Seaside Beach Run History

1966: Ralph and Betty Davis, two local lifeguards, created the race. It was an eight-mile run that started at the Turnaround, proceeded south to the Cove, then returned north to Gearhart Beach (crossing the Necanicum River at low tide), and ending with the final leg from Gearhart Beach to the Turnaround (again crossing the Necanicum). 44 runners participated.

1970: The event, which was held in August, was organized by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, who was now organizing the event with the assistance of the Seaside Boosters; Booster Byron Meek directed the run, which had grown to 189 participants.

1971: Participation increased to 250 runners.

1974: The race was shortened to 7 miles (course unknown).

1975: The event, which had grown to 650 participants, was held on August 16, and included Claude Mulholland, who was the race's oldest runner at age 85.

1978: Reflecting the increasing popularity of running in the 1970's, the race featured 1200 runners, with an entry fee of $3 per participant.

1979: The event was held on August 11; Booster Chair Larry Person directed the event, which included 800 runners.

1985: The event was held in August, and was hosted by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, without the participation of the Seaside Boosters. The route changed; though still 7 miles in length, the route no longer crossed the Necanicum River.

1987: The event was hosted in August by the Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District.

1989: The event, which now only consisted of 59 participants, was moved to July to eliminate a conflict with the Hood to Coast Race, which was being held in August.

1990: Participation once again began to grow, and featured 120 participants.

1993: The event was held on July 8th, with the Turnaround being used as the start and finish lines. Short "dashes" were added to the event and were held on Broadway.

1998: Running races lost popularity in comparison to the growing trends in inline skating and skateboarding; participation was reportedly "very low" (number unknown).

2001: The Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation District reported that only "several dozen" runners showed an interest in the event; without the revenue from participants, the Parks and Recreation District announced that it couldn't afford to continue hosting the event.

2002: The Seaside Downtown Development Association took over hosting the event, which was held in July.

2003: The event was held on July 19th, and included 149 runners.

2004–2008: The Seaside Downtown Development Association continued to host the race, which averaged "a few hundred" runners per year (exact figures unknown).

2009: Sunset Family Fitness took over hosting the Seaside Beach Run, moving the event to the North Prom, and featuring an all-beach route and Kids Sand Dash.

Information provided courtesy of the Seaside Downtown Development Association. Records of this historic Seaside tradition are patchy (at best) so we are asking anyone who has further information, photos, or personal stories to share them with us. ***Please visit us at Sunset Family Fitness or call us at (503) 738-8304 to contribute your Seaside Beach Run memories!***