



UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, September 13, 2021-6pm-Utica Boilermaker Offices

Attendance: Jen Bacheldor, Melissa Barlett, Dani Bliss, Rocco Fernalld, Alex Gonzalez, Tim Kane, Jeanine Maceara, Jim Mott, Andrew Rubino, Sharon Scala, Rebecca Aceto, Rick Gloom

Travis, Phil, Cybil

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Motion to accept minutes of last meeting: Jen, 2nd Andrew, passed unanimously

Activities & Events

- Races
 - Four Race Challenge
 - We will continue to distribute shirts and medals at final two races and packet pick-ups.
 - Summer Sizzle-Jim Mott
 - Nexy year: Proctor Park-Sunday, June 19, 2022
 - Save Our Switchbacks-Sharon Scala
 - We had over 170 people run. Event was a huge success!
 - Will probably go back to April/May depending on Sharon's schedule and other things
 - 9/11 Never Forget Run/Walk 5k- Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez
 - Event was a huge success. Club embraced this as did the community. Thank you so much to Alex and Phil for the endless hours and work put into this event.
 - They promise to have a committee and delegate next year
 - We were the highest grossing first time T2T run across the country with over \$40,000 donated
 - August 21st, 2022
 - Falling Leaves – Mike Brych
 - Sunday, September 26, 2021.
 - Registration is still open with over 400 people currently registered (which is a little low)
 - Volunteers are needed, specifically in the morning of the run - a few people who can help put up the barricades before the run
 - Packet pick-up will be 10-4 Sept 25th
 - Sponsor checks are a little low this year
 - Skeleton Run – Rick Gloom
 - Sunday, October 17th
 - Most things are in place and moving
 - Registration is open, numbers are very low (but Four Race folks need to be added)
 - Timing seems to be hard to get and too expensive, so we may be doing some clock based timing instead

- Albany timing charges extra if you don't use their sign-up site
 - Haven't heard from Mike Kessler if he could do it?
 - There's just so much competition this weekend and nearby
 - Run 2 End World Hunger – Rocco Fernald
 - Rocco wants a live Thanksgiving Day run to get the community back together and get people there
 - Could we also keep a virtual/VirtuREAL option open for those who can't make it
 - Keep the Runsignup but also allow for day-of registration for those who come
 - Reinstate the raffle afterwards?
 - Really work on advertising and getting the word out there
 - We are hoping to have our next blood drive on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
 - People can drop food both Wed and Thurs (and perhaps Tuesday night at the Safety Run)
 - We have asked for access to the Rec Center for both the blood drive and the annual run. We are awaiting a response.
- Activities
 - Thursday Night Fitness Accelerate-Wendy Bowers
 - The Fitness Mill deal is still valid but we will begin to explore options with Planet Fitness sponsorship in 2022.
 - Although Planet Fitness is not great for communication, but Jim will keep trying
 - We have started Thursday runs with Wendy and Tom Bick at Accelerate, which is going well
 - Boilermaker Training Program- Tim and Joan Kane
 - We are in our final weeks, and numbers have dropped down a bit, but we are still going with a core group of 6-10 still at it
 - This week will be starting at the Parkway to the finish and then loop back around
 - Sept 25th Frankie Run starting at Utica College
 - October 2nd uncertain, but has typically been the course except for the golf course
 - Development Runs - Ashley Mancini
 - We have experienced some bad weather on Wednesday nights and the call to cancel on those days was the right one.
 - We are in our last weeks as well. Moving to 6pm start this Wednesday
 - Shirts for those earning them have been ordered and should be ready next week.
 - Youth XC Training Program - Nate Getman
 - Will revisit for 2022.
 - Grand Prix – Gary LaShure
 - Grand Prix Races Complete:
 - Fort to Fort 10K
 - Summer Sizzle
 - Save Our Switchbacks
 - Erie Canal Half
 - T2 Towers 5k
 - Upcoming
 - Boilermaker 15k
 - Falling Leaves 14k
 - Skeleton Run

- Mad Mile
- Scholarships – Andrew Rubino-
 - Thoughts on reaching out to coaches in Fall at coaches’ meetings and at the EJ Herrmann meet. We need to do this now as the Fall season is upon us.
- Volunteers –Travis Belanger-
 - Jeannine and Rebecca have stepped in to assist Travis.
 - Travis has put out Facebook requests for Falling Leaves
 - We are pretty sure that the emails are going to Travis, Jeanine, and the gmail account, but there hasn’t been much
 - We also have been contacted by the Boilermaker as they are need of volunteers as well.
- Social – Danielle Bliss
 - Disc Golf at Copper City was a success with the Roman Runners.
 - New event for September - not sure because a lot of stuff is ending
 - How do we advertise?
 - Mostly on Facebook, also on the website calendar
 - Not much out there for those without Facebook or who don’t go looking
 - Perhaps we should use the RunSignUp to push these out to membership when they are planned after the newsletter comes out
 - We could do more happy hours, but we would like someone to represent the club at them
 - We can just set-up various bars and let people know
 - First Friday of the month
 - Start back at Griffins in October - Sharon will be there!
- CNY Running Club Cup – Tim Kane
 - UR has managed to get to 2nd, and need Falling Leaves times to make sure we stay in 2nd
- Diversity Committee- Alex Gonzalez/Melissa Barlett
 - Committee has not met in a couple of months and needs to reconvene soon
- Nutrition Committee- Rick Gloop
 - Jeannine Macera continues writing bi-monthly pieces for SplitTimes.
 - Nothing new

