

**Montana Cup Organizational Meeting
Helena, MT, Sunday, December 9, 2007**

Present: Tony Banovich, Anders Brooker, Ray Hunt, Nicole Hunt, Rick Judge, Dewey Peacock, Jeff Thomas, John Zombro. In absentia – Diamond Jim

Discussion Items:

- Issue of High School athletes being part of the event. There have been concerns raised in the past (originally raised by Robert Sowers, most recently by Brian Wieck) that high schoolers shouldn't be part of the race since they have their own circuit, they dilute the field, etc.

After much discussion, the consensus was to keep the High School athletes within the race.

Further discussions ensued and the *consensus was to also include a Junior Team division*. Since we are already doing individual awards for the juniors, the addition of a team event is simply some extra scoring together with the two new cups. Will put in as a trial this year and then determine if we continue in future years. Rick was agreeable to including in this year's race. *No separate team organizers for this year. The open and masters team organizers will also be encouraged to assist in organizing the junior team for their region.* If the junior division proves to be successful, future editions may warrant separate junior team organizers.

It was determined that the juniors would continue to apply to the overall/open team scoring (just as the masters currently do).

Jeff offered to secure the team cup awards. *To be known as the Cyppee Cup.* (Comments by Ray were duly noted that the cups should be reasonably constructed and up to the overall standards of the event. Ray shared past comments of Butte Master's team feeling that the Masters Cups were not up to the standard of the rest of the event.)

- Issues of Eligibility were discussed. First item of discussion was the issue raised this year by Bob Boland of Great Falls. A few runners from Malmstrom AFB were apparently falsely advised that they could not run since they weren't Montana residents. *It was confirmed that the existing rules permit any athlete who lives in Montana, is employed within the State of Montana (i.e. military personnel, government workers, etc.) or who is duly registered and attending school in Montana can participate (with the exception noted below). In this particular case, the Malmstrom athletes could have participated as representatives of Great Falls. (Note - A clarification on this rule will be added to the meet entry form.)*

The following items relative to collegiate athletes were reconfirmed by the group.

1. Athletes who are members of a collegiate team (including red shirts) may run; however, they are not eligible to be scoring members of a team or for individual awards.
2. College students may participate as an eligible athlete (for team and individual awards) if they are not a member of a collegiate cross country and/or track team.
3. College students who are native Montanans and who are eligible for team and individual scoring may elect to run for either their hometown or their college town.

- It was confirmed that a Jury of Appeals procedure exists and can be set in motion by the Race Director should an infraction to eligibility or other rule be brought forward. However, *it was determined that the deadline for filing a protest would be 30 minutes after the last runner of the race in question has finished.*

- The issue of "Border Towns"/Geographic Regions was discussed.

After much table pounding by Rick, *it was confirmed by the group that the regions would be left as is.* As a result, Tony and Zoe Banovich will be forced to abandon the Missoula team and compete for Kalispell in future events.

Tony and Zoe will be permitted to swap maroon jerseys for white at no cost at the 2008 event.

- *The group concluded that the Montana Cup will donate an official Great Falls jersey to Bob Boland in recognition of his long-standing dedication to the event.* It will be expected that he will wear it in future events – at the risk of disqualification.

- Course secrecy was discussed. Although Anders' efforts of introducing a new element secrecy to the course location was well intentioned, it was determined that in the future, *no secrete race day switching of courses will be allowed.* There may be another time when a last-minute venue change is unavoidable, and in such an instance, **immediate, full and equal disclosure of the change will be provided for all teams.**

Keeping the actual course layout and distance secret until race day (i.e. home-course advantage) will continue to be encouraged. The type of surface and general location can be disclosed, to allow runners to properly prepare for the event (to bring proper equipment, etc.).

- The issue of back bibs was discussed.

The consensus was the back bibs were to be provided by the race and worn by Masters and Juniors. This is one of the items to be highlighted in the modified race checklist.

Much discussion ensued about the numbers. Yet to be determined if they will be M's & J's, numerals (40's and 19's) or graphic. The general agreement seemed to be supporting the use of letters M and J. The issue of master's runners being permitted to permanently stencil the M onto the back of their singlet was discussed. May be explored in the future.

