

THE WIND DRINKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE BIG SKY WIND DRINKERS, A
RUNNING CLUB FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES IN
BOZEMAN, MT



Black Canyon of the Yellowstone, June 2020. Photo by Mira Brody

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FROM THE PREZ

The social unrest in the last month resulting from longstanding racial inequities have given us a much-needed nudge to think more carefully about ways in which BSWD is failing to create an inclusive culture. We recently posted a statement of [unity on our website](#) but we realize talk is cheap. Most importantly, we want to listen. In what ways are we failing? Tell us about any incidences of unfair treatment you have experienced or witnessed at our events. We have set up an [anonymous form](#) on our website to submit observations. Be honest: we can take it! Step one is always listening, and we are all ears.

Our Board will be meeting on July 7 to discuss other ways in which we can address systemic racism in the club, where appropriate. If you have any ideas for helping to scrub our club of racism and inequality, please send them our way! And if you want to get involved, let us know! Otherwise, stay tuned for more updates. Meanwhile, we are hopeful that our next scheduled race—ok it's not technically a race—the Devil's Backbone will happen in July! Since this is our most remote and longest event with the smallest number of participants, we are confident that this can safely happen as scheduled. Keep your eye on our [BSWD COVID page](#) for up-to-date information.

Carly Urban, Co-President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sweet Pea Virtual Races



It's back! A Bozeman running tradition, The Sweet Pea Run, is excited for another great race. Although we cannot hold it in person this year for everyone's safety, we are excited to announce we are able to host The Sweet Pea Run 5K/10K virtual run!

Visit [our website](#) for more information or to sign up!

BSWD MESSAGE OF UNITY

In light of what is happening in this country and around the world we wanted to send out our Big Sky Wind Drinkers Statement of Unity:

This has been a tragic and difficult time as we have witnessed the recent killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Rayshard Brooks. The Big Sky Wind Drinkers believe that Black Lives Matter. BSWD stands in support of those who are engaged in protesting these incidents across our country, and we hope that significant social changes are forthcoming and will increase justice, opportunity, and equality for all in our society.

BSWD wants to emphasize that our club welcomes all races, ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations to join our runs and races. We strive to create an atmosphere where running unites us all, regardless of background.

We understand that we are responsible for creating a running community that reflects our values, and that we have not always done so. Like many of you, we are taking this time to listen, to learn, and to evaluate how we can do better. We will be looking at the entirety of how our club operates to determine how we can create a more inclusive, welcoming, equitable running club.

In a recent Runner's World article Olympic 10k runner Marielle Hall wrote "If we want our running community to be a force for change, and not a reflection of the biases that our nation endures, we have to be willing to consistently have a sustained conversation that will effect change and is capable of asking questions without immediate answers or solutions." BSWD is committed to engaging in those conversations among its leadership, and we look forward to having a more positive impact on the future.

***If you have ever felt marginalized, discriminated against, excluded from, or unwelcome at a BSWD race, fun run, or social event, or observed incidents of such unwelcoming activity at a BSWD event, we encourage you to let us know, either via email or through our anonymous [BSWD contact form](#).



OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIANTS

I am continually impressed by the fine young people that are coming out of our local high schools! This year, our Scholarship Committee awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to area high school seniors, to enable them to pursue their studies and future running goals. We again had a large pool of well-qualified applicants, and making our choices was exceedingly difficult - we are happy to share the stories of our winners with you here!

These scholarships are open to high school seniors graduating from a school in Gallatin, Madison, or Park counties. Applicants must have participated on their school's track or cross-country team, and their applications include information about their athletic and academic background, a letter of recommendation, their school transcript, and an essay on what running has meant to them. Our winners' essays are included below.

