



50th Anniversary Celebration
AND
RANnual Celebration 2026



Tonight's Agenda:

1. Review Club's timeline
2. Check out our old races
3. Past board presidents
4. Our future
5. Thank You's
6. In Memoriam
7. Grand Prix
8. Rob Bell Awards
9. Good Night!

It all started on the East side of Tucson with some intrepid souls wanting to bring racing to Tucson.

If you listen closely to the winds of the Rincons you will hear the echoes of a distant voice telling us to...Keep on trucking

“Southwest Truckers”



These pioneers had a bold idea to bring organized running events to the Sonoran desert.

FIFTY years later, we honor their vision.



Two of the "kids," Fred Emerling (left) and Roger MacKechnie, who started the Southwest Truckers, forerunner of SARRC, pose with Joe Cary, who took over when the kids went off to college. The other "kids," Sahuaro high school students, who were original Truckers were Gary Cary, Joe's son, now in Minneapolis; Mark Riney, in Montana; Paul Delligatti, in Safford; Mark Douglas, in Sierra Vista; and Mark Meece, in Tucson. Note the Southwest Truckers shirts with the logo of a big-footed cartoon-type character.

photo by Beth Staats

In the early days...

- The Southwest Truckers started with 6 members, Joe Cary was the 7th and quickly became the club's leader
- The Southern Arizona Roadrunners officially started November 20, 1976
- By this time SAR had approximately 60 members

SAR's First Board of Directors

- Joe Cary – President
- Paul Yeatts – Vice President
- Ken Young – Historian
- Jack Deweese – Treasurer
- Chuck Kerr – Newsletter
- Steve Oliver – Secretary
- Kai Haber – Publicity Chairman
- Mark Kelleher – RRCA State Coordinator

The first race as the Southern Arizona Roadrunners took place on December 5, 1976.

U of A All American Thom Hunt won the men's race. Cholla HS grad Margie Lopez won the women's race.

Roadrunners Stage Cross-Country Run

The Southern Arizona Roadrunners Club, formerly known as the Southwest Truckers, tomorrow will hold a cross-country run of 20 kilometers, more than 12 miles.

It will begin and end at Sabino High School. A shorter race will be held for junior high and elementary runners. The races start at 9 a.m. Registration is at 8:30. The entry fee for members is \$1, for non-members \$1.50.

UA's Hunt Wins Sabino Canyon Run

Arizona's Thom Hunt won the open division in yesterday's Fourth Annual 20-kilometer Sabino Canyon Cross-Country run sponsored by the Southwest Roadracers Running Club.

Hunt toured the course, which is 12 miles, 752 yards, in 1:07.53 to outdistance Pima College's Frank Canez, who finished second at 1:08.16.

College: Ralph Ortega, 1:09.33; **Seniors:** John Lacy, 1:11.35; **Women (under 30):** Margie Lopez, 1:25.38; **Women (over 30):** Margee Laakso, 1:59.19; **High School:** Fred Mulleneach, 1:12.22.

Joe Cary was a tireless advocate for organized running events in the early years of the Club.

“Joe Cary’s goal is for every Tucsonan to run two to three miles every other day.”

Running Tucsonans make giant strides

Southern Arizona Road Runners President Joe Cary's goal is for every Tucsonan to run two or three miles every other day.

“The more people we can get out, the better,” says the 40-year-old founder of the fast growing running club.

Six years ago six students at Saguaro High School started the club “and I was the seventh member,” says Cary. His son, Gary, now 23, was one of those kids.

Now nearly 300 people at all running levels come to the club's weekend events held all over Tucson — Sabino Canyon, “A” Mountain and the desert — and to Patagonia for the last swim-run before the city's summer track meets.

Most of the runners find a level and are fairly content with it, says Cary. “You don't see too many with goals way above their potential.”

As the prime mover in the club, a chapter of the Road Runners Club of America, Cary got out notices, organized races and held it all together. But now there's a core of two dozen members.

One pleasure Cary gets is seeing the development of the members. He talks about the tremendous potential of 14-year-old Tommy Ansberry, the holder of several na-

tional age-group records. Ansberry's runs range from quarter-miles to marathons.

