



Official Newsletter of the RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS (AVA44)

Volume 2023 – September, 2023 No. 8
Next Meeting – September 13
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

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

SALES: - OPEN-

Webmaster:

Randy Baker Randy826@gmail.com

Newsletter:

Audrey Vertucci – 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

Club Website:

www.randolphroadrunners.info

AVA Website: www.ava.org

TVA Website: www.walktexas.org

TVA President: Dave Roberts

Deputy SW Region: Andy Thomas

SWRD: Susan Medlin

Renewal Time

The following membership renewals are currently due:

June 1: Ben & Susan Ennis, Darlene & James Copeland and Steven Stechschulte.

July 1: Connie Sue Low.

October 1: Susan Fine, Yolanda Nielo, Donna Ramirez and Anna Maria Ruff.

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

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.

The next RR club meeting will be held 13 September at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Universal City Public Library, 100 Northview Drive, Universal City, TX 78148.



From the Desk of the Pres-- HELP WANTED!!

Volunteers are needed to help man the AVA info booths at the following events coming up:

8 October - NW Vista College
A 5k walk is being hosted by Commissioner Clay Flores. They will have vendor tables at the event.

18 October - San Fernando Catholic Church activity center. No other information is available yet. Call or email: *Ellen* 210-723-8574 ellenott@sbcglobal.net

First Friday: The First Friday walk is held each month starting at the AVA headquarters, 1008 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78210. The walk this month will be September 1st in King William district for a free stamp.
Ellen 210-723-8574

Upcoming RR events:

October 21 – Panther Springs Park, off of Wilderness Oak in Stone Oak area.

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



December 3 – 2023 Volkssport Christmas party will be at same location this year: 3630 Hunters Circle, San Antonio, 78230. Party from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. All local clubs are invited.

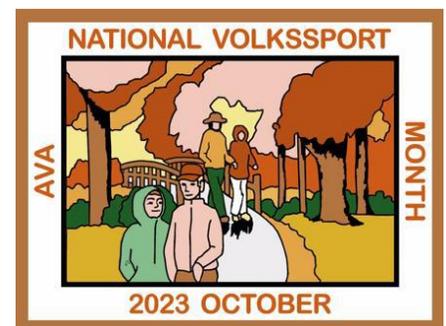
December 9 – Boerne Christmas walk – Free pancake and sausage breakfast.



Kudos to the following RR walkers - taken from the TAW:

Events:

425	Andrew Thomas
500	Marta Knape
525	Reuben Knape
525	Kathy Schwencke





Henry Rosales,

President/CEO



SUPPORT AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB AND GIVE ON SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2023 | 6PM - 6PM.

The Big Give
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



To give online on September 20-21, visit thebiggive.org and search for AVA: America's Walking Club. Donate by check now through October 31, 2023, by mailing your donation to the American Volkssport Association: 1008 S Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210.

THE 2015 BIG GIVE – HOW IT ALL STARTED

Contrary to the belief of some, the AVA's individual donor campaign, The Big Give, was not established by the National Office. In 2015, I was approached by Joanne Forinash, former Southwest Regional Director, and office volunteer. Joanne was a trailblazer who was ahead of her time because she was always seeking creative ways to increase revenues for the organization. One day she approached me with the name of a donor friend who wanted to contribute a substantial amount to the AVA. The only stipulation was the donor wanted for her contribution to be meaningful and have a long-term impact on the AVA. The name of the donor was Charlotte Phillips. Joanne and I frantically brainstormed ideas on how we could best use the donor funds. Should we pay all club dues for a couple of years? Should we give all members several free walk vouchers and books? Should we invest or reinvest the funds? During this time the AVA was invited to participate in a fairly new initiative lead by the San Antonio Nonprofit Council. It was called the Big Give. The Big Give individual donor campaign provided an opportunity for large donors to contribute matching funds so that individual donor gifts are doubled when one gives. What if, we were able

to advise Charlotte that we could double her contribution in just one year and continue this effort for many years?

