



The Strider

Official Newsletter of the
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

Volume 21, Number 3

1 September 2003

President's Corner

By: **Walter Baker**

I hope you all had a most pleasant Summer. My family and I have. Plus, we were able to get in a goodly bit of travel...Conventions in New Orleans, Chicago and Minneapolis ... visits with family and friends ... some 8,000 miles of auto travel.

We are about to take up the second half of our 2003 Regular Events Walks, beginning with our 20-21 September Walk with Start/Finish Point at the Fairacres Elementary School. With Security being what it is, we were not able to work out our planned WSMR September Walk, again. So, I hope to see you all at the Fairacres Walk. We'll be getting out the Walk Brochure in the very near future. Or, perhaps we can get it out to all of you along with the mailing of this Newsletter.

I want you all to know how grateful I am to have the Club Officers you have provided to serve with me this coming year. Review the List of Officers in this Newsletter and you can see that you have given me people with experience, enthusiasm for the sport and dedication to making things happen correctly. How can I, and you, not be excited about our Club still being one of the few Clubs in the area still conducting Regular Event Walks rather than simply providing for YRE Walks. You must imagine, or many of you know, just how much work is put forth by your officers and a group of volunteers in order that we still have these Regular Events Walks. It doesn't take much effort to conduct only YRE Walks. Let's hope we never have to resort

to conducting only YRE Walks.

Let me further applaud your officers. It's them and the small group of constant, dedicated volunteers with their "Can Do" attitude that makes for the many successes of the Club. Whether it's picking up materials, marking trails, preparing paperwork or manning Check Points/Start-Finish Points...They step forward. This attempt at reinstituting a Club Newsletter is just the latest example of working to improve the Club ... communicating with each other. Doyle had the format in his computer files, individual officers took upon themselves putting together info for certain sections of a Newsletter and here we are. Should any of you have info you'd like included in future issues, please, please, contact Doyle. Let's talk to each other.

The Club is monetarily solvent, with some \$1,400 in the bank. I'd like to think of some local event or occasion about which we might design a Club "A" or YRE medal for this coming year. Any thoughts? Give me a growl. We won't overdo the quantity we purchase. But, it would be nice for out-of-towners to have some medal or patch to remember our City, Area or Club once they have walked here. While I'm delighted that we are monetarily solvent, we can only stay that way if you all get out and support the Club. Get out to the Walks ... Regular Events or YREs. Participation makes us strong!!

COME ON OUT

Walkin' early mornin'
Keeps your body livin'
Stays away the hot summer
Avoids it being a bummer!!!

By: **Randy Ranel**

Vice-President Trails

The current year-round trail-masters are as follows :

- YR 010 [Las Cruces Hilton] - Walt Baker (505) 525-3990 or baker@newmexico.usa.com
- YR 385 & 859 [Mesilla Valley Inn - Best Western] - Robert Macklin (505) 524-8032 or macklin@zianet.com
- YR 102 [Space Murals Museum, Organ, NM] - Jim Ivey (505) 373-0027 or JimLIvey@hotmail.com

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 Ranel, Vice-President Trails
Phone: 505-525-0495
E-mail: ranlinranel@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



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)





Let to Right: Lynwood Ward, AVA Southwest Regional Director, Robert (Bob) Turner, and Walter Baker, Sun Country Striders' President at the presentation of the **AVA President's Award** to Bob Turner on 17 June 2003 at his home in Alamogordo.

Many of you know Robert (Bob) Turner, some for many years, who was the President of the Holloman Sun Runners since the early 1980s. He was also a member of the Sun Country Striders for several years as well. On the 17th of June, he was awarded the AVA President's Award, presented by Lynwood Ward, the Southwest Regional Director. This award was based upon efforts by the Sun Country Striders, who prepared the nomination listed below:

Robert Turner started in volkssports as a participant in 1978. In 1979/1980 he co-founded the Valley Vagabonds (AVA-0049) of Cleveland, Ohio and was the first President of that club.

Robert was in the U. S. Air Force and was transferred to Holloman AFB, New Mexico. At the urging of then AVA President David Toth, he re-activated the Holloman Sun Runners (AVA-0014) in 1981. He has been the President of that club most of the last 21 years and during the short periods when someone else held the title as President, he still provided the driving force behind the club.