Jessa Steele



Jessa graduated from Manhattan High School, having participated all four years of high school on the varsity cross-country team, which won State three of those years. She has earned multiple All-State and Academic All-State honors, participating on both the track and cross-country team. But Jessa would have been a star even without once setting foot on a track or cross-

she was a 4.0 student, Student Body President, member of the Jazz and Pep bands, National Honor Society member, and Rotary Youth Leadership Award winner! She took an AP class in computer science, and dual-credit courses in calculus and composition and writing, and was a member of the robotics club. She even managed to find time to work with her church youth group and hold down jobs as a barista, waitress, nanny, and babysitter! No wonder she was selected to compete in the Miss Montana Outstanding Teen Pageant in 2019! It seems Jessa is primed to go far - and the Wind Drinkers are happy to help her on her way! She's enrolling this fall at Montana Tech in Butte. Here's Jessa's essay on what running has meant to her:

When thinking about what running means to me, I am flooded with an overwhelming amount of emotions: gratitude, happiness, love, triumph, and even some sadness, and that barely begins to scratch the surface. To me, running is much more than a sport. Running

has been one of the most influential areas of my life because of the people I have been surrounded by and the memories that were made. It means more than just a race, more than just a time, and more than trying to win.

Running, to me, means family. Running has given me so many important people in my life, from a coach who cares about more than the times I run, to some of my best friends, to the numerous people with whom I have built relationships throughout the state all because of one commonality that we share: running. Running means I will always have memories to look back on and smile, whether it was the summer trail runs in the blazing heat with frozen yogurt to follow, the team dinner cornhole competitions that had us all smiling, or the pre-race day runs with the whole team laughing along the way because we were together. I will especially remember the memory of seeing the proud tears in my coach's eyes at the end of a race after we had chased down the girl 300m ahead of us in the 3200m run and beat her by tenths of a second, not for ourselves but for each other, because we knew if we did not the team would lose. These memories will never be forgotten because of the friendships and connections that were built through them. Even though my team has had a lot of success through the years for which I am very grateful, the best memories were the ones that were made leading up to the success, the ones I perhaps took for granted the most, looking back on it all.

Running means so much more than the trophies earned and the times ran. Running has given me lifelong friendships and shown me what it feels like to have a second family who are always there to lift me up and show me that we are in this together. Running means every mile, every second, every tear, every hardship, every smile, and every memory coming together to show me that, because we have each other, it means so much more.

David Durgan



David lives in Livingston, and graduated from Park County High School. He was a 4-year participant in track and cross-country, as well as basketball. He was an All-State Academic Team selection and captain of the cross-country team as a senior. Like Jessa, David was a distinguished student, being on the honor roll and a member of the National Honor Society. He competed in math contests and won 'Student of the Week' awards from KXLF and KBZK news stations. He was a writer for the school paper, and worked as a peer tutor at his school.

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David will be continuing his education this fall at Montana State in Bozeman. Here's David's story, as given in his essay:

When I was in middle school, I was a chubby kid. I played football, but I was constantly harassed and bullied about my weight. The one place I found to escape my bullies was on the football field, where being overweight was useful. In seventh grade, however, I had a coach who harassed me about my weight almost as much as the other kids did. He told me that he could walk faster than I could run, and made me race him while he was speed walking. One game I played tight end, and I dropped a pass in the end zone that would have won us the game. Afterwards, he told me that I “was like a stick of butter. I couldn’t catch and I couldn’t run.” The next year I went out for the cross country team.

To me, running is freeing. It freed me from my bullies, and it gave me something that I enjoy. I quit football after seventh grade, and I began to run cross country in its place. I had previously ran track in sixth and seventh grade, but I only did throwing events. In eighth grade I started to pick up some of the distance events.

My dad had always wanted me to join the cross country team. He was a star in high school, with four all-state selections in cross country. Both he and my mom ran track in college for the University of Sioux Falls, and competed at the national level. With their support, I struggled through my first year of cross country, with shin splints, and tendonitis in my knees.

After track season my eighth grade year, in which I mostly stuck to throwing, I decided I wanted to change. Coming into my freshman year, I ran 100 miles over the summer. I ran every day. I lost thirty-five pounds, and when I came back to school, a lot of my classmates didn’t recognize me, and they were shocked at how thin I was. I had a lot of success in cross country, and I was addicted to it. I loved how freeing running was. It allowed me to escape from whatever I was feeling. When I get to run, the stress of school melts away, and it’s just me and my team.

