

SARR Members,

I was at McAllister Park a few Saturdays ago and counted 942 people in the park of which 455 were SARR members (*numbers are approximate*). That could mean only one thing... *SARR Training is back in action!* There's still time to join the fun for the upcoming Fall season. Here's what's happening in SARR world:

Last Call of the Wild. This is your absolute last chance to sign-up for the **Off-RoadRunner Trail Training Program**. The team already has a few runs under their water belt but it's not too late. Run with Nature, Run with SARR. Signup [HERE](#).

I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends. As Paul McCartney once sang, *The long and winding road that leads to your door (finish line)...* starts with SARR! Start your journey down that road in the **SARR Fall 10K/Half/Full Training** program. We already have 400 registrants. This program will sell out like it has in previous years. [Signup](#) now if you want in.

Oh Wine, How I Love Thee. Join us at the 25th annual **Labor Day Whine Run!** Enjoy a scenic course through the beautiful Texas Hill Country followed by the best-ever after party at the Winery. Food/Drink & Dry Comal Creek wines served under majestic oaks at the Vineyard. Prices increase 8/15. Register [HERE](#).

Certified. SARR would like to welcome a new class of RRCA certified coaches. We have added another 25 coaches to bring the total to 61. Most will be helping this fall as coaches, mentors, and the many other roles needed to put on our training programs. Welcome and Congratulations!

Club of the Month. The Rock-n-Roll Marathon Series has named SARR the national running club of the month! Check out their article [HERE](#). You may even see yourself in one of their pictures of the club.

Our Mission. The SARR Board felt it was time we put the club's mission statement in writing. The club has always been focused on offering races and training programs to serve our local running community. We are dedicated to the promotion of running for physical fitness, fellowship and fun. Now we have one phrase that summarizes our mission: **Improving Lives Through Running.** We will work hard to live up to those words.

First Person. Remember as a kid when you used to play outside? (*I'm talking to anyone born before 2000, since kids born in the new millennium rarely play outside and think "roughing it" is having to watch regular TV instead of Netflix.*) Remember what it felt like to find a new tree to climb or ride your bike one block farther away than your mom said you could? That feeling of a new adventure. That feeling of not knowing what was coming next but excited in what you might find.

That's kind of how it felt when I happened upon a new running trail a few months ago. Yes! A new running trail in San Antonio! Well, it's not a real trail yet, but it soon will be. The Salado Creek Greenway has been extended from Huebner to 1604. That's not news. That paved section of trail has been there for about 6 months and even has a parking lot right off 1604 now. BUT, curiosity got the best of me and I kept running past the parking lot, under the 1604 bridge, and... there it was. The virgin cleared path of a new trail. (*insert angels singing*)

I know this trail has been planned for several years to connect Salado Creek Greenway to Eisenhower Park, but I guess I never thought they would actually do it. The bulldozers must have just finished. I couldn't resist. I headed down the path. It was wonderful. Big trees on one side and a sheer limestone wall on the other. It weaved alongside the creek and behind new neighborhoods. (*I'm sure those new homeowners thought they would have all that nature to themselves as they looked out their back window on closing day. Ha!*) It is going to be a great trail when it opens to the public.

I kept thinking to myself as I was running, "*I may be the first human ever on this trail.*" Then, I saw a guy on a mountain bike up ahead. So, I revised my thought, "*I may be the first human to ever run on this trail.*" Then after another half-mile I saw two kids playing on a pile of mulch and a young couple wearing backpacks. So, I settled for, "*I may be one of the first hundred people on this trail.*" I guess this new, secret trail was not really a secret, but it was still exciting to me.

The trail ran near some powerlines, then down an old ranch road and up along the fence at Camp Bullis. It ended at a large gate at the back of an abandoned quarry. But the trail appeared to continue just beyond the gate. *Hmmm*. A smart person would have turned around at that point. But the kid in me couldn't resist the gap I saw in the fence. So I squirmed through and kept going and after a few hundred more yards I ran right into it - Eisenhower Park. Adventure done.

Since the beginning of the Howard Peak Greenway system, this new trail has been marked by a dotted line on the map with the label "*Future Trail*". Well, I have seen the future and it looks swell.

Scott Peacock

President, SARR