

CLUB MEMORIES: PSRR 2010-2020

by Dave Cyplick and Susan Mores

The decade which began on January 1, 2010, will likely be remembered as a time marked by political instability and continued armed conflict carried over from the previous ten years. The War on Terror, the Arab Spring, the birth of ISIL and the deaths of both Osama bin Laden and Moammar Khadafi filled the headlines in the decade's first half. Populism, authoritarianism and the rise of China and Russia played out on the world's political stage.

While extreme weather began to take its toll in the form of larger and more frequent tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and storms, people of all ages found escape in super hero movies as the Marvel Cinematic Universe introduced us to The Avengers and more. Children of all ages enjoyed cartoons like Frozen. In music, Adele was Rolling in the Deep, Pharrell Williams was Happy, and Lady Gaga was engaging in Bad Romance. On television, Game of Thrones became a sensation which soared on dragon's wings before ending with a thud.

In sports, the Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup in 2010, 2013 and 2015 thanks to Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane. The Boston Marathon was the talk of the country for the worst of reasons: a bombing.. Unbelievably, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in 2016. And in Will County, Illinois, PSRR was still the running authority.



FINAL EXCERPT from Dave Cyplick's 2016 article detailing 40 years of club history:

Between 2009 and 2011, a Prairie State team competed in the 200 mile Madison to Chicago Relay, an event which ultimately was taken over by the Ragnar organization.

As 2011 rolled in, Laura McLean took over as PSRR President. Laura spent a lot of the year out of town working on projects as a union electrician, but was able to stay in touch and help the club continue to advance. Laura had also served as Vice President and Trustee for the club over a period of several years. 2011 marked the last year the National Heritage Corridor 25K was held. From 1990 to 2005, the race was held in the fall. Over the years, more long distance fall races were held and between 2002 and 2005, participation dropped by about 10% per year. After the 2005 race, we put the race on hold for a few years and then brought it back in the spring of 2008 at a new start/finish venue, the Four Rivers Environmental and Education Center, commonly known as Moose Island, in Channahon. The race never really gained any traction as a spring event and we decided that 2011 would mark the end of the race after 20 years.

Steve Koven was PSRR President from 2012-2015. We added three club sponsored races including the Manhattan Irishfest Parade 5K in 2014, the DNA/PSRR Free 5K in 2013 and the PSRR Cross Country Race in 2014. The Manhattan Irishfest Parade 5K is a logistically challenging point to point race which also features a beer test with a nice party afterwards. Steve and Ray Wertelka had directed this race in 2014 and 2015 and Ray took over the majority of race directing responsibilities in 2016. The DNA/PSRR Free 5k is a great service provided to the running community. We also encourage the donation of school supplies at this event. The PSRR Free Cross Country Race was held at Plainfield Central High School in 2014 and 2015. This is the third time PSRR has put on cross country races and it wouldn't be surprising if a fourth series of cross country comes up before too long. Two other significant items of note during Steve's tenure were bringing back the club picnic and the rewriting and enhancing of the PSRR bylaws.

Mark Bowman took over from Steve as PSRR President in 2016. Mark is an accomplished ultrarunner who has completed 3 of 4 attempts at 100 mile runs and has done close to 60 other ultras. Mark has coached both Middle School and High School cross country. He has been a PSRR member for over 30 years and brings valuable perspective from his past club experiences. Club members have had some impressive running experiences over the years. Jim Harman, Dennis Killian and Sheldon Nicol are members of the 50 States Marathon Club. Several club members, most notably Spencer Hopper and Jerry Raino, have completed the Pikes Peak Ascent or Marathon a number of times.

One theme that has remained a constant through the years and will continue to remain most important to our club is that for PSRR to thrive, we need a constant stream of volunteers. The club future will remain bright if new volunteers continue to emerge.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE since the 2016 article:

Cathy McQuarters became PSRR President in 2018 and served until 2020 when she passed the torch to Mark Walters. Cathy and Mark have both been longtime club members with consistent involvement in both racing, organizing and volunteering at club functions.

