



Winner John Moreno heads down Cliff Drive into Capitola, only a few hundred yards from the finish line. Moreno's time of 27.22.8 set a race record.

Wharf-to-Wharf Race

Photos by
Kurt Ellison

Who's Who in the Wharf-Wharf



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David Parish (left) and Robert Ruprecht near the finish line on the Esplanade in Capitola.

Some 3,000-plus runners (and walkers) were on hand Sunday morning in the fog to compete in the 8th annual Wharf-to-Wharf race. As its name connotes, the course of the race stretches from the Santa Cruz wharf to the Capitola wharf, 5.8 miles away.

When it was all over, John Moreno had taken top honors, turning in a record first-place time of 27:22.8, shattering the old mark by 16 seconds. In fact, the top three finishers all bettered the former standard set two years ago. (Duncan MacDonald, the pre-race favorite, was not in attendance due to conflicting schedules in competition abroad.)

On the heels of Moreno were Ron Fritzke, finishing second with a 27:29 clocking; Tony Ramirez, with a third-best time of 17:33; Dan Harvey, turning in a 27:40 effort and Aptos' Dan Gruber with a fifth-place 27:42 mark. Gruber was the lone local resident to crack the top 25.

According to race director Mark McConnell, the ever-present summertime morning fog that smothers the Capitola-Santa Cruz coastlines again benefitted participants, especially those less-than serious competitors who show up at the last minute without registering and jog along for the fun of it. Although 200 of the 3,000 registrants failed to show up at race time, the "300 or so" non-registrants who competed kept the field over the 3,000 mark, said McConnell.