



# Footprints



Placer Pacers' Newsletter, PO Box 142, Auburn, California 95604

March 2010

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL CARD AND LETTER WRITING MONTH  
SEND YOUR EDITOR SOME!**

## Jay's Jabber

### CVA Convention and PP Walks

Wow, convention time is on us again. One more meeting before we wander south to Idyllwild for a weekend of CVA business, walks and awesome socializing. I'd like to encourage anyone who can, to try to make it to the convention.

For those who may not have been paying attention, the Placer Pacers have a fantastic schedule of walks this year that are planned to get you out of the city and into the great northern California outdoors. Last month we experienced a relatively unknown nature preserve in Lincoln. In April the Empire Mine is our destination. In June we go to Tahoe and Fallen Leaf Lake – add the walk at Emerald Bay to round out the weekend. Then, in the fall, we're back to Apple Hill. And yes... stay tuned for an equally exciting 2011. I thought I might make it through an entire message without using the word "volunteer", but without those awesome volunteers that the Placer Pacers have in their membership, we would not have such a wonderful selection of walks in our area. Come on out and be one – it's a great feeling.

I'll see you all on the trail (and in the meetings☺) – Jay



## It's Official

### Jay Running for CVA President

Jay LaCroix, our esteemed leader (see article above), has withdrawn as a member of the California Volkssport Association Nominating Committee to seek the office of CVA President.

In his announcement, Jay said... Well, let's just quote it:

I come to you unencumbered by previous experience – or political bad habits. ☺

I am relatively new to Volkssporting – had not been on a single Volkssport event before 2003. However, after taking in a few events and getting to meet a number of enthusiastic Volkssporters, I joined the Placer Pacers. Add a few more events and a couple of conventions (state and national) and I was hooked. Within a couple of years of my first event, I decided to make a long term commitment and became an AVA life member. In 2006 the Placer Pacers decided to take a chance on the new guy and elected me Vice President and in 2008 President. That's my Volkssporting history in a nutshell. In my professional life I was a part of a startup company in 1972 that by 1976 was the second largest of its kind in the country. I owned and operated my own software consulting company and consulted with other successful small businesses during their startup process.

I look forward to expanding my AVA horizons and serving the state organization as your president.

Jay will be following a Placer Pacers tradition of providing leaders for that office – Pat Lucero, Herb Webber, and Bruce McDevitt have all served. Pat has moved on to be AVA Secretary, and Bruce is in his first term as AVA Pacific Region Director. Former PP President Wayne Holloway served a stint as CVA Northern California V-P and actually filled in for Herb as CVA President for awhile. Wayne served two terms as Pacific Region Director before moving on to become the current AVA Vice President. Now, all of that history is offered to show the probability of who will replace Bruce or Wayne in three years when they are termed out of office...and alert Sheila to Jay's future "hobby."

Jay's leadership ability, his unceasing good humor, common sense and endless patience will take him far. Being "unencumbered" is no handicap. It is the editor's experience that many who has served, or now serve, on the AVA National Executive Council come no better prepared. In fact, being "unencumbered" seems to be a favorable attribute.

# Club Elections

## They're Nondenominational

Did you know that your club officers, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, are elected annually for one-year terms and can only serve two consecutive terms? It's true. The Placer Pacers' constitution says so.

So? So all of the officer positions are up for election come the regular Club business meeting on June 8 (while many of us will be at/near/returning from the Crazy Horse walk near Custer, South Dakota). A Nominating Committee has been formed, and consists of Marillyn Ratliff and Pat Lucero, but is a member short – says the Placer Pacers' constitution. To avoid election to an office, you might want to volunteer for the committee (you cannot run for an office and be on the committee).

The committee will need to find candidates to replace Jay, who will be termed out as the Club President, as will Don Ratliff as the Vice President, and Pat Lucero as Secretary. Placer Pacers Treasurer, Betsy McDevitt, is the only incumbent available for re-election. So?

