

News from N.E.W. #13, Sunday, March 2, 2014

- 1. Starting Point Changes:** Here are the latest, but be sure to check the www.ava.org website.
 - **Grants Pass Y0419 & Y0633** have a new start point: the Lodge at 955 SE 7th Street, Grants Pass, OR, open 7am to 10pm. Ask for the walk box at the reception desk.
- 2. Multi-Event Calendar AVA Web page:** This page, found under the Events tab on the AVA website, has information about festivals, such as the Columbia Gorge Walks, Regional conferences and other events with multiple events and more than one day. Please check this page. There are events on it from our region that are no longer being held. To make changes, add or delete items that were your club's, send info directly to avawebmaster@ava.org. Note what information is normally shown on other events. Events could be one year only or multiple/biennial years.
- 3. Participation Decline:** Many of you have mentioned the multi-event weekends that were held in 2012, but not in 2013, such as the Columbia Gorge Walks. These events add hundreds of participants and so looking at two years is comparing apples and oranges. Sorry about that. **Destination weekends draw participants!**
- 4. Good News – Whidbey Walking Festival:** The Northwest Tulip Trekkers are busy planning the Whidbey Walking Festival for September 11-13, 2015. This festival was last held in 2012. We'll hear more about the walks that will be held and other festival information. Put this destination weekend on your calendar. I love to see this one back. People come from all over: down from Canada, and from many other states outside the NW.
- 5. Incident Reports/POC-RD Notices:** If you're putting my contact information as RD on these forms or on walk directions, use my RD email – nw_rd@ava.org. It forwards to my personal email that I get on my cell phone. Use my cell phone number as well **253-208-1331**.
- 6. New tool for the NEC:** The NEC is beginning to work with a new online tool to communicate, store files, query other NEC members, share ideas. Eventually we can use this tool as a communication tool for the region, but we don't want to get ahead of ourselves and make a logistical mess. Just so you are aware, this is something our new ED, Stephanie Sinclair, has introduced. More info when we are ready. We can teach some old dogs new tricks!
- 7. Pathways to Excellence:** The Excel spreadsheet of items to look at that make up an excellent club is available. I'll convert it to a PDF and forward to clubs. If you have any suggestions or questions about what makes up a great club after reading this document, and/or your club would like to work on this, contact pathways@ava.org.
- 8. Columbia River Gorge Biennial Classic: June 19-22, Cascade Locks, OR, Marine Park.** See www.columbiagorgewalks.com for information about the 13 walks and one bike and social events. These are some of the most spectacular walks and day hikes anywhere.
- 9. NW Regional Conference:** Portland State University **June 23-28**, including seven walks and 4 swim events. Go to <http://www.walkoregon.org/conf/nw2014.htm> for information, video, brochure and links to registration. You don't need to register if you're just doing walks, but if you want awards or to go to any event meals, pre-registration is required.
- 10. AVA Convention 2015:** Grand Hotel, Salem, OR, **June 13-21, 2015. We can't register for rooms yet** at the conference rate. More later. Plan to attend.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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