



UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, November 17, 2025 6:15 pm, Boilermaker Headquarters

Board Attendance: Andrew Rubino, Gary Searles, Frank Vellone, Melissa Barlett, Tommy Carlson, David Dietz, James Kuny, Andy Hartnett, Rebecca LaPorte, Phil Trzcinski, Erik Winberg

Meeting called to order at: 6:31pm

Motion to accept minutes from last meeting: 1st J. Kuny, 2nd T. Carlson

INITIAL BUSINESS

- Mingleing, food, beverage, merriment
- Voting
- State of the Club
 - Andrew gave an update on the State of Club
 - Our numbers are up and the club is feeling like it's returned to pre COVID
 - We brought back the Delta Lake Brunch Run this year with great success!
 - We also created a community application to donate to local groups seeking our support
 - Our membership has been active with group runs and other events, thank you!
 - Andrew encourages people to stay involved and be as involved as you'd like to be, we appreciate everyone so much. Our members make our club great!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Activities & Events – Erik Winberg**
 - **Races**
 - **Four Race Challenge - Andrew Rubino**
 - Talks happening with USA Racing for designs
 - Prototypes are looking really good, stay tuned!
 - Hoping to do an overall theme for the four race challenge
 - Discuss swag options - want something other than a t-shirt or hoodie? Let us know your ideas!
 - Will be discussing price point at the next meeting
 - Further discussion about how long the offer will last and how much
 - **Save Our Switchbacks - Melissa Barlett**
 - April 18, 2026

- Melissa is planning to email the zoo soon to make sure they are still on for partnership to have the course run through the zoo
- **Summer Sizzle** - Travis Olivera
 - June 21, 2026 — verify date - generally on Father's Day but checking with Juneteenth weekend
 - Sample designs provided - looks great!
- **Falling Leaves** - Andrew Rubino
 - September 27, 2026
 - The race is the first Sunday of fall, this is why the date seems to change year to year
 - 2025 went well!
 - Feedback received about running out of water cups, will ensure coverage for next year
- **Skeleton Run** - Rob Kapfer
 - October 18, 2026
 - Participation was up this year! 308 participants, not counting four pack
 - Lots of club member volunteers and sponsors - Thank you!
 - Did a multi race bundle with the Riggie Run, which was pretty successful and saved people money to participate in both! The bundle also included socks! 60 registered through the bundle. Sitrin owes us some money from the bundle
 - Collected 4 boxes of food for local food pantries
 - Pumpkin Junction gave us a great deal on pumpkins as prizes for winners
 - Shoutout to other sponsors
 - The Sneaker Store
 - Hannaford Supermarkets
 - Holland Farms
 - Nunn Hydration
 - Deerfield Volunteer Fire Company
- **Run 2 End Hunger** – Rebecca LaPorte, Mason Hedeon
 - Thanksgiving — November 27th, 2025
 - Permit received
 - Working on closing road - A. Rubino is following up
 - Stickers update - M. Bartlett reports they will be done and ready by Thanksgiving. A local artist designed who we will shout out on social media
 - Volunteer list looking good
 - Waiting to hear back from Lowe's, Home Depot, UHaul
 - Shoutout to JP Handyman Services for donating boxes - will do a shout out to them on social media after the race
 - Where is the money going? A. Hartnett will put the poll up to finalize where monetary donation is going this year

