

# SPORTSTOP TO CLOSE JULY 4TH!



## THE ARKANSAS ULTRA RUNNER

July/1996

*A Newsletter For Members Of The Arkansas Ultra Running  
Association*

**HARLEY'S ULTRA NEWS OF THE DAY** - July is traditionally a slow month in the AURA. But with the Ultra weddings and the Trail Series behind us it seems like there is no rest in sight. Thoughts now are on the trip to Colorado and the Hardrock 100.

National Trails Day on June 1st was the best trip to Albert Pike yet. Around the first of May I always feel a little remiss that I didn't tell you enough about the upcoming trail runs at the Albert Pike Recreation Area south of Glenwood. For the last four or five years, the first Saturday in June has been celebrated as National Trails Day. This annual event is organized by AURA's David Samuel and assisted by his fellow US Forest Service workers and volunteers. The non-competitive runs are 6, 10 and 17 miles in length. For those who want to go longer there is always a small group who start early and cover the entire 27 mile Eagle Rock Loop Trail. What I like most about the event is the low key approach and encouragement given to all those who participate. The trail is a keeper. All the things attached to trail running can be found at Albert Pike. There are too many river crossing to count and at least five mountain climbs that will take your breath away on a clear February day. On June 1st, however, it rained just wet enough to keep one cool and continually moving on the trail. For those who run the 27 mile loop an embroidered patch has been made up by David and is awarded to those who run or hike the loop. This year Randy Davidson, Kathy Alstadt, Ann Moore and Lou completed the big loop. David is keeping a record of those who have done it and at present 70 names are on the Eagle Rock Loop Honor Roll. A day or two after the run Lou was talking to David about the weekend. Somewhere in the conversation he mentioned to Lou that no one had made two loops back to back. Now that was just like waving a red flag in front of a bull. Lou took the bait and is planning a two loop run sometime in the fall. I wish he hadn't of done that.

This July 4th brings to a close a running era. The Sportstop will close and with it goes the 20th and final running of the *FireCracker Fast 5 K*. The race started in 1977 as the Little Rock Roadrunner 7 Mile Championship. Organized by Gary Smith, Max Hooper, Otis Edge and Richie Heber, the run started and finished at the Cammack Village

fire station. This run is special to me because of all the runs I've volunteered for, this was my first. I still remember how anxious I was that I would do something wrong. Boy,..... things haven't changed much and I suspect that after the dust has settled in July, there will be a 4th of July race in Little Rock next year. I remember it like it was yesterday. We were at the Baptist Medical Center for a Little Rock Roadrunner meeting and President Edge called for volunteers to help with this new race. I remember him asking if anyone was injured. My hand went forward and they signed me up. Morning of the race Max took me aside and told me my job was to direct the 7 mile racers one way and the (I believe three mile fun runners) another. Max said that my job was "critical". He took me to my post and on the way I practiced what I was going to say. "7 mile racers left: 3 mile fun runners right." No screw ups! And, you remember from last month's AUR, I have a little trouble with time, directions and numbers. To make a long story short the first runners came and went, the second, third and forth. Runner after runner all properly dispensed. The frequency of the runners slowed but I knew not to leave my post. I waited and waited for that last runner. Waited and waited. Finally after I saw some of the last runners leaving in their cars, I decided I had better go back to the start/finish. When I arrived, everyone had gone. Lou was put out with me and said rather rudely, "Where have you been!" I tried to explain that I was waiting for the last runner. How was I to know when the last runner passed. Below is the clipping from the newspaper of that race 20 years ago. Recognize anyone?

## Baker Captures Roadrunner Race

Arkansas Democrat  
July 5th, 1977

Steve Baker of the University of Arkansas captured the overall title in the Little Rock Roadrunners 7-mile race at Cammack Village Monday.

Baker ran the distance in 37 minutes and 57 seconds. He also was competing in the 20-29 age bracket. Mark Galeazzi of Harding College was second at 39:36 and Walter Selkert finished third at 40:13.

Other division winners were: Ken Eubanks, 53:20, 15-and-under; Martin Fulk, 42:46, 16-19; Dick Dickens, 46:47, 30-39; Henry Hawk, 45:13, 40-49, and Eddie Rino, 55:15 in the 50 and over.

The top three women finishers were: Lou Payton, 50:33; Pat Wyatt, 51:03; and Holly Park, 54:57.

There were 67 participants in the seven mile race.

