



Prairie StridersTM

Running Club

BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969

run@prairiestriders.net

www.prairiestriders.net

Box 504, Brookings, SD 57006

Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025

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

Present: Dave Graves, president; Randy Hanson, vice president; Jay Larsen, treasurer; Dave Bartling, Steve Britzman, Brett Pettigrew; present via Teams, Dani Bohn, Rod DeHaven, Kati Merkley.

1. Approved **June 3 minutes** for posting on website with one correction.

2. Approved hole sponsor request from SDSU track team

Cost: \$250. Date: Sept. 13. Donation due: Aug. 20. Check delivered: Aug. 5.

Requested by: Brett Fraker. 308-340-4734 brett.fraker@jacks.sdstate.edu

3. Prairie Striders Fall Challenge —Dave/Brett

After considerable discussion, there was consensus to create a Prairie Striders Fall Challenge. Any runner who completes the Jack 15 (Sept. 20), Hobo Day 5K (Oct. 11) and Brookings Marathon and Half Marathon (Oct. 18) earn a Prairie Striders Fall Challenge patch.

Participating on a relay team or the Oct. 19 Scotty Roberts 5K also counts.

During a little in-meeting research, Jay found that by ordering 51 patches through Imprint, the cost would be \$2/patch. The club is to finance the cost. Race directors should email their logos to Randy Hanson. Marlene Schram (Mills Construction) and Kati Merkley will develop a design, which will be emailed to race directors for input.

The hope is that the patches can be given out during marathon packet pickup, though some may need to be mailed.

4. **Bike organizer** needed for the Brookings Marathon —Randy Hanson, who has organized the marathon bikers for the last 15 years, is looking for a replacement for this year. Two suggestions were Curt Kabris and Eric Rasmussen, or possibly someone from Dakota Outdoors.

5. Consider a request to organize a **kids run Sept. 22** — This would be for Brookings Family Bash, which is being organized by Brookings Backpack project. Kati Merkley said she would consider it.
6. **Clarification:** Difference between Friend of Running & Volunteer of Year
Friend of Running is more of a lifetime award, Volunteer of the Year is for service in the past couple of years.

Race director reports

- **Longest Day 10K** — June 28 — Derrick Powers — Cancelled due to inclement weather
- **Run4Fun Brookings/Predictor Mile** — July 9, 16, 23, 30 — Kati Merkley reported close to 100 participants the first two nights. The third week was cancelled due to threatening weather. Participation down slightly the 4th week. Event went well with adequate help. Predictor Mile had a dozen participants, but people enjoyed themselves. Kati is to step out of being the on-site leader with Katie McNeary-Jones expressing an interest in taking over. Kati said she could still make organizational contacts.
- **Beef and Eggs 5K** — July 12 — Kevin Bjerke — No report provided. There were 141 finishers and 147 registered, which was the highest in several years.
- **Oakwood Lakes Trail Run** — July 26 — Andy Carlson — 24 in the 4-mile run, 3 in the 8-mile run. This is Andy's last year of directing the event. He left detailed race directions with Dave Graves. Anyone with an interest in serving as director should contact Dave Graves.
- **Jack 15 Road Race** — Sept. 20 — Dave Graves — 53 registered as of Aug. 5. This year's new wrinkle is a commemorative medal to those who run "The nation's twin 15-mile road races," the Jack 15 and the Charleston (W.Va.) Distance Run, which is Aug. 30, 2025.

Miscellaneous

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — Mid-August is the desired date for an electronic newsletter. Send any submissions to Dave Graves @ run@prairiestriders.net.
2. **Prairie Striders' tax exempt status** — Dave Graves/Steve Britzman. In the process of handling a \$500 charitable donation to the Jack 15, it was discovered that the club's tax exempt status was revoked in 2014 for failure to file reports for three consecutive years. Steve Britzman has agreed to do the IRS paperwork to reactivate this status.
He noted the club's articles of incorporation and bylaws will need updating to accommodate required IRS wording. Steve said the paperwork can be generated in a few weeks, then it is expected to take several months for the IRS to process. The donor, a runner in the inaugural Jack 15, has a donor advised fund from which he plans to make annual donations of \$500.
3. **Community service** — Rod DeHaven, coach of the SDSU track and field and cross country teams, reported that cross country athletes will be available to help with the marathon and track athletes should be able to help with the Jack 15. He said the date for the Prairie Striders Indoor 5K will be Jan. 24.

Next meeting – Oct. 7 at Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave. No Sept. meeting.