

AURA NEWS

Arkansas Ultra Running Association

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From the Club President & Editor



Congratulations to all who ran and survived the Arkansas Traveller 100 and the Hot Springs National Park Run.

This year's AT100 was a record breaking year. We had a record number of finishers, Stan Ferguson broke the Master's course record, and Nicole Laughton from Oklahoma broke Ann Trason's 21 year old female course record!!!

Between such a good turn out, amazing support, and great weather, I think this was the best year yet!

The HSNP run was rainy but that did not deter you hard core trail runners! It looked like a lot of folks had a really great time in spite of the weather. As always the food and drinks at Fat Jack's after the run helped warm people up and provided an opportunity for many to visit. George Peterka hosted another stellar event!! He has worked hard over the years to make this event what it is and has undoubtedly made a lot of runners very happy, but he is ready to step down and give someone else an opportunity to serve. We have asked Shawn Sellers, the club vice president, to take on the race director's role at the Hot Springs Run and he has accepted. I know that Shawn will do a fantastic job in keeping this wonderful, free AURA event moving forward in a manner that will serve the runners and the community well. So please be sure to reach out to George and Shawn and thank them both for their time and service. We are fortunate to have these giving souls in our club and our community!

Next up in the UTS/UTS Lite Series is the Sunset 6/12/24 Hour Endurance Run, hosted by Laura Babbitt. She has added some awesome new touches to the event so if you haven't been to this one in a while I encourage you to lace up and come on out to join us. It will be a fun time to gather as a community.

I look forward to the next time we gather together! Until then, Happy Trails.

~ Stacey Shaver-Matson~

Upcoming AURA Events And Volunteer Opportunities



12th Annual Sunset 6/12/24 Hr Endurance Challenge

Friday & Saturday, Nov 24th-25th

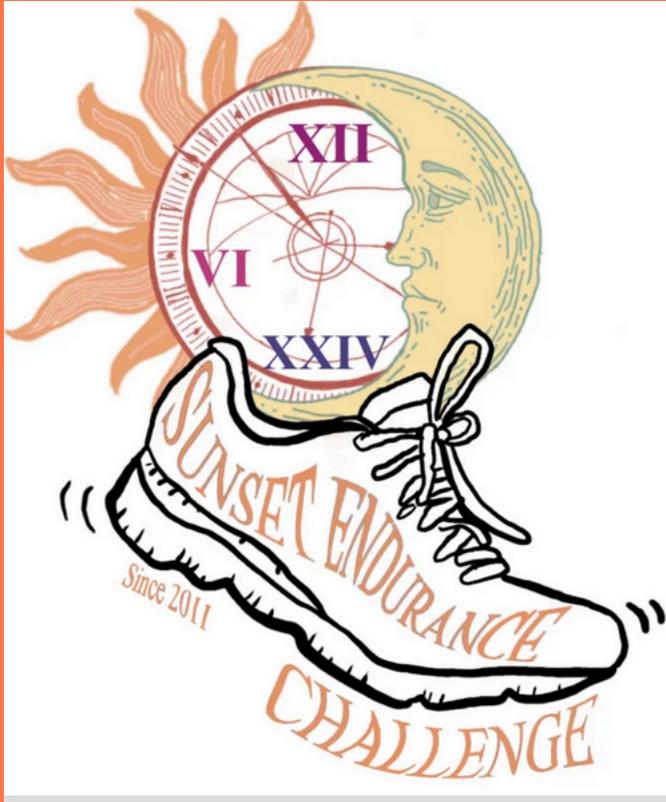
**Please Register in Advance. Deadline to register is
November 22nd!**

Run, Walk, Skip, Jump or Crawl as long as you want within the time limit. Stop whenever you feel like you've had enough fun.

See fellow runners the entire time you are out there. This is the part that draws people in - COMMUNITY!!

[Click here for more information](#)

As always, treats to share with your fellow runners are welcome!



