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## IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

2009 RRCA National  
Convention  
March 26-29, 2009



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Overall winners Svetlana  
Ponomarenko and Henry Serem  
receiving their 2008 RRCA Texas  
State Marathon Championship  
plaques.



## RRCA North Texas Newsletter

January 2009

### *From ~RRCA North Texas State Rep*

Happy New Year Texas Runners!

The new-year brings us many deadlines, one of the most important being RRCA membership renewal. All clubs and event members should have renewed their RRCA membership by now. If you missed the renewal deadline, see page 3 for detailed information.

January 9, 2009, is the deadline for board nominations. See page 2 for more information.

The deadline to take advantage of the "early bird" discount is fast approaching for the 2009 Road Runners Club of America National Convention, which takes place March 26 to March 28, 2009 at the Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Guests must register by January 15, 2009 to attend the full conference for \$250. After that date, the price increases to \$275. Convention directors also report that the host hotel, the Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf, is now 50% full. Reserve your room now! See page 2 for more details.

The Inaugural RRCA Texas Club Conference and Challenge was very successful with members from numerous clubs participating in both events. DRC President Libby Jones conference presentation was very insightful and everyone was inspired by Dick Beardsley's story of creating a little 200-person race that has grown to a two-thousand person race-in a community with a population of 7,000. Read page four to discover which club won both the *Fastest* RRCA Club in Texas and the Challenge Championship.

Wishing everyone a joyful and PROpserous 2009,

~K2

# News from the National Office

## RRCA Annual Convention

Registration for the RRCA 51st Annual National Convention is now open! For over 50 years runners have gathered at the RRCA Convention to network, to learn about best practices in club and event management, to run, and to have fun. Please join the RRCA along with hundreds of running community leaders for this educational and fun filled experience. To learn more about the event visit,

<http://www.RRCAConvention.org>.

### REGISTER TODAY!

<http://www.rrcaconvention.org/registration.html>.

### CONVENTION FEE: \$250.00

(until January 15, 2009)

Includes all seminars, reception & RRCA Awards Banquet, fun runs, and coffee breaks

### BOOK YOUR ROOM AT THE HOST HOTEL!

<http://www.rrcaconvention.org/hotelinformation.html>

### HYATT - FISHERMAN'S WHARF

555 North Point Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133

Located in the heart of world-famous Fisherman's Wharf, this four star hotel has easy access to Pier 39, the Cannery, Harbor Cruises and Ghirardelli Square; across from the Powell and Mason Cable Car Line, about a mile from Union Square, the Financial District and Nob Hill. The Convention room rate is only \$172 per night for a room!

## Nominations Being Accepted for 2009 Board Seats

The Road Runners Club of America is advising membership that the following Board of Director positions are up for election in 2009:

Western Region Director  
Southern Region Director  
At-Large Director  
At-Large Director

Elections for these positions will be held at the RRCA Annual Meeting of the Membership scheduled for Friday March 27, 2009 during the 2009 RRCA National Convention.

Detailed information about nominations for serving on the RRCA Board of Directors can be found at <http://www.rrca.org/rrca/board/boardnom.pdf>. For questions regarding the nomination process please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Gar Williams, via email at [cellofello63@gmail.com](mailto:cellofello63@gmail.com).

The deadline for nominations is January 9, 2009.



## RRCA Survey

This fall, RRCA President, Brent Ayer, developed the Strategic Planning Task Force to help chart the course for the RRCA over the next ten years. An important action item of the Task Force is to survey RRCA running club members. Your feedback is very important as we develop a meaningful strategic plan for the organization. If you are a current or former member of a running club, we invite you to participate in our 28 question survey. This survey should only take a few minutes of your time. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will help the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force. <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2f7f2oofosiy4ig/start>

Thank you for your time and assistance with this important survey.

# 2009 RRCA Membership Renewal

The 2009 RRCA Membership Packets were mailed to club and event leaders this week. For your convenience, the forms are also posted on the website at <http://www.rrca.org/join/clubs>. The forms are an MS Word file that you can complete, SAVE, and email, or print then mail or fax to the RRCA. Be sure to SAVE the file after completing the fields. This form is not automatically saved or sent to the RRCA.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER:**

**The RRCA membership is an annual membership that begins on 12/31/08 at 12:01 AM and ends at 12:01 AM on 12/31/09, regardless of when you joined in 2008. If membership is paid after 12/31/08, the insurance coverage will begin the day payment is received.**

“We are extremely excited to announce that during these tough economic times, your RRCA dues and insurance rates are the only prices in United States that are NOT rising,” explained Jean Knaack, executive director.

