



The Strider

Official Newsletter of the
Sun Country Striders, Ltd.

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September 2005

President's Corner

By: Elisabeth Johnson-Lewis

Our fall calendar of events began with a September walk in Mesilla Park. We experienced beautiful weather on Saturday and Sunday. The start-finish site was at Zia Middle School. Doug Rennert, our newly elected Trailmaster, along with Hugh Lewis and Randy Ranel did an excellent job of marking the 5 km and 10 km trails. Forty-six walkers registered for this walk and three "New Walker Packets" were sold. Each packet costs \$5.00 and contains coupons for three free walks, an explanation booklet about volkssporting, a free coupon for an issue of "The American Wanderer", the national AVA newspaper published every two months and a record "book" for distance and one for events. It's a great way to get acquainted with volksmarching and start people on the way to keeping track of their walks. When this first event book is sent to national headquarters, a member number is assigned and the individual receives a pin and patch acknowledging the completion of 10 events. The next booklet can be purchased for \$5.00 and will be good for recording 20 more events. Ask any board member for more information on event and distance booklets. I like to set goals for myself and watch the number of events increase and the distance add up. I, personally, am hooked on the special programs that AVA has to offer and can hardly wait for January 1, 2006 to begin the Railroad Heritage program and Riverwalk America program.

Christine Conway, Joanne Poulos and Eileen Roberts cheerfully greeted walkers on the Zia walk, at the checkpoint near the

Mesilla Park Community Center. Unfortunately, the porta-potti was locked and therefore unavailable for our use. We sincerely apologize for an inconvenience this may have caused and will make a special effort to avoid any similar calamity in the future.

If you are willing and able to assist at future walks, please call Doug at 523-5919 and volunteer for the registration table or a checkpoint for approximately two and a half hours either day. Volunteers earn a free event credit stamp in their booklet. Helping with the distance of an event, such as marking a trail while walking it, earns distance credit.

Members have been working on exciting changes for 2006. A new volksmarch in Deming is being prepared by the Glovers and will be our hosted walk in January. The Historic Downtown Las Cruces walk has been altered to include the train depot at the end of Las Cruces Avenue and Mesilla Street. The museum there is open on Saturdays from 10 AM until 1 PM. This walk will still start at the Coas Bookstore in the downtown mall. The Mesquite district section has been shortened and several points of interest have been scratched. We shall be vigilant to keep the route accurate with the many changes due to occur in the future revitalization of the downtown area.

The Historic Mesilla walk in 2006 will include a walk to the Rio Grande. The starting point will change to Oñate Plaza. The registration will remain at Mesilla Valley Best Western Inn on Avenida de Mesilla. Several "right" and "left" turns have been eliminated to make the walk more appealing.

We periodically check our routes and make note of missing street signs, new traffic lights installed and safer crosswalks. We always welcome comments from walkers and

suggestions to improve. We also encourage you to participate in helping us with any of these duties. We would like to have youth groups involved and could use help in distributing posters and flyers on a monthly basis.

See you on the trail! ■



In 2006, the Historic Downtown Year-Round Walk, starting from the Coas Bookstore, will take you to the old Las Cruces train station, shown above.



A statue at Fort Selden State Monument, location of our October 15 & 16 walk.



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 New Member-At-Large! Hugh Lewis



Hugh Lewis

Hugh Lewis was born in Elkhart, Kansas. At about the time he started school, his parents moved out North of the Cimaron River and back west toward the Point Rock crossing of the Santa Fe Trail to start Homesteading 40 acres. So he did his early schooling in a one room school over about 2½ miles North East of the Homestead. But this was during the dust bowl days and as soon as the five years were up, they moved to Fullerton California where he did the 5th grade and experienced an earthquake and a flood. Then his family moved to rural Abbot, New Mexico where he finished through the 8th grade. Then in 1940 moved to rural Taylor Springs, New Mexico and started and finished High School at Springer with mechanical engineering preparation.

