
What's Afoot?



A Newsletter for The Stevens Creek Striders Running Club
www.stevenscreekstriders.org

February 2005

President's Message

by Peggy McLeod

Hello fellow Striders!

Winter is definitely upon us with a mixture of the wet stuff and those beautiful, sunny California winter days! Be sure to come out Saturday mornings to run as a group is always out there ready to hit the trails, rain or shine...what hardy folks!

The annual Holiday Party was an enjoyable evening, complete with a slide show, festive music, good food and drink, raffle prizes and an entertaining White Elephant Gift exchange (anyone need a good extra large size rain suit or a fine pair of giraffe coffee mugs?!). Congratulations to all of the Big L award recipients: "Strider of the Year"--Jean Pommier, "Most Improved"--Amanda Williams and Penny Beeston, "Athletic Achievement"--Michelle Cline and Mark William, "Volunteers"--Peter Hargreaves and Peggy McLeod. Jean was actually nominated in all four categories, deservedly so! Special thanks to Paul Rodrigues's wife for providing the beautiful table center pieces, Steve Reagan for providing the fine tunes of festive nature, Tom Kaisersatt for purchasing some nice wines to go with dinner, Michael Dhuey and Jean Pommier for their wonderful slide show and video, and to the Board members, particularly our Social Director Bill Jones who worked especially hard, for all of their efforts to make the Holiday Party a success.

As for current events, the club is in the process of obtaining a "Use Permit" through the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District. We were notified in January that because we offer organized runs as a club on our Strider's website, we need to have a use permit. This includes the Tues./Thurs. runs at Rancho which start in April with the time change.

In the past, we have had good relationships with both Stevens Creek County Park and the MPROSD, and the Board is working to keep this in place.

Conversations with their representative Kathleen Hart have gone well and our permit is being processed. If you have questions about this issue, please email me and I'll be happy to answer them as I can.

Be on the look-out for a few new Strider's events (no permit required, I don't think!) to be posted on our website. I'm going to keep you in suspense until the details are firmed up at the next Board Meeting, scheduled for Monday evening, February 7th at Gumba's Pizza Parlor in Cupertino. Anyone is welcome to attend!

See you on the trails!

Peggy



Thank You!

Stevens Creek Striders would like to thank these businesses for their generous donations to the Striders 2004 Holiday Party



21267 Stevens Creek Blvd, suite #311,
Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 446-5511



21267 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 255-6010



In Memory of Al Morotti

by Bob Downs

Al Morotti, a long-time Strider, died on December 4, 2004 at the age of 81. Here are some of my memories of Al and some history, based on anecdotes he told me. I'm sure many of you have memories too.

I first remember Al running with the Striders around 1985, when we were still starting at DeAnza College and the typical run was up to Stevens Creek Dam and back, about 6 miles. Al was older than most of us and had run several marathons before he joined the club. He worked at Watkins-Johnson and had gotten several other WJ people into running, including John Guarino. We waited at the dam for everyone to arrive before starting back and Al was usually the last to arrive. He had a consistent pace and strong lungs. He could 'go the distance.'



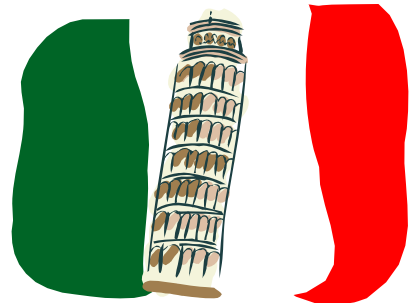
When Al turned 65 and retired from WJ - it must have been 1988 - he hosted a party at his house on Lancer St. The pool and hot tub were packed with Striders and family. This was his 65th birthday party and it became an annual event, with a first annual 65th birthday party, the second annual, and so forth. This went on for many years, including one party where Al had gone into the hospital a few days earlier and talked to everyone at his house by phone.

As Al's knees began to give him trouble (as most of ours eventually do) he took up biking. In 1995, he and John Felde signed up for a bike ride across Italy, ten days with a support vehicle to carry the bags. When my fortunes took a turn for the better I joined them. It was a trip that I will always remember. Each day we rode 35 to 65 miles and ended in another small Italian town, generally at the top of a long and steep hill, and had a long and leisurely Italian dinner with lots of red wine. In Al's opinion, 'if it isn't red, it isn't wine.' Al was 72 years old, the oldest rider in the group of 12 or so, but he rode every day except the last one, when it poured rain.

I remember one lunch in a trattoria in the middle of Italy. There were two women, sisters, at the counter. We ordered wine and sandwiches from one of them and, when she later walked by our table, Al said, "Bella Gama!" which caused her to smile and walk over and talk with him. Later Al told us that meant 'nice legs.' and she had thanked him but said her sister's were better.

What made the trip most memorable for me and I believe for Al, was what we did after the ride. Al's father and mother were born in a small town in Tuscany and Al wanted to visit this town and see the Morotti homestead. We started out in a rented car in Rome and worked our way north over several days to Sienna and Lucca and finally to Capella. Al was practicing his Italian as we drove.

