

2022 HOA Race Report

By Kathy Lee

The 63rd Annual Heart of America Marathon and 3rd Annual Fun Team relay went off like a shot! Well, not really, and fortunately too. Every HOA has something which becomes a "Remember When. . . ?" discussion and 2022 was no exception. In the past there have been floods, trains, a rain delay, the starting pistol not firing (causing a "Well, ok, just GO!" moment), MU Security delaying the start for 10 minutes because of the "unruly?" mob gathering on Stadium Blvd at 6:00 a.m. and more.

The 2022 HOA was no exception. This time there was a six-minute start delay. As anxious runners waited and wondered, law enforcement officers already on scene responded to a report of a disturbance in the parking lot of a business just south of the Start line. After receiving the "All Clear" from law enforcement Thom Allen, Columbia Track Club Board Member, fired the starting pistol and the field was off!

Always of note for HOA is the weather and we were in for a treat this year! A mild for HOA start of 70 degrees warmed up to just 74 degrees by noon.

This break in the weather was welcome news to runners. **Joffroi Holcombe**, 36, of Ballwin, MO took advantage of the weather and was the first to cross the finish line in 2:50:57! Second place went to **Gregory Blomquist**, 44, Columbia, MO with 3:00:02, and **Takashi Murashita**, 43, Columbia MO rounded out the top three finishers with his 3:15:47. More on Takashi later. You'll want to read on to hear of this amazing HOA story.

The leaderboard for the women showed first place winner **Mariana Morales Quinones**, 39, Columbia MO, with 3:46:19, second place to **Angela Matlock**, 37, Bowling Green MO in 3:54:25, and third place to Megan Schulte, 27, Columbia MO with a close **3:54:38**.

In the Masters Class we had more outstanding performances. Starting with the women, we had **Dina Haskamp-Polson**, 56, of Glasgow MO bringing in first with 4:11:16.61, followed by **Mary Ellen Bradshaw**, 50, Columbia MO 4:20:20 in second. **Heather Cox**, 44, Columbia MO rounded out the Masters winners with her 4:27:39 for a strong third place finish. For the men, we saw **Kameron Shahid**, 40, all the way from Guilford, CT take home the prize with his 3:24:37. Second place went to **Todd Thompson**, 57, Columbia MO 3:25:08 and third to **Jaume Padilla**, 42, Columbia MO 42 in 3:34:13

Other notable performances included **Bill Smith**, 74, from Liberty Missouri. He broke the age record for 70+ with his outstanding 5:22:01 finish!

We had both our current HOA streak runners with us again this year. **Andy Emerson**, 53, completed his 19th consecutive HOA in 3:39:28 and **Mary Ellen Bradshaw**, 50, completed her 18th consecutive HOA in 4:20:30! Lou Fritz holds the record for 25 continuous HOA performances, but Andy and Mary Ellen are gaining on him!

We promised you a story about our 3rd place overall winner, Takashi Murashita. Shortly before Takashi was to finish, none other than **Larry Young** was spotted sitting in a chair near the finish line watching the finish line closely. HOA historians will remember that Larry Young has a strong HOA connection. Larry is an HOA veteran and much more! In addition to winning the Munich 1972 Olympics, bronze medal in the 50K Racewalking event, being a noted artist with many amazing sculptures to his credit to include the “Marathoners” at the park behind the Chamber of Commerce in Columbia, Larry also designed and made the original awards for the Schulte Award – HOA’s first specialty award which honors Dave Schulte who always emphasized your own personal improvement over winning a first prize. Race officials were happy to see Larry there and asked him why he was so intently watching the finish line. As it turns out, Larry had recently created two monumental sculptures for the Springfield Sculpture Walk in April and shortly thereafter started having some shortness of breath. Doctors found he needed heart surgery. Enter our 3rd place overall marathon finisher . . . Dr Takashi Murashita, a cardiac surgeon! Dr. Murashita had performed heart surgery on Larry Young just three weeks prior to HOA. Larry showed the race director a picture taken on the course. As Takashi ran by, Larry lifted up his shirt to display his scar so the doctor could check it out, and Larry was at the finish line to welcome his surgeon in.

Speaking of specialty awards . . . this is one of those areas that makes HOA, well, special.

