



Official Newsletter of the RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS (AVA44)

Volume 2019 – August 2019 No. 8
Next Meeting – 9/19/19

A member of the American Volkssport Association (AVA) & the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV)
The Public is always welcome

**Randolph Roadrunners
Volkssport Club
A Walking Club Established 1980
PO Box 2744
Universal City, TX 78148-1744
Elected Officers**

President

Ellen Ott 210-723-8574

Vice President

John Ives 210-694-4582

Treasurer

Pat Gunter 210-479-0805

Secretary

Pat Roberts 210-846-1801

Committee Chairs

Membership:

Caryl Swann 210-842-4128

Publicity:

Donnie King dwking1@gmail.com

Sales:

David Prewitt 210-215-4388

Webmaster & Event Flyers:

Randy Baker 260-225-3766

Newsletter:

Audrey Vertucci – AudreyVe@aol.com
210-496-2197

Year-round Events: Boerne & Gonzales

Pat Gunter 210-479-0805

Year-round Events: DeZavala Daily Bread,

Broadway Daily Bread & Leon Creek

Ellen Ott 210-723-8574

Year-round Events: Crownridge, Friedrich

Park, Eisenhower Park

Susan Medlin 210-325-3523

Year-round Events: Schertz

Caryl Swann 210-842-4128

Club Website

www.randolphroadrunners.info

AVA Website

www.ava.org

TVA Website

www.walktexas.org

SW Regional Director & TVA President

Susan Medlin 210-325-3523

sw_rd@ava.org

Renewal Time

The following membership renewals are currently due:

Leon & Liz LeVan, Amanda Spector, Sandra Bliss, Bruce Jordan, Melissa Thomson, Bette & Jim Mayfield, and Jane Radigan. To renew your RR membership, fill out the application attached or print it off our website:

www.RandolphRoadrunners.info and send it with \$4 for 1 year or \$10 for 3 years, to Caryl Swann c/o RR, PO Box 2744, Universal City, TX 78148.

Remember: Lifetime Memberships are available for \$30 per person.



Welcome, New Member!

Eva Bueno

San Antonio

RR Club Meetings:

We meet at 6:30 P.M. on the 3rd Thursday of every month at: Universal City Library, 100 Northview Drive, Universal City, TX 78148. The next meeting is September 19, 2019.

**From the Desk of the Pres--
RR 2019 Walk Schedule:**

10 Aug. Taco Cabana –Pat Booker Road & Kitty Hawk, Universal City
Start time 0630 to 0830.

Contact Ellen at ellenott@sbcglobal.net or 210-723-8574 if you can volunteer at this Taco Cabana Sunrise walk.

14 Sept. Lazy U Ranch

5 Oct. Garden Ridge

16 Nov. OST downtown in conjunction
With OST 100 Centennial

30 Nov. Southside Lions Park featured
YRE

14 Dec. Boerne Christmas walk

This coming January will be the first time in 20 years that the *Barney Smith Toilet Seat Museum will not be used as a check point on our RR walk.

**Taco Cabana-Stone Oak
Summer Sunrise Walk, 7/13**

There were 56 walkers. The day started off rather pleasant until the sun came out!

Thank you to all our volunteers including: Pat Gunter, Darlene Oner, Kathy Schwencke, Mike Schwencke, Herbert Laing, Susan Medlin, John Ives, Andy Thomas, David Prewitt and Mike Hermes.

Volunteers, your dedication and support for the Roadrunners is much appreciated.

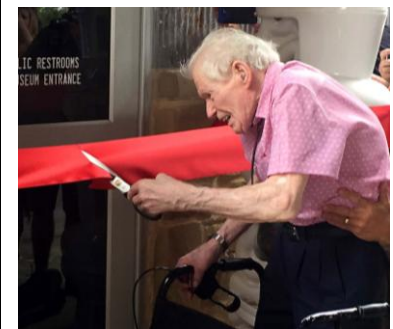
Thank you all for helping!

**IN MEMORIAM -
Barney Smith passed away July 24, 2019 at the age of 98.**

**Day Trips: Toilet Seat
Museum**

**Toilet seat art collection
relocates to The Colony in
Dallas**

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD, FRI., JULY 12, 2019
Photos by Gerald E. McLeod



**Barney Smith's Toilet Seat
Museum** has moved from his one-car garage in San Antonio to a new cathedral of flush in **The Colony** north of Dallas.

