

THE WIND DRINKER

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



Baldy, Nov. 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Prez
BSWD President, Gary Hellenga

FROM THE PREZ - 1

THE MATURE RUNNER - 2

*JINGLE BELL JOG
RESULTS - 5*

LIST OF OFFICERS -6

BSWD INFO - 7

I've been reading a lot of end-of-the-year posts and articles lately. Most seem to be of the form, "2020 - Good Riddance!" or "I am soooo looking forward to 2021!" For our runners, 2020 was certainly a change – canceled races, virtual runs becoming the "new normal," lots of solo running. I sense that a lot of our members tried running some new places this year, and maybe had some more time for introspective running than before ... and may have even enjoyed some aspects of our activities that 2020 imposed on us. I recently realized I've now been a runner for more than 45 years, and through that whole time, in all types of environments and under the many various restrictions that life imposes, it has always been an activity that I can do and enjoy on a regular basis!

(From the Prez, continued)

Yet, I think most will be hungrily looking forward to group events, potlucks, competition, post-run socializing, and other event features missing from these past nine months! In the near term, though, I don't think things will look dramatically different for our running community, through the first half of 2021. We will try to hold in-person events where we expect to have small enough fields, using our start-when-you-want approach and other techniques to maintain safe distancing, and will do what we can to make the larger events, that have to be held virtually, more entertaining. We are hoping we will be able to hold our major races and Summer Fun Runs in a more-or-less normal fashion this year, and will tweak our operations to make these happen, where possible. We will keep you updated on our plans, as they evolve - in the meantime, keep running, and we'll hope to see you soon!

THE MATURE RUNNER

By David Summerfield

A True Mature Runner Must Pass the

Torch!

A new year has arrived! A chance for many new wonderful things to occur! I'm NOT talking about resolutions but immediate actions of change, not just pledging to change or improve something. For starters, I just passed the torch to Boz Boswell. And with that, the Bridger Ridge Run gets a great blast of fresh air! In our own quiet, unheralded torch passing, Boz's 1st act? He immediately contacted



Megan DeHaan and Darryl Baker asking them to be his "Co-Directors." How's that for quick, decisive action? The BRR now has a Triumvirate – three enthusiastic beings who do not shy away from any responsibility and who love to improvise and be creative. I cannot be more relieved. And this is not to say that the eight others on the BRR Committee aren't creative, committed, and wonderful individuals. And this reveals why I have loved being involved with the Ridge Run these past 25 years. We've always been a big family who enjoys working together. And that said, I can't help but reminisce a bit about how it all started. Indulge me a bit...

It all started before the white man came to this continent. Oops, that's going too far back, maybe. (If you were to ask Shane Doyle – a Crow who has helped me know that his nation has proof his descendants in this valley have been here for over 10,000 years...) So, let's just go back to the end of 1995. I was a newcomer to the Bozeman community, having arrived with my family from Bellingham, WA in 1993. I had been president of the Greater Bellingham Running Club (GBRC) and had NO desire to get so involved in a running club again. But alas, I just had to enter the 1994 BRR and realized right away how special this kind of race is. And of course, I just had to hear about the club looking for a race director for the next year – the current RD (Keith Belden) was moving to Helena, and... and... against my better judgment, I asked if I could attend the next board meeting. For those who know me, know I do not attend board meetings unless I really HAVE to.

So, there I was at Mark Daugherty's house one fateful evening, wondering if these total strangers would consider me as the next BRR race director. I think the only person left in that group is Kay Newman. She has never not been involved in this race. And the rest is based on vague memory... there were something like 70 finishers in 1995. Most everyone was local and a fairly hardcore runner who knew how to take care of themselves. The "M" was the starting line, but it looked very different than now – the road off the highway came to an end at a metal barrier, where the singletrack started. There was one picnic table to the side in the tall grass/weeds. Planning was SO simple. I had to call Dave Carey at the Forest Service telling him of what we wanted to do. This was the 11th Ridge Run. No fanfare. I printed out a little flyer that was passed out at the Fun Runs – that had a simple entry form on the back. Everyone had to mail their entries to my office address. I would take entries up until the race started. For several years, I'd find a bunch of little torn-off entries wedged into the edge of my mailbox door outside my office. I had to remember to go by on the way to the starting line on race morning.

That 1st year I hiked backwards from the "M" with Kyle Klickir – carrying a backpack full of white spray paint, and orange flagging. I also remember doing this with Mark Daugherty. All T-shirts came from Universal Athletics...and you all NEED to know this – the 1st BRR (1985) only happened because Universal Athletics came to the club's rescue and sponsored the run – BSWD would not do it, it was too much liability which worried the club.

So, ever since then I make sure they get at least one order from us. I apologize for the history lesson, but I feel some of this needs to be recorded. Ed Anacker's wife Stella always made chocolate chip cookies for the volunteers, heck – she also made them for the Fun Runs. In getting ready for the run, I got to go to Ed's house many times (where of course those CC cookies were omnipresent) – to pick his brain.

