



President's Column

By Steve Moland

We had a nice turn out for our Winter Party and we gave out our traditional volunteer awards to honor some of the more noteworthy volunteers. The practicality of the subjective award process is such that far too many other deserving volunteers miss the cut in being selected, often by not that much. The process of the giving out the Boston Marathon invitational applications also create a situation where deserving members can miss the cut, so to speak.

I'll take a little writer's license and say that our club structure is like the body of a runner in that it's easy to see what some of the parts do. The head, arms, hands, legs, knees, feet and also the noticeable muscles on the legs are out where we can see them. We can see what they do and how "noteworthy" they are to the process of getting the runner down the road toward whatever may be the goal of the day.

What you can't easily see well is the actual spine or backbone of the runner. It's made up of a couple of dozen very important pieces. None of them get noticed individually but without them the runner wouldn't even be able to put on shoes and move toward a goal. Our club has dozens of "backbone" volunteers, without which the club would become quite docile. Without these volunteers we certainly wouldn't reach any of goals.

I'd like to tell you who some the backbone members are. I'll do the best I can in remembering all of them and will be leaning toward members who have always been there, though some newer members are already providing needed support. If I miss anyone that you know, please tell me and I'll correct the omission. These members, help raise money at events by their participation or in seeking sponsors. They do all sorts of jobs on event day, they pickup and deliver and do

various errands. They help stuff, label and sort the newsletter and also prepare mailings for race notifications. They stand in the sun and snow storms working water stops, finish lines or at registration table. They do race scoring, organize food, make dump runs, buy supplies, co-host and direct races, take pictures and pick up trash. To everyone's delight, they order, obtain and serve pizza and yogurt at track. They direct traffic at lonely intersections in Hollis, Wilton, Tyngsboro, Litchfield, all the way up at Mt Washington or in the woods at Mine Falls. They drive carpools, gather race results, maintain the website, phone hot line and the bulletin board forum. They call volunteers prior to events, or the work with our area's youth runners. The list is NOT short either in tasks, people or the number of times they've helped us all. Please held me thank:

Michael Amarello, Terri Beiter, Jim and Pat Belanger, Al Broggi and Carol Carson, Teanna Croteau, Tom Conley, Ed Deichler, Mike Dodge, Peter Donahue, Dick Doyle, Jim Ecke, The Mark and Deb Fraser family, Chip and Sandy Geisler, Mike Hagerty, Pam and Rodger Hall, Julie Hanover, Dave Haworth, Pat and Karl Kiesselbach, Kathy Kirby, Lynn kisselbach, Stan Klem, Tom & Ellen Kolb, George Lecours, Jane Levesque, Mike Levesque, John Lewicke, Rich MacDonald, Sandy Machel, Annette Marchand, Heidi McGaffigan, The McGuirk family, Shaun McMahan, Shu and Mary Minami, Judi Moland, Marie Mullins, Joyce Oberholtzer, Karl Patnode, Bob and Deb Pelletier, Suzanne Pinal, the Plante family, Tom Raiche, Jerry and Robin Rocha, Chet Rogers, Chuck Rossier, Damian Rowe, Susan and Allan, Dave Salvas, Brian and Genia Sanborn, Shaun Scanlon, The Slane family, Emily Strong,

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