



**Official Newsletter of the RANDOLPH ROADRUNNERS (AVA44)**

Volume 2006 No. 11  
Next Meeting November 7, 2006  
7:00 p.m. at the Golden Corral  
Restaurant, Universal City  
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 210-525-8574  
*Vice President*  
Totsy Miller 210-648-0637  
*Treasurer*  
Tony Paulson 210-658-8324  
*Secretary*  
Pat Gunter 210-479-0805

*Committee Chairs*

*Membership*  
Nancy Paulson 210-658-8324  
*Programs*  
Ellen Ott 210-525-8574  
*Publicity*  
Alan & Gloria Mick 210-659-5402  
*Sales*  
Joanne Forinash 210-493-8543  
*Webmaster*  
Randy Baker 210-369-9538  
*Newsletter*  
Audrey Vertucci – AudreyVe@aol.com  
210-496-2197  
*Year-round Events, Boerne*  
Larry Cook 210-525-8900  
*Year-round Events, Universal City*  
Carlen Forinash 210-493-8543  
*Year-round Events, San Antonio*  
Ellen Ott 210-525-8574

*E-mail*

rrvc44@yahoo.com

*Website*

[www.geocities.com/  
randolphroadrunners/](http://www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/)

*Event Information*

1-800-830-WALK

*TVA Website*

<http://walktexas.org/>

*European AVA Liaison*

**Hans-Dieter Fuhr**  
Wiesbaden, Germany  
Tel. & Fax 0611 / 66894  
[Hans-D.Fuhr@t-online.de](mailto:Hans-D.Fuhr@t-online.de)

**Renewal Time**

The following membership renewals are currently due:  
**Mamie Elliot, John Haven, Margaret Johnson, James Webb, Dawn Anonsen, Clarence & Diane Johnson, Thomas & Betty Arbaugh, Cindy Cardenes, Paulette Dunlap, Helen Gitchell, Brenda Henne, and Ron & Jennifer Sheppard.** Please send in your renewal fees now. We value your membership. To renew your membership, fill out a renewal application attached or print one from the following website address: [www.geocities.com/RandolphRoadrunners/membership.html](http://www.geocities.com/RandolphRoadrunners/membership.html) and send it with your fees to Nancy Paulson c/o the club address.

**Roadrunner News-**

Remember folks- no December club meeting! A holiday party will be held at the Forinash's on Dec. 9, 2006 at 6 p.m. Chinese Auction \$15. Bring covered dish or dessert, meat will be provided. Walk the neighborhood after and see the lights!

We need volunteer workers for the Christmas walk in Boerne on Dec. 2nd. Please contact Joanne Forinash at 493-8543 if you can help. The worker's walk for this event will be Friday, December 1st at 8:00 a.m.

The club election will be held at the November meeting for President and treasurer.

Both mornings of the Texas parks and Wildlife Expo in Austin on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, were met with cool sunshine. As the days warmed up, the people swarmed out to a total for both days of over 35,000. It seemed like hundred's of people were interested in our walking booth. Several exhibitors expressed interested in having a walking event in their community. The info will be passed on to the appropriate folks. This popular event will be held next year over Columbus Day weekend. So, mark your calendar!!

Barney Smith is anxious to have us come by again in January. Isn't it nice to be wanted? Have fun.

*Ellen Ott, Pres.*

**East Texas Trekkers on TV**

They say you ought to be in pictures and we made it! The East Texas Trekkers will soon make their television debut! The Tyler State Park segment that features the Trekkers is scheduled to air on the "Texas Parks & Wildlife" PBS television show the week of November 12-19.

Hope you can catch our segment; it will be part of a half hour special on Texas State Parks. Ours will only be 3 or 4 minutes, so watch closely.

*Jan Wood, East Texas Trekkers*

**Carpooling to Events-**

If anyone is interested in carpooling to any of the walks or meetings please contact David Toth, 521-8684, e-mail [dntoth@scbglobal.net](mailto:dntoth@scbglobal.net).



