



The Strider

Official Newsletter of the
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

Volume 22, Number 2

April 2004

President's Corner

By: Walter Baker

On the 17th and 18th of April, we kicked off our Regular Walks of the year. With a bit of wind on Saturday, the 17th, we still had great weather for a Walk, as we had also on Sunday. While we sat there sending people off on their walk around "A" Mountain, we drew a lot of attention...motorists, bicyclists and motorcyclists stopped by to find out what we were doing...probably because of the activity at The Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum and on NMSU campus along University Avenue. One of the motorcyclists parked his bike and took off for the hill. This Walk was also our efforts to support the TV-Turnoff Week programs. What a pleasure to see Moms and Dads turn-out with their youngsters and have them take off on the Walk, normally 5 KM. Parents having some prime time with the kids. They

all reported having a great time. Regretfully, the many other activities going on over the weekend kept our numbers of walkers down to much less than we would have wished for. But, we were there. The Walks and the weather were great. We supported AVA efforts and provided Community Service. Thanks guys and gals, our loyal volunteers, who gave of your time! We did what it is all about. I expect we'll see more Volksmarchers and some of the TV-Turnoff folks join us for our next Walk, the May 22-23 Walk throughout NMSU campus. Hope to see you there.

I'm not going into the particulars this time, but we certainly are a viable Club...we're doing the real work of AVA, we're solvent monetarily and we, the hard working volunteers and Club Officers, all seem to enjoy each other. However, our elective year for your current officers is coming to an end. We plan on having our Annual Meeting/Election of Officers for the year

2004-2005 at a Dinner to be held on the evening of 29 May, starting at 6:00 PM at the Dynasty Restaurant at 1210 El Paseo Road. Hopefully, some of you have stepped forward to be our new officers for this coming year. The Nominating Committee is out there looking for you. If you haven't, you'll probably see some of the same old gang around next year. While we have had a great Team-effort these last four years, I would think that you might want to see someone else put their ideas into being and maybe come up with new approaches to what we've been doing. It's not too late to get on the Nominating Committee's Slate. Call Joan Poulos at 522-3513.

It's been a good year. Thanks members of The Board! You've been a great group to work with. I wish all of you the very best and for our Club continued success, harmony and growth.

Walt



Left - Francis (Frank) Conway along the "A" Mountain Trail near the Aggie Arena on the 18th of April.



Right - Jeanne Culbertson registers at the Start Point for the "A" Mountain walk on the 18th of April.



Sun Country Striders, Ltd., P. O. Box 6787, Las Cruces, NM 88006-6787
A member of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) in the
International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV)



Below is a listing of our **UPCOMING EVENTS** for the remainder of 2004 and for the first three months of next year. Mark your calendar and be sure to participate in all these events.

2004

May 22 & 23, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... New Mexico State University walk.

June - August, HAVE A NICE SUMMER!

Sept 11 & 12, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Alameda Elementary School, Las Cruces, NM walk.

Oct 16 & 17, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Fort Selden, Radium Springs, NM walk.

Nov 20 & 21, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Walk at the La Viña Winery in La Union, New Mexico.

Dec 18, 5:00 PM ... Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk (5:30 - 8:00 PM), Trails West Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico.

2005

Jan 8 & 9, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

Feb 12 & 13, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Las Cruces Hilton - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

Mar 12 & 13, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Space Murals Museum - Hosted Year-Round Walk.



Club President, Walter Baker, waiting at the Start Point to register participants.

More of the current AVA Special Events. If you are interested in participating in these activities, please contact the Point, of Contact for each event:

Walk the USA A-Z.

This program officially started at the AVA Biennial Convention in Colorado Springs, CO. It will run indefinitely. To be part of the program, you must enroll with *Trail Trolls, Inc. c/o Becky Adams, 1018 Colonial Lane, Bryan, OH 43506*. The program cost is \$8. You will receive a book to record your 26 walks - A to Z. For example, walk in Albany for A, Zanesville for Z, etc. When you have completed the book, return to Becky, who will send you a 2.5x3.5 inch patch that is depicted on the front cover of the book.