Then on Graduation in '44, went on active duty with the Navy, seeing service on the USS Braine as a Fire Control Striker with action in Philipines, taking Leyte island, Lingayon island, Corrigador, and on Radar Picket Duty off Corrigador, where on May 27, 1945 two out of five Kamakazies got in on us. The first came in through the #2 handling room and blew up under the bridge blowing out all control and communications while the second came in just aft of the starboard beam at his eye level and blew off the after stack. Although the command had been given to abandon ship, they managed to save it with the help of others and then got patched up enough that they were able to

get back to the US. He got off in Long Beach and after 30 day leave, reported again in Boston where the crew lived on the pier for eight months while they essentially rebuilt the ship. Then in 1946, he was discharged and drove an old 34 Ford Sport Coupe across country to Pico, California where his parents had moved to.

He was a fire control striker in the Navy and as for further training, he started a Correspondence Course with the University of Colorado in algebra while in the Navy but it didn't work out. Then the Fullerton Junior College Fullerton, California on Mechanical Engineering for two semesters, '46-'47, then three quarters at Southern California Baptist Theological Seminary Los Angeles, '47-'48, two semesters at Ottawa University at Ottawa, Kansas. A correspondence course with Industrial Training Institute, Chicago, '50+ for Radio and TV, another correspondence course with United Television Labs (later changed to United Electronic Labs before he finished) with two weeks in house at Louisville, KY '57, Central Technical Institute Kansas City, Missouri '57-'58, Sandia Labs after hours courses Albuquerque, '59-early 60s, Texas Instruments, Houston to learn the TACT Tester (Transistor And Component Tester), '59 two weeks, Fairchild Electronics, California to learn their Component Tester, mid 60s two weeks.

As for work history, he has worked as apprentice carpenter, as apprentice plumber, at Lamb Funeral Home, operated a corn picker and tractor of his own, worked for Shaw Manufacturing making "Shaw Do-All Garden Tractors" and driving their enclosed 42 foot van back to Columbus, Ohio, as a guard at Folsom Prison, serviced TVs for Sacramento TV, Lewis Radio and TV Service in Syracuse, Kansas for 2½ years, serviced two way radios for Santa Fe Railroad Communications first at Amarillo Headquarters, then Belen, New Mexico and Pueblo, Colorado where he calibrated all the radios going in every 30 miles or so between La Junta, Colorado and Eastern, Kansas and keeping them operating. In doing so he put on 40,000mi on his car in around 10 months. From there he went to Louisville to finish

up at United Electronic Lab and took a job at Farnsworth Electronics in Ft Wayne, Indiana. When that job was about to run out, he went to Kansas City, Missouri and Central Tech and on graduating, hired on with Sandia Labs in A Albuquerque, New Mexico.. Here he was responsible for the #2 TACT machine early on then moved over to the high voltage transformer Div awhile, and the switch development Div awhile, and finally into the Missile Guidance and Control Div. Here he assembled and arranged for modifications of the prototype of the first guidance system, and was in line to go out to the Pacific with the "gang" to test it out. But that was in '74 when they had a RIF which he took advantage of so they could do some traveling while still able. But the wife's retirement failed to come through, so he went back in '76 and worked with Gyros for five more years before retiring. After the death of his Wife of 38 years in 2003 and feeling lost and useless for a couple of years but riding with the local bicycle club, he started looking for another companion and found Elisabeth Johnson who got him into Volksmarching and soon became his Wife! ■

Board of Directors

Elected members:

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AVA SPECIAL EVENTS

The American Volkssport Association has announced two new special programs have been added to their Special Events program.

RiverWalk America – Starts January 1, 2006 and runs indefinitely. The program rules include a sanctioned AVA walk, bike or ski event if the trail passes by or crosses over a river. A river is defined as a flowing body of water whose name ends in the word River. A trail passes by a river if you can sight the river as you walk the trail. Each event may be included only once. The program can be completed at four distinct levels. A participant may turn in his or her book with five, ten, fifteen or twenty event stamps. The level approach has been chosen so that children will be able to participate and complete the RiverWalk American Program without being discouraged if the challenge of completing twenty qualifying events is too great. The levels are: 5 events, Rafter; 10 events, Riverboat Captain; 15 events, Paddlewheel Captain; and 20 events, Steamboat Captain.