I have continued running ever since, making it my goal to be an All-state runner. I trained accordingly, and I ran 350 miles the summer before my sophomore year, 520 the summer before my junior year, and 420 the summer before my senior year. I did not make All-state in the end, but I did learn valuable lessons about leadership.

This year, as a senior, I was elected the team captain, by my coaches and by my teammates. It was my job to lead stretches, warmups, and workouts, and lead the team when the coaches were not present. As the captain, I learned valuable lessons about leadership, and how to lead that I will no doubt take with me for the rest of my life. As the team captain, our team finished the highest at state as it has in the four years that I have been running high school cross country.

Through cross country, I made some of my closest friends. I know that these relationships I made I will be able to carry with me for my whole life. One other thing that I thank cross country for is my close relationship with my father and my brother. This year, I was fortunate to have my younger brother run on the same team with me, and that experience gave us a really close relationship. We continue to go on runs together. My father talks to me about running all the time. He loves to reminisce about his days running cross country, and talk to me about the team, and each upcoming race.

I have to thank running for many things in life. First it was my escape. It allowed me to escape from being overweight and bullied. It allows me to escape from the stress of my day. Running has also provided me with valuable leadership skills that I learned from being a team captain. Running has given me a great relationship with my father and my brother, as it allows me to have something to talk with them about.

Maida Knapton



Maida hails from Ennis, where she competed for 4 years on the track team, and 3 years in cross-country. She was an All-State competitor in Class C her junior and senior year, and she served as captain of the track and cross-country teams.

Like Jessa and David, Maida was a strong student, ranking at the top of her class, belonging to the National Honor Society, and taking Advanced Placement classes. She was an officer in Student Council and the Honor Society.

She also spent a semester on exchange in Bodo, Norway, the birthplace of her mother and grandmother. Since returning to Ennis, she has continued independent study in the Norwegian language.

Maida participated in the Red Ants Pants Girls Leadership Program; as part of this involvement, she built a 1.5 mile recreation trail as a community project.

Maida is planning to return to Norway for school, studying Norwegian outdoor culture and philosophy - if she can get there! Since COVID has other ideas, her Plan B is to spend a year at MSU, then try for Norway in the fall of 2021. She had this to say, about how running has affected her life:

My running shoes, they bring me freedom. They bring me freedom through laces that hold on to my feet while I am climbing Baldy Mountain in the Bridger Range, the state Cross Country meets that will be remembered for the rest of my life, and the endless dirt ranch roads that I explore with my dog. I am grateful for the roads, trails, and sidewalks, for they are the location of inspiring things. Running in these places is where I figured out where I wanted to complete my higher education, where I talked to my coach about the power of mental strength, and this is where I felt humbled from the intervals that left me exhausted. I feel very fortunate to have grown up in Montana. Being involved in this community has shaped me into who I am today. What I feel has been the most influential part of this is the Mountains, my peers, and friends that I have known longer than I can remember, my family and cross country and track.

Running has been a part of my life growing up because of my parents, however it became something that I was personally passionate about during my sophomore year of high school in Ennis. I invested time in exploring different mileages and terrain which was different than solely competing in school races. It became more personal to me in ways that connected me more to my own body and mind. After I discovered this, running became more clear. I began to be much more successful in school competitions, and outside races. It even helped me with more control over my stress and an understanding of my mental strength.

These experiences from a small school have been unique. In track and cross country I have been the only girl on the team since 7th grade. Gaining support from our community and other peers I believe was the hardest part about running. Valuing others became very important to me and I strived to promote our team. The most influential idea that I had was to start an Instagram page where I posted updates allowing our community to follow our team easier. I believe that it was successful in gaining support. For the first time this year during cross country, I had two other female companions who I had the pleasure to run with. We worked together and for the first time ever in our school's history, we placed at state. I believe that this success came from our support in our community, head coach, and other team members. I am very proud of how far we came, and this has become one of my biggest high school accomplishments..