A week after his 98th birthday, Barney cut the ribbon on the new museum at the **Truck Yard**, a biergarten and restaurant opening this summer.



Jason and Amanda Boso paid about \$18 a piece for Barney's collection of more than 1,400 artistically altered toilet seats. Their hope is that the unusual art collection – as well as 28 vintage cars sticking vertically out of the ground, Bob Wills' tour bus, live music, and a brewery – will make this a must-visit roadside attraction.

A retired master plumber and artist, Barney started his potty-lid art project by mounting deer antlers on a throne cover as a joke. The collection exploded after he acquired a stack of defective toilet seats for free.

Before she passed away, Barney gave his wife a custom-painted seat on their wedding anniversaries.

Over nearly 30 years of being king of the commode covers, Barney decorated most of the seats in the collection, but some were given to him. One of his favorites is the toilet seat from an airplane that **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis** might have sat on.

It's all in good, clean fun. At the opening of the new museum, Barney said, "At my age, I'm just glad Jason is keeping a part of me alive. Ain't it great?"



Barney Smith's Toilet Seat Museum and **the Truck Yard** are at 5959 Grove Lane in The Colony. Jason says he hopes to open by the end of July.

There are also Truck Yard locations in Dallas and Houston – but there's only one Toilet Seat Museum.

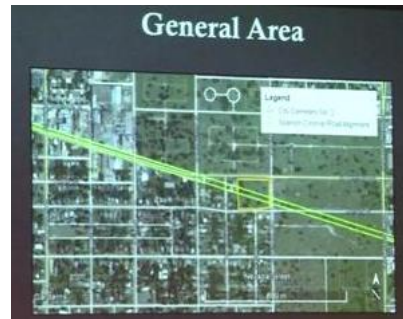
Follow "Day Trips & Beyond," a travel blog - austinchronicle.com/daily/travel

RR June Potluck Presentation Was Enlightening

By: *Bob Alton*

In preparation for the city's tri-centennial, officials, including the Office of Historical Preservation, were tasked with pinpointing the location of significant local historical sites. One such site mentioned in several early documents was the Spanish Powder House located approximately a mile east of the Alamo just off Commerce Street.

On Thursday, June 28, Matthew Elverson, Assistant City Archeologist, spoke to the Randolph Roadrunners and shared the inside story of how his office proved the exact location of the Powder House. His presentation unfolded like a detective story, including archaic references which served as clues to unravel the mystery, and the use of high tech devices to direct the search.



The Powder House was a building used by the military to store gunpowder. It was built of plastered limestone with two-and-a-half-foot thick walls. It was critical to store the explosives away from the other buildings on a military post. There was a three-story watchtower adjacent to the Powder House and the two buildings were situated on a slight rise on the main road heading out of town, far from the Alamo and other structures.

The original purpose of the Watchtower and Powder House, built between 1807 and 1810, was for protection of the village of Bexar. When Americans began populating the territory acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, just east of

Texas, there was a fear they would continue their expansion west into Spanish lands.

Mr. Elverson began by showing references to the Powder House starting with Spanish colonial construction, use by Mexican troops, the Republic of Texas, the US Army, and the Confederate Army.

From contemporary narratives, road maps, and plot maps from property deeds, there are plenty of references to the approximate location of the Powder House. By overlaying many of these documents and comparing results to topographical maps, the archeologists were able to narrow the search to a block of land that is currently City Cemetery No. 2.



Through the use of aerial photography and ground thermal imaging, they found several areas that were potentially man made (straight lines and a 90-degree corner). Since they were working in a cemetery, they choose specific sites in roadways away from graves to begin digging for confirmation.

It did not take long to get to the original limestone foundation stone work and confirm with certainty the exact location of the Powder House. By exposing the stonework, they determined the age of the construction by the techniques used, and the types of fill surrounding the wall. It was interesting to note several houses in the neighborhood are built from limestone block which most likely came from the ruins of the Watchtower and Powder House.

Workers also found ceramic samples and gunflints used by Mexican forces in the early 1800s.

Mr. Elverson even showed us an advertisement from the early 1880s soliciting bids to prepare the site for use as a cemetery. After excavation, the site

was returned to its original condition. No gravesites were disturbed during the work.

