

SARR Members,

Hold on to your running shoes. It's about to get busy. There are so many SARR running things to do in April that you should probably just keep spare running gear in your car at all times. Here we go:

April 3 – Zoo Run Kickoff and Spirit Night. It's back! Our weekly, Wednesday Night Zoo Run starts up again next week. This is a family-friendly, free, 2-mile Fun Run through Brackenridge Park. We will also be having SARR Spirit Night right after the run with discounts on upcoming races. The discounts are only available to those who show up for Spirit Night, so a great reason to attend the kickoff. More info [HERE](#).

April 6 – First Saturday Fun Run. Our monthly, free Fun Run is at McAllister Park. There will be a Kids Run, ½ mile, 1 mile, and 3 mile runs. More info [HERE](#).

April 13 – Fiesta Mission 5K, 10K, 2-Mile Fun Run/Walk and Kids Run. This is an official Fiesta event. Come for the fun. Come for the race. Come for the cool [MEDAL](#). Registration info [HERE](#).

April 13 – Walk to Run 5K Training Program. Registration for our Spring Program is now open. Do you know someone who wants to start running or wants to get back to running after a long break? If so, then send them this link [HERE](#).

April 27 – Pick Up the Pace Program. Looking to get a little faster? Need help getting back in the groove after all the Fiesta events? Join us for the Pick Up the Pace Training program. Also, we currently have a discount if you sign up for this program and our Fall Half/Full Marathon program at the same time. More info [HERE](#).

April 27 – King William Parade. Some of your fellow SARR members will be marching in the King William Fair Parade in the morning. If you go to the Parade, look for the SARR banner and all the runners wearing lederhosen. More info [HERE](#).

April 27 – Fiesta Fandango. I'm not even going to try to describe this race. Just ask someone who has been or read my story at the bottom. One of the nation's most unique races. More info [HERE](#).

May 4 – May the 4th Be With You. Need one more excuse to run in a costume? Start May off with a run that's out of this world. More info [HERE](#).

Your Vote Really Does Count. Your club, your Board, your chance to participate in the process. SARR is accepting nominations for the SARR Board positions of President, VP Membership, and Director of Racing, plus some non-board positions. Info on submitting a nomination can be found [HERE](#).

Fandango Fiasco. For the past 6 years or so, I have had the honor of setting up the start line for the SARR Fandango race. *Have you ever participated in the Fandango race?* Well, let me see if I can describe it. Most of the runners are in costume. Not just a cape and mask but full-on, elaborate costumes. And many are in teams (all animals or all nerds or all characters from Star Wars, etc.). It's basically Halloween in April. The runners are all lined up in the middle of Broadway near The Pearl.

Up ahead, for the next 2.6 miles, is the crowd. This is not your ordinary crowd. This is 200,000-300,000 partially inebriated, ready-to-party, loud, bring-your-own-cooler, fiesta-hat-wearing crowd. They are lined up on chairs, on cars, on stands, on buildings, and take up every square inch along the parade route, which for about 30 minutes is also the Fandango course route.

Before the race I do my best to keep the runners behind an imaginary line on Broadway while we wait for the police to give us the go ahead, which is usually about 15 minutes longer than we anticipated. When we finally get the thumbs up, I hop in the back of the lead pickup-truck, which is fronted by 4 motorcycle cops. Our race director, Deb, gives the On-Your-Mark-Get-Set-Go command, then all hell breaks loose.

The cops take off, sirens wailing, and the truck tries to follow close behind, which is difficult because people keep crossing the parade route in front of us as they head to their designated parade-watching spot. So, there is a lot of stop-starting, all the while we are trying to stay ahead of the runners who are *sprinting* behind us. While that's going on, Deb and I are tossing out bundled t-shirts to the crowd.

Man, do people love free t-shirts. They are screaming and jumping up and down with their hands in the air as we toss our shirts as far as we can into the crowd. *YOU get a shirt and YOU get a shirt and YOU get a shirt.* I try to spot the person I want to have a shirt then toss a rainbow shot in their direction. I'm fairly accurate and about half the time the right person gets the shirt. But a few years ago, I made a big mistake.

I saw a kid of about 7 years old standing on a chair waving at the truck. *YOU get a shirt,* I said to myself and floated one his way, a nice high-arching toss. But I missed. Badly. Instead of landing into the waiting arms of the kid. It hit a lady two rows back holding a full beer. Just creamed her. The beer went flying, most of it landing on her. "*Sorry*" I screamed while trying not to laugh. But her boyfriend wasn't laughing. He screamed a few words of his own then tossed a few empty chairs out of his way and started chasing the truck and pointing at me. *Oh crap, I'm about to die.* He was actually passing some of the runners and gaining on the truck. Then the truck comes to a stop because somebody darts in front of us and I'm thinking...*I'm going to die right here in front of all these people.* The truck started up again but the boyfriend was getting close enough that I could hear exactly what he was shouting and it wasn't "*Happy Fiesta*". Thankfully he was wearing cowboy boots and he started to fade and then he finally stopped and bent over to catch his breath or throw-up or something. I'm not sure because I yelled at our driver to step on it and the boyfriend was suddenly lost in the crowd.

Every year since then I duck in the back of the truck whenever we get to that spot on the route. I know he's out there somewhere. I think I'll let Deb do all the tossing this year.

Scott Peacock
President, SARR