

Hey there runners,

It was a glorious day for our New Year's Day club run and we had a glorious turnout, including lots of 10K-ers. It was a great start to the year.



Left: Dirk Daniel preparing to take flight at the New Year's Day club run. Right: Your soon-to-be former president finishing the 5K.

This newsletter is my 72nd and last as your Seven Hills Running Club president. I served for three years from 2011-2013, and then again for three years from 2023-2025. My successor will be chosen at our Awards and Elections meeting coming up next Thursday, Jan. 29, at McKenzie's Barbeque.

Over this period, I've come to realize how much it takes to keep this and any running club going. I want to express my appreciation for the great support of club members through the years and the tremendous contributions of our officers.

If you want to know what the glue is that keeps this club together, I will tell you: e-mail. Seriously. Not seriously. There is plenty of e-mail, but the real glue is the genuine affection we have for each other and for the sport of running. Maintain those and we can only continue to succeed and grow.

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

Because of serious weather coming this weekend, we have ***moved* *back*** our next club run to Saturday, Jan. 31. The Frost Your Fanny 1 mile and 5K will start at 8 am that day at Fire Station #1 on Veterans Blvd. just south of the intersection with Montgomery Rd. 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.

**** Awards and Elections Meeting ****

The club will hold its annual Awards and Elections Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at McKenzie's Barbeque on 11th St. in Huntsville. Come order food around 6 pm, and the meeting itself will start about 6:30 pm and end a little after 7:30 pm.

We will begin with our annual awards, which our committee of Cindy Pate and Lisa Sawka have been working on. Then we will move to elections and a discussion of the year ahead.

As noted, I am stepping down as president. Also stepping down is Vice President Bridgette Collins, whose responsibilities caring for her parents have increased. Bridgette will continue to serve as webmaster, and I will continue to serve by doing basically whatever the new president tells me to. It's not unusual to bring on a new officer or two each year—some change is healthy.

While we've made a lot of progress over the last couple of years, one ongoing need is more people to help with our events. I will put forward one possibility: to have additional people "adopt" or "host" a club run, taking the lead on setting up and administering that run each year, lessening the load on the officers. We already use that model for nearly half of our runs each year, and I think it could be expanded. Marsie and I plan to adopt a run ourselves.

Come on out and be part of the discussion, and consider being part of the solution by adopting a club run or filling an officer vacancy. Serving is rewarding but does take some time. To learn more, write or call me.

**** Boston Marathon ****

Don't forget James Spencer is raising money for the Brookline, Mass. Library Foundation in order to gain entry into the Boston Marathon. He is making progress and you are donate right [here](#).

**** Memberships and Renewals ****

We warmly welcome two new members: Camily and Camilo Toscano.

It is now time to renew for 2026. Many of you have already renewed and we appreciate it! 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.

Membership remains \$5 for students, \$7 for an individual, and \$10 for a family, just as when the club was formed in 1985. Questions? Contact our club registrar, Lisa Sawka, at 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.

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 for more info.

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

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

Feb. 21: Sweetheart 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk, Huntsville. A Seven Hills Club Run.

Feb. 28: The Woodlands Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 10K, The Woodlands.

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. Happy Running!

Darren Grant

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