When we met with Charlotte this is exactly what we proposed. Of course, we presented a menu of ideas. She did not like any idea where her funds would be spent and disappear in one or two years. However, she did like the Big Give idea because she could see the potential growth of her initial investment for many years to come and the rest was history!

Help us keep Charlotte's legacy alive by contributing to the Big Give September 20th, 6:00pm through September 21, 6:00pm. While many nonprofits have several fundraising events and donor campaigns throughout the year, the AVA has only one individual donor campaign each year. Contributions help the AVA pay for program expenses, special events, and new initiatives.

Important Dates & Info: Online giving starts Wednesday September 13, 2023. Search for: thebiggive.org, then find our AVA Organization or click on the donate button on AVA.Org.

Online 24hour Match fund raiser starts @ 6:00pm On Wednesday Sept 20th Through Thursday Sept 21st @ 6:00 pm. You May also mail in your checks to the AVA national office now through October 31st.

**Tales from the Trails.....
Spruce Railroad 12 km
Volksmarch on the Olympic Peninsula - Friday, August 4, 2023 – from Susan Alton's-
Travel Bug Blog.**

High on our list for this trip to the Olympic Peninsula is meeting and hiking with our great friend, Diane Howell Evans. Thanks to her advice, we walked the 12 km Spruce Railroad Volksmarch at Lake Crescent on the Olympic Peninsula.

The morning was lovely. We were up early because this rails-to-trails hike is very popular. We had to arrive before 9 am to find a parking space close to the trailhead.



Me and Diane Howell Evans at the trailhead.

Much to our delight, the trail is wide and paved, making it easy for three people to converse while we walked. All along the way, Lake Crescent glistened in the morning sun. The railroad was built during the First World War to ship Sitka spruce east to build airplanes for the war effort. It was completed in only six weeks, but the war had ended by then. Trains used the railway until 1960 to haul lumber from the forest to the sawmill.

The trail runs on or next to the World War I Spruce Railroad bed and pleases the eye with excellent views of Lake Crescent. The Spruce Railroad Trail connects the North Shore and Lyre River trailheads.



Lake Crescent

The lake is commonly reported to be 624' deep. Measurers of that depth from 50 years ago were limited to 624' by their own sounding gear. More recent equipment has measured it at 650', but it may be much deeper in parts.

Interesting fact: Lake Crescent is home to the Beardslee and Crescenti trout, two types of fish found nowhere else in the world. Lake Crescent is 11.8 miles long. The inflow source of the lake is Barnes Creek, and the outflow is Lyre

River. There is so much eye candy here that I got my fill of sweet vistas: the sun glimmering on the lake, madrona trees with their peeling bark, the giant coniferous trees, and people out enjoying the day.

Two old railroad tunnels are points of interest on this trail. One tunnel is long enough that you need a flashlight if you want to see where you're putting your feet!



Bob and Diane in front of the first tunnel (the longest one).

On the way back, we took a short side trail to see the Devil's Punch Bowl instead of going through the long, dark tunnel again.

Devil's Punch Bowl is a lovely, crystal clear, aqua-blue swimming hole. There is a bridge over a deep pool where people were bravely leaping in. The water is frigid; we heard the swimmers who jumped in say it took their breath away.



Devil's Punch Bowl

More jumpers were contemplating the jump in but we didn't stick around to watch because it took them too long to think about it!

After our 12 km walk, we made our way back to Diane's car. All of us were very hungry so we stopped at the Fairmount Diner for lunch and then Diane dropped us off at our truck.



Mark your calendars for the Solar Eclipse:

14 October 2023 there's going to be an annular eclipse. This is a Saturday and the San Antonio Pathfinders will host a new traditional walk that day.

8 April there's going to be a total eclipse. The Roadrunners will host a traditional walk this day. There will be information on the Roadrunner web site regarding both of these events to include a national walk week schedule (1 - 7 April), hotel information, etc.

Both of these eclipses will require the special glasses. I have these for sale for \$3 a pair until the supply runs out and I bring glasses to each RR walk.