The Office of Historical Preservation for the city is working on other historical sites and has an extensive map of all the acequia systems in the city which was very interesting.

Thanks to Ellen Ott for arranging a wonderful speaker and educational evening. The potluck was also well received and heartily eaten!



Fun, Fitness, Friendship
Club Development & Support Committee—John McClellan, Chair

The Club Development & Support Committee is looking for volunteers to join the committee in the new term. We welcome any AVA Associates or club members who want to help us solve problems for clubs. At our peak last term, we had representatives from 5 AVA Regions including at least 3 club Presidents. I'd like to continue that broad representation, and, if you are in one of our State Organizations – add that voice as well!

If you are ready to serve – please contact me. John McClellan at: johnmc82@cfl.rr.com



Communications— Samanta Sanchez

Our AVA community came together during our annual fundraiser, the Big Give 2019, and made an impact! Thanks to our match donors, club donors, and individual donors, the AVA managed to reach and surpass its \$78,000 goal. Your generosity raised a **grand total of \$81,665!** We would like to give a big thanks to all the 517*

donors who contributed to our annual campaign. Your generosity will help build a stronger walking community for future generations. Thank you!

**Number includes duplicate donors*

AFTER CONVENTION THANKS

Convention Co-Chairs—Lea Darling & Teresa Kennedy

The Northeast Clubs hope that all the conventioners enjoyed themselves with our WALK THRU HISTORY themed walks, socials and workshops. We had a fun time deciding which walks would give you a sense of the incredible history of our country's founding. If we succeeded, then we did our job. A comment was made that we do have some pretty impressive 300-400 year old architecture in these parts.

Our socials were very well received and attended. Folks chowed down on the Baseball themed hot dogs, bratwurst, veggie dogs, man sized pretzels and melted cheese, baked beans, etc. The baseball trivia was enjoyed by those who joined in the questions. Almost 400 attended this evening.

Our entertaining, clog dancing, singing and mutual camaraderie traditional music and NY cheesecake or apple pie evening involved some singing and lots of laughs with the almost 370 in attendance.

AVA put on the closing banquet show for 375 diners with an emcee, esteemed award presentations, and our national speaker from the Crazy Horse Foundation. An evening packed with firsts, a sit down meal with new and old friends, ending with almost 2 hours of Elvis hits by a remarkable Elvis Tribute Artist.

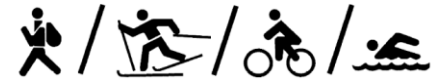
We thank each of our nine dedicated Northeast Clubs for their participation and energies to make this the **BEST NORTHEAST AVA NATIONAL CONVENTION**. To the many AVA Nation individuals who helped with volunteering, you were a dynamite help. One comment was "it was so easy to pick out the volunteers with their bright yellow vests and smiles".

Our convention participant statistics listed 41 states and the District of Columbia represented, England (2),

Canada (12) representing 3 Provinces, Norway (1).

The three states with the most attendance were NY (71), TX (56), and WA (50).

Convention Walks: Portsmouth (418), Danvers (409), Springfield (426), Cohoes/Waterford-Erie Canal (643), Saratoga Nat'l Historic Park/Schuylerville (604), President's/Albany (602), Cooperstown (422) and finally Buffalo (261).



Texas Traditional Events and Featured YREs – August, 2019:



TVA - A Weekend in

Abilene 2 Walks - 6 County YREs 2-4 August 2019

Friday's walk is the YRE in Sweetwater, 40 miles west of Abilene on I-20. Sign in at Best Western Plus, 300 NW Georgia Ave. 10km walkers start NLT 5:30 pm and 5km walkers start NLT 6:30 pm.

Saturday's McMurry University walk will start at the Sayles Square parking lot near Dollar Tree, which is located at 133 Sayles Blvd., Abilene, TX 79605.

Sunday's Christian University walk will start at the parking lot in front of Frontier Texas! at 625 N 1st Street, Abilene, TX 79601.

SAT & SUN START/FINISH TIMES: Start 7 – 8 am. Finish by 11 a.m.

DISTANCES:

Friday's Sweetwater YRE is 10km and 5 km.

Saturday's McMurry University is 10km and 6km.

Sunday's Christian University is 11km and 7km.

