

Hey there runners,

The forecast was for rain at last month's Leftover Turkey Run, but the skies held off and we had a nice turnout and a nice run. It really turned out to be the perfect day for a 5K or 10K.

It was a nice club run to end the year with. It's been a good year. We cap off the year with 60 households containing well over 100 individuals as members, and about \$3,500 in the bank. This is down from \$5,500 last year, because of the cost of replacing two expensive timing devices.



*Everyone got high fives at the Leftover Turkey Run.*

January will mark the end of my three year stretch as club President. It's been a good three years, but it's time to step back for someone new. It's best for me and best for the club. Sometimes the job of president means following up with people to make sure things get done, but somewhere around the middle of this year that switched around and the other officers were following up with me! Then I was sure this club would do just fine without me in the officer ranks.

Over that three years, I've had the pleasure of working with many fine officers: Steve Allen, Bridgette Collins, Delma Estrada, Ken Johnson, David Keithley, Mary Meaux, and Lisa Sawka. It takes a fair bit of work on everyone's part to keep things running and they all deserve our appreciation. I am especially proud of the progress we've made updating our membership archives, payment systems, social media profile, and web site. We've modernized for a new age.

Also stepping down as an officer in January is Vice President Bridgette Collins, whose responsibilities caring for her parents have increased. Bridgette's done great work upgrading our web site and will remain in that role, which will continue to be a great service to the club.

It's not unusual to bring on a new officer or two each year—some change is healthy. Please give some thought to serving and please come join us at our Awards and Elections Meeting, described below. It's a nice opportunity to hang out with your fellow runners, honor some exceptional people, and prepare for the upcoming year—our 41<sup>st</sup> as a club.

### **\*\* Our Next Club Run \*\***

Our next club run takes place on New Year's Day. The New Year's Day 1 mile, 5K, and 10K will start at 2 pm. on Thursday, Jan. 1, at Physical Therapy Associates behind the hospital at 127 Medical Park Lane in Huntsville. Entry is \$2 for club members and \$4 for everyone else, and you can register on-site or ahead of time using our Cheddar Up link [here](#). There will be awards in the usual age categories and restrooms will be available, courtesy of the efforts of Physical Therapy Associates, for which I am grateful. I hope to see you there!

### **\*\* Other Updates \*\***

Bridgette Collins writes that our initial "Club Celebrations" page was so subscribed it's all full! We are now on club Celebrations 2.0, available under the "More" tab on our website, or at this link here: <https://7hills.us/club-celebrations2-0>. Among recent celebrations is Ken Johnson's 1,500 race and a bunch of club members at the Texas 10—Conroe. Another notable achievement is Steve Allen's completion of a race in his 240<sup>th</sup> county in Texas. Only 14 to go before he joins fellow club member Mary Kaplan in completing all 254 Texas counties.

In other news, club secretary Delma Estrada says our Instagram followers are up to 78. We'll probably top 100 at some point in the spring. Our Instagram is right here: [https://www.instagram.com/7hrc\\_huntsvilletx](https://www.instagram.com/7hrc_huntsvilletx).

### **\*\* Awards and Elections Meeting \*\***

The club will hold its annual Awards and Elections Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at McKenzie's Barbeque on 11<sup>th</sup> St. in Huntsville. Come order food around 6 pm, and the meeting itself will start about 6:30 pm. The meeting will take about an hour.

It's a nice time to socialize with fellow runners, celebrate our award recipients, and prepare for the upcoming year. Over the past three years, we have upgraded our equipment, introduced some new runs, modernized our web site and social media, and stabilized our operational finances, but there is still a ways to go. In particular, we'd like to have more people helping with our events and greater attendance at them. This is of paramount importance to the club and it's not obvious how to achieve it.

Come on out and be part of the discussion, and consider being part of the solution. We will have two officer vacancies that need filled. Serving is rewarding but does take some time. To learn more, just write me at [presshrc@yahoo.com](mailto:presshrc@yahoo.com).

## **\*\* Boston Marathon \*\***

James Spencer has been running marathons around the world in pursuit of the Abbott World Marathon Six Star Challenge. He has completed the New York, Chicago, Tokyo, London and Berlin Marathons, with only the Boston Marathon left to go!

Boston is super hard to get into, but thanks to the help of fellow SHRC member Maria Wicker, he has obtained a charity entry through the Brookline Library Foundation. The catch is that he must raise \$12,500 for the charity in order to qualify. He invites club members to consider making a donation to the Brookline Library Foundation on his behalf. All donations are tax deductible and will be matched by James personally. It's a great opportunity to help a great guy complete his running quest. The link to donate is right [here](#).

## **\*\* Memberships and Renewals \*\***

It is now time to renew for 2026. Membership remains \$5 for students, \$7 for an individual, and \$10 for a family, just as when the club was formed in 1985. To renew by mail, send your name and a check to our treasurer, Ken Johnson, at 114 Timberwilde Dr., Huntsville, TX 77320. To renew online, use our new system, Cheddar Up, here: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/booster-club-membership-temp-17978>. You can also renew in person at a club run.

Questions? Contact our club registrar, Lisa Sawka, at [lisasawka91@gmail.com](mailto:lisasawka91@gmail.com).

## **\*\* Upcoming Runs \*\***

Learn more about these and other runs here: <https://7hills.us/upcoming-events>, where there are often links to registration or the run's web site. Note: the run club that was meeting at Sam's Table has folded.

Thursday evenings, Saturday mornings: non-competitive 5K / 10K run at Fass Brewery in Conroe, free entry and a free beer afterwards. Contact Ken Johnson at [1941runner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1941runner@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

Jan. 1: New Year's Day Run, 10, 5K, and 1 Mile Run/Walk, Huntsville. A Seven Hills Club Run.

Jan. 4: Texas 10 Series, 10M, 5M, and 5K, Bridgeland.

Jan. 24: Frost Your Fanny 5K & 1-Mile Run/Walk, 8 a.m., Huntsville. A Seven Hills Club Run.

Feb. 1: Texas 10 Series 10 Mile, 5 Mile, and 5K, Sienna.

Our web site, <https://7hills.us>, always has the latest race results from our members and much more. Our webmaster, Bridgette Collins, would love to hear of your running achievements. E-mail her at [bridgettelcollins@att.net](mailto:bridgettelcollins@att.net). Happy Running!

Darren Grant

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