



2026

Information

Handbook

www.uticaroadrunners.org



Utica Roadrunners
PO Box 4141
Utica, NY 13504
www.uticaroadrunners.org

President's Letter

Welcome!

As President of the Utica Roadrunners and on behalf of the over 500 club members, I am happy to welcome you as one of the newest members of the Utica Roadrunners and the Road Runners Club of America. The Utica Roadrunners not only run together but also volunteer together. We are a highly-motivated group, both in running and community activities. We are very proud of our record of promoting health, personal fitness and athletic achievement through running.

We have a diverse membership, which includes the ultramarathoner to the non-competitive recreational runner. We have some walkers, too. We are husbands, wives, children, teachers, doctors, secretaries, and retired persons – and much more. You will find that from the very fast to the not so fast, from the very young to the not so young – “There’s a place for every pace” in the Utica Roadrunners.

You will have the opportunity to craft your membership into the level you wish. Some of us join several times per week to run and volunteer. Other club members may only join in weekly or monthly and that’s ok too. We have several activities that carry us through the year. These include working on our Boilermaker Training Program and our continuing trail renovation project in the South Woods portion of the Utica Park system. We help other community events such as the Boilermaker Road Race and Tunnel to Towers. We also have our own races and we help other groups with their races.

Again, welcome to the Utica Roadrunners. Look for more on our website at www.uticaroadrunners.org, including our member forum and comprehensive Race Calendar. Business meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Utica Boilermaker Office. Feel free to e-mail me at rubino.uticaroadrunners@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,
Andrew Rubino, Club President

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Governance and Organization

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A board of 12 directors who are elected for a two-year staggered term with six members elected each year governs the club. Final approval of the selected candidates is by a general election called by the board and held at a general membership meeting.

Board members currently serving during 2026 are listed below with the date of their term expiration:

Melissa Barlett	12/26	Linley Bingham	12/27
Tommy Carlson	12/26	Andrew Hartnett	12/27
Rebecca LaPorte	12/26	James Kuny	12/27
Andrew Rubino	12/26	PJ Marraffa	12/27
Phil Trzcinski	12/26	Donna Morreall	12/27
Erik Winberg	12/26	Frank Vellone	12/27

CLUB OFFICERS

Five officers are elected annually for a one-year term by the incumbent board of directors following the general election. Officers for 2026 are:

President	Andrew Rubino
Vice-President for Activities & Events	Erik Winberg
Vice-President for Finance & Administration	Melissa Barlett
Treasurer	James Kuny
Secretary	Rebecca LaPorte

MEETINGS

Business meetings are held at 6:15pm on the second Monday of the month at the Boilermaker Race office on Court Street in Utica or at a place TBA by the president. If you plan to attend, email Andrew Rubino at rubino.uticaroadrunners@gmail.com. Check the calendar on the website to make sure in case of a date change. All members are invited to attend. All officers and board members are expected to attend all business meetings.

RECORDS

Club business activities, by-laws, policy, and other governance documents	Melissa Barlett	docbarlett@gmail.com
Membership Records	Rebecca LaPorte	xcrunnerrkll@gmail.com
Race and Yearly Mileage Records	Melissa Barlett	docbarlett@gmail.com
Email and Address Changes	Rebecca LaPorte	xcrunnerrkll@gmail.com
Financials and Payments	James Kuny	james.kuny@gmail.com

CONTACTS

There are several permanent committees, each headed by a chairperson or director. The officers and committee chairpersons are responsible for the day-by-day management of the club business and report to the Board of Directors at the monthly business meetings. Committee chairpersons may or may not be Board members, and are appointed by the Board for a one-year term.

