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halfmoonbayreview.com Sunday, August 05, 2007



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Ocean Blue winners met on Internet

By Mark Foyer--[markf@hmbreview.com]
 Matthias Behrends had never been to Half Moon Bay before Saturday, but then he had never met Rick Allen either.

The two hooked up on a Web site devoted to adventure races in the Bay Area. Allen of San Jose stated in a posting that the Ocean Blue Adventure Race and the shorter Ocean Blue Sprint were taking place and that he was looking for a partner. Behrends, a San Francisco resident, answered the call.

The two made their first face-to-face meeting Saturday morning before the race - having never participated in any sort of adventure race before - and came away as the overall winners in the sprint race.

The team of Mari Chandler of Mountain View, Michael Prindiville of Menlo Park and Mark Manning of San Francisco won the longer race, completing the course in 7 hours, 15 minutes.

Both Behrends and Allen had done other races, but nothing like the Big Blue. The race is a combination of running, biking, kayaking and reading a map.

"It was almost like playing a kids' game at a birthday party," Behrends said. "We had to find a lot of items as well."

Both races started and finished at Pillar Point Harbor, and took competitors throughout the Coastside from the bluff tops and the Coastal Trail to downtown Half Moon Bay.

"I came to Half Moon Bay to check out the area a bit," Allen said. "I rode a little bit on Montara Mountain."

The duo plans to participate in the 2008 version of the race, though they are talking about doing the longer race.

"We are ready to test the new challenge," Behrends said.

Behrends and Allen will face a comparable competition there. Among those expected to compete are the overall champions of Chandler, Prindiville and Manning.

The trio took the lead at the kayak portion of the race and never looked back.

Credit Manning with getting the lead.

"I built a kayak just for the race," Manning said. "The kayak maneuvered well in the race."

All three had participated in the Half Moon Bay version of the Big Blue adventure race before.

"The course was well laid out," said Manning, who had other motivation for winning.

"My boss said I could have the day off if I won," he said. "If I didn't win, I would have to wear a tinfoil hat at work."

The race was anything but easy for the trio.

"The running was brutal," Chandler said. "We were going four miles, all uphill. I was hurting during the first part of the race. Running is usually the easy part for me. I ran cross country in high school and college."

Prindiville, who ran track at Stanford, had no complaints -regardless of the finish.

"I got to hang out with my friends," he said. "That was the big part of it."

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Wednesday, August 01, 2007

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More than 200 runners participated in Saturday's adventure races. More than 80 went for the long race, while the rest participated in the sprint. The race involved running, biking, kayaking and map reading.

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BREAKING NEWS

No tsunami warning following large earthquake in Pacific
Wednesday, August 1, 2007 11:22 AM PDT

The U.S. Geological Survey reports that a 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Vanuatu in the south Pacific Ocean Wednesday. Officials say the tremor did not produce a tsunami and that there is no cause for concern away from the island.

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