



# The Strider

Official Newsletter of the  
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

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## President's Corner

By: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

"The American Wanderer" is the national publication of the American Volkssport Association. I have just received the February-March issue and want to share some of the information about AVA's Special Programs.

If you have received our newsletter, you will remember that I am a fan of the AVA's Special Programs. I find it a challenge and very rewarding to set new goals, almost constantly and jump at the opportunity to explore new programs. Yes, I like to stamp my books for distance and event credit, but I also like to see what special program I can also get credit for!

The A to Z program has been going on for some time. You have to walk an event in a location starting with each letter of the alphabet! I "had" to go to Quilcene, Washington to earn a "Q" and Zionville, Indiana for a "Z". If you do any traveling, it's a fun program. The special booklet costs \$8.00 and can be ordered from Becky Adams, 4128 Kinsey Road, Englewood, OH 45322. Completed books are sent back to Becky and you will receive a 2.5" x 3.5" patch pictured on the front of the A to Z book. Our Hilton walk would qualify you for an "L" (Las Cruces) and also count toward the college campus program. You could earn a "D" by doing our new Deming walk! Becky reports that 1189 walkers have taken the "A to Z" challenge and 138 walkers have completed the alphabet.

I mentioned the College Campus Special program. You must complete five sanc-

**This Special Edition of the Strider is dedicated to two special club members, Barbara Garcia and Jeanne Culbertson, who recently passed away. Some memories on subsequent pages.**

tioned college campus walks for an A.A., five more different campus walks for a B.A., five more for a Master's and five additional for a Phd. This program has been so popular that it has been expanded to include becoming a "Road Scholar" by completing twenty more walks. This booklet is also \$8.00 and may be obtained from: American Volkssport Association, Attention: Debra Strelzick, 1001 Pat Booker Road, Suite 101, Universal City, TX 78148-4147

River Walk America started January 1, 2006 and runs indefinitely. Program rules include a sanctioned AVA walk, bike, or ski event if the trail passes by or crosses over a river. Five events to become a Rafter; ten events for Rowboat Captain; fifteen events for Paddlewheel Captain and twenty events for Steamboat Captain. Point of contact is: Lorraine Weaver, 22222 Chesapeake Lane, Leonardtown, MD 20650. The booklets are \$8.00. Sun Country Striders Mesilla Walk now goes to the Rio Grande to qualify for this special program.

RailRoad Heritage is another program which started January 1, 2006. It includes rails-to-trails as well as abandoned railroad tracks that are now used legally for recreational purposes. An event may also pass a railroad station, either currently or in the past used for passengers or freight. Contact Lorraine Weaver for this program too. Our Downtown Historic Las Cruces Walk now goes to the old depot to qualify for an event in this program.

More information on any of these pro-

grams and others may be found on the [ava.org](http://ava.org) web site or in the 2006 Starting Point Book. It is available for \$15.00 and lists over 1400 trails in the United States.

In January we added a new 10 km walk in Deming, modified the Downtown Walk, revised the Mesilla Walk and will try some different locations throughout the year for our monthly sojourns. April 15 and 16 we shall return to "A" mountain. May 13 and 14 will find us at Mayfield High School. This is a corrected date from what appeared in a few earlier brochures! September we will again return to Fairacres Elementary School. October 14 and 15 will find us at Ft. Selden and in November we will go to Oñate High School. These are not Year-Round Events. Year-Round Events may be walked almost any day of the year by registering at the appropriate location in Deming, Mesilla, Coas bookstore, or at the Hilton. We will host the Hilton Year-Round event from 8 to 11 on February 4th and 5th. This means that club members will be available to answer your questions, register you for the walk and provide directions and a map.

We look forward to having you join us on our walks. If you have suggestions for new walks or to improve old trails, please let us know! Volunteers are always welcome to help with registration, marking trails, etc., etc. Ask not what volkssporting can do for you, ask what you can do for Sun Country Striders! Phone numbers and email addresses are listed for our board members. We would like to hear from you. ■



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A member of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) in the  
International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV)





**Barbara Garcia on a walk at the Hosted YRE at Organ in March 2004.**

Barbara Jean Pieper Garcia, passed away to our heavenly father as a result of cancer on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. Born in O'Fallon, Missouri, Barbara graduated from Fontbonne University with a degree in Education. After working in La Paz, Bolivia as a missionary she returned to the United States and settled in Las Cruces, NM where she taught at Jornada Elementary for 24 years, retiring in 1995. During those years she continued her education, receiving a Ph.D. from New Mexico State University.

