12th Annual Tour de Castroville

**Host Club:** San Antonio Pathfinders

**More Details:** [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

4/8/2023 - 4/8/2023 - Walk

**Event Number:** 124091

**Event City:** West worth Village - Westworth and Airfield Falls Trail

**Host Club:** Tarrant County Walkers

**More Details:** [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

**Club Website:**

[www.walktx.org/TarrantCountyWalkers](http://www.walktx.org/TarrantCountyWalkers)

4/8/2023 - 4/8/2023 - Walk

**Event Number:** 124136

**Event City:** Comfort - Easter Walk

**Host Club:** Hill Country

Volkssportverein

**More Details:** [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

4/15/2023 - 4/15/2023 - Walk

**Event Number:** 124191

**Event City:** Baytown - Baytown Nature Center

**Host Club:** Houston Happy Hikers

**More Details:** [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

**Club Website:**

[www.houstonhappyhikers.com](http://www.houstonhappyhikers.com)

4/15/2023 - 4/15/2023 - Walk

**Event Number:** 124233

**Event City:** Austin - Boggy Creek Trail

**Host Club:** Colorado River Walkers

**More Details:** [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

**Club Website:**

[www.coloradoriverwalkers.org/](http://www.coloradoriverwalkers.org/)

4/22/2023 - 4/22/2023 - Walk

**Event Number:** 124062

**Event City:** Lewisville - ColorPaloosa Festival

**Host Club:** Dallas Trekkers, Inc.

**More Details:** [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

**Club Website:** [www.dallastrekkers.org](http://www.dallastrekkers.org)

4/22/23 - Featured YRE Salado Creek Greenway Events, Lady Bird Johnson Park Trailhead – 8 to 10 a.m.

10700 Nacogdoches Rd. SAT 78217

4/29/2023 - 4/29/2023 - Walk

**Event Number:** 124223

**Event City:** New Braunfels - Spring in Gruene

**Host Club :** NB-Marsch-und Wandergruppe

**More Details:** [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

**Club Website:**

[www.muw.walktexas.org](http://www.muw.walktexas.org)

## Tales from the Trails

### Volunteering and Participating in the 18th Olympiad in San Antonio, 2023 – An excerpt from the Travel Bug Blog by Susan Alton

**Tuesday, February 21:** My duties at the Olympiad didn't start until noon today. At 11:45 pm, I parked my car in a paid lot a block away from the La Quinta, gathered up the things I needed to clear the 10 km walk markings from this morning, and went to the La Quinta to meet Helen Hull and Bonnie. They were going to clear the 5 km walk. I talked to Helen about where I should start clearing the 10 km walk. I left the La Quinta at 12:30 pm and hoped that everyone who

left at noon would be far enough along that I wouldn't clear the trail before they got through.

The first few blocks of the walks each day are duplicated but then go in different directions depending on the walk. Today, we are headed to the east side of San Antonio, including Dignowity Hill and Knob Hill Historic Districts. We passed a number of churches, some of which are on our year-round Historic Churches Walk in San Antonio. (You can find our year-round walks at [ava.org](http://ava.org) and click on the "Events" drop-down box. From the next page, you click on "Search by State" and then scroll way down the next web page to find San Antonio's walks.)



The Hays Street Bridge: This early-1900s former railroad bridge is now for pedestrians only.

As we walked along North Alamo Street, we passed The Lucky Duck bar. We continued farther north and east to the Hays Street Bridge. The bridge spans railroad tracks and the art on the bridge railings is aptly named "Trains," by Riley Robinson (2010). The inspiration for this work came from one of his kids' toys, a wooden train set. Alamo Beer Company is off to the right (south) side of the bridge.

The route took us past Lockwood and Dignowity Parks in the Dignowity Hill Historic District. Both parks are undergoing major renovations and are completely surrounded by a construction fence. We had our first checkpoint here. Because I was clearing the markings, I was the last person through their checkpoint.

