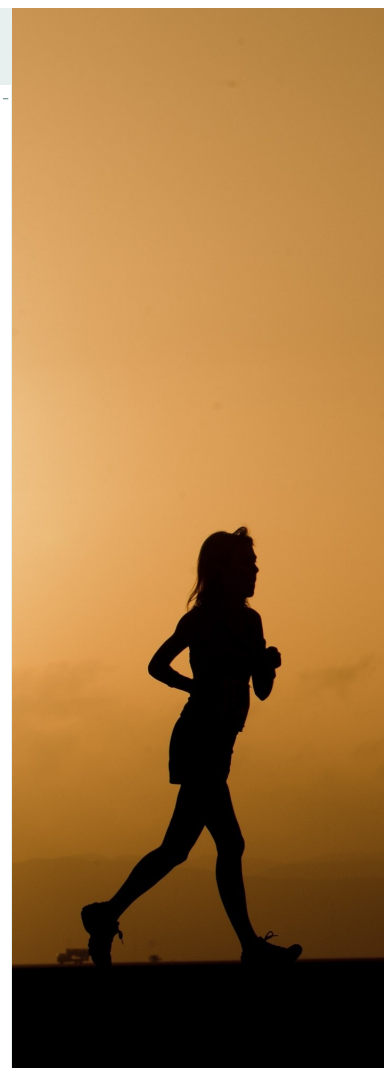


The Paper Race

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Khirstin Schneider, President

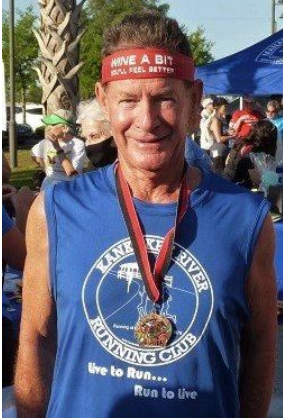
Welcome to 2024! With a new year comes new goals, new distances, new challenges, and new limits. It's also a time to reflect on the last year. I was proud to be able to bring a Strava group to the running club this year. I'm also incredibly proud of all the hard work that goes into creating the newsletter every month. Bringing chip timing to our races has been instrumental. The Club was able to give back to area schools multiple times. Going over some of the things we have implemented and changed in my time as President makes me so excited to see the club grow in 2024. I truly hope I get a chance to meet everyone in the club at either an event or race this year. If you are coming to the Winter Party, I will see you there. Cheers to a great 2024 for everyone!



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Editor's note: I apologize for the late newsletter. I have been sick and unable to get the newsletter out as expected. We're back on schedule now for next month! — Karen



ON DAN'S RUN

ADVENTURES IN RACE REGISTRATION

by Dan Gould
DANSRUN@AOL.COM

All I wanted to do was sign up for a road race, something I've done more than a thousand times, but this is the Kankakee Jingle Bell 5K, part of the Arthritis Foundation's nationwide seasonal fundraising races. You can't just sign up and pay the entry fee. You have to set up a password protected account. Yes, an "account." I have no idea why.

My friend Chuck Parsons asked me if I had signed up and told me that he was unable to navigate the registration gauntlet. He wanted to sign up for himself and son Drew. The problem he had and that I would have is that we have done the race in the past and the Arthritis Foundation expects us to remember our password. COVID and running injuries have kept me away from this race since 2019, but I wouldn't recall the password if it had been last year.

I took a WAG at what password I might have used, but that didn't work. I then tried registering as a newbie, but was told my email address was "in use" and to try another one. Well, I don't have another one so it was on to the "Forgot Password" drill. I entered my email address and was then directed to click on RESET PASSWORD. I did, but to no apparent effect. A few seconds later I clicked again with the same result. OK, I guess I'm not going to sign up.

My next project was to check email and much to my surprise I had one from the Arthritis Foundation. I opened it and there was a message saying they had been notified that I wanted to reset my password. I didn't see any notice they were going to email me a link when I clicked the reset password. They had sent me a link that was good for 24 hours. I clicked on the RESET MY PASSWORD link which opened a second page which said

Oops!

Your account could not be verified at this time.

Verify my account? What do you need to know besides I'm ready to pay the entry fee? If I want to register on race day, will I be required to show photo ID? Arthritis is a good cause, but it isn't my cause. My wife has Parkinson's. Parkinson's is my cause. I'm just an old runner who enjoys the competition of age group running and the socialization that goes with it. I'm happy if my entry fee goes to a good cause, but almost every 5K has a good cause. I guess you don't want my entry fee. On to the rest of my email.

Next in the queue is....another email from the Arthritis Foundation. Well, I did click the button twice. Let's see what this one says. The first page was the same, but the second page now offered me the boxes to put in and confirm a new password. Amazing! In the few seconds between the two clicks, they verified my account. Now I can sign up.

I do, of course, want to know if they have my age group, but age groups are not part of the Event Information nor does the website offer previous years' results. If I could look at previous results, I could see age groups. I did an online search to no avail and asked Dave Bohlke to use his skill to find them. Dave has a finish line service. He was no more successful.

