



Llano Earth Art Fest Walk - Visitors at the Llano Earth Art Fest walking by and photographing an impressive display of rock stacking skill at the World Rockstacking Championship along the riverbed of the Llano River. - Photo Submitted by Martin Callahan



AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

APRIL
2022
VOLUME 31
NO. 4

CHECKPOINT

WWW.AVA.ORG



Mark Your Calendars!

THE BIG GIVE 2022

6 PM Thursday, September 22 through
6 PM Friday, September 23



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Big Give Pg. 1
- Board Meeting Notice Pg. 1
- Board Meeting Deadlines Pg. 1
- Olympiad Host Hotel Pg. 2
- Reservation Info Pg. 2
- Registration Update Pg. 2
- Volunteers Wanted Pg. 2
- Publicity Committee Update Pg. 3
- 1st Quarter Participation Pg.3
- Additional Insurance Pg. 3
- Starting Point Book Pg. 3
- May Physical Fitness Patch Pg. 3
- Financials Pg. 4
- New Membership Cards Pg. 4
- National Walking Week Pg. 4
- Colorado Bend State Park Pg. 5
- Southwest Region Update Pg. 5
- New ESR - Item Has Error Pg.6
- New ESR - Event Info Pg. 7

CEO/PRESIDENT - HENRY ROSALES

AVA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTICE

The AVA Board of Directors will convene for their quarterly meeting on **Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Central Time.** Board members should email agenda items asap to Nancy Wittenberg, Board Chair at chair@ava.org and copy Henry Rosales at henry@ava.org.

This will be an electronic meeting on the Office 365 Teams platform. The meeting link will be posted on the AVA website. For instructions on how to login to the AVA Board meeting [click here](#). Once you have been accepted you will automatically join the meeting. Please mute your mic and raise your hand if you would like to speak. If you do not have a mic the raise your hand and the chat option will be available.

IMPORTANT AVA BOARD MEETING DEADLINES

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 – All Board and Committee reports, and agenda items are due to the National Office. [Click here for the Committee report form.](#)

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 – Board meeting agenda and packets emailed to all Directors and Deputy Directors.

2023 IVV OLYMPIAD AND IML TEXAS TRAIL ROUNDUP WALKING FESTIVAL UPDATES

HOST HOTEL CONFIRMED-LA QUINTA BY WYNDHAM SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK HOTEL

The La Quinta San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel will be the host hotel for the 2023 IVV Olympiad/IML Texas Trail Roundup Walking Festival. The rate for a single, double, triple, or quad room is \$159.00 plus taxes. This rate includes breakfast. Parking is discounted at a rate of \$18.00/night for AVA hotel guests. The standard rate is \$26.00. There is a city parking lot across the street from the hotel.



RESERVATION METHOD/PROCEDURE

Reservations will be made by calling 800-753-3757 or by using the link below on or before 1/19/2023:

[Click here to make reservation.](#)

Please use the information below when calling to make reservations.

Reservations Department #: 800-753-3757

Hotel: La Quinta by Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk (property #53402)
303 Blum, San Antonio TX 78205

Group Name: American Volkssport Association

Group Code: CG8650

Please be prepared to provide credit card information to guarantee reservations.



HOTEL RESERVATION CUT OFF DATE

The guest room block will be held until 1/19/2023 which is 30 days prior to arrival or until such time as the block has been filled. Any sleeping rooms not reserved by the cut-off date shall be released by the HOTEL for sale to the public.

ADDITIONAL HOTELS AVAILABLE SOON!

The AVA is in the process of securing several additional hotels at a discounted rate for our guests. The prices will vary to accommodate most budgets. Information on these hotels will be released by May 1st and be posted on the AVA and Olympiad/IML websites.

IVV OLYMPIAD/IML TTR REGISTRATION UPDATE

Event registration is scheduled to open May 1st. The registration link will be posted on the AVA website, or you can go to: [Home - IVV Olympiad 2023](#)

Note there will be an early bird discount so be sure to register early!

The host hotel, La Quinta, will be the event registration and packet pickup site.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

This will be an incredible event that will require many volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Pinneke at nc_rd@ava.org.