I hope that other young runners are able to have the same experiences as me because I know that running has changed my life in a unique way and I have so much love for my shoes, my fellow running community, and the freedom that I have gained. Thank you so much Big Sky Wind Drinkers for your consideration. The community that you have built is very inspiring to young Montana runners like me.

JUNE VIRTUAL FUN RUN RESULTS

Participation at our virtual fun runs has been great! Here are the submissions we received on our website by week. Thank you all for continuing our fun run tradition even though we cannot do it together as a group. Remember to log your miles on GVLt.com to help raise money for the Summer Trails Challenge under the Big Sky Wind Drinkers group.

Week 2 Results – Summer 2020

Name	Distance	Location
Jeff Johnson	9.2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Robyn Miller	8.52	Regional Park
Kelly Sprinkle	8.07	Regional Park
Alex Saunders	7	Regional Park
Leanne Roulson	6.4	Story Hills (Historic Rail Depot)
Don Rodgers	6	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Rob Maher	6	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Teresa Galli	5.64	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Andrea Hamre	5.01	Story Hills (Historic Rail Depot)
Robbie Lamb	5	Regional Park
Darryl Baker	5	Hyalite Reservoir
Charles Smith	5	Peets Hill/Bite of Bozeman
Andrew Holleman	5	Regional Park
Martin Rollefson	4.85	South Cottonwood
Gary Hellenga	4.7	MSU Stadium/Track trails
Jacki McGuire	4.7	Highland Glen
Steve McGuire	4.7	Highland Glen
Leigh Holleman	4.5	Regional Park
Natasha Walth	4.45	Peets Hill/Bite of Bozeman
Mike Veselik	4.4	Treasure Run (McGuire potluck)
Ryan Grady	4.2	Regional Park
Angie Johnson	3.53	Highland Glen
Jason Nicholas	3.4	Southside Trails (Buchl potluck)
Kristin Harbuck	3.22	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Leslie Schmidt	3.2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Merel Ohler	3.05	Middle Cottonwood
Nathaniel Ohler	3.05	Middle Cottonwood
Tycho Ohler	3.05	Middle Cottonwood
Otto Ohler	3.05	Middle Cottonwood
Menno Ohler	3.05	Middle Cottonwood
Necia Nicholas	3	Glen Lake Rotary Park (East Gallatin Rec Area)
Gail Cary	3	Highland Glen
Andrea Abrahamson	2.98	Highland Glen
Corey Johnson	2.93	Highland Glen
Molly Ward	2.8	Regional Park
Leonard Baluski	2.3	Drinking Horse
Tracy Dougher	2.19	Triple Tree
Sam Bass	2.1	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Tommy Bass	2.1	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Angie Kociolek	2.1	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Asher Rodgers	2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Kay Newman	2	Cherry River Fishing Access
Danielle Skjelver	2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Jean MacInnes	1.9	Other (not in list below, or custom route)

Week 3 Results – Summer 2020

Name	Distance	Location
Leigh Holleman	10.5	Triple Tree
Don Rodgers	10	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Teresa Galli	9.72	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Neal Rainey	8	South Cottonwood
Natasha Walth	7.56	Triple Tree
Alex Saunders	6	Triple Tree
Leanne Roulson	5.24	Story Hills (Historic Rail Depot)
Jason Nicholas	5.2	Highland Glen
Kelly Sprinkle	5.06	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Robyn Miller	5.06	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Jacki McGuire	5	Treasure Run (McGuire potluck)
Steve McGuire	5	Treasure Run (McGuire potluck)
Andrea Abrahamson	5	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Rob Maher	5	Lindley Park
Andrew Holleman	5	Triple Tree
Charles Smith	4.68	Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Andrea Hamre	4.01	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Corey Johnson	3.65	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Angie Johnson	3.61	Glen Lake Rotary Park (East Gallatin Rec Area)
Molly Ward	3.2	Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Kristin Harbuck	3.16	Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Darryl Baker	3	Lindley Park
Natalie Nicholas	3	Lindley Park
Necia Nicholas	3	Lindley Park
Leslie Schmidt	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Finn Wirth	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Jennifer Wirth	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Tracy Dougher	3	Regional Park
Mike Veselik	2.85	Lindley Park
Gary Hellenga	2.82	Kirk Hill
Leonard Baluski	2.8	Regional Park
Gail Cary	2.5	Treasure Run (McGuire potluck)
Craig Hildreth	2.2	Drinking Horse
Robbie Lamb	1.58	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Jean MacInnes	1.1	Other (not in list below, or custom route)

