

RUNNING SHORTS

Marathon, race attendance declining across region

By Darren Grant

If you race a lot, you can't help but notice: attendance is down. A race that had 500 runners last year might have only 400 this year.

Not every race has experienced a decline, but many have. In Bryan/College Station, the BCS Marathon is 20% off its peak. The Texas 10 Series has seen similar declines in several cities, including Huntsville. And October's Huntsville Half Marathon was down more than half, compared to five years ago.

Steve Allen, President of the Seven Hills Running Club, puts some of the blame on Hurricane Harvey. "The impact that it has had on so many people's lives reduced the number of runners this year."

But that can't be all of it. Veteran racer and race announcer Jon Walk told me, "Even those races that are produced better than most are down. There's a glut of races out there. The sport needs some contraction, especially in large metropolitan areas such as Houston, the Metroplex, and San Antonio."

That makes sense to me. It turns out that people pay more attention to their health when the economy is down. That increased the amount of running during the recession, and increased the number of races. Now that the economy is stronger, people run less, so you have more races chasing fewer runners. Things won't return to normal until some races shut down.

What to do in the meantime? Houston running guru Loren Sheffer may have the answer. "You can improve if you go to events every weekend, and talk to runners and pass out fliers. Numbers can improve, but you have to put in the time in to get there. A web site and a Facebook page, and doing nothing else, is not getting the job done anymore."

(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:

San Antonio Marathon (26.2 miles), Dec. 3

Jacque Hausinger, 32 6:47:36

Texas 10 Series, Conroe, Dec. 3

10 Miles

Dan Byrne, 59 1:04:47

Steve Allen, 45 1:19:34

Patrick Lewis, 52 1:23:23

Steve Bickford, 56 1:23:38

Angelina Santos, 52 1:26:15

Kim Johnson, 44 1:32:56

Dana Formon, 29 1:36:28

Gretchen Dixon, 40 1:40:52

Melinda Miller, 53 1:51:05

Ken Johnson, 76 2:23:07

5 Miles

Cindy Pate, 57	1:04:36
Dianna Sarno, 55	1:07:17
Cathy Bickford, 55	1:07:17
Ray Sarno, 70	1:07:17

St. Nick 5K Run, College Station, Dec. 2

Gretchen Dixon, 40	29:11
Ken Johnson, 76	39:54

Leftover Turkey Run, Huntsville, Nov. 25

10K

Steve Bickford, 56	51:43
Jody Slaughter, 54	56:29
Wesley Little, 31	1:02:25
Lin Salmon, 63	1:05:46
Nathan Dunmire, 36	1:08:47
Jeffrey Johnson, 61	1:09:45
Irma Dunmire, 36	1:17:09
Heather Rosenplatt, 39	1:17:15

5K

Emily Villines, 21	22:19
Evelyn Williams, 15	28:50
Karin Williams, 48	28:51
Faith Williams, 19	29:08
Ron Gunnels, 44	29:31
Kira Olson, 44	30:15
Gretchen Dixon, 40	31:04
Art Morgan, 52	31:08
Soren Olson, 9	33:33
Kathleen Williams, 13	33:34
Isabelle Olson, 14	33:34
Robert Williams, 51	34:36
David Keithley, 35	34:56
Patrick Kerstens, 35	34:57
Mary Kaplan, 78	35:14
Matt Henke, 46	35:56
Tyler Mahler, 18	37:33
Monica Marks, 49	37:48
Ken Johnson, 76	42:43
Shellie Geer, 68	44:18
Mandie Villines, 19	44:37
Jennifer Copeland, 36	44:37
Diedre Ware, 34	44:37
Cece Horton, 45	44:48
Jerry Flanagan, 77	46:54
Becky Kemp, 44	53:32

Lois Levingston, 62	1:04:48
Heidi Morse, 58	1:06:45
Ja Meer Jones, 7	1:09:44
Ja Leel Jones, 5	1:09:44
Sha Laura Jones, 30	1:09:50
Krystal Levingston, 25	1:09:51
Cathy Bickford, 55	1:10:26
Lynne Coker, 74	1:10:30

1-Mile

Clark Olson, 7	9:37
Cora Olson, 12	10:15
Jennifer Barnes, 28	11:22
Cordy Ware, 5	17:51
Cheri Villines, 53	18:40
Sammi Garcia, 51	18:46
Velvia Keithley, 44	23:10
Amie Fish, 38	24:12
Marilynn Johnson, 71	24:12
Andie Malandro, 36	36:09
Martin Malandro, 36	36:12

Friends of the Running Community 5K, The Woodlands, Nov. 24

Ken Johnson, 76	40:10
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Lincoln Turkey Trot 5K, Lincoln, NB, Nov. 23

Donna Freeman, 43	26:43
Danny Freeman, 62	30:32

Cocoa Beach Turkey Trot 5K, Cocoa Beach, FL, Nov. 23

Darren Grant, 52	26:19
Marsie Grant, 55	41:29

Elkins Lake Turkey Trot 5K (Untimed), Huntsville, Nov. 23

Steve Allen	Daniel Cassidy	Holly Randall
Beth Archer	Ronda Cassidy	Kevin Randall
Terence Archer	Marilyn Christian	Ray Sarno
Aryalla Bailey	Jennifer Copeland	Cole Schroeder
Cayla Bailey	Gretchen Dixon	Olivia Schroeder
Kinsley Bailey	Elizabeth Flores	Anna Short
Rachel Bailey	Dottie Fulton	Mary Toronjo
Maria Best	Jeffrey Johnson	Tallua Toronjo
Cathy Bickford	Carla Krystyniak	Will Toronjo
Steve Bickford	Terri Mason	Mandie Villines
Jill Blake	Tyler Nelson	Emily Villines
Misty Blake	Cindy Pate	Jason Wallace
Naomi Broussard	Carolyn Randall	Madison Ward

Scottie Ward

Run Thru the Woods, The Woodlands, Nov. 23

5 Miles

Luke Brooker, 13	30:27
Dan Byrne, 59	31:16
Emma Brooker, 18	42:25
Dana Formon, 29	46:01
Ken Johnson, 76	1:05:22

3 Mile Race

Ellie Brooker, 16	24:41
L. Smith, 12	25:52
Ryan Ridgway, 22	34:06
McKenzie Seibert, 21	34:09

3-Mile Walk (untimed)

Brian Gedelian, 58	
Mary Gedelian, 58	
Chuck Lehman, 55	
Lorri Lehman, 54	

La Porte By the Bay Half Marathon, La Porte, Nov. 19

Darryl Shreves, 58	2:03:17
Anna Shreves, 57	3:13:37

City of Conroe Turkey Trot 5K, Nov. 18

Donna Freeman, 43	26:10
Danny Freeman, 62	27:38

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

January 1 – New Years Resolution Run, 10K, 5K, 1-Mile, Physical Therapy Associates
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.