Club Details and Committees		
Newsletter	Michelle McCarrick	michelle@484design.com
Webpage	Melissa Barlett Andrew Hartnett Rocco Fernalld	docbarlett@gmail.com ahartnet25@gmail.com rocco.fernall@quadsimia.com
Race Calendar	Melissa Barlett Andrew Rubino	docbarlett@gmail.com rubino.uticaroadrunners@gmail.com
Social Coordinator	Melissa Barlett	docbarlett@gmail.com
Facebook, Media Releases, and PR	Andrew Hartnett	ahartnet25@gmail.com
Merchandise	Frank Vellone	fevellone@gmail.com

Equipment Rental	Phil Trzcinski	philtrz219@gmail.com
Volunteers	Rebecca LaPorte	Contact form on Website xcrunnerkll@gmail.com
Awards	Melissa Barlett	docbarlett@gmail.com
Scholarships	Travis Olvera	travis.l.olivera@gmail.com
SOS Project	David Jones	davidjones0422@gmail.com
USATF and RRCA Liaison	Melissa Barlett Erik Winberg	docbarlett@gmail.com erikwin230@gmail.com
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee	Michelle McCarrick	michelle@484design.com
Runs, Races, and Training Programs		
Save Our Switchbacks	Melissa Barlett	docbarlett@gmail.com
Summer Sizzle	Travis Olvera	travis.l.olivera@gmail.com
Falling Leaves	Andrew Rubino	rubino.uticaroadrunners@gmail.com
Skeleton Run	Rob Kapfer	robert.kapfer@gmail.com
CNY Running Clubs Cup	PJ Marraffa & Mary Ann Lasher	pmarraff@gmail.com maryannlasher@yahoo.com
Grand Prix	Gary LaSure	gslnus@yahoo.com
Development Runs	Ashley Mancini	Ashmancini12@gmail.com
Boilermaker Training Program	Erik Winberg	erikwin230@gmail.com
Youth Development	Nate Getman	npgetman@yahoo.com

Anyone interested in serving on any of the committees should contact the committee chairperson or the Club President – Andrew Rubino at rubino.uticaroadrunners@gmail.com.

Regular Club Events

GRAND PRIX

The Grand Prix series of races is a friendly competition among all members registered as of March 12, 2026. Members are automatically eligible, and points are received per race order of finish in five-year age groups, with one's age as of October 31, 2026, determining age group for the season. The best six performances among the 13 designated races will determine standings for awards, with a minimum of three races required to be eligible for an award. Grand Prix races for 2026 are:

3/14/2026	Mad Mile	1 Mile	Utica
4/12/2026	Fort to Fort	10K	Rome
4/18/2026	Save Our Switchbacks	7.5K	Utica
5/17/2026	Erie Canal Races	10 Mile	Marcy
6/14/2026	Patriot Run	5K	Rome
6/21/2026	Summer Sizzle	5 Mile	Utica
7/12/2026	Boilermaker	15K	Utica
7/19/2026*	Sundae Run	5K	Richfield Springs
8/16/2026	Tunnel to Towers	5K	Utica
8/21/2026	Woodsmen's Field Days	10K	Boonville
9/27/2026	Falling Leaves	14K	Utica
10/11/2026	Riggie Run	5K	Utica
10/18/2026	Skeleton Run	5K	Deerfield

*date not confirmed

Grand Prix details, results, standings, and reports can be found at the Club's website and monthly *SplitTimes* newsletter. For more information, please contact Gary LaShure at gslnus@yahoo.com.

CNY RUNNING CLUBS CUP

This friendly competition is held annually among the Kuyahoora Kickers, Mohawk Valley Hill Striders, Roman Runners, Toe Path Trekkers, Route 20 Roadies, and the Utica Roadrunners. In a series of designated races throughout the season, each club's members will compete on an age-graded basis against the five other clubs. By using age grading, anyone in a club could find themselves contributing to the club's success in any given race. There are no gender or age distinctions. The Cup is truly open to all members. The best five results by each club's members in a race will be compared to the other clubs and points awarded on a descending basis, with six

points to the best, five to second and so on down to a single point. At the end of the year, the club with the most points wins the CNY Running Clubs Cup and bragging rights for a year. To make this work, the race registrations for a Cup race will now include a question about club affiliation, and that information will be included in the race results. People who are members of more than one Cup club should be aware that the first club you compete for in a year is the club you will represent for the rest of the year.

