



# The Strider

Official Newsletter of the  
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

Volume 26, Number 5

December 2007

## President's Corner

By: Derrill Rothermich

The Holiday Season is now in full swing and this will be the last newsletter for 2007. This is the great time of compassion, hope, and sharing time with family. I hope all of you thoroughly enjoy this time. Snow we had a couple of weeks ago sure set the proper mood. Also contributing to the Holiday joy will be our yearly Christmas Lights walk on Dec 22, because it is just a few days before the holiday, the lights should be very beautiful. The walk will begin at Trails West Clubhouse with registration beginning at 5 PM and walks at 5:30. Refreshments will be provided after the walk. I hope to see all of you there for this festive event. Come and spend some time with your club board members and walk helpers.

We hope to have the new 2008 Starting Point books then. Our November walk at La Viña was a lot of fun. Weather was perfect and turn out more than I expected. La Viña Winery owners have been absolutely great. They have been happy to have us there and come out extra early to open their facilities for our use. We miss Nutcracker Suite but La Viña is a great replacement.

While marking the trail, I had a visit with Sandy from the Nutcracker. She said she is sorry that Nutcracker is not available but wanted to pass on her well wishes to all. Thanks to all who helped with the walk. Hope you enjoyed seeing the KM markers again.

Our first walks in 2008 will be hosted Year Round Events. Hope you will come out and support the club members who work so hard to keep these available to you. There have been many changes this year and any suggestions you have for improvement are greatly appreciated.

One of the saddest things was the passing away of the Mother of Bob Macklin recently. She had been very ill and our sympathies go to Bob and his family. Bob is the current Vice-President, past President, and long time member of our club.

We still have monthly board meetings at the Branigan Library the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend. I have been proud to serve as President the last six months. We have great Board members whose knowledge and enthusiasm are a great asset to our club.

I want to take this opportunity to wish each one of you the merriest of Christmases and a happy and prosperous New Year. See you on the trail. ■

## In Memory of Iva Stanford

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of a long time member and fellow walker, Iva Stanford. Iva was the mother of our Club Vice President, Robert Macklin. To Robert and all his family, we offer our heart felt condolences. Iva was active in volkssports until a few years ago when her age and health no longer permitted. We shall all miss her.

## This and That

By: Doyle Piland

If you didn't make it to the La Viña Winery walk, you missed out on a great walk. This time, instead of the extended walking along Highway 28, Derrill, laid out the course essentially the same as the old Nutcracker course, but with about a kilometer extra due to the distance from the Winery to the irrigation canal to the west of the Winery. A large part of the course was through farm country away from traffic. Nice and peaceful.

We want to welcome new club members, Bilita and Don VanCleave.

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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)



## Sun Country Striders' 2007 Schedule

Our 2007 and 2008 schedules below needs all your support by participation and/or volunteering to assist with various tasks necessary to put these events on. We look forward to seeing each of you at these events and hopefully working with you to expand and grow our sport.

**Dec 22, 5:00 PM ...** Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk (5:30 - 8:00 PM), Trails West Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico.

## 2008 Schedule

**Jan 12 & 13, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ...** Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, Las Cruces, New Mexico - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

**Feb 9 & 10, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ...** Peppers Supermarket, Deming, New Mexico - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

**Mar 8 & 9, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ...** Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn, Las Cruces, New Mexico - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

**Apr 12 & 13, 8:00 - 4:00 PM ...** Fairacres Elementary School, Las Cruces, New Mexico walk.

**May 3 & 4, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ...** Sonoma Ranch Golf Club, Las Cruces, New Mexico walk.

**June 7 & 8, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ...** Chamber of Commerce, Cloudcroft, New Mexico - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

**July - August, HAVE A NICE SUMMER!**

**Sep 13 & 14, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ...** New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM walk.

**Oct 18 & 19, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ...** La Viña Winery, La Union, New Mexico.

**Nov 8 & 9, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ...** Walk at Dripping Springs Natural Area, East of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**Dec 19 (Friday), 5:00 PM ...** Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk (5:30 - 8:00 PM), Trails West Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico.

## OTHER CLUBS & WALKS

For the **Amigo Amblers** in El Paso, their group walks for 2008 have not been announced:

For information on their group walks, contact:

Mary Seagrove, President  
2024 Pier Lane  
El Paso, TX 79936-3868  
915-595-2291  
[merrymary48@yahoo.com](mailto:merrymary48@yahoo.com)

For **The Double Eagle Hike and Bike Club** in Albuquerque in first half of 2008;

Sat, 5 Jan, 10 am: Nob Hill Walk  
Sun, 20 Jan, 1 pm: Mile High Meander  
Sat, 2 Feb, 10 am: North Rio Walk  
Sun, 17 Feb, 1 pm: Tram Walk  
Sat, 1 Mar, 10 am: Capitol Walk  
Sun, 16 Mar, 1 pm: South Rio Walk  
Sun, 30 Mar, 11 am: Bandelier Walk  
Sat, 5 Apr, 8 am: Foothills Walk  
Sun, 20 Apr, 1 pm: UNM Walk  
Sat, 3 May, 8 am: Nature Center Walk  
Sun, 18 May, 1 pm: Dale Ball Trail Walk  
Sat, 7 Jun, 8 am: Oldtown-Downtown Walk  
Sun, 15 Jun, 1 pm: Los Alamos Walk

For interpatation of the event name and directions to the Start-Finish point go to <http://members.aol.com/abqdoubleeagles/> or contact:

Tom Baltés, President  
10604 Royal Birkdale NE  
Albuquerque NM 87111  
505-298-1256  
[TLBaltés@aol.com](mailto:TLBaltés@aol.com)

## Welcome Back Walter Baker

Walter Baker, one of our past presidents has agreed, and the board appointed him, to serve in the vacant Member-At-Large position on the Club's Board of Directors. We welcome Walter back and look forward to his wise council and input on club matters.

