



2013 Annual Island Road Runner Banquet

At our Annual Banquet, we were proud to announce Jim O'Callaghan as our Island Road Runner of the Year.

Treasurer Larry Simon began his presentation by highlighting what many members of our group have accomplished over the years. Reflecting on the amazing goals that have been met by our members, we cannot help but be inspired by them, and are likewise encouraged to grow and improve as runners. We can all appreciate the struggles of daily and weekly running. This is true regardless of whether we are training for a race, or just spending time enjoying the nature of the sport.

We all know Jim has contributed much, not only to the club, but to the sport of running as well. He has kept the group informed through email and membership news, and captivated us with the beauty of nature (and even the members of the club) in his photographs. He is dedicated, determined, and has accomplished much, even overcoming injury in this sport. Jim has thought of others more than himself, for which we offer our gratitude.

Larry cited how Jim loves to run and talk. Even if Larry couldn't respond because Jim's pace was so much faster, he still was astonished at Jim's ability to do both simultaneously. Although, Larry did acknowledge that during competition, Jim buckles down.

And yet for all of his accomplishments, Jim never expected to receive this award. Congratulations Jim!

Recognition of Sponsors

Discussed at our Annual Banquet was the importance of sponsorship to our organization. We thank our sponsors for their continued support and generosity in sponsoring the Memorial Day Run.

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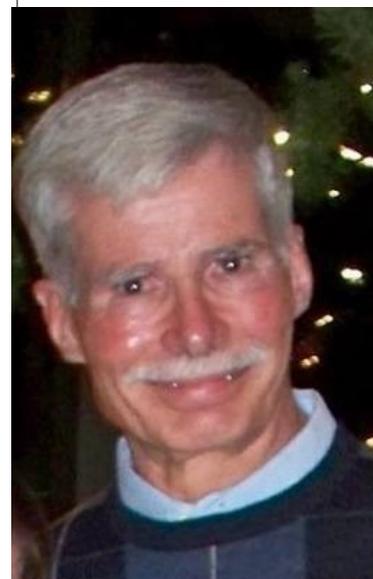
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2013 Island Road Runner
of the Year
Jim O'Callaghan

2014 Annual Club Meeting

Mark your calendars for our annual club meeting to be held on **Saturday, February 1st** at 9:30 am in the teacher lounge of the Grosse Ile Middle School. One of the main purposes of this meeting is to nominate and vote for club officers for a one-year term. A financial report for the past year will be presented, sign-ups for Tailgate Treats, and discussion of the 2014 Memorial Day Run.

Please feel free to come and let your voice be heard.

Just so you know, planning is underway for an indoor Tailgate Treats in March in the teachers lounge of the Middle School. At that time, we would like your input on additional "Club Fun" ideas that we can use for future planning. Also at this meeting we will provide a status update on the Memorial Day Run.

Election of Officers

As mentioned at our annual banquet, ALL officer positions will be open at our upcoming election. Some of our members have a good idea what is involved with the responsibilities as officers. But for those who don't, we encourage anyone considering office, to please contact President Erika Hidalgo if you have any questions.

This is a perfect way to give back to the Club that has served you for so many years. Please consider.

Interesting Website

If you haven't already, you might want to check out www.athlinks.com. It's a great website to look up your past racing stats or maybe that of a friend or competitor. You might want to actually 'sign-in' and claim your races. Other individuals with a like name may be sharing your times.

Drinking Fountain

As a nonprofit organization and a member of the Road Runner Club of America (RRCA), our mission is to promote running as a healthy exercise and sport, and give back to the community. The group held a vote this past summer to decide how our funds could be best spent serving the community. At that time, our members voted to spend \$4,000 on a drinking fountain to be installed on Grosse Ile along the bike path.

After several discussions and meetings last November with the Grosse Ile Department of Public Services and the Bike Path Commission, the Grosse Ile Township board passed a resolution to accept our generous offer to purchase a fountain. Installation and construction costs that exceed our gift will be picked up by "The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission" through fundraising efforts and bike path maintenance funds.

We can look forward to an official ribbon cutting ceremony some time this spring. This drinking fountain will certainly be a legacy for the IRR. As details become available we will be sure to inform the group.



Last Club Run
of the Year

Club Fun!

A significant part of IRR membership is having fun with each other. Many of you have expressed an interest in running from different locations on days we don't officially meet. So with that in mind, we have planned for the group to get together and have FUN! Strength comes from the bonds among friends and the support we show one another in our efforts. We hope that you can join us on one (or more) of the following dates before we officially meet as a group at Elizabeth Park on Monday, March 10th as we begin daylight savings time.

So, mark your calendars and plan to run, walk, bike or just socialize with other club members.

Monday, February 10th at 5:30 p.m. — Total Runner

Plan to meet inside the store and start your activity at 5:30pm, with the route and distance David Howell has prepared. Afterwards, plan to warm up with hot chocolate and cookies inside the store!

Monday, February 24th at 5:30 p.m. — Erie Metro Park

The paths in Erie Metro Park should be clear, the scenery is great, and there is very little traffic to worry about as you plan your distance. Meet at the parking lot at Carlson High School. Take this opportunity to start together and maybe run with someone you haven't seen in awhile. The finish time is up to you.

Monday, March 3rd at 5:30 p.m. — Huroc Park Connector

As part of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, a new section of trail opened last year connecting Huroc Park in Flat Rock to Oakwoods Metro Park. We can park for free at the Flat Rock Depot and Museum located at 28700 Arsenal Road. We might just see the signs of spring, with trees budding, plants sprouting, birds chirping and quite possibly feel the warmth of the sun upon us.



**Summertime...
It will come**

