

## Striders meetings: 8 October 2008 and 28 January 2009

both at Runabout Sports.

This document combines the minutes for the two meetings. We start with the attendance and treasurer's report for both meetings. Then we cover topics.

**October meeting: In attendance:** Beth Howell, James DeMarco, Molly Ison, Ingrid Burbey, Steve Miller, Paul Farrier, Alison Arner, Ian Schreckengast, Sharyn Ogden, Maarten van Gelder, Arthur Snoke

### Treasurer's Report: 10-10-08

Our checking account balance 7/25/08 was \$15,047. Since then, our deposits include net \$255 from Draper Mile (receipts total - \$3,479; expenses total \$3,224), plus \$125 in dues, plus \$3.23 in interest (Aug + Sept). Our other expenses:

\$19.92 annual payment to BEV for our web site  
\$116.42 for SDS  
\$125 for Race Director software upgrade 9.0  
\$500 to Queen Harrison fund  
\$5400 to BHS fro 2008 Blacksburg Classis  
\$100 annual donation to Blacksburg Rescue Squad  
\$500 annual donation to BHS Cross Country Team

Balance 10/8/08 = \$8,669.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Howell, Treasurer.

[Note: this was not given at the meeting, but sent to me two days later. I asked her to estimate the cost for newsletters. She replied, "3-21-08 stamps \$52.08 I am not finding any printing costs." Our only newsletter in 2008 was produced by James and Runabout. Previous "recent" ones had been put together by James (May 2007) and Aaron (Sept. 2006).]

**January meeting: In attendance:** Ken Maready, Molly Ison, Sheri Lovelace, Trevor Downs, Ryan Day, Arthur Snoke, Sharyn Ogden, Carol Dellinger, James DeMarco, Ingrid Burbey, Aaron Goldstein, Lisa Horney, Daniel Homa

### Treasurer's Report: (February 28 from Beth to Arthur via e-mail)

Checking account balance 12/26/08 was \$6,709.78. Since that time, I have paid RRCA dues for 2009. The cost was \$487.80 for 2009 (based on 68 members), compared to \$543 for 2008 (based on 80 members).

Other transactions since our meeting in October include monthly interest earned (about \$1 per month) plus a few dues payments for deposits, and checks were written to BHS Cross Country Team (\$500) and the new BMS Cross Country Course (\$2,000).

## Striders Supporting Races for Other Organizations

These topics were discussed at the October meeting. The following summary was written by Beth on January 28 and brought to the meeting by Arthur. It was accepted with no dissents.

The Blacksburg Striders get requests for several races a year for some level of support. The two things most requested are:

- 1) our finish-line clock
- 2) insurance (through our existing RRCA policy) to cover their race.

The clock is fragile, and thus a charge of \$30 will be assessed for organizations using the clock. A deposit will also be required of \$100, which will be returned when the clock is returned

undamaged. At the moment, the clock has apart of a digit that does not work right. Shipping it for repairs is expensive, but at some point it should be fixed.

While many running clubs do not insure races that they do not directly manage (for a fee), the Striders do assist in this regard. However the Striders will only insure a race for which the following can be guaranteed.

- orange vest to be worn by all volunteers on the course
- volunteers at every intersection
- organizers will check in with Runabout staff to go over finish chute/ times/ awards
- Race route will be well marked
- Clean up biker will be provided
- Appropriate amount of water, cups

There will be a \$20/race charge to the group using the Striders insurance. Races that plan to use this insurance need to notify the Striders in writing by November of the year prior to the race.

## Blacksburg Classic

At the October meeting, the date (February 21) was confirmed. James took responsibility for all aspects, but both Maarten and Ali offered to help as needed.

At the January meeting, James gave the following report: 90 runners have registered so far. Last year, we had 250 runners, but in previous years, we've had hundreds. James is hoping for 500 this year. Proceeds go to the high school team. James needs over 80 volunteers, whom he will get mostly from the high school team and their parents. The shirt will be a darker gray with the design from last year with yellow as the accent color. (NOTE: 2/11/2009 The T-shirt company is unable to do the dark gray shirts, so the shirts will be red.)