The 2023 Olympiad/IML TTR committee meets monthly. We welcome your concerns, questions, recommendations, and Olympiad stories! If you would like to share with us, you may contact us at olympiad2023@ava.org

LIKE US ON THE OLYMPIAD FACEBOOK PAGE!

Please go to www.facebook.com/2023IVVOlympiadUSA and “like” us! Invite your volkssporting friends and fellow club members to like us. Help us build awareness and excitement as we move towards 2023! Look for the latest on the joint Olympiad/IML events and answers to questions you may have.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE - SUSAN FINE

COMMITTEE UPDATE

The committee is focusing our efforts to promote and publicize the 2023 IVV Olympiad. A video has been created for our international friends (it will be in English and German), and will be launched 1 May, when registration opens. We'll send you a copy of that next month. In the meantime, Samanta with AVA did a great job creating an introductory video. [See it here](#) and please share with your club members, friends and family.

You can get the latest Olympiad information on our [2023 Olympiad Facebook page](#). Please share the info to your club's social media page, as updates are made.

Grassroots word-of-mouth is a great way to help spread the information about this unique international event. Your RD's will have postcards and flyers to distribute at your events. If you have questions, or have ideas to help us promote this, please email finesusan25@gmail.com.

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST - MARIAN DEVAUL

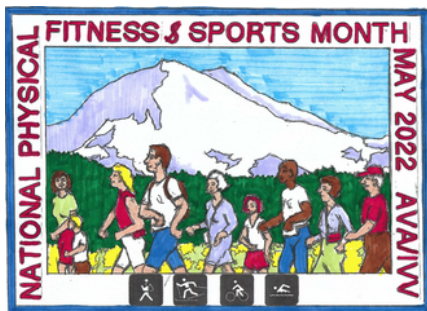
1ST QUARTER PARTICIPATION:

It's time once again to submit your 1st Quarter Participation information. The filing deadline is midnight on April 30th, and all reports submitted after this date are past due and subject to late fees.

If a paper invoice from the AVA is requested at the time of filing, a \$5.00 shipping & handling fee will be added to the total amount due.

STARTING POINT BOOKS

We still have books available for sale at a cost of \$25.00 plus shipping and handling. For purchase, please e-mail marian@ava.org, or call 210-659-2112.



Click on image for form.

MAY NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS PATCH

We are currently taking orders for the 2022 May National Physical Fitness Patches. Clubs hosting events during the month of May can order patches by filling out and returning the form to AVA national headquarters no later than April 30, 2022. Supplies are limited, so orders will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Clubs may place reorders until supply is exhausted. Don't miss the chance to offer this collectible patch to walk participants. The cost is \$5.00 each to clubs which does not include shipping/handling or the 20% club discount. Mail form to AVA, 1008 S. Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210, or fax form to 210-659-1212. You may also place your order by emailing this form to marian@ava.org.

FINANCIALS

If your club is on a calendar year, Annual Financial Reports, e-Postcard filings, and Officer Updates (ESR update) are due by May 15, 2022. Please submit a copy of your filings to marian@ava.org.

May 15th, 2022 – The following items are due:

- E-post card must be filed with the IRS and a copy provided to AVA HQ.
- Club's Annual Financial Report is due to the AVA HQ.
- Update of Officers Information in the ESR must be completed by each club.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, I am certainly available and eager to help in any way possible.

Note: Financials for clubs with a fiscal year ending 6-30-22 are not due until November 15, 2022

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

We are changing the membership cards and will begin using them as we run out of the old ones. The new cards are the size of a business card and a bit more convenient to tuck into a wallet. We are doing all we can to combat the rising costs of printing and shipping. In this case, we have cut the cost by nearly 80 percent! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Erin at erin@ava.org.

IT SPECIALIST - HECTOR HERNANDEZ

NATIONAL WALKING WEEK

National Walk Week is here. If you haven't found a walk in your area please see the National Walking Week Events page. ([Click here](#)) Walks will be available April 1 -7. If there is not an event in your area you can still participate by walking a local YRE throughout the week. We encourage everyone that participates to send in photos of their walks so that we can add to the Checkpoint, Facebook or website. If you'd like to submit photos or need any information please email hector@ava.org.





