



Selfie from Beautiful British Columbia at the Canadian Convention

# 20th AVA Biennial Convention

JULY 2016

## Welcome!

Good day everyone, and welcome to the second edition of the 20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Newsletter. We will make every attempt to publish one each month up until the convention itself during the first week of June next year.

## Questions and Answers

I appreciate the questions I have received. I will attempt to answer them here, as many are of general interest.

- Susan asks: When will the convention registration prices and registration be available?
  - Our estimate is for January 2017 for when this will be available. It will be a completely online registration and payment, and will be accessible from the convention web site.
- Sally says: I would like to help with the activities.
  - Thank you Sally. Everything is being done with volunteers. I am finalizing the list of jobs now. By the time you read this the volunteer page at the convention web site will be there, with links to our volunteer signups on [signup.com](http://signup.com).
- Doris Adds: I would like to volunteer. For what job, I have no idea. My experience has been to punch lunch cards. Previous conventions have included bus rides which made me unsure of available time. With your convention plan, I am ready to help.
  - If you have ever volunteered to work a club event, ours will be not so much different. We have the same tasks, just more people to handle. And even if you have never done it, we will provide complete instructions for your tasks. The Volunteer Tab on the convention web site gives you a description of the jobs we will be needing filled. The volunteer signup sheets specify the start time and end time, so you can plan. Also, I have set the schedules so everyone will be able to complete the events. Relax. It will be fun!

## The American Wanderer

Attached are the two articles that appeared in the August/September issue of The American Wanderer. On the front page, 'The 2017 Convention', Frank speaks to how attending the AVA Biennial Convention tends to grow on you. Inside on page 7 Sherry lists some of the memorable convention things we have seen and been part of over the last 40 years of the AVA. We have attended every convention since 1983!

## The Convention Hotel

The Billings Hotel and Convention Center; 1223 Mullowney Lane; Billings, Montana. We just discovered that in September it will become a Red Lion, the Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center, Billings. Once that officially happens, I will update all my references to it.

We have been accepting reservations for a few months now. Go to their web site and use promotion code AVA617. The rooms are about ¾ reserved. Once they are all gone, you will not be able to stay at the convention hotel, but will have to arrange for someplace else in town. All of the major chains are represented. Sherry and I will be in Billings in September making some of the final arrangements. We will try to get some discounts on the chain hotels, and will also try to find some other local hotels as well. Stay tuned.

We also have some concerns about the number of rooms available before and after the convention. Kevin and Dale are in Cody right now, working with the Chamber to help determine how much of an impact we will have. Sherry and I are looking at Buffalo as well. When we have some information we will let you know. In any case, I suggest you begin planning your trip now. Next month I will publish information about available Year-round and Seasonal events on the way to and from Billings.

## Bus Tours to the Convention

We have several tours on busses coming to the convention. Tater Tours was almost sold out the afternoon I made the presentation to the Salem convention. Mary now has a waiting list. Walking Adventures International has a tour on their web site. I spoke to them just the other day. Phyllis is putting together a bus from Des Moines. So far she has 18. I have attached her Bus Brochure. I have not heard yet from the Northwest region, but they usually put together a bus tour as well. Check them out. One way to get there with appropriate side trips along the way.

## The Convention Web Site

Those of you that maintain your club's web sites know how time consuming it can be. I have been working on it. The largest piece remaining is the volunteer page. There is a lot of background work involved in figuring out the tasks and schedules for where we need assistance. That should be posted by the time you receive this newsletter.

If you have not already checked it out, there is a 3-minute video capturing some of our volkssporting adventures. This could be shared with non-volkssporters to introduce them to us. Please feel free. Appearing on the lower left side are some foot prints. Clicking on these will take you back to the top of the page.

The walks tab has been changed to Events, because we have not only walks, but a swim and bike event planned. Details for those have been included on this page.

The Business tab shows the preliminary schedule of the workshops and general sessions for the two and one-half day convention proper. Each item will be fleshed out as more details are confirmed.

The Contact tab will send us an email. We will take care of it just as soon as we can.

## Stay Tuned

Watch for the monthly newsletters. If something critical comes up, you may see it more often. During the convention itself we will be publishing a daily newsletter with schedules and participation. Connect with the web site to be as current as can be.

See you on the trails.

Sherry Sayers  
20<sup>th</sup> AVA Biennial Convention Committee ChairPerson

Frank Sayers  
Rocky Mountain Regional Director  
NEC Liaison to the Convention