



CSU Running Section Planning Meeting, 1/15/15

Attending: Catherine Cagle, Terry McNatt, Jon Waldron, Joe Pelletier, Geoffrey Kent, Lauren Ballou, Del Williamson, Gordon MacFarland, Kristi Cabot, Patrick Bugbee, Gail Breslow

Treasurer's Report:

- Pat Robinson submitted a note to the effect that the CSU Running Section has roughly \$5,500 as of now, but more membership renewals and Grand Prix "subscriptions" will be forthcoming.
- Our primary use of funds is to pay for Grand Prix race entry fees, newsletter mailings, our annual recognition party, and other miscellaneous expenses.
- We decided that there's no need to make any changes at this time to Grand Prix or other membership fees.

Membership renewals, new membership outreach:

- Tom Dmukauskas (via Kristi) reported that so far we have 57 CSU running section members for 2015. That means lots of you haven't renewed yet, but we expect a flood to come in soon, as the new year kicks into gear!
- Meanwhile, we recruited 23 new members in 2014 and 7 year-to-date in 2015 (welcome, folks!), some attracted by the indoor or outdoor track workouts, some by other aspects of the Club. For 2015 we'll continue to draw on word-of-mouth, club activities, indoor and outdoor track workouts, and social media outreach to attract new members.
- Next steps:
 - Gail will send a membership renewal reminder email to the CSU list-serv, and we will ask Pat to include a reminder in her "call for entries" for the upcoming USATF Grand Prix 10-miler and half-marathon
 - In March/April, Catherine will do friendly individual outreach to renewal laggards as necessary

CSU clothing and gear:

- Catherine Cagle, Patrick Bugbee, and Elizabeth Utz agreed to form a team to bring our clothing/gear situation into the 21st century!

- They will identify a source of “technical” or “athletic” clothing (long-sleeve shirts, beanie/skullhat), as well as one for post-workout items (hoodie, baseball cap, etc.), and arrange for an efficient process for ordering both kinds of clothing.
- As before, the goal will be enable people to “advertise” for CSU when they are out for a run or even just a walk. (Make sure you’re lookin’ good when you wear our logo, however!!!)
- Additionally, it will continue to be a requirement that Grand Prix runners wear CSU singlets or other items if CSU pays your entry fee– so it will be essential to make that particular ordering process straightforward.
- Another consideration is that we want order-/pay-as-you-go options so the Club doesn’t build up a large inventory of items that no one wants, and we need to make it easy for people to find the information for how to place an order.
- Catherine, Patrick, and Elizabeth agreed to have info and items to share by the time of the Soup Run.

Upcoming/Ongoing CSU Running events:

- Winter track check-in:
 - The indoor track workout continues to be very popular, with a really large turnout each week.
 - Because of the number of new CSU members at the track, we agreed it would be good to have on-hand some info on CSU (the Club) and on track running in general (finding the right pace, track etiquette, etc.).
 - Next steps: Gail will create a notebook with general info about CSU, and Terry will draft some info handouts re track etiquette, track running, etc.) We’ll keep it at the indoor track until the end of the season, then take it with us to the outdoor track.
- Saturdays @ Fresh Pond:
 - So far CSU’s “management” of the Saturday Fresh Pond race has been going well. We have a permit from the Cambridge Water Department for 2015.
 - Volunteers are required for each Saturday. Please contact Diane McLaughlin at laugh@mit.edu if you are interested in volunteering, especially from April on.
- Sunday Long Runs:
 - Sunday long runs have been going great, with strong participation each week!
 - There’s one open date: February 15th – if you are interested in hosting, contact Catherine Cagle at catcagle1@gmail.com
- USATF-NE Grand Prix:
 - The series starts with the Amherst 10-miler on Sunday, February 22.
 - The USATF-NE Annual Banquet is Saturday, January 17th. Tickets are available at the door
- Mt. Washington Road Race (June 20th):
 - The lottery for entry will open February 18th.
 - As in past years, we hope to be have a limited number of entries to CSU members who don’t get in through the lottery – the turnaround time after the lottery will be very quick
 - Volunteers are needed for the day of the race!
 - For the past few years Christopher Newton-Cheh has organized our volunteer crew and bypass entries, but this year he is not available – anyone interested in working with Chris and taking over the role?? If so, contact Gail at gbreslow@mos.org.
- Boston Marathon Carbo-load Party :
 - Potluck festivities will be Saturday evening, April 18th, once again at the home of Patrick Bugbee and Elizabeth Utz

CSU Hike and/or relay options for 2015:

- Rumor has it that Julie Weisman offered to organize a Presidential Traverse hike again this summer, if there's interest. We agreed that the weekend after the Mt Washington Road Race would be ideal (so, June 27th). Julie will send out an email soon to assess whether there is sufficient interest for another Presi Traverse, or "Perverse," for short.
- Kristi Cabot offered to research long-distance relay options for possible Club participation, similar to a Reach the Beach.
- We also agreed to field a number of Cape Cod Marathon relay teams this year, since the USATF Grand Prix marathon is in May! We're hoping to field several teams, and CSU will subsidize team registration fees. Entries fill up quickly, so stay tuned for an email from Lauren Ballou, who agreed to organize us. And save the date: Sunday, October 25th.

Future CSU Calendar mailings (paper vs. paperless):

- After some discussion, we agreed that it's time for CSU to go green, and save some green (\$) at the same time! So the March/April issue of the bimonthly newsletter will be our last mailed issue. After that, we will email a PDF of the newsletter to the list-serv, so you can still print it out and put it on your fridge if you wish. It will also be posted on the web site and linked to Facebook.
- This step will save approximately \$600/year in stamps and printing, as well as time and trees.

Use of Running Section budget for 2015:

- As noted above, we will continue to use CSU funds to pay for USATF Grand Prix races, as well as our annual recognition dinner, and perhaps a subsidy of the cost of CSU singlets for new members. With the \$600/year savings from the newsletter mailing, we'll also subsidize team participation in activities like the Cape Cod Marathon relay.
- If you have other ideas for budget items the Running Section should consider, please email Gail at gbreslow@mos.org.

Other:

- Terry McNatt brought up the idea (long-supported by CSU co-founder Sara Mae Berman) of a cross-section event of some kind, to build community across the three sections.
- We agreed a repeat of last year's urban orienteering event would be ideal, with 3-person teams (one from each section).
- Terry agreed to solicit a to-be-named-later "volunteer" to organize the event, to be held after the end of ski season.