## The New Cross Country Course

### October meeting:

James repeated and updated comments about the cross country course. Here are excerpts from e-mail messages he had sent to several of us:

It will become the Blacksburg Running Park and open to the community. It will be a place that holds elementary school races, middle school and high school practices and events - I can guarantee adults will be running, walking and racing their as well. It will be marked with trail signs and a very beautiful place to run. It will be nice also that people might actually be able to see their high school team actually compete in Blacksburg.

In the not too distance future, the VT XC course will be gone. The Cage loop - a 1000 meters of their course, is already scheduled to be turned into a parking lot in the next two years.

If the Striders want to donate they obviously can, but I would never go below the \$5,000 mark due to the needs of future Striders events.

We have spent about a \$1000 so far on gas and weed killer. The machines and labor have been donated by Total Lawn Care (Kevin and Ann Carter). We do have to replace about five mowing blades. We have permission to build a small bridge and still need a bulldozer to level out two sections and then it will be aerated and grass seed planted. Just need some rain. We have an eagle scout working on a big map (similar to the sign in the parking lot of Pandapas) and trail markers.

It will be in good shape in November depending on the rain. In the Spring the middle school track team will be able to use it and we would like to promote a big elementary school race. But it should be open to the community hopefully by this December.

The group decided that the Striders should give \$2000 to support the cross country course.

## January meeting:

The course is doing well. (It's muddy and working on it right now will wreck the grass, so no one has been out there lately.) James is hoping to have it done in the spring. Some spots need grass seed. Kevin Carter is the landscaper; he has yet to charge for anything. (He has spent about \$1,000 of the \$2,000 Strider's donation.) The course will have .5 mile splits and different routes marked. Frank Locascio, Sr., is making weather-proof signs. James is talking to the Boy Scouts about making a spur from the trail that leads from the public parking lot near Kipps to the cross-country course. This spur would include building a break in the fence for pedestrians (but not vehicles). Josh Norris is making the sign with the map and routes as part of his Eagle Scout badge.

## E-mail lists

There are presently several overlapping e-mail lists: Arthur has one which includes most members plus others from the Blacksburg running community, Ali has one for the recreation department that includes the Champs running group, James has a Runabout list with over 700 names. At both meetings this was discussed, and all agree that the lists should be combined. The ideal solution is to have one or more listservs: one could be for announcements and would have only a few who could post to it and another might be a discussion listserv. A suggestion was made that those with the separate lists could send a message to all on them asking if they would like to be on a Striders listserv, as not everyone in recreation or on the Runabout list would be interested. The difficulty is finding a service provider that allows 200 recipients or more. James current provider requires that he send not more than 100 at a time and has to space such mailings by an hour. Ingrid and Arthur agreed to work on it.

## Executive Director

At the October meeting, James summarized the present situation for the Striders: no president, extremely erratic newsletters, no social events, no organized runs beyond races. He suggested we appoint an Executive Director, who would be paid a stipend of \$300-\$500 for a year given in two installments. Responsibilities would be as follows:

- Quarterly newsletter (four times a year: suggested they should follow major races)
- One training run a week – Saturday?
- Youth section of club (track league, xc series, and summer training)
- Races -- right now Draper and track series plus collaboration with James on Classic
- Yearly get together (Running party)
- Race SUPPORT — insurance, clock: approval person
- Race insurance — we need a check sheet of requirements to have approval
- Quarterly meetings — Feb, May, August, November
- Race meetings: Draper (late June), Classic (before Xmas break, but date already chosen)

We are currently looking for an Executive Director.

These notes were prepared by Ingrid Burbey and Arthur Snoke

## Addendum added by (secretary) Ingrid Burbey on February 1:

I just did a major review of the membership paperwork for the RRCA insurance paperwork.? I just wanted to let you know that there are 72 households and 109 members. They wanted officers, so she sent in James as president, Arthur as vice president, Ingrid as secretary, and Beth as treasurer.