Barbara loved people, learning and trying new ideas. She was active in both Toastmaster Clubs in Las Cruces for years, and remained active in the Yucca Pod Tole Painting Club and the Southwest Calligraphy Guild until her death. Travel for Barbara wasn't just a vacation it gave her an opportunity to learn of other cultures and she has left scrapbooks filled with photos of people and places around the world.

Barbara is survived by her husband, George Garcia; a son, Roberto Garcia; a daughter, Cruzita Garcia; two brothers; Reverend Theodore Pieper and Jerry Pieper and sister-in-law; Rosemary Pieper along with many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Theodore X. Pieper and Jeanette McGlynn Pieper.

Interment was at the San Albino Cemetery in Mesilla. ■

**Randy and Linden Ranel**  
**Remember Barbara**

I first met Barbara at a walk, and as we went along the trail she was collecting aluminum cans to recycle and collect some

money. The money was for "her" kids that she was teaching in her kindergarten class. The money was actually for buying coloring books and crayons, so together we collected almost two leaf-bags of aluminum litter. A second impression was Barbara's artistic ability and enthusiasm for designing pins as IVV awards for Volksmarchers. And, her design of the set of patches of the 50 US states was colorful and interesting. We still have a few of the patches to remind us of Barbara's touch. After she retired from teaching to sell real estate, Barbara mentioned that both jobs demanded around 60 hours of work each week. We will all miss Barbara's friendly ways, her and George's enthusiasm and support of volksmarching, and Barbara's treating us with her kindness and "kindergarten chatter." We are missing both Barbara and Jeanne as true friends. ■

**Doyle Piland**  
**Remembers Barbara**

I first met Barbara in October 1982 at the Sun Country Striders' 2nd volksmarch. I had known her husband George for several years through our military service and had purchased a home with George as the Agent in 1980. Barbara was so very enthusiastic about volksmarching, as she was about many things in life. She remained a steadfast supporter of the Striders and volkssports from that day on. In 1987, she was elected the third President of the club and continued serving in several capacities for many years and always as an adviser whose opinions were valued.

Barbara was the driving force that created the Striders' first Year-Round Walk (YRW) in early 1987. The Hilton YRW was the 10th sanctioned in United States. That YRW has now been going for almost 19 years with thousands of participants enjoying the views and exercise.

Barbara used her artistic talents to design several event awards (*Editor's note: more later*), which were very popular and kept participation much, much higher than we now experience.

Barbara and George traveled to many states to participate in volkssports events and were almost always in attendance at the American Volkssports Association biennial convention at various locations around the US. They also traveled to several foreign countries to participate in volkssports events. Barbara will be missed by all. ■

**Barbara's Award Designs**

Jay Miller, longtime Club member and New Mexican, although he lives and works in San Antonio, Texas, was kind enough to provide photographs of all the event awards he collected over the year that were designed by Barbara Garcia. They follow (reduced size):



**Sand Painting design in cloisonné with the four pieces fitting together were offered as event awards in 1987-88**



**Ancient Pottery design in cloisonné with the four pieces making a set were offered as event awards in 1988-89**

More awards on next page.



Designs using the New Mexico State Symbols in cloisonné with the four pieces were offered as event awards in 1989-90



Thunderbird designs in cloisonné with the four pieces were offered as event awards in 1990-91



Native American Dwellings design in cloisonné with the four pieces were offered as event awards in 1991-92



Embroidered Patch Designs featuring patches for each of the 10 Regions of the American Volkssport Association, making up the map of the continental United States, were offered as awards during 1992-95



Various Designs in cloisonné were offered as event awards in 1991-94

**Remember!!**

The weekend of February 4 and 5, our Club will have the Hosted Walk at the Hilton Year-Round Walk. There will be someone at the start-finish point from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM to assist you with registration and IVV Credit if you are walking for that.

Remember, when you walk the Hilton walk, you are walking at the 10th oldest Year-Round walk in the American Volkssport Association.

Also, keep in mind the Hosted Year-Round Walk at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn on March 11 and 12. This walk takes you through historic Mesilla, through countryside to the Rio Grande and back. ■

**The Sun Country Striders' schedule for the remainder of 2006:**

**Note:** There was an error on the schedule that most of you received on the blue and green YRE Brochures and other event Brochures. The event in May at Mayfield High School is on 13 & 14. Please make corrections to your copy so you will not be confused.