**Walt Disney World –  
Nov. 25 & 26, 2006**

Two 10 km walks

**Pre-Registration:** Starts September 10<sup>th</sup>. Send name, address, and phone number of each walker/participant and please indicate if you plan to get a PACKAGE

**Email:** [TrinTrek@scbglobal.net](mailto:TrinTrek@scbglobal.net)

**Mail:** Volkssport Walking Weekend at WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort 8463 Romney, San Antonio, Texas 78254-2467

**Call:** 210/521-8684 for event information and 210/313-8684 after November 22, 2006.

Call Disney Sports Travel: 407-939-7810 to book your package beginning September 13, 2006, and for answers to any questions about rooms or Theme Park tickets.

**Discounted prices for rooms and tickets ends with Pre-Registration on 23 October 2006**

All the regular rules of the AVA will apply for these events. Every effort will be taken by us and by WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort to make this a safe and enjoyable family weekend.

**To reach Disney's All Star Sports Resort:**

**By Air:** Register for Disney's Magical Express and be picked up from the airport by the Disney's Magical Express shuttle.

**By Train:** Take the Amtrak East Coast Express to the Orlando Train Station and then take the Disney Bus to the hotel

**By Car:** Take the I-4 highway to the Orlando area; watch for the Disney World exits.

Event packets should be picked up Friday night at *Disney's All-Star Sports* Resort lobby and brought with you on Saturday morning to the kickoff for the first event; and on Sunday for the second day of volkssport walking at 0700 both days

**Awards:** Souvenir medal on a neck lanyard to commemorate participation in this inaugural event.

**Fees:** Credit only is \$3.

Package prices start at \$181 per person and include 2-night accommodations, a 2-day Theme Park ticket, and registration for both walks and the commemorative medal. [For more information on available packages, please contact Disney Sports Travel at 407/939-7810.](#)

**Accommodations:** A special block of rooms has been reserved for attendees at the *Disney's All Star Sports* Resort.

Additional discounted Theme Park tickets will be available through Disney Sports Travel for all those who pre-register for this event. Pre-registration must be accomplished before the 23d of October, 2006.

**Coming Texas Events:**

11/4/2006 - 11/5/2006 - Walk

**Event Number:** 74818 10K

**Start:** Employee Cafe/Schlitterbahn

**Event City:** New Braunfels

**Host Club:** NB Marsch-und

Wandergruppe

**Event Website:**

[www.muw.walktexas.org](http://www.muw.walktexas.org)

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

**Write for more information to:**

8 Mission Dr.

New Braunfels, TX 78130-6622

**Contact:** Helgard Hollis, (830)625-6330

**E-Mail:** [Helgard@satx.rr.com](mailto:Helgard@satx.rr.com)

**Club Website:**

[www.muw.walktexas.org](http://www.muw.walktexas.org)

11/11/2006 - 11/11/2006 - Walk

**Event Number:** 75515 10 K

**Start:** Miramar Park /Pool Pavilion

**Event City:** Seabrook

**Host Club:** Houston Happy Hikers

**Event Website:**

[www.houstonhappyhikers.org](http://www.houstonhappyhikers.org)

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

**Write for more information to:**

2017 Briar Ln. Richmond, TX 77469

**Contact:** Catherine Kellner, (979)

478-6203

**EMail:** [hvhpresident@houstonhappyhikers.org](mailto:hvhpresident@houstonhappyhikers.org)

**Club Website:**

[www.houstonhappyhikers.org/](http://www.houstonhappyhikers.org/)

11/11/2006 - 11/12/2006 - Walk

**Event Number:** 73794 10K

**Start:** Downtown Austin at 17th & San Jacinto

**Event City:** Austin

**Host Club:** Colorado River Walkers

**Event Website:**

[www.coloradoriverwalkers.org](http://www.coloradoriverwalkers.org)

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

**Write for more information to:**

11215 Applewood Drive

Austin, TX 78758

**Contact:** Stephanie Menteer, (512) 832-8546

**E-Mail:** [zenteer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zenteer@sbcglobal.net)

**Club Website:**

[www.coloradoriverwalkers.org/](http://www.coloradoriverwalkers.org/)

