

8th Annual Snowflake Trail 50k
Saturday December 3, 2005
Write Up and Results
Dennis R. Hamrick Jr., Race Director

The 8th Annual Snowflake 50k was a great success. When a race is complete and no one has been hurt and you make \$1, it's a good day.

A field of 55 started the race. Some runners wanted to only run half of the run thinking that they would not be able to finish. Not surprising, just the opposite happened. 44 runners finished the 2 loop course. Of the 11 that did not continue after 15.5 miles, only 4 had intentions of stopping.

Rainer Koch from Delaware {via Germany} led from start to finish. His 1 hour, 41 minute first loop set the stage for Bill Butcher, Jeff Jordan and Rick Bowman to battle for second. At the finish, Rainer Koch clocked in at 3 hours, 46 minutes and 40 seconds. Bill Butcher placed second in a time of 4 hours, 8 minutes and 2 seconds {2 minutes faster than his winning time of 4:10:10 last year}. Jeff Jordan came in 3rd place with a very good time of 4 hours, 23 minutes and 58 seconds.

On the women's side, Sharon Marks crossed the line in a time of 5 hours, 17 minutes and 12 seconds. Her time would have been quicker, but Sharon visited the #1 aid station twice. Early in the morning, Sharon lost a contact and had a bit of a directional problem. Second place on the day for the women was Anita Finkle at 5 hours, 51 minutes and 30 seconds. Anita finished with her husband Jay. Jay's time was the same as they crossed together {Jay and Anita met at the Frosty 50k in North Carolina}. Rounding out the women's field was Susan Hall in 6 hours, 10 minutes and 49 seconds.

The Male Masters winner was Jim Harris {4 hours, 47 minutes and 20 seconds}. The Female Masters winner was Rosemary Evans {6 hours, 54 minutes and 27 seconds}.

The runner that winner Rainer Koch was the second fastest Snowflake 50k. Will Harlan ran 3 hours, 42 minutes and 35 seconds in December of 2001. The conditions were good for all the runners with temperatures in the 20's at the start.

The biggest thrill for an ultra runner is that first ultra finish. The 8th running of the Snowflake was the 1st finish for 11 runners. In the results, there is an asterisk next to the first time runners.

Volunteers are race director's best friends. No other sport can you find people willing to give up 10 hours on a cold day for the promise of a tee shirt and some pizza. But everyone out there knows that the volunteers love ultras. The runners thank the volunteers like no other venue. That's what is special about ultras.

Thanks to all the participants and a special thank you to Mary Anne {my best friend & wife}, John Sheets {good friend, financial helper and training partner}, Glenn Jarrell {course marking and all around good egg}, Steve & Sandy Childress, Jerry & June Hicks, Steve & Missy Marshall, John Henley, Jon Teets, John Boredman & the Charleston Area HAM Radio Operators.

Results of the 8th Annual Snowflake Trail 50k

*1st Ultra

1. Rainer Koch, 25, 3:46:40, Germany -1st Place Male
2. Bill Butcher, 41, 4:08:00, West Virginia- 2nd Place Male
3. Jeff Jordan, 47, 4:23:58, West Virginia – 3rd Place Male
4. Rick Bowman, 35, 4:26:27 West Virginia
5. Wilson Gorrell, 38, 4:47:20 Maryland
6. Jim Harris, 41, 4:47:20 Ohio, Male Masters Winner
7. Ian Custer, 29, 4:55:44 West Virginia
8. Jerry Bostic, 44, 5:01:38 West Virginia
9. Corey Volz, 34, 5:09:33 Ohio*
10. Pedro Sanchez, 48, 5:11:40 West Virginia*
11. Tim Deer, 41, 5:16:30 West Virginia*
12. *Sharon Marks*, 47, 5:17:12, West Virginia, 1st Place Female
13. Randy Jacinto, 33, 5:31:27 North Carolina
14. Tom Dannals, 46, 5:36:03 West Virginia*
15. Lew McGrath, 43, 5:41:04 West Virginia
16. Gombabu Combs, 38, 5:45:53 Ohio
17. Joe Triglio, 40, 5:48:20 Pennsylvania
18. Milton Webb, 49, 5:50:50 West Virginia
19. Graham Zollman, 57, 5:50:59 Virginia
20. *Anita Finkle*, 39, 5:51:50, Virginia, 2nd Place Female
21. Jay Finkle, 49, 5:51:50, Virginia
22. Tom Smith, 43, 5:55:54 Connecticut
23. Gary Hemelgarn, 55, 6:10:40 Ohio
24. *Susan Hall*, 43, 6:10:49, West Virginia, 3rd Place Female
25. Randy Wright, 47, 6:10:49 West Virginia*
26. Eric Mitchell, 42, 6:10:49 West Virginia
27. Joe Fowler, 32, 6:10:49 West Virginia*
28. Rick Workman, 32, 6:10:49 West Virginia*
29. Bruce McMurray, ??, 6:21:18 Ohio
30. Tom Morris, 44, 6:22:00 West Virginia
31. Mike Keller, 22, 6:22:55 West Virginia
32. Dave Huffman, 41, 6:23:10 West Virginia*
33. Doug Craigo, 50, 6:23:41 West Virginia
34. Joseph Wright, 51, 6:25:33 Kentucky
35. Karl Gruber, 54, 6:32:28 Ohio
36. Steve Bush, 51, 6:32:28 Ohio

37. William Barnette, 35, 6:46:28 West Virginia
38. John Walker, 41, 6:47:32 West Virginia*
39. *Stacy Aulick*, 36, 6:47:43 West Virginia*
40. Torin Walters, 42, 6:47:41 West Virginia*
41. Anthony Mitchell, 35, 6:51:00 West Virginia*
42. *Rosemary Evans*, 52, 6:54:27, Kentucky, Female Masters Winner
43. Rob Apple, 44, 7:09:20 Tennessee
44. Wesley Fenton, 44, 7:09:20 Ohio
45. Jerry Cochran, 54, 7:35:50 West Virginia
46. Harry Bruner, 50, 7:48:23 West Virginia