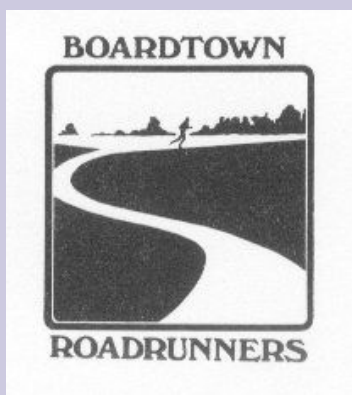


## Boardtown Road Runners History

Boardtown Road Runners was formed during the summer of 1979 and the first officers elected and the first newsletter mailed in September 1979. Ron Hocking, Mike Freeman, Priscilla Salant, and Joe Thompson provided early leadership. Records indicate a constitution and by-laws of Boardtown Road Runners were developed prior to this in May 1979. From the beginning, membership was “open to all persons interested in any aspect of running and its related activities.”

**Original Boardtown Road Runners Logo Created by Ken Clifford. Ken also created the Frostbite logo. He died in 1986, but he was fondly remembered as an early participant in the 10-mile “Run to the Roads.”**



Among the early races supported by the club was the Bulldog 10,000 with accompanying 2-Mile Fun Run starting at Humphrey Coliseum. The registration fee, \$5.00. In 1982, races organized by the club included the Boardtown Jubilee 5K and 1M, Intramural Cross Country, Bulldog 10K and 2M, Turkey Trot, Frostbite 5M, Spring Fever 5M, Freeman Memorial 5K and Potluck Supper, plus May through July interval workouts organized by Jack Mahurin. The 1982-83 membership included approximately forty members, some of which were families and other running clubs. During the eighties, a number of members including Joe Thompson, Charles Petersen, and Nancy Miller actively supporting the club newsletter.

During the summer of 1983 the Boardtown Road Runners met informally each Friday after work at the Bulldog Deli. It was at one of these meetings that Jack Mahurin noted that there were no races in the winter in this area. He suggested a "runner's race" for January, since only dedicated runners would be in shape at that time of year. He further thought a half marathon would be popular. C.T. Carley took the challenge and began planning the Frostbite Half Marathon for the following January. With the underwriting and support of the Boardtown Road Runners the race was a success with 108

entrants and 91 finishers (81 males and 10 females). The winner was Jack Mahurin in a time of 1:14:03.

One story that made the newsletter in May of 1987 was Boardtown Road Runner Ray Gildea completing a 170 mile trek across Mississippi. “He started with his right foot in the Muddy Mississippi in the Delta and finished 4 days later with his left foot in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Water Way near Columbus. Total running time was 37 hours and 40 minutes. He wore out a pair of shoes and seven pairs of socks.”

Boardtown Road Runners became a non-profit Mississippi corporation on September 4<sup>th</sup> 1987 with official organization date listed as October 17<sup>th</sup> 1987. Charlotte Fuquay was President and Charles Petersen, Secretary. The club board of directors included Joe Thompson (past president), Paul Krebs (Course Certification), Tom Pearson (Medical Counsel), William Ward (Legal Counsel), Charles Petersen (Computer Results), and C.T. Carley (Chronometer). Among those active in the early years were Mike Sullivan, Jack Mahurin, Jim Bowman, Shay McDonnall, Nancy Miller, Rick Coghlan, Paul Williams, Graham Wells, Rodney Pearson, Jerald Ainsworth, Jack Forbus, Jay Keehley and Tom Dichiara.

#### **Presidents of Boardtown Road Runners**

<b>1979-80</b>	<b>Ron Hocking</b>
<b>1980-81</b>	<b>Bob Willis</b>
<b>1981.82</b>	<b>Priscilla Salant</b>
<b>1982-83</b>	<b>Mike Freeman</b>
<b>1983-84</b>	<b>C. T. Carley</b>
<b>1984-85</b>	
<b>1985-86</b>	
<b>1986-87</b>	<b>Joe Thompson</b>
<b>1987-88</b>	<b>Charlotte Fuquay</b>
<b>1988-89</b>	
<b>1989-90</b>	
<b>1990.91</b>	<b>Lynn Phillips</b>
<b>1991.92</b>	<b>Tim Turner</b>
<b>1992.93</b>	<b>Mike &amp; Marcie White</b>
<b>1993.94</b>	<b>Paul Williams</b>
<b>1994.95</b>	<b>Dave Peebles</b>
<b>1995.96</b>	<b>Ian Munn</b>
<b>1996-</b>	<b>Paul Williams</b>

At various times in the history of the club, C.T. Carley served as president, as did Rick Coghlan, and Lynn Phillips. During Lynn’s presidency, the club membership grew and Rick took over publishing the newsletter that was very well done and eagerly anticipated each month.



Terry Coleman/SDN

Members of the Starkville-MSU Running Club include (from l) Tim Turner, president-elect; Paul Williams; Lynn Phillips, president; Kay Krans; Nancy Miller, membership; and Jack Forbus.

In the early '90's Charles Petersen and Nancy Miller hosted a Sunday morning brunch that attracted a lot of former members as well as active members each fall. During those same years Charlotte Fuquay organized trail runs each May that began at the Enology Lab and progressed toward Blackjack, through a lot of wooded area and over the pipeline, and then across Hwy 82 to the North Farm trails.

