

Put some spring in your step for April

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

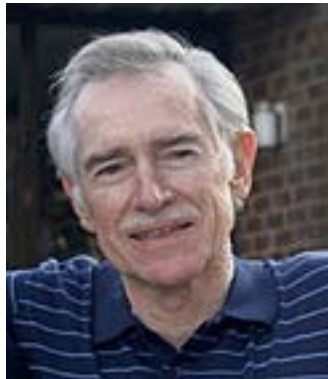
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March goes out like a lamb. The spring racing season roars in like a lion in April with events three weekends out of four and a special Brazosport Area Road Runners Association, or BARRA, social to recognize the local finishers in the Surfside Beach Marathon and Half Marathon in February. All but one of the running contests will feature a BASF, noncompetitive Kids Run for youngsters 12 and younger in which participants will receive a T-shirt and a finisher's medal.

Brazosport College hosts the 27th annual Gator Gallop on Saturday. The contest features a 1-mile run/walk and a 5K run. The 1-miler begins at 7:30 a.m., the BASF Kids Run begins at 8 a.m., and the 5K contest starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration is available online at www.active.com. Kids Run flyers and registration forms are available at local elementary schools. Packet pickup and race-day registration begin at 6:30 a.m. outside the gym on the east side of the campus. For information, call Leslie Way at (979) 230-3355 or send an e-mail to leslie.way@brazosport.edu.

The Danbury Community Baptist Church hosts the third annual Run for Jesus 5K

Run and 5K Family Walk on April 12. For information, call (979) 922-8491 between 8 a.m. and noon Monday, Wednesday or Friday, or see the church Web site www.cbcdanbury.com, or send an e-mail to cbcwarrior@sbcglobal.net. Race-day registration and packet pickup begin at 7 a.m. at the church, 6114 5th St. in Danbury. The race begins at 8 a.m. Bicycles, rollerblades and strollers are permitted but must start at the back.



BARRA hosts a social event April 19 at the art studio on the west side of The Center for the Arts and Sciences at 400 Brazosport Blvd. Runners will meet in the parking lot at 7 a.m. for a run on the Brazosport College running trail. At 8 a.m., BARRA will serve refreshments in the art studio, and Dr. Jeff Ward of Ward Chiropractic Center will make a special presentation. BARRA will recognize the finishers of the Surfside Beach Marathon/Half Marathon and invite others interested in walking and running and physical fitness to the run and the social. If you wish to attend, however, please R.S.V.P. to runwriter@sbcglobal.net by April 16.

On April 26, the Freeport Main Street Project sponsors the Flapjack 5K, beginning in Memorial Park at Park Avenue and Second Street

in downtown Freeport. This race features the unique challenge of levees and the Velasco Memorial Bridge. Registration forms are available on the second floor of the Freeport City Hall, 200 West Second Street, or online at www.freeportmainstreet.com. For information, call Main Street Director Mary Stotler at (979) 233-3526, Ext. 114, or e-mail mstotler@freeport.tx.us. Race-day registration and packet pickup begin at 6:30 a.m. The BASF-sponsored Kids Run for 12 and younger begins at 7:45 a.m., and the featured 5K begins at 8 a.m.

The spring activities continue in May. BARRA has its May social May 3 at the art studio of The Center for the Arts and Sciences. After a 7 a.m. run., BARRA will serve refreshments and host a Jeopardy! contest in the art studio. All persons interested in walking and running and physical fitness are invited. If you wish to attend, please R.S.V.P. at runwriter@sbcglobal.net by April 30.

The Brazosport Regional Health System sponsors the annual 5K and 10K Run/Walk with a BASF-sponsored Kids Run on May 10. The Kids Run begins at 7:30 a.m. The 5K and 10K events start at 8 a.m. For information, call Scott Brenner at (979) 285-1827 or Al Guevara at (979) 285-1801.

Mark your calendars. I hope to see a good turnout for all the area spring races.

Bill Shaw's running column appears in *The Facts* every other Monday.