

# Hometown Sports Metro

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## Smith's Challenge becomes Father's Day tradition

**Families cheer on dads at 18th annual trail run**

BY BARRY DECKER  
Intelligencer Journal Correspondent

Splashing through the creek and dashing through the woods was the coolest part of the 18th Annual Smith's Challenge on Sunday at Lancaster County Central Park.

Well, maybe the best part of the whole experience might have been the finish, particularly, with temperature and humidity pushing into the 90s.

But none of the nearly 150 runners complained. As a matter of fact, most of them vowed to be back next year.

"A little mud, rocks, hills, heat and water made for perfect conditions for this year's race," according to race director and founder, Bill Smith.

He noted that he created the event to be a challenging trail race that the average runner could compete. And to make it a bit more unique, he held it on Father's Day.

Open winner, Paul Barber, 39, who is a member of the Inside Track racing team, won the event last year.

"The heat was tough this year, but as always it was fun," he said, adding that the finish is always tough because the legs are tired making it easy to trip over all the roots.

Barber, of Mount Joy, and Inside Track teammate Justin Krebs, 32, of York, led the race through the Mill Creek crossing, before Evan Sandt, 36, of Lancaster, passed Krebs and finished behind Barber.

Race newcomers, Cory Helder, a Manheim Township High School senior, and Tim Getz, a Lampeter-Strasburg High School senior, finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Both turned 18 years old this year, which is the minimum age to enter the race.

"The hardest part of the race was coming out of the water because it was slippery and muddy," said Getz, who along with Helder, vowed to do the race again.

Since it was originated, it has become a tradition for many fathers. Frank McCardell, 63, has



Top finishers were, from left, Cory Helder (fourth place), Evan Sandt (second), race winner Paul Barber, race founder and director Bill Smith, masters' champion Tim Dunlap and Tim Getz (fifth).

run all 18, and could not think of Father's Day without it.

McCardell of Strasburg Township said he gets to renew friendships with others who compete annually.

He also gets to celebrate a run which gives him wet and soggy shoes and muddy legs, but most of all the whole experience is fun.

Mark Amway, who normally runs the race with his Inside Track racing team, said that he loves coming to support this race.

He attended Sunday, even though he's recovering from an injury, which prevented him from running it.

Scott Brusco, 36, of Mount Joy, began a Father's Day tradition by having his seven-month-old son, Cameron and his wife, Gretchen, cheer for him. A special Father's Day cookout for this new dad followed the event.

Don Groom, 59, was encouraged by his daughter, Kelly Groom and grandson, Jake Seasouck, as he ran with a friend, Dave Weitzel, 53, of Columbia.

Greg Bair, 48, and his son, Ryan Bair, 19, both of Leola, decided that the race began a Father's Day tradition.

To encourage the runners, particularly, their three family members

(Ashton and Caleb Farrell and Chip Bixler), the female Farrell

and Bixler family members (became cheerleaders standing in the Mill Creek.

Smith included on his registration application that this year is the "last one" for the event.