- Rotary will be collecting/packaging food on race day and have coordinated with Rescue Mission to have them pick up the canned goods
 - **New Year's Run** at Accelerate – Melissa Barlett
 - Discuss location for 2026
 - Sneaker Store interested in working with Club for combined event!
 - E. Winberg willing to set up small kids obstacle course in Forte Gym
 - Virtual Events
 - **FIVE after FIVE** – Melissa Barlett & Andy Hartnett
 - No report
 - Looking to continue in 2026
- Activities - Limited
 - Scholarships - Travis Olivera
 - No report
 - Boilermaker Training Program - Erik Winberg/Peter Angelini/Amanda Hartnett
 - Need start date
 - Ideally will start around the end of February - Amanada Hartnett will follow up with Erik and Pete
 - Boilermaker Expo table and volunteers
 - No report
 - Grand Prix - Gary LaShure
 - Thank you Gary!
 - Gary has been doing the Grand Prix calculations for many years
 - CNY Running Club Cup - James Kuny
 - Inter-running club competition between the 6 clubs in the area
 - Paige and Mary Ann will co-captain in 2026 - thank you for volunteering!
 - For next year, need to give more information to the participants on how they score points at the beginning of the year so there is greater awareness
 - If you see the paper to sign at races make sure you sign as it makes the calculations so much easier!
 - Cliff's Gift Card: \$300 in gift cards donated - reviewed who still needs cards. Congratulations Frank Vellone as top club performer who received gift card at the meeting. Other three gift card winners from recent runs will go in the mail.
 - Shout out to Sue Luley for her many top performances
 - Development Runs - Ashley Mancini
 - Planning shirt Design contest for 2026
 - Youth XC Training Program - Nate Getman & Abbie Sutliff
 - Over the summer they put on a Youth XC program in Whitesboro, fills up very quickly. Elementary aged kids
 - The club provided rally towels for the kids this year
- Activities - Ongoing
 - Volunteers - Rebecca LaPorte
 - Volunteer shirts - ordered and received
 - Social - Melissa Barlett & Rebecca LaPorte

- October Happy Hour at Grow
 - How did it go? Members report the meet up went well, it was busy
 - November Happy Hour - in tandem with Safety Run
 - Pizza Boys at 7:00ish
 - Club will provide pizza - cheese, pepperoni, and gluten free will be available
 - Wear your safety gear and bright lights!
 - Nathan rep hopefully will be at the run to demo some safety gear
 - Banquet and Awards - Jenna Stefka/Melissa Barlett/Ashley Mancini
 - Discussion of location - ideas or suggestions? Send to Melissa
 - Club Monarch owners have retired but the location may still be available to hold events
 - Looking at other venues - Melissa planning on making some calls
 - Suggestion for 7 Hamlets banquet room, Stonebridge, and Polish Community Center
 - February 28th or March 7th as tentative dates
 - Racing team/Captains - Andrew Hartnett
 - Willow (Discount codes available)
 - Boos and Brews - how did it go? Went well and there were fun costumes!
 - Ugly Sweater 5k - Some members are planning to participate
- UR Supported Events
 - **Grateful for Graham 5k** - Amanda Robertello
 - May 2, 2026
 - 2025 was a record year! The two first place overall winners won charity bibs for NYC marathon and both competed. Both raised over \$3,000 for the charity bibs
 - **Trenton Fish and Game Club Trail Run-Rob Kapfer**
 - August 2, 2026
 - Received a thank you letter from Kelberman Center for their support and donation through this event
 - 4.5mi trail run in Holland Patent - canon start is quite exciting
 - **Tunnel to Towers Utica 5k** - Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez
 - August 16, 2026
 - NYC event went well, capped at 40k participants
- Committees
 - Diversity Committee - Melissa Barlett/Michelle Truett
 - On Hold no updates
 - Blood Drive - Andrew Rubino
 - Exploring dates for future drive
- **Administration & Finance – Melissa Barlett**
 - Financial - James Kuny
 - Report

- Most of the spending in October was related to payments for Falling Leaves, nothing out of the ordinary
- J. Kuny provided an overview of the Treasurer role
- The state of our finances is in a good place at this time
- Assured members that at this time we are doing well financially and we have been able keep membership dues low
- Financial questions in the future can go to James Kuny by email or stop by a board meeting to have your questions addressed
- Merchandise - Frank Vellone
 - Continue UR Merch Table @Running Events, planning to table at Run2End Hunger — Need volunteer to manage, see Rebecca if you are available (all past race shirts \$5 - long sleeve, short sleeve, tanks)
 - Coordination between Sneaker Store and USA Racing to stock UR Gear
 - Do you have something you've been dying to see? Let Andrew know!
 - Set up online store with USA Racing
 - Connect with Summer Sizzle Race
 - Frank reminded members that any gear that you buy at the Sneaker Store you can get the UR logo added to it (unless it's specialized tech material or heavily patterned, then the logo won't stick)
 - Andrew reviewed the prices of available merch (see below for details)

