

Zoomers Meeting - July 6, 2011

Present: Kimmi & Lou van der Veen, Bob & Carol Geyer, Chris Heffner, Sherry and Scott LaBree, Teri Hart, Melissa Ellison, Tee Callen, Ed & Joan Morgan. Making a first appearance at the Zoomers meeting all the way from Venice were Dave Pierce with our newest member Don Fialka.

1. President- Kimmi van der Veen called the meeting to order. Kimmi opened the meeting with an ice breaker. Everyone present had to tell the group about their favorite race. Some of the races mentioned were 5K's up to 50 mile runs. Sherry LaBree is anxious to hear about your favorite race for the Newsletter. You can email her at heysmoothiegirl@gmail.com.

2. New members - Don Fialka became a new member. Don is an outstanding long distance runner and has taken part in numerous Zoomers runs. Don is known for his love for long and unique races. He was a member of the Hudson-Mohawk Road Runners Club in Albany, N.Y. Don would like for Zoomers to put on a variety of races such as 8 miles, 15 miles or longer. Don never turns down a challenge. He is much more interested in running challenges and long races rather than winning a medal.

We hope to have Ed & Roxanne Gillen as future new members from the same Hudson-Mohawk Running Club as Don Fialka. Ed and Roxanne will be moving to our area next July from the Albany / Guilderland N.Y. area. Ed and Roxane went on the canoe trip with us and also helped out at our last Summer Running Series events. They have served as Race Directors and we eagerly await them being part of Zoomers.

3. Secretary's Report – members received the June report on the webpage.

4. Treasurer's Report – Carol Geyer stated that the report is about a month behind as the bank statements aren't given to her on time. We stated out the month with \$6361.38 took in \$1465 from timing races, membership fees and a sponsor payment. Our expenses were \$660.70 due to printing, trailer storage, payments to Go Daddy and Constant Contract. Our total is currently \$7165.68.

5. Membership and Marketing – Teri Hart reported that we have 2 new members. We also had 3 single and 7 family renewals. Currently we have 243 members (99 singles memberships, 51 families and 31 students)

6. Race Director's Report- Bob Geyer reported that the Firecracker 5K was very successful. The race had 316 registered runners which 50 more than last year's 260. It is the first race in North Port to break 300 participants.

Future Races:

- Run for A Reason- 4th annual event starting at the 1st Alliance Church at 20444 Midway Blvd. in Port Charlotte. Starting time is 7:30 AM. Cost is pre-registered \$15 and day of race registration is \$20. Registration form is on the Zoomersrun.com webpage. The date for the Run for A Reason 5K is Saturday, August 6th. The race will start and end at 1st Alliance Church which is a change from past years.

- Crab Crawl 5K which is sponsored by the Charlotte Stone Crabs and Port Charlotte High Track Team will be held at the Charlotte Sports Park on Saturday, August 27th. Registration form will be put on the Zoomersrun.com webpage as soon as it is received.
- MDA 5K will hold on Saturday, September 3, 2011. The registration form is on the Zoomersrun.com webpage. The race will start and end at the Olde World Restaurant in North Port located at 14415 Tamiami Trail in North Port. Early registration is \$15 and race day registration is \$20.00 or bringing in pledges of at least \$25.00 for MDA. The race will start at 7:30 AM.
- Remember the Fallen 5K will be a newly added race this year. It is being organized by the Police, Fire and Military units in North Port. The race will begin and end at the Mullen Center in North Port. The race will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011.
- Gasparilla 4 Miler – will be held at the Boca Grande Community Center on Saturday, September 24, 2011.
- Additional race information will be given as the races get closer. Remember to check Zoomersrun.com for registration forms. The registration forms will be put on the webpage as soon as they arrive.

7. Volunteer Committee Report – Ed Morgan. Ed started his report by thanking all the volunteers that helped with the Firecracker 5K and the Zoomers Summer Running Series. Races can't happen without volunteers.

