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Newsletter

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Happy New Year, Happy Birthday and January news



Bill Shaw
Newsletter editor

Happy New Year

This year BARRA will celebrate its 13th birthday since a group of us re-organized and renamed the Lake Jackson Running Club, which had become relatively inactive. Here is what I wrote in my Feb. 12, 1996, column about our initial meeting: "Like the phoenix, a new running group has 'come forth' from the ashes of the old Lake Jackson Running Club, a group named the Brazosport Area Runners Association.

The 20 runners at the organizational meeting didn't waste time or practice any fancy 'games' or 'strategies' in the two-hour session; we didn't even have a 'facilitator,' and when the session was over we had accomplished much."

We changed the name of the running club to welcome and to bring into the group runners from the Brazosport community, not just Lake Jackson. Our first officers were Will Lindgren, president; Bob Sipple, vice president; Dan Walsh, treasurer; Bill Shaw, secretary, newsletter editor and publicity chair; Ben May, historian; and Libby McNamara, Firecracker 4 race director. We set our dues at \$10 for individuals and \$12 for families, which are the same

except for late penalties in February.

We have come a long way since that February night, and our influence and involvement in area races have increased. All race directors in the area depend on us for supervision and advice. Our Surfside Marathon/Half Marathon has become an internationally popular contest that fills every year before the registration deadline.

Let's all participate actively in the club and help it grow stonger in community service and spirit.

BARRA birthdays and demographics

In 2008 BARRA had 61 memberships, mostly family memberships, so our membership hovered around 200. The

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average age of active, running BARRA members is 46.7; the median age is 49. The oldest active runner, Orville Kremmer, will be 76 in 2009, Cliff Wilson and Max Royalty will be 74, and I shall be 70 and not anywhere close to those old guys in local races. Our youngest active runners, Xavier Jimenez, Jr., Stephanie Purnell and Eleanor Young, will be, respectively, 15, 14 and 11 in 2009.

I didn't break down the club demographics by gender, but I did break down active runners by age: in 2009, 32.8 percent will be in their 40s; 24.7 percent in their 50s; 16.4 in their 60s; 12.3 in their 30s; 8.2 under 20, and 5.5 in their 70s. Ironically, we have no active 20-year-old runners. We need to get out there and recruit.

In working with our demographics, I also tried to pull all

the birthdays out of the list I have from our treasurer Sandy Clevenger. Some birthdays are not listed, so I need additional data to complete the lists.

Most of our members were born in January from 1935 to 1969:

- January 2: Cliff Wilson
- January 11: Lenord Burns
- January 12: Alex Rodrigues
- January 13: Denise Bowden
Abbie Artley
Stepanie Purnell
- January 14: Sidney Allen
- January 16: Dan Walsh
Mireya O'Neill
Caitlin Bowden
- January 19: Susan Lorms
- January 21: Druce Crump
- January 28: Max Royalty
Tina Gray
- January 29: Terry Allen

Masters competitors should watch out for Carlo Deason and Terry Allen; they move

up to the 40 plus competition. Brett Puderbaugh and Kevin Regis move up to the 50-59 category. As noted above, I move up to the 70 and older category with those old guys I shall never catch.

If I have missed your January birthday, please let me know so that I can update the membership information. When you next see the members above, wish them a happy January birthday.

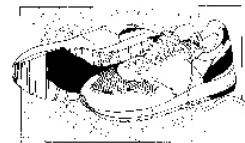
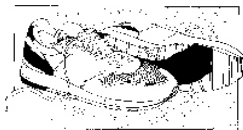
Dues and BARRA Series Races

Members have already received notice that 2009 dues should be paid before the Spectacle Spectacular 5K/10K in Angleton on Jan. 31 to be eligible for Runner of the Year points for this first race of the 2009 BARRA Series. In addition, dues go up

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2009 Officers

- President.....Bob Bowden
- Vice President.....Susan Lorms
- Treasurer.....Dan Walsh
- Secretary.....Teresa Holland
- Newsletter Editor/Webmaster.....Bill Shaw
- Director of Road Racing.....Daryl Beatty



Mission Statement: The purpose of the Brazosport Area Road Runners Association shall be to encourage and promote competitive and recreational running, triathlons, and walking with a view to promoting health and fitness in the greater Brazosport Area. The Brazosport Area Road Runners Association will support, promote, and organize sports competition in these areas and distribute information pertaining to these activities. The Brazosport Area Road Runners Association shall also provide a regular newsletter and encourage social activities germane to the sport of running.



