



Official Newsletter of the RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS (AVA44)

Volume 2023 – November, 2023 No. 10
Next Meeting – 11/8/23

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

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:

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

December 1: Shirley Banez, Joanna Bolsins, & Jerry Rehmar.

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.



Welcome New Members!

Norma Arriola San Antonio

Pam Pruneda San Antonio

Deborah Standish San Antonio

The next RR club meeting will be held 8 November 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.



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. The walk this month will be Friday, 3 November in the King William district for a free stamp.

There will be no Frist Friday Walks in the months of January and February, 2024. Questions? Call Ellen 210-723-8574

Upcoming RR events:

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: Community Center, 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. Call or email: *Ellen* 210-723-8574 ellenott@sbcglobal.net if you can volunteer to work either of these RR events.



AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1974

AVA Membership

Survey Coming November

The AVA will be emailing all AVA Associate, Lifetime, and Individual Club members a survey in November. The purpose of the survey will be to collect updated demographic data on our members and qualitative and quantitative information on the programs and services the AVA provides. The information will be used to help us with future planning efforts. Thank you in advance for your support.

2024 Centurion Achievement Challenge

The 2024 program begins January 1, 2024. You must be an AVA Associate Member (annual or lifetime) to participate in the Challenge. Eligible participants may register for the 2024 Challenge between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024 using the official registration form. Please mail forms to AVA, 1008 S. Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210. Or email marian@ava.org.

AVA Vice Chair - Carl Cordes International Walking Opportunity March 2024

Who's ready to walk in New Zealand and Australia? A unique set of circumstances will allow you to travel down under for three separate events in 10 days. Two International Marching League events will be held on consecutive weekends in March. The Rotorua Walking Festival, New Zealand, is March 15-17, 2024. IML and IVV credit distances include 10, 20, 30 and 42K. March 22-24 is the Aussie Peace Walk in Canberra, Australia. Distances for IML and IVV credit include 11, 12, 21, 24 and 42K. Also happening in Canberra prior to the Aussie Peace Walk is the IVV Congress of Delegates Assembly March 19-21. This will be my first time attending the IVV Congress of Delegates.

I'm working with P.T.A. Tours to arrange a travel program for myself and others that may wish to go from the U.S. Price will depend on the number of participants. There can also be several options to continue your visit in Australia after the Aussie Peace Walk. If you are interested in more information, please email me at vice_chair@ava.org no later than October 31. Note I am not organizing this trip, just facilitating contact with P.T.A. Tours who specialize in arranging travel programs for major IML and IVV events worldwide. Event information links: [Rotorua Walking Festival](#) and [Aussie Peace Walk](#)

Susan A. Medlin Southwest Regional Director Trip To Finland

I am organizing a trip to Finland in August, 2025 for the Finland IML (August 8-10) and the next IVV Olympiad (August 14-17). The tour company is PTA and it will be an English speaking tour. My POC is Andrea Baumeisner. She and Thomas are going on a 14-day inspection to Sweden and Finland in August to work on the details for this trip. So far, we start the tour in Sweden with an IVV walk in Stockholm, and visit Stockholm. Then we drive north along the coast, stopping at a UNESCO World Heritage Site for another IVV walk.

Next, we take the ferry to Vaasa, Finland for the 2-day IML walking event in Vaasa. After the IML, we head to the south coast to Turku. There we combine cruising and walking at the Archipelagoes around Turku. Then we continue to Tampere for the 4-day 2025 IVV Olympiad Walking Event in Tampere. Finish with a drive to Helsinki, and tour of Helsinki. The regular tour ends there and you fly home from Helsinki. There will be an add on package; a post Olympiad tour to the 3 Baltic states. Spend 2 days in Tallinn, Estonia; 2 days in Riga, Latvia; and 2 days in Vilnius, Lithuania.

