



The Strider

Official Newsletter of the
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

Volume 23, Number 5

December 2005

President's Corner

By: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

Sun Country Striders finished the year with their traditional Mesilla and Mesilla Park Christmas Lights Walks, both 5 KM and 10 KM. We enjoyed hot cider and delicious gingerbread cake at the Trails West Clubhouse following the walks. The Las Cruces weather cooperated and it was a wonderful evening to enjoy the lights along the trail. Thanks to our trail leaders, Robert Macklin, Eileen Roberts, Randy Ranel, Hugh Lewis, Joanne Poulos, Louis Bavacqua and Walt Baker. Linden Ranel helped attend the gate at the entrance to Trails West and Elsa Baker graciously set up and served hot cider and the cake. Thanks also to Doyle Piland for assisting with the registration of walkers and stamping AVA books as walkers returned.

January 14th and 15th we will be hosting our new year round walk in Deming! This walk replaces our Mesilla Park walk. The start/finish point will be at Peppers Supermarket with registration assistance available from 8 to 11 AM. We want to encourage you to join us! On the AVA scale of difficulty, 1-5, this trail is rated 1.

February 4th and 5th we will again host the Las Cruces Hilton Year-Round Walk. This walk qualifies for the AVA College Campus walk program. The AVA special programs add a new, and I think, exciting dimension to volksmarching. At the AVA convention last June, the gentleman chosen as "Valedictorian," had completed 97 college campus walks! I have completed 20 walks

for my Phd. and 20 more to become a "Road Scholar."

March 11th and 12th our club will host a choice of two walks starting at the Mesilla Valley Best Western Inn. The Historic Mesilla walk has been changed to include a walk to the Rio Grande. This qualifies it for the RiverWalk America special program. The alternate walk is our old town and country trail, which also includes part of the La Llorona trail.

Coas Bookstore will remain the start/finish point for the Historic Downtown Las Cruces walk. This trail has been modified to eliminate some blocks in the Mesquite District and include a visit to the Railroad Depot Museum. For those who are railroad buffs, do this walk on a Saturday when the Museum is open from 10 AM until 1 PM. Don't forget to sign up for the AVA Railroad Heritage Walk program.

I would like to repeat the contact information for the RiverWalk America program. Your record booklet costs \$8.00. Make checks payable to "Riverwalk America Volksmarch Special Program." Send to: Lorraine C. Weaver, 22222 Chesapeake Lane, Leonardstown, MD 20650.

For the Railroad Heritage program, make out an \$8.00 check to: "Railroad Heritage Volksmarch Special Program." Send to Lorraine at the above address.

If you are not inclined to chalk up the KMs and Events, please join Sun Country Striders so you will receive our newsletter and be informed of our events.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for changes, improvements and ideas for new trails. ■

Views Along the Trail

Below are a couple photos of the sights participants seen along the Christmas Lights Nightwalk in Mesilla/Mesilla Park on the evening of 17 December.

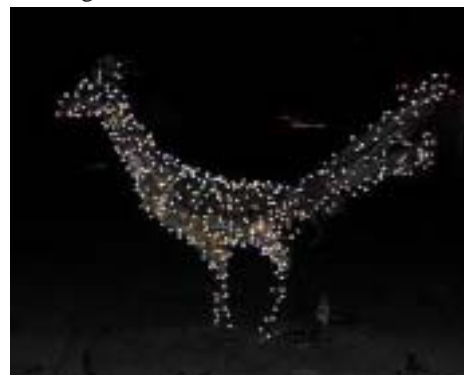


Photo by: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

A Giant Roadrunner lighting the night



Photo by: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

The North Pole in Mesilla Park on Conway Street. If you didn't do the walk past this home or haven't driven by, it would be well worth a trip.

You can view the Brochures for the Las Cruces and Deming Year-Round Walks at URLs:

http://www.zianet.com/dpiland/SunCountry/scs_2006_YRE.pdf

http://www.zianet.com/dpiland/SunCountry/Deming_2006_YRE.pdf



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)



Meet and Get to Know Your Board Member-At-Large! Joanne Poulos



Joanne (White) Poulos was born on January 13, 1935 in Barryville, Sullivan County, NY. She was the second child (and the only girl) born to Bruce & Irene White. Although she said there were times in her childhood she wished for a younger sister, she has long since believed that being the only daughter in the family had numerous advantages; not having to share a bedroom being at the top of the list!

From the age of two Joanne grew up in Owego, NY, a picturesque small town on the Susquehanna River. She attended schools there and graduated from the Owego Free Academy in 1952. As a teen, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Senior Class President, Varsity Basketball Cheerleader for three years, and a member of various choral groups and other clubs. She has always loved music and singing and was a member of the choir at the Owego Methodist Church for many years.

In October of 1966 Joanne married Basil (Bill) Poulos. At that time, Bill was an Instrumentation Project Engineer for Grumman Aerospace and had been assigned to the Lunar Module program at White Sands, NM. They lived in Las Cruces from 1966 to January 1970. During that period of time Joanne graduated cum laude from NMSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, majoring in Speech Pathology. While at NMSU she was secretary of the NEA Student Assoc. and served her externship at Carrie Tingley Hospital in Truth & Consequences and at the NMSU Speech & Hearing Clinic.

Bill was reassigned to Pt. Mugu, CA in 1970 where they stayed for 21 years. During that time, he retired from Grumman and worked ten years for Hughes Aircraft before

retiring "for good"! In California, Joanne worked a brief stint as a teacher in a private school, then as an Admin. Assistant with the Ventura Public Schools District prior to moving into private industry. After working for Unisys Corp. in Camarillo, CA for twelve years, she retired as Manager of their Software Configuration Lab.

Joanne & Bill have five grown daughters and five grandchildren. Since 1992 the couple has enjoyed their retirement in Las Cruces. Both of them think of Las Cruces as the best place anyone could ever choose to live.

Joanne is currently a Member-at-Large for the Sun Country Striders and covers publicity for their events. She is currently a member of the Tioga County Historical Society (NY), the Chemung County Historical Society (NY), the Orange County Genealogical Society (NY), and an avid genealogist/family historian. She is also involved in writing articles for newsletters and travels to various areas of the country in pursuit of her interests. ■

Below is a listing of our **UPCOMING EVENTS** for 2006. Mark your calendar and be sure to participate in all these events.

Jan 14 & 15, 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... Peppers Supermarket, Deming, New Mexico - Hosted Year-Round Walk.

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 27 & 28, 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.

Board of Directors

Elected members:

Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis, President
Phone: 505-521-7304
E-mail: lizjohn@zianet.com

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

Douglas Rennert Sr., Vice-President Trails
Phone: 505-523-5919
E-mail: None

Louis Bevacqua, Secretary
Phone: 505-522-0411
E-mail: louis_bevacqua@blm.gov

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

At-large members:

Randy Ranel, Member
Phone: 505-525-0495
E-mail: ranlinranel@zianet.com

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

Hugh Lewis, Member
Phone: 505-521-1240
E-mail: hughlewis1st@msn.com

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

The following information is from the October/November 2005 edition of the American Wanderer.

IVV Event Awards

10 Events: Hugh Lewis

200 Events: Deborah Ivey

200 Events: Eileen Roberts

2600 Events: Robert Glover

2700 Events: Ruth Ann Glover

IVV Distance Awards

3500 KM: Eileen Roberts

The following information is from the December 2005/January 2006 edition of the American Wanderer.

IVV Event Awards

200 Events: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

IVV Distance Awards

2500 KM: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

Congratulations to all! Keep it up.