SARR Members,

Just in time for spring, SARR will have 4 races within 8 weeks starting on March 10. Are you ready? Hibernation is over!

Member Merchandise. We have been planning this for quite a while and now we are ready. We have launched our SARR Merchandise website to give everyone year-round access to purchase SARR gear. Check out the different types of shirts and hats HERE. There is some cool stuff available. Wear your SARR gear proudly!

Here's Your Sign. Thanks to our great clean-up volunteers, SARR has adopted a mile of the Salado Creek trail and we will get a sign planted in our name as part of the SA Parks Adopt-A-Trail program. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and made this happen and special thanks to Phil Gaddy for his leadership of this program. We will have our next clean-up event in a few months.

Nature Calls. For those of you who like to run with the animals and plants (*and a little dirt*), signup for the **SARR Prickly Pear** race at McAllister Park. You can choose from a 5K, 10-miler, or (*for our slightly crazy runners*) a 50K. Details can be found HERE. We could also use some more volunteers. There are still spots left for racers and non-racers. More info HERE.

Winter Complaining Leads to Spring Training. Have you taken a few months off to stay warm and dry? Kick yourself back into gear with the **SARR Spring Training** program. Registration is now open for two programs that will begin in March, the Walk2Run5K Program and the SARR Kids' Training Program for children 5-12 years old. More info coming soon on the next Pick Up The Pace Program, which will start in April.

Volunteers Earn Points. SARR loves our volunteers and we couldn't put on so many great events and programs without them! As of January 2018, we have moved to a new rewards system that volunteers can use to earn points towards discounts on SARR races and training. More info will be sent out soon to all volunteers explaining the new program. If you still have volunteer cards that you earned in 2017, they will be honored through their expiration date. Interested in volunteering? Check out our current opportunities here.

Be Our Valentine. Plan to shop online for Valentine's Day? Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2029484 and Amazon will donate to Road Runners Club of America. You can show your love for your special Valentine and us at the same time.

Shirt Off My Back. I'm so glad we are launching our SARR merchandise webpage. I wear running shirts as part of my everyday clothing. (*Short-sleeve running shirts for those casual occasions and long-sleeve for those more formal occasions, like weddings*.) It used to be that my closet was filled with a few running shirts and many, various cotton shirts (*polos, concert shirts, brewery shirts, random-deep-meaning-so-I-look-hip shirts*). But now, it's almost all running shirts. And of all those, I only rotate through about 10-12. The rest won't see the light of day again. There are a lot of ugly running shirts out there. I don't care how great a race was, if the event shirt is a color not found in nature or has a hideous logo, I'm not wearing it. It's just going to hang in my closet forever in the back corner of regret (*next to my bell-bottomed jeans*).

It has been a long time since I actually bought a running shirt. However, I do remember the first time I paid money for one, years ago in Seattle at one of those giant, multi-floor Nike stores. It was when polyester shirts were just starting to take over cotton in the running world (*yes, I'm that old*.) This shirt was a beauty…dark blue, reinforced collar, with vents (*no kidding*) down the sides. It was so special to me that I would never wear it for training, only for races. The trouble was I never had a good race when I wore that shirt. So, of course I had to blame the shirt (*it couldn't have been me*!). I still have it; back in the far corner.

I think the new SARR shirts are cool and I promise these colors are all found in nature. Hope you get a chance to check them out. I'm sure you could use some more casual wear.

Scott Peacock

President, SARR