
THE BIOGRAPHY OF A VIKING

A Tribute to a Great Friend and Superior Athlete

By: Kathy Johnson & Henry Gallenz

Arny Johnson was born in Duluth, MN, to parents that immigrated to the country from Norway. He grew up with 5 brothers and you might say that he truly was a “Big Brother” to them. He had a great love for outdoor winter sports—skiing, ice skating and hockey— and also loved to climb the hills around Duluth. After graduation, Arny worked at the Greyhound Bus Depot, where he met his future wife, Kathy.

In 1942, he joined the Navy and served on several ships, going to North Africa, Italy and other spots. When he returned, he and Kathy were married and moved to Rockford. He loved people and became very active in his church and in many organizations. He was a leader with the Boy Scouts, participated in races in Skiing Clubs, and running marathons, including Boston, as a member of Rockford Road Runners.

Arny and Kathy had two children, Allen (Los Angeles and Sandy (La Crosse, WI). There are four grandchildren, two that were born after Arny passed away. Tragically, Arny was killed while riding his bike. He has been missed, but he will always be remembered. Kathy writes “it was quite an honor when the Boylan Classic Race was changed to the Arny Johnson Classic in memory of him. His family and I are truly appreciative.”

We didn't realize how lucky we were to have a person like Arny in our club. Skiing was his first love; after all, he was a Viking. From 1974 to 1984 he skied all the Birkebeiner cross country 55K races. He normally won or placed high in his age bracket. He participated in many marathons, which included all 7 of the Rockford Marathons. He also ran the DeKalb, North Central College, Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Pavo Nurmi, Twin Cities, and Grandma's in addition to Boston. He even had a personal record at Boston! He also ran the Syttete Mai 20 mile run and participated in several triathlons. Arny was a great competitor. Arny was more than just a great athlete. If he was not competing, he would be volunteering for events or clubs.

What can be said to adequately sum up the total of one's life... especially when it wasn't allowed to run its due course? There occurs in our lives a moment set aside to honor the memory of one special, unique human being and a darn good runner. Arny, you are missed!

Rockford Area
Habitat
for Humanity®
5183 Harlem Road
Rockford, IL 61111



PRESENTS

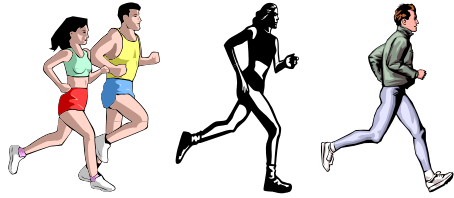


*27th ANNUAL "ARNY" JOHNSON
CLASSIC*

10 MILE & 5K RUN

REGISTER ONLINE at
www.rockfordhabitat.org

NON PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 2454



WHEN: Saturday, April 7, 2012

WHERE: Harlem High School
9229 N. Alpine Road
Machesney Park IL
(1/2 Mile South of Rt 173 & Alpine Road Intersection)

START TIMES:
7:30 a.m. - 10 Mile Walkers
8:30 a.m. - 10 Miles
8:40 a.m. - 5K Runners/Walkers

COURSE:
Willow Creek path into Rock Cut State
Park and return.
(Splits & Water on course. USATF certified course)

TIMING:
Race will be CHIP timed. Results will
be posted at rockfordhabitat.org

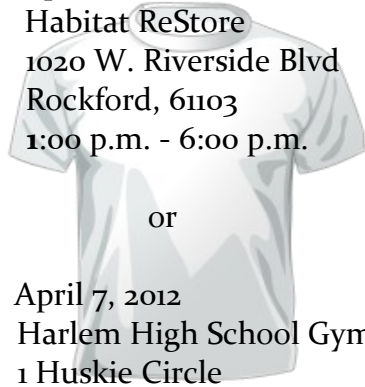
ENTRY FEES:
\$25.00 **before March 31**
\$30.00 after March 31
\$10 for high school and under
\$2.00 off for RRR
*(Register by **MARCH 15** to guarantee your t-shirt size)*

Send entry form and check Payable to:
Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity
5183 Harlem Rd, Rockford IL 61111

RACE DIRECTOR:
Tonya Thayer (815) 636-4573

REGISTRATION, BIB & SHIRT PICKUP

WHEN: April 6, 2012
WHERE: Habitat ReStore
1020 W. Riverside Blvd
Rockford, 61103
TIMES: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



WHEN: April 7, 2012
WHERE: Harlem High School Gym
1 Huskie Circle
Machesney Park, 61115
TIMES: 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

**AGE DIVISION AWARDS FOR
MALE & FEMALE**

5K Youth: 0-9, 10-14, 15-19
Both Races: 0-19, then 5 year age groups

\$250.00 if you set a new course record!!

DROP BOXES AVAILABLE
FOR DONATIONS OF
OLD RUNNING SHOES
AND NEW & GENTLY USED
RUNNING GEAR!!!

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Hamilton Sundstrand	Rock Valley Culligan
Home Environment	Riverside Bank
Center	Rockford Ham Radio
Alpine Bank	Runner's Image
OSF Saint Anthony's	Shosie's Cyclery
Medical Center	Sons of Norway
Packard Excavating	Specialty Floors, Inc.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.rockfordhabitat.org

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____ Male or Female (circle) _____
Address: _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____
Shirt Size: S M L XL (Shirts run large)



Circle one: 5K 10 Mile Walker
Entry fee: \$25.00 before March 31. \$30 after March 31. \$10 for High School Students.
\$2 RRR discount

WAIVER: By signature, I do hereby waive and release any and all claims of damages for injuries that I may receive as direct or in direct result of my participation in the Army Johnson Classic on April 7, 2012 against the Village of Machesney Park, Harlem High School, Rock Cut State Park, Rockford Road Runners or Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity.

SIGNATURE: _____ (parent's signature if under 18 years of age)