



Prairie StridersTM

Running Club

BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969

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Box 504, Brookings, SD 57006

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023

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

Present: Dave Graves, president; Jay Larsen, treasurer; Bob Bartling, John Blatchford, Steve Britzman, Randy Hanson, Kati Merkley. Present via Zoom: Matt Bien, Andy Carlson.

1. Approved **June 6 minutes** for posting on website.
2. **Considered purchase of new tablet.** Current one purchased in 2014 and not holding a charge well; challenging to update software because of age. Kevin Smith recommended a 9th (\$329) or 10th (\$449) generation iPad.
<https://www.apple.com/shop/buy-ipad> Decision delayed until Sept. 5 meeting for further study.
3. Continued discussion on **future race management for Brookings Marathon** — Matt Bien reported he has received “no’s” from six individuals as well as current committee members.

There is one couple considering the position of race director. If that couple declines, Bien said the next step is to go back to the committee and see if there is enough support to host the 55th in 2024 (likely with hiring Anderson Race Management to cover a significant portion of the duties).

Alternatively, a “position opening” notice may be posted through the Prairie Striders mail list. Those with other thoughts are encouraged to email or text Bien. He will report back at the Sept. 5 meeting.

4. **Consider ordering race specific bibs** via Race Results, which is our timing system software provider. There would be a \$25 set up fee per race, but no minimum quantity. Cost is \$.23/bib for a bib without a transponder; \$1.01 with one transponder and \$1.31 with two transponders, which the club now uses. In addition there is a \$.20/bib software fee that is paid after the bib is used.

Dave Graves will send out an email to race directors on what they would want to order. The club has 248 generic Prairie Striders bibs on hand.

Race director reports

• **Longest Day 10** — June 17 — Derrick Powers — 42 10k runners, 4 relay runners; most individual runners since 47 in 2015. It has been suggested that there be greater promotion of relay option to help increase numbers. It was noticed the Mills family was a major help.

• **Run4Fun Brookings** — weekly July 5-26 — Kati Merkley reported numbers were down some from last year due to a football academy and baseball practices knocking out many fourth and fifth graders. However, the event still averaged 75 kids per evening with the July 26 event cancelled due to high temperatures.

Kati is committed to leading for at least another year but she may run into summer sports conflicts with her own kids as they age.

The Predictor races were held at 7:30 p.m. July 26 with three adults and seven children. The weather and cancelling Run4Fun affected turnout for the Predictor races.

• **Beef and Eggs 5K** — July 8 — Kevin Bjerke reported via email that the race made \$300 donations to SDSU cross country and the Boys and Girls Club, breaking even. Next year will be the 20th running of the race and Bjerke is looking for ways to promote participation.

• **Oakwood Lakes Trail Run** — July 22 — Andy Carlson reported 62 race bibs (28 four-milers; 34 seven-milers), • 14 “Free” entries for youth runners subsidized by race fees from adult runners. Most had never ran a trail race previously; 356 combined miles run; • \$224.25 raised for Youth Trail Run from donations and free will offering purchases of previous year’s swag; • 59 traffic cones; • 13 Friendly Course Volunteers; • 10 lb of snow cones; • 2 stolen course cones; • 1 USATF Dakotas entrant; 0 lost runners.

• **Youth Trail Run** — Aug. 9 — Andy Carlson, 6 p.m. at Dakota Nature Park to be run on the mountain bike trail for ages 4-11. This free, inaugural event requires no advance registration with Brookings Park and Recreation Department a co-sponsor.

• **Jack 15 road race** — Sept. 23 — Dave Graves reported 35 total participants registered including 3 relay teams, on par with past years; waiting to hear back from Boys and Girls Club on use of its bus to transport runners; sponsor support steady.

Miscellaneous

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — Probably not til after the Jack 15.
2. **Next Sports Show appearance** — Andy encouraged to contact the station.
3. **SDSU Athletics endowment dinner** Aug. 23 at Club 71 — RSVP by Aug. 16 — Jay Larsen will represent the club. Contact Larsen if you would like to join him.
4. **Race clock found** — It was hiding behind tubs in the FCA trailer. So now the club has two clocks and tripods if a race wishes to use a clock at midpoint during a race.
5. **Cone collection grows** — 4 large cones donated by Jen Kastner’s sister
6. **Librarian’s report** — Bob Bartling reported the library received its largest donation ever — 27 boxes of magazines from the estate of Jim Firstal (sp?), a leader in the development of Twin Cities track club. The majority of the boxes were of magazines from the 1970s and 1980s, including New England Runner, Oregon Distance Runner and Running, a publication from England.

Bartling also mentioned that the library’s book collection stands at about 700.

Next meeting – Noon Tuesday, Sept. 5