

Empire Runners March 2009 Club Meeting

(pending approval at the April 23, 2009 meeting)

President **Bob Finlay** (bfinlay@sbcglobal.net) called the March, 2009 meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary **Paul Berg** (pmberg@sonic.net) read the February 2009 meeting minutes which were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer **John Harmon** (jj2harmon@yahoo.com) reported that the current club balance is \$30,019.61, down \$1276. from the same time last year. The major expense in the past month was \$1237 for clothing and \$1485 for Kenwood footrace awards. The Student Grant Fund balance is \$1416, approx \$1937 less than the same time last year. Ilsanjo race had income of \$1518, expenses of \$ 836, for a net of \$682.

President's Report:

President **Bob Finlay** reported that the new club sponsorship director is **Bill Browne**. He also reported that the student grant fund is down from this time last year, and encouraged contributions.

Race Reports:

1. Recent races/Runs:
 - a. Point Reyes Trail run 3-08-09: no report, women's group of 5 ran
 - b. Ilsanjo Classis 3-15-09: Race director **Mark James** thanked everyone who helped on race day. There were 55% non-Empire runners, many from the Fleet Feet training group. 35 newt scoot kids, a large turnout.
 - c. Napa marathon 3-01-09: Paul Berg, Darryl Beardall, Nuvit Foster ran.
2. Upcoming Races/Runs:
 - a. Loop-de-loop 4-5-09: **Alec Isabeau** reminded everyone of the great swag and amenities
 - b. Petaluma Footrace 4-19-09: **Chris Mason** reminded that runners must pre-register by 4-15-09
 - c. Fitch Mountain footrace 6-07-09: **Jerry Strong** thanked ER for their support in the past and will be seeking race-day help again this year

- d. Viking Track Classic 4-25-09: **Val Sell** said that there is an open 2-mile race for all ages as part of the high school invitational 8:45 am, free.

Committee Reports:

1. Creek Cleanup 4-25-09: **Alec Isabeau** said that since the club has done such a good job cleaning up the previous section of creek, the Parks Department has requested that we undertake the section downstream of the Piersen Bridge. This section is less accessible and requires a physically fit group. Tools and snacks will be provided. **Heart & Sole** has generously donated 2- \$50 gift certificates for a lucky participant. 9am, optional run at 8am.
2. Membership software update: **Jerry Lyman** proposed:
 - a. That the club authorize the committee to determine if a Paypal online payment account will work for us and, if so, to set up this feature on our website, the club to absorb the cost of each transaction estimated at under \$1 each (2.9% + \$.30).
 - b. That the membership authorize **Jerry Lyman** to spend up to \$100 for 3 months of email marketing service from either Constant Contact or similar company in order to send 3 Kenwood Footrace promotional emails, one each in April, May, and June. At the end of 3 months we can decide if we want to continue using email marketing and possibly pay for a year's service. Seconded by **Dave DeSelle**. **APPROVED by hand vote.**

New Business

A. Proposal for Dues and Member Benefits change: **Jerry Lyman** presented the following proposals, **to be considered at the April meeting:**

In order to promote participation in club races, attract new members, and more fairly assign the cost of printing and mailing hardcopies of the club newsletter, we propose the following changes in club dues and race entry fees, and the additional of a new membership benefit:

1. Increase the charge for a mailed printed newsletter from \$10 to \$25 per year so that newsletter income covers actual expenses.
2. Increase yearly dues as follows:
 - Youth 21 and under: \$10 (from \$5)
 - Adult over 21: \$20 (from \$15)
 - Family: \$25 (from \$20)

3. Provide free entry to one club race for any new member (one free entry per household; does not include Kenwood, Empire Open, Track Series, and possibly Salmon Creek). New member can run race free if they join on race day, or be mailed a coupon.
4. Reduce race entry fee for club members to \$5 (from \$7) for all \$10 races. Entry fee for youth club members stays at \$5. Entry fee for non-member youth goes up to \$10 (from \$8).
5. Provide free club t-shirt, one per membership household per year. Shirts for additional family club members would be available for \$5. Shirts must be claimed in person at a club race or a club meeting within 90 days of joining or renewing.

B. Clarification regarding payments to SSU program for helping with Ilsanjo race: **John Harmon** explained that the club has historically paid a stipend to high school teams that assist at races, and was requesting guidance regarding payment to SSU. **Mark James** explained that he is reviving the running programs at SSU, and he received Ilsanjo help primarily from those runners, plus a few El Molino swimmers. \$500 was authorized to SSU running program.

C. Possibility of having weekly training runs in Petaluma. **Holly Wick** described her involvement in the Petaluma running community through her store *Athletic Soles*, and raised the possibility of having weekly training runs for Empire Runners. **Chris Mason** noted that we have over 75 members in south Sonoma County, and 2 successful high school running programs in Petaluma. It was agreed that Holly should put a few proposed Saturday runs on the training calendar to gauge the response. Holly also reminded members that she offers a 10% discount to Empire runners.

D. Possibility of hosting running book author: **Paul Berg** raised the idea of inviting Lynda Drews, a runner from Green Bay, Wisconsin, to read from her upcoming novel "Run at Destruction". The book is a murder-mystery based on true events that transpired in her running club in the early 80's, recounting a love triangle, a mysterious death and trial of the accused runner. There was moderate interest and Paul was encouraged to explore the details.

E. Holly Wick generously brought lots of *swag* from her store to reward members who could answer Petaluma trivia.

Raffle: **Nate Koch** won \$35, and \$35 went to the student grant fund Drawing: **Alexander Reyes** would have won \$200 if he attended the meeting....

President **Bob Finlay** concluded the meeting at 9:12 pm.

Attendance:

Paul Berg, Mini-Mel, Bill Browne, Holly Wick, Nate Koch, John Harmon, Jerry Strong, Super G, Dave DeSelle, Gil Moreno, Wolfman, Masonman, Bob Finlay, Val Sell, Susan Kelleher, Dale Peterson, Bob Shor, Pappy, Carl Jackson, Tori Meredith