

# Liberty Call

# Oahu Perimeter Relay



JOSN Tim Walsh photo

Sarah Kovel starts the relay Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. at Kapiolani Park. Kovel ran five legs through out the relay and would trek nearly 20 miles before the it ended.

## Running is sport for some, but for others it's an obsession.

Nearly a week has passed since more than 800 runners took part in the Oahu Perimeter Relay, muscles are still sore and emotions still run high.

The runners formed teams of seven for the 134-mile relay around of Oahu. This is the 30th year the Oahu Perimeter Relay has taken place. The relay began Saturday evening at six and continued through the night.

Although the perimeter relay is a public event, a majority of the runners and teams were military or DoD civilians. One team that took part in the race was humbly named 'Slug Fest.' They were one of several teams from Joint Intelligence Center Pacific that ran the relay.

The team is a multi-service/contracted civilian group that divided the course into 33 separate legs. Runners averaged

around 19 miles each with only one runner completing a back-to-back section that neared seven miles.

Slug Fest ran a good race and kept optimistic hopes for their conclusion.

"We just don't want to finish last," said James "Jazz" Lewis before the race began. Lewis participated as support team captain for Slug Fest. He drove one of the two vehicles that transported the team from hand off to hand off.

"My job was easy compared to running the relay," joked Lewis of his responsibilities. Although race organizer were concerned with the safety of the runners and of the support personnel, no major injuries occurred. The runners were warned to wear reflective vests, and the drivers were given explicit instructions on how to get from location to location.

Lewis was not alone with lending a hand to the running cause. The Navy's Sara Rubin, Joshua Sager and Bryan Stanley also played valuable roles for the Slug Fest team.

With the assistance of so many, the runners could focus on the work at hand. Sarah Kovel tackled

the first leg of the race at Kapiolani Park. With the teams number, 90, on her vest she represented the Slug Fest with the fervor one could expect with the name Slug Fest.

"It was an experience," Kovel said of the race, but added that the biggest challenge faced was the elements. "We had all the conditions. We started out in daylight with light winds that turned into thunderstorms by night," sighed Kovel while she reflected on the last 20 plus hours of relaying.

"As painful as it is you feel coming away from it like you really have done something."

Kovel handed the baton of to Greg Stoddard at the first handoff point at dusk. Stoddard started his leg at Wailupe Beach Park and continued to Kaiser High School.

"I like running in the dark," Stoddard commented on the after hours running. "The moon is out and it's cooler," added Stoddard, but viewing of celestial bodies was impaired last Saturday night and Sunday morning by heavy clouds and rain that would make the most stern of faces squint.

"I got a little wet," shrugged

Stoddard as downplayed the weather during the relay. Although the elements were against him this year, Stoddard didn't eliminate the possibility of his participation in next year's relay. "I've done things like this a number of times, but not recently. I really enjoyed it and would like to do it again."

More than 20 hours passed from the beginning and more than 130 miles were traveled, but team Slug Fest plugged through the night into morning and made it to the finish.

Courtney Meek crossed the finish line back at where it all started - Kapiolani Park. "I felt like I was really dragging," said an exhausted Meek after the race. "But I really tried to pick it up at the end."

Slug Fest fulfilled their expectations. They didn't finish last. They finished with few injuries and that's what matters. The race tested physical drive and mental will, but neither impeded the Slugs from crossing the finish.

The Slug Fest team was made up of Shawn Goodson, Sarah Kovel, Courtney Meek, Shana Montgomery, Daniel O'Dell, Time Plick, and Greg Stoddard.

## Navy Hawaii Running Club

Navy Hawaii Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) is sponsoring a Running Club for sailors here in Hawaii. They are looking for sailors who can meet the minimum qualifying times to join the Club. The new Running Club will receive support from MWR for various 5K & 10K runs, marathons and triathlons; including: apparel to race in and funding for race entry fees.

Runners will be selected for the Running Club after all applications are turned into the Pearl Harbor MWR Athletic Department no later than March 1, 2001. Annually, each team will support and compete in at least the following events: one marathon, two 1/2 marathons, four triathlons and quarterly 5K/10K races.

### QUALIFYING TIMES:

Event	Men	Women
5K	19:00	24:00
10K	36:00	46:00
Marathon	3 hours 30 min	4 hours
Triathlon (Olympic Distance)	2 hours 30 min	3 hours

## Mid-Pacific Road Runners

The Oahu Perimeter Relay was sponsored by the Mid-Pacific Road Runners Club (MPRRC). MPRRC is the largest road running club in the state of Hawaii. They are affiliated with the Road Runners Club of America, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.

The MPRRC was founded in 1962, and its membership has reflected a cross section of the running community in

Races of varying distances (e.g., 4 or 10 mile races) and triathlons with different distance formats can be substituted. This club is open only to active duty Navy personnel stationed in Hawaii.

If interested applications can be found at the Pearl Harbor MWR Athletic Department, bldg. 667 on SUBASE, or can be faxed or e-mailed to applicants by calling 473-2494. Applications are due no later than March 1, 2001. They can be faxed to the Athletic Department at 473-0832, or can be brought into the office, or can be mailed to: MWR Dept., ATTN: Athletics, 850 Ticonderoga St. Suite 300, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-5100.

For more information, call 473-0784 / 2494 or email [gouveir@pearlharbor.navy.m](mailto:gouveir@pearlharbor.navy.m)

Hawaii. The club welcomes both runners from recreational fun runners to elite competitors.

MPRRC hosts timed races, 'fun runs', and un-timed trail runs. They also sponsor a marathon readiness series structured to help prepare runners for the Honolulu Marathon.

For more information, call MPRRC at 295-MPRRC or 295-6777.



James "Jazz" Lewis photo

Courtney Meek nears Waipahu High school with Joshua Sager lending support by running alongside her.



JOSN Tim Walsh photo



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Above: Tim Hall, Chris Lehner, Arne Phillips, Ron Fontes, Richy Ross, John Corkey, Chris Lundgren, Valentin Lapena, and Clarence Allen formed the Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One. They had seven runners and two drivers at the Oahu Perimeter Relay.

Left: Sarah Kovel, runner for 'Slug Fest', stands by ready for the first leg of the relay.

Story by JOSN Tim Walsh with help by James "Jazz" Lewis