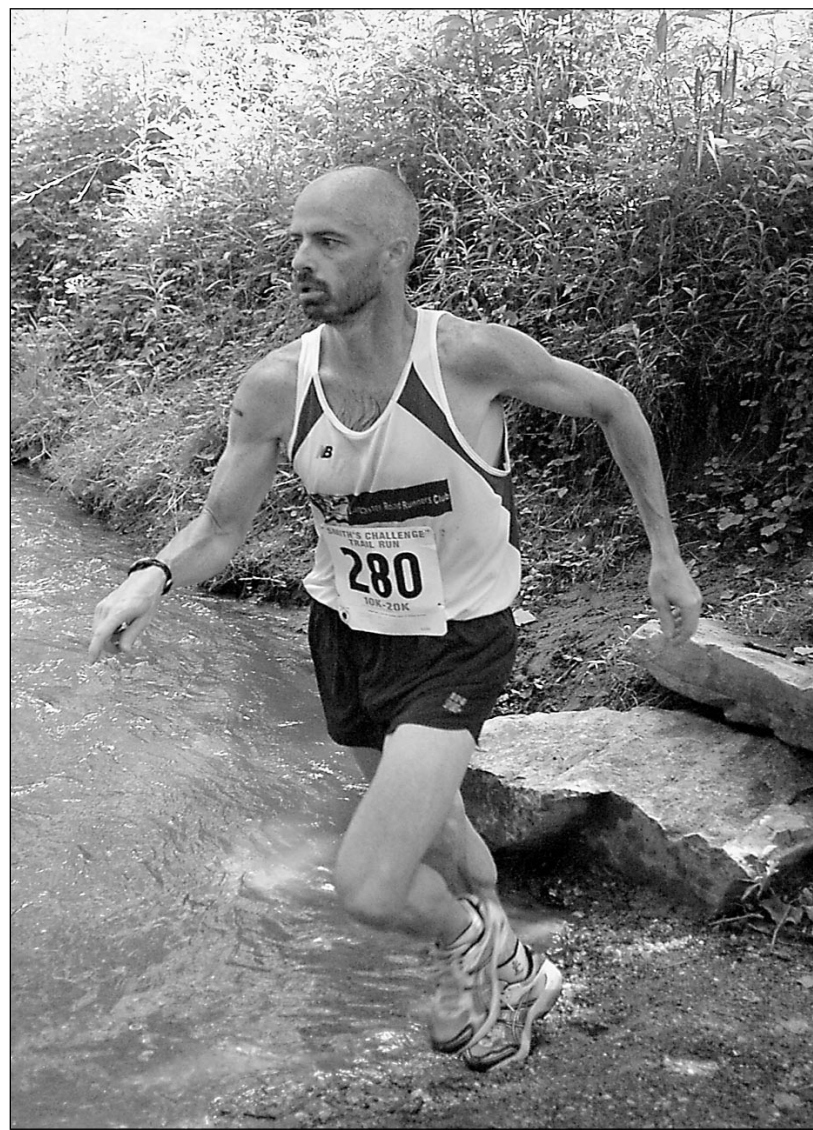
Said the race director, "I put that on every year just in case the interest dies on the event and we decide to stop doing it."

He added that he included it on every registration application since the second year.

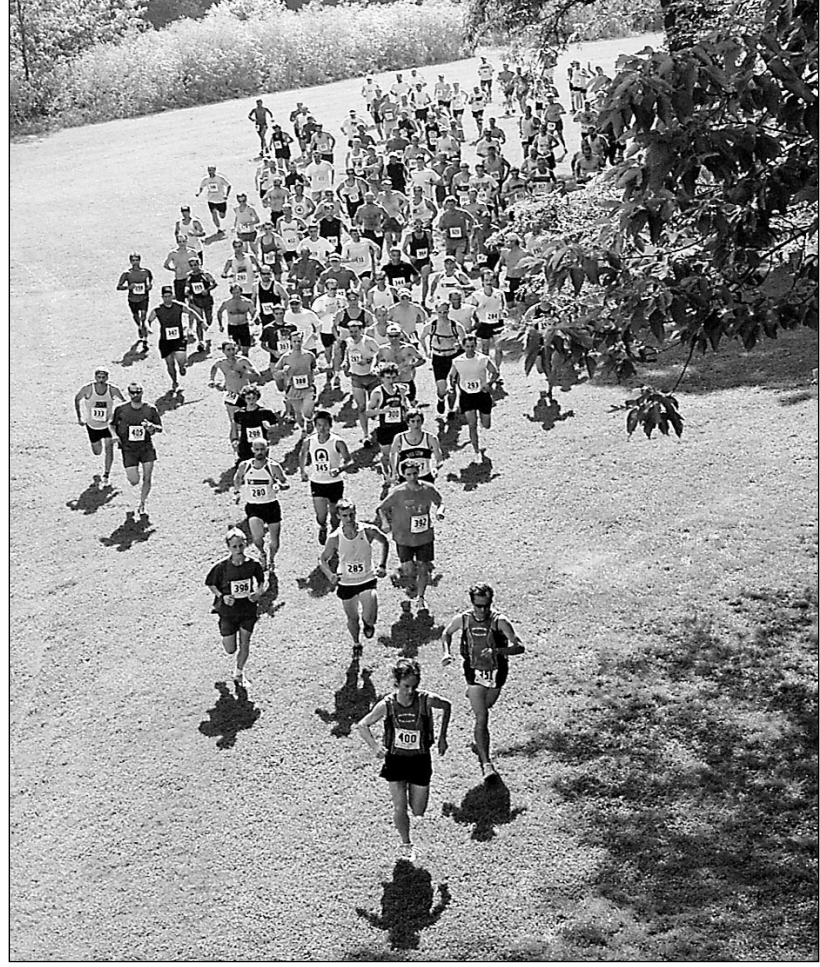
With the interest in this Father's Day tradition, don't expect the event to end any time soon.



