



Empire Runner's Club Party and Awards Banquet - 2011

Over 100 Empire Runners enjoyed an evening of good food, friends, and Celebration at the annual club party on February 5, 2011.

After feasting on a delicious meal Provided by Tagliaferri's Deli & Café new club President Alex Wolf-Root started the evening's program by introducing the new officers and expressing appreciation to the many volunteers who helped organize club events during the past year. Gifts of appreciation for their contributions to the club were presented to retiring club officers and committee members John Harmon, Nate Koch, Dale Peterson and Jerry Lyman. Bob Rogers was also recognized for his leadership as Grand Prix Czar for 2010.



Czar Bob Rogers and Grand Prix Winners Brad Zanetti, Paul Berg, Tori Meredith and Karen Kissick.



2011 Hall of Fame – Marc Van Riper for Kathy Van Riper, Mark McGuire and (absent) Ralph Harms.

The awards ceremony then began with Bob Rogers announcing the winners of the Empire Runners Grand Prix. Al Tagliaferri presented the Hall of Fame class of 2011 awards to Kathy Van Riper (accepted by Marc, Ian and Gillian Van Riper), Mike McGuire, and Ralph Harms. See the February newsletter for a profile of each of the latest members of the Hall of Fame. Val Sell presented the Kathy Van Riper Inspiration Award to Bob Shore. For more information on Bob's many contributions to Sonoma County running, please see the profile of Bob also appearing in this issue of the Empire Runner. The evening concluded with a raffle of great prizes donated by club members and a slide-show by Brendan (the Hutch) Hutchinson.



Many thanks to everyone who made the club party a success by volunteering or donating prizes for the raffle: Al Tagliaferri, Fleet Feet, George Urdzik, Ian Inman, John Ash Restaurant, Kevin Hutchinson, Laurie Martin, Lisa Isabeau, Mike McGuire, Pam Horton, Paul Berg, Ron Franklin, Shelly Lydon, Stephen Starkweather, Susan Miller, Tony Lane, Tori & Larry Meredith and Val Sell. A special thanks to everyone who pitched in after the party ended to put away chairs and tables and help clean up the Luther Burbank Center. – **Tanya Narath**



Bob Shore receiving the 2011 Kathy Van Riper Inspiration Award. – photos by Dave DeSelle



Empire Runners enjoy the presentations.



Big Al and Val dishing up the good eats!