

River Road 12-Miler
January 18, 2008

This race is in New Braunfels and we do not have to travel as far. I am sure that we are all thankful for not having to get up earlier.

6:45a.m.

Elma, Diana (D.D.), Laura, and I are here at the house, waiting for the car to warm up and for Teresa to arrive. It is 34 degrees and we are all bundled up. It is almost identical weather as last year's race, except last year there was a mist/fog. I was a spectator then; and I clearly remember being glad that I was not running the race in this weather. However, I have wanted to run this race and experience the scenic route. The course is a winding road that hugs the Guadalupe River. We should be able to see the steam from the river again!

6:55 a.m.

We're off and on our way, and we immediately begin discussing nothing but running-related events. I often step back, observe, and laugh at the fact that we discuss nothing – I mean nothing – except running.

7:25 a.m.

Now it is time to visit registration, pick up our race bibs, find the restrooms, and warm up and stretch. Brr-r-r – baby, it's cold outside.

9:25 a.m.

It was a great race; the scenery was great. Ahhhh, I soaked in the fresh air, the river, the trees, and the cliffs. Good running weather. I also love the strategy of racing, especially when your strategy pays off. I love running in a group as well; however, I rarely spend much time with a group of runners. I caught up to a small group of five runners and hung with them for a while. I would have stayed with them until the end, but I thought I could possibly catch third place. I love the out-and-back races because I am able to have the opportunity to see the other SMRC members. I caught up to this teenager and we ran together and supported each other from mile 6 to 11.

After crossing the finish line I hear Elma calling my name; and I am reminded that she was not able to finish the race due to a new injury – plantar fasciitis. Our hearts go out to her. We understand your predicament and we love you, Elma!!! Elma and I talk about her experience and I share mine with her. We discuss possible strategies and we just have to see what happens.

We then move on and go and wait for D.D., Teresa, and Laura to finish. It must be nice to have people you know and love support you as you finish the race. I rarely experience this support at the finish line. However, support is given and received on out-and-back races such as this one; thank you, girls!