The website does not offer any local contact name, but I knew that Phil Angelo had been

Continued on page 3

giving heart and soul to this event for 30 plus years and I had his email address. Phil said he was still involved, but would have to contact "Jessica" for a results link. He did not think they had my age group (75 & up).

The entry fee for this event is \$45. In the words of Ken Klipp, "\$45 for a 5K? That's nuts!" Yes, for those of us whose first 5Ks had a \$4 or \$5 entry fee, that's nuts. It may be \$47 or \$48 if there is a "service fee," but that doesn't show up until the last page of check out.

When online registration first became available, some of the races actually offered a discount for using that method. It saved a lot of manual labor. As a race director for the Winterfest 5K some 30 years ago, I might have to open 200 envelopes, record essential data, get the checks ready for deposit, and pass the entry forms on to our finish line service. I would have been happy to discount the entry fee a buck or two. Now most of the races have done away with hard copy registration and charge the runners an extra fee for online registration.

Phil got back to me with the news that age groups would go to 85+ about the same time I remembered the name of the finish line service (IT'S RACE TIME) used in past years. I found the results on their website going back several years and found they had 75+ back in 2019.

With the age group question favorably resolved and grudging acceptance of a \$45 preregistration fee, there were still two question marks. First, the weather forecast for race day was about 40 degrees with the chance of rain showers. I don't want to run in the rain at that temperature. Second, I wonder if one of my body parts that grumbles when I run is going to mutiny before race day. I've eaten a couple or race entry fees in the last year.

Having successfully run the registration gauntlet, it seems a shame not to do the race. That, of course, is offset by the aggravation in having to run that gauntlet. The uncertainties of weather and body suggest a race day decision, but that makes it a \$50 registration. In the end, none of these factors made any difference.

On Cyber Monday, I ordered a treadmill from Best Buy for Linda, something we were anxious to get. Their earliest delivery date was Sunday, December 3rd, race day. At the time of order, the delivery window was 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. which would be narrowed the day before delivery. That put preregistration out of the question. Late on Saturday afternoon, the text came with a delivery window of 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Despite my absence and that of Chuck and son Drew, it was a good year for Jingle Bell which had the most runners in some years and far exceeded their fundraising goal. Maybe we'll be there next year!

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

Happy Birthday!

1/4 Lynn Smith	17	1/9 Kevin O'Connor	61
1/5 Daniel Gerber	65	1/16 Griffin Kisner	51
1/5 Rosalee Smith	14	1/22 Melissa Lux	45
1/7 Jen Ingram	50	1/25 James Martell	69
1/8 Lynn McGinnis	49	1/29 Dianne Strufe	84



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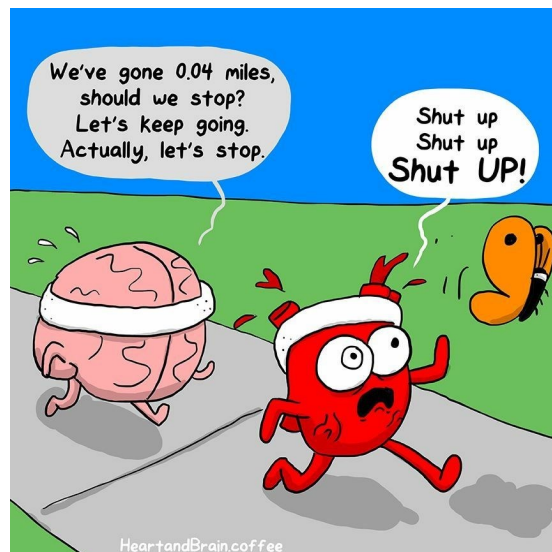
Do you have comments? Questions? Something for the newsletter? Please send all submissions to KRRClub@gmail.com

Find race registrations and results at https://kankakeeriverrunningclub.com/krrc/2023_Race_Calendar.html

Board meeting update:

The Kankakee River Running Club executive board met on December 10 for our quarterly meeting. Minutes may be viewed at [December Board Minutes](#)

Funny Runs



Charity

A portion of the proceeds from the Winterfest 5K will be donated to The Salvation Army. Please bring a canned food or non-perishable donation for the food pantry.

Awards

Running division: Top 3 overall male and female, top male and female masters (40 and over), proportioned awards in 5-year age groups for male to age 75+ and female to age 70+.
Walking division: awards to the first 10. **Please note:** The fitness walk is on the honor system and for **walkers only**. If you are going to run any part of the course, you must register as a runner.

T-Shirts

Long-sleeved shirts (either Dri-Fit or cotton) guaranteed to all pre-registered by January 27, 2024, who select the shirt option.

Refreshments

Pizza from The Chicago Dough Company

KRRC's Classic Series

Winterfest 5K is Kankakee River Running Club's first club-sponsored race of the year, and is a qualifying race for the Classic Series. See the club website www.KankakeeRiverRunningClub.com for details on the Classic Series.

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