

A LOOK BACK

'88 MARKS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

by Yvonne Aasen

VOLUME X on the cover of the Streak heralds a look back to review early issues of our club newsletter. Mike van Beuren is said to have every single issue preserved in bound volumes. The earliest one I have in my files is Fall, 1979. As I understand it, getting out a newsletter in the early days was a hit-or-miss thing, judging from the following quote:

NEWSLETTER DELAY? Sorry you haven't seen a Strider newsletter for a while. With the beginning of the fall and winter racing season most of the board members have been so busy training that it was hard to find time to write articles.



That was from the Fall, 1979, Annapolis Striders, as it was called. They didn't list the board of directors in that issue, but here they are from 1980: President, Ron Fisher; Vice President, Ben Moore; Secretary, Dottie Campbell; Treasurer, Mike van Beuren. Committee heads were: Race Director, Mike van Beuren; Publicity, Linda Fisher; Membership, Dick Hillman; Property/Awards, Rob Bushnell; Newsletter, John Kurpjuweit.

The newsletter changed hands for the December 1980 issue when a new staff of volunteers met in the Arundel Center. Alice Weathersbee was appointed editor because she had experience in the field. Bill Smith was in charge of layouts and graphics. Lee Turowski, Cathie Hall and myself were assistant editors. The Board of Directors had changed again: President, Dick Hillman; Vice President, Mike van Beuren; Secretary, Margit Eilers; Treasurer, Jayne Astle. Chairmen: Race/Runs, Don Waddington; Membership, Mike Long; Property/Awards, Rob Bushnell; Training/Clinics, Eric Peltosalo; Annapolis Run, Walt Eilers.

When Alice Weathersbee suffered burnout, we switched roles; she became an assistant and I, with fear and trembling, assumed the editor's role. Volume IV, Number 2, May 1982 was my first issue.

One of my favorite columns, "My Favorite Race," made its premier in the July, 1982 Streak. It was an account of the 1981 Annapolis 10-Mile Run written by Ken Martin, editor of The Rundown, the Virginia Beach Striders running club. It was interesting to see our race through the eyes of an out-of-towner as reprinted from their newsletter:

MY FAVORITE RACE

KUDOS FOR ANNAPOLIS 10-MILER [1981]

by Ken Martin

The sixth annual Annapolis 10-Mile Run was held Sunday, August 30. Several Tidewater Striders participated in the run, which began at 7:30 a.m. on a warm, muggy morning. The

course was almost completely different from the point-to-point course we ran last year. This solved the parking problem for those who parked at the start of last year's race. [The original course began in Severna Park and ended at the Navy/Marine Corps Stadium.]

This year, the course began and ended at the Naval Academy football stadium, where the parking, bathroom facilities, and concession areas were almost unlimited.

The first Annapolis 10-Miler was held in 1976 with only eight runners participating. This year, 1,422 of the 2,000 were able to finish the race. Temperatures throughout the race ranged in the 70s, with very high humidity (rain began just after the awards ceremony).

The race itself began with Annapolis Mayor Richard Hillman firing the starting gun. (He also joined us in the run and finished in a very respectable 69:37.) After leaving the football stadium, the course headed straight for the majestic state capitol in downtown Annapolis. After going around the Capitol building, we headed down the cobblestoned (watch your step!) Main Street to the restored old market area near the docks and the two-mile point. Next, we ran past the Naval Academy, although we couldn't see much of it because of a high stone wall (we would be able to get a much better view later while crossing the Severn River). At the 3-1/2 mile point we crossed the half-mile long Severn River Bridge, providing quite a sight to the crabbers and fishermen gathered along the bridge railings. Miles four through eight were run through pleasant residential neighborhoods. This part of the course was where the hills came into play. Near the four and the 7-1/2 mile points these short but steep hills severely tested most of the runners, who were already being weakened by the high humidity. After eight miles, we re-crossed the bridge and headed for home at the stadium.

Upon entering the stadium, we were greeted with the sight of a thirty-foot high bottle of Miller High Life in the center of the football field! Most of us knew the heat must be really getting to us by now, so we concluded it must be a mirage. It turned out to be real, though, as Miller supplied free beer after the race.

Free yogurt was also given, and each runner received running shorts for participating. We liked the Annapolis 10-Mile singlets given out last year better, but now we have a full running outfit.

Gary Siriano of Pittsburgh won the race by 52 seconds in a time of 48:59. Eleanor Simonsick of Cherry Hills, New Jersey, had an even easier time winning the women's division. Her 59:95 beat the second place woman by 2-1/2 minutes.

Congratulations to the Annapolis Striders on an excellent race. The numerous water stops were welcome and very necessary on this oppressive morning. Our only complaint was the lack of awards to the age groups and only one open award to the top runners. There were only six men's and five women's divisions, with awards to the top three (compared to top 15 at Lynchburg).

If you want to go next year, sign up early; entries closed June 1 this year.