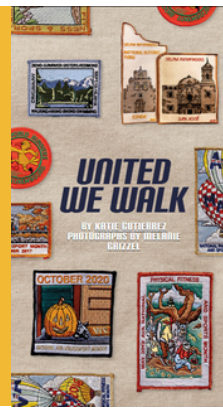
CHECK OUT THIS ARTICLE!

Published in the April 2022 issue of TEXAS HIGHWAYS, The Travel Magazine of Texas.



To view full magazine click on image.

To view full article written by Katie Gutierrez click on image.



WEST TEXAS TRAIL WALKERS - SUSAN NOONAN

COLORADO BEND STATE PARK OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

Join the West Texas Trail Walkers to hike the trails of Colorado Bend State Park, Bend, Texas October 7-9, 2022. Colorado Bend State Park is in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, two hours north of Austin, TX. With over 35 miles of trails and rugged wilderness, Colorado Bend is a hidden gem of the Texas State Park System. Three moderate to difficult trails will be offered in Colorado Bend State Park and an easy walk will be offered in historic Lampasas, TX. Don't miss the featured 10k hike that leads to the beautiful Gorman Falls.



Our host lodging is at the Best Western Plus in the charming Hill Country city of Lampasas, Texas. Thirty rooms are available October 7-9 at the negotiated rate of \$99 for a single queen bed and \$109 for two queen beds. Please call the Best Western Plus at 1-512-556-2100 by September 7 and mention that you are with the West Texas Trail Walkers to secure this special rate. Keep checking www.westtexastrailwalkers.org for updates. The brochure and registration forms will be on-line in June 2022.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR - HELEN HULL

NEW MEXICO AND THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

Spring is just around the corner and a perfect time to explore New Mexico. The Sun Country Striders are hosting a 5-day event April 20-25 in Ruidoso located in the southeastern part of the state. Ruidoso is surrounded by the Capitan Mountains and the Lincoln Forest. Because of its altitude (7000+ feet), it may be warm or still cold in April so check the weather forecast before packing.

The week will include 4 seasonal walks in Cloudcroft and Ruidoso available that week plus a traditional walk on Sat in Capitan. Two other seasonal walks will be available from Apr 13 thru May 2 at White Sands National Monument and in Roswell, home of UFOs. In addition to these walks, there are 2 other YREs in Ruidoso. Other than Roswell and White Sands, all of these walks are within 50 miles of Ruidoso.

The La Quinta by Wyndham in Ruidoso Downs (phone 575-378-3333, mention the Sun Country Striders) will serve as walk headquarters. Register for walks between 6am and 5pm any day in the lobby, then pick your walk(s) for the day.

Starting in 2022, a new 'Walk New Mexico' program will be working on the 33 counties in the state. New Mexico already has YREs in 9 counties. The Sun Country Striders have added several more seasonal walks and 4 new YREs which will allow you to cover the entire southeast section of the state in 2022. The 4 new county YREs are Lovington in Lea County, Portales in Roosevelt County, Clovis in Curry County, and Fort Sumner in De Baca County.



And then the Woodland Wanderers from Colorado have started a 'Charley Pride' challenge to do walks from Phoenix, AZ to San Antonio, Tx and have added 3 walks in New Mexico. These include Lordsburg in Hidalgo County, San Antonio (NM) in Socorro County, and Roswell. These walks are available from Apr 10 thru the end of the year, except for Roswell which is not available until May 3. Frank from the Wanderers will be in Ruidoso to help you sign up for the walks.

Contact Helen Hull (HelenTheHun@yahoo.com) for your New Mexico logbook and patch and start exploring the Land of Enchantment or in Ruidoso.

IT COMMITTEE - MIKE GREEN, CHAIR

THE NEW ESR – “ITEM HAS ERRORS” AND MAP PINS

The ability to create and edit a new or an existing event has been moved from the Legacy ESR system to the New ESR on my.ava.org. A summary and demonstration of the New ESR features was presented at the March 16th AVA webinar. This webinar was recorded as a YouTube video, a link to this video can be found on the club's my.ava.org home page.

