

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
TUSCALOOSA TRACK CLUB
MAY 14, 2014**

The 2014 Tuscaloosa Track Club Board and Committees met at 305 Orange Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on May 14, 2014, at 6 p.m.

The following officers and committee members were present: Ed Freeman, Tammy Denson, Ricky Sparks, Glenn Dodd, Deanna Steele, Michael Stewart, Grant Huddleston, Steve Nelko, Charles Tiller, Richard Carroll and Andrea Hirst.

President, Ed Freeman, called the meeting to order and the following business was conducted:

1. **Electronic Timing System and Purchases:** The first official use of the Electronic Timing System was at the GVI/Will May 5K on May 10, 2014. Stan Smith was the operator in charge, and everything went very well with the exception of a couple of glitches. Ricky Sparks did state that his chip was not functional, and by the comparison with the cards, there were at least 2 people that the chips did not work. It was discussed that the Turkey Trot would be the other race this year using the electronic timing system. We will look at the feasibility of utilizing the system at the most economical way possible. The bib's that use the chip cost approximately \$1 each, so some races couldn't afford using the system.

The track club has purchased a new finishing chute (Cones with bar extensions). Thanks to Billy Falls for giving Ed a site for a more economical purchase, saving the club money. The same chute was used at the Mayor's Cup in April. Also purchased were new mile markers and turn signs. Richard Carroll also stated that the Triathlon Club had donated numerous cones which we now have in our storage.

Thanks to Stan Smith for cleaning and building shelves for our storage room. Discussions were made that we use a sign out sheet for any equipment leaving the storage room.

2. **Course Certification:** Richard Carroll has taken on the task of making sure the mile markers are clearly marked on certified courses, and he would discuss this with Race Directors. He has affectionately named himself the "**Course Nag.**" There have been

instances were volunteers on the route have placed turnaround markers at the wrong mark, therefore making the course not measure correctly at the finish line. He wants to assist in making sure this does not happen.

3. **Newsletter:** Ed congratulated Glenn on his first attempt at our newsletter. It looks really professional and is going in the right direction. The newsletter is provided every other month (i.e. January/February, March/April, etc.). The next edition will be May/June. The deadline for articles, pictures and information for this next issue is May 31st.
4. **Turkey Trot:** This year's Turkey Trot will be **November 22, 2014**. As mentioned above, we will be using our electronic timing system at the finish. It was noted that this was Alabama/Western Carolina game at home.
5. **Website:** Ed thanked Michael for his work on the website. Michael noted that even with the improvements that have been made, he is working toward revamping the site to be more mobilized. He brought his laptop so all in attendance could see a demonstration following the meeting. Michael noted that we have had a hacker intruding on our website for the past several months, but he feels he has made it difficult enough that it has discouraged the hacker. We've been hacker free for the last month.
6. **Summer Social:** Ed brought up the discussion of a summer social for the club. Lake Lurleen, Sokol Park and Hurricane Creek were mentioned as possible sites for the social. By vote, the club will have our summer social at Hurricane Creek with a trail race to be included. All members and their families are welcome to attend. At this point the date of the social is **Saturday, August 2, 2014**, unless a major conflict is discovered. More details to follow.
7. **Runs:**
 - a. **Kid's Run:** It was brought to the club's attention that we should have a dedicated run for children between the ages of 5 and 12. Everyone agreed, and this will be researched prior to the next meeting.
 - b. **Arboretum Run:** Richard Carroll brought up the fact that he has been in contact with the new Director of the UA Arboretum. She has mentioned having a Cross Country Event on the course. Richard will be talking with her for a future track club Cross Country event.

- c. **Double Runs/Outside West Alabama:** Ed discussed that the track club would no longer contract a race outside of West Alabama. It just was not feasible for the club to travel to a race, when there are other clubs closer to their race that can offer their services. We also would not commit to 2 or 3 runs on the same date. We would focus on Grand Prix races and other non-GP races that have been in the area for many years.
- 8. **Training for Members:** Noticing at the Boston Marathon this year, that Auburn had 11 runners and Tuscaloosa only 1 participant we might need to step up as a club, so Charles Tiller brought up the fact that as another incentive for our membership, we should offer training for any member with a specific individual running goal. The hope would be to have several Volunteer Coaches that can design specific training programs for 5K, 10K, Half Marathon and Marathon achievements, and be available to member to answer any questions. Charles will be the Chairman of this Committee, and will begin work on this new project. This will be added to the Newsletter, and we'll go from there.

There being no further business before the meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Dated: May 14, 2014

/s/ Tammy Denson
Secretary

/s/ ED FREEMAN
President