

Empire Runners May 28, 2009 Club Meeting

(pending approval at the June 25, 2009 meeting)

President **Bob Finlay** (bfinlay@sbcglobal.net) called the May 28, 2009 meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

Secretary's Report:

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

Treasurers' Report:

Treasurer **John Harmon** (jj2harmon@yahoo.com) reported that the current club balance is \$ 26,161.63, down \$ 4340 from the same time last year. The major expense in the past month was Kenwood footrace.

The Student Grant Fund balance is \$1629, approx \$560 less than the same time last year. As approved at last month's meeting, the entire income from the Jackrabbit Derby, \$407, will be donated to the three charities designated.

\$250 was given to Casa Grande HS for Jackrabbit Derby assistance.

President's Report:

President **Bob Finlay** reported that there is a proposal to close most of the State Parks, including Annadel. Given the importance of this resource to club members, he urged unspecified action by members.

Special Reports:

Guest speakers **Nancy Wallis** and **Suzanne Matthew** of Team in Training presented the benefits of training for and competing in a marathon or triathlon with their organization. **Nancy Wallis** described how she had never considered running a marathon until her father was diagnosed with cancer, and she wanted to become involved in funding a cure. She stressed how 75% of the funds raised go to cancer research through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The TNT organization assists in training, fundraising and race day logistics. Members asked several questions about the fundraising requirements, which vary by location and event, and range from \$2500 and up. They left pamphlets for anyone interested.

Race Reports:

1. Recent races/Runs:
 - a. Just Go 4-26-09 Sonoma County Airport Several Empire Runners competed. **Gil Moreno** won his age group. **Sid Andreis** 1st overall, **Nate Koch** 2nd. LT was a running buddy for GOTR.
 - b. Jackrabbit Derby 5-03-09 **Dale Peterson** recap in the newsletter. Good turnout, despite pouring rain. \$407 donated to Kathy Van Riper and Cathy DuBay charities.
 - c. Human Race 5-09-09 Many Empire Runners. **Mel Lovrin** was 1st place woman.

- d. Marin Memorial Day 5-25-09 **Mel Lovrin** was DQ'ed for wearing headphones, then re-instated after the rules were clarified.
2. Upcoming Races/Runs: President **Bob Finlay** commended **Chris Mason** on the "Upcoming Races" section of the website.
- a. Spring Has Sprung 5-30-09 Middletown 5k
 - b. Fitch Mountain Footrace 6-07-09 **Tori Meredith** looking for volunteers
 - c. Hit the Road Jack 6-07-09 Sonoma. Unfortunately date was changed this year to conflict with Fitch Mtn
 - d. Summer Track series 6-10-09 Maria Carillo HS. Flyer in the newsletter. **John Harmon** and **Kenny Brown** met with **Greg Fogg** to discuss. There is a slight possibility that the first track meet will be disrupted by track repairs, in which case it would move to SRHS.
 - e. Riverfront relay 6-20-09 **Alec Isabeau** requested that participants carpool if possible. Race time 8am, there will be carpools from Montgomery HS at 6:40am. 2 -5k leg relay. Breakfast after.
 - f. Summer track series#2 6-24-09
 - g. Kenwood footrace 7-04-09 (see below in committee reports)
 - h. Other

Committee Reports:

1. Kenwood Footrace: **Val Sell** reported
- a. Entries are running ahead of last year with 64 so far, 56 online
 - b. Registration area will be changed this year to ease crowding
 - c. Registration will be computerized this year, including race day registration. Val is still in need of 4-5 more PC-based laptops to use on race day
 - d. Bar codes will now be on the race bibs to speed results
 - e. There are now 4000 individuals on the database, making easy registration for anyone who has competed in past years.
 - f. Enter online for no extra charge

Dale Peterson asked if it was a possibility to have chip timing. **Val** responded that Fleet Feet is considering purchasing the timing mechanism for some future race.