“He runs so smooth and easy. It makes me feel good for him — but bad for me. He decides to pick up a pace and he goes floating by like he's on his way to a picnic.”

One entire family runs with the Road Runners, says Cary. Eliza and Bill Mawhinney and their children — Alex, 10, and Jason, 12 — have run four marathons in the last five months.

Do the Mawhinneys worry about their young children running so many marathons? “Only the first one,” replies Bill.

Cary, who now lives in Sierra Vista and commutes, got hooked on exercise in 1971 after reading Dr. Ken Cooper's article on aerobics in Readers Digest.

Now his former wife, Katy Cary, runs 60 to 70 miles a week. He runs a little less. And his son, Gary, runs even less than that. His daughter, Kim, mother of a small child, is still a hold-out.

Cary says, “The more people we can get out, the better.” Bill Mawhinney adds, “Running doesn't work on the scarcity principle. There's enough oxygen for everybody. The club's attitude is you get a round of applause if you're the first or the last. It's always, ‘Hey, that's a good run.’ ”

One of SAR's
early race
starts.

Notice there
is no arch!

And it looks
like many of
them don't
have any
watches on!!



UPCOMING EVENTS—

• COOKIE EXCHANGE Dec. 17—See Page 5



S.A.R.R.C.
RACE
RESULTS

ROADRUNNER

5

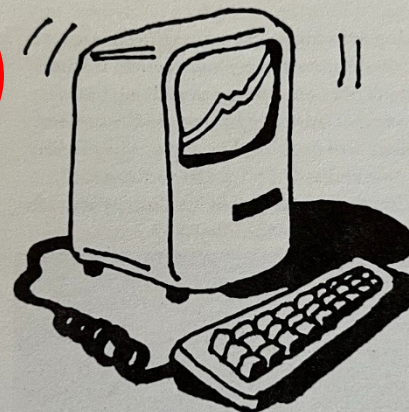
SAR sets up a new course on the Information Highway

by Jim Irish

Beginning February 12, 1996, the Southern Arizona Roadrunners will have an Internet presence on the World Wide Web. Information about the Southern Arizona Roadrunners, upcoming events, race results, favorite running spots will be available. You will be able to meet the board of directors and even sign up for upcoming races. Local runners as well as runners from around the world will have access to information about our club via the Internet.

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that are connected to transfer and share information. It began as a means to allow military computers to share information with computer users in industry and higher education. These computer users soon adopted this medium as a way to share information on a social level. Today, this shared public space is evolving like never before. The Internet,



still very much in its infancy, is quickly becoming the most exciting way to share information.

How do I get on the Internet?

To access the Internet, you need a computer and a 14,400 bps modem (or

faster). You need an Internet service provider (ISP) such as StarNet, or a popular on-line service such as America Online and Compuserve. These services provide you with software and a local phone number to which you connect via your computer modem. A local telephone call will connect you with information and people all over the world.

How to access the website

Once connected to the Internet, launch a web browser such as Netscape, Mosaic, or the browsers included with America Online or Compuserve software to open the URL (uniform resource locator) <http://www.azstarnet.com/~jirish/sar/home.html>

What?!

Sound like gibberish? If you'd like to learn more, call Jim Irish at 297-0662. He will even set you up with a Computer Lingo to English reference card that fits perfectly in your pocket protector.

(The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of positive responses in that category.)

1. The four most popular club races are (1) the Sun Run, (2) Cinco de Mayo, and (3) Turkey Trot and the Special Olympics Benefit Run (tied).

2. The decision whether to run a race is based on the following factors: the length of the race (99), other (71) the type of course (60), the distance to the race (36), the T-shirt

etc. (82), shorts (68), T-shirts (63), and singlets (51).

8. The features of the Roadrunner that are most important to the readers are: race results (134), race schedules (132), articles on health and nutrition (107), training tips (105), race entry forms (90), and photos (78).

9. Almost everyone responded positively

See SURVEY Page 2

Here is a list
of some of
SAR's
earliest
Races – the
Club put on a
lot of longer
races...

