

The Rocky Mountain Region of  
The American Volkssport Association  
Presents the

## 20<sup>th</sup> AVA BIENNIAL CONVENTION



June 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

BILLINGS, MONTANA



AVA: America's Walking Club

Eligible for credit towards IVV Achievement Awards



<http://2017AVAConvention.org>

<http://www.ava.org>

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## Welcome to Billings, Montana

Howdy!

On behalf of the Rocky Mountain Region and its 13 member clubs, I would like to welcome you to Billings, Montana for our 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention. We have had a ball working on the convention to bring you to an awesome place you might never have been before, and have certainly never done an AVA-sanctioned walk here, since there are no clubs in Billings.

As you may already know, Billings is “Montana’s Trailhead,” and offers a large variety of walking and biking trails. For your walking experience in Billings, we have planned the Swords Rimrock Trail, the Yellowstone River trail, and the downtown brewery tour. Pre-convention events will include a soothing walk along Clear Creek in Buffalo, Wyoming, and an awesome historic walk at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Crow Agency, Montana. Post-convention events include a walk in the charming mountain town of Red Lodge, Montana, and our last walk will be in Cody, Wyoming, a true Western town with lots of history. We will also be sponsoring the “Kitra Memorial Bike” along the Yellowstone River and a swim event at the Red Lion Convention Hotel in Billings, which are available to do anytime at your convenience during the three days of convention.

In addition, we will have our social events, our informative workshops, vendors and club tables in the Convention Center for you to enjoy. The socials include the Wednesday night Meet & Greet, a true volksmarch experience with brats, hamburgers and huckleberry sliders, and our Friday night dinner offers two entrees (London broil and Boursin chicken).

If you still have time to take in some sights, Pompey’s Pillar National Monument is about 30 miles from Billings. This is the site that bears William Clark’s signature carved into the pillar, the only physical evidence of Lewis and Clark’s expedition in 1806. There is also Pictograph Cave State Park, a mere five miles from Billings, where you can explore three caves and see evidence of habitation from 3,000 years ago.

We hope you will come to Billings and Step out of Bounds with us for a Whole Different Kind of Convention.

*Sherry Sayers*

Convention Chairperson

## Convention Registration Information

Registration will be online only for the convention. You may pay with a credit card via PayPal (account not required) or pay by check – the address is shown after you choose ‘Pay by Check’. Please write your registration reference number as the Memo so we can apply it to the correct registration. To begin your registration, go to <http://2017AVAConvention.org> and select the ‘Registration’ Tab. If you are unable to register online, please send an email to [info@2017AVAConvention.org](mailto:info@2017AVAConvention.org) with your name and phone number, or call our Message Line at 303-785-6177 and leave a message, and we will contact you to get you registered.

The Full Convention Registration is \$295, with AVA Annual and New Associate Members able to receive a 10% discount, and AVA Lifetime Associate Members able to receive a 15% discount. Registration for individual components of the convention activities is also available, but no discounts. See the ‘Registration’ Tab on the convention web site for more information.

## Silent Auction

The Silent Auction we conduct as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention is a longtime favorite. It raises funds for the AVA, and we will contribute to a local charitable organization in Billings. This year we will be using an online system to assist with the documentation, as there are tax implications to those of you who contribute to the Silent Auction. To assist us in making your donation process easier, please send an email to [SilentAuction@2017AVAConvention.org](mailto:SilentAuction@2017AVAConvention.org) and we will email back the information we need to collect to add you to our system so you just have to drop off your items and the paperwork is already completed.

Please consider donating a basket of goodies or a single item that can be combined with others to create a complete basket. Anything will be appreciated; but, if you need help thinking of something, just look around you. You know those things have been sitting on that chair for two years. Voila! Donate it! To you, it is worth a tax deduction. To us, it contributes to our operational budget.

If you need some assistance with transportation of items to the Convention Center, let us know and we will see what we can do. The Convention Committee has a trailer to hold all our event signs and

tables and such, and there should be room inside for more stuff. As we get closer to the convention we will have an address where you can mail your stuff ahead of time.

