

Runners' group hands out honors

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The Brazosport Area Road Runners Association celebrated the 2008 running season and the holiday season with a festive dinner at On the River in Freeport on Dec. 6.

Bob Bowden, the group's president, announced "Runners of the Year" and our "Volunteer of the Year" at the annual affair. Association runners receive points for their finishes in relation to other members in local races designated as association series events.

The top three male and female runners in three divisions receive awards: 39 and younger, masters from age 40 to 49 and veterans 50 and older.

Two newcomers to the Brazosport Area Road Runners Association garnered the top honors in the male and female runners younger than 39 competition: Xavier Jimenez, 14, and Stephanie Purnell, 13.

Jimenez finished all seven races in the series; he finished first overall in the Race for the Cure 5K; second in the Gator Gallop 5K; second in the Run for Jesus 5K; first in the Flapjack 5K; and first in Monster Dash 5K. His best time was 17:42, a 5:42 pace. Purnell finished two of the series

races, the Gallop and the Mosquito Chase 5K, with a best time of 28:32, a 9:12 pace. She finished third overall in the female competition in the Gallop.

Greg Jones and Karin Slough were second, Donnie Artley was third in the male competition, and Abby Artley and Eleanor Young tied for third in the 39 and younger awards.

Brett Puderbaugh returned to road racing to win top honors in the club masters competition. Puderbaugh finished three of the series races; he finished first in the masters competition in the Gallop in 19:17, first overall in the Run for Jesus in 19:12 and third in the Flapjack in 19:42. Kevin Regis and Richard Romero finished, respectively, second and third in the male masters competition.

Kelly Colosimo dominated the female masters competition. She finished second in the Race for the Cure in 23:46; third in the Flapjack 5K in 23:58; third in the Monster Dash in 23:12; and first in the female masters competition in the Gallop in 23:41. Association newcomer Laurie Fisher finished second in the competition with five race finishes and four awards: third masters in the Spectacle Spectacular 5K in 28:58; third overall in the Run for the Cure in 27:48; first in the masters competition in the Flapjack 5K in 27:40; and first in the masters competition in the Monster Dash in 28:29.

Another BARRA "newbie," Cindy Volk, finished third in

the female masters competition with a best race in the Race for the Cure and third in the masters competition in 31:47.

Ralph Corry and Judy Richards earned top honors in the veterans competition. Corry finished five of the series races. His best time was 24:08 in the Gallop; and he won third place in the masters competition in the Monster Dash in 24:48. Richards finished four of the series races with a best time of 31:55 in the Race for the Cure and a third-place masters finish in Run for Jesus in 33:59.

Dan Walsh finished four of the series and second in the veterans competition with his best time in the Run for Jesus, 25:43. Returning to competition after a long hiatus, Max Royalty finished four of the six races and placed third with a best time of 25:04 in the Mosquito Chase.

Sandra Clevenger and newcomer Judy Lotzenhiser finished, respectively, four and two of the series races to tie for second-place veterans honors. Clevenger's best time was 37:49 in the Monster Dash. Lotzenhiser finished third overall in the Run for Jesus in 28:19 and second in the Gallop masters competition in 28:37.

Members chose Sue Wheeler as Volunteer of the Year via e-mail balloting.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Bill Shaw's running column appears every other Monday in The Facts. He can be contacted by e-mail at runwriter@sbc-global.net.