## Board of Directors

### Elected members:

Derrill Rothermich, President  
Phone: 915-821-2199  
E-mail: [DerrillRothermich@hotmail.com](mailto:DerrillRothermich@hotmail.com)

Robert Macklin, Vice-President  
Phone: 575-541-4473  
E-mail: [macklin@zianet.com](mailto:macklin@zianet.com)

Derrill Rothermich, Vice-President Trails  
Phone: 915-821-2199  
E-mail: [DerrillRothermich@hotmail.com](mailto:DerrillRothermich@hotmail.com)

Louis Bevacqua, Secretary  
Phone: 575-522-0411  
E-mail: [louis\\_bevacqua@blm.gov](mailto:louis_bevacqua@blm.gov)

Doyle Piland, Treasurer  
Phone: 575-523-7034  
E-mail: [dpiland@zianet.com](mailto:dpiland@zianet.com)

### At-large members:

Randy Rannels, Member  
Phone: 575-525-0495  
E-mail: [ranlinrannels@zianet.com](mailto:ranlinrannels@zianet.com)

Joanne Poulos, Member  
Phone: 575-522-3513  
E-mail: [watch4dog@zianet.com](mailto:watch4dog@zianet.com)

Walter Baker, Member  
Phone: 575-525-3990  
E-mail: [baker@newmexico.usa.com](mailto:baker@newmexico.usa.com)



Entrance gate to the La Viña Winery with Halloween Decorations



Once inside the gate, you encountered the Guard Cat

**This & That Continued from Page 1**

The VanCleave's currently live in San Antonio, Texas, but have purchased property in Silver City and will be spending time there fixing up and will most likely eventually retire there. They did their first Sun Country Striders walk at the Winery. Welcome Bilita and Don!!

Everyone stand-by. There has been discussion of a get together with the Southwest Regional Director, Heinz Johnson and all the New Mexico clubs. It has been suggested that this be in Roswell in early 2008. Roswell has had a club there for many years, but hasn't sponsored any events for a long time. They now have two Year-Round Events (YREs) sanctioned starting in January 2008. So, a meeting there would allow everyone to help Roswell kick off their two YREs and would also allow the clubs' leadership and the Regional Director to meet and discuss volkssports matters as it pertains to New Mexico. But, regardless if it is decided to hold the

meeting in Roswell or some other city, there will still be the opportunity to walk and talk. Wouldn't that be a fun thing to do? Meet and walk with folks from other clubs within the state. We'll keep you posted. ■

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## **Don't Forget! Hosted YREs**

We start off the New Year with Hosted Year-Round Events (YREs) the first three months. The first will be on January 12 & 13 at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces (the old Hilton Walk). Then, on February 9 & 10, we travel to Deming to do their YRE starting at Peppers Supermarket. In addition to the 10KM course they have always had, Bob and Ruth Ann Glover, have added a 6KM course as well. Then, on March 8 & 9, we move back to Las Cruces and host the Mesilla YRE and walk through and around Old Mesilla where the clear signs of spring should be on display. Then, after a couple months break for regular week-

end walks in April and May, we gather at the new YRE in the cool pines of Cloudcroft on June 7 & 8, an addition to our previous years schedule.

And, speaking of YREs, included along with this Newsletter are the Event Brochures for all the Sun Country Striders' 2008 YREs. If you know of someone who would like one of the Brochures, let us know so one can be mailed to them. ■

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## **Membership Renewal**

For those of you whose membership expires at the end of 2007, a membership renewal letter and form is enclosed. Your membership is important to the club. We must have your financial and worker support for the club to survive and sponsor the events that we do for your and others walking pleasure and exercise. So, please make any corrections/additions to the information on the form, send it along with payment as soon as you can. **Don't put it off and forget it.** ■



Once you entered the gate and got past the Guard Cat, you found Derrill Rothermich at the Start-Finish Table. Above, Derrill is waiting for the first participant to arrive to sign up.



And, sure enough, Derrill's patience pays off as we see Todd Serman, club member from Alamogordo, signing up at the Start-Finish Table. La Viña Winery was kind enough to allow the use of their nice patio.



While out on the trail, the Assistant Trailmaster (Roadrunner just to the right of 5 KM sign) checks the trail markings a few feet past the Check Point.



And, as would be expected, after signing up at the Start-Finish, Todd Sherman later approaches the Check point located in the middle of Farm Country.



Harry Verburg, from Truth or Consequences, finds his way to the Check Point.



A smiling Gail Logan, from El Paso, approaching the Check Point.



Club members Robert and Ruth Ann Glover, from Deming, check in at the Finish Point.



Club members Randy and Linden Ranel, from Las Cruces, check in at the Finish Point.

Did you miss out? Many of you did. This was a great walk, mostly through quite farmland away from the sounds and smell of traffic. The weather was just right for walking and those who participated certainly enjoyed themselves.

### **Don't Forget the Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk**

Wear light colored clothing, bring your flashlights and come stroll through the area of Old Mesilla and Mesilla Park and enjoy all the beautiful Christmas lights. It will be a great experience for all ages.