One of the many differences between the Legacy ESR and the New ESR is the additional event information required (see next article) before a new or edited event can be submitted for approval or published to the public. Several events that were previously created and approved on the Legacy ESR are missing event information now required by the New ESR. These events are marked with an “ITEM HAS ERRORS” icon on the Club's **Sanctions** page and the **Edit/New** page (Club Home page>>**Sanctions** tab>>**Edit/New** tab).

Clicking on the **Review** button on the **Edit/New** page for an event with the “ITEM HAS ERRORS” icon displays the event information with red change bars (and pink text) indicating where required information is missing. Pink text is also used where optional event information has not been entered.

Clicking on the **EDIT** button displays a page where the buttons in the “**Sanction Tiles**” row can be used to quickly navigate to event data entry sections where the missing information can be entered, and other event information changed.

When editing is complete, click on the **Save/Review** button, then if all the missing information has been entered either a **Publish** or **Req Approval** will appear. The **Req Approval** button is displayed for a new event or event where the start/end dates, city, or state have been changed otherwise the **Publish** button is displayed.

Please note that when the **Publish** button is displayed, your changes will only become publicly viewable upon clicking the **Publish** button. Similarly, when the **Req Approval** is displayed your new/changed event will be submitted for RD (and possibly State Association) approval upon clicking the **Req Approval** button. When an event is published or RD approved, it is removed from the list of events on the Edit/New page.

Another difference between the Legacy ESR and New ESR has to do with how the event's location is displayed on a map. The Legacy ESR used the event's city/state to determine the Latitude and Longitude (aka, GPS coordinates) for mapping purposes that resulted in multiple events in the same city being mapped to the same location. The New ESR provides a "map pin" feature that allows the club to accurately show the event starting point by dropping a pin on a map (**Edit Event>>Location>>3- PLACE EVENT ON A MAP WITH A PIN**).

It is strongly recommended that all clubs take the time to edit each of their events then drag -and-drop the map pin to accurately indicate the event location to assure their event locations inherited from the Legacy are not simply based on the event's city/state.

Please feel free to contact osbhelp@ava.org or mikeginf@gmail.com if you have any questions.

THE NEW ESR – EVENT INFORMATION

As compared to the Legacy ESR, the new ESR requires additional information for an event before it is considered error free. A newly created event cannot be submitted for RD (and possibly State Association) approval until it is error free (required event information entered and saved/reviewed). As discussed in the previous article, the new ESR marks events with missing event information with a **"ITEM HAS ERRORS"** icon in Sanctions and New/Edit pages event listings. Red change bars are used to indicate missing information when an event is reviewed.

Below is a table of all of the information items for an event along with the Edit Event **"Sanction Tile"** button used to display the item whether the item is required or optional. Note, "Required*" is used to indicate newly required items in the New ESR.

Sanction Tile	Information Item	Required / Optional	Comment
Basics	Event Group	Required	Year Round (YRE), Seasonal (SE), or Traditional (TE)
Basics	Event City	Required	Changes to an approved event, requires reapproval
Basics	Event State	Required	Changes to an approved event, requires reapproval
Basics	Event Name	Optional	
Basics	Event Year	Required	Changes to an approved event, requires reapproval
Basics	Event Dates	Required	TE - start date and duration, YRE/SE - start and end dates. Changes to approved event, requires r-approval
Basics	Event Type	Required	Walk, Bike, Swim, Kayak, Snow Shoe, Ice Skate, or Cross country ski
Basics	Event Flags	Required	YRE/SE – Physical start box, Online start box or Both TE – Traveling/Guided, Guided, and/or Night Traveling/Guided only supported for Walk and Bike events

