RUNNING SHORTS

Registration open for Huntsville Half Marathon

By Darren Grant

It never hurts to plan ahead.

That goes double for putting on road races, which have so many different parts. There is marketing and registration. There is setting out the race course and establishing traffic control. There are awards and finisher medals, and food and aid stations, and race timing, and...the list goes on and on.

This year, the Seven Hills Running Club is planning ahead for the Huntsville Half Marathon, Quarter Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk, which will be held at the Walker County Fairgrounds on Oct. 20. The racing scene has been getting more crowded in our area, so it's going to take a little extra to make this race stand out.

""Last year we decided that we needed to start earlier and really get the word out about this race," says Cindy Pate, secretary of the club.

The move to the Fairgrounds helps make that happen. In the past, when the run was held on the SHSU campus, "we had to wait until the football schedule came out before we could set a date for the race," said Race Director Steve Allen. "Having a date set earlier has allowed us to open registration earlier and we will begin looking for sponsors."

This year will be 40th anniversary of this race, so the t-shirt will reprise a classic design from many years ago, which features four iconic Huntsville symbols: a tree, the Lone Star, an outline of Texas, and the face of Sam Houston.

One thing that's not changing is the low prices. If you register by Aug. 31, you pay \$45 to enter the Half Marathon, \$30 for the Quarter Marathon, and \$20 for the 5K. Entry fees increase after that date but remain some of the lowest in Texas.

More information can be found on the race's web site, http://www.7hills.us/hvhalf.htm, where there is a link to mail-in or online registration, whichever you prefer.

(Ken Johnson compiles the "Recent Race Results" section of this column. Please send your race results to him at 1941runner@sbcglobal.net. If you are interested in sponsoring the Huntsville Half Marathon, please contact Cindy Pate at cindy_pate@yahoo.com or Janet Bouchard at janetbouchard2009@gmail.com.)

Recent race results:

Cowtown Marathon (26.2 miles), Fort Worth, Feb. 25

Jason Wallace, 42 3:23:24 Half Marathon (13.1 miles)

Christine Hoover, 51 1:59:47 Mitzi Mahoney, 58 3:33:05

Jail Break Half Marathon, Baytown, Feb. 25

Ken Johnson, 76 3:19:03

Rodeo Run, Houston, Feb. 24 10K (6.2 miles)

Steve Bickford, 57 52:06

Becky Fisher, 22	52:21
Nadine Pharries, 51	53:43
Billie Pharries, 54	1:08:46
Connie Mathis, 46	1:14:05
Ann Love, 42	1:14:17
Misty Lampson, 45	1:15:02
Cathy Bickford, 56	1:28:03
5K (3.1 miles)	
Ron Gunnels, 44	37:50
C. Spearman, 12	1:02:33
Cathy Spearman, 46	1:03:45

Sweetheart 5K, Huntsville, Feb. 24

Keyshawn Battle, 21	23:34
Steve Allen, 45	28:17
David Keithley, 36	29:13
Shannon Ramsey, 48	29:42
Ted Villien, 44	31:19
Lin Salmon, 63	31:34
Cesar Trevino, 39	32:07
Laura Trevino, 39	32:07
Shellie Geer, 68	43:12
Ethan Trevino, 10	55:57
Farrah Trevino, 36	55:57
Kylie Trevino, 7	57:35

Cleft Smiles 5K, The Woodlands, Feb. 24

Alicia McDaniel, 33	44:18
Harper Harvey, 5	55:26
Kim Harvey, 60	56:01
Tammy Larson, 58	56:03
Matt McDaniel, 35	56:22

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

March 18 – Run the Trails, 3 Miles, Huntsville State Park

April 21 – Spring Fling 5K & 1-Mile, Elkins Lake

April 29 – Gator Bait Trail Run, 13.1 Miles, 15K, 5K, 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.