- **12/05/1976-Southern Arizona Roadrunners 20KM**
- 12/26/1976-San Xavier 6 Mile Run
- 01/22/1977-Five Mile Ruthrauff Road Run
- **01/30/1977-Houghton Road 25K**
- **02/12/1977-Arizona Admissions Day Marathon**
- **03/27/1977-Tucson Sun Run**
- **09/05/1977-Saguaro National Monument Run**
- 09/11/1977-Mt Lemmon 3 Mile Road Race
- **10/02/1977-Sahuaro High School 10 Miler**
- 10/30/1977-San Xavier 6 Mile Run
- 11/15/1977-Pantano Park 5K
- 11/20/1977-Four Mile Turkey Trot
- **12/18/1977-Sabino High School 12K**
- **12/24/1977-Silverbell 15K**
- 12/31/1977-Sunrise Road Run
- 01/07/1978-Five Mile Ruthrauff Road Run
- **01/28/1978-Corona De Tucson 25K**

Let's get
back to
these 1979
numbers!



Another mainstay of SAR's racing Calendar — The 10 mile Special Olympics Benefits Run



Pavement-pounding with a purpose —
Eleven hundred running shoes pound the pavement as 550 runners hit the road in the second annual Special Olympics Benefits Run. Ten miles, 53 minutes and exactly 18.7 seconds

later, Ed Arriola and Phil Stanforth were first across the finish line early yesterday morning at Sabino High School. Some of the racers ran a 3.1-mile course. Teams from local businesses pledged \$250 each, so the hundreds of youngsters in the Pima

County Special Olympics program will benefit from at least \$5,000 in donations. The run was sponsored by Jim Click Ford and the Good Earth Restaurant, and sanctioned by the Southern Arizona Roadrunners Club. (Star photo by Benjie Sanders)

POP QUIZ!

1. What was Southwest Truckers first race in 1971?
A. Saguaro Monument
2. Who won SAR's first Sun Run?
A. Frank Shorter
3. What distance was the early Sun Run Races?
A. 15k
4. How many Board Presidents has SAR had?
A. 30
5. Who was SAR's first official Sponsor?
A. Brings Funeral Home

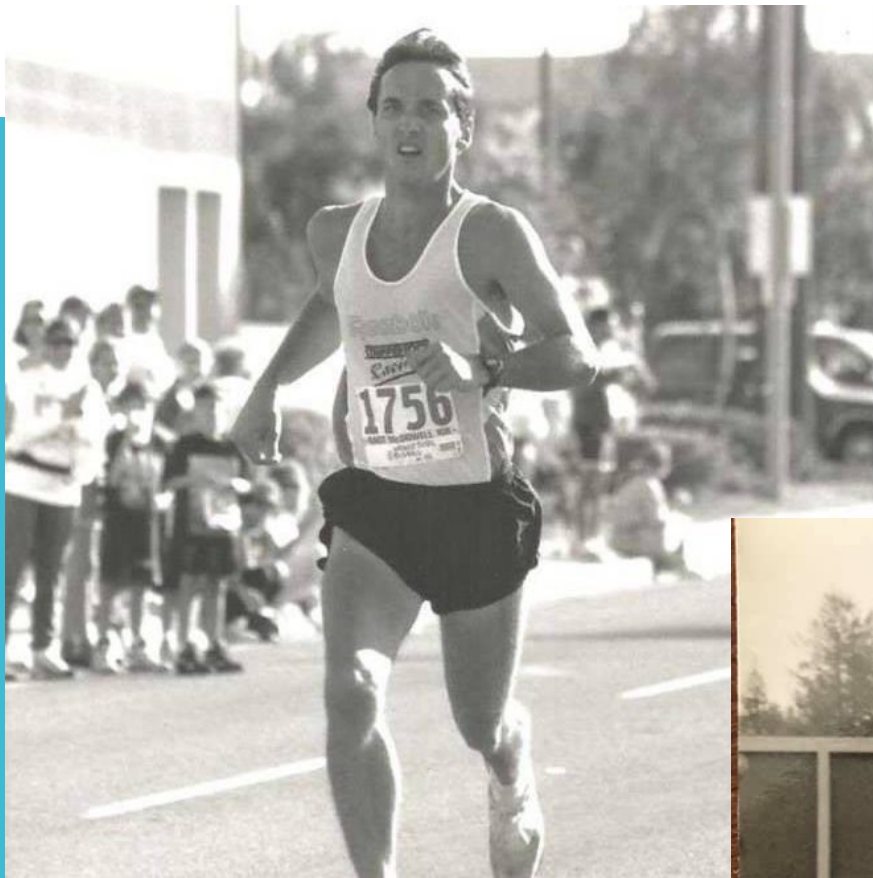
Past Board Presidents – All 30 of them for the past 50 years

