



NW Regional AVA News and Information for Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, & Washington

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#14 NW Regional News 7/3/2026
Hello Northwest Walkers!

This newsletter includes:

- Important club information
- Astoria Walkfest registration
- Keeping you current: Report from AVA meeting in June in South Dakota
- Events coming up - Lots of great walks!!!
- Attachments: Step by Step renewal directions, Astoria Registration, FEL, AVA special programs, CVF festival, ECW cruise,

Pat and I had a wonderful time at Rapid City, South Dakota in June, for the 50th Anniversary. We hiked Crazy Horse with AVA Chairperson, Carl Cordes; walked Rapid City Y0045 President's Walk; and enjoyed the Outlaw Ranch trail in Custer. We saw many old and new friend along the way. Make plans for the remainder of the year's [50th Anniversary events](#). You don't want to miss out!

Important Club Information:

1. **2nd quarter reports** - For all Clubs: reports are due this month.
2. **Board Members** - If you have had a change due to board elections in your club, please update this information on AVA website under "profile", and then "Mng Contacts".
3. **AVA annual club dues** for \$75 will be invoiced to you on July 1, 2026.
4. **Renewals** for 2027 are now open to update on my.ava.org. I've attached step by step directions on how clubs need to renew their walks.

Astoria Walkfest Registration:

2026 NW Regional AVA Walkfest brochure is attached to this email. We hope to see you in Astoria, Oregon from September 24-27, 2026 (walks are available from 9/23-29). We are offering 5 sanctioned walks: 50th Anniversary Walk, A and N and Back again, Hollywood comes to Astoria, Chasing Lighthouses, and Peter Iredale/Oregon Coast Trail. Also, we suggest 6 nearby YRE's: Gnat Creek Fish Hatchery, Fort Stevens, Fort Clatsop, Gearhart, Seaside, and Cannon Beach. It's a fun weekend you won't want to miss!

Keeping you current: At the AVA meeting in South Dakota, the following topics were discussed:

Ad-Hoc Committee Report presented by Holly Pelking and Chris Zegelin. A committee was created last year to pursue the option of keeping YRE walks active, when AVA clubs close and the walks are closed with them, leaving a void in any state in the USA. The proposal is to have a walker, maintain these YRE's on their own, without a club board i.e. President, Secretary, VP, or Treasurer. No money is exchanged; walks are only on OSB. These walkers are required to be a member of AVA. Several walkers have stepped up (a little pun....) to attempt this option on a trial basis. This new concept would be considered a "Horizon entity", not a club. AVA President Henry will review this option (regarding liability coverage), and will report back at the next AVA meeting.

On-Line Walking App committee report presented by Jeff Giddings. Explanation: This app is to give walkers a phone-based experience with each Online Start Box (OSB) mapping into digital trail file that can guide walkers step by step via your phone.

The first phase (User Interface/User Experience) has been completed. A toolset has been created to convert OSB PDF documents to a geocoded trail file. There are 3 parts to this process: 1. Using artificial intelligence to separate the map and directions into individual files for each trail. 2. Un-geocoded instructions to geocoded instructions. 3. Manual verification of written directions. This is the most intensive portion of the app that clubs will need verify correct directions.

The first phase was completed under cost at \$26,446. A fundraiser is ongoing for the development of the walk application with \$130,000 requested to AARP, various foundations and individuals. A telethon will be in July. (This is separate from the Big Give Fundraiser).

AVA is looking for donors who have strong ties and commitment to the AVA perhaps through leadership volunteerism, philanthropy or influence within the AVA. If this sounds like you please contact Seth Warner finance_chair@ava.org

FYI- On-Line Walking App - this is **optional** to any club who wishes to have the online phone-app available for their walks. These walks will need to be update at the same time your physical boxes and OSB's have changes.

Events coming up:

- For traditional walks, you can easily find them with this link, and then click on "update": <https://my.ava.org/regional-te-list.php?time=month&rsl=NW>
- All walks are listed on the attached Future Events Calendar.

Sat., July 4th. Seattle-Independence Day Walk - SeaTac, WA. Hosted by Emerald City Wanderers. Registration: 8:30-9:30am. Start: Tukwila Light Rail Station OR SEATAC Community Center, 13735 24th Ave S, SeaTac, WA. 5k and 10K, rated 1A.

Sat., July 4th Stroll thru History - Vancouver, WA. Hosted by Vancouver USA Volkssporters. Registration: 8:00-11:00am. Start: 605 Esther St, Vancouver, OR. (Ester Short Park). 5k and 10k rated 1A.

Sat., July 11th Come Celebrate 40 years of Walking. Hosted by Daffodil Valley VA. Register: 8:00-11:00am. Start: Clark's Creek Park, 1800 12th Ave SW, Puyallup, WA. 6K(1A), 10K(2B).

Fri-Sun, July 24-26. Island Hopping Weekend. Hosted by Olympic Peninsula Explorers. All walks start in Anacortes, WA. Registration/Start:

- **7/24:** Anacortes Downtown & Waterways YRE. 9:00am. The Market, 1519 Commercial Ave #2234, Anacortes.
- **7/24:** Tommy Thompson Trail YRE 1:00pm at The Market, 1519 Commercial Ave. #2234, Anacortes.
- **7/25:** Friday Harbor YRE. Catch the Friday Harbor Ferry in Anacortes at 9:00am. Meet on top level of ferry for registration.
- **7/26:** Guemes Island Traditional Walk 8:30-10:30am Meet at Kiwanis Waterfront Park, 1708 6th St. Anacortes.

Sat. August 29. Historic Canby & Cruise. Hosted by Columbia River VC. Register 9:00-11:00a. Start: Cutsforth Marketplace, 225 NE 2nd Ave., Canby, OR. 6K & 11K rated 1A.

Sat, September 5th Labor Day Weekend. Hosted by Emerald City Wanderers) Register: 9:00-11:00. Start: St. Alphonsus Family Center, 5816 15th Ave NW, Seattle. 5k & 10K rated 1A.

SAVE THE DATE: June 28-July 1, 2027 AVA 24th Biennial Convention 2027 in Springfield, Missouri. Pre-convention walks June 26-28, Post-convention walks and activities July 2-4.

On a sad note, for those of you who knew Sharon Mae Fisher (long time member of Northwest Tulip Trekkers), she recently passed away. Sharon was never without her husband, Fred, while they were walking with volkssporting clubs. She accomplished walking all 50 states, 45 countries, and adventures on 5 continents. Her friendly smile, and welcoming personality will be missed. Thank you, Sharon, for all you have done for our community. Services will be at held at 2:00pm on July 11th at the Anacortes Lutheran Church in Washington. A walk in her honor is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th at 2:00pm at La Conner, WA YRE1279, where she was the POC.

Until next time, see you on the trail!

Sandi Severtsen (NWRD) and Pat Jewett (NWDRD)