For information, contact PJ Marraffa (pmarraff@gmail.com) or Mary Ann Lasher (maryannlasher@yahoo.com)

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Various types of social gatherings are coordinated by members on a regular basis. These include occasional family-friendly social events and monthly happy hours. These will be advertised to the membership through our social media channels. Contact Melissa Barlett docbarlett@gmail.com with ideas or questions.

Communication

NEWSLETTER

Our club newsletter, *SpliT*imes, is published monthly. A link is e-mailed to each member household. It contains a calendar of upcoming club events, meetings, club runs, a schedule of area races, race results, running articles, and many other news items of interest to members.

If you have any articles, announcements, or news items that you would like to have included in the newsletter send them to Michelle McCarrick, c/o Utica Roadrunners, P.O. Box 4141, Utica NY 13504 or email Michelle at michelle@484design.com. The submission deadline for articles is the 15th of each month for publication at the start of the following month. Deadline for race announcements is the first of the month before the race month.

Member Information and Benefits

DUES

Dues are \$25 for an Individual Membership, \$30 for a Family Membership of two, or \$40 for three or more. For both "Family Membership" options, the family members should all share the same address.

Dues are payable on a calendar year basis and are due January 1st. Deadline for payment is January 31st. Membership privileges (including the Newsletter!) may be discontinued if dues are not received by the deadline, and persons delinquent after February 28 are removed from the membership list, are ineligible for the Grand Prix until dues are paid, and are discontinued from receiving the *SpliT*imes.

New members joining October 1st and after pay the full membership fee but will not be re-assessed for the following year.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Club clothing, including tank tops, shorts, tech shirts, and more is available at many Club events, at the Sneaker Store, and by contacting the Merchandise Chairperson, contact info listed above. Online pop-up stores to purchase merchandise may sometimes be available and will be advertised through Club social media channels.

RED JACKET AWARDS

Members of the club who complete at least 1000 miles of running or walking as a member during a single calendar year for the first time and have accumulated 10 volunteer points within the prior two years are awarded a special club jacket with "1000 MILE CLUB" and their name or nickname embroidered on the front. If a member earns 30 volunteer points in a single year, but does not complete 1000 miles, they could be given an "Extra Mile Club" jacket. The point system for earning a club jacket will be based on the volunteer points as listed below. Members earning both awards will have the second award as a patch on the original jacket.

Mileage must be verifiable from a personal running/walking log and reported by January 15th of the following year. A form for reporting mileage and volunteer points will be provided in the December newsletter or can be obtained from Melissa Barlett at docbarlett@gmail.com.

Members of the 1000-MILE CLUB who complete 1000 miles or more during subsequent calendar years after earning their jacket will receive mileage chevrons that may be sewn on their jacket sleeve. Chevrons are awarded in 100-mile increments from 1000 and upward.

Red chevrons will be given for mileage designated as run or run/walk accumulated within a calendar year. A blue chevron will be given for mileage designated as walk only accumulated within a calendar year (first begun in 2022). Both of these can be earned in a single year if both totals are 1000 miles or more. The walking log must follow the same guidelines as the running log.

Our club jacket is a red micro-fiber shell with a lining and carries the club name and logo on the front. The member's name or nickname can be custom embroidered on the front.