Administration & Finance

- Financial
 - We are behind for this year, but we have made good investments and have plenty of available money in Savings
- Merchandise
 - Nothing new, but there’s a sale
- Equipment and Rental
 - Phil Trzcinski has stepped into this role
 - We have a lot of old stuff that will likely be tossed, including banners, sponsor items, and broken equipment
 - We have equipment that is damaged, partially due to the fact that the white trailer is too small to easily put away and store things without bumping and hurting them
 - The black trailer is much larger (6x12), however, it is old and was bought used

- Maintenance on the black trailer will take easily \$2500 to get into good shape
 - Lots of rust, dry rot, and pieces that would need to be replaced
 - If we wanted a storage unit, even a small one would be \$70-80/month
 - Storage of the trailers currently costs \$350/year to Boulevard Trailers
 - A newer, bigger trailer would be easier for all the equipment we want to provide for runs now and in the future
 - Phil suggests: sell both the current trailers (~\$2000-3000) and buy a new, bigger 7x14 Steel, \$7250, 7x14 Aluminum \$8700 (and \$8995 for 7x16)
 - Phil suggests the new aluminum, larger one
 - Aluminum would be more durable down the road
 - Estimates from Northland Motors
 - Phil would also like up to \$1000 to paint and outfit the new trailer with shelves and places to easily put things
 - Probably less, but want to be sure
 - If we wanted to wrap the new trailer with our logo etc., that would cost more
 - Full wrap might be \$3700
 - Possibly could also do just decals
 - This could be a future conversation
 - Could we buy used?
 - Yes, but Phil suggests making an investment in something new that will last
 - There might be good used trailers deals out there that we can check into
 - Look into other racing companies and area lots and Craig's list (although nothing seems to be there yet)
 - If we do buy used, want to make sure it is good and not going to be a problem
 - A&P Master images has offered to store our trailer in the winter at no cost
 - Does not have to happen right now, but Phil does not think that prices are going to change much
 - But Phil will need some time to work on it
 - If we get it done before winter, then it would be ready for everything to store
 - Could be purchased from the savings accounts, which have quite a bit of money between them and do not get used regularly.
 - The Death Benefit account is from previous development runs that was saved and then given to the club by Howard Rubin, and should be spent on something good for the club
 - Suggestion to keep the white trailer, and once we clean it up, it could carry just the Development run stuff without all the extra that is currently in there
 - We are still waiting to hear from the Parkway Rec about parking a larger trailer in their lot
 - We could organize the new trailer in a way to make getting the D-Run stuff easy
 - Motion: To spend up to \$10,000 to purchase a new 7x16 aluminum trailer and supplies to paint and outfit it. Sharon makes the motion, Andrew 2nds, motion passes.
- Membership
 - We keeping up with last year well enough
 - Current registrations carry through to 2022
 - Currently looking into putting together a "Welcome Packet" type of email to send to new people when we get new registrations

- Could send the PDF one-page of membership benefits and reminders about the Red Jackets
 - Could possibly have this fully automated in the RunSignUp including links to these items on the webpage
- Webpage/Calendar
 - Lots of updates got done recently
- Facebook & PR
 - Still rockin and rolling
- Clubs & Organizations (USATF and RRCA)
 - Nothing new
- Sponsorships
 - Nothing new, but Rocco will be looking for new stuff for the Run to End Hunger

New and Old Business

Discussion on mileage chevrons with Dan and Sharon Stedman

- Some thoughts about the idea of having this option for our aging membership
- From Dan: notes that after a while, running can be problematic on joints and such, however many runners keep on walking even past this point. Could we create a different chevron for people who just walk? Would people be able to earn a jacket for walking miles?
 - It is noted that we welcome walkers as part of the club in general in our by-laws etc.
 - However, there is some sense of being a “running” club, not just fitness
 - Could expanding this also bring more folks into the club, including those who might be able to volunteer since they might not be racing
 - Help get newer folks involved by starting them at walking and moving them to running, be more inclusive
- Most folks seem pretty good about being more inclusive and including walking as part of the verbiage in some way
- It is definitely difficult to determine where to draw the line on separate patches
- There are people who want people to join, but are mostly walkers, and are looking for folks to walk with for safety/community
- Since miles are self-reported, it would definitely be difficult to have different pieces and if we did, they would still have to be self-chosen
- Could the Stedman’s create a starting proposal to provide to us for the future? They may get us something.

2022 RRCA Conference/Convention-March 17-20 in Orlando, Florida

- <https://www.rrca.org/convention/>

An out of town Race Opportunity:

- <https://runsignup.com/syracusebandanabolt>
- We have been contacted about participating in this race. It is for a great cause at Green Lakes next month.

2022 Board of Directors Election (November)

- Next month bios will be needed as we prepare to vote for our members interested in being on the Board of Directors in 2022.
- For those of you that don't plan on running who are currently on the Board - let us know as soon as possible.
 - Rocco will not be running, all others will be
 - Includes: Dani, Jeanine, Jen, Sharon, Tim
- Any people interested in running for a position on the Board should also make us aware of that as well.
 - We need to send an email out ASAP to ask people for bios and get those in
 - Rebecca/Andrew will be able to collect the bios since Jen is up for election
- Annual meeting will be 2nd Monday of November (11/8)

Next Meeting

- Monday, October 11th, 2021 - Boilermaker Offices - 6 pm.
- Seems like it should be fine, we can have a virtual option if needed

Adjourned at 7:30pm