



Elvis Had Left the Building

And we know where he was on Sunday, November 16th. Two of “him” were seen running the streets in the Alamo City. You just never know who you’ll see at an event this magnitude. San Antonio’s first Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon also revealed several Supermans, a Super Gal, Mr. and Mrs. Clause, and even Governor Rick Perry.

According to the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon website results, 41,592 runners (24,559 marathoners and 17,033 half-marathoners) participated in six categories: Marathon, Half-marathon, Military (full and half) and four Wheelchair athletes (3 full and 1 half). The Base Challenge comprised 1,865 runners from Fort Sam Houston, 2,290 from Lackland AFB, and 3,830 from Randolph AFB. Twelve thousand runners were from the San Antonio area.

All 50 states and Washington D.C. were represented, as well as 18 countries – (I’m missing two) Kenya, Ethiopia, Romania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Panama, Canada, Italy, Germany and as far away as Australia for this Olympic-qualifying event. The first male to cross the marathon finish line was Meschack Kirwa from Kenya with a time of 2:14:36, and the first female, Nuta Oлару from Romania, came in with a time of 2:28:54 and San Antonio’s own Lisa Hunter Galvan took second place with 2:29:37 in the women’s division. Half Marathon winners were: Brian Sell from Detroit at 1:02:50 and Melissa White from Rochester Hills, Michigan, at 1:13:05.

Although the temperature had dropped to 34 degrees on race morning, we had a chamber of commerce day with sunshine, low humidity and 67 degrees by Sunday afternoon. That was wonderful news for our ten sag drivers (Byron **W8SYD**, Norm **AD5EF**, Curtis **KE5HDL**, Danny **WA5KRP**, Don **N1YH**, Lisa (non-licensed), Charlie **KC5NKK**, Lee **N5NTG** and David **KD5MTJ**, and Stan **KD5ZSY**) who were positioned at eight of the numerous medical stations along the route. Medical teams and sag drivers would most certainly have been extremely busier had temperatures been 15 degrees warmer and 80% humidity. As it was, very few serious medical emergencies presented themselves and these teams, strategically stationed throughout the course, easily and professionally handled situations as they arose.



Photo by Jerry Lara/Express-News

David **W5QS**, at the start line, was our first net control and took early check-ins as radio operators arrived at their sites. There was a ten minute delay as the race was about ready to start when it was noted that busses carrying 400 runners were having difficulty getting them to the start line. These runners had trained so hard and come from so far that all efforts were made to accommodate them. David finally gave us the countdown, the start gun went off, and operators started clock timers at 25 mile markers (Pat **AD5BR**, Don **W5DK**, Terry **K5ADF**, Benny **NU5P** and Pat **KD5UXR**, Ned **KG5US**, Ed **N5LVQ**, Bob **K5AUW**, Dwight **N5TCS**, Charles **WA3PAY**, Andrew **KD5NNN**, Dale **KB5YSJ** and Linda



Meschack Kirwa at Mile 25



Nuta Oлару at Mile 25



Start Line photo by W5QS

KC5QPQ, Lothar **K5LEH** and Erlene **K5DEH**, Milton **N5HMJ** and Meghann **KE5KDR** and **Kathy**, Ray **AE5HN**, Lew **KD5MSW**, John **K5PBR** and Dottie **W7PBR** and Garnet **KE5WRI**, Mary Ann **N5MYN**, Lars **KK5V**, Chuck **WB5FWI** and Andrew **KE5WUU**, Barry **W5BLH**, Gordon **K5SUZ**, Gary **K5GST**, Charlie **W5BRC** and Barbara **KA5RLF** and Charles **KD5EXS**, and Teri **KC5BJI**.

Greg **KD5BVG** (backed up by Shane **NS5D**) then assumed net control duties while operating in the San Antonio Fire Department's Mobile Command bus and efficiently kept things progressing throughout the remainder of the day for our team of 44 radio operators (and two unlicensed volunteers).

Things went so seamlessly that, other than the fact that runners just kept coming and coming and coming, operations for us went very much like previous years. But this event was so large separate teams were utilized in multiple spheres; we were not tasked with handling supplies or shadowing key organizers as in years past. Street closures have always been an obstacle to overcome, but routing plans worked extremely well and runners unable to make it to the finish line were safely returned to the Alamodome in an expedient manner.

This was the largest inaugural Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in the entire country. It took a huge team of radio operators to help make this happen for our city. **YOU SHOULD BE PROUD** of your accomplishments! Thank you for your time, skills, dedication and perseverance to help make this event such a roaring success. It's now in the history books, and you helped make it happen.

Teri Thomas, **KC5BJI**

Sources: <http://www.rnrsa.com/>,
<http://www.mysanantonio.com/> and *The San Antonio Express-News*

p.s. From Peter Douglass with Elite Racing, Inc. - "Hi Teri. Thanks again for stellar effort on Sunday. You and Charlie and your whole team are awesome. ... Mark your calendar for November 15, 2009! Peter"

(Article photos by **KC5BJI** unless otherwise noted. We'll be putting more of your photos on the club's web site as they come in.)



Corral 1 photo by **W5QS**