- It was determined that *the checklist of race director items will be modified with items of high importance to be highlighted.* (See the attached checklist as prepared by Ray Hunt.)

MONTANA CUP Race Directors' Critical Item Checklist

- Select suitable area to hold races not shorter or longer than 5-8K and secure permissions/permits to use site
- Contact Anders Brooker at the *Runners' Edge* in Missoula for ordering reversible jerseys and for screening the MT Cup logo onto jerseys
- Obtain race numbers for all runners, as well as "J-tags" for the backs of junior runners' jerseys, and "M-tags" for masters runner's jersey backs.
- Finalize entry form and post on web site by about September 1st
- Secure and place shelter and toilets at race site
- Secure a primary and back-up timing system
- Ensure that all six Cups (traveling trophies) are going to be engraved and returned for meet.
- Post current status of pre-registration entries on web site
- Produce course maps for race-day distribution.
- Randomly assign team alleys for each race start.
- Lay out race course in clear and simple fashion
- Ensure that each race official has copy of pertinent Montana Cup rules.
- Race director recognize candidates for impartial MT Cup Committee ruling(s) in compliance with meet rules.
- Setup race-day check-in / registration
- Keep team results secret until awards
- Triple check** results for accuracy and compliance with scoring rules before awards.
- Post full press release and results on www and forward to all major Montana newspapers.
- Reimburse successful team organizers
- Inventory and package surplus team jerseys to be given (at no cost) to next event host.
- Produce Profit/Loss statements and post on web site

- Financial Issues.

Run Wild Missoula has offered to return 1/2 of their race profits to the Montana Cup for use by the event. This would amount to approximately **\$540**. *The group agreed to accept the offer of RWM and re-invest the dollars into the event.*

One of the possible uses of these dollars would be to purchase a large supply of back bib numbers for use by future editions of the race. *Tony Banovich offered to help rick Judge resolve the issue of back bibs for the 2008 event.*

It was also decided to take up Anders on his offer of supplying the singlets to the race at cost (approximately \$8 to \$8.50 – printed). This could allow future races to reduce the cost of the race (with purchase of singlet) down to \$20 versus \$25. (Final cost of the race will be determined by that year's race director and race committee.) (There have been some comments, although few, in the past about the cost of the event.)

Anders offered that Runner's Edge could supply free race numbers for the event (with Runner's Edge printing on the numbers). This offer will be accepted for the 2008 event. Use of the numbers by future events will be determined by future race committees.

- **Dedicated Race Computer.**

Ray Hunt has been successful in securing a laptop that will now be dedicated to the Montana Cup for entries, results and scoring. Chris Wareham of the Butte running club has developed an Access program that can manage the scoring. Jeff Thomas is to get with Chris (programmer) to add the junior team division to the program. Ray gave computer to Jeff since Jeff will undertake the results and scoring of the 2008 meet.

- Other Items:

It was determined that a new rule should require that the host city does not have to hold the race in their city; but, they must hold it within their region (e.g. – Butte hosted @ Pipestone in 2006).

It was proposed that a set of flyers or posters be developed and placed at specific, targeted stores around the state to promote the 2008 event. Dewey Peacock offered to help get these printed and distributed.

It was suggested that a spring type event (perhaps around the time of the World XC Championships) be held to try to further develop racing opportunities and to use as a PR event for the main Cup races. These would be simple, informal events. Tony B offered to help John Zombro brainstorm opportunities for this type of event.

John Z. advised that other events loosely tied to the Montana Cup and the Big Sky Distance Project concepts would be the Master's Indoor Mile on Feb. 15th @ MSU, and a series of 3 or 4 All-Comers outdoor meets at MSU. At least one of the outdoor meets will include a 10K track event.

- Camp Waterloo, Part Deux:

The consensus was that the group would like to have another Camp Waterloo. Tony offered to host the event at family property on the Noxon Rapids Reservoir at Trout Creek. Dates are yet to be determined; but, it will likely be in the late-July to mid-August time frame. John Zombro and Mark Slater were formally appointed as the preparers of at least one breakfast.