

On March 25, 2017 we hosted 57 runners arrived at Big Spring Picnic Area, in the far western Perry County, PA to run the Harrisburg Area Road Runners Club's Tuscarora Trails Ultra 50K. This is a free event, but all runners must register in advance and are required to bring a donation for the aid stations.

It was a warm spring morning, with temperatures around 50F, but heading into the low 70's by mid-day. The skies were threatening, but leaking only a little drizzle on the anxious runners.

The course is about 50/50 trail/forest service roads, with about 4200 feet of climb, with some great trails, some good shoe sucking mud and some extraordinary rocks! And this year, measurable snow on the higher mountains.

We have a new course record this year, set by Jared Hazen, with a time of 4 hours 10 minutes. Jared has placed as high as 3rd at the Western States 100mile Endurance Run! Clayton Bouchard, ran a 4:29, breaking his old record, as well.

But speed is not what this run is about. We have no awards, except for best wildlife photo, we have no first, second places, and most important, NO DNF's. Anyone not completing the entire 31 miles is still listed in the results with their approximate distance ran. I refer this distance as a ODR, Other Distance Ran. If you have ever tried running any of my races you would understand. They are difficult, some would just say HARD. And there is no shame in calling it a day if things are not working for you.

We had several runners complete their first 50K and were excited to run another one! And I have had several other runners who said that after the beating they received, they would never run another 50K. (Yeah, they probably are signing up for one right now!)



I am so fortunate to have extraordinary volunteers, like Rick Knepp, and his group from the Susquehanna High School who run one of the major aid stations, Ron Shields, from the Perry County Road Runners, and Jason Campbell, who helped me mark trail.

We had a lot of other volunteers, which I haven't mentioned, who worked the aid stations and swept the trail, to help keep runners on course. Thank you all! I cannot forget to recognize and thank the great group of people I work with from the Bureau of Forestry, in Blain.

But I didn't forget the key person on the volunteer list. My wonderful wife, Melanie Halke, does everything! She helped mark and clear trail, coordinates the race day sign in, checks you off when you finish, prepares much of the food for the post run picnic and runs the kitchen at the finish. Thank you, dear!

So Don had another Grand Adventure and I hope everyone else that participated in this event did as well. Thanks for allowing me to share in it with you... Thank you runners! And now the results:

50K Distance

Jared Hazen 50K 4:10

Clayton Bouchard 50K 4:29:24

Danny Mowers 50K 4:48

Scott Lesh 50K 5:17

David Endress 50K 5:33

Doreen Fanton 50K 5:35

Jeff Nelson 50K 5:36

Tyler Moyer 50K 5:39

Sheena Perry 50K 5:39

Elmo Snively 50K 5:39

Jon Yawger 50K 5:42

Michelle Benshoff 50K 6:12:10

Ronald Harling 50K 6:22

Samuel Bonacci 50K 6:27

Erin Altemos 50K 6:28

Neal Barnaba 50K 6:29

Jeff Shelter 50K 6:36

Brian J Carr 50K 6:39

Ashley Carr 50K 6:42

Keith Hearn 50K 6:42
Zach Geiple 50K 6:50
Randy Yasenchak 50K 6:54
Richard Brown 50K 6:54
Craig Eckenrode 50K 7:15
Mitch Hawbaker 50K 7:15
Ralph Smith 50K 7:15
Mitch Hawbaker 50K 7:18
Bill Breidenstine 50K 7:18
Rob Tidwell 50K 7:18
Amy Shelly 50K 7:21
Jason Huber 50K 7:21
Jeff Young 50K 7:21
Todd Lewis 50K 7:22
Benjamin J Mazur 50K 7:22
Justin Flickinger 50K 7:55
Keith Morris 50K 7:58:20
Gary Frise'e 50K 8:01:00
Adriane Putt 50K 8:09:51
Joe Church 50K 8:35
Janice Hartkorn 50K 8:39
Brittany Sipe 50K 8:43
Tony Deluca 50K 8:43
Patrick Krott 50K 8:43
Sirisha Golla (Iris) 50K 8:44
Josh Wentzell 50K 8:46

Ashley Schmidt 50K 8:50

Linda Reilly 50K 9:14:38

Jason Campbell 50K 9:14:38

22 Miles

Alicia Hare 22 5:39

Cassandra Lizza 22 5:46

Michael Valone 22 6:08

Danielle Diantoniis 22 7:27

18.5 Miles

Chris Pabian 18.5 ???

15 Miles

Bekah Rundall 15 3:57:40

14 Miles

Anne Greenawalt 14 5:05

Brian Rousseau 14 5:05

Julia Martin 14 5:05

LeAnn Martinez 14 5:05