Masters' winner Tim Dunlap, who ran the course in 45:37, starts across the Mill Creek.



Evan Sandt, who finished second overall and first in the 30-39 age group, gets set to cross Mill Creek



Nearly 150 runners take off at the start of Smith's Challenge in Lancaster County Central park on Sunday.

### 18TH ANNUAL SMITH'S CHALLENGE RESULTS

#### DIVISION WINNERS

Open - Paul Barber (Mount Joy) 41:28, 2 Tim Getz (Lancaster) 45:37.

#### AGE-GROUP RESULTS

18-29 - 1. Cory Helder (Lancaster) 45:18, 2 Tim Getz (Lancaster) 45:21, 3. Ryan Bair (Leola) 46:09.

30-39 - 1. Evan Sandt (Lancaster) 42:08, 2. Justin Krebs (York) 42:56, 3. Mark Buckwalter (Lifitz) 45:26.

40-49 - 1. Bruce Hagan (Telford) 45:51, 2. Steven Hershey (Perkiomenville) 46:28, 3. Joseph Babich (Lifitz) 47:18.

50-59 - 1. Jay Manwiller (Oley) 50:27, 2. Brit Kilbourne (Paradise) 52:51, 3. Joe Zern (Manheim) 55:49.

60-AND-OVER - 1. Steve Farrah (Lancaster) 56:02, 2. Jim Donaghy (Phoenixville) 1:01:11, 3. Phil Nissen (Earlville) 1:02:33.

#### TOP 100 FINISHERS

1. Paul Barber 41:28, 2. Evan Sandt 42:08, 3. Justin Krebs 42:56, 4. Cory Helder 45:18, 5. Tim Getz 45:21, 6. Mark Buckwalter 45:26, 7. Tim Dunlap 45:37, 8. Bruce Hagan 45:51, 9. Ryan Bair 46:09, 10. Lucas Messner 46:22.

11. Steven Hershey 46:28, 12. Bill Fife 46:39, 13. Fred Stevens 47:14, 14. Joseph Babich 47:18, 15. Deano Dimmig 47:53, 16. Doug Amdt 48:29, 17. Hoyt Kohl 48:50, 18. Abdelatif Echerra 49:11, 19. Mike Hershberger 49:26, 20. Geoffrey Baum 50:02.

21. Kevin Snyder 50:25, 22. Jay Manwiller 50:27, 23. Dennis Hagan 50:33, 24. Bob Heinz 50:34, 25. Santi Rafanell 52:35, 26. Brit Kilbourne 52:51, 27. Kevin Tran 53:24, 28. Andrew Semanyk 53:27, 29. Jeff Roberts 53:56, 30. Florin Tencariu 54:15.

31. John Banzhof 54:18, 32. Charles Butz 54:25, 33. Jerry Paparo 54:55, 34. Greg Lavelle 55:12, 35. Cameron Bowie 55:30, 36. Dan Simmons 55:31, 37. Joe Zern 55:49, 38. Michael Suydam 55:51, 39. Caleb Farrell 55:55, 40. Steve Farrah 56:02.

