

Harrisburg Area Road Runners Tuscarora Trails Ultra 50K
Tuscarora State Forest, Blain, PA
Directed by Don Halke

On March 22, the Harrisburg Area Runners hosted their very first ultra-run, the Tuscarora Trails Ultra 50K. We had 46 runners ventured to the farthest western boundaries of Perry County, PA, the Tuscarora State Forest, to explore 31 miles or so, of some terrific mountains!

As evidenced by the winter we had experienced, the Ice Age must be returning to Perry County. Who would have imagined that in this era of Global Warming, I would be concerned with an ice field on the north side of the Conococheague Mountain in spring! Yes, about 10 miles of the course had to be relocated, just days before the run. This was more than just a little stressful for this old runner.

But Mother Nature, who is always calling the shots, gave us a great day for a run. The expected rain evaporated and for the first time in a week, temperatures approached normal, and the skies were clear, and the wind subsided.

A picnic pavilion at Big Spring State Picnic Area is used as the official race headquarters. It also serves well as the Official Picnic site for post run activities. My wonderful wife, Melanie hosted the after run affair, with soup and her famous Venison Chili. Yes, she usually shoots her own deer in order to make it!

The run follows single track trail and forest service roads, with just enough climb to make you realize you are not in Kansas anymore. Well, the course has about 4000 feet of climb, but most of that is on forest service roads. The views are spectacular and on a clear day, you can see 40-50 miles!

This race is really more a great group of runners all teaming up to run and have fun. It is so different from other traces, if for no other reason, it's free! All that is asked from the runners is a donation of food, water, Gatorade which we organize to supply four aid stations.

The course does not have repeat loops or boring out and back sections. There is a short section that is retraced, but that takes you past an aid station Captained by Coach Rick Knepp and manned by the Susquentia High School Track Team. Nothing better than having to pass great food and drink, not once, but two times! And the Susquenita Black Hawks' enthusiasm is contagious and they really make the runners feel special.

I want to thank the Harrisburg Area Road Runners Club for sponsoring this run, everyone who participated, all the dedicated volunteers, the Tuscarora State Forest staff, Susquenita High School Track Team, and the assistance of Ron Shields and Dave Harvath, from the Perry County Road Runners Club.

The runners who participated represented not only Central PA, but these neighboring states: NJ, NY, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

Here is the list of winners from Harrisburg Area Road Runners first Ultra race, the Tuscarora Trail's Ultra 50K.

Those who ran at least 31 Miles Time

1 Clayton Bouchard	5:34
2 Randy Yasenchak	6:43
3 Cassandra Lizza	6:58
4 Diana Widdowson	7:10
5 Suk Geesey	7:18
6 James Jansen	7:11
7 Zach Geiple	7:20
8 Corrie Laughlin	7:20
9 Bill Breidenstine	7:25
10 Katie Raezer	7:37
11 Rich Robertson	7:39
12 Jon Rich	7:50
13 DARYL R LEHMAN	7:53
14 Jennifer Henry	7:53
15 Katie Thompson	7:53
16 Chuck Stone	7:53
17 Ashleigh Garber	7:53
18 Jeremy Hand	7:53
19 John Georgiadis	8:06
20 Brian Carr	8:14
21 Ashley Butler	8:14
22 Mary DiMaggio	8:18
23 Lawrence Bartlett	8:18
24 Jen Newcomer	8:30

25 Todd Miller	8:30
26 Brad Bechtel	8:33
27 Gary Lukacs	8:52
28 Thomas Butler	9:34:15
29 Corey Dubil	9:35

Those who ran less than 31 Miles Time

	Estimated miles Ran	
1 Shawn Eakins	15	5:00
2 Patty Saikia	22	5:23
3 Anne Weaver	23	5:43
4 Jason Dunsavage	20	3:51:48
5 Rebekah Gletner	23	5:06
6 Elena Bragg	23	5:04
7 Danielle Diantoniis	27	7:11
8 Matthew Nguyen	20	3:51:48
9 Joanne Williams	20	3:51:48
10 Rik Keener	14	3:27:21
11 Craig Murphy	26.2	5:53
12 Brian Bierley	26	4:11
13 Madison Bierley	26	4:11
14 Brian Rainey	15	5:00
15 Kristan Mann	23	5:43
16 Michael Reiner	15	5:00
17 Leon Lutz	23.7	5:50