Clipped from 1977  
Little Rock Roadrunner Club Newsletter

An excellent turnout of racers and runners were present for the first annual Cammack Village 4th of July 7-Mile Championship Race and 3-Mile Fun Run last Monday morning with participants and sponsors calling the events huge successes! 34 runners entered the Fun Run and 67 finished the 7-Mile Race. Steve Baker led the male crowd with a 5:25 per mile average pace to finish and win the 7-Mile event and Lou Peyton was not too far behind him with her 7:13 pace and 50:33 finish. Following is a list of the 67 finishers and their unbelievable times. Congratulations to all who completed the race and many thanks to Ritchie Heber, Gary Smith, Max Hooper and everyone else who did such a great job planning and organizing the race. A special thanks to Rob Wiley and Channel 4 Sports for their excellent coverage of the race and fun run; to Finish Line Sports for the Championship T-Shirts; and to all who assisted at the two aid stations.

**ULTRA TRIVIA-** The first AURA member who can tell me the distance, place and Race Director of the 2nd 4th of July race(7-4-78) will win a Mexican dinner. Answer next month.

## 1997 ULTRA TRAIL SERIES

Another Ultra Trail Series is in the works. The 1997 version will begin August 10 with the Midnight 50K. 8:00 P.M.(evening) from the Ouachita TrailHead at Lake Sylvia. No entry or registration. Out and back course on Forest Service roads. Water about 4 miles apart and one stocked station at the turnaround where you can feast on moon pies, starlite mints and be serenaded by Wilson Pickett's *Wait Til The Midnight Hour*. Other TS runs will include the Arkansas Traveller, Albert Pike, White Rock Classic 50K, Sylamore 50K the Ouachita Trail 50 and the Whistlin' Dick 40K. "THE WHAT!". I thought this one up after the Widow Maker 15 Miler in May. It seems I'm thinking more and more of my upbringing in Vicksburg, Mississippi these days. Growing up around the Civil War battle field like I did I was rather jaded to the stories of the War and what they did to us. Like I said I've been thinking.....Vicksburg is a city on a bluff. A hilly town. In fact growing up in Vicksburg you were automatically nicknamed a "Hill Billie." because only a billie goat could make it up and down those hills and ravines. My father's place of business was between the bluff and the Yazoo Canal. On top of the bluff was Washington Street and there was a Gas Station on Washington Street run by Paul Pride that overlooked the Yazoo Canal. My Father and many others bought gas from that station. Mr. Pride came from Arkansas to Vicksburg to play on our local Cotton States League baseball team called the Vicksburg Billies. The name of the Gas Station was the "Whistling Dick". Behind the station was a walkway to an overlook where rested a replica of the most famous canon of the Siege of Vicksburg, the Whistling Dick. Civil War history books and old newspaper clipping wrote of the exploits of this famous canon that was feared by the Union Gunboats and cheered by the boys in Gray. At the time of the War, the Mississippi River made a wide turn north of the city and came down the full length of the front of the town. Union Gunboats were prevented from passing by the murderous fire from the canons that fired down on them from the bluffs. The Whistlin' Dick stood out not only because of the deadly fire it sent but also because its barrel was partially split by an overcharge. When it fired it made an Erie whistling sound that easily set it apart from the other canons. After the War the river changed its course and moved south leaving the City high and dry. Then in the early 1900's the Yazoo River which emptied into the Mississippi above the city was rerouted by the Corps of Engineers to the old Mississippi River bed by a long canal. Vicksburg was again on the water front. If you travel to Vicksburg don't make a mistake of referring to the Yazoo Canal as the Mississippi River. You'll look like a Yankee. Anyway..... We'll have at least one new run in the UTS this year-The Whistlin' Dick 40K. If I know AURA's we'll be calling it the WD-40 and no one will remember the historical significance of the event.

Mr. Nick called today and has another proposal for the trail series. September 14th 4:00 P.M.(evening) An Albert Pike double loop race(approx 55 miles) Run until completion or 4:00 P.M. Sunday the 15th. Two water stations and the start/finish area. Use existing trail markings. \$1.00 entry fee to qualify it for the RRCA Ultra Running Award. His suggestions for a name: Two Loop Lucy Barkley Marathon Run or I Peeked at the Albert Pike Run or End Of Summer Stroll, Soiree, Saunter Run or Only 46 Miles To Go Run. More details later.