



Prairie StridersTM

Running Club

BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969

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Box 504, Brookings, SD 57006

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Noon, Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave., and via Teams at:

Present: Dave Graves, president; Randy Hanson, vice president; Jay Larsen, treasurer; Steve Britzman, Harry Mansheim, Brett Pettigrew, Dan Radtke, Chuck Tiltrum; present via Teams, Shari Landmark.

1. .Approved **April 1 minutes** for posting on website.

2. **“Rookie Volunteer of the Year”** — Jay/Dave

- An award be presented at the same time as the Friend of Running Award after the January Indoor 5K. — After some discussion, it was decided to just name the award the “Volunteer of the Year” so there is no obligation that the recipient be a newcomer. The recipient is to be chosen by the same people who choose the Friend of Running Award and nominations for both awards will be solicited at the same time.

A page will be created on the club’s website. The following purpose and criteria were submitted by Shari Landmark:

Award Purpose:

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes someone who has demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm, reliability and impact in their service with the Prairie Striders Running Club.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must have volunteered hours with the organization.
- Has shown a willingness to step up, learn, and lead when needed.
- Positively contributes to the club’s mission and community spirit.
- Demonstrates dependability, initiative, and teamwork.

Race director reports

• **Arbor Day 5K** — April 25 — Dan Radtke —

There was a lengthy discussion of the Arbor Day 5K, which went from 51 participants in 2024 to 111 in 2025. That was the highest number since 2017. The higher numbers and

the tendency for people to show up 15 minutes before race start did create some registration headaches.

One way to deal with that would be to have online registration and encourage advance registration. Dan also asked about a Saturday race rather than Friday morning. He will check with the City of Brookings to gain its blessing and make sure there wouldn't be a conflict with use of the Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center.

Other suggestions to consider for 2026

- Use Race Entry for race registration. (cut-off 5 p.m. day prior to race.)
- Consider an entry fee for same-day registration.
- Day of registration-verify all information is completed—name, city, state, waiver signature, bib #, other.
- Start at 7:00am or 6:45am. ????
- As applicable, have Prairie Striders, Outdoor Adventure Center and city of Brookings banners
- Timing assistant next to Webscorer to write down bib # when 3 or more are finishing.
- Consider using chalk or temporary paint to have as minimal a footprint as possible in the Nature Park, or at least ask the city about markings.
- Add mile markers cones and a few more directional cones.
- Consider having a volunteer to take race photos.

• **Longest Day 10K** — June 28 — Derrick Powers — No report.

• **Run4Fun Brookings** — July 9, 16, 23, 30 — Kati Merkley — No report.

• **Beef and Eggs 5K** — July 12 — Kevin Bjerke — No report, however, Shari Landmark volunteered to contact potential sponsors and Steve Britzman said volunteers could be recruited from the club for the race. Kevin did contact Dave Graves, stating he would get in touch with me by week's end. Dave purchased USATF sanctioning/insurance on June 3.

The need for an in-town assistant race director was mentioned. Dan Radtke said he would reach out to Gabe Peters and Daniel Burkhalter to gauge their interest.

• **Oakwood Lakes Trail Run** — July 26 — Dave purchased USATF sanctioning on June 3.

Miscellaneous

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — Hopefully in August

2. Jay Larsen noted that the **Brookings High School 4x800-meter relay team** may be competing in the New Balance Nationals June 19-21 in Philadelphia. He suggested a donation to help offset travel costs. A motion was made and seconded to donate \$1,500, however, that failed on a voice vote. A motion to donate \$1,000 was then approved on a voice vote.

Jay asked that a check be written to each relay team member—Ernest Ting, Trevin Lounsbury, Shane Harming and Jon Kahler as well as their coach, Addison DeHaven. Update: Two more BHS track athletes, Charlie Bisgard and Cole Hockett, and head coach Jason Sebern are also going now. Jay Larsen noted the Reed Hart/Prairie Striders First Bank & Trust Investment account was \$18,137 on Dec. 31, 2024. The Hart donation was to promote running and runner participation. If needed, I can transfer \$1,600 to the Prairie Striders checking account.

Larsen recommended \$200 to each student-athlete (6) and coach (2) for an additional \$600 making the total \$1,600. Approved via email.

Next meeting — Aug. 5 at Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave. July meeting cancelled.