

Dino Dash: I loved that race and especially winning Dino Trophies. I've got several smaller ones and one large Master's winners' trophy that I really like. I think poor organization and moving the race date killed that race. The venue was good, and running in late Jan/early Feb was a good time, especially since they had the indoor facility for runners after the race. I quit going after the year that they did not give out any trophies because of a problem with the paint. They'd waited too late to paint the dinos (gotta love the running shoes painted on their feet) and they promised to mail them to us in a week or two. Well, they never came. I even followed up several times and was promised I would get my trophy but it never happened.

Dallas Trails Marathon: I was a perennial runner, completing the first 10 years and when it was down to less than 20 of us survivors. I was having severe calf cramping/strains and was not sure if I'd be able to complete a race. I found out one week before the race that it was all caused by a low thyroid. I started taking medication and immediately the calf problem went away, but I didn't want to risk running a marathon so soon after starting the medication since I wasn't sure yet that it was the cure to my problem. I didn't run and the medicine was the cure. I heard that the other spring Dallas marathon drove Jame's race out of business and that he took the money in the pot and divided it equally among the remaining survivors, of which I think there was about 10.

Hit the Bricks: Loved that race, always knew you would get a fast time and a lot of fast guys and some fast ladies would show up. Finally ran low 17s at age 46 to win a brick.

Tortuous 20: Tough race! What made it really tortuous one year though was when it was measured wrong; it was 1/10th mile long per mile!!!! I'd run sub 2 hours numerous times for 20-miles in marathons and when I hit the first mile in about 7:00, I knew something was up. What a long day! I hit the wall that day. And they had a gorilla jump out from behind a bridge and scared the crap out of me. I was feeling horrible at around mile 17-18 so I was a very pleasant person. Ha.

Lone Start Park 5K: Ran it the first year and finished 2nd behind Ed Park. It finished on the parking lot. Great idea, or so they thought to finish on the track, WRONG!!! How do horses run on that stuff? That was the longest finishing stretch of my life. Ha.

I've always enjoyed races with good swag and fun, unique trophies. Still think the ceramic Penguins are some of the best trophies ever (at the Arlington Winter Run)! I've got a nice collection of them, including a large Masters trophy. Too bad the race isn't the same any more.

Best race with swag is in Austin, the 3M Half Marathon!

Finally, where have all the good runners gone????????? It's obvious no one trains like we did back in the early 80's. Why is it? Our culture has changed. Back then, we all ran 80-90-100+ miles per week. We had to if we wanted to keep up with the competition. I remember running in Wichita, KS back then and running 32-33 min. for a 10K and not winning age group awards. To place in your age group at White Rock you needed to run in the low 2:20s, too. I once ran a 4-mile race and was 10:00 at the 2-mile and I was nowhere close to the leaders, didn't even place in my age group that day. But the times were good, great if you compare them to today! I've chatted with Ricky Cox about this many times and he concurs what I'm saying, I guess he and I are just a couple of old guys talking about the "good ole days".
Boston bound,

Chris Stewart
Arlington