1. 1976-1979: Joe Cary
2. 1979-1981: Larry Schloss
3. 198?-1985: Nikki Chayet
4. 1981-1982: Sandy Solot
5. 1982-198?: Bill Mangold
6. 1985-1987: Dale Cutler
7. 1987-1988: John Norris
8. 1988-1989: Bruce Steenson
9. 1989-1990: Chuck Koch
10. 1990-1991: Bob Nardone
11. 1991-1992: Gary Denny
12. 1992-1993: Ken Radon
13. 1993-1994: Elisa Kinder
14. 1994-1995: Bob Trame
15. 1995-1996: Kevin McAloon
16. 1996-1997: Jocelyn Riley
- 17. 1997-2001: Jim Irish**
18. 2001-2002: Kevin Gaither-Banchoff
19. 2002-2009: Randy Accetta
20. 2009-2012: Mary Lasser
- 21. 2012-2014: Steve Outridge**
- 22. 2015-2017: Tim Bentley**
23. 2017-2018: Michael Miller
24. 2018-2019: Dari Duval and Diane Manzini
- 25. 2019-2020: Amye Chaparro**
26. 2020-2022: Lauren Erdelyi
- 27. 2022-2023: Caroline Gardiner**
- 28. 2023-2024: Caroline Gardiner and Greg Wenneborg**
29. 2024-2025: **Caroline Gardiner**
30. 2025 - ????: Craig McCarthy

Let's recognize
past
presidents and
important
folks who help
the club who
are here
tonight (in no
particular
order...)



Randy Accetta, Tim Bentley, Lucas Tyler, Greg Wenneborg
– All pillars of our running community!



Randy Accetta
and Greg
Wenneborg



Tim Bentley and Lucas Tyler

Bentley leads Lizards

Topping off its most successful season ever, the Sabino boys' cross country Varsity team placed ninth in the state meet, held November 14 at Tempe's Mover Park.

The Lizards ended the season with a 12-2 record and placed fifth overall in Divisionals, which were held November 8 at Canyon Del Oro High School. Senior Tim Bentley's fourth place finish was the best for the Sabers.

As one of the top five teams in the Divisionals, Sabino qualified its top seven runners to the State competition. The top seven were Seniors Tim Bentley, Ross Martin, John Schnorr, Juniors, Vic Palma,

Matt Fahringer, and Mike Vertz, and Freshmen Todd Martin Tim Bentley led the team with an eleventh place.

Sophomores Stacy Willis and Terri Hart led the girls' Varsity team to Divisionals, after finishing the season at an 11-3 mark. The girls dashed to a sixth place finish in divisionals.

The boys' JV team rounded out Sabino's triple attack with a 12-2 finish. Junior Mike Vertz took first in the JV Divisionals.

Coach John Brooks looks upon the success. The 31 best w





Amye Chaparro and Caroline Gardiner

Steve
Outridge and
Jim Irish

There are
many people
who have
been
important in
SAR's history.
We could not
list them all, so
thank you to
the many
people who
have made
SAR a success
for 50 years.