VOLUNTEER POINTS

Points may be earned for:

- Board of Directors and Specific Chairs
 - Serving on the Board of Directors as an officer: 30 points
 - Serving on the Board of Directors non-officer: 20 points
 - Membership Chair: 20 points
 - Merchandise Chair: 20 points
- Director of Club race or training program: 20 points
 - Includes Falling Leaves, Summer Sizzle, SOS, BTP, Development Runs, Skeleton Run, Run 2 End Hunger, Safety Run
- Director of Club event (non-race/training) or ongoing project: 20 points
 - Includes Holiday Party, Awards Party & Committee, *SpliTImes* Editor, Webmaster, SOS Project, Grand Prix, Club Cup
- Committee Chair or Coordinator of club event (non-race/training) or special committee: 10 points
 - Includes Awards Committee, Scholarship Committee, Social Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, and other committees
- Committee Members of club event (non-race/training) or special committee: 5 points
 - Includes Awards Committee, Scholarship Committee, and other committees
- Unique Point Earning Opportunities
 - Hosting the Thursday Night Run, or the like, at least four times: 10 points
 - Writing a regular column for *SpliTImes*: 10 points
 - Proofreading monthly *SpliTImes* for a year: 10 points
 - Writing a single article for *SpliTImes*: 2 points
 - Authoring a grant application for the club: 10 points

- General volunteer for a single race or training event: 1 point per two-hour time commitment (maximum of 5 points per event, with the exception of the Boilermaker Training Program and the Development Runs, which each have a maximum of 10)
 - This includes volunteering for SOS, Falling Leaves, Summer Sizzle, Run 2 End Hunger, Skeleton Run, a single Dev. Run, a single BTP training event, or other UR supported runs
- General volunteer for other club events and committees (non-race/training): 1 point per two-hour time commitment (maximum of 5 points per event)
 - This includes Holiday Party; Club booth at Heart Run or Boilermaker Expo; Health Expos; Scholarship Committee member other than chairperson.

Members must keep track of their own points and turn them in annually before January 15th. A form for reporting mileage and volunteer points will be provided in the December newsletter or can be obtained from Melissa Barlett at docbarlett@gmail.com. If earning a Red Jacket for the first time, points from the previous two years may be reported.

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Usually held in February or early March. At this time members nominated by the Awards Committee are recognized for their outstanding achievement and their dedication to running.

Volunteer Service Awards

Robert H. "Coach" Carlson Distinguished Service Award – Established in 1987 in honor of Bob (Coach) Carlson, to the Utica Roadrunner who has contributed significantly to the success of the Club by volunteering hours of work to racing and running events, social events, and helping to run the Club.

Volunteer of the Year Award – Awarded to recognize the Utica Roadrunner who unselfishly volunteers hours of time for the benefit of the various projects of the Club and for the entire running community.

Frank D'Allesandro Training Volunteer Award – Awarded to recognize an individual with the most enthusiasm, time, and support to new members of the running world.

Inspiration Award – Awarded to the Utica Roadrunner whose upbeat attitude and dedication to using their talents has had a positive influence on other runners throughout the year.

The “Grit” Award - Began in 2021 in honor of late UR member Phyllis Spohn-Bates, who always gave everything she did everything she had. This is awarded to someone who shows passion and perseverance while overcoming obstacles and challenges, and pushes themselves further than they thought they could go.

Distinguished Roadrunner Supporter Award – Awarded in appreciation and recognition of a corporation, group, or individual whose support has made a significant contribution to Utica-area running. (This award is typically given to non-Club members.)

President’s Award – Awarded at the discretion of the Club’s President.

Extra Mile Jacket – Earn 30 volunteer points. Further described above under Red Jacket Awards.

Golden Shoe Award – this patch is presented to members who have contributed their time and efforts toward the Club on at least 3 occasions during the year. This includes volunteering to help at races, hosting club runs, serving on committees, recruiting and welcoming new members, or contributing in numerous other ways toward furthering the club's goals.

Running Merit Awards

Utica Roadrunner Hall of Fame Award – Awarded to the individual who has excelled for many years in the sport of running and has distinguished himself or herself through racing achievements and/or support of the running community.