It was also in the early '90's that several of the present members became interested in marathon training and realized the benefits of long group runs. In 1991, about 7-8 runners met each Saturday in the Oby's parking lot for long runs. Usually, the group consisted of Al Schmidt, Danny More, Eddie Keith, Paul Williams, Kay Krans, Hannah Waldheim, and Mike and Marcie White. The group was training for the Mississippi Marathon in Clinton, MS. (At that time, it was usually scheduled on the second Saturday in December.) Eddie, Danny, and Paul had run marathons before. It was Mike and Marcie's first attempt. After that first marathon, the members decided that we wanted, definitely, to do more of them, and accepted Mike and Marcie's invitation to join them at their house to begin the runs there. Thus, this phase of the Boardtown Runners began.



**Boardtown Road Runners gather before 1991 Mississippi Marathon/10K**

Near the end of 1996, the club entered a new phase eliminating formal meetings, the newsletter, and dues. Paul Williams was the newly elected president and Liz Watkins the secretary. Paul and Liz still hold those positions. Should there be a need for someone to preside over a meeting or take minutes or handle funds, the club has its “officers”. But, members “meet” each Saturday morning and consider the weekly long run the meeting. On the agenda each week are topics ranging from local, state and national politics to the flowers blooming on the roadsides that the group traverse. If there is business, like help with the Frostbite Half Marathon, or the Hannah Pote Run for Education 5K here in Starkville, it’s dispensed with rather handily so runners can get back to more exciting conversation. Instead of regular dues, the voluntary generosity of the participants along with the hosting and support of the Whites have assured the presence of an abundance of food and drink and funds needed to keep runners on the road each Saturday.

During the first year or so of Saturday morning training runs, the group was quite small, from 3 to 8-9 people. Runs usually consisted of about 10 miles, with people running in a group for the most part. Most were in the 35-45-age range and, in some way, connected to MSU. Then, Kay Krans asked “permission” to have her 16-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, join. She did, and became a regular part of the group, followed in subsequent weeks, months and years, by a large contingency of very young runners who served to add variety, fresh perspectives, and speed.

Before all these speedy young people became regulars to the group, Al Schmidt suggested adding a mid-week run that included, for example, a track workout. Some of group began meeting regularly at the MSU track or on the old Cross Country Course (which no longer exists—it lies buried under the Hwy 12 extension) to do 800m repeats or mile repeats or some other tortuous workout. Those workouts were beneficial, but, somehow, life's demands got in the way and the group has not, recently, been able to meet regularly for the Wednesday drills. Still, runners are encouraged to incorporate speed workouts, tempo runs and hill repeats in their weekly running plans.

In the early days, the group met Saturday morning at 6:30 and began running very soon thereafter as the group does now. Everyone gathered back at the Whites' house to relax and converse, as now. But, things have changed dramatically. In the beginning there were minimal refreshments: small sandwich cookies, bananas, and water (sports drink during the summer months). Then, one cool winter day as members huddled by the fireplace, someone suggested that the Whites make a pot of coffee. Eventually, one pot of coffee was not enough, so they got a bigger pot (and, then a bigger one, etc.). Also, those little cookies were not enough. Fruit was added, and someone suggested bagels. As more and more people joined us with better ideas, culinary skills and nutritional knowledge, the group began having a smorgasbord of delicious treats each week.

The Club is vastly removed from the small homogeneous group of roughly middle-aged runners who met to run in 1991-2. The ages of those who meet on Saturday mornings range from 17 to 70+ (And, being within that range is definitely not a requirement. Below or above is quite all right). The group now has a delightful international flavor, also. Members of Boardtown Road Runners include runners from Australia, Canada, South Africa, South America, Turkey, Iran and many states in the US. On a typical Saturday, what used to be a group of 3 – 8 has now become 20 – 30+ runners of all ages and backgrounds.

The first ever Boardtown Road Runners Reunion was held Saturday, April 9, 2004, with the traditional run followed by food and conversation. Since that first Reunion, it has been held one each year, targeting it to occur on the same Saturday as Super Bulldog Weekend. The hope is that former regular

members will pencil in this special weekend on their calendars and make the effort to “come home” and renew their link with this very special group.



### **2006 Boardtown Road Runner Reunion**

Despite many of us kicking and screaming our way into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the group has tried to stay abreast of the times and make necessary changes. Jim Harden, our Webmaster, has helped by creating our web page:

[www.boardtownrunners.org](http://www.boardtownrunners.org). Anyone wanting to know the weather for the coming run or the route supplied each week by Marcie White will find it there, along with running links and information on nutrition and running tips provided by experts Kelly White and Mandy and Mann Conrad.

**The goal for the group is to be all-inclusive.** Beginners as well as veteran runners are encouraged to run with the group. There are no mileage requirements. Although the route is planned, with water and sports drink placed (approximately every 3 miles) along the way, no individual should feel pressure to complete the route. Whatever a person feels like doing on any given day is exactly what he or she should do!

Except for the occasional race that Mike and Marcie participate in, and the very rare occurrences when Christmas falls on a Saturday (as in 2004), The Whites faithfully host every Saturday - spring, summer, fall, winter, rain or shine, ready to begin our Saturday morning runs around 6:30, just as they have been doing for all these years.