So, if you have a little free time, a modicum of leadership ability and patience, loads of common sense and a desire to support your favorite Volkssport Club with a little effort, don't wait to be ambushed...volunteer.

The various committee chairmanships will be subject to renewal, with some becoming available for the volunteer with an excess of ideas and/or free time (free time is not a perquisite). Do not wait to be called upon; be ready to step up.

## Know Your Members

### CAMPING WITH THE CARNIES

By: Jan Timmons

Our adventure started on Thursday night, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We traveled in our long RV, 32Ft+ towing the Saturn wagon, which equals about 45 to 50 feet long, to the Santa Clara Fairgrounds. Marillyn had previously called and they told her that even though they do not take reservations, there were over a 100 camping spots available. We were disillusioned into thinking that it would be a piece of cake to find a camping spot.

We arrived at the Fairgrounds, after major difficulty finding the correct entrance, at 8:30 pm, after dark, very dark. Our GPS guided us to the correct gate but the 2 written directions took us in circles and we finally guessed at the proper gate to enter the Fairgrounds. They really could use a few more signs! We drove in and it was pitch dark, no lights anywhere, no security lights, and no building lights, spooky. We were clueless, (common for us), where to drive to park the RV. Oscar stopped the long

RV train and walked 2 blocks to ask a guy where to find the RV area. With partial directions we drove about 500 feet and were confronted with another fork in the road. Oscar again walked a couple blocks to find another living soul to ask directions. This 2<sup>nd</sup> guy told Oscar about the power failure, (big surprise), it had been off for 24 hours, but expected to be on soon, (not true). Oscar returned to the RV, surprised we still had gas in the idling vehicle needed for light, with sketchy directions.



We proceeded again as directed and stopped in a dead zone, again not sure what to do, remember it was pitch black outside. The 3<sup>rd</sup> man came over to us and told us to park in a certain area; Oscar had already walked over ½ mile. The difficult to understand man pointed to a very black area to park, where we could barely make out a tree in the grassy area.

Happily we found the correct area. Oscar proceeded to unhook the tow vehicle. When he disconnected the Brake Buddy, (RV talk) in the car and tried to start the Saturn, the battery was dead. We decided to push it off to the side and deal with the car later. We were in no mood to call AAA and give them directions to somewhere where we were not sure where we were!

We drove the RV on a grassy spot near the restrooms and parked where we were told, (we thought we understood to park at that spot, it was a little fuzzy). We used our generator for a while and decided to tackle water and power, (if power was restored) the next day. Luckily the power came on early in the morning, a transformer was full of water we were told.

The next morning we moved the RV over to a spot that left more room for additional campers plus we were able to get satellite reception too, (for my HGTV). We were expecting the Ratliff's and the Haskell's. We connected to the water and power; they had plenty of power, once it came on, nice. The restrooms were another story! An old porta potty would of been better than these, phewy!

We asked one of the workers for a jump start for our car. He returned an hour later and helped us out, he was very happy with his tip, we understood about 3 words. We

went to the office to pay for our spot fortunately they did not charge us for the 'no power night'. I suggested a map on the internet, and a few more signs to the lady. She said she had been telling her boss that for years. Change is slow, but I would expect more from Silicon Valley.



Around noon we received a call from the Ratliff's who were trying to find the entrance, (big surprise!). We described the entrance and Oscar drove to the gate to meet them and guide them to our camp location. Their GPS also did a bogus location and they had to do some fancy u-turn with their car and trailer. Not an easy job, getting lost with these long vehicles can be difficult!

The Ratliff's parked near us under the humongous tree, leaving room for other incoming campers in our group. I was expecting a leisure day, but Don and Marillyn suggested doing a year round walk, we decided on the Los Gatos walk. Charlie Fowble and Betty Howland arrived and walked with us too.

While we were gone Judy Stroud, arrived. Ron & Bette Haskell arrived after the Saturday walk. Each time there was vehicle shuffling under this monstrous tree, but we all fit and had power! We were fortunate to get these spots because we did not see any other spots with water and power. Everyone except Judy had difficulty finding the entrance and our spot.