8/3/2019 - 8/3/2019 - Walk

Event Number: 113879 10km/6km

Start: La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Abilene Mall, 3018 Catclaw Drive, Abilene, TX 79606.

Event City: Abilene - McMurry University

Host Club : Texas Volkssport Assn.

More Details: [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

Write for more information to: 12527 Fern Creek

San Antonio, Tx 78253
Contact: Susan Medlin, (210) 325-3523
E-Mail: sueammed@aol.com
Club Website: walktexas.org

8/4/2019 - 8/4/2019 - Walk
Event Number: 113878 11km/7km
Start: La Quinta Inn by Wyndham Abilene Mall, 3018 Catsclaw Drive, Abilene TX 79606.
Event City: Abilene - Christian University
Host Club: Texas Volkssport Assn.
More Details: [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

Write for more information to:
12527 Fern Creek
San Antonio, Tx 78253
Contact: Susan Medlin, (210) 325-3523

E-Mail: sueammed@aol.com
Club Website: walktexas.org
In addition to the two Traditional walks in Abilene, there are six 2019 County Walks and six other YRE's in Midland, San Angelo, and Big Spring State Park.
Susan A. Medlin
Southwest Regional Director
Texas Volkssport Association President
AVA: America's Walking Club
210-325-3523
sueammed@aol.com



8/10/2019 - 8/10/2019 - Walk
Event Number: 113949 10km/5km
Start: Taco Cabana
Event City: Universal City - August Summer Sunrise Event
Host Club : Randolph Roadrunners
Event Website: randolphroadrunners.info
More Details: [Click here for directions, ratings, etc.](#)

Write for more information to:
11906 Pepperidge Cove
San Antonio, Tx 78213
Contact: Ellen Ott, (210) 723-8574
E-Mail: ellenott@sbcglobal.net
Club Website: www.randolphroadrunners.info



CAPROCK CANYONS Texas State Park & Trailway COPPER BREAKS Texas State Park 4 Walks in 4 Texas Counties October 11-13, 2019

Join the West Texas Trail Walkers for our 38th annual event in the red rock canyons of Caprock Canyons State Park out in the panhandle of Texas. Wind and water over the eons shaped the rugged beauty of the canyons. This park also holds the official Texas State bison herd which is allowed to freely roam the park. Around 60 miles of the more than 90 miles of trails in the park are hiking/biking trails converted from an old abandoned railway line.

Complementing Caprock Canyons State Park is Copper Breaks State Park. This park is part of the original lands held by the Comanche and Kiowa Indians. Recently the park was designated as an International Dark Sky Park, and you can also see a portion of the official herd of Texas Longhorn cattle.

For Texas County walkers, this three day event weekend offers 4 walks in 4 different counties: Hardeman, Briscoe, Childress, and Hall Counties.

Friday, October 11, 2019: Caprock Canyons Trailways, Turkey Depot Trailhead in Turkey, Texas. The hike is flat and rated 1B. The 5k is an out and back hike along the railway that has been converted to a hike/bike trail. The 10k hike includes a walk through historic Turkey, TX, the home town of Bob Wills, the king of western swing.

Saturday, October 12, 2019: Haynes Ridge, Upper North Prong and Lower North & South Prong Trails, Caprock Canyons State Park, Texas. The Haynes Ridge Trail is the most challenging hike in the park, but after you conquer the steep and rugged trail up to the ridge you are rewarded with beautiful views of the caprock formations and a relatively flat hike along the Upper and Lower Prong Trails. The Haynes Ridge Trail is rated 3D and the Lower North & South Prong Trails are rated 2C. A 5k out and back and two 11k loops are being offered for up to a 22k total.

Sunday, October 13, 2019: Bull Canyon, Copper Breaks State Park. The hike starts at the Juniper Ridge Day Use area at the rim of a small canyon with views of rugged rocks spilling out onto the prairie. A series of loop trails provide hikes of either 5k, 10k or 14k distances. The 5 or 10k hikes are rated 2B and the 14 hike is rated 3B.

Wednesday, October 9 through Sunday, October 13, 2019: A historic Childress, Texas walk is sanctioned for you to complete any time over the long weekend on your own schedule. There will be a 5k or 10 walk offered on flat, city sidewalks, rated 1A. Childress has a rich history as a major railroad town and the downtown buildings reflect the history of that period from early to middle 20th century.