Roadrunner(s) of the Year Award (Female and Male, Open & Grandmasters) – Awarded to the Utica Roadrunner who has the most outstanding season of running in road races, on the basis of finishing using times and awards. The award was expanded in 1998 to recognize females and males in two age divisions: Open (under 50 years) and Grandmaster (50 years and over).

Most Improved Roadrunners (Female and Male) – Awarded to the female and male Utica Roadrunner who has had the greatest improvement in times from the previous year(s) for a number of races over a variety of distances.

Grand Prix Race Series Awards - patch for five-year age-group first place, certificates to second and third (default certificates will be digital, physical ones may be requested); awards for maximum points in five races; highest cumulative points top five;

1000 Mile Club Red Jacket - 1000 miles and 10 volunteer points as listed above.

Chevrons - Members of the 1000-MILE CLUB who complete 1000 miles or more during the subsequent calendar year and who earned 5 volunteer points after earning their jacket will receive mileage chevrons that may be sewn on their jacket sleeve. Chevrons are awarded as described above under Red Jacket Awards.

Marathon Patch: A marathon runner patch is awarded to any club member who completes an organized marathon race. Stars are awarded that can be attached to the marathon patch to indicate several completed marathons: Blue Star - 5 marathons; Red Star - 10 marathons.

Ultra Patch: An Ultra Patch is awarded to any club member who completes an organized race longer than a marathon. Pins are then added to the patch to note the different types of Ultra events. These include: Black – 50k, Red – 50 mile, Green – 12 hour, Blue – 100k, Orange – 100 mile, Yellow – 24 hour. Multiple pins can be added to the patch for each event completed.

10,000 Mile Club Patch: Awarded to Club members who have accrued 10,000 miles while a member of the Utica Roadrunners.

Magellan Patch: Awarded to Club members who have accrued 25,000 miles while a member of the Utica Roadrunners.

Award Eligibility

Only current members in good standing are eligible to receive club awards. This means that all club dues and club purchase charges must be paid by January 31st of the year that the award is received. This is to allow time for the Awards Committee to complete special custom orders before the Awards Banquet.

CLUB DISCOUNTS/BENEFITS

Members in good standing receive a 10% discount at the Sneaker Store. The store has a list of current club members. There are also deals for memberships at Accelerate Sports. See website for up-to-date benefits and information: <http://www.uticaroadrunners.org/membership/>

National Affiliations

Our club enjoys the benefits of membership in both USA TRACK & FIELD (USATF) and the ROADRUNNERS CLUB of AMERICA (RRCA), the two major national running organizations in the United States. The Club is also a Founding Member of the National Distance Running Hall of Fame.

USATF

USA Track & Field "USATF" is the national governing body for the sport of long distance running, track & field, and race walking and, as such, is the United States' member of the INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION (IAAF). USATF's responsibility and purpose are to develop interest and participation in the sport, minimize conflict in race scheduling, and establish rules for competition.

The ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION of the USATF is one of 56 regional associations that compose USATF. Our club is one of about 27 member clubs that make up the Association. We are club number 213. You will need to know this if you plan to apply for an individual USATF number for competition. You will need one if you plan to compete for awards in USATF Championship races, and some of the larger marathons require applicants to have a USATF number.

RRCA

The ROADRUNNERS CLUB of AMERICA (RRCA) is a national organization of over 500 clubs located in 50 states, and represents over 120,000 individual members. Our club is a member club (club number 175) within the Eastern Region of the RRCA. The RRCA is not a governing body like USATF, but was formed by runners and for runners to promote the sport and to establish guidelines for the conduct of sanctioned races.

The RRCA publishes *ClubRunning*, a quarterly newsletter that is emailed to all members in February, May, August, and November. If you are not receiving your copy, contact the Membership Director.

Other Questions/Concerns

If you have any further questions about our club, please contact any officer or board member. They will be glad to help make your membership in the UTICA ROADRUNNERS club a rewarding activity.