

Wildflower Run March 17

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A weekend at a beach condo is the grand prize awaiting the winners of the AAUW Women's Wildflower Run March 17.

The race will start at Watsonville Road and Santa Teresa Boulevard. American Association of University Women is organizing the 2K, 5K, and 10K event, co-sponsored by Long's Drugstore.

The running will begin at 10 A.M. following registration from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M. For early registration call 779-0981 or 779-6910. President Ruth Farwell urges women and girl runners of all ages to compete. Proceeds support scholarships.

According to Marilyn Gadway, chairperson, runners will receive T-shirts with a wildflower logo. Awards will go to overall winners and the top three winners in each age category.

At work on preparations are Barbara Bayless, in charge of sponsors; Sylvia Brady, invitations; Kathryn Buckley-Brawner, awards and T-shirts; Kae Jenny-Spencer, registration; Kate Maney, ads and publicity; and Kathy Sass, course and facilities. Other AAUW members will assist at the run site.



Wildflower logo

AAUW women inspect the wildflower logo that will appear on the T-shirts presented to all Wildflower Run contestants March 17.

Looking at the log are Barbara Bayless, left, Kathy Sass, Kae Jenny-Spencer, Sylvia Brady and chairperson Marilyn Gadway.



235 runners set out to visit wildflowers

The Morgan Hill Branch, American Association of University Women, took its first plunge into sponsoring an all-female run - which consisted of 2 kilometers, 5 kilometers

and 10 kilometers. An estimated 235 runners, in various age groups, participated in the Wildflower Run which started on Santa Teresa Boulevard. The route was through

hills on Hayes Lane and East San Martin. The route of the race are available in the sports

In first Wildflower Run

Women set own pace

March 17 served as a red-letter day in the history of women's running in South Santa Clara Valley. The 1984 Wildflower Run attracted 217 women to participate in one or the other of the three races that started simultaneously near the corner of Watsonville Rd. and Santa Teresa in Morgan Hill.

Women's racing has truly come of age in this part of Santa Clara Valley. After 15 years of taking part in co-ed events, local and area women had a road race of their very own.

March 17 may have been St. Patrick's Day, but for local spectators and participants the main event was a first-hand view of the tremendous upsurge in women's races.

Within the past three years, women's events have been held in every metropolitan area of the United States but it took the Morgan Hill Chapter of the American Association of University Women to clearly demonstrate that rural areas could also attract a fine group of competitive women.

The Wildflower Run succeeded in spite of the fact that many area women had committed themselves to competing in last Sunday's *San Jose Mercury* 10K. Notably, 7,000 runners took to the streets in San Jose.

Of this total 1,500 were women, some of whom would have opted to drive to Morgan Hill and race Saturday if all the fanfare and hoopla had not attracted them like a magnet to the metro race.

The Wildflower Run made an auspicious start in its initial year even though a number of local women running veterans could not attend because of injuries or other commitments.

Joanne Hall and Judy Quintana had suffered injuries prior to the race. Isabel Rivas and Irene Ynunza did not make the races for other reasons.

Nevertheless, the influence of these women and others who have participated regularly over the years in local runs was felt on Saturday. The seeds of success had been planted much earlier by Eleanor Villareal and others who have taken time to lead and organize road races.

Kudos must also be given to the American As-



Strandberg
...on way to 10K win

Bill Flodberg



sociation of University Women, which promoted, organized and administered the three races.

The races started right on schedule to the embarrassment of two runners who come to the starting line a few minutes late.

A few of the finish clerks panicked when the timers did not arrive at the finish line until two or three minutes before the first 5K women crossed the line. But true to university tradition, these women were organized by department and no one let down the others.

The timers, prize givers and registrants all came through with flying colors. The windblown but triumphant runners appreciated their efforts and only had good words to say about the races.

After standing around and chatting for 15 minutes prior to the starting time instead of warming up, the athletes got down to serious business once the races began.

Leticia Ancheta led all of the women entrants in the 2K with a time of 7:51 to easily win the youth division as well as the race itself. Christine Helms came in second in the race and first in the open division.

The more serious runners chose to compete in either the 5 or the 10K events. Lori Medlau led 95 women to the finish of the race and in the process won the open division with a time of 20:38. Sue Frances clocked in at 21:00 flat to win the sub-master's division while race veteran Diane Bromstead came in third overall and first in the master's division.

Christine Strandberg led all participants in the 10K with a time of 42:04 over the windy and hilly San Martin course. Donn Troyna took second overall and first in the sub-masters division while Liz Applegate won the open division (Christine Strandberg entered the youth division).

Jeanne Spencer, who directed the race for the Morgan Hill Chapter of the American Association of University Women, was extremely pleased with the turnout.

"All in all, we did very well for the first time out," she summed up. Many area women will surely agree.

Bill Flodberg is a teacher and running enthusiast.



Dispatch photo by Evan Yee

Wildflower Run

It was an all-woman affair Saturday in Morgan Hill when 217 runners took off on what the American Association of University of Women

chapter organizers hope will be an annual event. First across the finish line in the 5K was Lauri Medlen at 20:49. She was followed by Sue Fran-

cis at 21:11 and Diane Bromstead at 21:12. Lati-sha Ancheta was tops in the 2K at 7:51. Christine Strandber captured the AAUW division in 42:04.