

The Finish Line

December 2016

Zoomers Southwest Florida Running & Triathlon Club

VISIT: www.zoomersrun.com

President's Message

By Ed Gillen

*The December issue of The Finish Line is an **abbreviated edition** as we continue our look for a newsletter editor.*

I'd like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday. It's a time for reflection. It was a good year for Zoomers. We had more Zoomers join, we started a new Tri series to recognize our multiple sport members and had more members participate in our race series, We had an amazing celebration of our 20th anniversary, a well attended and fun Kids Summer Fun Run series and Kids Race Series.

Our club was well represented at community events – waters stops at Suncoast Half, Harbour Heights Half and Myakka Half Water stops and providing crucial volunteers at the Memorial Day 5k/10k, Firecracker 5k and Turkey Trot.

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Save the Date – 1/7/17

Zoomers Holiday Party & Awards Banquet

Upcoming Events

By Roxanne Gillen

Join us as we celebrate the holidays, socialize and recognize the 2016 recipients of the Zoomers Adult Race series and the Zoomers Tri Race series.

DETAILS: Price includes a buffet luncheon consisting of mixed green salads, pasta salad, cole slaw, chicken salad, potato salad, tuna salad, egg salad, sliced meats, cheeses & breads, fresh fruits, cookie & brownies, coffee, tea or lemonade. Cash bar available.

COST: Zoomers dues-paying members: \$15. All Others: \$20.

*See Holiday Party Registration Form
on Last Page of Newsletter.*



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We also staffed a SAG stop at the Peace River Riders Wheels and Wings event debuting the new big purple Zoomers tent. Zoomers also had a team of 20 participate and stroke their way to a gold medal in the Community division at the Dragon Boat races in Punta Gorda. Our 3rd Turkey Raffle Run / Walk on the Sunday before Thanksgiving was well attended and folks had fun running in circles for an hour in hopes of winning some turkeys and other donated raffle prizes. The Trick or Trot 5k was held on one of the first 'cool' days of the season as 250 runners traversed the beautiful trails of Ann Dever Park.

We ended the year in good financial health and as we head in to 2017 we elected a new board of directors to guide our future. We appreciate you being a member and we appreciate you stepping up by volunteering throughout the year. If you have suggestions on how we can become a better club as we move forward, please contact me or another board member.

See you at the Finish Line!



5 Reasons to Volunteer

Volunteering at an event can inspire you to sign up for a race or push yourself harder in your next one, but it's also a great way to give back to the sport. Most events couldn't happen without volunteers, so you're providing a vital service. You'll also better appreciate the volunteers the next time you're out there running, swimming or biking. Here are some other excellent reasons to volunteer:

1. You can save money.

Many races offer perks to volunteers, such as free shirts, race entries, or access to post-race parties. Even if you want to run the race, it's still possible to volunteer. You could volunteer for a pre-race task, such as registration, and then run.

2. You can stay connected to running.

If you're recovering from an injury, volunteering at an event is an opportunity to stay connected to the community and deal with the frustration of being sidelined. The energy and excitement you feel at the race will keep you motivated and focused on your recovery.

3. Meeting other runners, swimmers and cyclists.

Volunteering is a good opportunity to make new friends and possible training partners, since most volunteers are likely to have the same interests as you. Some runners, cyclists and swimmers have even met a future mate as they handed out water together.

4. You can get a great view of the action.

At some big crowded events, it can be tough to get a good position on the course, especially at the finish line. But volunteers can get front row access at water stops or at the finish line handing out medals. If you like to follow elite runners, volunteering is a great way to get a closer look at them in action.

5. You can share your talents.

Race directors are always looking for help, so ask about other opportunities to share your skills or talents. If you're a medical professional, you can volunteer at an aid station along the course or at the finish line. If you're musically talented, you can sing the national anthem at the start. Know an artist? Design a race t-shirt. Technical skills? Create a website to publicize the race.

There are countless ways to get involved -- just get in touch with the race director or running club organizing the race and see how you can help.



Zoomers Monthly Business Meetings

Next meeting: December 7, 2016

Please join us on the first Wednesday of each month for the Zoomers Business Meeting. It is currently being held at the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce at 6:30 pm.

At these meetings, we discuss what is happening in the club, what past races were like and what races we have coming up. You will learn how it all works behind the scenes and also be able to voice your opinions, concerns or maybe you have an idea for something new? Come join us and see what it's like.



How to Contact Zoomers?

ZOOMERS SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
RUNNING & TRIATHLON CLUB
P.O. BOX 380276
MURDOCK, FL, 33938

2016 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: Ed Gillen
EdGillen7@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Pat Vasquez
pvasquez317@gmail.com

TREASURER: Sherry LaBree
zoomerstreasurer@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Stephanie Jimenez
spowers319@gmail.com

WEBPAGE DIRECTOR: Position Open
Zoomerswebdirector@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING DIRECTOR: Marti Stetter
Zoomersmembership@gmail.com

2016 Commitees

Adult Race Series Chair: Tina Elkins
ZoomersRaceSeries@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Tina Elkins
ZoomersNewsEditor@gmail.com

Kids Race Series: Dug and Marti Stetter
Zoomersyouth@gmail.com

Turkey Raffle Run Report

On Sunday, November 20th, Zoomers presented its 3rd annual Turkey Raffle Run and walk. On a sunny and cool morning at South Gulf Cove Park, over 70 participants went round and round in circles for an hour collecting raffle tickets in hopes of winning one of five massive turkeys or another donated raffle prize. The Raffle Run and Zoomers would like to **thank Micah Smith: Allstate Insurance** for their sponsorship of this year's run.