In July 2004 we will offer **Walking with the Presidents**. A special event that will allow walks in the birth- place, library or final resting place of all U.S. Presidents. More information to come.

More Special Events coming ... Look for details of a Lighthouse program and Revolutionary War program.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

The following information is from the April/May 2004 edition of the American Wanderer.

IVV Event Awards

225 Events Award: Henrietta Vargas



Mother & daughters walk away from TV on 18 April. One is a little shy though.

Have You??

By: Randy Ranelis

Have you?? Looked at your world around you and seen the majestic beauty of the mountain fortresses quietly watching over you? Listened to both the city and countryside symphonies and heard the heart beat of life around you and beside you? Tried to avoid the pollution and pollens as you filled your lungs with the sweet smells and fragrances of the splendor of spring in the desert?

Felt both tired and energized as you took another step up and down the little hills ahead of you while coasting along the winding paths of life? Taken time to simply go out and walk away your worries? Walked with child-like awe and gotten back in touch with yourself and your loved ones? Have you walked today? **Have you??**



Official Shoe Sponsor of the AVA and its member Clubs. Quality, comfortable walking shoes at reasonable prices.

Board of Directors

Elected members:

Walter Baker, President
Phone: 505-525-3990
E-mail: baker@newmexico.usa.com

Henrietta C. Vargas, Vice-President
Phone: 505-524-1041
E-mail: queta_69@hotmail.com

Randy Ranelis, Vice-President Trails
Phone: 505-525-0495
E-mail: ranlinranelis@zianet.com

Louis Bevacqua, Secretary
Phone: 505-522-0411
E-mail: None

Doyle Piland, Treasurer
Phone: 505-523-7034
E-mail: dpiland@zianet.com

At-large members:

Carol Gaines, Member
Phone: 505-524-4203
E-mail: None

Robert Macklin, Member
Phone: 505-524-8032
E-mail: macklin@zianet.com

Joanne Poulos, Member
Phone: 505-522-3513
E-mail: watch4dog@zianet.com

**Featured Year-Round Trail
The River Walk**

Register at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn

With this issue of *The Strider*, we will start a feature, which we will run from time to time as space permits, telling a little about some of the trails for our Year-Round Walks. Many of you will have already walked this trail, but I know there are several who haven't. So, for those who haven't, here is

some things you have been missing. There are many other views for you along the trail. The first trail to be featured is the River Walk trail from the Best Western. For the River trail, you first go to the Best Western and register, then drive to the trailhead near the bridge over the Rio Grande on Calle del

Norte west of Mesilla. The trail follows the paved multi-use trail along the River from the trailhead to La Llorona Park at the Picacho bridge. It goes under the bridge, circles around the North part of the park then returns South following the river levee back to the trailhead. Go walk it soon!!!



After Registering at the Best Western and driving to the trailhead, this is the view of the beginning of the trial, with Picacho Peak in the Background. ➔



A couple Kilometers along the trail, looking to the left, across the Rio Grande, past the levee on the West side, you have a nice view of Picacho Peak. ←



A little farther up the trail, is one of the foot bridges along the trail that cross irrigation system drainage ditches. If you look closely at the photo, you can see the I-10 bridge over the Rio Grande. You can also see the Dona Ana Mountains in the background. ➔



After making the loop at the North part of La Llorona Park and passing back under the Picacho bridge, this is the view of the South area of the park. ➔ Page 4



After departing La Llorona Park, the return trail follows along the river levee on the East side of the river. This photo shows a bend in the levee with the old trees to the left near the trailhead. ➔

After returning to the trailhead, you then drive back to the Best Western to turn in your start envelope and stamp your record books. As you start to drive away, this is what you see. The Organ Mountains in the background and "A" Mountain center right, both viewed across the expanses of the Mesilla Valley. ■