11/18/2006 - 11/18/2006 - Walk

**Event Number:** 71584 6K & 10K

**Start:** Atlanta State Park

**Event City:** Atlanta

**Host Club:** East Texas Trekkers

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

**Write for more information to:**

4722 Comanche Trail

Tyler, TX 75707

**Contact:** Jan Wood, (903) 534 -9301

**E-Mail:** [jpw6391@msn.com](mailto:jpw6391@msn.com)

**Club Website:**

[www.Walktx.org/EastTexasTrekkers/](http://www.Walktx.org/EastTexasTrekkers/)

11/18/2006 - 11/19/2006 - Walk

**Event Number:** 72897 10 Km

**Start:** Flat Creek Estate Vineyard and Winery

**Event City:** Marble Falls

**Host Club:** Selma Pathfinders

**Event Website:**

[www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Gorge/8195](http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Gorge/8195)

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

**Write for more information to:**

P.O. Box 700946

San Antonio, TX 78270-0946

**Contact:** Phyllis Eagan, (210) 496 - 1402

**E-Mail:** [papre1947@yahoo.com](mailto:papre1947@yahoo.com) or [milchene@juno.com](mailto:milchene@juno.com)

**Club Website:**

[www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Gorge/8195](http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Gorge/8195)

11/23/2006 - 11/25/2006 - Walk

**Event Number:** 75231 10K, 15K 20K

**Event Number:** 75232 10K, 15K 20K

**Start:** Trinity Hall Irish Pub and Restaurant

**Event City:** Dallas

**Host Club:** Dallas Trekkers, Inc.

**Event Website:**

[www.dallastrekkers.org](http://www.dallastrekkers.org)

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

**Write for more information to:**

3321 Dartmoor Drive

Dallas, TX 75229

**Contact:** Helen Bateman, (214) 732 - 3419

**E-Mail:** [helen.bateman@earthlink.net](mailto:helen.bateman@earthlink.net)

**Club Website:**

[www.dallastrekkers.org/](http://www.dallastrekkers.org/)

12/2/2006 - 12/2/2006 - Walk

**Event Number:** 74835 10km

**Start:** St. John Lutheran Church

**Event City:** Boerne

**Host Club:** Randolph Roadrunners

**Event Website:**

[www.geocities.com/randolphrunners/](http://www.geocities.com/randolphrunners/)

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

**Write for more information to:**

11906 Pepperidge Cove

San Antonio, TX 78213

**Contact:** Ellen Ott, (210) 525 - 8574

**E-Mail:** [ellenott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenott@sbcglobal.net)

**Club Website:**

[www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/](http://www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/)

## ***Walking Through Life***

by Michael Gartner

newspaper editor, NBC News president, Pulitzer Prize 1997

My father never drove a car. Well, that's not quite right. I should say I never saw him drive a car. He quit driving in 1927 when he was 25 years old, and the last car he drove was a 1926 Whippet. "In those days," he told me when he was in his 90s, "to drive a car you had to do things with your hands, and do things with your feet, and look every which way, and I decided you could walk through life and enjoy it or drive through life and miss it." At which point my mother a sometimes salty Irishwoman, chimed in: "Oh, bull!" she said. "He hit a horse." "Well," my father said, "there was that, too."

So my brother and I grew up in a household without a car. The neighbors all had cars the Kollingses next door had a green 1941 Dodge, the VanLaninghams across the street a gray 1936 Plymouth, the Hopsons two doors down had a black 1941 Ford but we had none.

My father, a newspaperman in Des Moines, would take the streetcar to work and, often as not, walk the 3 miles home. If he took the streetcar home, my mother and brother and I would walk the three blocks to the streetcar stop, meet him and walk home together.

