

SARR Members,

Race season is upon us. We have 3 SARR races in the next 3 weeks! Hope you get a chance to add a little running to your Fiesta fun.

NIOSA is Spanish for “crowded”. Fiesta is coming and SARR is going to be right in the middle of it. New for this year, SARR is going to march in the [King William Parade](#). Now that’s a crazy event! Get there early to cheer the team on. On April 22nd is the SARR [Fiesta Mission](#) race and on April 28th is our extremely popular [Fandango](#) race. In between is [NIOSA](#), which is not a SARR event but a multi-day street party you should try attending to recover from all that running.

Zoo Run Kickoff. We had a great kickoff to the Wednesday Night Zoo Run with over 120 participants. You can join us every Wednesday through October at 6:30pm at Brackenridge park for the free, 2-mile run.

New Race Directors. We have many new race directors this year and I’m thankful for all the hard work they are putting in to create great races for the club. *Trinnie* is leading the Fiesta Mission race, the force is with *Gina & Randy* in managing the new May the 4th Be With You race, *Bert* is taking on the Freedom Run, *Erin* is the new race director for the Women’s Run, *Julia* will be heading up the new Cactus Land Run, and *Keith & Kathy* will be leading the Endurathon. That’s a lot of new race directors so expect some new and exciting things at SARR events this year.

Fall Training. The start of our fall training season is still months away but we opened registration early and the response has been fantastic. There’s no doubt this program will fill up again this year. Want in? We are offering a \$10 Discount to the first 100 registrants using code **FIRST100** (register [HERE](#)). There are only a few of those slots left. We could also use more volunteers. If you interested in volunteering, register [HERE](#) and be entered in a drawing for a free race entry.

Help Wanted. We are forming a new finance committee to help review our financial records and procedures. It is a best practice to have non-Board members review our finances periodically to verify our books. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact me at president@saroadrunners.com. Also, our annual picnic is coming up in June and we could use some help planning it. Just contact me if you are interested. This club runs on volunteers so if you can help it would be greatly appreciated.

Election Time. Speaking of our annual picnic, just a reminder that our annual election will be held at the picnic. The Board positions that are up for election are: Secretary, Treasurer, Executive VP, and Director of Training. Nominations will be accepted through May 1, 2018. SARR Members may submit the names and qualifications of eligible individuals to be candidates by filling out the [SARR Nomination Form](#).

Bridge. I just returned from the annual RRCA National Convention and it was fantastic. Though we are one of the biggest clubs in the nation, there is still plenty to learn about how best to train runners, put on great races, and manage the daily club activities. We are already starting to put some of our new learnings into action and more will be coming soon.

One of the speakers at this event was the race director for the Marine Corps Marathon and his seminar topic was on race risk management. We don't have a race that size but still he had some good suggestions on how to mitigate risk. He also told an interesting story I would like to share.

Several years ago, he was at the start line getting ready to kickoff the MCM race. This race requires unbelievable coordination between multiple military, police, park, city, county, and government agencies since the race runs through multiple jurisdictions. The race is thirty minutes away from starting and he gets a call from one of the police departments.

"You are going to have to cancel the race", the police officer announces.

"What?!! I have 40,000 people lined up here getting ready to run!", the race director replies.

"Sorry. There looks to be a large bundle propped up against the bridge and it might be a bomb."

"Well, go check it out!"

"It's going to take several hours so you are just going to have to cancel the race. Either that or don't run over the bridge."

"The bridge is a major part of my course. I have to use the bridge!"

"Sorry, I'm making the call. No bridge."

The race director hangs up the phone and is beyond frantic at this point. But he remembers that one of the coordinating agencies is the Coast Guard. He calls them up and asks if they will send a (very fast) boat to go check out the bridge. They agree and send out a crew.

With 5 minutes left before the start of the race he gets a call back from the Coast Guard. The bundle on the bridge is just a beaver dam. Race on.

Scott Peacock

President, SARR

