



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!

Your ***New Member Information Packet*** contains:

- Your Falcon Wanderers Membership Card(s)
- Information about American Volkssport Association (our National Organization), Falcon Wanderers Club History, Event Participation, and AVA Record Books
- Your Falcon Wanderers Club Patch(s). Wear it proudly!
- Information about the AVA New Walker Packet - a \$22.00 value for only \$5.00

AS A MEMBER, YOU ALSO RECEIVE

- A Monthly Newsletter and brochures of future events via email
  - If you would like to receive printed/mailed copies of the newsletter and brochures, submit \$10 per year to cover the mailing and printing costs. Make the check to Falcon Wanderers and mail to PO Box 17162, Colorado Springs, CO 80935
- AVA publication, *Starting Point*, at a discounted price
- The fun of helping to plan and participate in our events and those of other clubs throughout the state and world.

WHEN YOU HELP AT AN EVENT

Any member who helps a minimum of two hours at a regular event receives

- Discounted Event and Distance Stamp on the day of the event (but you must walk to receive Distance Stamp).
- Members who work at 6 or more Events in a year, receive a free Membership Renewal.

We hope you will enjoy walking and being an active member, helping our club to grow and prosper. See you on the trail!

Sincerely,

Jan Converse, President

January 5, 2021

**THE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE  
FALCON WANDERERS  
and  
VOLKSSPORTING**

**OUR ORGANIZATION**

The American Volkssport Association, commonly referred to as the "AVA", is the governing body of our American Organization. The AVA is a member country of the international organization, the *International Federation of Popular Sports*, commonly recognized as the "IVV". From the original four founding members, Germany, Austria,



Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, we have grown to over 40 member countries with more being added each year.



Our AVA national headquarters are located in Universal City, Texas, just outside San Antonio. The AVA is governed by an Executive Council, elected every two years at our Biennial Convention.

Nationally, we are divided into 10 regions, each having a locally elected Regional Director. Each of the Regional Directors serve on the AVA Executive Council (EC), headed by our four nationally elected officers. Our club is part of the *Rocky Mountain Region* that includes Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. Sherry Sayers of Woodland Park, Colorado is our Regional Director. The AVA has over 300 member clubs located throughout the United States, with local events held weekly across the nation.

**FALCON WANDERERS**

The club was founded in 1981 by Volkssport enthusiasts at the Air Force Academy who loved the sport and wanted to help others enjoy it. We now have ~ 230 active members.

We publish a monthly Newsletter to keep all our members in touch. We meet monthly to plan future Volkssport events, and other club activities.

We welcome you as a new member and encourage you to participate in the club by helping to plan and conduct our events, as a club officer, a committee member, newsletter editor, Trailmeister ... wherever your talents and interests direct you.

See the Newsletter for the dates and locations of our meetings and other events.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT EVENTS?

There are several ways. At each event, there is always an area where many clubs display their event brochures for participants to pick-up at no charge. The brochures will tell you:

- When and where the event is being held and directions for getting there,
- any special instructions such as pets being allowed or restricted,
- a trail rating to help you determine the difficulty of each event,
- a description of the event award, if applicable, and
- a contact person you can call for additional information.

*A brochure for our next Falcon Wanderer event is included in this packet.*

Additionally:

- The AVA publishes *The American Wanderer*. This is our national "newspaper" and provides a listing of all the sanctioned events in The US and Canada. Ask about becoming a *Volkssport Associate* so you can receive it regularly.
- You can find local events listed in area newspapers and publications.
- Our Falcon Wanderers newsletter contains the complete Rocky Mountain Region Event Calendar and articles about upcoming events that are interesting and informative.
- We're on the **World Wide Web:**
  - Look for Falcon Wanderer Events at [www.falconwanderers.org](http://www.falconwanderers.org)
  - Look for Volkssport Events in the US and throughout the world at [www.ava.org](http://www.ava.org)
- We're on **Facebook** – Just search for 'Falcon Wanderers,

## WHAT ARE AVA RECORD BOOKS?

Although we are a non-competitive sport, we do offer individual recognition awards for an individual participant's accomplishments: the number of **events** completed and the total cumulative **distances** completed. You can purchase your record books at any AVA event for only **\$6.00** per book. When the books are completed and forwarded to AVA headquarters you will receive a certificate, a patch, and a hat/lapel pin. Events completed in other IVV countries, and entered in your books also count towards your goals and awards.

**THE EVENTS BOOK:** A series of books for the events you complete. Only events are counted in these books. At each event, where you pay the appropriate fee, the book will be stamped with the official AVA/IVV stamp for that event. It is important to remember, **every event has its own unique event number and you can receive event credit only once each day of the event.**

The books are progressive and you receive your first award after 10 events. A second award is received after 30 events, and then 50 events. The first three books in the series are *GREEN*.