The winner of the **Dave Schulte Award** this year went to **Matt Landis**, 33, of Columbia, Mo with his 3:44:19 performance – a 5.73% improvement over his previous HOA time. Dave Schulte was the first Secretary-Treasurer of CTC (1968-1973) until his untimely death from melanoma cancer at age 36. Dave always believed that a person should try to improve their own performance. Personal improvement was what he emphasized rather than being in first place. Normally, Dave Schulte’s widow, Joyce is present to present the award. This year, Joyce was very ill and has since passed. One of Dave and Joyce’s sons, Dennis, was on hand to present to award this year, showing once again the commitment that family and tradition has with HOA.

Next we have the **Schroeder Award** – named in honor of Joe Schroeder who was the first HOA winner back in 1960. This award is given to the runner who finishes first out of the field of people who are running HOA as their first marathon. This year **Clinton Stacy**, 29, took the honor with his 4:05:57 finish. Jay Schroeder was on hand to present this award in honor of his father. The Schroeder family has continued to be involved with HOA both with running the marathon and the relay! This is another great historic connection.

HOA’s newest specialty Award is the **Average Joe Award** and is in honor of Joe Duncan who served as HOA race director for 47 years in addition to being a long time CTC member and mentor. In his 80s now he still mentors the current race directors. Joe was always a very loyal

and faithful runner, but his running performance was usually average. He would often come in in the middle of the pack. Therefore, this award is given to the runner who comes in closest to the middle of the pack! Just think of trying to train to win this award! Impossible. The winner of this award receives a beat-up old lunch pail with a variety of average items inside. It could be a pair of socks, some batteries, a toothbrush, a crumpled \$20 bill and so forth. This year, **Liz Harris**, 36, Columbia, MO took home the prize with her time of 4:35:04.

This year, all three specialty award winners received a handcrafted glass heart made by HOA veteran and glass artisan, **Dan Heaviland**.

On to the 3rd Annual Fun Team Relay! Marathoners have said having the relay teams add a lot of good energy and support to the marathon. Relay teams love the camaraderie of sharing the experience with friends and family and being able to be a part of this historic community event. This is an event we hope will continue to grow and foster more community and fun! It also is helping some realize that maybe they *can* run a marathon . . . or a half.

Although this is a fun relay event, don't think there isn't still plenty of strong competition! The winners of the 2022 HOA Fun Team relay are below.

Dad Bod Squad - Columbia MO 2:48:16.38 Kermit Summerall, Ryan Hauser, Chris Lunn, Andrew Pelikan

This is Happening - Sedalia MO 3:36:07 – Millie Cavanagh, Skyler Rupard, Kim Ream, Karissa Logan

Alaska Auntie - Missouri - Fairbanks AK - 3:41:44 – Jane Lanford and Sadie Smith – Of note, Jane Lanford was our first marathoner from Alaska when she ran HOA in 2016. Jane also held the age 61 record at 4:18:53 until 2019. Sadie Smith won the women's division in the HOA marathon in 2020!

Speaking of participants from afar, up until this year, HOA had 48 of the 50 states represented. We were missing only Vermont and North Dakota. We are now proud to say that **Annaliese Baumer**, 45, of Winooski, Vermont is the first person to represent Vermont at HOA! Annaliese made Vermont proud with her 4:39:36 finish. Now, who knows someone in North Dakota to round us out in 2023?

None of this would be possible without our volunteers. As this event continues to grow, and the news spreads about this historic even right here in Columbia, MO we continue to expand our volunteer base and organizational structure. There are volunteer positions for all.

We also are so grateful to our community sponsors who help support all our runners and volunteers. More sponsors are coming on-line each year, and runners are enjoying all the many benefits. Please check out our sponsor page and let them know how grateful you are!

Once again, we partnered with the Mid-Missouri Fisher House. They provide outstanding volunteer support, and a portion of HOA proceeds goes to the building of the brand-new Mid-Missouri Fisher House in Columbia, MO! A Fisher House is like a Ronald McDonald House for military families with loved ones seeking care at a VA Hospital. You can find Fisher Houses nationwide, overseas and one being built next to the Truman VA Hospital.

HOA has history, stories, quirks and long-standing (some would say long-suffering) traditions (Hello Easley Hill)! Come be a part of it all in 2023 – run the marathon, form a team and run a leg, volunteer or come out to cheer!