2006

**Feb 4 & 5, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Las Cruces Hilton - Hosted Year-Round Walk.**

**Mar 11 & 12, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn - Hosted Year-Round Walk.**

**Apr 15 & 16, 8:00 - 4:00 PM ... Tortugas "A" Mountain, Las Cruces, New Mexico walk.**

**May 13 & 14, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Mayfield High School, Las Cruces, New Mexico walk.**

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

**Sep 9 & 10, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Fairacres Elementary School, Las Cruces, NM walk.**

**Oct 14 & 15, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Fort Selden, Radium Springs, NM walk.**

**Nov 18 & 19, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Walk at Oñate High School, Las Cruces, New Mexico.**

**Dec 16, 5:00 PM ... Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk (5:30 - 8:00 PM), Trails West Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico.**



**Jeanne Culbertson, 20+ year member**

Photo Courtesy: Las Cruces Sun-News

Jeanne Louise Gallien Culbertson passed away on November 30, 2005, and was reunited with her husband of 57 years, Peter. Jeanne was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 18, 1924, and "had a wonderful life". Jeanne was never expected to live to be a teenager due to a congenital heart condition. It was, however, this fatalistic prognosis that spurred Jeanne's lust for life, which she never lost. This love of life took her to the far reaches of the planet, visiting and living in places such as Saudi Arabia, China, Europe and the far stretches of Alaska, just to name a few.

Jeanne was a strong advocate for the common man and woman. She championed causes such as National Public Radio, Voters' rights, a host of other educational causes, and the Senior Olympics (she believed in being fit and was until the day of her passing). She believed in education and the dissemination of information across all national boundaries. She often hosted students and educators from across the world in support of this cause, as well as teaching abroad herself. Jeanne enjoyed learning and was a perpetual student. With her inquisitive mind, she graduated from high school at sixteen and started attending the University of Minnesota. Marriage, World War II, and five children later Jeanne graduated from Florida State University at the age of 42. She later received two master's degrees and a doctorate in history from New Mexico State University.

Jeanne's work was as varied as her life. She worked as "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II, wrote ads and jingles for radio stations, was a public school educator,

and president of the University of Alaska's far flung Aleutian College. She started and ran all of the island branches of the University of Alaska. She taught in the Florida Keys, the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, China, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Russia. For the past 15 years Jeanne wrote a weekly column on senior living for the Las Cruces Sun News.

Four sons and one daughter, as well as, nine grandchildren survive Jeanne. She was preceded in death by her Husband of 57 years, Peter. ■

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**Randy and Linden Ranel  
Remember Jeanne**

Jeanne and Pete Culbertson were a very special couple who had worked, played, instructed and helped entire communities in many countries around the world. Jeanne was also very enthusiastic and involved with walking every day as a way of living, teaching people about healthy foods and diets, and writing newspaper articles to convince the public at large to embrace a positive attitude about being alive and staying active. Jeanne had a unique manner of bringing out interesting stories from anyone she interviewed; stories that the individuals themselves did not feel were important. She saw us all as special and significant. Jeanne left a special imprint in our lives and a good feeling about ourselves. We are missing both Barbara and Jeanne as true friends.

**Another memory by Linden Ranel.**

A favorite memory that I have of Jeanne Culbertson was on a Volksmarch, of course. Randy and I were walking along an irrigation ditch route. We came upon Jeanne--picking and eating a great many mulberries from a bearing mulberry tree. She was so excited to have found these mulberries. A child eating candy could not have been happier. ■

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**Doyle Piland  
Remembers Jeanne**

Jeanne and Pete Culbertson were always involved in many activities. During the mid-1980s, they had organized a racewalking group and were teaching racewalking on Saturdays at the track at New Mexico State University. As the Sun Country Striders were

trying to attract new members and participants, I went to some of their lessons and practice sessions. That is where I first met Jeanne. Since volkssports in this area was something new and involved walking, Jeanne and Pete soon joined our club and began participating and helping put on the events.

As indicated in an earlier article, Jeanne wrote regular articles for the Newspaper. On several occasions, she wrote articles about volkssports and walking, always tying the exercise involved to good health. Jeanne was always a very positive influence on people she met and associated with. She will certainly be missed by many. ■

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**Membership**

For those of you who's membership expired at the end of 2005, you should have received a renewal notice with the December Newsletter. If you have already mailed your renewal dues, we thank you. If you haven't gotten around to sending your dues, please do so soon. For those who haven't renewed, this will be the last Newsletter you will receive. And, you will only get event brochures if you have participated within the last year. Renew today!!! ■

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