41. Mark Ward 56:24, 42. Mitchell Sturm 56:27, 43. Andrew Charles 56:31, 44. Don Groom 56:46, 45. Edwin Stauffer 56:47, 46. Istvan Nagy 56:58, 47. William Corbin 57:14, 48/ Pete Giangulio 57:34, 49. Dana Gehman 58:35.

50. John Homan 58:52, 51. Joe Lee 59:11, 52. Ashton Farrell 59:55, 53. John Eyster 59:55, 54. Chip Peck 1:00:00, 55. Steve Clarke 1:00:11, 56. Larry Gray Jr 1:00:41, 57. Steve Pfautz 1:00:41, 58. Zach Eyster 1:00:42, 59. Heath Heist 1:00:49, 60. Greg Weaver 1:00:56.

61. Jim Donaghy 1:01:11, 62. Tony Brignola 1:01:16, 63. Randy Hoffman 1:01:18, 64.

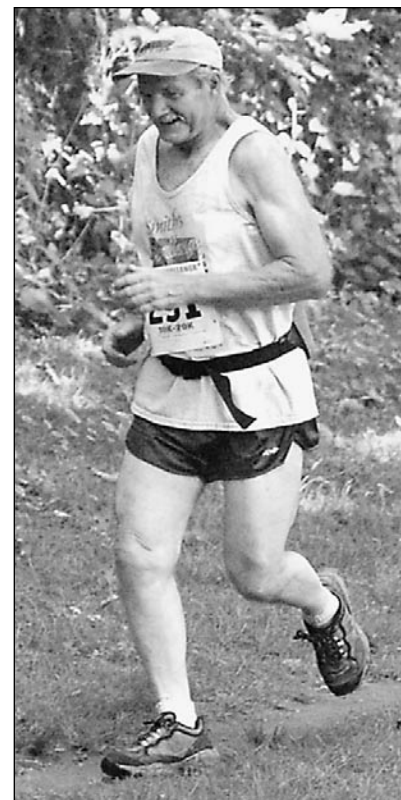
#### DIVISION WINNERS

Chip Bixler 1:01:19, 65. Bob Mcevoy 1:01:19, 66. Joseph Hacker 1:01:56, 67. Gregg Bair 1:01:59, 68. Brett Anderson 1:02:00, 69. Steve Hofmann 1:02:01, 70. Jeff Foose 1:02:02.

71. Mark Mulvihill 1:02:08, 72. Phil Nissen 1:02:33, 73. Vince Lopez 1:03:02, 74. Ron Stinson 1:03:06, 75. Mike Skillman 1:03:26, 76. Roger Kimber 1:03:34, 77. David Devivry 1:04:01, 78. Juan Berracol 1:04:02, 79. David Weitzel 1:04:05, 80. Robert Spotts 1:04:52.

81. David Greiner 1:05:10, 82. Paul Swann 1:05:32, 83. Jeff Heist 1:05:43, 84. Richard Kautz 1:05:49, 85. Frank McCardell 1:05:58, 86. Robert Cisneros 1:06:02, 87. David Demmy 1:06:25, 88. Jim Malkowski 1:06:50, 89. Michael Hankins 1:07:33, 90. John Heycock 1:07:44.

91. Eric Knorr 1:08:11, 92. Jim Casey 1:09:06, 93. Peter Schaller 1:10:01, 94. Carl Christiansen 1:10:05, 95. Phil Frey 1:10:11, 96. Joe Hofmann 1:10:15, 97. Jim Chastek 1:10:25, 98. Bruce Cantey 1:10:32, 99. Tom Socie 1:10:34, 100 Paul Bodell 1:11:27.



Frank McCardell, 63, has run all 18 of the Smith Challenge trail runs.



Scott Brusco is cheered on by his wife Gretchen and his son Cameron.

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Source: Lancaster Market Study, Spring 2004 - MSA Market Research

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