Due to the diligence of club leaders and race directors, our insurance rates will not increase for 2009. Due to our membership growth along with the generous support from our sponsors and donors, the membership’s dues will not increase for 2009.

RRCA clubs are encouraged to use Active.com to renew club members. Active.com has a template for club membership registration that has pre-set fields, and will ensure that you collect all of the data needed by the RRCA. In addition, for every RRCA member that utilizes Active.com for club member registration, Active will make a contribution in support of RRCA programs that promote long distance running and healthy living. To gain access to the RRCA membership template, and for the RRCA to get a contribution, you will need to register your club on Active.com. Visit <http://www.rrca.org/services/online/> and click on the link “RRCA Club Discount Registration Form” to get started. By signing up with Active.com you will also get FREE access to their Volunteer Management module.

Did you know that providing online registrations is one of the best ways to grow your membership? People are more likely to join using the convenience of online registration compared to printing out a form, writing a check, and mailing it.

After you complete your membership renewal paper work, please remember these important items:

- Provide updated contact information so that we can keep in touch with your club throughout the year. We also need to have the contact information for your entire board of directors.
- Email your club roster to [membership@RRCA.org](mailto:membership@RRCA.org) . Your renewal is not complete until we confirm your membership numbers.
- Please send full payment with your renewal. Remember paying by CHECK saves the RRCA money that we can invest in programs.
- Take advantage the Active.com membership management module to benefit the RRCA.

When your renewal is complete, you will receive a post card in the mail from the RRCA. If your renewal is not complete the post card will instruct you which items are missing and need to be submitted as soon as possible to complete the renewal.

If you have any questions about your membership renewal, please contact the RRCA National Office at 703-525-3890 or email [membership@rrca.org](mailto:membership@rrca.org) .



## INAUGURAL RRCA TEXAS CLUB CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS AND FASTEST CLUB WINNERS

I'm honored to announce that there is a double winner of the Inaugural RRCA Texas Club Challenge. Lake Grapevine Runners and Walkers are the *Fastest* RRCA Club in Texas and the Challenge Champions for having the most participants in the Inaugural RRCA Club Challenge Championship Run on Saturday, December 13, 2008.

More than two dozen members of the Lake Grapevine Runners and Walkers (RAW) club registered in the Championship Challenge. RAW's top \*seven runners, led by Colleen Casey edged out the top \*three Carrollton Runners Club (CRC) runners.



Andrew Weber from the CRC and Chris Phelan from the Dallas Running Club dueled to the finish line. Weber finished three seconds ahead of Phelan making him the fastest RRCA member in the event. Weber ran a speedy time of 18:44.



Over 50 runners, including several families with children from RRCA clubs participated in the Texas Club Championship Challenge Run officially

named the Mayor's 5K Fun Run.

I congratulate everyone who participated this year. I look forward to seeing you and many more of your fellow club members at the second annual RRCA Texas Club Challenge Championship.



\*Top finishers include top three females from LGRAW and top female from the CRC.



# North Texas Club News

CONGRATULATIONS to the thousands of runners who participated in the Dallas White Rock Marathon, the 2008 RRCA Texas State Marathon Championship.

A record number of participants braved the strong winds and warm weather on December 14, 2008.

The men's race was close all the way to the finish with Henry Serem winning in a time of 2:22:07, beating the second place runner by 18 seconds. The women's race was much more decisive. Svetlana Ponomarenko finished in 2:37:14, more than four-minutes ahead of the second place female.

## Texas State Championship Races

**RRCA Texas State Championship Status for some 2009 Race Distances is still available.**



**Bid forms can be found at [RRCA.org](http://RRCA.org)**

Click on:  
Championship events  
Championship Bidding Information and Forms

To submit bids or for more information  
contact K2 at: [RRCANorthTXRep@aol.com](mailto:RRCANorthTXRep@aol.com)

## Featured Club



There is a new running club starting in Georgetown, Texas. The Georgetown Running Club is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage and promote running, walking and fitness in the community and to provide competitive and non-competitive activities for its members and the general public.

For training group times and more information go to  
<http://georgetownrunners.org/>



**Saturday, January 10, 2009**  
**Oak Grove Park**  
**Grapevine, TX**

**5K & 15K begin at 8:00 AM**

Register at [Active.com](http://Active.com)

For more information go to:  
<http://runnersandwalkers.com/bitc2009.html>