

By Fiona Green



*Runner
in
the Spotlight*

hours.

Anyone who has studied race results has no doubt come across the name Skeeter Hogue. Hogue, 65, is a carpenter who lives in Oklahoma and is a frequent racer in the Metroplex even although his commute can be over two

While this might seem like a long trip for a short race, Skeeter explains that he lives in



the middle of nowhere and has no choice in the matter. Incidentally, his real name is not Skeeter; it's actually Thomas. When asked for the origin of his unusual name, he explained that when he was just a few months old, one of his mother's friends simply decided to call him Skeeter for no apparent reason and that the name has stuck for 64 years to the extent that most people don't even know his given name!

Skeeter was a late bloomer and has only been running for six years as of 2010. In 1998, he was a heavy smoker and had been for almost 37 years, but under his doctor's orders he quit smoking and dipping (smokeless tobacco aka snuff) the same day.

A couple of years and a few extra pounds later, the doctor suggested it was time for him to lose some weight and lower his cholesterol. Being the ideal patient, he lost 130 points of his cholesterol count and 70 pounds of fat within the next five months.

In 2004, he decided to take up running and has been pounding the pavement ever since. His PR for the 5K is 19:46 although he admits that the course may have been a little short. While he has run a few 10Ks, he prefers the shorter distance. His goal is to continue to run as long as he can and to enjoy doing so.

When asked what advice he'd give to anyone starting to run, his answer was simple - "just remember you have to walk first, get good shoes and listen to other runners."