Clarification for the UTS Lite Runners

You may register for and run any time/distance that you choose, however, only the mileage covered in the official 6 Hour timeframe (Saturday 7:30am to 1:30pm) will count toward your UTS points. It is your responsibility to notify the timing table at 1:30pm with your number of laps in that 6 Hour timeframe. We will have someone keeping track but ultimately it is your responsibility to keep up with and turn in your number of laps.



LOVIT TRAIL MARATHON

Saturday, December 2nd at 8am

Location:

Shangri La Drive on Lake Ouachita,
near Mt Ida



Full Marathon is Race #7 in the Ultra Trail Series
14 Mile Run is Race #6 in the Ultra Trail Lite Series

This will be Stephen Campbell's first year directing and he has been working hard to ensure that you have a safe yet fun time on the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail. This event is donation based so please bring cash to put in the donation jar. Let's all help him cover his race expenses (permit, aid supplies, trail supplies, etc.) There will be race shirts available for purchase on race day.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There will be a slight course change this year so that you all get a much bigger reward for your efforts in climbing up Hickory Nut Mountain. The loop you normally do at the beginning of the race, yet do not repeat, will be removed. Instead you will come off trail at the top of the mountain, run up the dirt road to the vista at the very top. (See photo top right). This turn will be heavily marked and a course Marshall will be in place at the old aid station to point you in the correct direction. A GPX will be posted to the AURA FaceBook page and added to the LOViT website soon.

If you have any questions please email [Stephen Campbell](mailto:Stephen.Campbell@aura.org)



Athens Big Fork Trail Marathon & 17 Mile Fun Run Saturday, January 6th, 2024

The race and waitlist are both full, however you can still come join the fun and be a part of this fun AURA community event. We always need extra hands on race day. Our volunteers know how to have a good time while getting the job done. So check out the volunteer link below and come out to join us in Big Fork!

[Click Here To Volunteer](#)

[Check Out The Website for Lodging, Course Info, Ect.](#)

Just a Reminder - Swag is Pre-purchase Only
DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING

[See what we have for you this year](#)

*Currently only six people have dropped so the waitlist is basically



CHANGES WITH AURA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal begins on January 1st 2024. We are switching registration for AURA's membership to the Run SignUp platform. This will keep all of our events and activities on one platform. We feel like Run Sign Up is more user friendly and we hope that you also find that to be the case.



We will let you know as soon as we have the change over complete.

If you have any questions or concerns about this please let me know. I am here to help.

[Click Here To See Events In The Ultra Trail Series](#)

[Click Here to Register for the UTS or UTS Lite](#)

Do we have your mug shot for the AURA membership page?

- * CHECK TO SEE IF THERE IS A PHOTO OF YOU ON THE MEMBERSHIP PAGE
- * IF THERE ISN'T A PHOTO OF YOU, PLEASE EMAIL A PHOTO TO GEORGE AT advdesinc@sbcglobal.net



AURA RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR TRAIL WORK

AURA was recently presented with an award by the USDA Forest Service for our trail work in the Ouachita National Forest. Acting Caddo-Womble District Ranger, Bill Jackson and Forest Trails Coordinator, Tom Ledbetter presented the award. Club President, Stacey Shaver and George Peterka were present to accept the award.

The Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society also received an award for their trail work in the Ouachita National Forest. Dr. Perry Hill and Roy o'Neal were present to accept the award.

At this meeting at the Big Fork Community Center, David Samuel, retired Forester/Firefighter?ABF RD and Larry Sanders, Fire Chief for Big Fork Volunteer Fire Dept, opened the doors and gave a warm welcome to all present.

Dr Perry Hill presented the history of the Athens Big Fork Trail and it's past use as a postal route. Dr. Hill has done some extensive research, with the help of David Samuel to uncover all that they can on the history of the ABF trail and the area in general.

Dr. Revis Edmonds, Research and Programs Historian for the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism and for the AR Historic Preservation Program presented future possibilities for promotion and preservation of the ABF trail and the area.