I already have 44 people who are interested in this trip. If you are interested, please email me at sueammed@aol.com

Tales from the Trails – Tribute to Freedom Walk Event, Oct. 14–submitted by Susan Alton

On Saturday, October 14, Bob and I did the Tribute to Freedom Volksmarch which included the annular eclipse. The walk started at 10:00 a.m. to allow us to walk during the eclipse. It was cloudy and a cold wind was blowing this morning. Heavy cloud cover begged the question, "Will we be able to see the eclipse?" This is a brand new walk for our area so, eclipse or not, we will be seeing new sights.

The walk started at New Life Christian Church Center outside Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Our first point of interest was the Galilee Prayer Garden. The different sections of the church's outdoor exhibits include a pond, a replica of the Western Wall in Israel, Biblical quotes throughout the garden, and the San Antonio 9/11 Memorial Garden with its Eternal Flame.



Western Wall

As we walked, I wondered "What is the difference between the Western Wall and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem?" According to www.TouristIsrael.com, the Western Wall, also known as "The Wailing Wall" or the "Kotel," is the most religious site in the world for the Jewish people. Located in the Old City in Jerusalem, its significance lies in the fact that it is the last remnant of the original retaining wall that surrounded the Second Temple, built over 2,000 years ago, and an incredibly important site of modern Israeli history.

From the Galilee Prayer Garden, we crossed a road to get to the San Antonio 9/11 Memorial and its Eternal Flame. We continued around the 9/11 Memorial Wall to Leon Creek New Life Trailhead. At this point, we followed the outer fence of Lackland Air Force Base. Signs on the fence warned of trained guard dogs inside the fence.



Tribute to Freedom

Artist George Schroeder of San Antonio who designed the "Tribute to Freedom" sculpture says it includes forms representing the five branches of the U.S. military surrounding a 75-foot tower. The central spire reminds us of the Washington Monument. Around the central spire, an airfoil-like wing and three curvilinear forms create a "protective shroud" around the symbol of the nation's capital. [Information is from elnina on Flickr, January 31, 2019, and Brendan Gibbons' *Trialist* article in the *San Antonio Report*, August 7, 2022. At night, white light illuminates the sculpture from Saturday to Thursday. Blue light on Friday nights commemorates the weekly basic

training graduation of new Air Force Airmen. We learn so many interesting things on our walks!

We returned to the trail junction by the 9/11 Memorial and turned east to follow another branch of the Leon Creek Greenway Trail. In a quarter mile, we could see the fuselage of a C-130 Hercules Air Force plane behind a fence. This was the 5 km turn-around point.

The 10 km walk passed underneath U.S. 90 and continued on the Leon Creek Trail. At the junction pictured below, we turned right, crossed a creek, and continued two stories up a set of stairs. At the top of the stairs, we entered Levi Strauss Park and went past soccer fields to the Nelson W. Wolff Trailhead. This is where Camargo Park's minor league baseball field is located.



We went down the stairs we had gone up and continued to Rodriguez Park. The trail went under the Old Highway 90 Bridge. We walked the length of the parking lot and then returned back through the park on the Leon Creek Greenway Trail.

A quarter-mile later, we stopped on the trail so we could watch the final minutes up to the 90% annular eclipse. The clouds parted and we had a great view. The 90% annular eclipse "Ring of Fire" was terrific.

Thank you to Kathy and Mike Schwencke of the San Antonio Pathfinders AVA Club for such an interesting walk. We had 117 walkers today to see the eclipse!

The West Texas Trail Walkers are returning to *Ruidoso and the beautiful Lincoln Mountains in New Mexico*. The dates are October 11-13,

2024. Stay tuned for more information in the spring of 2024.

We had a wonderful hiking weekend at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon, Texas two weeks ago with 83 participants. The weather was almost perfect. Clear blue skies contrasted beautifully with the red rock ridges and the vivid green vegetation along the creeks.