2. Student Grant fund: **Bob Finlay** reported.
- a. Only 7 applications were received this year, down from previous years. There is a complete report in the newsletter and on the website. The top \$500 awards were given to **Alex Bland** of Windsor and **Celeste Berg** of Montgomery. Of the remaining 5 applications, one was incomplete and not able to be considered. As has been the case the past few years, the grant committee recommended that the club fund the remaining scholarships at \$300 each. Since there is \$1629 in the student grant fund at this time, there is a projected shortfall of less than \$600. **Alec Isabeau** made a motion to fund the scholarships

through the general fund to make up the shortfall up to \$600. 2nd by **Nate Koch**. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Bob Finlay** suggested that the committee might move the application deadline a month earlier in future years to avoid the committee deciding to award money before approved by the membership
- c. **Tori Meredith** asked whether the club should limit scholarships in the future.
- d. **Bob Finlay** suggested that there may need to be new fundraising for scholarships, noting that \$1500-1700 per year comes directly from dues, but there were fewer additional donations by members.

Unfinished Business:

Voting on the proposal to amend club annual dues as outlined in May newsletter. **Jerry Lyman** reported.

Proposal

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 certain membership benefits:

1. Increase the charge for members choosing a mailed, printed newsletter from \$10 to \$25 per year to cover actual printing and postage costs.
2. Increase yearly dues to the following:
Youth 21 and under: \$10 (from \$5)

Adult over 21: \$20 (from \$15)

Family: \$25 (from \$20)
2. Provide one free entry to one club race for any new membership household, not to include the Kenwood Footrace or the Empire Open. If joining at a club race, an individual or one member of a family joining the club may run that race free. Otherwise, a coupon for one free race entry will be mailed by the membership director to each new member household.
3. Reduce the club race* entry fee for adult club members to \$5 (currently \$7). The entry fee for youth club members shall remain unchanged (\$5). The entry fee for non-member youth shall increase to \$10. Thus, the entry fee for all non-members becomes \$10 and for all members, \$5. *(not including the Kenwood Footrace, the Empire Open, the Track Series, and possibly the Salmon Creek Beach Runs).
4. Provide a free Empire Runners Club t-shirt, one per membership household per year. Shirts for additional family club members would be

available for \$5 each. Shirts must be claimed in person at a club race or a club meeting within 90 days of joining or renewing membership. These changes are to take effect January 1, 2010.

Proposed by **Jerry Lyman**. 2nd by **Shirley Fee**. Passed Unanimously.

New Business

1. Request to purchase a new canopy to use at races for outreach and apparel sales. **Gil Moreno** requested permission to spend \$1000 for a new canopy and bubble banner to increase awareness and promote apparel sales. After discussion, treasurer **John Harmon** advised that we authorize \$600 at this time for a new tent canopy, and decide at a later date about the bubble banner.
Proposed by **Gil Moreno**. 2nd by Tori Meredith. Passed Unanimously.
2. Proposal for 2009 Cross Country team funding. **John Harmon** reported that he met with **Kenny Brown** to discuss XC team funding for this fall season. He is proposing that the fee structure be the same as last year: the member pays for their own first PA race, then the club will sponsor 2-5 more PA races. An egroup will be sent, and this motion will be voted on at the June meeting.
3. Discussion regarding forming a sprinting group. New member **John Iervolino** suggested that the club form a sprinters group. It was agreed that the summer track series would be an appropriate venue to promote the idea, and explore the possibility of a sprinter training group. John explained that he is a personal trainer, specializing in youth sprints and football, and offered 4 \$100 scholarships to interested teens for his upcoming sessions on June 23-25.

Raffle: **Nate Koch** won \$27, and \$27 went to the student grant fund. (7 of 9!)
Drawing: **Mark James** would have won \$200 if he attended the meeting.

President **Bob Finlay** concluded the meeting at 9:24 pm.

Attendance:

Bones Koch, Shirley Fee, Doc Isabeau, LT, Ginny Doyle, Suzanne Mathis (TNT), TNT driver, Nancy Wallis (TNT), Paul Berg, Bill Browne, Carl Jackson, Ralph Harms., Super George, Dale Trowbridge, Don Sampson, Val Sell, Chris Mason, Gil Moreno, Bob Finlay, Pappy, Tori Meredith, Larry Meredith, Sledgomatic, Mel "the bandit iPodwearer" Lovrin, John Harmon, John & Debra Iervolino, Kenny Brown, Kathy Brown, Bob Shor.