## Convention Events

There are nine events for this convention; two pre-convention events Monday and Tuesday; five events in the convention city of Billings; and two post-convention events on Saturday and Sunday. We are Stepping Out of Bounds in Billings by making the convention events available on a specific day and time and, each event (except Bike and Swim) will be sanctioned for the entire week (June 5 through June 11).

If you are unable to do an event (except the Bike or Swim) during its Convention Event window, you can do the event at your convenience during the convention week providing you have either pre-registered online for this event, or have physically registered at Walk Central inside the Red Lion Convention Center in Billings, Montana. You will require additional information to complete the walk. This information is available by sending an email to [info@2017AVAConvention.org](mailto:info@2017AVAConvention.org) or at Walk Central. Please be aware doing the event outside the scheduled time will make it like a Seasonal - you will be there without any walk support.

## Pre-Convention Walk; Buffalo, Wyoming

Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Sanction #107804

Prosinski Park

S. Burritt Ave & W. Fetterman St

Buffalo, Wyoming

GPS Coordinates: 44.34597 N, 106.702

W



Start Times: 0800-1200 [8am-12pm], finish by 1500 [3pm]. Times may change due to bus availability

Distance: 2K/5K/10K, Rating: 1C, Elevation: 4650

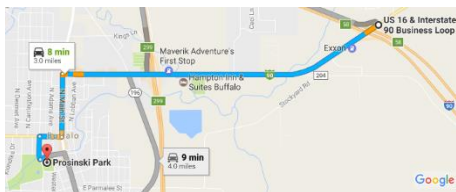


**Trail Description:** The walk meanders along Clear Creek on a flat natural surface trail (rocks and roots) through mostly Ponderosa Pine (butterscotch trees) forested areas. The Convention Committee is partnering with the Buffalo YMCA to promote the 'Stepping Out in Buffalo' walk day. We have established a short, 2K option to accommodate our young, new walkers.

**Driving Directions:** From I-90 take Exit 58 (US Hwy 16) and head west for 2.2 miles. Turn LEFT at N. Main St for 0.4 miles. Turn RIGHT onto Fort St for 0.1 miles. Turn LEFT onto N. Burritt Ave for .2 miles. Turn LEFT onto N. Burritt Ave.

**Parking Information:** Follow the directions of the parking personnel. Please Watch for Walkers. After parking walk to the west, cross Burritt Ave and head into City Park. Restrooms are on your right in City Park and there are portable toilets over the hill at the Start/Finish area at the south end of City Park. After checking in, a bus will take you to the walk start at the Clear Creek Trailhead of the William J. Mentock Trail.

This is the first pre-convention event. If you pre-registered, your Start Card for all events is here. Check in at the table to get your card, then make your way to an available bus.



**Special Programs:** Amphitheatres; Animal Safari (Buffalo); Cities in Song (Buffalo Soldier, Buffalo Gals Won't You Come out Tonight); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Take a Walk in a City Park; Walking the United States; Walking the USA A-Z (B), You'll Never Walk Alone, Food for Thought.

Pre-Convention Walk; Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Sanction #107805

Crow Agency, Montana  
Stone House Parking Lot  
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument  
GPS Coordinates: 45.57474 N, 107.43778 W



Start Times: 0830-1030 [8:30am-10:30am], finish by 1300 [1pm]

**Note the shorter times.**

Distance: 5K/10K, Rating: 2A, Elevation: 3161

PLEASE NOTE: There is an **entrance fee** of \$20 per car if you do not have a National Parks Pass. **PETS are NOT allowed on the trails.**



Trail Description: After walking through Custer National Cemetery, the trail will go to the deep ravine where remains of soldiers from company E were discovered, back up to the Visitor Center and up the short, steep hill to Last Stand Hill, where you will see Custer's marker. Across the road is the Indian Memorial. You will continue along the monument road, then turn around and come back. The wide-open spaces here and the views are amazing.