■ singlets (\$30)	■ tshirts (\$5)
■ cow bells (\$3)	■ hats (\$10)
■ blankets (\$25)	■ hoodie (\$20)
- Equipment and Rental - Phil Trzcinski
 - Trailer has moved to A&P for the winter
 - The trailer sustained damage to the fenders due to unknown accident in the parking lot, will get quotes to fix in the Spring
 - Andrew has arch and kettlebells - Rebecca will coordinate
- Membership - Rebecca LaPorte
 - 520 members currently, 328 current memberships
 - 2024 #s (Nov 2024: 207 individual, 132 couples, 161 family, 1 individual 2 year - 501 total members)
 - End of Year discount after Falling Leaves (1-Oct thru next year)
 - Andrew reminded members that your membership fee gives members access to discounts on races, discounts at the Sneaker Store, access to happy hours and membership events. It also helps you stay connected to events in our area!
- Webpage/Race Calendar - Melissa Barlett & Andy Hartnett
 - Rubino organizing bios for Hartnett - On Hold
 - If you notice something is out of date let Melissa and Andy know
 - There is a calendar of races on our webpage so you can see local races that are occurring
 - Shoutout to Andy for keeping things up to date
- Facebook & PR - Andy Hartnett
 - No updates

- Shout out to Andy for all his hard work on Facebook and Strava posts
- Newsletter
 - deadline is 20th of each month
 - Ad Purchases
 - Promos of Award Nominations
 - New Liaison for RRCA (Melissa)
 - Nominate members for profiles - if you're interested in being interviewed please connect with George Searles for a profile
 - Members are always welcome to submit articles for publication in the newsletter (this also is worth volunteer points for those pursuing their red jackets!)
- Clubs & Organizations Liaisons - Melissa Barlett/Erik Winberg (USATF and RRCA)
 - No updates
- Sponsorship - David Dietz
 - David has sent information to 9 organizations for Sponsorship
 - Looking to get sponsorships for Four Run Challenge - David thinks he might have found someone!
 - Pick Deadline for 2026 - need deadline for getting their name on the back of individual vs. four race challenge shirt
 - If you have a business interested in sponsoring please see David
 - make ad for Splitimes
 - If you know any organization or business who would like to help with volunteering please connect with David and Rebecca
 - We also have a letter for businesses who want to offer volunteers if members would like to share it with a business interested in volunteering
 - We can send members information to share with businesses for sponsorship
- Non-Profit
 - Melissa Updated Non-Profit documentation
 - \$500 per year
 - Ineligible for 2 years
 - Melissa gave an overview of the non-profit funding that we have available for local organizations
 - This idea came out of supporting kids running travel teams

OLD BUSINESS:

- Safety Run - Tuesday November 25th at 6:30pm
 - Starting at The Mill
 - Will be going to Pizza Boys for Happy Hour after
 - Visibility gear coordination with Sneaker Store
 - There will be glow goodies
- Tilden Hill Farm Trails - Verona
 - 12 miles of trails open for running, biking, camping
 - Discussion of run and bike relay, group runs, special event

- Anyone interested in taking the reins on that?

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elections
 - Thank you outgoing board members - George Searles (will still do profiles), David Dietz (still helping with sponsorship), Lauren Culyer
 - Phil Trzcinski staying on for a single year to finish out Lauren Culyer's term
 - Newly voted in 6 board members for 2 years - Linley Bingham, Andy Hartnett, James Kuny, Paige Marraffa, Donna Morreall, Frank Vellone
- Picture of old/new boards taken and will be posted on Facebook

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Roman Runners hosting Holiday Run 5k on Black Friday in conjunction with annual Rome tree lighting - Andy will share information
- Bellamy Turkey Trot on 11/15 went great and the arch was perfect. Equipment will be returned this week to Club. The arch and kettlebells were borrowed and event went well
- Mental skills coaching for runners, mentoring through Colgate. Anyone ages 13+ motivated to improve performance or mindset. They might be open to groups. Open to those currently running. 8-10 sessions. If you have any questions or want to sharpen your mental game when running let Andrew know for contact information
- We have a photographer Logan for four pack, he has done an excellent job if you have any photography needs. Check out RunSignUp for Falling Leaves photos. The photos in the switchbacks are awesome

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm 1st D. Dietz, 2nd T. Carlson

Next Meeting: December 8, 2025 at 6:15 at Boilermaker Headquarters

Future meeting dates:

January 12, 2026