After completing 50 events, the color changes to *PURPLE* and events are recognized in increments of 25 per book. After completing 600 events, the color of the book again changes and the new increment level is now 50 events per book/award level. You will be surprised at the rate you will receive your awards once you start Volkssporting! You use the same *EVENT BOOK* for all Volkssport Events ... walks, bikes, swims, snowshoes and skis.

**THE DISTANCE BOOK:** The distance awards begin with your first 500 kilometers. The initial color of the book is *BLUE* and you continue in increments of 500 km until you have completed 8,000 kilometers. At that point the book changes its color to *ORANGE* and the increment is 1,000 kilometers per book. Guess what happens next? At 22,000 kilometers, your book changes colors again *and your friends begin to question your sanity*. Let them have their say - you had all the fun walking.

There is one major difference for posting entries into a distance book. For one fee, you may complete an additional distance, up to 20 kilometers, in one day. For example, you walk a 10 kilometer event twice on the same day, you enter only one **event stamp** in your **Event Book**, but record 20 kilometers credit in your **Distance Book**. You may keep a *DISTANCE BOOK* for Bike events, if you wish. Distance credit is not given for Swim events.

The image shows a rectangular stamp form for an "International Record of Popular Sports DISTANCE Record Book". At the top left, it has "No 18153" and a logo of a downward-pointing arrow with a triangle inside. Below the logo is the text "USA" and "INTERNATIONAL". To the right of the logo is the title "International Record of Popular Sports DISTANCE Record Book". Below the title is a box for "AVIARY NUMBER". Underneath that is a line for "Last Name" and "First Name/Other". Below that is a line for "First Name/Other". Below that is a line for "MAG NUMBER". Below that is a line for "City" and "State" and "Zip Code". At the bottom, it says "AMERICAN VOLKSPORT ASSOCIATION" and "Member of International Federation of Popular Sports".

### **WHAT ABOUT THE BOOKS WHEN THEY ARE COMPLETED?**

Completed books are mailed to AVA national headquarters. The address is:

The American Volkssport Association  
ATTN: Awards Department  
1008 S. Alamo Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78210. (The address is on your books, as well.)

You should mail your record books to the AVA as they are completed. When your first book is mailed, expect it to be returned in four to six weeks. In addition to the certificate, patch, and pin, you will be issued your own **IVV Record of Achievement** book by the AVA. This book is commonly called the "PASSPORT" and is very important to you. Always enter the AVA Registration number listed on your "PASSPORT" on your event and distance books. The "PASSPORT" must be returned to the AVA each time that you send completed books to be recorded

The information that you send is important as it is *your record of accomplishments*. Members who participate in the awards program recommend that you make a copy of all books that you send as a precaution just in case something is lost in the mail. Also, you should check to verify that your name and *current address* are on the books. Our entire program is based upon individual integrity. A point sometimes misunderstood is that every individual has his own individual *passport*. *You may not combine records from several family members to qualify for recognition.*

There are two very important things to remember about BOOKS.

First, you are *not required to maintain books*.. Participation in the awards program is strictly up to the individual. You may decide to use one or both kinds.

Second, **ALWAYS** put your name and address on the cover of the book when you purchase them and it does not hurt to include your telephone number.

If you lose your books, without the name, etc., AVA can't get them back to you in most cases and you can't recover the events and distances earned from the lost books. Participants walking our trails know what the books represent and appreciate their value - *when one is found, it is quickly returned to the owner by the club.*

What if you arrive at an event and have forgotten your books? Not to worry ... ask for an **INSERT PAGE**. They are available at most walks. The host club will stamp them so that you have a valid record of your event. *They are free* and you can include them with your book as if the entry were made in the record book. (But, if you get too many insert pages, it gets rather messy to keep your records.)

### **WHAT ABOUT EVENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES?**

If you travel or work outside the US, *record books that were purchased in one IVV member country can be used in any other member country*. Record books never expire. Just send them to AVA and they will be entered on your record of achievement.

**NEW WALKER PROGRAM**

**START VOLKSMARCHING ON THE RIGHT FOOT (PUN INTENDED)**

If you have not been keeping record books ... just enjoying the walk ...Falcon Wanderers and the AVA have a program to get you started, at a very affordable cost . For \$5.00, you get:

<b><i>First event book</i></b>	Good for your first 10 events anywhere in the world until you earn your first Achievement Award	A \$6 value.
<b><i>First distance book:</i></b>	Good for your first 500K anywhere in the world.	A \$6 value.
<b><i><u>Three coupons for free credit at events:</u></i></b>	So you can go to three events for free and still get credit. These coupons are good only at events in the USA. If you wish to purchase the event award, you may do so separately.	A \$9 value
<b><i>A coupon for a free issue of The American Wanderer</i></b>	AVA's National Magazine about events and activities throughout the US and overseas. (Annual Volkssport Associate Subscription is \$25.00)	A \$3 value
<b><i>10% off first AVA Specialties order.</i></b>	Jackets, pins, state bars, patches and other items that AVA sells.	A \$3 Value (est).

You can get a New Walker Packet at most US events. Need one right away? Call our President.