

Empire Runners February 2008 Club Meeting

[pending approval at the March 27, 2008, club meeting]

President **Bob Finlay** (bfinlay@sbcglobal.net) called the February 2008 meeting of the Empire Runners to order at 6:43pm on February 28th, 2008.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary **Nate Koch** (nathankoch@gmail.com) read the minutes from the January 2008 meeting and they were approved with the following changes – the creek cleanup date is on April 12th, not the 17th.

Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of Treasurer **John Harmon** (jj2harmon@yahoo.com) there was no Treasurers Report, however, the starting balance was \$28,838.61 and the ending balance \$28,038.08. The student grand fund balance is currently \$1,148.

President's Report:

Gil Moreno (runfire@earthlink.net) has taken over as the new membership chairperson. Gil also put together membership cards for those who attended last month's meeting and will begin sending them out with renewals and new memberships.

Chris Mason (usingthegift@gmail.com) has made some significant improvements to the club website. Check it out!

Bob Finlay thanked everyone for the cards and condolences that everyone gave to him over the passing of his father.

Recent Events:

Valley Ford Relays (2/17/08)– 25 teams finished. There was great weather and an excellent time was had by all who participated. **Larry Meredith** wrote a great article which can be read in the March Newsletter.

Austin Creek Run – **Dale Peterson** told the tale of a harrowing adventure of fourteen miles worth of closed parks, high winds, torrential rains, and flooded

creeks. **Dale** advised that if you ever hear of this run again, "RUN THE OTHER WAY!"

Tamalpa Couples Race (2/10/08) – **Gil Moreno** and his partner (who he had never met) ran the race and won their age group.

Davis Stampede (2/3/08) – **Mel Lovrin** and **Lars Anderson** ran the half marathon. Mel was second overall and 1st in her age group. The weather was great.

San Francisco Half-Marathon (2/3/08) – While Mel and Lars were soaking up a great race with great weather, Larry and Tori Meredith were soaking up the wind and rain. Tori described the weather as "hellacious".

Upcoming Events:

Pt. Reyes Trail Run (3/9/08) - This should be a great run. **Bob Finlay** said that it's always fun and not too challenging, although **Doc** may shake things up a bit this year.

Ilsanjo Classic (3/16/08) – **Digger Dave**, in his usual verbose way said, "Be There." **Digger** (daviddeselle@sbcglobal.net) could use some more volunteers.

Loop de Loop (4/6/08) – **Doc** said "see the newsletter" for further details. Make sure not to park in no parking areas.

Napa Marathon (3/2/08) – **Mark James** reported that the Sonoma State University team is helping out.

Big Cat Invitational (3/1/08) – **Digger** reported that Santa Rosa High's big invite should be a great watch with some great distance runners planning on attending.

Petaluma Footrace (4/13/08) – **Ian Inman** said that this is a great race and is very kid friendly. It raises money for the E² Fund (Enrich and Educate).

Committee Reports:

Club Banquet – **Val Sell** did a great job this year...even with no electricity. In fact, many people preferred having the lights out. This just might be planned for next year.

Student Grant Fund – Student Grant applications have been mailed to Cross Country and Track coaches as well as to school guidance counselors.

Hall of Fame – **Ralph Harms** (harmsway@sonic.net) reported that the committee met and discussed the foundation and plans of the new Hall of Fame. There should be a proposal by March's Club Meeting.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Donation to Annadel State Park – **Jerry Lyman** reported that there will be a new visitor center at the Ranger Station on Channel Drive. This is a project is not funded by the state but by donations to the park. After a discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Empire Runners is one of the most frequent users of the park and that we should donate to the project. The club is considering donating money and time to the installation of a drinking fountain which would also include a drinking area for dogs. PACE Supply is being contacted about a possible donation or discount on the drinking fountain. **Ian Inman** motioned to commit \$2000 to the project. The motion was seconded by **LT**. The motion passed.

Vineman Triathlon Aid Station – **Val Sell** is looking to man an aid station for the Vineman Triathlon again. Volunteers will be needed. The event is on August 2nd.

Raffle/Drawing:

Raffle: **Jerry Lyman** (\$29).

Drawing: **Lori Winkler** (\$200, not present). Next month's drawing is for **\$200**. It was noted that membership is at its highest ever with over 500 members (290+ households).

Newsletter: The March 2008 newsletter was already ready to be mailed.

Bob Finlay adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Attendance:

Nate Koch, Ünter- Mel, Über-Lars Anderson, Der Dummkopf Doktor, Super G, Bob Shor, Don Sampson, Dave Deselle, SLEDGE, Shirley Fee, Thermo, Bill Browne, Mark James, Pap, Dave Secchitano, Steve Cleal, Larry Meredith, Tori Meredith, Chris Mason, Ian Inman, Bob Finlay, Ralph Harms, Dale Trowbridge, Gil Moreno, Anna Derho.