Please join us for the social events. A wine and cheese social is being offered Friday, October 11 at the 501 Winery, Childress, TX and our annual dinner meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12 at The Plaza Mexican Restaurant, Childress, TX. You can make reservations now at our host hotel, the Holiday Inn Express in Childress by calling 940-937-0900. The room rate is \$82 plus tax. The event brochure and registration forms will be available online at westtexastrailwalkers.org in early June, 2019.



US Freedom Walk Festival (USFWF) 18-20 October 2019

3 days - 6 trails - Bike – Swim
Volkstriathalon - Social & dinner

Schedule:

Friday

Opening Ceremony 4 pm
5 & 10km - Start between 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm
Finish by 6:00 pm
SWIM: IVV credit only \$3.00. Hours: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
BIKE: IVV credit only \$3.00. Hours: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday

12 km start 8:00 am - 12:00 noon
21 km start 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Finish by 5:00 pm
SWIM: IVV credit only \$3.00.
Hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
BIKE: IVV credit only \$3.00. Hours: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Social: Ballroom. Hours: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
International Dinner 6:30 pm - pre-registration is highly encouraged.

Sunday

21 km start 7:00 am - 10:00 am
12 km start 8:00 am - 12 noon
Finish by 4:00 pm
SWIM: IVV credit only \$3.00. Hours: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
BIKE: IVV credit only \$3.00.
Hours: 7:00 am- 1:00 pm
Awards Ceremony 3:00 pm

The US Freedom Walk Festival is a world-class, noncompetitive non-profit, international walking festival co-hosted by Arlington County and the Office of the Surgeon General of the US. Its mission is to promote walking as a fitness activity and to promote international understanding and friendships while showcasing the USA by walking through the monuments,

memorials and parks of Arlington and Washington, DC.

We also sponsor walk events and bike events that can be walked (or ridden if bike route) throughout the year at the participant's convenience. These events are called "Year Around" event.

The US Freedom Walk Festival Club is a non-profit, voluntary membership organization under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, to promote the health, physical fitness and wellbeing of the people of the United States by organizing, promoting, and conducting scheduled programs of noncompetitive, family-oriented, participatory lifetime sports, including but not limited to, walking (including jogging and running), bicycling, swimming, cross-country skiing, and such other events as may be sanctioned by the AVA.

StoneOak Summer Sunrise Walk, July 13, 2019



Herb Laing and Ellen Ott working at the Finish Table



Jackie Lytle with Rudy and Eva Bueno with Dolly on the trail.



Martin Callahan with Rudy and Dolly stop at the walk check Point.



Mike Schwencke, Wayne Henry, Donnie King and Kathy Schwencke after the walk in Taco Cabana.

Brook Hollow Featured YRE June 29, 2019



Walkers signing in with Jane & Michael Marke – Dee Repp, Sandra Bliss, Gayle Weinraub at the Taza Java Coffee House.



4-legged walkers along the trail in the Brook Hollow Neighborhood.



Audrey Vertucci with Dolly and Taylor with Kona.

**Tour de Castroville
June 22, 2019**



Joanne Forinash, Kathy Schwencke, Robin Fennell, Kim & Kilcha Fluke at the Start Table.



Cindy Mayfield follows the Walking Trail in Castroville Regional Park looking for clues to answers on the walks' Historic Treasure Hunt questionnaire.



Martin Callahan stands next to an old boiler along the walk through the Old Landmark Inn complex grounds.

RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS
PO Box 2744
Universal City TX 78148-1744

RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS APPLICATION
PO Box 2744, Universal City TX 78148-1744

Please check applicable box (es):

Renewal New Member Family member(s) included (see instructions below) DATE _____

Name _____

NEW MEMBER FEE: \$4.00 for 1 year
\$10.00 for three years

Address _____

This fee applies to the primary member. Additional family members require a \$2.00 fee per individual.

Apt No. _____

RENEWAL FEE: \$4.00 for one year
\$10.00 for three years

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

This renewal fee includes each family member who paid \$2.00 with the original application.

Telephone number _____

If the \$2.00 fee was not paid with the original application, add family members now by including \$2.00 for each person.

E-mail address _____

Lifetime membership for (1) one person is available for a \$30 fee.

Family members _____

AVA Volkssport Associate Yes No

Amount submitted \$ _____

Eager to serve as club officer _____ or committee chair _____