Current Board and Race Directors

Executive Board:

Craig McCarthy – President

Vacant – Vice President

Dave Dixon – Treasurer

Robert Rezetko – Recording Secretary

Wayne Lubis – Membership Secretary

Greg Wenneborg – Materials Officer

Members at Large:

Mohammed Al-Sammak

Tania Brasfield

Joshua Cabe

Caroline Gardiner

Davis Hubbell

Veronica Przybyl

Lucas Tyler – Office Manager

Mike Urbanski

Sarah Wolf

Race Directors:

Randy Acceta

Monica Bermudez

Kevin Jokisch

Steve Outridge

Kelly Thrush

Lucas Tyler

Mike Urbanski

Thank you
former Board
Members for
your hard
work and
dedication

- Donna Gracia
- Ashley Levy
- Kris Fitzharris
- Amairani Garcia
- Leyra Reza

SAR's Future:

Do you
remember
this?



Vs. This?





New Things
SAR wants to
do with your
help....

Who likes paying those extra fees on RunSignup??



SAR has approved for all SAR members who use RunSignup to register for SAR races that SAR will pay the credit card fees!

Sign up to be a member today and save on all credit card fees in 2026 for every registration.

Our goal is to have everyone use RunSignup so we are more efficient with registration especially on race day.

Everyone
Gets a SAR
Magnet!

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

SAR

ROADRUNNERS

Celebrating Our

50th

Anniversary!

2026 Events

1/11	Saguaro National Park West 4M - Free!	
1/18	Sun Run La Primera 10K/5K	
1/25	RANnual Celebration	
2/14	Fine Valentine Relay 4M/2M	
2/22	Old Tucson Trail Run 8M/4M/1M	
3/8	Arizona Distance Classic HM/QM/5K	
3/15	Desert Leprechaun 5K/1M	
3/22	Spring Cross Country Classic 5K - Free!	
4/11	Sabino Canyon Sunset Run 7.4M/2M	
5/3	Cinco de Mayo 10K/5K	
5/17	Tucson 5000 5K	
5/30	Meet Me Downtown 5K/1M	
9/7	Saguaro National Park Labor Day 8M/5K	
9/13	Tucson 10K/5K	
9/26	Sabino Canyon One Mile FitKidz Classic	
TBD	Run 'n' Roll 5K/1M	
10/18	A-Mountain HM/4M/1M	
11/1	Dave's Run 8K/5K	
11/26	Thanksgiving XC Classic 5K/1.5M	

SAR Owned Event

SAR Partner Event

 FitKidz

 Grand Prix



Let's keep

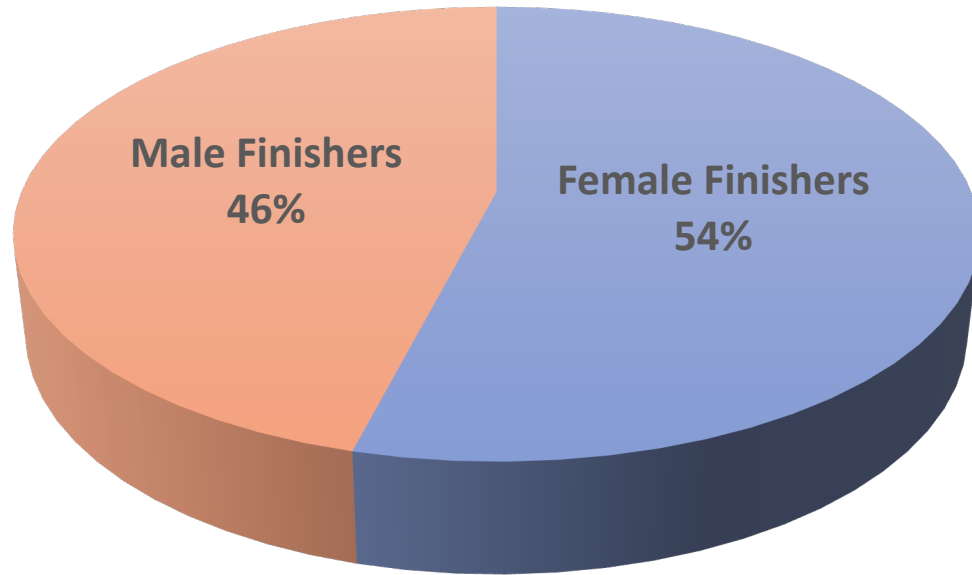
Southern

Arizona moving

—together!

