

Some Notes from 2006

Michael Polansky, who has conducted and timed several road races in the Metroplex, has formed a new company, Run Time Racing Services. Michael said the company will use the ChampionChip system. Among the recent events the company has timed includes the Jingle Bell Run in Fort Worth. The company's website is www.runtimeracingservices.com. Besides Polansky's new company, race directors also have other options, including two companies that advertise on this web site: It's About Time Race Management and Racing Bytes....A new run at American Airlines Center in Dallas on Jan. 20, the Race and Roll, will feature a 5K road race and a 10K Masters Inline Skate as part of the NHL All-Star Game activities. The four-loop course is for competitive masters only. However, there will be a 30-minute open skating segment that will be open to all ability levels. While the 5K run will head down to the Westside and back, the skaters will stay around American Airlines Center, Visit www.DallasStars.com for registration information....Shawn Forrest, winner of the Dallas Turkey Trot 8-Mile run on Thanksgiving Day is a junior at the University of Arkansas and was coming off a 117th finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in Terre Haute, Ind., on Nov. 20. Shawn won in Dallas with a 39:10.55. Shawn, from Australia, ran a 32:44.6 at the cross country championships. The women's winner, Melisa Christian of Dallas, had qualified for the Olympic Marathon Trials when she ran a 2:46:30 at the Boston Marathon in April. She won at Dallas with a 45:59.10... Ricky Cox, a three-time winner of the Cowtown Marathon, said he is training with son Demery to run the Cowtown again. Ricky, who last won Cowtown in 1986 with a 2:22:29, said he and Demery are training to run 6-minute miles at the Feb. 25 event. Ricky won his other titles in 1982 (2:22:30) and 1983 (2:22:30)...In the Fort WorthYMCA Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day, Ricky won the 45-49 age division with a 17:00.06, and Demery placed fifth in the 20-24 division with a 17:08.11....Gary Anderson, 45, of Benbrook finished fourth overall at the Tulsa World Route 66 Marathon on Nov. 19 with a 2:52:11. Some other masters runners placed high as well with Terry Dill, 43, of Plano placing 38th with a 3:22:07. In the half marathon, Norman Roper, 49, of Arlington took third place with a 1:19:34, and David Corley, 45, of Fort worth placed 15th with a 1:27:53....The UltraCentric event finished Nov. 19 in Grapevine, and the 24-hour event was the American UltraRunning Association National 1 24-Hour Championship. Alex Swanson, 42, of Vashon, Wash., won by going 146.6 miles in 23:59:00:50. Competitors were also trying to qualify for the U.S. National Team to compete in the World Championship in Quebec, slated in July. Butch Allmon, 51, of Fort Worth won the 48-hour event by logging 183 miles in 47:59:46:25. Runner-up was Edward Rousseau, 67, of Minn. MN, with 166.2 miles in 48:01:24:65. This event no doubt attracts the ``veteran" runners as two 71-year-olds were among the 20 who competed. The youngest was Kenny Norton, a 32-year-old from Sachse. He couldn't keep up with the older guys, though, and logged ``only" 33.6 miles in 15:41:46:85. Visit www.run-far.com to see results.... Lupe Rodriguez, a longtime runner in the Metroplex, placed second in the 50-54 age division at the San Antonio Marathon on Nov. 12. Lupe, 50, ran a 3:09:42 to finish 36th among the 964 finishers. In the half marathon, Frank Diaz of Fort Worth won the 65-69 age division with a 1:50:30. Also, Kim Andres of Irving took third in the women's 50-54 age division with a 1:51:13....Proceeds from the B.G. Squirrel Run each year has helped raise funds for the

