

RUNNING SHORTS

This is what happened in summer races

By Darren Grant

For many runners, summer heat is no obstacle. It is what it is. So plenty of Walker County runners kept on running on this summer, achieving several milestones in the process.

Some runners made waves by winning 5Ks across the region. In June, Running Shorts Jr., aka Sheridan Grant, won the Polish Pickle 5K in Bremond, with a time of 16:50. First prize was a giant jar of pickles, which, I am told on very good authority, were delicious.

Then, in July, Jason Wallace won the Jurassic Trail Run in Glen Rose, a 15K, with a time of 1:28:00. That same month Brandon Harrison won Stu's Country Mile 5K in Centerville with a time of 21:05. Harrison topped that in August, winning the Sand Crab 5K Night Beach Run in Galveston in 20:24.

Winning races isn't easy, but the first step is the hardest of all. Several people finished their first 5K this summer, including historian Caroline Crimm of Huntsville, at the Dog Days Run in Elkins Lake on July 22.

The traveling runner award goes to Mrs. Running Shorts, aka Marsie Grant, who ran races on four consecutive weekends in four different states: Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, and Texas. "It was a great way to jump start my summer exercise program," she says. Traveling even further to race was Jose Moreno, who completed a 21K in San Salvador on Aug. 6.

The summer was bookended by the two largest local races of the season, both put on by the Seven Hills Running Club: the Memorial Day 5K, held in Timberwilde, and the Labor Day 10K, 5K, and 1 Mile, held in Spring Lake. Both had about sixty runners, drawn, perhaps, by the free food provided after the race—breakfast burritos in May, barbeque sandwiches in September.

The two major races of the fall will be here soon. The Texas 10 Huntsville, which offers one, five, and ten mile distances, will be held on Sept. 24. A month later, on Oct. 28, we will have the Huntsville Half Marathon, Quarter Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk. This is one of the oldest Half Marathons in Texas, and one of the best. Put one or both of these races on your calendar.

(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:

Toughest 10K (6.2 miles), Kemah, Sept. 17

Payton Peters	1:20:56
Kimberly Kimbro	1:21:23

Running of the Bulls 5K, Houston, Sept. 17

Steve Allen, 45	23:42
Ken Johnson, 76	42:27

Gruene Hall 10K, New Braunfels, Sept. 9

Ken Johnson, 76	1:26:13
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Upcoming races in Huntsville:

September 24 – Texas 10 Series, 10 Miles, 5 Miles, 1-Mile Kids Run, SHSU campus

October 14 – MuddyKat 5K, Sam Houston University Camp

October 28 – Huntsville Half & Quarter Marathon & 5K, SHSU campus.

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.