



UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, November 18, 2024 6:15 pm, Boilermaker Headquarters

Board Attendance: Andrew Rubino, Andy Hartnett, Mason Hedeem, Rebecca LaPorte, David Dietz, Erik Winberg, Melissa Barlett, Frank Vellone, George Searles, James Kuny, Travis Olivera
Meeting called to order at: 6:39p

Motion to accept minutes from last meeting: 1st T. Olivera 2nd M. Hedeem

INITIAL BUSINESS

- State of the Club - Andrew
 - 2024 gave out gift cards for club cup events. Hoping to continue with Cliffs who have donated gift cards throughout the year
 - Also new this year is travel team which has had discounts for races and organized carpooling. New races are popping up, keep your eye out for discounts!
 - Strong boilermaker training program - shoutout to Erik and Wendy
- UR Celebrates over 50 years!
 - G. Searles has been on a fact finding mission to find information about the club and its history and to log it on our website to preserve the history
 - Began as Utica YMCA track club. Utica group was the first in the Mohawk Valley area
 - Working on getting Mohawk Valley Runner magazine digitized for permanent preservation, G. Searles has all the published issues
 - Check out the article in SplitTimes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Activities & Events – Erik Winberg**
 - **Races**
 - **Four Race Challenge** - Andrew Rubino
 - USA Racing for 2025 designs in progress
 - Moving back to challenge from 4 pack
 - Decide swag option for Challenge - string backpack, any ideas email or discuss with A. Rubino or F. Vallone
 - Open virtual store to attach to Challenge - can get a race singlet through the virtual store, there will be other items available as well
 - Hoping to open 1/1/25 for registration
 - **Save Our Switchbacks** - Melissa Barlett & Sarah Harrison
 - April 12, 2025

- Planning on talking with the zoo to have the run through the zoo again, will connect with them this winter
 - No additional updates
 - **Summer Sizzle** - Travis Olivera
 - Continuing on Father's Day: June 15, 2025
 - If you have any suggestions for changes please let Travis know, first year Directing the race. Request to change the age groups so 12 and under and request for children's sizes - T. Olivera will consider these suggestions
 - **Falling Leaves** - Andrew Rubino
 - September 28, 2025
 - Working on securing Hotel Utica for 2025
 - Working on paying 2024 bills
 - **Skeleton Run** - Rob Kapfer
 - Sunday October 19, 2025
 - Sirtin wants to work with UR for promotional event with Skeleton and Riggie Run
 - **Run 2 End Hunger** – Rebecca LaPorte Mason Hedeem
 - Registration is up from last year
 - Volunteers needed - Rebecca will reach out to sports teams
 - Working on collecting boxes. Rotary club will be there to pack the boxes the morning of the run
 - Thanks to Pj green for flyers and A. Hartnett for designing the flyers M. Barlett for help with the design to celebrate the 40th year
 - **New Year's Run** at Accelerate – Melissa Barlett
 - Now \$12 for nonmembers and free for members
 - Same setup as last year
 - Will be doing raffles for under 21 years and over 21 years
 - Accelerate is booked for the run
 - Virtual Events
 - **FIVE after FIVE** – Melissa Barlett & Andy Hartnett
 - Will be coming back in 2025 no additional updates
- Activities - Limited
 - Scholarships - Travis Olivera
 - No Report
 - Boilermaker Training Program - Erik/Wendy/Pete
 - Group runs continuing from Forte at 8:30am Saturdays
 - The 2024 season went well with great turn out
 - Planning on late Feb early March to start the 2025 season
 - Boilermaker Expo table and volunteers
 - <https://kesslerpromotions.com/vendors>
 - Grand Prix - Gary LaShure
 - No Report
 - CNY Running Club Cup - Tim Kane/James Kuny
 - Cliff's Gift Card
 - Woodsmen's Run

- Elizabeth Miller and Amanda Hartnett selected as recipients. Amanda received hers at the meeting today
 - Falling Leaves Winners
 - Tommy Carlson and Sue Luley were gift card winners who received gift cards at the meeting
 - Development Runs - Ashley Mancini
 - No updates
 - Youth XC Training Program - Nate Getman & Abbie Sutliff
 - No report
- Activities - Ongoing
 - Volunteers - Rebecca LaPorte
 - Approximately 6 people getting red jackets
 - Run2End Hunger still needs volunteers
 - Additional Updates
 - Social - Melissa Barlett & Rebecca LaPorte
 - Great happy hours lately - well attended!
 - Winter Brunch at Delta Lake proposed for future social event
 - Looking towards February or March - keep your eye out on SpliTimes for more information
 - Pricing and location will depend on the number of people signed up
 - Updates from Don - Pick Date soon
 - November 26th (Tuesday before Thanksgiving) Safety Run and Happy Hour at Pizza Boys
 - Starting at family mill on the Main Street side
 - Wear your reflective clothing
 - No December and January Happy Hours (due to Holiday Season)
 - Grow Brewery has a coffee shop that operates there in the mornings; possible opportunity for a morning coffee shop run (Stride Coffee). Saturday morning run group has been going there after their run
 - Banquet and Awards - Jenna Stefka/Melissa Barlett
 - March 8th, 2025 Club Monarch 6pm-10pm
 - Will start award process, information will be in SpliTimes
 - Start gathering information for award nominations
 - For information about awards with descriptions see website - <https://www.uticaroadrunners.org/membership/awards/>
- UR Supported Events
 - **Tunnel to Towers Utica 5k** - Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez
 - August 17, 2025
 - No additional updates
 - **Trenton Fish and Game Club Trail Run-Rob Kapfer**
 - August 3, 2025
 - **Grateful for Graham 5k** - Amanda Robertello
 - Looking for Date for 2025
- Committees
 - Diversity Committee - Melissa Barlett/Michelle Truett

