

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Dispatch from the Breck Marathon

Whenever you put on an event, like a fundraiser, parade, or marathon, you are reminded of how wonderful Summit County is in every way. We pull together like the family that we are and make sure the occasion is a complete suc-

cess. All hands were on deck, from our families and friends to those who were "voluntold" to help. Thanks to all for helping put on a race that saw 300 runners enjoying a perfect fall day of running (big thanks to whoever it was that delivered the perfect weather day — I am guessing it was



Drew Mikita
Dear Drewbie

Lauren Hoover).

In its second year, the Breckenridge Road Marathon, dubbed "America's Highest Road Marathon," is quickly growing and making its way onto many runner bucket lists.

"I thought everything was great — just the right amount of challenge and the scenery was unbeatable," runner Brian Miller said. "It is great to see the interest growing each year and I hope to run it again next year as well."

The race featured three distances, including the marathon. This route began at the Boreas Pass parking lot, ran down aspen-lined Boreas Pass Road, went onto French Street, got onto the rec path, led out to Summit High School and then took a lap by the golf course before coming back up the rec path to finish on Main Street under the town of Breckenridge arch.

The half marathon came down Boreas



MICAH MATHIS / SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Heather Kopsky (center) at the Breckenridge Road Marathon in September.

Pass to French, went out on the rec path and turned around near Tiger Run before coming back for the finish on Main Street.

The quarter marathon had the same start and led to the rec path, where runners turned around at the Breckenridge rec center.

IT TAKES A COUNTY

When talking to the runners about why they enjoy the race, most embrace the "ma and pa" feel of the event. The Breckenridge Road Marathon is put on by Mad Dingo (owned by Molly Mikita and myself) and supported by many local businesses (Lolo Juice, Vertical Runner Breck, Beaver Run).

Molly and I take great pride in putting on this race. We love doing it our way, not corporate, fancy and mass-produced. I make the awards and our families make the food, including 70 pounds of pulled pork, sloppy joes and about infinity cookies and brownies.

We want the experience to be one that runners will never forget. Our race medals to finishers should be called "race woods," as they are made out of local Colorado wood and imprinted by a shop in Colorado that helps give people a second chance from addiction, homelessness, or incarceration. It's a place that our friend, Ken Stewart, put us onto. That's rad — the woods look unique, custom and super-fly.

You have to trust your local community when producing an event like the Breckenridge Road Marathon. Summit County works best as a team. There are so many logistics and details that go executing the Breckenridge Marathon, and we would like thank everyone for helping make this a community event.

Of course, this race wouldn't exist without all the bada** runners who think it is a good idea to run a marathon in Breckenridge. You are all awesome and crazy! We look forward to putting this race on for you all again next year.

Drew Mikita is an associate professor of psychology at Colorado Mountain College. Since 2007, he has practiced mental health in Summit County as a licensed professional counselor. He is also a sports psychology consultant currently pursuing a doctorate in sport psychology. Originally from Summit County, Ohio, Drew is living out his dream as a mountain person.

BRECKENRIDGE MARATHON RESULTS

Overall females

1. Xenia Villavicencio, Aurora — 4:12:23
2. Sharon McDowell-Larsen, Blue River (Team Vertical Runner Breckenridge) — 4:14:09
3. Kathy Jackson, Henderson, NV — 4:21:50

Overall males

1. Sam Wiswell, Laramie, WY — 3:11:55
2. Chris Stork, Basalt — 3:20:41
3. Steve Ronberg, Denver — 3:22:02

Breckenridge Road Half Marathon

Overall females

1. Rachel Viele, Vail — 1:26:22
2. Krista Sidwell, Fort Collins — 1:42:17
3. Meghan Kent, Laramie WY — 1:44:53

Overall males

1. Pepi Peterson, Breckenridge (Team Vertical Runner Breckenridge) — 1:25:41
2. Pol Senecal, Superior — 1:39:58
3. Lawrence Jackson, Aurora — 1:41:41

Breckenridge Road Quarter Marathon

Overall Females

1. Hannah Clark, Lakewood — 49:36
2. KoreyAnne Smith, Belle Vernon PA — 49:38
3. Kate Ragan, Edwards — 53:42

Overall Males

1. Paul Brett, Frisco — 41:10
2. James Countryman, Denver — 43:46
3. Andrew Wells, Denver — 46:28