

Empire Runners July 2007 Club Meeting

President **Val Sell** called the July 2007 meeting of the Empire Runners to order at 7:35pm on July 26th, 2007.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary **Lars Andersen** read the minutes from the June 2007 club meeting. They were approved with the correction that **John Harmon**, not **Jon Hermstad**, ran Hit the Road Jack with **Bob Finlay**.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer **John Harmon** reported on the club's finances. Starting balance \$17,750.04. Ending balance \$29,603.60.

Recent Events:

Dale Peterson reported on the Sonoma Valley Footrace. They had about 130 runners, and the course was nice. The age groups were strange.

Dale Trowbridge reported on the Whale Run in Fort Bragg. It's nice, but quite a drive to get there.

Lars Andersen reported on the Vineman 70.3 triathlon. It's a super event. You should tri it!

Upcoming Events:

See the "Empire Runners Club 2007 Race Schedule."

Salmon Creek Run: August 5th.

Empire Open: August 25th.

Annadel Loop: September 9th.

Old Business:

Kenny Brown reported on the Kenwood Footrace. Our fears about a drop in attendance due to the cancelled pillowfights were unfounded, as we had 1,079 runners signed up and 1,047 finishers. Despite a few glitches with traffic control and parking, things seemed to go as smoothly as ever thanks to an amazing group of volunteers. The church breakfast was a big success with over 600 hungry runners taking part. **Bob Finlay** reported that dealing with the county about traffic control was a very positive experience. Bob will send them a thank-you letter. The property owners whose land the course runs thru were very accommodating so **Val Sell** will send each of them a nice gift basket as a token of our appreciation. Next we discussed ways we could thank the Kenwood community for their support of the race. Since we made more money from the race than in previous years because we didn't have to pay \$3,500 for staging the race, we decided that a committee consisting of **Larry Meredith**, **Bob Finlay**, **Dale Trowbridge**, **Jerry Lyman** and **Kenny Brown** would make a proposal at the next meeting for how we could best distribute \$1,000 to the Kenwood community, possibly to the elementary school's Outdoor Education Fund, the Kenwood Fire Department, or the church. The committee will consult **Dennis Fagan**, a club member and Kenwood resident, for advice.

Val Sell reported that the club will staff a run aid station at the Vineman triathlon on August 4th. We get paid \$250 for this. She is looking for a few more volunteers.

New Business:

Larry Meredith proposed a XC sponsorship program similar to last year, with members paying for their first race themselves and the club paying for up to five more approved races. This usually costs the club \$3,000-\$4,000 annually. Lots of discussion followed. **Val Sell** noted that she does not consider sponsoring our own runners to be in line with the mission of the club, and proposed a compromise where members would pay for three races themselves and the club would pay for up to three more approved races. **Lars Andersen** agreed with Val about being able to better serve our mission in different ways, and proposed an incentive program where members would pay for all races themselves but where the club would then contribute a certain amount of money per XC runner per race to a fund. At the end of the season, we would give the money away to one or more of the many worthy running-related programs in our community. It might cost the club the same amount of money as Larry's sponsorship program, but the money would go to people who need them. Larry did not see a better cause than sponsoring a group of XC runners. At the end, Larry's proposal carried, with two officers - Val and Lars - voting against it.

Val Sell reported that the club's timing machine has been sent for repairs.

Jerry Lyman solicited interest in making race schedule postcards for 2008. He will make a proposal at the next club meeting.

Kathleen Cortez reported on Girls on the Run. It's a 3-month program where 3rd-5th grade at-risk girls train for a 5K and improve their body image, self esteem and confidence in the process. The program is new to Santa Rosa, and runs from September 5th to November 30th at Hidden Valley Elementary School. Kathleen asked if it would be possible to host the 5K in conjunction with a club race. A group of people would discuss this afterwards.

Dan Preston got a round of applause for his hard work with the track meets.

Raffle/Drawing:

Raffle: **Dan Preston** (\$15).

Drawing: **Ralph Harms** (\$200, not present). Next month's drawing is for **\$200**.

Newsletter:

The August 2007 newsletter was folded, stapled and stamped.

Attendance:

Lars Andersen, John Harmon, Mini-Mel, Super G x2, Iguana, Dale Trowbridge, Susan Kelleher, Dave DeSelle, Dale M. Peterson, Lawrence Eugene Rathbone Meredith III, Nathan Koch, Tori Meredith, Bob Finlay, Pappy, Anna Derho, Dan Preston, Kenny Brown, Kathy Brown, LT, Kathleen Cortez, Val.

Respectfully submitted,
Lars Andersen