The sign for Capella pointed to a small side road leading up a mountain. We followed it for a mile coming to a church and cemetery. Checking the gravestones we found several Morottis buried there. We proceeded up the mountain on a dirt road until we saw a young woman gardening. It happened that she spoke English and she told us to talk to Mario. He would know where the Morotti's home was. We drove up to a centuries old farmhouse on the hillside and got out. After a few minutes Mario came out. He was a small ruddy man with sinewy muscles, eighty years old. When Al told him his name Mario's face lit up and a long conversation began. Mario pointed across the hill to another house and said Morotti, rolling his r's. Then he took us into the house, showed us his large musty barrels of wine, pointed to his olive oil



shed and brought us to the kitchen and poured us each a glass of wine. The floor was black and white tile, There were Christmas lights hanging along the wall (even though it was August). There was a crucifix on the wall and a shotgun in the corner. Mario and Al talked quite a while in Italian.

Later we drove past the old 'Morotti' house. It was owned by two doctors now and we had to peer at it through holes in a fence. But, this was enough for Al.

Al grew up in Colfax, California, near Auburn. His first name was Angelo because 'he had a face like an angel,' but he didn't want anyone to know. He joined the Navy when World War II started but he had to get his father to sign a paper to let him join. Since his father couldn't read English, Al got him to sign it, by telling him it said something else.

Al spent twenty years in the Navy in the Pacific and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He then went to work for WJ and was working there when he started running and joined the Striders.

Al left two sons, several grandchildren and a

lot of friends. We will all remember him



Your thought please!!

An old, dear friend of the club passed away recently, and we thought it would be good to have a memorial event in Al Morotti's honor. Since he liked to run and cycle, I thought we might try a Run and Ride competition. We are looking for suggestions about how to organize one of these, so if anyone reading this has experience with Run and Rides, please pipe up with any suggestions, including location, to us at: board@stevenscreekstriders.org. or talk to one of the board members at a Saturday run.

Thanks, BillJ



Do you know?

*"If confronted by a **mountain lion**, make loud noises and make yourself seem as **big** as possible by waving your arms in the air above your head. Never turn away or run from a mountain lion, but rather back away slowly"*

Congratulation!

The 2004 Striders Holiday Party was a great success. Thanks to all who attended. Big "L" awards were given, a great dinner was served and the white elephant exchange was lots of fun. And congratulations to all the Big-L Award winners:

Strider of the Year	Jean Pommier
Most improved runners	Penny Beeston and Amanda Williams
Athletic achievement*	Mark Williams and Michelle Cline
Most dedicated volunteer	Peggy McLeod and Peter Hargraves

Upcoming events include:

- The Saddle Rack night of dancing is scheduled for Friday, March 4th starting at 7:30 PM
- **May 7:** Quick Silver 50Km/50 mile aid station
- **Saturday May 14th, 2005: Striders' Spring Picnic**
- Predictive 1K race: 10 Km Saturday morning run that requires your finishing time estimate. You will run without a watch and the person who most closely matches their predicted time will be the winner. June??



Something About Striders' Spring Picnic

Date: Saturday, May 14th, 2005

Time: 11:00 AM to Noon until about 6:00 PM

Location: Stevens Creek County Park, Madrone Group Picnic Area towards the south end of the reservoir. Please check out the map link at striders website for the location:

<http://www.stevenscreekstriders.org/events/sp/picnic.html>

Format: Potluck

Things to Bring:

- A Food item to share

By last name:

letters **A** thru **K**: main dish of some sort

letters **L** thru **R**: chips/dip/vegetables/salads

letters **S** thru **Z**: dessert

- Something to drink for yourselves
- Plates and eating utensils for yourselves

Hot Charcoals will be available for you to barbeque.

This will be the day to hear the make up of your coming year's Board.



UPCOMING LOCAL INTEREST:

[Napa Valley Marathon & Kiwanis 5K](#), Napa, CA 03/06/2005

[Saratoga to Los Gatos Great Race](#), Saratoga, CA 4/03/05

[Mercury News Run](#), San Jose, CA 4/10/05

[Quicksilver 50K-50Mile- Races](#); San Jose, CA Saturday, 05/07/2005

Also: several trail runs organized by **Pacific Coast Trail Runs** can be found through its website:
www.pacifictrailruns.com



Race Results

[Kaiser Half Marathon, San Francisco CA 02/06/05](#)

Overall Place	Group Place	Name	Age	Age Group	Time	Pace
11	1	Jean Pommier	40	M40-44	1:15:33	5:46
132	25	John Stannard	39	M35-39	1:26:49	6:37



[Cal 10, Stockton CA 01/09/05](#)

Overall Place	Group Place	Name	Age	Age Group	Time	Pace
211	17	Michelle Cline	?	30-34	1:13:49	7:23

[Christmas Relays 4.5 Miles, San Francisco CA 12/12/04](#)

Overall Place	Group Place	Name	Age	Age Group	Time	Pace
?	?	Bill Jones	?	?	35:25	?
?	?	Suzie Hayes	?	?	31:58	?
?	?	Peggy McLeod	?	?	34:02	?
?	?	Ana Sarosiek	?	?	35:45	?
?	?	Amanda Williams	?	?	38:29	?
?	?	Charles Roberts	?	?	31:40	?
?	?	Mark Williams	?	?	31:25	?
?	?	Michael Dhuey	?	?	31:59	?

[Uptown Turkey Trot 10K - Houston TX 25/11/04](#)

Overall Place	Group Place	Name	Age	Age Group	Time	Pace
?	?	Michael Shields	56	M50-59	47:23	7:28

Do you think you are a runner, a jogger, or a joke?
Tell us what you think!

Mail to: board@stevenscreekstriders.org