

RUNNING SHORTS

Passing the Baton off

New year brings a new ‘Running Shorts’ columnist with it

By Darren Grant

When I moved to Arlington, Texas, in the summer of 2001, one of the first things I did was mail off an application to the local running club. The Huntsville-sized town I was coming from had no such thing, and hardly any races, either. So I looked forward to joining this club’s activities.

But a few months later, the check with my membership fee was returned in the mail. The Arlington Running Club had folded.

There were hardly any races in town, either. At the time, Arlington’s population was nearly 350,000.

So when I moved to Huntsville, Texas, in the summer of 2007, my expectations had changed. That May the whole family camped at the State Park and tried things out. We drove around. We visited the schools and churches. We ate at the restaurants. But I didn’t look for anything involving running, because I didn’t think I would find it.

So it came as quite a surprise to learn, soon after moving, that Huntsville had a running club after all—Seven Hills. And that there were more races than you could count: 5K’s and 10K’s, five and ten milers, mud runs, half and full marathons and even ultramarathons.

All in a place a tenth Arlington’s size.

This is what it boils down to: I am on to you, Huntsville. In many ways you are a typical small Southern town, with small Southern town charms and small Southern town problems.

But in other ways you are not. You punch above your weight. I have learned this, more than anything, through running.

Through running, I have also been blessed to know many great people here and in the surrounding area. One of them is my friend Ken Johnson. After ten terrific years of “Running Shorts,” Ken was ready to hand over the reins. It is a privilege to take over this column from him. I look forward to celebrating with you the sport of running and the accomplishments of our many local runners.

(Though Ken has finished writing this column, he will continue to compile its “Recent Race Results” section. Send your race results to him at 1941runner@sbcglobal.net.)

Recent race results:

Sunday Night 5K, The Woodlands, Jan. 1

Ken Johnson, 75 38:47

New Years Resolution Run, Huntsville, Jan. 1

10K

Sheridan Grant, 24	40:16
Jason Wallace, 41	44:18
Emily Villines, 20	49:10
Jose Moreno, 55	49:49
Steve Allen, 44	52:44
James Spencer, 35	54:18
Jody Slaughter, 53	58:13
Leah Koester, 51	58:39

Curtis Barton, 37	58:56
Dana Formon, 28	59:39
Jesus Perez, 19	59:40
Gretchen Dixon, 39	1:04:00
Sherry Sheppard, 36	1:12:00
Nathan Sheppard, 40	1:17:00

5K

Anthony Turner, 34	20:12
Will Mejia, 28	23:33
Jacob Gautreaux, 44	24:27
Angelina Santos, 51	25:48
Mandie Villines, 18	26:55
Janet Bouchard, 60	28:51
Mario Ayala, 17	29:39
Jenny Batchelor, 36	31:43
Beth Archer, 36	32:31
Christopher Shank, 33	33:16
Jocelyn Lam, 36	36:00
Jan Parks, 60	36:47
Noah Mejia, 32	37:05
Skipper Nethery, 67	42:14
Shellie Geer, 67	43:13
Collleen Spencer, 64	44:56
Chris Garza	44:57
Grace Hayes, 15	47:30
Holly Randall, 26	47:56
Heidi Morse, 57	48:30
Patricia Capps, 63	48:31
Darian Wayland, 14	48:32
Vicki Hogan, 62	50:04
Lois Levingston, 61	57:08
Marsie Grant, 53	57:10

1-Mile

Monica Lopez, 34	18:09
Jordyn Spencer, 3	20:12
Cheri Villines, 53	26:07
Marilynn Johnson, 71	26:09
Lisa Johnson, 45	26:09

Texas Marathon (26.2 miles), Kingwood, Jan. 1

Jacob Gautreaux, 44	3:54:00
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Half Marathon (13.1 miles)

Ken Johnson, 75	3:09:07
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Run into the New Year 5K, Tulsa, OK, Dec. 31

Donna Fabian, 42	29:43
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Run the Woodlands 5K, The Woodlands, Dec. 24

Gretchen Dixon, 39 28:55

Ken Johnson, 75 36:54

BCS Half Marathon, College Station, Dec. 11

Misty Lampson, 44 2:44:49

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

January 21 – Frost Your Fanny 5K & 1-Mile, Spring Lake Sub-division

February 4 & 5 – Rocky Raccoon 100-Mile Trail Run, Huntsville State Park

February 11 – Rocky Raccoon 50-Mile & 50K Trail Run, Huntsville State Park

February 18 – Love.Run.Marathon & Half Marathon & 10K Trail Run, Huntsville State Park

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