

Hello runners,

Spring is here in earnest, with the pollen, the rain, and the mild temperatures to prove it! There is a lot of running going on. We had a nice club run in March out at the State Park, followed by the Pineapple Run held this past weekend. In between, our members have run all over the state. Steve and Cathy Bickford ran Blue Bell in Brenham, Steve Allen ran out in Ft. Davis, logging another county on his quest for 254, while Steve Pecina participated in the Texas Independence Relay.

And there are plenty more additional running opportunities available this month, including the Gator Bait Trail Runs at the State Park, the Run with Your Imagination on the SHSU campus, and a run at a winery—see below. And, of course, our next club run, coming up next weekend!

**** Our Next Club Run ****

Our next club run begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 22: the Spring Fling 5K & 1-Mile Run/Walk. This race is a single loop around the lake in Elkins Lake subdivision. It race starts and finishes at the park just to the left of the Club House right at the end of Augusta Dr. Register at the starting point, just \$1 for club members and \$2 for everyone else. Restrooms are available and we will give away a \$25 gift card to Academy, as usual. It's a challenging course and a good time and I hope to see you there!

**** Membership Changes ****



*Jeffrey Johnson at the 2018
Huntsville Half Marathon*

We have had a flurry of new members over the past month: Delma Estrada, Amy Zelinsky, Randall and Linda Ivins, George Roffe and Trudy Regnier-Roffe, and Burk Foster. Welcome to you all! We also had some additional renewals this month, which is great. You can renew by mail or online; links for both are here: <https://www.7hills.us/members.htm>.

In addition, we learned of the passing of two of our members: Jeffrey Johnson and Lisa Neely, both of whom we will miss.

Jeffrey was a member of the club for several years who participated in many club events. He moved away from Huntsville in 2020 and passed away afterwards. We only learned of his passing last month. He had a Ph.D. in geology, worked in the petroleum industry, and was a dedicated runner.

Lisa Neely joined the club some years back with her husband, Melvin. Lisa was an avid walker who regularly walked 4-6 miles a day. She loved God, her family and exercising. She was a proud graduate of SHSU and worked there as well, retiring in 2016. She passed away in February.

Please join me in extending condolences to Melvin and all of Lisa's and Jeffrey's families.

**** Upcoming Runs ****

Apr. 15 & 16: Gator Bait Trail Runs, many distance options, Huntsville State Park.

Apr. 22: Spring Fling Club Run, 1 mile and 5K, Elkins Lake Clubhouse.

Apr. 22: WSCW Javelina Trail Run, 20K and 10K, West Sandy Creek Winery out towards Richards.

Apr. 29: Run with Your Imagination, 1 mile and 5K color run & bubble extravaganza, SHSU campus.

April 29: Barbells for Boston 5k, Huntsville.

May 29: Memorial Day 5K & 1-Mile Run/Walk, 114 Timberwilde in Timberwilde Subdivision in Huntsville. This is a Seven Hills Club Run and all are welcome. Breakfast served afterwards!

Learn more about these runs and more on our web site, 7hills.us.

**** Huntsville Half Marathon ****

Now for some more difficult news. Normally, about this time we would open registration for the Huntsville Half Marathon, Quarter Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk. However, by decision of the club officers, we are suspending that race indefinitely.

This decision was not taken lightly. It was discussed at length at the last two general club meetings, in November and January, as well as among the officers. For many years the run brought hundreds of runners to Huntsville and raised thousands of dollars for local charities. However, for several years now our numbers have been dwindling, both in terms of entrants and in terms of revenue. Last year the race had fewer than 100 entrants and lost over \$1,000. Under the circumstances, I believe canceling the race was the right thing to do.

Not only was the Huntsville Half a mainstay of local race calendars, it benefitted the club. Some of our expenses, such as storage unit costs, were charged to the race, allowing our club treasury to gradually build. That process has now reversed itself. We will be fine this year, and the next, and the one after that, but we need to use that time to rebuild. You can be part of that. The club officers will be meeting in late May to brainstorm possibilities for the future. If you have thoughts to share, please contact any club officer. Our e-mails are all listed on our website, under "Officers," and we welcome your input.



Start of the 2011 Huntsville Half Marathon