After a lot of walking in the Dignowity Hill neighborhood, we walked past the historic city cemeteries and the San Antonio National Cemetery. Just before the cemeteries, there was a really cute house with a lovely front yard. The occupants were on their front porch and

I said hi to them. They were so thrilled to have all the walkers go past their house today. They said they met some from Belgium. Many walkers took photos of them and their garden. I thanked them for being good ambassadors for the city.

Our walk instructions mentioned that Buffalo Soldier Park would be open to all walkers. I was looking forward to going in and exploring it. When Susan Medlin and I were wheeling the walk distance in October 2021, the gate was locked and we couldn't get in. Maybe the park was open earlier today, but by the time I arrived at 2 pm, there was no one there and all gates were locked.

Going farther east from Buffalo Soldier Park, the walk passed by St. Gerard Catholic School. Just past that was the second 10 km checkpoint at Pittman-Sullivan Park.



To the west of the park is the Davis-Scott Family YMCA. On Iowa St., there's a great sculpture called "Open Hand, Open Mind, Open Heart," by Douglas Kornfelt (2015). Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of non-violence, this spectacular, 32-foot tall sculpture in Sullivan Park faces San Antonio's downtown skyline. [This information is from ["20 Public Art Pieces to Visit in San Antonio," by San Antonio Current Staff, June 30, 2016.](#)]



The walk headed west toward downtown on Iowa Street which changed to East Cesar E Chavez Blvd.

There are great views of the Alamodome from the railroad bridge on East Cesar E Chavez Blvd.

Meanwhile, Susan and Darren Medlin, my husband Bob, and Jim Tree were all out marking the next day's walks. Susan and Darren had been out walking all day marking two 21 km walks Bob and Jim Tree were out on bicycles marking trails all afternoon.

The last part of the walk back to the Cos House at La Villita was a real slog in the heat. The nice breeze from earlier in the day had dissipated and it seemed even hotter downtown. When I made it to the Cos House around 3:30 pm, I needed some refreshments fast.

After getting my AVA books stamped, and fooling around getting my photo taken, I found La Villita Café had just what I needed...a Dr. Pepper Chocolate Float! I stopped at Smoke BBQ + Riverbar on the Margarita and Taco Trail Walk to have a snack-size Texas-style brisket taco. It was good.

I called Susan after La Villita Café. She and Darren were ready to get back to the hotel. I drove over and retrieved them and took some bean and cheese tacos from the AVA: America's Walking Club office to them.

After taking the Medlins to the hotel, I met Bob on South Alamo Street to do the Margarita and Taco Trail in earnest.

At this point, the sun was almost down, the temperature was very pleasant, and we got to discover places around South Alamo Street that we had never been to before. We had such a good time!

At "The Friendly Spot," we got mini margaritas. So refreshing. Bob and I were sitting at a table when I heard my name being shouted. I was so out of it that I didn't know someone was calling me. It was DJ Moore from Florida. We met at the AVA National Convention in Albany, NY, in 2019. We keep up with each other on Facebook and through my blog! I'm so happy we got to spend a little time together. She introduced us to her friends Wilma, Pat, and Patty - all from Florida. The interesting thing about DJ is that she goes diving to catch lionfish. There is a bounty on them in

Florida because they are an invasive species.

One of our stops was not like the others. Bijou Betties Boutique was open with five rooms of fun shopping. Tonight only, she gave a 15% discount. I bought two artsy fish for my eclectic fish collection.

One of the most surprising places we found was The Jewel @ 1102 South Alamo Street. We had mini margaritas here, too.

I walked 10.6 miles today. I have no idea how far Bob rode his bicycle. We were very tired and very hungry so we got in our vehicles and drove over to BurgerTeca, also part of our Margarita and Taco Trail. They gave us a small free ice cream. We decided to stay for dinner. The exterior and interior of BurgerTeca are also artsy

AVA: America's Walking Club, I have something to say to you: Well done! This event was SO. MUCH. FUN! Thank you to everyone who helped put this together. And, thank you to all the businesses that opened their doors to us.

## IVV Olympiad North Walk February 20, 2023



Erin Grosso, Pat Gunter, Celeste Bradley and April Graupner working in the Fiesta Room.



The walk route along San Pedro Creek.