We now have a full slate of officers and board members! Our newest board member is David Ramsey from Houston, Texas and Susan Alton, San Antonio, who is volunteering to serve as secretary. It's these dedicated volunteers who keep the club viable and will keep us strong into the future. Here are the current members of the Board:

- Board Directors: Susan Medlin, David Ramsey, Will Robinson
- President: Susan Noonan
- Vice Presidents: Dianne Duke, Gary Silkworth
- Secretary: Susan Alton
- Treasurer: Bob Alton
- Trail masters: Randy Baker (Ruidoso), Helen Hull
- Merchandise: Margie Kent, Randy Baker
- Webpage: Randy Baker

See you next October to "Hike with an Altitude",
Susan Noonan
President
West Texas Trail Walkers



TEXAS VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION 2023 VOLKSSPORTING CLUBS OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS CALENDAR

Note: This is **NOT** an official document. Always verify events/dates on ava.org or with the applicable club.

November:

SAT/04 -- NBW, New Braunfels Fall Walk (T)

FRI/10 – SUN/12 – TCW/STI/ DTI, Irving/, TVA Meeting

TUE/14 – SAP, Lost Maples (Y)

SAT/18 – CRW, TBD (T) (?)

FRI/24 – RRR, Southside Lions Park w/lunch (T)

SAT/25 – HCV, Comfort Christmas Festival Walk (T)

December: SAT/02 – VVF, Johnson City Lights (T) (also KAV, Buda Fest) (?)

SAT/09 – RRR, Christmas in Boerne (T)

SUN/10 – TTR, SA Christmas Lights (T) (?)

SAT/ 16 – SMR, Christmas Festival (T) (?)

SUN/31 - Memorial Walk/Last 2023 Walk, Fredericksburg(Y)

Club Abbreviations

CRW Colorado River Walkers
HCV Hill Country Volkssportverein
NBW NB Marsch-und Wandergruppe
RRR Randolph Roadrunners
SAP San Antonio Pathfinders
SMR San Marcos River Walkers
TTR Texas Trail Roundup
VVF Volkssportverein Friedrichsburg



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

11/4/2023 - 11/4/2023 - Walk

Event Number: 126491

Start: 700 E. Common St., New Braunfels, TX 78130.

Event City: New Braunfels - Fall Walk at the Library

Host Club:

NB-Marsch-und Wandergruppe

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

Club Website:

www.muw.walktexas.org



11/18/2023 - 11/18/2023 - Walk

Event Number: 126569

Start: Southwest Key, 6002 Jain Lane Austin, TX 78721

Event City: Austin - East Austin: Art, Culture and Trails

Host Club: Colorado River Walkers

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

Club Website:

www.coloradoriverwalkers.org/

11/18/2023 - 11/18/2023 - Walk

Event Number: 125282

Start: 101 E Abram. #110 Arlington, TX
Event City: Inclusion Coffee - Downtown Arlington/ UTA
Host Club: Tarrant County Walkers
More Details: [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)
Club Website: www.walktx.org/TarrantCountyWalkers



11/24/2023 - 11/24/2023 - Walk
Event Number: 124343
Start: 3100 Hiawatha San Antonio, TX, 78210
Event City: Southside Lions Park, San Antonio - Opt Out Door Day
Host Club: Randolph Roadrunners
More Details: [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)
Club Website: www.randolphroadrunners.info

RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS
 PO Box 2744
 Universal City TX 78148-1744

11/25/2023 - 11/25/2023 - Walk
Event Number: 125107
Start: 347 High Street Comfort, TX
Event City: Comfort - Christmas in Comfort
Host Club: Hill Country Volkssportverein
More Details: [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

***Tribute to Freedom Annular Eclipse Walk – Oct. 14, 2023**



Start Point at the New Life Christian Church Center



Walkers following the trail through the Galilee Prayer Garden around the small pond shaped like the Sea of Galilee to exit the garden on the way to the 9/11 Memorial.



Martin Callahan and Dolly stop for a picture along the New Life Walk Trail with the fuselage of a C-130 Transport Aircraft visible behind them.



Gayle Weinraub and Charley Watt, Jr. pose for a picture next to the plaque on the back wall of the San Antonio 9/11 Memorial. The plaque explains who it honors and the symbolism of the monument.

***Photos Courtesy of Martin Callahan**

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 _____