UPCOMING RACES & FUN RUNS / EVENTS

Zoomers website tries to stay current with upcoming races and fun runs/events. We also like to promote races within our geographic area, Zoomers races and events, races that provides Zoomers members discounts, and races that are part of our race and tri series.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ZOOMERS HOLIDAY PARTY AND AWARDS BANQUET

PLACE: JACARANDA COUNTRY CLUB, VENICE

DATE/TIME: JANUARY 7 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Our annual holiday party and recognizing our recipients of our race and tri series.

ANDREW MONROE MEMORIAL 5K

PLACE: SIESTA KEY BEACH

DATE / TIME: JANUARY 8 8:15 A.M

[HTTPS://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/FL/SARASOTA/ANDREWMONROE MEMORIALSCHOLARSHIP5KRUNWALK](https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/Sarasota/AndrewMonroeMemorialScholarship5KRunWalk)

WALMART 5K

PLACE: PUNTA GORDA

DATE / TIME: JANUARY 21 8:00 A.M.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PuntaGorda/Walmart5K> .

HANDS ACROSS THE HARBOR

PLACE: PORT CHARLOTTE

DATE / TIME: JANUARY 28 VARIOUS

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PortCharlotte/HAHHalfMarathon> .



2017 Zoomers Race Series Announced ...

The Zoomers Race Series consists of a number of races, at various distances, held throughout the calendar year. The series is open to Zoomers club members. Members may enter as many series races as they wish but only the **best six** (6) series races will be scored (**6 races must be run as a minimum**).

What's new in 2017? Members for the first time will be competing against fellow Zoomers **only**. Points are awarded based on how you place against other Zoomers in your age group. You no longer need to place in your age group in the race to be awarded points. No Overall or Masters points will be given. Also new, Zoomers will recognize the top three individuals in each age group of the race series at the annual award banquet.

Race Series Points will now be awarded as follows:

8 pts 1st Place in Zoomers age group, Male and Female

6 pts 2nd Place in Zoomers age group, Male and Female

4 pts 3rd Place in Zoomers age group, Male and Female

2 pts completing the Race

RACE SERIES QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Do you have to opt in to participate in the Zoomers Race Series? If yes, how?

A: Yes, members need to opt in to the race series. To opt in go to: <http://zoomersrun.com/opt-into-2017-adult-race-series/>

Q: What if I don't opt in until later in 2017?

A: If you don't sign up then you don't receive points. Meaning, points are not retroactive. You start accumulating points from the time you Opt In. So opt in early!

Q: Will I be notified that I am in series?

A: Yes, you will receive a confirmation email from ZoomersRaceSeries@gmail.com

Q: What if I go into a new 5-year age group during the 2017 year?

A: Whatever age you are **on December 31, 2017** you will

Zoomers Scholarship

Zoomers is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2017 Scholarship. Zoomers will award up to \$1,000 to the eligible recipient. To be eligible, applicants must meet the requirements, complete the application and application should be received no later than April 30, 2017.



Visit www.zoomersrun.com
for Scholarship Information.

be placed in the appropriate age group and you will remain there throughout the 2017 race series. This only applies to the Zoomers Race Series scores.

Q: What other qualifications are needed to receive a race series award?

A: Zoomers promotes giving back to the club and to the community. To receive an award, members who've opted in to the race series **must volunteer at least once** at an approved Zoomers volunteer event. They are listed on the zoomersrun.com website.

Q: What if I forget to renew my Zoomers membership during the series year?

A: Only paid and **active** adult Zoomers members (20+ yrs of age) will be awarded points. When your membership expires, you will be removed the 1st of the following month unless you have renewed.

Example: Membership expires June 10. If you do not renew by June 30, you will be removed from the series on July 1. You will not receive points for the period of expired membership. (e.g. you do not renew by June 30 and do the Firecracker 5k on July 4. You will not receive points because your membership is not in good standing).



Zoomers Holiday Party & Awards Ceremony

Saturday, January 7, 2017

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Jacaranda West Country Club

1901 Jacaranda Boulevard

Venice, FL 34293

Join us as we celebrate the holidays, socialize and recognize the 2016 recipients of the Zoomers Adult Race series and the Zoomers Tri Race series.

DETAILS: Price includes a buffet luncheon consisting of mixed green salads, pasta salad, cole slaw, chicken salad, potato salad, tuna salad, egg salad, sliced meats, cheeses & breads, fresh fruits, cookie & brownies, coffee, tea or lemonade. Cash bar available.

COST: Zoomers dues-paying members: \$15.

All Others: \$20.

HOW MANY ATTENDING?: _____

NAME(S): _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

**Return Form and Check Made Payable to 'ZOOMERS' by DECEMBER 31, 2016 to:
ROXANNE GILLEN
1282 GREEN OAK TRAIL
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948**