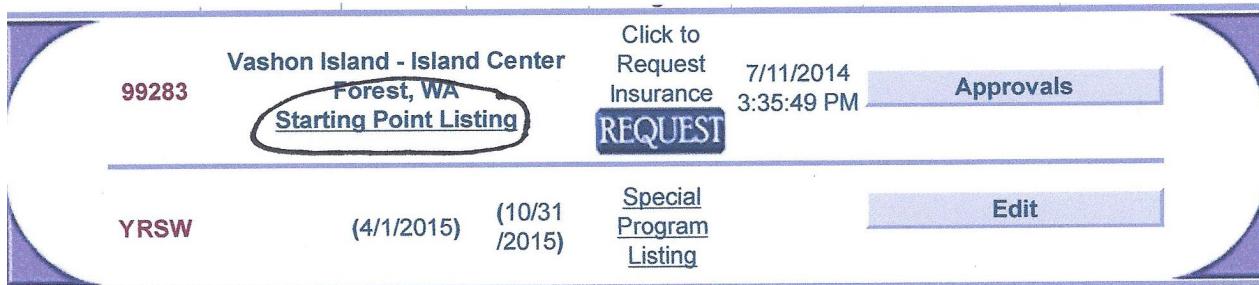


News from N.E.W. #21, August 21, 2014

- Deadline is August 31, 10pm Pacific time to renew your YREs/Seasonals:** This is real. You will not be able to get to them again to renew after this date. Please don't wait till the deadline. There have been problems with renewals disappearing when you submit. So, do them one at a time and go back to your ESR page to get the next one, rather than clicking on the Next one link at the bottom of the page. And, send me and marie@ava.org an email with the error message you get if the renewal disappears.

Again, please go check the "Starting Point Listing" for each of your YRE/Seasonals NOW, not by mid-September and fix them. Make sure there is a description about what you will experience at the event.



You always can edit your YREs, but whether the info will get to the Starting Point is the issue.

- Special Program Books:** It came to my attention this last week that it is optional for AVA Special Programs to require a person pay for credit in order to get the sanction stamp in their special program book. The Special Programs Policy Manual says the Special Program book's rules may state "whether participants must pay for event credit or if they may walk free." This is true for state/region special program books as well. If the rules in the book don't say you must pay for credit, participants may have their books stamped if they walk for free. If you haven't checked the book ahead of time, stamp it if the participant asks. If you are considering a special program application to AVA or a regional one, be sure you state what you want to happen.
- Time to Walk 10-11-12-13-14: I need to know now what your plans are for the national "Time to Walk" event on 10-11-12-13-14.** These can be group walks of YRE's as well as traditional events. I need an estimate now to send in to AVA of how many participants you might expect. You may sanction a one day traditional walk of a YRE route if you want to get it into the NW Pathfinder (WA & OR). Deadline for the NWP is **August 29!!!**
- International Wanderers Cataldo, ID Walks:** As previously mentioned the Sept 1 and Sept 3 walks from the Cataldo Trailhead on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes just off I-90 exit 40 north of the Interstate is a linear trail. It ends at the Enaville Trailhead. Plan on arranging pickup at the end point. Probably too late for pre-registration, but you can contact them for information not on the AVA website.
- Time for Fiscal Year End reports:** Please update the Officer Updates page of your AVA club website. If there are no changes, you need to click on "submit" anyway. You have until November 15 to update officers, send in your AVA financial report, do your IRS 990 e-postcard (this is critical as you will lose your 501(c)3 IRS status and lose your club if you don't make this deadline) and send AVA and me **a copy of the IRS email response saying you filed**. Just forward the email.

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6. **NW Regional Conference for 2016:** I got my years mixed up in the last issue. The China Olympiad is 2015. A Boise NW Regional Conference would be in mid-September, 2016 for a long weekend, Friday – Sunday, probably September 16-18. September has great weather in Boise. And they have lots of super walk routes. Understand that all walkers would pay \$3 per walk whether they are credit or not. Let me know: would you go to Boise and might those in your club; and, would you help at the conference at an event or with on-site registration?
7. **2015 Salem Convention:** The link on the AVA website is there. The convention webpage is getting populated. Here's the direct link: <http://www.nationalavaconvention2015.com/>. Please book a room at the Grand as soon as you can. There's lots of info about the Phoenix Grand Hotel (in Salem) on the website.
8. **Next National Executive Council (NEC):** I'll be traveling to Albany, NY for the next NEC on October 17-18. I haven't seen all the proposals for any policy changes or discussion items yet, but will pass them on when I do. I have submitted a change to the Trail Rating Guidelines from Interlaken Trailblazers to be close to the Canadian system. I'll send this along for your comments. It eliminates elevation gain, but describes more about steepness.

See you all on the trail. Sorry for repeating so much this time. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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