

RUNNING SHORTS

Local runners head west for marathon

By Ken Johnson

Christopher Wilson, 60, John Cook, 54, and Hans Jaeger, 62, all members of the Seven Hills Running Club, plan to run the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico on March 21.

This is an annual event to honor the special heroes of the Bataan Death March in World War II.

On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers surrendered to Japanese forces in the Philippines. They were forced to march for 4 days through the jungle. Thousands died. Many more later died in POW camps.

Over 5,000 runners and marchers from all 50 states and many foreign countries participate in this marathon each year. As they head out for the 26.2-mile trek across the New Mexico desert and around a mountain, they greet a few of the Bataan Death March survivors who line up along the start line.

This will be Jaeger's fifth consecutive year to run this event. Wilson will be running it for the fourth time and Cook for the third time. All three train year round on the trails at Huntsville State Park.

Recent race results:

Athens Triathlon, March 6

(300-meter swim, 13.8-mile bike, 5K run)

Marvin Dittfurth, 64 1:36:07 (1st in age group)

Little Rock Marathon (26.2 miles), March 7

Ken Johnson, 68 5:49:08

Armadillo Dash Half Marathon (13.1 miles), College Station, March 7

Melissa Boone, 26 1:53:36

Christine Gann, 33 2:37:09

Anna Shreves, 50 2:48:05

Darryl Shreves, 49 2:48:05

Pamela Saldivar, 20 3:22:44

5K (3.1 miles)

Lauren Wiggins, 21 37:25

Diane Tallent, 49 43:37

Texas Independence Relay (203 miles), Gonzalez to San Jacinto, March 6 & 7

J. C. Guzman, 38 22.92 miles in 2:42:10

Fernando Hernandez, 27 18.34 miles in 1:52:02

Run the Woodlands 5K , March 13

John Dunphy, 62 25:23

Courtney Dunphy, 24 28:35

Ken Johnson, 68 32:49

Bayou City Classic 10K (6.2 miles), Houston, March 13

Jesse Parker, 27 42:17

Anna Shreves, 50 1:16:01

Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon (13.1 miles), Dallas, March 14

Mark Robinson, 63 2:10:43

Upcoming Huntsville races:

Mar. 28, Sunday, 2 p.m. – **Run the Trails**, 3.5-mile non-competitive run or walk on the trails at Huntsville State Park. \$3 event entry fee, plus park admission. Refreshments and finisher medals.

Apr. 10 – Hog's Hunt Trail Run, 50K and 25K, Huntsville State Park.

For more about these and other races in the area, visit the Seven Hills Running Club web site at <http://www.7hills.us> and click on Race Schedule.