RunSar.org

SAR had over 10,000 finishers in 2025, the most in a long time, and a majority were women!



2025 Financials and Donations

- SAR had a profit of over \$24,000
- SAR donated almost \$64,000 to 23 charities
- Since 2019 SAR has donated almost \$260,000 to help Tucson organizations
- SAR membership is now over 1,000 members
- Children Fitness fund donated over \$7,000 to 8 different organizations
- SAR helped the Kiwanis Club with their middle school cross country race with funds and volunteers
- FitKidz had over 684 finishers

We can't do it
without our
Volunteers...

We had over
240 different
volunteers who
collectively
volunteered for
1,090 hours!

Here are our top
contributors.

Gary	Giese	50
Dave	Dixon	49
Agata	Orlinski	47
Joshua	Cabe	42
Joseph	Moreno	38
Caroline	Gardiner	38
Ashley	Levy	32
Craig	McCarthy	31
Wayne	Lubis	29
Kevin	Bond	29

We can't do it without our
Volunteers...

Here is a list of everyone
who earned a voucher for
\$35 toward any SAR race
(except Sabino Canyon)

Carole	Torpey	19
Midge	Ochart	17
Kathy	Barlow	16
Mackenzie	Fritz	16
Stephanie	Meron	13
Connie	Lopez	13
Michelle	Hawk	11
Maureen	Cunningham	10
Stephen	Moore	10
Tim	Gilbert	9
Joan	D'Alonzo	8
Chris	Fall	8
Steve	Outridge	8
Cindy	Feaman	7
Doreen	Thomas	7
Janet	Holland	6
Susana	Vega	6
Merry	Dearmon	6
Denise	Fall	6
Brian	LeRoy	6
Adalberto	Corella	6
John	Omasta	6

And Our FitKidz Volunteers!

Dylan	Averill	
Aaron	Davis	
Amairani	Garcia	
Craig	McCarthy	
Judy	McCarthy	
Kathy	Nunez	
Layra	Reza	
Joshua	Tennenbaum	
Susana	Vega	
John	Ward	

We also
work with
some
awesome
Sponsors
and
Partners



yoga pod tucson



Partners:

1. The Runner Shop
2. Roadrunners Race Timing
3. RunTucson
4. Adaptive Athletics
5. RRCA

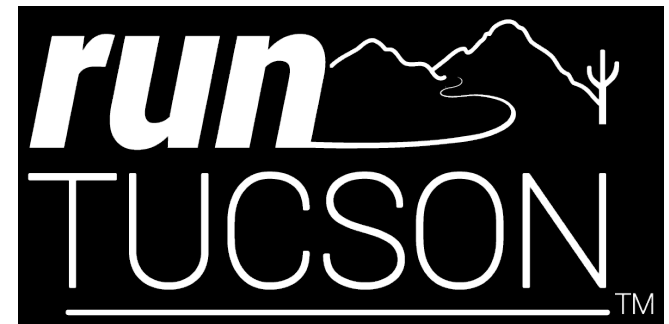


Club Sponsors:

1. Yoga Pod
2. GS-JJ.com



CAMPUS RECREATION
Adaptive Athletics



And all our individual Race Sponsors All 45!