- Volunteers for Run 4 A Reason – M.C. and Chris Heffner, Steve Vieira, Bob and Carol Geyer and Ed and Joan Morgan
- Volunteers for the Crab Crawl – Sherry La Bree, Steve Vieira, Melissa Ellison, Tee Callen, Kimmi and Lou van der Veen, Bob and Carol Geyer, Ed and Joan Morgan
- Volunteers for MDA 5K – Don Fialka, Dave Pierce, Kimmi and Lou van der Veen, Teri Hart, Bob and Carol Geyer, Ed and Joan Morgan
- Volunteers for Remember the Fallen 5K – Tee Callen, Melissa Ellison, Lou van der Veen, Dave Pierce, Carol and Bob Geyer and possibly M.C. and Chris Heffner
- An email will be sent out for volunteers from the Gasparilla 4 Miler. We hope some other members will volunteer to help with this race. (HINT—HINT)
- Other races will need volunteers as they get closer. Remember, to volunteer call Ed Morgan at 423-5752 or email emjim67@yahoo.com.

8. Special Events Committee Report-

- Zoomers Summer Running Series – was a complete success. We had close to 100 runners and each week the rain held off until after the run. After the last race the YMCA provided a pool party for the kids. Youth that ran 3 or more races received a light up 6" trophy and the 19 who also ran the Firecracker 5K received another trophy at the 5K race. Publix Store #1013 on Cochran Blvd. in Port Charlotte provided water Popsicles and bananas for the runners. Jim Chappo and Ed Morgan worked out all the details for the course. Everyone who volunteers did an outstanding job they are Melissa Ellison, Tee Callen, M.C. and Chris Heffner, Jim Chappo and YMCA employee

Michelle Harington. Bill Bonetz, Jackie Baldelli, Bethany Heslem, Eric Botelho and future Zoomers Ed and Roxanne Gillen came and helped at one or more races. Jim Chappo arranged the swim party with the YMCA and provided ribbons for the runners. North Port High School Swim Club provided the time clock. A big thank you to those who helped make it a success.

- Picnic – Melissa Ellison and Tee Callen are going to organize a Zoomer Picnic on Sunday, October 9th at Harbor Heights. More details later.
- Canoe trip – the canoe trip on the Peace River was very successful. We had 10 canoes and lots of fun.

9. Old Business

- Mission Statement – A meet, eat and discussion meeting to come up with a Mission Statement has been set up for Saturday, August 6th starting at 5PM at Ed and Joan Morgan's home at 6124 Fabian Rd. in North Port. There will be a spaghetti dinner served.
- Zoomers Fundraising Race- members present like the idea. It was decided to plan for one in 2012.
- Apparel – Melissa Ellison has been in contact with East Bay. The plan set up a mini website for us showing apparel. Members who wish to purchase apparel can do so by ordering on line. Members present liked the idea of ordering online instead of trying to see merchandise during a race. Melissa will continue to get idea and set up a mini website.

10. New Business-

Zoomers Running Club had been blessed for the past 9 years to have Bob and Carol Geyer as our Race Directors. Until the past couple of years they also headed Membership and the Newsletter as well as being Race Director of all Zoomer races. The Geyers still work with all the race organizers for races in North Port, Port Charlotte, Venice, Englewood and even Sarasota. They attend numerous meeting each month pertaining to each individual race. Zoomers are timing 24 races this year which means the Geyers attend probably 100 meeting a year. Bob takes care of and repairs all of the equipment, makes sure the batteries are charged, cleans the trailer and he uses his truck to bring the trailer to each race. His truck is getting older and will soon be unable to pull the trailer. Bob works on all the race courses. He put together a new racing chute, revamped the Zoomer trailer so we can use it to coordinate the timing results. Bob does all the insurance work, and Carol serves as Treasurer. Bob and Carol also work with each race organizer to set up registration sheets. Needless to say much of the success of the Zoomers Running Club is a direct result of their hard work. Bob and Carol will continue to be Zoomers, but the Zoomers running club has consumed a big portion of their lives. They haven't been able to run many races for the past 9 years and it's time to change that.

The members present agreed that no one can do all they did. Teri Hart, whose job is involved with Insurance, volunteered to work on insurance needs. Teri Hart also volunteered to pull the trailer to some of the runs and Kimmi and Lou are thinking about putting a hitch on their vehicle to move the trailer. The club is also going to look at renting a truck for some races to transport the equipment.

Bob's duties as a race director will have to be divided among a number of members. We have a lot of dedicated members with talents to help. Zoomers is a much stronger club now than it has been in the past and if we plan and work together we can divide up the duties and responsibilities that this dynamic duo did for the past 9 years. Bob and Carol will be at each race until the beginning of 2012 so we can make the transition a smooth one for the next step in Zoomers history.

11. Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Port Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Conference Room at 2701 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte. All Zoomers or potential Zoomer members are welcome.

Joan Morgan

Secretary