In asking him what he wanted to do this year, he quickly said he just wanted to run it, though he said it would be slow. That was his last time as a paid participant (I don't have proof, but I think we charged \$20.00). And back then, if you finished in over 8 hours, you weren't counted as an official finisher. I couldn't stand that, and Ed's time of over 9 hours was the 1st time a finisher was recorded as an "official finisher" over 8 hours!

In 1996 there were 81 finishers, and so the logistics were fairly simple. We didn't have to haul tons of water – each Aid Station carried up their own gallon jugs on race day. And each Aid Station took up whatever food they wanted. My job as RD was to simply stand near the HAM radio operator (who commandeered THE picnic table) and find out if there were any problems. The HAMs really kept track of everyone as they do every year. The Sweep team was simply a couple experienced Ridge Runners who didn't want to compete anymore. Luckily one was often Tom Rowe – the ER Doc in Livingston who carried his own emergency supplies and helped tape up whomever he ran into. Oh, and since then the Forest Service has added several new "improved" sections of trails, which has helped, but "old-timers" who weren't familiar with a new section of trail incorrectly put the flags back to the old course, and many runners went down the Foothills Trail from Ross Pass and lost lots of time in the process.

My 1st year for the Awards Ceremony was held under the covered picnic table at the Beall Arts Center. That was SO simple – just show up and get your award. It was over in a few minutes. No rental gear, no tents to erect, no lists of volunteers to keep track of, no complicated shopping lists, just show up, get your number, run hard, cross the finish line, get your award, and go home.

This probably sounds like "those were the days..." or "back in the old days..." Sitting here at my laptop, I am harking back to a simpler way of life. I do admit it could be much richer and fuller today, but the richness and fullness also existed 25 years ago. Perhaps it was just easier to feel enriched and filled-full with fewer distractions to get in the way. And this article started out about passing a torch. I've really only done that literally once. It was in 2002 when the Winter Olympics came to Salt Lake City. A "torch relay" was going around the country, and several of us from the running club found out where they would be in Montana. We tracked down the official torch runner, and were able to take turns running with the torch – actually holding that sacred thing – now that's a RUSH! The only rush of handing off to Boz was a most low-keyed event. My office got cleared out of "stuff" and the "stuff" went into his Jeep. And thanks to the whole BRR community (which stretches far and wide) – this event will ALWAYS be a rush to put on – and all participants are guaranteed their own personal rush no matter where or when they finish!

– David Summerfield

JINGLE BELL JOG

The Jingle Bell Jog took place Dec. 14 starting on the Galligator Trail near the Library.

Participants were asked to stagger and self-time, and record their final time on a roster.

There are two addendums to the below results: Alex Nordquist ran the Long in 0:36:00 and Leonard Baluski ran the Medium in 0:32:08.

Jingle Bell Jog Results

Name	Distance	Time
Alex Nordquist	Long	0:36:00
Patrick hatfield	Long	0:42:24
Marissa Giese	Long	0:46:30
Marcus Giese	Long	0:47:39
TERESA Galli	Long	0:52:15
Elizabeth Nordquest	Long	0:53:44
Leanne Roulson	Long	0:54:11
Leigh Holleman	Medium	0:27:22
Leonard Baluski	Medium	0:32:08
Mimi, Erika and two strollers, and twins	Medium	0:36:51
Frank Dougher	Medium	0:40:54
Tracy Dougher	Medium	0:41:09
Corey Johnson	Medium	0:41:55
Angie Johnson	Medium	0:42:06
Danielle Skjelver	Medium	0:43:35
Jacki mcguire	Medium	0:44:17
steve mcguire	Medium	0:45:02
Kathryn Hohmann	Medium	?
Robbie Lamb	Medium	?
Kristin Harbuck	Short	0:17:25
Neal Rainey, Jack Rainey, Tula Rainey	Short	0:17:39
Tobias Holleman	Short	0:35:43
Nathaniel, Merel, Tycho, Otto, Menno	Short	0:36:56
Jean MacInnes	Short	0:44:24
Bob Wade	Short	0:44:27
darryl baker	Short	0:44:54
Gail cary	Short	0:47:09
Jerrica bursik	Short	0:47:20



Keeping the running legs strong with some Bear Canyon laps. Dec. 2020

BIG SKY WIND DRINKERS 2020 OFFICERS

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BSWD INFORMATION

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE AT MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- BOZEMAN RUNNING CO.
- GALLATIN ALPINE SPORTS
- BOB WARDS
- SCHNEES
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- CLINICAL MASSAGE CONCEPTS

See www.winddrinkers.org for updates and more information



**“FITNESS CANNOT BE BORROWED,
BOUGHT OR BESTOWED; LIKE
HONOR, IT MUST BE EARNED.”**



Proud member of the
road runners club of
America

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

Membership is obtained by signing up online under "Membership," or sending dues to:
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