Name	Distance	Location
Bob Wade	1.9	Other (not in list below, or custom route)

Week 4 Results – Summer 2020

Name	Distance	Location
Leigh Holleman	8	Highland Glen
Teresa Galli	6	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Necia Nicholas	6	Triple Tree
Kelly Sprinkle	5.36	Highland Glen
Robbie Lamb	5.2	Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Charles Smith	5.1	Bozeman Pond
Natasha Walth	5.09	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Rob Maher	5	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Mike Veselik	5	Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Corey Johnson	3.48	Story Hills (Historic Rail Depot)
Angie Johnson	3.41	Story Hills (Historic Rail Depot)
Kristin Harbuck	3.23	Triple Tree
Molly Ward	3.2	Triple Tree
Leslie Schmidt	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Darryl Baker	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Karen funke	3	Drinking Horse
Sierra Holleman	3	Glen Lake Rotary Park (East Gallatin Rec Area)
Don Rodgers	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Jason Nicholas	3	Southside Trails (Buchl potluck)
Natalie Nicholas	3	Lindley Park
Leonard Baluski	2.9	Southside Trails (Buchl potluck)
Gail Cary	2.75	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Jacki McGuire	2.5	Tour de Critters (Franklin Coles property)
Steve McGuire	2.5	Tour de Critters (Franklin Coles property)
Gary Hellenga	2.11	Tour de Critters (Franklin Coles property)
Jean MacInnes	2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Bob Wade	2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Andrea Hamre	1.6	Regional Park
Angie Kocielek	1	Other (not in list below, or custom route)

Week 5 Results – Summer 2020

Name	Distance	Location
Neal Rainey	8.1	Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Teresa Galli	6.24	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Robbie Lamb	6.1	Story Hills (Historic Rail Depot)
Leigh Holleman	5.2	Tour de Critters (Franklin Coles property)
Natasha Walth	5.18	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Rob Maher	5	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Necia Nicholas	5	South Cottonwood
Darryl Baker	4.8	Tour de Critters (Franklin Coles property)
Gary Hellenga	4.7	Bozeman Pond
Charles Smith	4.6	Cherry River Fishing Access
Natalie Nicholas	4	Southside Trails (Buchl potluck)
Leonard Baluski	3.5	Peets Hill/Bite of Bozeman
Kristin Harbuck	3.25	Story Hills (Historic Rail Depot)
Jason Nicholas	3.2	Southside Trails (Buchl potluck)
Leslie Schmidt	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Asher Rodgers	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Don Rodgers	3	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Angie Johnson	2.53	Drinking Horse
Craig Hildreth	2.5	Tour de Critters (Franklin Coles property)
Karen Funke	2.4	Tour de Critters (Franklin Coles property)
Corey Johnson	2.32	Drinking Horse
Bob Wade	2.15	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Jean MacInnes	2.1	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Danielle Skjelver	2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)
Gail Cary	2	Other (not in list below, or custom route)

THE 2020 VIRTUAL FUN RUN SEASON AND PARTICIPATION AWARDS

The Wind Drinkers' Virtual Fun Run Season is currently into its sixth week of virtual runs. Through our 5 completed weeks, we have had 62 runners log at least one virtual Fun Run, with 22 having entered a run for all 5 weeks so far! It looks like our participation stats will be very high this year!