\$5.00 after Jan. 31. If you have not paid your dues, please do so. If there are no changes from your membership from last year, just send a check to Sandra Clevenger, BARRA Treasurer, P. O. Box 162, Lake Jackson, TX 77566.

We need to get out there and recruit those missing 20-year-olds and those marathoners and half marathoners who are not members. We also need to make contact with the Closet Runners Anonymous World League (CRAWL) and the Women's Entourage of the Closet Runners Anonymous World League (WECRAWL) members as well. Their Chapel of Perpetual Fitness on the Bluewater Highway between Surfside Village and the San Luis Pass was swept away by Hurricane Ike. Now is a good time to bring them into the fold.

The executive committee will propose what other races will be included in the Series for your approval after their first meeting. The area race schedule is on the back page of this newsletter.



Surfside Beach Marathon/Half Marathon

Daryl Beatty, race director, reported on Jan. 9 that the Surfside Beach Marathon/Half Marathon registration was above 500. He anticipates that he will cut off the

registration at 650 and expects to reach that number about Jan. 25.

As always we need volunteers, so if you can help out, please contact Daryl at daryl.beatty@sbcglobal.net. I shall need a crew to put together packets sometime in the first week of February. If you can help then, please contact me at runwriter@sbcglobal.net. All volunteers receive BARRA participation points and free pizza.

Charity walk for the hungry

The Freeport Ministerial Alliance will sponsor a charity hunger walk for the Brazosport Area on March 8, 2009, beginning at 2 p. m. at the First Christian Church following the guidelines of an international ecumenical organization Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP). The Rev. Leslie Dalstra of the First Christian Church is the event coordinator.

CROP Hunger Walks involve "Neighbors from different faiths, cultures, and ages, walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world," according to the CROP brochure.

"Twenty-five percent of the donations we collect will remain locally, divided equally between Brazosport Cares and The Food Basket," said Dalstra.

Each registered walker will receive a donation envelope to collect money. The project will also solicit local businesses and organizations to contribute and

to encourage their employees or members to participate.

I am working with Leslie and the Freeport Ministerial Alliance to organize a CROP 5K Run to start simultaneously with the walk. The Cancer Run is on Saturday, March 7, the day before the CROP event, but running a couple of 5Ks back-to-back should not be a problem to real runners. I recall we did it at least one year, maybe two, when the Flapjack 5K and the San Jacinto Festival 5K were scheduled on consecutive days.

Additional details, including registration information, will be provided within a few weeks. Individuals who want to volunteer to help with the activity and businesses, organizations and churches who wish to contribute or participate may contact Dalstra at 979-233-4124 or e-mail her at leslie.dalstra@gmail.com.





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Bill Shaw, Newsletter Editor
1813 West Eighth Street
Freeport, TX 77541

Race Schedule for 2009

Date	Race	Place
January 21	Spectacle Spectacular 5K/10K	Angleton
February 14	Surfside Marathon/Half Marathon	Surfside
March 7	Cancer Run	Angleton
April 7	Race for the Cure	West Columbia
April 11	San Jacinto 5K	West Columbia
April 18	Gator Gallop	Lake Jackson
April 25	Flapjack 5K	Freeport
May 9	BRHS 5K/10K	Lake Jackson
July 4	Firecracker 4	Lake Jackson
July 25	Mosquito Chase	Clute
September 6	Summertime Blues Triathlon	Freeport
September 12	Brazosport Relay Triathlon	Lake Jackson
October 24	Monster Dash	Lake Jackson