

## Big turnout helps DRC open July 4 celebrations with another of its affordable events

By Fiona Green



Over 550 runners took part in the annual DRC Independence 5K and 10K at Winfrey Point Saturday (July 2). DRC events are always fun, and running around White Rock Lake is a wonderful way to start off the weekend. Race fees are reasonable -- free for members (a yearly individual membership is \$30) or \$10 for non-members.

Both races started together at 8 a.m. with race-day registration ending at 7:30 a.m. Runners who tend to show up late to race should be aware of this deadline. Due to traffic, I ended up arriving within a minute or two of the cut off. Next time I will be sure to arrive earlier!

In the 5K, the overall male winner was 20-year-old Jeremie Johnson who ran a 17:34 while the top female, and second overall finisher, was 20-year-old Abigail Cartwright, who clocked 18:17. Both runners disappeared shortly after the finish so I was unable to speak with them post race.

In the 10K, top honors went to 31-year-old Jose Lopez (pictured), who covered the course in 38:36. Lopez was able to show me his race stats on his phone, which he carried in his hand for the entire race. He explained he once needed to call 911 after finding an injured runner on the trail and since then he won't go running without his phone. Runner-up on the male side was long-time competitor, 50-year-old Joe Landry, who clocked 39:04. Lopez was quick to point out that several of his training partners finished in the top 5, including 57-year-old Alicio Aguirre, who ran 42:29 and earned the Masters award.

On the female side, 26-year-old Candace Matthies (pictured) was the overall winner with a time of 43:40, a PR for her. Matthies lives in Snyder, where she works as an accountant for the family's air conditioning business. The company is always busy at this time of year. She even received a phone call while she was racing but chose to finish the race before responding!



Matthies races on average twice a month but explained there aren't too many races in the Snyder area, which is strange considering Snyder is located in Scurry county.