Texas Native Forest Boardwalk at the Botanic Garden in Fort Worth (pictured). The boardwalk was one of the attractions among the more than 1,000 participants at the 5K and 10K events on Nov. 11....Todd Blanchard of Dallas was the top finisher among Metroplex runners in the New York Marathon on Nov. 5 with a 2:42:13. Blanchard, 37, is the Franklin Middle School cross country and track coach. Other top finishers from the area included K. Todd Storch of Coppell with a 3:24:48; Mark Roman of Carrollton with a 3:28:02; Lori Green of Irving with a 3:28:54; Alison Peters, Fort Worth with a 3:30:23; Carol Carpenter, Southlake, 3:31:04; Mark Bayer, Plano, 3:33:31, Chris Villarreal, Allen, 3:34:31; and Julie Anne Knight, Fort Worth (5,641), 3:37:17....The Lake Grapevine Runners and Walkers (LGRAW) club was host to the 2006 RRCA 10K State Championship on Oct. 28 at its Double Trouble 10K, 5K. The winners in the men's and women's divisions were Ken Hall with a 35:01 and Mindi Rice with a 39:21. In the 5K, Delia Irby won the women's title in 20:43 and Juan Ruiz won the men's race in 16:24. All winning times were course records. Irby, 44, also won the women's masters 10K title in 44:38. Results are posted at www.runnersandwalkers.com....Jody Hawkins, 40, cross country coach at Frisco Centennial, showed she's back in top running form after fighting injuries and health problems the past few years by running a 16:17 at the Gary Burns Frisco Run 5K on Oct. 28. Jody has been a longtime top competitor.... Hamlin Jones, 35, of Frisco won the Miracle Match Marathon in Waco on Oct. 29 with a gun time of 3:12:26. His net time was 3:12:16. Other top Metroplex runners of the 115 finishers included David Emerson, 42, of Coppell, whose 3:19:09 won his age division; Rene Villalobos of Fort Worth, 47, with a 3:38:58; Polly Tyler, 42, of Southlake with a 4:13:35, and Irene Woods, 50, of Burleson. Woods won the women's 50-54 age division with a 4:15:42....Nathan Stone, 26, of Dallas, was the top finisher at the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. on Oct. 29 with a 3:09:17, good for a 279 place among the 20,879 finishers. Among other top Metroplex finishers included Steven Cohen, 42, Coppell, 3:15:11 to finish 411; Tandra Langford, 31, of Fort Worth with a 3:33:59 for a 1,282 finish; and Gianna Cerullo, 40, of Dallas with a 3:37:58 for a 1,612 finish.... Tom Reynolds of Benbrook placed third overall at the Wichita (Kan.) Marathon on Oct. 22. He finished in 2:52:43. There were 324 participants. On the same day at the Chicago Marathon, Timothy Doyle of Lewisville was the top Metroplex finisher by running a 2:47:03 (chip time) and placing 413th among the 33,618 participants. Other high finishers from the Metroplex and their chip times included: Jon Korte, Grapevine, 516th with a 2:50:32; Ros Dalrymple, Coppell, 3,552nd with a 3:25:56; Amanda Tydlaska, Fort Worth, 3,676th with a 3:26:44; and Shelly Cox, Flower Mound, 3,893rd with a 3:27:58. Also on the same day, Kristin Sullivan of Dallas finished 70th among 3,974 finishers at the Nike 26.2 in San Francisco with a 3:38:40 chip time. Also, Juli Baldwin Brown of Dallas finished 173rd with a 3:53:52. Among other Metroplex finishers were Trey Backes of Dallas, 230th with a 3:57:46; Maggie Riba of Dallas, 377th with a 4:08:37; and Mary Sturdivan of Dallas, 379th with a 4:08:39.....When and where was the first marathon in Texas conducted? Well, it was a one-shot event, but the first marathon was in 1937 at the Pan American Expo in Dallas. Anyone have a shirt from that race? According to a note in Measure Up, a newsletter for course measurers published by E.T. (Tom) McBrayer of Houston, the marathon was held because The Texas Centennial, which was the year before, was so successful that fair officials decided to widen their horizons. Along with the Expo, a track and field meet, and marathon were conducted.

The winner was Pat Dengis in 2:42:43. Tom said no records have been found that describe the course, who conducted the race or lists the competitors. Dengis, by the way, was runner-up to Johnny Kelley in the 1935 Boston Marathon. Dengis also won three consecutive Yonker (N.Y.) Marathon titles from 1937-39....Metroplex runners sometimes travel long distances to run 26.2 miles. At the St. George (Utah) Marathon on Oct. 7, Scott Greenwood of Arlington led the runners from this area by placing 171st among the 4,761 finishers. Scott ran a 3:02:10 (chip time) and placed 31st in the 35-39 division. Right behind him was David Gallagher of Frisco with a 3:03:20, good for 178th place and 32nd in the same age division. Also among the top 500 finishers was Jay Jafee of Plano with a 3:18:07 and finishing 462nd and 72nd in the 40-44 age division. At the Kansas City Marathon (Oct. 8), Penny Palumbo of Mesquite was the top finisher among Metroplex runners with a 3:35:11, good for 94th place among the 651 finishers. She was second in the 35-39 age division. Next was Michael Fricke of Frisco with a 3:47:48, good for 149th place and 22nd in the 40-44 division. Then at the Steamboat Marathon in Scranton, Pa., Lee Rebodos of Flower Mound ran a 3:07:55 to place 111th among the 1,672 finishers. He was 20th in the 35-39 division. Tiffany Benshoof of Fort Worth was among 69 Texas finishers in the inaugural Rock 'N Roll Half Marathon in San Jose, Calif., on Oct. 8 and she had a chip time of 2:13:15 and placed 4026th among the 11,536 finishers. Duncan Kibet, who paid his own entry fee (unlike most elites), won the race one hour, 22 seconds, the second fastest half marathon ever in the U.S. Silvia Skvortsova won the women's race with a personal best of 1:09:17. Each won \$8,000, plus a \$2,000 bonus for setting California state records. That was more than enough to offset Kibet's \$78 entry fee....Andrew Cook, who qualified for the 2008 Olympic Trials with a 2:19:48 at February's Freescale Austin Marathon, won the San Francisco Marathon on July 30 with a 2:26:46. It was the former Texas A&M's runner's first marathon victory. He ran almost even splits as he hit the half-marathon mark at 1:13:13. More about Andrew is on the Neighbors page.