



San Antonio RoadRunners

San Antonio, TX

Hello SARR Members,

We are about to wrap up 2023, and what a great 50th year we had! This club continues to thrive within the community, and I have no doubt that will continue for many years to come. We make San Antonio look good! We have such great members and volunteers that help make this club special, and I am grateful to be a part of it.

2023 was a memorable year and we had so many remarkable things happen. Our training programs from the Winter to the Fall were fantastic! Congratulations to all of you who joined one of these programs whether it be road or trail, and I hope you've signed up for 2024! The Winter programs are getting warmed up and begin on January 6th. Every year I think we have the best training season and then we end up getting even better the next year! I would be remiss if I did not mention our outstanding Walk2Run and Kids Run SARR training programs. All our training programs are certainly improving lives.

We held the **Inaugural Great Greenway Marathon Relay** in 2023 and I can say without a doubt it was a huge success! The 2024 race is only about 5 weeks away so get your team together and get signed up.

2023 marked the 20th Annual SARR Prickly Pear with the 50K being selected as a Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) Southern Region Championship Race. To follow that up, the **2024 Prickly Pear 50K** has been selected as an **RRCA National Championship Race**. This is special!

Other notable things:

We continued our free **Monthly Fun Runs** throughout the year primarily at McAllister Park, but we also branched out to other locations in the underserved areas of the city. We look to continue this in 2024.

Our **SARR Adopt-A-Park** program is going strong with a lot of trash picked up to keep our trails clean. We also held multiple shoe and clothing drives for Street2Feet, aiding those less fortunate.

Our free **Zoo Runs** were in action from April through October and that crew had to overcome challenges with extreme temperatures and construction in the Zoo area to keep that Wednesday run going safely.

We had a great **Global Running Day** event with a free 5K to encourage physical fitness in the community.

SARR was selected as one of the first ever running clubs to receive a coaching scholarship fund grant from the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA).

In July, we were so fortunate to have Al Becken, one of our founding members come out and accept an award "Celebrating our 50 years of running and building community in San Antonio" from the RRCA President, George Rehmet. He is very impressed with the San Antonio RoadRunners.

We made various donations to different local nonprofit organizations to ensure SARR remains a positive force in promoting physical fitness within the community.

December started off with the **San Antonio Rock n Roll** and I will say, what a great accomplishment for so many of our members. Hopefully all that training had you prepared. If you ran the RnR (any distance), I

offer you a big congratulations! We had so many people participate and had some great cheering squads out on the course. The Rock n Roll folks offer great support to our club, I sure enjoy our run club village. Once again, SARR served as the official Pace Team for the Rock n Roll, and we sure took care of business in our bright orange shirts!

Right after that was our **SARR Santa Antonio** and that was sure a fun time! I was impressed by all the Santas and other wild characters out there running the streets of San Antonio! Also, a big shout out goes to our Santa and Mrs. Claus! This event was extra special for me as I had my two Granddaughters out there participating. I am really hoping to make them runners.

Finally, earlier this month, the **Mayor's Fitness Council** recognized SARR with a 2023 Community Impact Award "In recognition of 50 years of leading San Antonio to a more active community." Of note, the Mayor's Fitness Council endorsed all our 2023 races, and we are shooting to get all our programs MFC endorsed in 2024.

So, what's next? Well get signed up for some of our impressive 2024 training programs and races we have coming up! I will mention that the **SARR Mission Run** is the club's oldest race, with the first one held in 1974. That means 2024 will be the 50th year of the SARR Mission Run! Pretty cool. All the information on our Training Programs and Races can be found on our website [HERE](#).

I could go on and on about the club, but I will leave you with this, let's keep this awesome club going strong for the next 50 years!

I hope each of you and your loved ones are having a wonderful holiday season. SARR and the countless friendships and memories it has given Kathy and I, are true blessings in our lives.

Take care and happy New Year!

Keith Click
President, SARR