



## Plano Pacers Running Club, Inc. Hall of Fame

The Plano Pacers Running Club was formed in 1978 by the City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department and a group of thirty local runners. The objectives of the Running Club were the promotion and encouragement of healthful jogging and distance running. The objectives were supported by stressing the fun and exhilaration of running and its contribution to physical fitness, weight control and health. The club was directed to stimulate and maintain motivation among runners by increasing communication among runners and prospective runners. The club's plan was to publish a newsletter, hold regular meetings, fun runs, races, running clinics and related programs. The club would also mobilize its influence to promote the development of trails, tracks and running support facilities within the city.

The Plano Pacers Running Club has successfully operated as a family-oriented organization for over three decades. A great number of runners and non-runners have contributed to meeting the objectives defined by the City of Plano and the founding members. Starting in 2009, the club established a Hall of Fame to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to the club.

The Plano Pacers have been very fortunate to find the right leader for the right time. When the club was founded there was an abundance of interest in running but very few people with the administrative and practical running experience needed to launch a running club. We were very fortunate to have Rio King step forward to advise Donna Smith of the Plano Parks and Recreation Department. Rio's initial guidance to the city of Plano gave them the confidence to move forward with the formation of a running club. Rio was active in the first formative discussions as well as the two open meetings with prospective members before the Club officially existed. In the club's first year he provided much needed instruction to the city and the membership. In January of 1979 Rio presided over a panel of experienced runners who provided guidance on how to train for and run a marathon. Rio had run eight marathons; the Pacer audience had not run a single marathon. Two months later following his running of the Boston Marathon he wrote an excellent essay of his Boston Marathon experience which was printed in the newsletter. The article provided a motivational boost to the membership. The following September a club training group was formed to do the long weekend runs leading up to the White Rock Marathon. The morning of December 1, 1979 eighteen Plano Pacer members completed the marathon at White Rock Lake in Dallas. In addition, Rio volunteered for many assignments at club races and other functions.

The Pacer Patter editor who profiled Rio in the April 1979 newsletter had the following to say about him: "All original Pacers are aware of Rio's role in the formation of the club. He presided until we could get on our feet and helped establish the direction we should take. He continues to share his experience with us and has offered to help anyone with their running program..... Just call him at ....."

Rio King, founding member, made significant contributions in the formative years of the Plano Pacers Running Club. For all the reasons documented in this letter the Plano Pacers Running Club takes great pride in naming Rio King a member of the Plano Pacers Running Club Hall of Fame.

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Charlie & Terry Gonzalez  
President, Plano Pacers

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