



American
Trail
Running
Association

ATRA Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2023

Held via Google Hangouts

Meeting called to order: 5:02pm by Nancy Hobbs

In attendance: Nancy Hobbs Luis Escobar, Susan Kendrick, Andy Wacker, Adam Chase, Lin Gentling, Kriste Peoples, Ian Torrence, Corinne Shalvoy, Mark Phillips

Introductions:

Mark Phillips; a long history of engagement in trail running, serving on the board of Boulder Dairy. Interested in being on the ATRA advisory board so wanted to sit in on the call.

Ian shared his long standing involvement with running ultras; works for the National Park Service; he and his wife lead Sun Dog Running.

Luis Escobar hosts running events, is a photographer, located in California; hosts Road Dog Podcast.

Lin Gentling is in Minnesota; began running ultras in '87 manages USTAF ultra teams and is liaison for NationalChampionship.org.

Corinne Shalvoy, has been in and around running most of her life. Her husband also races; works with a women's trail running organization (Free Trail), Hosts a podcast that also centers women.

Andy Wacker ran Broken Arrow Trail race recently; helping to get young runners into the sport, helping with social media; have had two viral videos - one of Courtney Dauwalter near the finish at Western States and one taken in Austria; made it his goal to reach out to college athletes to invite them to the trail team and to support their transition to the sport; garnering support has been its own challenge; serves to open the door to more runners.

Quarterly Report:

Nancy sent out a quarterly report outlining the ATRA team engagement.

Social media has greatly increased, and she asked the board to share the posts, as well as follow our YouTube channel.

Memberships are still going well, partly an outcome of our insurance, which was designed specifically for trail and mountain running.

Our annual spring survey results are posted. In this quarter, we're at 60 articles. We've done well in increasing content for our library.

Sherpa John argued against the Forest Service charging for race permits, though fees are to be expected, the board collectively agreed. Luis added that he's also experienced a fee for all trail running events he's done through the years, as well.

Finances:

Jan 1 - June 27. We're 110% above last year; total for travel and meetings 3.8k which is about half of last year (but travel will ramp up this summer).

Expenses are down relative 15% from last year. We're Managing expenses well. Per Nancy, expenses from Austria (US Mountain and Trail Running Teams) will be reported within the next couple of weeks, guesses somewhere between 10-30k. Lower than what we anticipated.

Trail Running Conference updates: Terry Chiplin has hosted a series of webinars; most recently a series on mental health awareness, his highest attended series so far. Tim Tollefson is excited about being at the conference this year; Nancy is optimistic about participation. Conference will be held in Washingtonstate. Marathon Printing is the main sponsor. ATRA is considered more of a partner than sponsor. ATRA includes a blurb in quarterly newsletter about it as well as in RD enewsletters (which are monthly).

Corinne asked where to find the webinars: Go to [UTrailRunningConference.com](https://ustrailrunningconference.com) and click the link for the conference and webinars, which are free.

<https://ustrailrunningconference.com/webinar-series/> Andy was able to go to the U18 event in Annecy, France in May. He took lots of photos, got plenty engagement and was able to share about opportunities to get involved in competitive running.

Nonbinary and Trans Policies:

Nancy shared there's been a nonbinary policy at Broken Arrow, and other races are starting to do the same. There was a question about whether ATRA has info on Transgender policy. Nancy said we're only offering information.

Susan commented people are looking for races to be consistent, and it would be a good opportunity to have solid info to share. Nancy agreed that it's good to have more info. There were a lot of stories that came out of Western State. Having a welcoming space is something that ATRA is in the forefront of in terms of finding the best info we can.

Susan asked whether Nancy needs more support or offloading of responsibility. Nancy said it's increasingly challenging for race directors to find ways to address nonbinary issues in races.

Andy added the issue can be divisive, and we need to get messaging right. The story he wants to tell is that people who compete in the nonbinary category still needed to get a Golden Ticket. Being aware and putting it out is important.

Corinne shared that at Javelina, a question that came up was that as a female, she would have wanted to know that she was competing against Riley. Riley appreciated that. Enabling everyone to run as they see fit is important.

Nancy said she got info on ethical boundaries, and while it's not our policy, the Professional Trail Runners Association is producing compelling materials and we're simply sharing it, which is a good step.

Adam added that ATRA isn't a rule making body, but a forum, which means we're open to discussion.

Nancy commented ATRA is a safe space, and an important part of the evolution. Even so, it's up to the individual race director to determine handling of trans messaging. If your event isn't sanctioned by the USATF, she said, it's up to you as a director (USATF follows the World Athletics rules and language). A lot of directors want to do the right thing, but they're not sure what that is. That's why sharing knowledge is key. Not unlike 'The Trails Are Common Ground' - having a safe space to go is important.

Luis said he's looking for the best way to respond and wants to make sure he's doing the right thing. There's no prize money at his races and they're reaching out to adaptive athletes, but it's different with the trans and nonbinary community. We want to be as welcoming with every community, he added, just figuring out how to make it work

Susan asked what the hurdles were, to which Kriste replied that cancel culture and fear of community blowback could do great harm to race directors.

Nancy agreed race directors are fearful of backlash.

Luis and Nancy commented about the challenges and opportunities of live streaming. As a photographer, there's a negative aspect to it. When there's a pacer running with a phone on a gimbal, it's gonna be hard with someone running with a phone/without that interruption; it ruins the pictures. It's frustrating.

Corinne shared The Rat has a transgender policy.

Corinne made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Susan at 5:58pm. All in favor.

Next meeting in late third quarter.