

Hill Runners Of **Hunterdon**

Newsletter – Nov 06

State of the Union

The Hill Runners of Hunterdon have made some major strides in 2006 after the January decision approved by members to become just a little more structured than we were in the first 6 years of our existence.

Active membership in the club has now grown to 94 members – 55 male and 39 female. That includes 45 members who complied with our agreement to complete a membership form and provide fees in the form of a voluntary contribution to allow us to provide more services for the membership at large. Of course, we'd really appreciate it if all members could minimally fill out the Membership Form. You can find it under the "Club Info" page of the website.

Many of the club "oldtimers" have noted that the majority of the newcomers actively participate in weekend club runs and races, and there's quite a few that are extremely talented (read fast!) runners.

Having some money to work with has enabled us to register HRH as a USATF member (club #954) – listed on the USATF national and NJ sites – which in turn has provided publicity for the club and attracted new members. In time, it's hoped that more members of HRH will realize the benefits of individual USATF membership, and we can start to field teams in the regular USATF NJ championship circuit. To-date, only a few of us are members. Check the USATF logo/link on the Home Page for more info.

Our club has been mentioned frequently this year in local publications such as the Hunterdon Democrat, Hunterdon Life magazine, the Readington News, the Courier News, and the Express Times.

Now that we have a budget to work with, we can finally proceed with replacement of new club uniforms, including new design and establishment of an inventory of tech singlets for members to purchase at cost. We have been exploring options with various suppliers and obtaining information and advice from other NJ running clubs. Club colors will likely change (Hunter Green?) as we proceed with the adoption of wickable fabrics in lieu of the old cotton singlets.

And of course, we now officially have our own website, where up-to-date info on club runs, race results, and other matters of running interest will be posted. Yes; the days of being inundated by numerous weekly e-mails from me are numbered. Members are encouraged to send suggestions, comments, and race reports to my attention for inclusion on the website.

New Members in 2006

Rick Alderman
Brian Ashforth
Emily Barbour
Steve Brookman

Susan Brookman
Marianne Busher
Bob Butts
Chris Franklin
Joe Galioto
Michael Humphrey
Danielle Kelleher
Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick
Rev Faith Link
Doug Masi
Sharon McGeehan
Kathy Orf
Karen Robinson
Tim Shay
Jessica Skowyra
Dan Sullivan
Greg Swiatocha
Mike Vasisko
Rich Wheeler

Member Profile – Pastor Andrew Paton

Andrew lives in Clinton with his wife Carol and is Pastor of the Church of the Nazarene. Originally from South Africa, he's now a U.S. citizen, and has been here for 10 years. In addition to his church work and his running, he is an avid reader and outdoorsman, and can often be found exploring the natural beauty of Hunterdon County either on foot, motorbike, or canoe. He also writes a regular column called Soul Food for one of the local newspapers. Examples of his writing for the papers can be found at clintonnazarene.org

He is known by all for being both a strong runner and an inspiration/example for others in the club to follow. Of course being a runner in South Africa meant that he has competed in the 90 KM (56 mile) Comrades Marathon. It's almost a law in South Africa – if you're a runner, then naturally you must "do" Comrades. Andrew has run Comrades 5 times and loves to relate stories about this unique event during club runs.

But he's also run approximately 42 conventional marathons of 42.2 kms or 26 miles 385 yards. His marathon PR is 3hr 19min achieved at the Durban Marathon.

Andrew's running goals are to stay under 4 hours for 5 more years!

Fall Marathons

For a relatively small running club, we manage to run our fair share of marathons. There are enough veterans of the marathon wars in the club to act as an influence (good? bad?) on a number of the newer runners, and many of the latter have successfully completed their first marathons in the past few years and done well. Just this fall alone, HRH members have run the following:

Air Force	Ron Reitz	4:11:49
Twin Cities	Hector Cruz-Rosa	3:20:23

Steamtown	Dave Brown	4:11:26
	Dan Sullivan	4:43:50
Hartford	Steve McKenzie	4:51:26
	Andrew Paton	3:45:45
	Dan Sullivan	4:42:56
Columbus	Bruce Marshall	3:54:36
	Dennis Schmatz	4:20:41
Mystic Country	Steve Brookman	3:53:39
	Susan Brookman	4:21:43

And there are at least 9 members running New York and another 9 or more doing Philadelphia.

Holiday Club 5K

We are hoping to have our 2nd annual Holiday Club 5K and party afterwards in December - organized once again by Hope Atkinson and her elves. It is open to all paid-up club members and their families. Look for separately-distributed invitation which will be sent out for details.

- Bruce Marshall