We were not sure where the 100+ spots were located, but the Carney people had many spots. They had trailers with 7 doors, each spot barely large enough for a sleeping bag, not a fun way to camp! There were many RV's connected with the Toy show and the Carney people did the set up and tear down. We think there were a bus load of minimum security prisoners doing work around the grounds. A real variety of people and languages in these Fairgrounds!

The Fairgrounds was a very busy place. The motor cross sounded like the Indy Speedway all day long. The jet planes flying in for a landing every 7 minutes, along with the emergency vehicles with sirens screaming, speeding down the Highway chimed in with the planes.

The fair maintenance vehicles were beeping as they backed up for hours added to the variety of noises. We kept our windows shut most of the time, peace and quiet not available.

We did the 12K the next day, Saturday and the 10K on Sunday. They were nice walks and we enjoyed the company too. The camping facilities have seen the last of this group! A quiet parking lot sounds better! 'The Eclectic RV's' according to Judy is our new name, because of the diverse RV vehicles. All shapes and sizes of RV's are welcome on our outings. We even welcome the tenters! Happy camping & walking! (Never a dull moment!).

## Pacer Nuggets

The following Placer Pacers were acknowledged in the February/March edition of *The American Wanderer* as having attained the IVV Award milestone indicated.

### Events

Qeldas Crist Pickett	300
Charlie Fowble	2500
Jan Jerabek	350
Jim Goodheart	30
Jan Jerabek	350
Jean Lucas	450
Dave Pelz	400
Doug Rathgeb	400
Marillyn Ratliff	900

### Distance (Kilometers)

Qeldas Crist Pickett	3000
Betty Howland	8000
Jan Jerabek	4000
Jean Lucas	4500
Dave Pelz	3000
Doug Rathgeb	4000

## Club Events

### Placer Pacers Hosts Exceptional Events

The Placer Pacers are noted Nationally for their events, having earned the American Volkssport Association's Trailblazer Award in 2009. The selection of quality and interesting trails, well marked and/or with faultless directions and friendly, competent, motivated and helpful staffed Start, Finish, Specialties tables, and Checkpoints, sets the standard for conducting events. The signup sheets for the Club's next two walks, Grass Valley (April 17-18) and Fallen Leaf Lake (June 26-27) on the Club's website at:

<http://www.placerpacers.org/empire-workers.htm>,  
and <http://www.placerpacers.org/FL-workers.htm>.

## **Grass Valley & Nevada City**

Duel walks in Grass Valley and Nevada City are next on the schedule for the weekend of April 17-18. Roberta Murray and Pat Lucero are the Walkmeisters.

The route begins in the state park on dirt trails, and will exit onto city streets in Grass Valley. You will pass by various historical buildings including the Lola Montez House, and the Northstar Mining Museum & Pelton Wheel Exhibit. The list of Special Events is an indicator of what you will find along the route: Artistic Heritage, Carnegie Libraries, Cemetery Stroll, Firehouses, Historic Churches, Honoring Law Enforcement, Museums, Railroad Heritage, Veteran Memorials. For those of you who are "County Counting" (carrying the 49er Book), this walk is in Placer County.

There will be no per-person charge to park at Empire Mine. However, those who wish to tour the mine grounds will have to buy a ticket for \$5.00.

Volks intent on walking in Nevada City will register at Empire Mine and drive (it's the best way to get there) to the Start Point in Pioneer Park. This route will be on city streets, passing many historical points of interest. You can expect to find qualifiers for these Special Events: Artistic Heritage, Authors and Literary Landmarks, Carnegie Libraries, Cemetery Stroll, Firehouses, Historic Churches, Honoring Law Enforcement, Museums, Railroad Heritage, Veteran Memorials. This walk is in Nevada County.