Along with the Fun Runs, we've been running weekly "Challenges". These usually involve taking a photo relating to a given theme - so far we've run "Brightest running clothes", "Running in the rain", "Celebrating Wildflowers", and "Most Classic Race T-shirt" contests! The responses, to our wildflower challenge in particular, have been great - so hard for us to select the winning entries! In addition to the photo challenges, we held a running

'scavenger hunt', where we challenged our members to spot Flat Stanley or Flat Stella runner silhouettes hidden somewhere along one of our standard Fun Run routes - this challenge was particularly popular - and there's a good chance we'll repeat it later this summer!

Our online Strava running club has been going great guns, too! We now have 47 members, and get about 30-35 people logging multiple runs each week - some have been putting up impressive mileage and/or vertical gain numbers! I find it fascinating to see where our group members are running, and have added a few of their routes to my list of 'must-runs'! Some are also posting very inspiring photos of their trail adventures!

All the weekly results from the Fun Runs, Challenge entries and winners, and season-long statistics for this summer season can be found on our Participation Awards and Statistics tracking [web page](#).

With this high level of participation, you might be wondering what the club is doing about Participation Awards? As you know, our Winter Fun Run season got cut short, so many didn't get the chance to meet the number-of-runs or volunteering-stint requirements for that season. Now that we are in our virtual season, with its very flexible run-anytime-you-want-and-anywhere-you-want format, we are seeing extremely high levels of weekly participation, so our normal award criterium of participating in about half of the weekly runs seems like a bar set too low! So, we've thought about a number of options, and are working up a plan (not yet finalized!) - and our idea kinda looks like an airline awards program. It basically works like this:

- For each BSWD Fun Run activity you complete (i.e., each weekly Fun Run), you will earn a certain number of points. Points will be awarded from the Winter Fun Runs, as well as the virtual Summer Fun Runs. These will be calculated and displayed on our season statistics page, on an on-going basis, so you'll be able to see how many points you've accumulated.
- Bonus points will be earned through additional participation - for example, for things like joining and logging runs in our Strava club, for volunteering at Winter Fun Runs, for running on one of our Standard Fun Run routes, and maybe a few other things.
- We have a bunch of BSWD swag items that we will offer as prizes. We will set point values for these items, and, when you've accumulated enough points, you can claim your prize! If you've earned a lot of points, you can earn multiple prizes! The point requirements for each prize will be based more-or-less on their relative values - for example, you might need 100 points to earn a BSWD coffee mug or collapsible water bottle, but 250 points to earn a BSWD-logoed tech T-shirt, or 400 points to earn a BSWD gym bag.

- We will have a web page on our website that lists all the prizes we are offering, the points needed for each, and the number of each item we have left. We will also provide a way for you to order your prize, as soon as you have accumulated enough points to claim it - your order will be packaged up for you, and the points will be deducted from your 'account.

The details about all this, including how many points you earn for what activities, how many points are needed for each item, and how the ordering process will work, are yet to be determined. But we wanted to get this idea out there now, so you knew what was coming! Expect this to be finalized after our next Board meeting in early July!