PHOTOS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF SUSAN MORES
on the next 3 pages



2010 SHOREWOOD SCOOT:
Back row: Dave Cyplic, Pete Slattery, Nate Kershner,
Tammy Munch, Spencer Hopper, Susan Mores
Front row: Aubrey Hopper, Sergio Arreola, Susan
McLean



2010 KANKAKEE YMCA 5k

ALL 3 PHOTOS: 2010 Chicago Marathon Aid Station Volunteers





2012 Autobaan 4 miler



2012 DNA Fun Run



2012 JJC 5k



2013 New Years Day run and Lallos outing



2013 Midwinter Cruise with Forest Park Pancake Club



2013 Danville Siberian Express



2013 Towpath Cleanup in Channahon



2013 Kankakee Winterfest 5k



2013 Ashley Can Half Marathon



2013 Tiger 5k

2013 CIRCUIT AWARD WINNERS

Fawn Acup
 Sergio Arreola
 Clark Anderson
 Michael Auld
 Cricket Baltz
 Tom Baltz
 Tommy John Baltz
 James Barry
 Grant Bell
 Kyle Bell
 Terry Bergin
 Ruth Bonacci-Klaeser
 Amanda Bornhofen
 Larry Bornhofen
 Mark Bowman
 Robyn Bumgarner
 Katherine Calder
 Colleen Calvey
 Clint Carter

Becky Cherry
 Doug Cherry
 Matt Clark
 Dave Cyplick
 Rich DeGrush
 Sharon DeVault
 Howard Ellison
 Glenn Gabryel
 Ken Goodwin
 Susan Gregory
 Marcus Hardy
 Robert Jungwirth
 Gerald Kielian
 Pete Klaeser
 Craig Koerner
 Kelly Koven
 Dick Macknick
 Javier Martinez
 Michael McCahey

Patrick McFarland
 Susan McLean
 Mary Jo Minarich
 Susan Mores
 Brian Norrick
 Jill Pironti
 Rudy Pironti
 Benjamin Riley
 Evan Sather
 John Sheridan
 Keith Smith
 Bob Thompson
 Paige Vanderhyden
 Jay Wait
 Mark Walters
 John Warren
 Raymond Wertelka

OVERALL WINNER—CATEGORY AGE 15-64

Michael McCahey (R)



2014 CIRCUIT RACES

DATE	RACE
January 19	Midwinter Cruise 5K, Park Forest
February 9	Frosty Five Mile, Channahon
March 1	Manhattan Irish Fest Parade 5K
April 12	Rockdale Ramblin' 10K
May 3	JJC 5K, Joliet
May 17	St. Mary Immaculate 5K, Plainfield
June 21	Minooka Summerfest
July 3	Liberty 5K, Morris
July 24	Sundowner 5K, Joliet
July 26*	Kankakee YMCA 5K
August 7*	Firefly 5K, Channahon
August 17	DNA Athletics/PSRR FREE 5K, Crest Hill
September 6*	Shorewood Scoot 5K
September 7	Ashley Can Half Marathon, Bourbonnais
September 28*	Plainfield Harvest 5K
October 5	Run for Palesh 5K, Manhattan
October 18	Forté 5K, Channahon
November 2*	Canal Connection, Utica
November 16	Red Eye 8K, Joliet
November 27	Poultry and Pie Predictor 4-Mile, Joliet
December 6	Jingle Bell 5K, Lockport/Crest Hill
Any	Your Choice half/full/ultra



2014 Poultry and Pie Predictor—from the Pacesetter



PSRR BANQUET PHOTO 2015—from Susan Mores

Here we will close this year-long series of the 45 years of PSRR as seen through the eyes of its members. 2016-2020 are well represented on the website in the form of past issues of The Pacesetter. When we reach our 50th anniversary, we can cover this ground again and devote more time and space to the past five years since they will seem more like history at that point and less like recent events. See them at: <http://www.psrr.org/newsletter.html>

Thanks to everyone who shared their memories, photos and old newsletter copies going all the way back to the days of copy machines and mimeograph, snail mail and Polaroids.



Whether recalling early legends like Gary Moss, Lance Bovard and Greg Rose or enjoying future stars like Jaylyn Miller and Craig Koerner we remain the one and only Will County Running Authority.