Cost of the program is \$8.00 for the booklet to record your walks. Make checks payable to "RiverWalk America Volksmarch Special Program". Send to: Lorraine C. Weaver, 22222 Chesapeake Lane, Leonardstown, MD 20650

RailRoad Heritage – Starts January 1, 2006. Program runs indefinitely. Cost is \$8.00. Criteria: A sanctioned AVA walk, bike or ski event if the event trail follows, at some point, a former rail bed or passes a railroad station, either formerly or currently used for passenger and/or freight service. Qualified walks will be listed on the RailRoad Heritage web site. Each event may be used only once. The program can be completed at six different levels. A participant may turn in his/her booklet with 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 stamped events. Enrollment entitles you to be a Hobo. 5 events Passenger; 10 events Brakeman; 15 events Fireman; 20 events Engineer; 25 events Conductor. The Conductor is actually the boss of the train and is considered more essential than the engineer. Contact Lorraine Weaver (address above) or email seka@gmpexpress.net. Make checks payable to RailRoad Heritage Volksmarch

Special Program.

When completing a special program walk, you may stamp your event book, distance book and the special event book! It's lots of fun. Other special programs can be found on the AVA web site. The College Campus program is a fun way to earn your Phd. Check it out.

Sun Country Striders has three walks which qualify for these special programs. The walk which starts at the Hilton Hotel off Telshor, goes by NMSU and qualifies as a college walk. The Historic Mesilla walk goes out to the Rio Grande and will qualify as a RiverWalk starting January 1, 2006. Its start point is at Oñate Plaza in Mesilla with registration and directions at the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn on Avenida de Mesilla. The Historic Downtown Las Cruces walk will qualify as a Railroad Heritage Walk come January. The start point is the Coas Bookstore in the Downtown Mall. Why not try the "A to Z" program? We have "M" for Mesilla. "L" for Las Cruces and starting in January, a new year 'round walk in Deming (for "D"). ■

El Paso Group Walks!!

The Amigo Amblers, our sister club in El Paso, hosts guided walks at their three Year-Round Walks in the El Paso area. They have a walk scheduled at each walk before the end of the year.

24 September on the West side at Lowe's Super \$ave Discount Food Store located at 5300 Doniphan Drive. This walk is in the upper valley on the west side of El Paso. The trail passes along irrigation canals and the Rio Grande river with a view of our beautiful mountains. See URL <http://home.earthlink.net/~jaycm2/ayre.html> for photos, details and directions. Gather in the parking lot away from the front of the store to register.

5 November, referred to as the UTEP walk, the start-finish is at Albertsons Grocery Store at 3100 North Mesa. This walk is well worth the hills as you travel through this lovely older section of El Paso and through the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso. See URL <http://home.earthlink.net/~jaycm2/byre.html> for photos, details and directions. Gather in the store parking lot, farthest from the store to register.

3 December, on Fort Bliss at The Inn

at Fort Bliss, which is located at 1744 Victory Avenue. This walk will take you around and through Fort Bliss. You'll pass the historic staff buildings, Officers' Row, and the old General Pershing House. You'll also pass many of the wonderful museums of Fort Bliss, including the Air Defense Museum and the Old Fort Bliss Replica. See URL <http://home.earthlink.net/~jaycm2/cyre.html> for photos, details and directions. Gather in the lobby of the Inn to register.

Walking as a group allows participants to chat with and get to know others with the same interests and makes the walk very enjoyable.

After the walk, most will go to a local restaurant for lunch and more visiting. ■

The Sun Country Striders'

schedule for the remainder of 2005 and all of 2006 follows:

2005

Nov 19 & 20, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ... Walk at the La Viña Winery in La Union, New Mexico.

Dec 17, 5:00 PM ... Christmas Lights Guided Night Walk (5:30 - 8:00 PM), Trails West Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, Mesilla, New Mexico.

2006

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.



Derrill Rothermich from El Paso walking the Zia Middle School volksmarch.



Jennie Larder from El Paso checks her map on the Zia Middle School volksmarch.



Bob and Ruth Ann Glover from Deming walking the Zia Middle School volksmarch.

