

## “Miles to Go Before They Sleep”

Kevin Green

“Team Endurance”, of Beaufort (Kevin Green and Doug Thompson) lent a little help to their neighbors in Bluffton, at the town’s first hosting of the Relay for Life Event. In 2005 Thompson and Green ran for 10 hours completing 40 miles at the Beaufort Relay for Life. This weekend they “took it up a notch”, duplicating Dr. George Klatt’s accomplishment of a 24 hour run /walk (completing 81 miles), with one exception they completed 83 miles.

Starting quietly at 7 pm just after the opening ceremonies, running loop after loop late into the evening, early morning and then finishing the outing at the Hog Jog 5k race in Hardeeville. Thompson and Green endured heat, and blisters to finish the event.

It took a lot of planning to do this event. We had originally planned it for Beaufort and had lots of folk coming out over 24 hours to run and walk with us, but when the Relay in Beaufort got cancelled we thought we’d have to wait. said Green. Doug Thompson, leaving the area to finish a fellowship in oncology really wanted to do this before leaving town. The Low Country has been so good to me and my family I wanted to leave it with something special. I knew if I didn’t do this year, before I left, that it could be years before I get a chance to do something like this again.

Both runners admitted there were difficult times. Green said he was ready to go home at mile 60, bored, hot and tired, but Thompson wouldn’t let him. Thompson said the last 8 miles seemed like they were not going to happen, but kept going after soaking his feet in ice water.” I was surprised how much my feet hurt after 50 miles , soaking them in ice every five mile after that is what kept me going”.

The pair had plenty of motivation before, during, and after the event. The faces of the survivors present at the event, the names on the luminaries were special motivators for the first 12 hours. At mile 60 they had a little help from Woody Fowlkes (age 10) and Wayne Watts (age 8) from Beaufort who ran a mile with them. The last 3 miles Doug’s wife, Allison and 2 kids John 8 and Katie 4 joined them to keep them running. When it was finished Nancy Wellard the Relay Organizer was there to greet and congratulate them. “It was an honor to re-create the original relay event for Bluffton”, said Thompson.

Behind the scenes sponsors were Matt Trumps from Tideland Reality, the Sportsman Shop of Beaufort. Low Country Medical Raised \$235 with a jean day, Beaufort Academy raised \$90 dollars and Port Royal Elementary School raised \$300 dollars There were lots of donations from around town that are still raising the total, but so far the donations total 2500.00

Currently there is a Relay for Life in every state in the country and this overnight event is responsible for raising over 100 million dollars per year for the American Cancer Society