**Very Limited Parking; Carpooling Strongly Recommended. Entrance Fee.**

Driving Directions: From Buffalo, head north on I-90W for 101 miles to US Hwy 212 E. Exit on US Hwy 212 E and turn RIGHT for 0.4 miles. Turn RIGHT onto the entrance road. The fee collection station is 0.7 miles ahead. Once inside the park, go about 50 meters and take the first right into the Stone House Parking Area and follow the directions of our parking personnel. Check in at the Start tent. If you pre-registered and did not get your Convention start card yesterday it will be ready for you to pick up here. Note the shorter times for this event. Everyone must be finished by 1300.



Special Programs: Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Honoring our Flag; National Parks Centennial; Walking the United States; Walking the USA; You'll Never Walk Alone

## Yellowstone River Walk; Billings, Montana

Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Sanction #107806

Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center  
Billings  
1223 Mallowney Lane  
Billings, Montana  
GPS Coordinates: 45.74638 N,  
108.55566 W



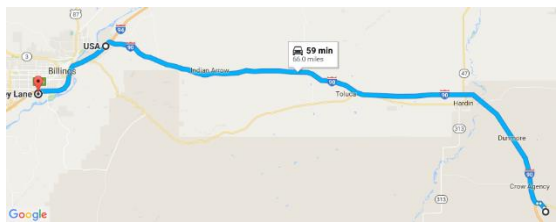
Start Times: 0700-1500 [7am-3pm], finish by 1800 [6pm]

Distance: 5K/10K/20K, Rating: 1B, Elevation: 3175

Trail Description: We will walk from our convention hotel through a nice neighborhood, then get onto the Yellowstone River trail. Take a stroll around Norm’s Island (the Convention Committee has invited Norm to join us), then along the Yellowstone River into Riverfront Park. Stroll around Lake Josephine and head back the way you came. Trail is hard surface and natural surface.



Driving Directions: From Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, head north on I-90W for 55 miles to the junction of I-94 just outside Billings. Continue on I-90 for 10 miles to Exit 446. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Mallowney Lane, turn left onto Mallowney Ln. The Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center Billings will be on your left. Welcome!



Special Programs: Boardwalks; Bridges-Spanning the USA; Cities in Song (I'm at Home on the Range); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Honoring our Flag; Lakes and Reservoirs; Take a Walk in a City Park (Riverfront Park); Walking the United States; Walking the USA



## President's Walk/Brewery Tour; Downtown Billings, Montana

Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Sanction #107807

Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center Billings  
1223 Mallowney Lane  
Billings, Montana  
GPS Coordinates: 45.74638 N,  
108.55566 W

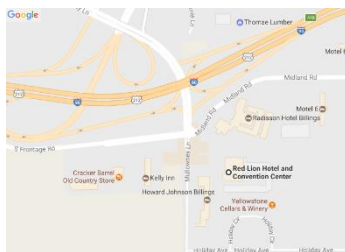


Start Times: 1800-1930 [6pm-7:30pm], Finish by 2200 [10pm]. Transportation is provided from the Convention Center to downtown and return.  
Distance: 5K/10K, Rating: 1A, Elevation: 3175

Trail Description: After a successful day of meetings, enjoy an evening stroll through downtown Billings. We will ride our busses from the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center over to the Parmly Library (Western Heritage Center). You will encounter historical buildings, many of the local breweries (partaking is optional) and several city parks in the twilight. Bring a flashlight just in case.



Driving Directions: I-90 Exit 446. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Mallowney Lane, turn left onto Mallowney Ln. The Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center Billings will be on your left. Welcome!



