



All Weather News
April 2019
<http://www.allweatherwalkers.org/>
Deadline for May news: Apr 24



From: "Tom Baltes" tlbaltes@aol.com, our RD (or above)

1. **Fall Extravaganza.** If you haven't gotten the word yet, the northwest has an amazing lineup of events over 11 days in September. Starting in Bend OR, from 12-15 September the Columbia River Volkssport Club will host a wide variety of walking, biking and swimming events, plus a dinner, meet and greet and much more. The following weekend (20-22 Sep) the Evergreen State Volkssport Association has a Round-up in Winthrop WA, featuring some great walking and bike events, a dinner and more. As we move from Bend to Winthrop there will be guided walks in Madras OR (16th), The Dalles OR (17th), Yakima WA (18th) and Leavenworth WA (19th), with lots more opportunities to enjoy numerous year round/seasonal events along the way. What a walker's dream event; come join us!!

2. **Free Walker Reduction.** I've begun an appeal through our state associations to reduce the number of free walkers reported from our traditional and year round events. Data from 2017 and 2018 show that the northwest region reported more than half the free walkers recorded by AVA in each of those years. Our national program can no longer survive on only credit walkers paying to participate. We are now consuming well over \$100,000 annually from the reserves to cover expenses while the board and national office work diligently to grow our membership and find new funding sources. As our AVA president wrote in the latest TAW, we only have 3-4 years at this pace to achieve a turnaround or face having to drastically reduce staff and support from the national office. At the January Board meeting we agreed to allow all regions a chance to reduce free walking through our own processes, but we need to make a quick, consistent change across our region. What's needed is to have all walkers pay the participation fee, while limiting free walking to its intended use as a recruiting tool. Steps that I'm advocating through the state association meetings to your clubs include educating everyone on the need for the fees, discontinuing advertising that our program is available for free other than on a trial basis, and changing event registration logs to reflect categories of "Participant", "Guest" (in lieu of free) and "Donation". Looking at our early 2019 traditional event data, I see that 271 of 679 or 40 percent of participants so far this year were reported to AVA as free

walkers. We need to at least get below 10 percent. Please ensure your clubs are represented at the next OR and WA state meetings and begin having club conversations about how we can tackle this issue.

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1. President's Corner

I sent out:

- a) Walk Talk #21
- b) Save the Date Flyer 1.pdf
- c) Starting your Peer to Peer page.pdf
- d) April 13th ESVA Annual Meeting Agenda and Link Light Rail
- e) Info on the Canadian Volkspport Federation Convention
- f) Fundraising for AVA

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Next Meeting: Apr 9 - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Details and map are now at

<http://www.allweatherwalkers.org/static.htm> Sections that rarely change are also at this link: list of officers/valued associates, and Weekend Walking description.

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Club Events/Weekend/Wednesday Walk Calendar:

Vancouver Murals & Decorated Storm Drains, 5/25/19
Ridgefield Birdfest, 10/05/19

Group Walks: Wednesday Walks – 10:00 am

<http://www.vancouverusavolkssporters.org/Wed/wed.htm>

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Achievements: [please contact the editor with event and distance milestones](#)

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Welcome to new members – none reported

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