

RUNNING SHORTS

Local runners compete in Bataan Memorial Death March

Marathon

By Ken Johnson

Running a marathon (26.2 miles) is difficult, but running one in desert sand, high winds and up and around a mountain and is grueling. Several local runners faced this challenge at the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon on March 27 in White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

This is an annual event to commemorate the Bataan Death March during World War II. When the Philippines fell to the Japanese in April, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers were captured and forced to march for days through the Philippine jungles without food or water. Thousands died during the march or in captivity after the march.

Sergeant Virgil LaRue of Huntsville is one of the survivors. A fundraiser was held by Sam Houston State University ROTC to send Sergeant LaRue to New Mexico to be honored at the event. Members of his family accompanied him. A team of five runners (Team Virgil LaRue) was sent to participate in the event. They were entered as a Military Heavy Team, meaning they ran with 35-pound backpacks. Team members were: Major James Ross, 39, Master Sergeant Keith Calloway, 38, Major Paul Lohmann, 43, Captain Beau Mason, 34 and 2nd Lieutenant Travis Troutman, 28. They finished the marathon in 8 hours and 30 minutes.

Other local runners completing the marathon in the Civilian Light category (no backpacks) were:

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| Christopher Wilson, 61 | 5:26:00 |
| John Cook, 55 | 6:31:23 |
| Hans Jaeger, 63 | 6:44:04 |

Other recent race results:

Athens Marathon (26.2 miles), Ohio, Apr. 3

Ken Johnson, 69 5:36:51 (2nd in age group)

Muddy Trails Bash, The Woodlands, Apr. 2

10K (6.2 miles)

Steve Bickford, 50 48:20 (2nd in age group)

5K (3.1 miles)

Robert Duncan, 51 19:44 (1st in age group)

Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon (13.1 miles), Dallas, Mar. 27

Emily Garner, 30 1:39:56

Annie Brickell, 20 2:09:17

Leshia Jones, 50 3:04:40

Susan Lowery, 42 3:11:10

Alfredo Cerda, 38 3:11:11

Run the Trails, 3.5 miles, Huntsville State Park, Non-competitive, Mar. 27

Finishers:

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| Curtis Barton, 32 | Amanda Gutierrez, 25 |
| Cathy Bickford, 49 | J. C. Guzman, 39 |
| Steve Bickford, 50 | Ken Johnson, 69 |
| Katy Bridges, 22 | Derek Martin, 37 |
| Regan Bruce, 10 | Blake Moreno, 11 |
| Glen Carter, 60 | Erick Moreno, 31 |
| Kim Clark, 32 | Jose Moreno, 50 |
| Joshua Cole, 59 | Skipper Nethery, 61 |
| Michael Cole, 51 | Jan Parks, 54 |
| Susan Cole, 48 | Cindy Pate, 50 |
| Dorliza Copa, 25 | Amber Russell, 20 |
| Maci Countz, 9 | Stacey Smith, 38 |
| Karol Curran, 55 | Ashlea Taylor, 22 |
| Robert Duncan, 51 | Amber Wikstrom, 21 |
| Donna Fabian, 36 | Lavonne Zaiontz, 43 |
| Melva Gomez, 19 | |
| Michaela Green, 22 | |

Race to Educate 5K, College Station, Mar. 27

Ken Johnson, 69 31:45

Capitol 10,000 (6.2 miles), Austin, Mar. 27

Jenn Valdez, 19 1:15:35

BMI 5K, Conroe, Mar. 26

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| Rusty Andrews, 19 | 26:57 |
| Melissa Boone, 27 | 27:17 (3 rd in age group) |
| Cody Hopkins, 12 | 30:00 (1 st in age group) |
| Madalyn Smith, 11 | 30:07 (2 nd in age group) |
| Charles Frazier, 77 | 40:02 (1 st in age group) |

Azalea 10K, Tyler, Mar. 26

Ken Johnson, 69 1:10:24

Run the Woodlands, 5K, The Woodlands, Mar. 26

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| Steve Bickford, 50 | 23:55 |
| Cathy Bickford, 49 | 40:01 |

Lucky Trail Marathon (26.2 miles), Seabrook, Mar. 20

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| Jacob Gautreaux, 38 | 3:11:14 (3rd Overall) |
| Ken Johnson, 69 | 6:14:59 |

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

April 20 – ADPI Flashlight Dash, 1.5 Miles, SHSU Campus

April 23 – Spring Fling 5K and 1-Mile, Veterans Memorial Parkway

For more information about this race and others, visit the Seven Hills Running Club web site at <http://www.7hills.us> and click on Race Schedule.