Special Programs: Cities in Song (Tilt Billings and the Student Prince); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Honoring our Flag; National Register of Historic Places (Armour Cold Storage); Take a Walk in a City Park (Pioneer Park); Walk the USA-Street by Street (Montana Ave); Walking the United States; Walking the USA, Ice Cream Parlors

## Swords Rimrock Park; Billings, Montana

Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Sanction #107808

Red Lion Hotel and  
Convention Center Billings  
1223 Mallowney Lane  
Billings, Montana  
GPS Coordinates: 45.74638  
N, 108.55566 W



Start Times: 0700-1500 [7am-3pm], finish by 1800 [6pm]  
Transportation is provided from the Convention Center to Boothill  
Cemetery and return.  
Distance: 5K/10K, Rating: 2A, Elevation: 3175



Trail Description: Depart via bus from the Convention Center to Boothill Cemetery. The initial trail is a bit up, but all on pavement. Once up on the 'Rims' you will stroll with a tremendous view over downtown Billings, and will be able to visit Yellowstone Kelly's Gravesite (we are hoping the new construction will be completed). On the way back will be a completely different view of Billings. The bus will return you to the Convention Center.

Driving Directions: I-90 Exit 446. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Mallowney Lane, turn left onto Mallowney Ln. The Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center Billings will be on your left. Welcome!



Special Programs: Cities in Song (Billings, MT.); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Take a Walk in a City Park (Swords Park); Walking the United States; Walking the USA; You'll Never Walk Alone (Chief Black Otter Trail)

## Kitra Memorial Bike Event; Billings, Montana

Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Sanction #107809

Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center

Billings

1223 Mallowney Lane

Billings, Montana

GPS Coordinates: 45.74638 N, 108.55566 W



Start Times: Daylight Hours

Distance: 13K/26K, Rating: 1B, Elevation: 3175



**NOTE:** Protective Bicycle Helmet use is REQUIRED in the city of Billings

**Description:** The trail starts from the Convention Center and uses streets in the vicinity of the Convention Center and paved and dirt paths in Riverfront Park. We recommend you use a bicycle

with a wider tire (i.e. hybrid or mountain bike). You are encouraged to bring your own bicycle and helmet. There will be limited bike rentals (to include helmets) available at the Convention Center. Check the Events Tab on the convention web site for updated bike rental information.

**Driving Directions:** I-90 Exit 446. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Mallowney Lane, turn left onto Mallowney Ln. The Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center Billings will be on your left.

**Special Programs:** Bridges; Cities in Song (My Beautiful America); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Honoring our Flag; Take a Walk in a City Park (Riverfront Park); Walking the United States; Walking the USA

## Convention Swim; Billings, Montana

Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Sanction #107810

Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center Billings  
1223 Mallowney Lane  
Billings, Montana  
GPS Coordinates: 45.74638 N,  
108.55566 W



Start Times: Pool Hours

Distance: 300m, Rating: 1A, Elevation: 3175

Driving Directions: I-90 Exit 446. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for Mallowney Lane, turn left onto Mallowney Ln. The Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center Billings will be on your left.

Description: Swim is available when the pool is open during the entire week of Convention. Your start card will provide you access to the pool. This event is self-monitored. Lap counters will NOT be provided. Bring your own towel.

Special Programs: Cities in Song (Pride is Alive in Yellowstone); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Walking the United States; Walking the USA

## Post-Convention Walk; Red Lodge, Montana

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Sanction #107811

Red Lodge High School parking lot

800 Chambers Ave N.

Red Lodge, Montana

GPS: 45.19507 N, 109.24229 W

Start Times: 0800-1200 [8am-12pm], finish by 1500 [3pm]

Distance: 5K/10K; Rating: 2B; Elevation: 5515



### Trail

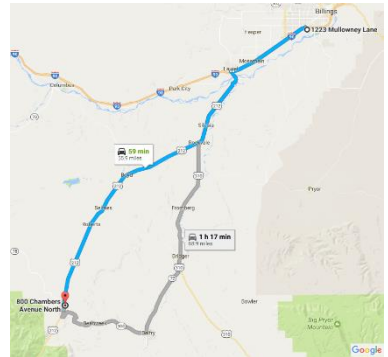
#### Description:

The walk goes through downtown Red Lodge, a cute, quaint mountain town, then heads up on the trails around town for some outstanding vistas. The 10K loops above and around the Red Lodge airport, rodeo grounds and fairgrounds. The Montana Whispering Giant is here, as well as many historic buildings.



