

Top road runners honored

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

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Lake Jackson Mayor Bob Sipple and first lady Lori Sipple hosted the annual Brazosport Area Road Runners Association (BARRA) Christmas Revels and Awards Night on Friday, Dec. 11. After revels and dinner, President Bob Bowden announced the Runners of the Year and the Volunteer of the year.

BARRA runners gain points toward the awards based on their overall finishes in six of the area races designated the BARRA Series. The top three male and female runners under 40 receive the open runners award. The top three male and female runners 40-49 receive masters awards, and the top three male and female runners over 50 receive veterans awards. The competition was close with several ties. With no criteria developed to break ties, runners received duplicate trophies. Bowden is at work on revising the criteria to resolve ties in future competition.

Tiffany Mixon placed first in the open female competition, Stephanie Purnell second and Karin Slough third. Xavier Jimenez placed first in the male open competition, Greg Jones second and Troy Latiolais third. It's exciting to me to see youngsters active in BARRA along with old-timers like me. Purnell and Jimenez are only 15.

It is also encouraging to see the parents of the youngsters active in BARRA and at the races encouraging their children. We need this sort of parental activism to fight the serious problem of childhood obesity. BARRA is not limited to runners; anyone who is interested in or wants to support physical fitness is welcome, particular parents of youngsters interested in running.

One quite active parent, Laurie Fisher finished first in the female masters competition, followed by Kelly Colosimo and Kelly McClendon. In his first year in the masters competition, Carlo Deason, a Houstonian who is active in BARRA, finished first in the male masters competition, John Colosimo finished second and Jorge Jimenez and Bruce Smith tied for third.

Kelly and John Colosimo are just one couple in BARRA who believe in "family fitness." They serve as models and mentors for their sons Chris and Daniel.

Judy Richards dominated the female veteran competition (50 and over) in her first place finish in the group. Sandra Clevenger placed second, and Susan Lorms, Mary Deason (Carlo's mom) and Judy Lotzenhiser tied for third. Serving as mentors and models to the youngsters, these BARRA veteran female "power chicks" average 60 years old. Impressive.

The BARRA male veter-

an category, my category, had the most competitors of any group for Runners of the Year and the stiffest competition. Max Royalty finished first decisively in the competition. Kevin Regis, Ralph Corry and Dan Walsh tied for second, and Orville Kremmer and David Johnson tied for third.

Royalty, 74, and Kremmer, 77, prove that some runners remain forever young and fast. We BARRA members often wonder what fountain Max and Orville have found to drink the elixir of youth and life.

The most prestigious BARRA award is the Will Lindgren Volunteer of the Year Award. It is named for BARRA charter member and organizer Will Lindgren, who is now in Nebraska doing wonders with his running group. The award is not based on points; it is based on a general vote of the membership for the person who has contributed his time and talents to the activities of the club.

Members voted John Colosimo Volunteer of the Year. John's work, in particular with the BARRA, BASF-sponsored Kids Run, was important. In addition, as noted above, John and his wife Kelly are mentors and models for their own children and for the youngsters 12 and under who line up for the Kids Runs at our local races.

BARRA invites everyone interested in physical fitness to join us in our community work and in our competition. For a membership form, see www.barrahome.net.