## **Fallen Leaf Lake**

The Placer Pacers' biennial two walk trek of the Lake Tahoe and Fallen Leaf Lake environs is planned for the weekend of June 26-27, with Jan & Oscar Timmons once again (why change a good thing) hanging on as the Walkmeisters. Starting at the traditional Taylor Creek SnoPark, the 11K goes through forest, meadows along the shore line of Fallen Leaf Lake and Lake Tahoe, the Tallac Historic Area, the Forest Service Visitor Center, the Rainbow Nature Trail, and Stream Profile Chamber.

Following the success of the Mountain Magic weekend of last year, the Club is once again "partnering" with the Tahoe Trail Trekkers who will host a walk to Vikingsholm. After registering, it will be necessary to drive approximately 2.5 -3 miles to the walk start at Emerald Bay State Park. There will be an entry fee of \$8.00 per car. Suggest car pooling. Also suggest you arrive early as parking is limited. The walk takes us down a dirt trail to Lake Level. We will gaze in awe at world famous Emerald Bay nearly every step of the way. Tours of the unique Vikingsholm Castle are available 10-4. Follow the trail around the Bay noting numerous areas to stop and picnic or swim. Bring food and water, as no concessions are available. The walk is mostly flat, on dirt paths, but because of altitude (6,300 feet) and the trail

down (and, unfortunately, back up) we must rate it a 3. This trail is in shade in the morning, sorry Volks, sunny for the walk up.

The guided night walk will pass Fallen Leaf Lake, through forest, meadow, and bike trail. The World Infamous Dessert Gorgie is promised following the walk.

All three events are in El Dorado County, and qualify for Authors & Literary Landmarks and Pony Express Special Events.

## **Auburn**

The Placer Pacers' twentieth anniversary walk is scheduled in Auburn, the location of the Club's first walk, on September 25-26; Don & Marillyn are the Walkmeisters.

## **Apple Hill**

The annual "happening" at Apple Hill continues on the weekend of the second Sunday of November, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, under the able Walkmeistering of Bette & Ron Haskell and gracious support of Brad Visman and Boa Vista Orchards. Distances of 5, 10 and 13 kilometers will be offered, primarily on narrow paved roads past Christmas tree farms, and several of this area's World Famous apple orchards and bake shops, where you may find calories galore.

## **Rocklin**

Rounding out the year is the two delightful Christmas walks in Rocklin on December 18. Walkmeister wanted.

## **Next Year - 2011**

On the negotiating table for dates on next year's calendar are walks at Hidden Falls (April), Silver Lake (July), Roseville (October), and Apple Hill (November).

# **More Info on Coming Events**

## **CVA Convention and Out of State Road Trips**

**W**e have written the last couple of months of four major events that have the potential for extended travel and multiple event wonderings: the California Volkssport Association convention in Idyllwild, California, the annual Volkssport weekend at the Crazy Horse Monument near Custer, South Dakota, the Columbia River Gorge Festival at Cascade Locks, Oregon, and the Whidbey Island Volkssport Festival at Coupeville, Washington. We should add the multi-event weekend in Redding Extravaganza from May 21 through 23, where we always have a good time...even rowdy.

# California Volkssport Association 2010 Annual Convention

The 2010 California Volkssport Association (CVA) convention is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 30 through May 2, 2010. The Low Desert Roadrunners and the Green Valley Gaiters are co-hosting this fun filled weekend in the beautiful Mile-High City of Idyllwild where Herb Webber used to go to Boy Scout camp. Idyllwild, as most of you know (if you have ever spent any time with Herb talking about his youth), is nestled in the San Jacinto Mountains west of Palm Springs.

The Green Valley Gaiters now has the 2010 CVA convention on their website - [www.greenvalleygaiters.org](http://www.greenvalleygaiters.org). When you go there you will see a webpage link in the Scheduled Walking Events section. Take a look at it; then download the pre-registration form - fill it out and send it in. Our friends down south are all looking forward to a great convention and a great time. Even more information on the convention is in the COMPASS, and on the AVA and CVA web-sites.