Driving Directions: From Billings take I-90W toward Butte. Take Exit 434 for US-212 toward Red Lodge. In Red Lodge, turn LEFT onto 2nd St E, and the high school will be in front of you. Please follow the instructions of the parking personnel.

Special Programs: Cities in Song (Westwind); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Walking the United States; Walking the USA, Ice Cream Parlors



## Post-Convention Walk; Cody, Wyoming

Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Sanction #107812

Riley Arena  
1400 Heart Mountain St  
Cody, Wyoming  
GPS: 44.52212 N, 109.05997 W



Start Times: 0800-1200 [8am-12pm], finish by 1500 [3pm]  
Distance: 5K/10K; Rating: 2A; Elevation: 5084



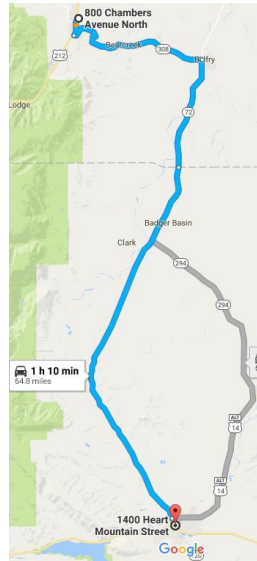
Trail Description: The trail takes you on a circle south through the neighborhoods, around the Cody City Reservoir, passing by the Beck Bark Park, then woofing it back through residential and business areas of Cody. The route is on the hill above town and is flat with a small hill leading into the City Reservoir area. There are beautiful views of the surrounding mountains and the city along

the route.

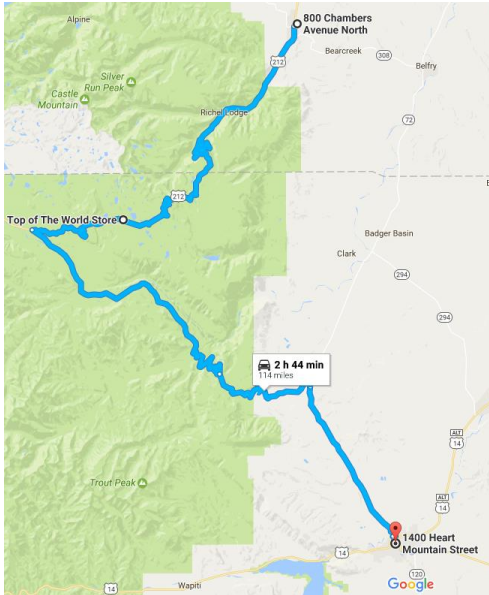
Driving Directions: From Red Lodge High School there are two ways to get to Cody.

The quickest way is to head south out of town on US-212 for less than 2 miles, then turn LEFT onto State Hwy 308 for 14.5 miles. Turn RIGHT at Belfry on MT-72 S for 10.5 miles into Wyoming where the road turns into WY-120 E, and follow that for another 37 miles to Cody. Total 65 miles and just over an hour.

The more scenic, longer, more difficult drive is to take the Beartooth Highway into Wyoming, then back to Cody. Head south out of town on US-212, following for 40 twisting turning miles to the Top Of The World Store. The name says



it all. After your break, continue on US-212 for about 44 miles where you will turn LEFT onto WY-296/Crandall Rd. This goes up over Dead Indian Pass and down for about 45 miles towards Cody. Turn RIGHT onto WY-120 E for 16 more miles into Cody. Total of 114 miles and nearly three hours.



**Either Way:** Once you are on WY-120 and come into the north side of Cody, turn RIGHT on 16th St, then RIGHT on Sheridan Ave. LEFT at 13th St will take you to the Riley Arena. Parking is around back. We may have parking personnel to assist, please follow their directions.

Special Programs: Cities in Song (Green River by Credence Clearwater Revival); Doin' the Louisiana Purchase; Walking the United States; Walking the USA



20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention  
Stepping Out of Bounds  
1001 Pat Booker Rd, Suite 101  
Universal City, TX 78148



***Fun, Fitness, Friendship***