



Rotary Club of Point Pleasant Boro
PO Box 496
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742

Press Release: April 27, 2017

“For nine years the Point Pleasant area community has embraced our 5K race and that encourages and motivates us as we look forward to the 10th annual event,” remarked Jim Higgins, race director for the Point Pleasant Boro Rotary Club’s 5K and One-Mile Fun Run.

Mr. Higgins added that “This is a great way to start your summer; school is out; a lot of dads run with their kids; and, you’re part of doing something good for others. New this year is a designated runner program on our website that allows you to sponsor an active duty or reserve military runner.”

The event, officially known as the Kevin A. Brue Melanoma Awareness Father’s Day 5K, is slated for Saturday, June 17th. The fun run will start at 8:00 a.m. The 5K gets underway at 8:30 a.m. Each race starts and finishes in Point Pleasant Borough’s Community Park at the intersection of Bridge Avenue and Beaver Dam Road.

Race registration is underway. For registrations completed by June 14th, the fee is \$25.00. The fee is \$30.00 after that date. Fun Run registration is \$15.00 up to and including race day.

Runners will be treated to a fast and flat out and back course that begins just outside the park on Beach Boulevard and winds through the Bay Head Shores section of town. Racers will make their way to Marine Parkway, Riviera Parkway, Blaze Drive, Barnegat Boulevard and Rue Lafayette.

The 5K course is certified by USATF (USA Track & Field) and the race is sanctioned as part of the New Jersey Grand Prix. It was modified slightly last year to finish on a straightaway to enhance the competition for the runners.

The idea to stage a race was “inspired and directed by club member Tony Onto and the first 5K was held on June 15, 2008. About 200 runners participated in that initial effort,” recalled Mr. Higgins.

While the goal of each annual race has been and continues today to provide financial aid to local charities and community based organizations, the focus has expanded due to a personal heartbreak. In 2010, Kevin Brue, son of John Brue, Sr., a past club president and the brother of John Brue, Jr., also a former club president, passed away after battling melanoma. Subsequently, the club named the 2011 race after Kevin, a Point Boro High School runner and a member of the Melanoma Research Foundation's (MRF) Miles for Melanoma running team, and made the event a melanoma awareness vehicle.

According to the MRF, there is a one in 50 lifetime risk of developing melanoma. Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25 to 29-years-old and the second most common cancer in adolescents and young adults 15 to 29-years-old. John Brue, Sr., stated the value of regular skin cancer screenings from board certified dermatologists can't be emphasized enough in avoiding a tragedy.

Club President David Guetzlaff noted how the club to date "has donated \$60,000 from race proceeds in the last six years to the MRF due to the tremendous support the community has shown in sponsoring, encouraging and participating in the 5K."

The club provides assistance to St. Gregory's Food Pantry; sponsors a youth water safety program; presents a dictionary to each third grade student in the Nellie Bennett and Ocean Road schools; supports the Police Unity Tour; and, awards \$15,000 in scholarships to local high school graduates. Additionally, the club assists the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ocean County and is a primary partner with the Point Pleasant Boro Police Department in the Law Enforcement against Drugs Education (LEAD) program in the elementary schools and Memorial Middle school and underwrites a related self-esteem poster contest.

The club works toward helping Rotary International's goal to eradicate polio and provide clean water in underdeveloped areas of the world. It also helps sponsor "Face of America," a program honoring men and women wounded or disabled while serving our nation.

Last year fifteen year old Devin Hart, then a rising Point Pleasant Boro High School sophomore, cruised home in a course record time of 16 minutes and 37 seconds, breaking the previous record of 17:02 set in 2015 by Point Pleasant's Dave Slavinski.

Dylan Peters, who graduated from Point Boro High School the previous evening, grabbed second place finish 17:35. Mr. Peters and Mr. Hart were track and cross country teammates. Point Pleasant's Brian Norling took third place in a time of 17:49 and was the first father to finish the 5K.

First place honors in the women's 5K division went to Jenna Dubrow of Jackson in a time of 18:46. She won this race in 2011, 2013 and 2015. Taking second place for the women was

Meagan Drapkin in 19:36. Placing third was Brielle's Christine Arsego at 20 minutes and 19 seconds.

OceanFirst Bank, with branches in Point Pleasant Boro, Point Pleasant Beach and Brick is the prime sponsor. Stop & Shop, operating at locations in Point Pleasant Beach, Brick and Point Boro is a major sponsor.

The top three overall male and female 5K finishers will receive trophies. Medals will be given to leading female and male finishers in the age groups 14 and under; 15-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70-79; and, 80-plus.

A trophy will be awarded to the first father to finish. Trophies will be given to the first place male and female finishers in the Fun Run. T-shirts are guaranteed to runners registered by June 13th.

SpectaSport, LLC will generate electronic results on race day. Runners and supporters will be entertained again by the Brue Crew Band. There will be pre and post race food for the runners.

A race dedicated website (www.ptbororotary.com/page/fathersday5k) is available for race information and registration. Pre-registration can be completed at www.spectasport.com.

On Friday, June 16th, runners pre-registered by June 14th can pick up race packets from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, 706 River Avenue, Point Pleasant.

"The business community and the borough administration, Police, Recreation and Public Works departments and our First Aid squad are on board again to make this a successful experience," commented Joe Doherty, a race committee member.

Sponsors can consider different levels of support (e.g. the water stations, finish line, mile markers) by contacting Mary Borree at 732-642-9436 or borree866@gmail.com. Information about race registration and sponsorship can be obtained also by contacting Joe Doherty at 908-839-5579 or jjdoh@comcast.net or Jim Higgins at 732-864-7767.

The race committee also includes Gary Steen, Frank Scarpone, Diane Colangelo, Dan Cotton, John Brue, Sr., Bob Fall, John Curtis and Tom Santoro, Jr.

Rotary International is a nonprofit organization with 1.2 million members in over 35,200 clubs worldwide who live the Rotary motto of "Service above Self" by volunteering their time and service to help others in their community, country and the world. It was founded in 1905 in Chicago. The Point Pleasant Boro Club was established in 1971 and meets each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. at Simko's Grill, 403 Higgins Avenue, Brielle.

The Club's next major undertaking is its 28th annual Car Show on August 16th at Crystal Point Marina, River Road in Point Pleasant Boro.

More information about the Point Pleasant Boro Rotary Club's activities and some history about the race can be obtained by visiting www.ptbororotary.com.