

RUNNING SHORTS

Seven Hills gives out end-of-year accolades

By Darren Grant

About twenty runners gathered at McKenzie's on a chilly evening last Thursday for the Seven Hills Running Club's annual Awards and Elections Meeting. It was a chance to celebrate a year of accomplishments and plan for the year ahead.

It was a good year for the club. The 39th annual Huntsville Half Marathon was a success, attendance at events was good, and memberships increased by about 10%. The club came in 3rd place in the Texas 10 Series club competition. Seven Hills remains one of the larger running clubs in the state, despite being one of the few clubs not from a major metropolitan area.

There were many individual achievements as well. Eight people had their efforts recognized by the awards committee.

For overall achievement, Brandon Harrison and Janet Bouchard received the "Killing It" Awards, Male and Female. Harrison blazed a trail at many races this year, winning several, while Bouchard raced successfully all over the state, and won first place in her age group for the year in the Texas 10 Series.

For leadership, Seven Allen took home the Stepping Up Award, for serving as club president during a year of change. Another officer, Dana Formon, won the Force of Nature Award, for fulfilling those duties while working toward her Ph.D. at Sam Houston State University.

For special contributions, Cindy Pate earned the Enthusiasm Award, for her effervescent good spirits at every race, while Jon Walk received the Best Race Announcer Ever Award, for being the best race announcer. Ever.

Finally, two long-time club members were recognized. For over three decades of running and racing, Ken Johnson received the Lifetime Achievement Award. And Esther Cousins, who has supported the club in numerous ways for almost as long, received the Lifetime Support Award. Each recipient received a certificate and a gift card.

Following that, the club looked to the future, and chose its officers for 2018. The following people were unanimously elected to the following positions: Steve Allen as President, Janet Bouchard as Vice President, Cindy Pate as Secretary, Jessica Twardeski as Registrar, and Ken Johnson as Treasurer. It's going to be another good year.

(Ken Johnson compiles the "Recent Race Results" section of this column. Please send your race results to him at 1941runner@sbcglobal.net.)

Recent race results:

Houston Marathon (26.2 miles), Houston, Jan. 14

Jose Moreno, 56	4:07:52
Melvin Neely, 61	4:22:51
Darryl Shreves, 57	4:32:33
Kathy Lehman, 42	5:33:02
Sharon Valles, 45	5:33:04

Half Marathon (13.1 miles)

Dan Byrne, 59	1:27:20
David Brietzke, 41	1:55:19
Margie Harris, 29	2:20:34

Anna Shreves, 58 3:24:21

Dopey Challenge, Disney Parks, Orlando, FL, Jan. 4-7

Emily Garner, 38

Jan. 4, 5K (3.1 miles) 26:10

Jan. 5, 10K (6.2 miles) 52:55

Jan. 6, Half Marathon (13.1 miles) 1:52:20

Jan. 7, Marathon (26.2 miles) 4:19:17

Sunday Night 5K, The Woodlands, Jan. 7

Leah Koester, 52 27:59

Ken Johnson, 76 41:07

Bandera 50K (31 miles) Trail Run, Bandera, Jan. 6

Jason Wallace, 42 5:46:50

River Road Half Marathon, New Braunfels, Jan. 6

Ken Johnson, 76 3:02:56

Run Houston! Sam Houston Race Park 5K, Jan. 1

David Keithley, 36 29:42

Stephen Zadakis, 26 30:40

Royce Tucker, 62 41:04

Donna Tucker, 58 43:56

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

January 20 – Frost Your Fanny, 5K, 1-Mile, Spring Lake Sub-division

February 3-4, Rocky Raccoon 100-Mile Trail Run, Huntsville State Park

February 10 – Rocky Raccoon 50-Mile and 50K Trail Runs, Huntsville State Park

February 17 – Love.Run Half Marathon and 10K Trail Runs, 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.