- On Hold no updates
 - Blood Drive - Andrew Rubino
 - Scheduled for MLK JR Day, Monday January 20, 2025
 - Give away pint glasses and shirts
 - Will be at the American legion in north Utica starting around noon
- **Administration & Finance – Melissa Barlett**
 - Financial - Travis Olivera
 - Report submitted
 - We are slightly below budget
 - Opened 3 CD accounts for savings to generate some additional interest
 - James Kuny will take over in 2025
 - Merchandise - Frank Vellone Sharon Scala (contact at Sneaker Store)
 - Coordination needed between Sneaker Store and USA Racing to stock UR Gear
 - UR shirts were in the process of being printed for display/sale
 - They will keep a few things in stock so that members interested can pick up something
 - Anything special or fancy will be through USA Racing and we will do regular online stores
 - Sneaker Store will also keep our logo on hand to add to purchases on request
 - Working on getting merch available in the new year
 - singlets (\$30) ■ tshirts (\$5)
 - cow bells (\$3) ■ hats (\$15)
 - blankets (\$25) ■ hoodie (\$40)
 - Equipment and Rental - Phil Trzcinski
 - Padlock -
 - Bullhorn -
 - No updates - P. Trzcinski was unavailable
 - Membership - Rebecca LaPorte
 - # members currently 501 current (508 2023)
 - Request to do a 2 year membership? We will take this into consideration and look into the logistics of setting this up on RunSignUp
 - Webpage/Race Calendar - Melissa Barlett & Andy Hartnett
 - Everything is looking good
 - Update races pages with dates
 - If you notice something is out of date let Melissa and Andy know
 - Facebook & PR - Andy Hartnett
 - Will boost information about New Years Day Run and membership after Run2End Hunger
 - M. Barlett will ensure benefits is up to date before sending out the boost
 - Newsletter
 - deadline is 20th of each month
 - Michelle emailed SpliTimes procedure email
 - Melissa will let Michelle know when final review is completed

- Board Member Profiles - George has questionnaires for interested board members to complete and mail to him if interested in being featured in a profile
 - George is looking for nonmember profiles as well, please fill out the questionnaire and mail to George
 - If you want to submit an article to the SpliTimes let us know! We like to have things submitted between 10-20th of the month. Also this is a great way to rack up volunteer points for red jacket seekers
 - Thank you to the Luleys for editing the newsletter month after month
- Clubs & Organizations Liaisons - Melissa Barlett/Erik Winberg (USATF and RRCA)
 - Preparing for renewal email and payments
 - Melissa has submitted information and check
 - Through RRCA we get leadership connection and run insurance
 - If any members are interested in going we will assist in paying for the conference, this year in March, for more information please email
- Sponsorship - David Dietz/Sarah Harrison
 - Finishing touches to the spreadsheet so we ask for sponsorships
 - Thanks David for the updated format
 - DFAS has volunteered as in kind sponsorship for Falling Leaves
 - If you have a business interested in sponsoring please see David
 - If you know any organization or business who would like to help with volunteering please connect with David and Rebecca
 - Don't need money to help the club, manpower for volunteering is so valuable
 - Bank of Utica update - waiting for this information to be updated so we can send them information on the sponsorship
 - Cliff's Fuel Cards for Club Cup
 - David working to try and get First Source interested in Sponsorship

OLD BUSINESS:

- Racing team/race captains (recap)
 - Recaps of Wineglass and Stockadeathon - Thank you Travis and Andy
 - If you're interested in being a race captain there could be perks such as registration discounts, if there are any races on your race calendar let us know and maybe you can be captain of the race and help organize club members to attend. Let Andy know
- Group Runs
 - Erik hosting group runs on Saturdays. Working to partner with Grow Brewing, In Bloom Yoga, Sneaker Store for larger events.
 - Hartnett coordinating UR travel team for It's a Wonderful Run or Lights on the Lake or mountain goat
 - No additional updates
- UR History Documentation - George
 - Summary of UR history to be in SpliTimes

- Board Member Profiles - George has questionnaires for interested board members to complete and mail to him if interested in being featured in a profile
- After School Programing at Rec Center
 - Contact Chet LoConti about partnership (Andrew Rubino has contact information)
- Falling Leaves was RRCA championship, traditionally we offer a gift to the organization.
 - \$100 donation gift will be made

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elections
 - Motion to accept the slate of board officers for nomination to the board. Motion by Travis Olivera 2nd by Amanda Hartnett. Motion carries with one opposed and 24 in favor
- Announcements
 - Congrats to Sandy Arcuri for walking at least 1 mile for over 1,000 consecutive days!
 - Member request to get in touch with the City of Utica about the condition of the trail from parks department to Danielle's (gravel travel parallel to Valley View Road)- it is a dangerous trail. Request to pave the trail. Valley view golf course likely owns the pathway. Are they maintaining the switchbacks trail with the money that we donate? We did have a conversation about the trail maintenance, unsure if that trail can be effectively paved, the trail in question was not included in the original switchbacks agreement. A. Rubino will talk to commissioner
 - Thank you to all the members of the scholarship committee for your work this past season. If you want to earn volunteer points this is another good way to do it. See Travis if you'd like to join the committee

Meeting adjourned at 7:45p
Motion Barlett

Next Meeting: December 9, 2024 at 6:15 at Boilermaker Headquarters

Future meeting dates:

January 13, 2025