Joe Jacobs, with Arkansas Outside was also present and offered up some thought provoking questions and really good insight for some of the proposed ideas and what that might look like long term. We also have him to thank for most of the photos taken on this day.

Stacey, George, Perry, and Roy all presented the specific work on the Athens Big Fork trail by each perspective club.

After the meeting we all had a nice lunch at the Big Fork Mall and finished up with a hike on the ABF Trail. It was a productive meeting with much knowledge and experience shared. Dr Hill will be pursuing the support of Heritage groups in Polk and Howard Counties. I will update you as things unfold.



Arkansas Traveller 100



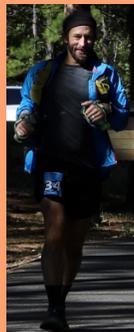
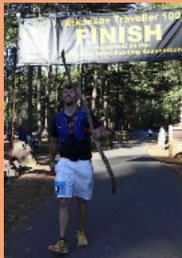
Brendan Connell, 32
Male winner 15:48:53



Nicole Laughton, 36
Female Winner and
New Female Course
Record Holder
17:13:10



Stan Ferguson, 60
New Master Course
Record Holder







Flatside

AT 100 Aid Station Volunteers



Browns Creek w/ARK



Lake Sylvania w/ARK



Pumpkin Patch w/ Spa Pacers



Electronic Tower w/LR Hash House



Lake Winona Aid



Pig Trail



Club Flamingo/Memphis



Bahama Mama w/Full Moon



Copperhead



We Appreciate Our Amazing Volunteers!



RD, Stacey Shaver presented an engraved plaque to First Arkansas Female Finisher, Laura Hoffman

Hot Springs Nat. Pk. Trail Run





Sybil Taylor's Celebration of Life



November 19, 2023 (Sunday) - 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Lakewood House

4801 North Hills Blvd.

North Little Rock, AR 72116 - 1st Floor

Snacks, Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks will be provided

R.S.V.P. Email stanchrissy100@att.net or Text 501-472-9162

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the non-profit:

Arkansas Hospice Foundation

24 Parkstone Circle

North Little Rock, AR 72116

501-748-3333, www.Arkansashospice.org

Any pictures you would like to include for gathering send to:

Stanchrissy100@att.net

Question/Comments/Concerns - Chrissy Ferguson at above contact info

Some of you may have heard the news that past AURA volunteer Sybil Taylor passed away on October 21st.

You are invited to the celebration of life that is planned for Sybil on November 19. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate our friend Sybil.

Chrissy Ferguson

RETREADS

Hello **All**, the first Wednesday of every month is RETREADS Day. What is a RETREAD? Could be a retired runner. Maybe not. Could be a runner who wants to eat out in the company of other runners.

We are currently meeting at Homer's Restaurant, 9700 West Rodney Paraham Road. We have the private room reserved for 11:30 a.m. If you plan on coming, it is important that you contact me the day before as our location is subject to change. At some time soon Homer's is scheduled to move to the old Franke location also on Rodney Parham. Or, we could decide to spend the summer at 2 Rivers Park. Right now as I write this, Homers is the location. So email me at CHRLYPYTN@GMAIL.COM if you've not been to RETREADS before and not on my notification list.

Thanks, Charley and Lou Peyton



Don't Miss The Fun!



AURA BOARD



Stacey Shaver-Matson
President
Newsletter Editor
RD - ABF/OT50/AR Traveller 100



Shawn Sellers
Vice President
UTS & UTS LITE Coordinator



Katie Helms
Treasurer
RD - Catsmacker



Vickie McDonald
Secretary
UROY Coordinator



Rober Vogler (PoDog)
Trail Manager



Stan Ferguson
Website, IT, and
Equipment Manager



George Peterka
Website & IT



Jerry White
RRCA Arkansas State Rep



Arkansas Ultra Running Association
[Website](#)
[UTS Calendar](#)

Contact Information Can be found [Here](#)