



Lighting Up the Night

BY AMI WEIDLER-HYTEN

The Night Hawk is a loop course with three different distances: 10 mile, 20 mile, and 50k. Held in the peak of the northeast Kansas summer, all three distances step off at 8 p.m. in what is usually a futile effort to beat the heat. With the same single-track terrain with roots, rocks, climbs, descents, bugs, snakes and tree branches showcased in the Hawk Hundred race, but taking place at night, the Night Hawk could be described as “the Hawk Hundred’s naughty younger sister who likes to stay out past bedtime.”

As is often the case with races in Kansas, the weather showed up to steal the show this year. Temps at 8 p.m. were in the 90s. A chance of rain became an absolute certainty around 10 p.m. Exercising responsible

stewardship for the condition of the trails, and the well-being of trail runners who could easily turn into lightning rods, race directors held runners at aid stations for 30 minutes, allowing the dangerous conditions to pass before releasing runners to complete the race. Race volunteers rushed to batten down all hatches, whisking the bountiful aid station fare to the safety of truck cabs and the like, and literally holding canopies to prevent them from blowing off in the forceful winds. After the rain passed, the trails quickly absorbed the moisture and temperatures dropped by a very comfortable 15-20 degrees. New “trail obstacles” appeared mid-race as the storms shook loose tree branches, limbs and even some tree trunks. The

Night Hawk featured the usual aid station food, complemented by lots of home-made goodies, including Brick House Brandy’s Protein Balls, Klover’s Famous pickles, Amy C’s protein bars, and lots and lots of bacon. Lightning wasn’t only cloud-to-cloud this year. The top man in the 50k, AJ Haney, set a new course record with a finish time of 4:33. The women’s field got a new course record in the 20-mile distance with Brooke Watson’s 3:54 finish, and female Lindsey McDonald lit up the 10-mile course turning in a 1:25 performance. As with many Trail Hawk races, Mile 90 Photography set up for the duration, capturing dirty, sweaty trail runners in all their glory. 🏃

OPPOSITE: Lindsey McDonald sets a new course record for the 10-mile race.

[📷 Kristi Mayo/Mile 90 Photography]

RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: Runners were held at an aid station during the thunderstorm, which brought high winds, downed trees, heavy rain and lightning. [📷 Rick Mayo/Mile 90 Photography]

AJ Haney sets a new course record in the 50k with a time of 4:33.

[📷 Rick Mayo/Mile 90 Photography]

Ashley Chávez powers through the peak of the thunderstorm's deluge.

[📷 Kristi Mayo/Mile 90 Photography]

Night Hawk

Lawrence, KS // June 30

🏃 2,3* // 50k

Elevation gain: Regular course – 1,845 feet; Alternate course – 1,588 feet | This race is a three-loop course (each loop 10.3) with each loop consists of mostly rugged trails through the beautiful trees. The alternate course (run this year) is 70% asphalt paved roads and 30% cross country type running.

1	AJ Haney, 20, KS	4:33:12
2	David Box, 42, KS	4:58:24
3	William Vickery, 40, KS	5:28:04
4	Victor Reynoso, 41, KS	6:04:34
5	Bryan Hay, 44, MO	6:27:24
6	Jeremiah Nemecek, 31, MO	6:33:20
7	Ami Weidler-Hyten, 46, KS	6:56:39
8	Chris Beckwith, 39, IA	7:05:10
9	Bob Wooten, 39, KS	7:11:45
10	Paul Orth, 36, MO	7:11:45
11	Ted Kuether, 37, KS	7:24:28
12	Albert Mauro, 51, MO	7:28:54
13	Michele Weaver, 49, KS	7:41:25
14	Matthew Clay, 29, KS	7:41:40
15	Charles Steinkuehler, 50, –	7:41:54
16	Jr Haney, 59, MN	7:42:22
17	Amy Hearting, 38, AR	7:48:32
18	Ashley Shaw, 35, KS	7:48:43
19	Sara Wilcox, 44, KS	7:48:46
20	Tony Brown, 57, KS	7:54:17
21	Johnny Law, 45, MO	7:55:25
22	Todd Chandler, 50, MO	7:55:35
23	Stuart Johnson, 58, KS	7:55:36
24	Joshua Pettyjohn, 38, TX	8:16:46
25	Derek Swartzel, 35, KS	8:21:46
26	Jay Mooney, 42, KS	8:26:53
27	Cara Combs, 34, KS	8:28:05
28	Jordan Shrack, 34, KS	8:28:06
29	Sarah Pfeffer, 41, MN	8:32:42
30	Dennis Cannell, 59	8:36:26
31	Trudi Chavez, 41, KS	8:47:52
32	Tyler Cleveland, 32, KS	9:17:11
33	Chris Benjamin, 42, MO	9:31:56
34	Torrey Wilson, 27, NE	9:40:45
35	Dennis Wilson, 60, NE	9:40:48
36	Jason Silvers, 47, KS	9:53:15
37	Brandy Holey, 39, MO	9:53:17
38	Steve Crutchfield, 51, KS	9:53:17
39	Michelle Rador, 33, –	9:53:27
40	Lindsey McRoberts, 32, KS	10:54:56

*See page 45 for key