FYI – Still looking for some new trails for 2024.... let me know if you see something that you think may work. I'm willing to check out most places. Everyone's help is welcome. Ellen

New Texas law allows walking on roads when sidewalks are blocked or unsafe

Texas lawmakers have reexamined the existing law which restricts pedestrians from walking on roads, and passed House Bill 1277.

HB 1277 allows pedestrians to walk on roadways facing oncoming traffic if sidewalks are obstructed or unsafe. The Texas law restricting pedestrians from walking on roads has been revised to let them use roadways in certain situations.

A section of the state's transportation code that makes it illegal to walk on a roadway if there is a sidewalk is a law that will change on September 1, 2023.



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

9/9/2023 - 9/9/2023 5/10km Walk

Event Number: 124866

Start: Mission County Park, 6030 Padre Dr., San Antonio, TX 78213

Event City: SAN ANTONIO - Tour de las Misiones

Host Club: AVA - Southwest Region

Event Website:

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

POC: Susan Medlin 210-325-3523

sueammed@aol.com

This annual event highlights San Antonio's World Heritage Missions. The registration is \$35 until 15 July, then it is \$40. You get a string backpack, t-shirt, gorgeous medal, 2 free beers and music.

9/16/2023 - 9/16/2023 5/10km Walk

Event Number: 125105

Start: 288 Camp Verde Road Center Point Texas

Event: Camp Verde - Home of The Camels

Host Club: Hill Country

Volkssportverein

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

Contact: John Bohnert, (830)995 - 2421

E-Mail: johnbohnert63@gmail.com

9/23/2023 - 9/23/2023 - 6/10km Walk

Event Number: 125023

Event: Zilker Neighborhood Revisited

Start: Community of Christ Church, 2132 Bluebonnet Lane, Austin Tx. 78704

Event City: Austin - Zilker Neighborhood Revisited

Host Club: Colorado River Walkers

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

Contact: Carol Obianwu (512) 771-9566

E-Mail: cobianwu@utexas.edu

Club Website:

www.coloradoriverwalkers.org/





Civilian Conservation Corp. Trail
**PALO DURO CANYON STATE
 PARK - CANYON, TEXAS -
 OCTOBER 6-8**

Hike with an "altitude" at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon, Texas! Join the West Texas Trail Walkers for our 42nd year of hiking in West Texas National and State Parks, October 6-8, 2023. The event brochure and registration can be found on our website. Be sure to check out our webpage, www.westtexastrailwalkers.org to see beautiful pictures of the multi-colored ridges and hoodoos at Palo Duro Canyon.

**King William/Beethoven
 Walk - May 18, 2023***



Kathy Schwencke, Herb Laing, Pat Gunter, Ellen Ott and Susan Ives at the walk Registration Table.



A view of the San Antonio River along the walk trail.



Gayle Weinraub at the checkpoint in King William Park where Mike Schwencke & Morris Bundick were working.



Martin Callahan with Rudy at the Maifest celebration in the Beethoven Mannerchor und Garten.

***Photos courtesy of Martin Callahan**

RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS
 PO Box 2744
 Universal City TX 78148-1744

RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS APPLICATION
 PO Box 2744, Universal City TX 78148-1744

Please check applicable box (es):

Renewal New Member Family member(s) included (see instructions below) DATE _____

Name _____

NEW MEMBER FEE: \$4.00 for 1 \$10.00 for three years

Address _____

This fee applies to the primary member. Additional family members require a \$2.00 fee per individual.

City State Zip code

RENEWAL FEE: \$4.00 for one year
 \$10.00 for three years

Telephone number _____

This renewal fee includes each family member who paid \$2.00 with the original application.

by _____

If the \$2.00 fee was not paid with the original application, add family members now including \$2.00 for each person.

E-mail address _____

Lifetime membership for (1) one person is available for a \$30 fee.

Family members _____

AVA Volkssport Associate Yes No

Amount submitted \$ _____

Eager to serve as club officer _____ or committee chair _____