Basics	Event 'A' Award	Optional	
Basics	Request PPSF	Optional	YRE/SE Only
POC	Point of Contact	Required	Event POC Name, Email, Phone, and Address Note: The Address is not made public
Ratings	Basic Event Trail Rating	Required*	Incline and Trail surface
Ratings	Event Distances	Required*	Support for indicating separate trail incline and surface for each distance
Ratings	Event Access	Required	For walks - Restrooms, Pets, Strollers, and Wheelchairs For non-walks – Restrooms and Pets
Location	Start Name	Optional	Business or Place where the event starts
Location	Event County	Required*	When there are multiple applicable counties, choose one then indicate others in the event comments.
Location	Map Pin	Required*	Drag-n-Drop Map Pin to accurately show starting point location.
Location	Start times	Required*	TE – Registration and Finish Times YRE/SE – Availability of Start Box
Location	Start Address and Directions	Required*	
Location	Mapping Phrase	Optional	Supports verifying that entered Mapping Service Phrase results in a single map location being displayed by Google Maps.
Location	Remote Start	Optional	Used to indicate that the event starting point is not co-located with the start box.
Description	Elevator Pitch	Optional	
Description	Web site	Optional	
Description	Important Info	Optional	
Description	Comments	Optional	
Stamps/SP	Stamp Request	Optional	First stamp is always free. Additional Stamps are \$5 each. Default for OSB only events is no stamp, but this can be changed to 1 (free) or more stamps.
Stamps/SP	Stamp Text	Required*	Except for Traveling Guided (TG) events, copy the event name, city, state or enter custom stamp text. Use the "Show Stamp image" button to confirm text appearance and whether it fits. For TG events, the stamp text can only be entered/edited using the "Stamps" tab AFTER the first TG event in the calendar year is RD approved.
Stamps/SP	Special Programs	Optional	Select all applicable Special Programs

While a number of items are optional, you are strongly encouraged to use these information fields to enhance the quality of your event entry. It should also be noted that there is still support for uploading photos and event brochure for an event via the **Sell It** tab.

Please feel free to contact osbhelp@ava.org or mikeginf@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Pictures on the trail.




SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Urkunde • Certificate • Diplôme 2022



**Welt-Wander-Tag
World Walking Day
Journée Mondiale de la Marche**



Urkunde für / Certificate for / Diplôme pour

Internationaler Volkssportverband e. V.
International Federation
of Popular Sports
Fédération Internationale
des Sports Populaires

8. Mai 2022



Dr. Giuseppe Colaninno
President / Président / Presidente



Don't forget- World Walking Day is May 8th!! We have many trails to choose from. Bring a friend! Order certificates now by emailing Karen@ava.org

Click images to go to
official website.

NATIONAL EVENTS



Pentiction, British Columbia, Canada
May 27-29, 2022

We hope you will "Come Walk with Us, Visit with Us, Eat with Us and Enjoy a Fantastic Weekend of Fun, Fitness and Friendship"

Register now and see you soon.

SOLAR ECLIPSE
APRIL 8, 2024
SAVE THE DATE

The Texas Hill Country will be one of the few places in North America in complete totality of the solar eclipse. Observers will see about 4 minutes and 29 seconds of totality!

The Randolph RoadRunners are planning
5 & 10 km walks
in Kerrville, Texas

COME WALK WITH US
www.randolphroadrunners.info



Atlantic Region Conference
April 22-24, 2022

Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

"Walk with your Friends in Pennsylvania"

SAVE THE DATE

18th IVV Olympiad and
IML Texas Trail Roundup



February 19-23, 2023/IVV Olympiad
February 24-26, 2023/IML Texas Trail Roundup

Seven glorious days of walking, biking and swimming including the world-famous Riverwalk and World Heritage missions. Then, enjoy a uniquely American experience at the award winning San Antonio Stock & Rodeo Show!

IVVOlympiad2023.org



AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1976



Mid-America Regional Conference

MAC2022

June 17 - 19, 2022

Dayton, Ohio

36th Annual Spring
Volksmarch
June 4 & 5, 2022



21st Annual
US FreedomWalk Festival
14 - 16 October 2022
— An International Walking Experience —
Arlington, Virginia USA
3 days of Fun, Fitness, and International Friendships.
Come walk with us for a world class walking adventure alongside walkers from around the world!
www.USFreedomWalk.org

AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1976
Volksmarching at its Best

Checkpoint Available Via Email to All Club Members Who Request It

To receive an electronic copy of the Checkpoint send your request to Hector at hector@ava.org. Please note on the subject line: Request for Checkpoint.



AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1976

The American Volkssport Association

The Mission of AVA is to promote and organize noncompetitive physical fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness, and friendship for all ages and abilities.



1008 S Alamo St · San Antonio, TX 78210, Phone 210.659.2112 · Fax 210.659.1212 [Message US](#).