If you still need information, contact John Cappello at (951) 845-5442 e-mail: [jtcapp@dc.rr.com](mailto:jtcapp@dc.rr.com) or Jean Vik of the LDRR club at (951) 737 8341 e-mail: [walkervik@aol.com](mailto:walkervik@aol.com).

If you are a collector, and want an advantage on others in collecting AVA Officer stamps (see article in the adjacent column), at least two, possibly three Officers and RDs will be there.

## Redding Extravaganza

The Shasta Sundial Strollers are bringing us their annual Spring Extravaganza in May this year, figuring to give the trails time to recover from the winter such as plagued them last year. We are thinking their foresight is worthy of special merit, considering walks will be in Red Bluff, Redding (of course), Mt Shasta City, and Whiskeytown. Registration information. is in the COMPASS.

**Red Bluff.** Did you know that Red Bluff was the hub of commerce during the Gold Rush? Much wealth was acquired from adventurous gold miners who made their way north after purchasing supplies in Red Bluff. The route includes many fabulous homes built during this boom with descriptions included in the walk directions. The 5K route is in a more natural setting along the Sacramento River in the Sacramento River Discovery Center. This walk is in Tahama County (for you "County Counters") and qualifies for Artistic Heritage, Authors and Literary Landmarks, Cemetery Stroll, Firehouses, Riverwalk America Special Events.

**Redding.** This walk will take you through the beginnings of Redding. Many historical sites are along the way with descriptions in the walk directions. Did you know that Frank Lloyd Wright designed a church right here in Redding? Bring your Authors and Literary

Landmarks, Cemetery Stroll, Historic Churches, Honoring Law Enforcement, Railroad Heritage, Riverwalk America Special Event books for this Shasta County walk.

**Swasey Recreation Area.** Located in Mt Shasta City the Swasey Recreation Area is a newly opened system of trails on Bureau of Land Management property. You will have opportunities to see wildlife, vistas and the natural landscape of the Redding area. Another Shasta County event and qualifies for the Authors and Literary Landmarks Special Event.

**Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.** Prior to Whiskeytown becoming a national recreation area, it was home to industrious pioneers who built homesteads and mining operations. This walk will take you through some of the history of this area as well as the natural beauty of this gem of a national park. See artifacts of early mining operations. Yet another Shasta County event and qualifies for the Authors and Literary Landmarks, Cemetery Stroll, and Museums Special Events.

## Crazy Horse and Whidbey Island

More and more Placer Pacers and friends are indicating a desire to join in on the car-a-van to these awesome events. Walks in transit continue to be "planned." So far, we have Salt Lake City and Cheyenne on the way to Crazy Horse, a few days of lollygagging in the Custer, SD area before taking a circuitous route through Bismarck, Pierre and Helena on the way to the Columbia River Gorge. Only the Silver Falls walk in Oregon is in the travel plan for Whidbey Island. Stay tuned.

There is no advance registration for Crazy Horse, just show up with three bucks. Information on the five Whidbey Island walks is available on line. You may also see Pat Lucero, Bruce McDevitt or Wayne Holloway for Festival flyers and registration forms.

# News From AVA

## Eye Witness Report

The American Volkssport Association National Executive Council met in Albuquerque on March 12-13, conducting a considerable amount of business. Of note to the clubs is a change to the bylaws and approval of special events.

**AVA Special Events.** (Note: "end date" in the following mean no more "books" will be sold. The event may continue as long as the Point of Contact has awards.) The US Presidents, Walking the USA, A to Z has moved to AVA Headquarters and has no "end date." The Events that have "ended" are Walking Europe in the USA, Walking Courthouses, and Walking State Parks. Events scheduled to "end" at the end of this year are Great Lakes, Pony Express, Riverwalk America, Railroad Heritage, American Authors, Cemetery Stroll, Native American

Culture, and Islands. Ten new proposals were submitted for start in 2011 and three were approved, Grist Mills, Baseball Walks, and Walking America's Trails. Grist Mills require participation in 12 events that pass by a Grist Mill. Baseball Walks requires participation in 18 events that pass a baseball stadium, excluding Little League fields and fields in community parks. Walking America's Trails requires participation in 14 events with routes that are at least 50% on State and National Trails.