### **Our 1950 Chevy**

My brother, David, was born in 1935, and I was born in 1938, and sometimes, at dinner, we'd ask how come all the neighbors had cars but we had none. "No one in the family drives," my mother would explain, and that was that. But, sometimes, my father would say, "But as soon as one of you boys turns 16, we'll get one." It was as if he wasn't sure which one of us would turn 16 first. But, sure enough, my brother turned 16 before I did, so in 1951 my parents bought a used 1950 Chevrolet from a friend who ran the parts department at a Chevy dealership downtown. It was a four-door, white model, stick shift, fender skirts, loaded with everything, and, since my parents didn't drive, it more or less became my brother's car.

Having a car but not being able to drive didn't bother my father, but

it didn't make sense to my mother. So in 1952, when she was 43 years old, she asked a friend to teach her to drive. She learned in a nearby cemetery, the place where I learned to drive the following year and where, a generation later, I took my two sons to practice driving. The cemetery probably was my father's idea. "Who can your mother hurt in the cemetery?" I remember him saying once. For the next 45 years or so, until she was 90, my mother was the driver in the family. Neither she nor my father had any sense of direction, but he loaded up on maps though they seldom left the city limits and appointed himself navigator. It seemed to work.

### **The ritual walk to church**

Still, they both continued to walk a lot. My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father an equally devout agnostic, an arrangement that didn't seem to bother either of them through their 75 years of marriage. (Yes, 75 years, and they were deeply in love the entire time.) He retired when he was 70, and nearly every morning for the next 20 years or so, he would walk with her the mile to St. Augustin's Church. She would walk down and sit in the front pew, and he would wait in the back until he saw which of the parish's two priests was on duty that morning. If it was the pastor, my father then would go out and take a 2-mile walk, meeting my mother at the end of the service and walking her home. If it was the assistant pastor, he'd take just a 1-mile walk and then head back to the church. He called the priests "Father Fast" and "Father Slow."

After he retired, my father almost always accompanied my mother whenever she drove anywhere, even if he had no reason to go along. If she were going to the beauty parlor, he'd sit in the car and read, or go take a stroll or, if it was summer, have her keep the engine running so he could listen to the Cubs game on the radio. In the evening, then, when I'd stop by, he'd explain: "The Cubs lost again. The millionaire on second base made a bad throw to the millionaire on first base, so the multimillionaire on third base scored."

If she were going to the grocery store, he would go along to carry the bags out and to make sure she loaded up on

ice cream. As I said, he was always the navigator, and once, when he was 95 and she was 88 and still driving, he said to me, "Do you want to know the secret of a long life?" "I guess so," I said, knowing it probably would be something bizarre. "No left turns," he said. "What?" I asked. "No left turns," he repeated. "Several years ago, your mother and I read an article that said most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic. As you get older, your eyesight worsens, and you can lose your depth perception, it said. So your mother and I decided never again to make a left turn." "What?" I said again. "No left turns," he said. "Think about it. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's a lot safer. So we always make three rights." "You're kidding!" I said, and I turned to my mother for support. "No," she said, "your father is right. We make three rights. It works." But then she added: "Except when your father loses count." I was driving at the time, and I almost drove off the road as I started laughing. "Loses count?" I asked. "Yes," my father admitted, "that sometimes happens. But it's not a problem. You just make seven rights, and you're okay again." I couldn't resist. "Do you ever go for 11?" I asked. "No," he said. "If we miss it at seven, we just come home and call it a bad day. Besides, nothing in life is so important it can't be put off another day or another week."

My mother was never in an accident, but one evening she handed me her car keys and said she had decided to quit driving. That was in 1999, when she was 90. She lived four more years, until 2003. My father died the next year, at 102. They both died in the bungalow they had moved into in 1937 and bought a few years later for \$3,000. (Sixty years later, my brother and I paid \$8,000 to have a shower put in the tiny bathroom the house had never had one. (My father would have died then and there if he knew the shower cost nearly three times what he paid for the house.) He continued to walk daily and he had me get him a treadmill when he was 101 because he was afraid he'd fall on the icy sidewalks but wanted to keep exercising and he was of sound mind and sound body until the moment he died.

