

Fort Bragg's Premier 10K:

Don't Miss It

by TODD SPENCER



The 19th Annual Joint Special Operations 10K Run / 5K Walk is set for Nov. 14. The JSO-10K is sponsored by the Special Operations Communicators Association. This year's event will start from McKellar's Lodge. Last year had a turnout of 840 participants and the event organizers hope to have at least that many this year. The race started in 1996 and remained unchanged until 2009 when the starting point was moved from Pike Field to McKellar's Lodge. The accommodations at the lodge area with the picnic pavilion for packet pickup and race day registrations are excellent. It is a little further

to get to the starting line (400 meters), but is worth the extra little walk. The longstanding goal has always been to put on such an event that the Fort Bragg and surrounding communities would look forward to it every year.

The course itself is completely off-road. With this said, there is fun to be had by all. Because the event is growing and becoming more popular, registration is limited to 1,000 participants to accommodate parking and course management. The JSO 10K is a USA Track & Field Association certified # NC-10117-PH. For those that have not run this race before, it is more about having fun than setting a new land speed record. Because of the terrain and elevation changes, it is not a course that will qualify you for the Boston Marathon. Many in past registration periods have come up and asked "is this the nasty run in the woods?" The answer is "well yes it is," immediately, they start signing up.

For those that have participated before, you know parking is a premium around McKellar's Lodge. It is a weekend, so this should alleviate a lot of the parking issues. Still follow the parking attendants to get you in and out safely. There are 10 Portollets in the area.

Every participant that crosses the finish line will receive a finisher's coin. The shirt this year is an Irish green color with yellow, black and white accents.

To keep down the long lines on race day, there are two days of pre-race packet pickup as well as late registration. The first is at Sports USA on Fort Bragg Nov. 12 from 3-7 p.m. and again the following day, Nov. 13 at Dick's Sporting Goods on Skibo Road from 12-3 p.m.

The race is open to everyone. Non-DoD automobile sticker holders should consider leaving a bit early to get through security at the Fort Bragg Randolph Street gate. This is a family-friendly event. There are many that run or walk as a family. No pets, please. The event includes an awards ceremony and provides hot beverages and doughnuts to participants starting immediately following the race around 10 a.m. There will be plenty of raffle gift cards for local area restaurants and stores. Food/drinks and raffle tickets are free-for-all registered runners.

For more information, visit www.thesoca.org or <https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOperationsCommunicatorsAssn>

Registration is open now on www.itsyourrace.com using keyword BRAGG in the search bar. Or email events@thesoca.org for information.

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The JSO-10K is sponsored by the Special Operations Communicators Association. The race is open to everyone.

Free Wheelin' Feelin'

NOVEMBER 14 • 16TH ANNUAL RED SPRINGS TOY RUN Escorted ride. Registration at 9 a.m., Kickstands up 11 a.m. Bring one new toy or cash donation. Food and door prizes. Raffle for Harley-Davidson riding jacket and 50-50. Call 624-0067 for information.

NOVEMBER 21 • HOLLY'S 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY Wear your best 50s outfit. DJ, food and drink specials. 8 p.m., start. Call 867-2364 for information.

NOVEMBER 21 • STEELE ANGELS 12TH ANNUAL TOY RUN at Legends Pub. Registration at noon. Call 867-2364 for information.

NOVEMBER 21 • BUFFALO SOLDIER COOKOUT at Fort Bragg Harley-Davidson. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Find out more at www.fortbraggharley.com

PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse group of patriots from every state that come together to honor fallen soldiers at funeral services across the country. Visit www.patriotguard.org for more information about the group.



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