**AVA Special National Officer Book.** Approved as a Special Funds Development initiative is the sale of a book to collect the stamps of the AVA Officers, Executive Director and the Regional Directors. Similar to the Special Events, this one requires participation in events where the Officer's stamp is being used as an alternate event stamp. This initiative starts as soon as books, which are in printing, become available. (The editor has committed to having these books available at the CVA Convention in Idyllwild, where it is believed that at least three of the Officers will make their stamps available.)

**Policy Manual Change.** An immediate change to the AVA Policy Manual, paragraphs 4.02.II.B and C, requires that all participants in sanctioned bike and skate events must wear helmets was approved.

The minutes of the November 13-14, 2009 Meeting was amended to correctly reflect a change to paragraph 4.03. II of the Policy Manual by adding subparagraphs C and D:

C. Clubs may accommodate requests for Year Round and Seasonal Event trail maps and directions by requiring preregistration, i.e., a signed waiver and payment of fees. Only upon receipt of the waiver and payment may clubs provide walk directions and maps.

D. Clubs may use preregistration procedures, i.e., a signed waiver and payment of fees, for Year Round and Seasonal events where placement of walk boxes is impractical. Regional Directors must verify that walk box placement is impractical.

[Note: the Policy Manual on the AVA website is current...ugly, but current.]

**Certified Trailmasters.** The proposal to train and certify Trailmasters was approved. Written course materials will be made available to voluntary participants. Certification will provide positive recognition for the participant upon completion of the certification process, including a certificate, a "certified" Trailmaster patch, and identification card.

**Name Change.** The proposal to change the name of American Volkssport Association was defeated. A motion to task the Marketing Committee to develop tag lines, such as "America's Premier Walking Organization," to accompany the AVA logo was approved. Fun Fitness Friendship will not be replaced.

**Hike Event.** The proposal to add a new event type "Hike" failed. The Canadian trail rating system was

offered as a discussion item, and was referred to the Standards and Evaluation Committee for modification and consideration. It is the feeling of the Executive Council that the current AVA trail evaluation system is so arbitrary and subjective as to be without value; that we would be better off without it. The most difficulty with the Canadian system is the treatment of altitude. It is expected that "altitude" will be replaced by "change in altitude" and the system will be approved for AVA use.

**Webmaster.** The council approved hiring a professional webmaster. The current AVA website looks like something that was thrown into a fan and splattered. It was the feeling of the Executive Council that dependence upon volunteer help was, and would continue to be, too unreliable and the result amateurish. A position description and job announcement will be available soon.

**Starting Point on CD.** Sales of the printed copy of the *Starting Point* have steadily declined while the number of pages has significantly increased resulting in increased cost per book. The Council is looking at ways to increase sales and keep costs down, and will test market 200 copies of the Starting Point on Compact Disks. The test will begin as soon as the CDs can be produced.

## More From AVA

### Vacancy Announcement

The following vacancy announcement was placed in the San Antonio Express News and Dallas Morning News:

Executive Director position, medium size Non-profit San Antonio, TX area. Requirements/details posted at [www.ava.org/ExecDirPostion](http://www.ava.org/ExecDirPostion) or call 210-659-2112. Closing Date 5-3-2010.

If you are interested in the position, know someone who is, or just curious, you can get the hiring information by clicking on the above link or going to the AVA Website and clicking on the flashing red banner.

## Next Meeting

The next Placer Pacers business meeting will be at 7 PM, April 13, 2010, at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant in Auburn Town Center, 370 Elm Avenue, a block north of Interstate 80. Come early for your favorite table, to eat and make gossip.

**Rescue Wisdom:** Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop.

**"Lord, you pick 'em up and I'll put 'em down."**