



Helena Vigilante Runners

Promoting health, fitness, and community through group training runs, races, and events in the greater Helena area.

**PO Box 663
Helena, MT 59624**

www.vigilanterunning.org

July 23, 2011

Greetings fellow runners!

We are writing first to thank you for your participation in the Helena Vigilante Runners (HVR). The board is continually impressed with the enthusiasm, positive attitude, dedication, and running successes of the HVR community. Beyond the MANY recent team and individual accomplishments of HVR runners, the last year has seen tremendous progress for the organization itself. Here's just a sampling of the club's recent activities:

- initiated the "Speaking of Running" lecture series, with 4 speakers in 2011
- designed & produced an HVR banner, posters, and brochures
- organized a Course Guard Training with the Helena Police Department
- staffed booths at the "Ales for Trails" event and Governor's Cup expo
- advocated for pedestrian-friendly policies, and sound stewardship of trails

These activities are in addition to the club's established commitments to organize top-notch weekly workouts, sponsor several of Helena's premier races, coordinate the local race calendar, and lend volunteer assistance to other events. Our modest group has grown to include over 230 vig listserv subscribers, and dozens more on the HURL list. Now in its eighth year, the Tuesday-at-Noon group just hit an exciting milestone this week -- "10,000 person-workouts"!

(with an average of ~42 people per workout x 30 workouts per year x 8 years)

Our other purpose in writing is to invite all listserv members to become more active in HVR's efforts. Probably the most rewarding way to be involved is to volunteer at HVR-sponsored events, such as the upcoming Elkhorn Endurance Runs, the August Road Race, and the Mount Helena Classic. The Elkhorn and Mount Helena races, in particular, provide a major source of operating funds for the club, and are not possible without the volunteers who clear trails, mark courses, stuff packets, staff check-in tables, work aid stations, and assist with results.

Another important way to help HVR is with a financial contribution. We're asking supporters to make a tax-deductible donation of \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount they are comfortable giving, by sending a check to the address at the top of this letter (receipts will be provided) -- or by bringing a donation to a Tuesday workout.

Funds are used to maintain the HVR website and listservs, provide insurance coverage for our races and workouts, furnish the "Vig-a-potty" at the track, help

defray bus fare to the Montana Cup, and generally support the club's activities. Thus far, HVR has been able to avoid charging membership dues, instead preferring to rely upon voluntary contributions. As can be seen from the 2010 financial statement, the club dearly depends on the \$2000 it seeks from individual donors each year: <http://vigilanterunning.org/board/index.php>

Finally, please know that we value your feedback and ideas, and would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact any board member or attend our next meeting (August 15th, 7 pm at 107 W. Lawrence, 2nd floor) if you have input for HVR. Many thanks for your participation in the club, and for considering these requests. Best wishes for the remainder of the running and racing season!

Sincerely,

The HVR Board of Directors:

Patrick Judge, Jeff Thomas, Mike Jacobson, Chris Colberg, Carolyn Keller Blasch, Chris Beskid, Steve Engebrecht, Mike Fanning, Ann Seifert, Sarah Slanger, Scott Story, Demaris Taylor, Brian Wieck, Alan Wintersteen, and Todd Younkin