Robert has Muscular Dystrophy and the symptoms have become progressively worse since the mid 80s. Regardless, Robert con-

tinued to put forth a valiant effort to keep going. He continued to walk events with the help of braces and shoe inserts for many years. All that time, and even long after he couldn't walk events anymore, he worked the start-finish points at various club's events. He also served as consultant/advisor to several New Mexico clubs during their start-up period, including the Sun Country Striders, as well as, clubs in Albuquerque, Ruidoso, and Roswell.

Even after he was severely disabled, he continued to try to take care of his club's affairs, to include two Year Round Events. Because of his deteriorated condition, he has finally decided that he can no longer manage the affairs of his club and can find no one else to take the responsibility. As a result he has not renewed the two YREs for 2003 and his club will go inactive as of 1 January 2003.

His relentless efforts, in spite of personal pain and hardships, to further the cause of Volkssports and the American Volkssport Association for 22 plus years certainly more than justify the award of the American Volkssports Association President's Award to Robert Turner in recognition of his courageous efforts. <end>

The Sun Country Striders Board of Directors had planned to host a dinner for Lynwood Ward, Bob Turner, and their wives in Alamogordo on the 17th of June, but because of Bob's weakened condition, he and his wife thought it best if they not attend. Therefore, Lynwood Ward and a small party went to the Turner home and made the presentation.

They then proceeded to a restaurant and hosted the dinner for Lynwood and Elaine Ward. Present at the dinner from the Sun Country Striders were Walter and Elsa Baker, Hineretta and Javier Vargas, Randy and Linden Rannels, Robert Macklin, and Doyle Piland.

From Alamogordo, the Wards proceeded on to Colorado for the AVA Convention. ■

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

The August/September issue of The American Wanderer lists the following IVV awards for local Volkssporters:

Events (number)

- 10 - Elisabeth Johnson
- 75 - Pauline Horne
- 175- Eileen M. Roberts
- 400- Walter Baker

Distance (Kilometers)

- 3,000 - Eileen M. Roberts
- 15,000 - Walter Baker

Congratulations to all. Whether you are just starting out, or have been doing it for a long time, keep it up.

OYEZ! OYEZ!! OYEZ!!!

VOLKSSPORTERS ***

As always we need your support and personal touch at all Sun Country Striders' weekend events!!! If you want to work at the start/finish point or a check-point, or help set-up, mark a trail, sweep (patrol) a trail, clear a trail, help clean up the area or meet and greet the public, let us know!! Contact Randy at 525-0495 or ranlinrannels@zianet.com

Below is a listing of our **UPCOMING EVENTS** for the remainder of 2003 and for all of next year. Mark your calendar and be sure to participate in all these events.

Below and on the next page, are some photos of the Sun Country Striders who attended the Bob Turner Award and Dinner at Margo's Mexican Restaurant in Alamogordo on the 17th of June.

2003

Sep 20 & 21, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Volksmarch at Fairacres Elementary School, Fairacres, New Mexico.

Oct 18 & 19, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Volksmarch at Sonoma Ranch Golf Course, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Nov 15 & 16, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Volksmarch at the Nutcracker Suite in Anthony, New Mexico.

Dec 13, 5:00 PM ... Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk (5:30 - 8:00 PM), Trails West Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico.



Robert Macklin, left, and Javier Vargas in conversation before the Bob Turner Award and Dinner at Margo's Mexican Restaurant in Alamogordo on the 17th of June, while Henrietta Vargas, right, listens to the conversation from the other side of the table.

2004

Jan 10 & 11, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

Feb 7 & 8, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Las Cruces Hilton - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

Mar 13 & 14, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Space Murals Museum - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

Apr 17 & 18, 8:00 - 4:00 PM ... Tortugas ("A") Mountain, Las Cruces, New Mexico walk.

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

Sep 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 Nutcracker Suite in Anthony, 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.



Linden and Randy Ranel enjoy conversation, with Walter and Elsa Baker (not shown) on the other side of the table before the Bob Turner Award and Dinner at Margo's Mexican Restaurant in Alamogordo on the 17th of June.

At right, Walter and Elsa Baker enjoy the chips and salsa, along with the conversation with Linden and Randy Ranel (not shown) on the other side of the table, before the Bob Turner Award and Dinner at Margo's Mexican Restaurant in Alamogordo on the 17th of June.



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