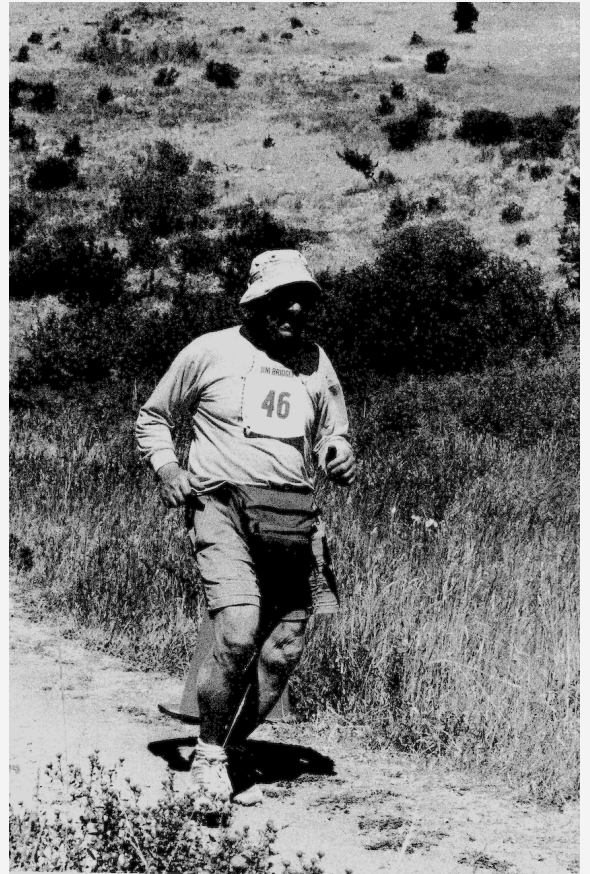
BEING A REAL MATURE RUNNER – REDEFINED!

With a month of trying to figure out if we can hold the Bridger Ridge Run this year or not, I've really thought of nothing else! While hauling 112.5 gallons of water to Kay Newman's garage with Darryl Baker (yes, we're optimists, and Darryl had 10 gallons of water already up on the Ridge a few days later...) I realized Kay is a treasure trove of memories of how the Ridge Run all began. I urged her to write down what happened that fateful day almost 40 years ago when she accompanied Ed Anacker on a scouting trip to see what doing the "whole" ridge would be like. If you haven't noticed, the Bridger Ridge itself does start quite a bit north of Sacajawea. Having finished the Western States 100, Ed was eager to find his own Ultrarun in Montana. He knew the Bridgers closer to home, but had never done the Flathead Pass to Sacajawea Pass part. So here's what happened in Kay's own words:

This is about all that I can remember about the hike with the Anackers, Bergs, etc. I'm not sure why I was invited to go but I'm glad that I was. We were always safe except for a long trek back to the start which was in the dark. It wasn't cold even though it was the day in the fall when we changed time. However, we probably wouldn't have gone had the weather been stormy or bad. Those that were along on the hike were Ed & Stella, Lloyd & Edna Berg, Phil McCandless (a colleague of Lloyds), Mary Alice Chester (an active Wind Drinker with lots of hiking experience), Celia Wood (a friend of Stellas I think), and myself. I don't believe there was anyone else. As I recall, the group stopped by my house about an hour later than expected and we took off. I drove my Chevy pick-up as it was to be left at Fairy Lake to transport folks back to their cars parked at Flathead Pass. I had been to Fairy Lake several times but probably had never driven there but the road conditions must have been good as I don't recall any problems or anxious moments because of the terrain. The group left Flathead Pass with Stella leading.

She was going at a good pace when I heard Ed tell her if she didn't slow down, she could carry their pack with supplies. It was a congenial group and a beautiful day perfect for this particular excursion. After a late lunchtime break we headed out again. Ed suggested that Phil, Mary Alice and I lead the group and he would stay back with the Bergs, Celia and Stella.

Probably in the late afternoon Ed caught up with us and suggested that Phil, Mary Alice and I head straight for Fairy Lake while he headed back to the start with Stella and Celia. Ed said he thought we could make Fairy Lake before dark but he knew the Bergs couldn't so they were headed back to the start. Well I thought this over and after recalling stories of being lost in the woods I decided I should head back with Ed who I knew best and trusted to get us out safely. So I told him I would go back with him instead of accompanying Mary Alice and Phil who I didn't know very well. In the end everyone decided to go back the way we had come.



Ed Anacker finishing the 1996 BRR (David's first as director).

Dark was fast approaching but someone remarked that there would be a full moon so it wouldn't be too dark. There was one flashlight in the group and Celia's batteries failed after a few minutes. My flashlight was in my truck at Fairy Lake. When dark hit we were in the woods so there was little moonlight. We stopped again and ate what little food we had left from lunch and rested a bit. Ed seemed to find his way easily despite the darkness.