Title Sponsors
include TMC
Health and Dr.
Gann's Diet of
Hope

1	AMR				16	Fleet Feet				
2	Arizona Pristine Roofing				17	Fyzical				
3	Banner Health				18	Gentle Ben's				
4	Bookman's				19	Hanger Clinic				
5	Brooks				20	Jim Click				
6	Bruegger's Bagels				21	KGUN The Morning Blend				
7	Cigna Healthcare				22	Maingate Square				
8	Coffee Times				23	National Association of Women in Construction				
9	Cox Communications				24	Natural Grocers				
10	Damion Alexander				25	Performance Footwear				
11	Desert Diamond Casino				26	Petroglyphs				
12	Downtown Tucson Partnership				27	Radiology Limited				
13	Dr. Gann's Diet of Hope				28	Relationship Renovation				
14	EEGEE's				29	Ridgeway Private Wealth				
15	Exclusive Escapes				30	RightSure				
					31	Rio Nuevo				
					32	Skratch Labs				
					33	Smith Performance				
					34	Southern Arizona Cleaning Supply				
					35	Sparkletts Water				
					36	St. Patricks Day Parade of Tucson				
					37	Sunset Embroidery and Screen Printing				
					38	Team Woodall				
					39	Texas Roadhouse				
					40	This is Tucson				
					41	Tile Outlet				
					42	TMC Health				
					43	VIP Mortgage				
					44	Visit Tucson				
					45	Yoga Six				

We also have
some great
Happy Hour
Hobble
Sponsors!!
Thank you for
making running
fun.
Thank you to
Noemi and
Craig Mills for all
your hard work.



PROACTIVE™
PHYSICAL THERAPY

- The Broadway
- Crooked Tooth Brewing Co.
- Dragoon Brewing Company
- Westbound
- Screwbean Brewing
- Three Canyon
- Slow Body Beer
- Gentle Ben's

Team
Woodall

DRIVEN. PASSIONATE. EXPERIENCED.

In Memoriam

Paul Robilla –
Paul has been a
long time SAR
member and has
too many State
age group
records to even
begin to list
them out...



And now for
the Grand
Prix

The Running Shop

Grand Prix Overall & Master Winners



Women's Overall

- 5. Hannah Shy
- 4. Janet Holland
- 3. Leandra Fifer
- 2. Marikate Murphy
- 1. Jori Galles

Women's Master

- 3. Cindy Feaman
- 2. Marjanne Magana
- 1. Jennifer Peters

Men's Overall

- 5. Nigel Gruff
- 4. Max Miller
- 3. Rogelio Hernandez
- 2. Neil Lenneman
- 5. Jose Delgado

Men's Master

- 3. Craig Milles
- 2. Brian Leroy
- 1. Lucas Tyler

Duo Team – Male
Luke Senner



Who ran all the Grand Prix Races??



14 Races

1. Joe Faulk
2. Jennifer Peters

WOW!!

Amazing!

Spirit of Rob Bell Award

In August 2000, Rob Bell, an avid and middle-of-the-pack runner in Southern Arizona, passed away during a workout.

He was a kind and soft-spoken man who loved to run and to race and was always aware of the successes of other runners.

In his memory, an award was created with the support of two of Rob's running friends. This award is meant to recognize someone in the local running community whose enthusiasm for our sport embodies the spirit of Rob Bell.



Previous Winners

2024 Anne Hoff and Emily Truong
2023 Donna McMordie & Brandy Dujmic
2022: Autumn and Brandon Ball & Kelly Thrush
2019: Steve Sheldon, Denise & Steve King
2018: Noemi Mills & Sharon Silvas
2017: Jeri Baker & Geoff Schmidt
2016: Matt Frantz & Marti Ackerman
2015: Anna Carr & Shokofeh Motlagh
2014: Leo Richard
2013: Michelle Hawk
2012: Kamran Talattof
2011: Benito Gonzalez
2010: Craig Dabler
2009: Jolene Jones
2008: Gerry and Sully Sullivan
2007: Elisa Kinder
2006: Michele and Dave Hill
2005: Dorothy Wilhelmson
2004: Rick Fenno
2003: Jennifer Argraves
2002: William Chapdelain
2001: Connie Lopez

Spirit of Rob Bell Award

Bob
Arendt

SOUTHERN ARIZONA
SAR
RUNNERS



Spirit of Rob Bell Award



Steve
Taggert



Please give
Doreen Davis
a huge round
of applause
for once
again
organizing
this party!



See You Next Year and Have a Great 2026



runsar.org



Facebook.com/azroadrunners



[@runsar](https://www.instagram.com/runsar)



www.strava.com/clubs/SouthernAZRoadrunners

STRAVA™