Finally we were out of the woods. We could see better and move faster. We could see a couple of men hiking up toward us who turned out to be the Sheriff and someone else. I think it was Celia's daughter who had called and reported that her mother was late in returning from a group hike so they sent someone out looking for us. They were happy to see us and didn't give us any lectures about how we should have been more careful, etc. One did ask if we had a pick-up parked at Fairy Lake and I said yes. I wanted to know what time it was currently and the sheriff asked if I wanted yesterday's time or today's time as the time had already fallen back to daylight saving time. I think it was about 2 or 3am.

I don't remember anything about the trip home except I was glad to get to bed. The trail was easy to follow but a little treacherous with loose rocks and scree I seem to recall. I'm glad that I went. The scenery was beautiful and I would like to retrace my steps in the daylight.

The group was compatible with no whining or complaining that I recall. Mary Alice and I became friends after that trip and we went to several runs around the area like Cody, Dillon and Red Lodge until she moved to Helena and we sort of lost contact.

– Kay Newman

There you have it. Obviously, the BRR now starts at Fairy Lake – and that seems long enough for most. About 10 years ago I wanted to offer the opportunity to a few hearty souls to start at Flathead Pass on the Ridge Run day, and we did that two years in a row. I started the group off at 5:20am, and then I drove back to Fairy Lake in time to see the regular start at 7:00am. I then hiked up to the Sac summit to welcome the hearty gang of 6 as they went by. They all finished respectfully in the middle of the pack at the “M”. I believe the additional distance to be approximately 6.2 miles (curiously making it a “regular” marathon distance).

So, there’s a little BRR history for those who want to know, and those 6 runners - Terry Leist, Rob Maher, Liz McGoff, Clem Izurieta, Greg Young, and Kurt Buchl - are true-blue Mature Runners in my book!

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MEMBER PROFILE: MEET THE JOHNSON FAMILY!

Each month, we will profile one or more members of the Big Sky Wind Drinkers. Our members are our greatest assets, and we'd like you all to meet as many of them as you can!



The Johnsons (from left: Angie, Marin, Payton, and Corey)

Angie and Corey Johnson hail from the Eastern Montana metropolis of Sidney. Growing up in the flatter part of the state, their first organized sports didn't include running mountain trails - Angie was a golfer in high school, while Corey was a sprinter and played football. In 1995, Angie came to MSU for college, while Corey enrolled at Carroll College in Helena. It was after graduation that Corey came to join Angie in Bozeman, and they were married. Angie currently works as a lender for Stockman Bank, and Corey is a controller for a local construction firm. They have two daughters, Marin and Payton, who will both be Gallatin High Raptors, starting this fall. Their mom admits they haven't necessarily been 'over the moon' about running, but it's an activity they can all do as a family, and it's been nice to see these young people out at many of our Fun Runs!

Angie says she started running after the age of 40, so she could enjoy the trails around her house (she and Corey hosted one of our 2019 Fun Runs with a potluck in their neighborhood west of Target and Costco). The Johnsons have now been members of the Wind Drinkers for about 3 years, and all four of them have been among our most consistent Fun Run participants for several seasons. They joined the club to get into running more 5K's, to meet other runners they could learn from, and they found the membership price was a bargain!

Angie confesses to have no real running goals at the moment, especially with the lack of races in 2020. Let's hope that impediment soon disappears - in the meantime, if you run into Angie, Corey, Marin, or Payton out on the road or trail, be sure to say, "Hi!".

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See www.winddrinkers.org for updates and more information



**“FITNESS CANNOT BE BORROWED,
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HONOR, IT MUST BE EARNED.”**



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THE WIND DRINKER

Published monthly by the Big Sky Wind Drinkers, a non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of physical fitness.

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BSWD, PO Box 1766, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Memberships are \$15 annually, for individuals and families. Benefits of membership are receiving our newsletter, discounts at local businesses, the opportunity to vote in club elections and participate in fun runs.

Submissions to newsletter must be in by the 25th of each month to miracbrody@gmail.com