



Frederick Steeplechasers Half Marathon Training Program Information Booklet

Training Program Purpose: To prepare runners for their upcoming half marathon

Goal Race: Frederick Half Marathon on Sunday, May 7, 2017

Program Led by RRCA Certified Running Coach:

- Billy Clem
- Heidi Novak (Taking RRCA coaching certification in January 2017)



Description: A beginner and intermediate half marathon training program. Participants must have a base of at least 6-9 months of regular running (at any speed) with a comfortable long run of at least 5 miles and at least 3 days/week of running.

This is a free program for all current Steeplechasers members that is run by volunteers. It provides a great way to improve your running and meet other runners in our community. We will provide support, advice, a great attitude, even some happy hours and other social events. We will try our best to answer your questions or we will connect you with someone who can.

Weekly Group Runs:

- Tuesdays 6:00PM, Talley Rec Center, Baker Park, Frederick
- Saturdays 8:00AM, Talley Rec Center (occasionally we'll start from an alternate location or use a local race as our weekend run)

We have two group runs each week but we will provide a full training schedule. Each runner will be placed in a pace group and we will ask for volunteer pace leaders who will be able to attend most group runs. Our Tuesday run will be tempo work (Tempo Tuesday) where we will work on building speed and our Saturday morning run will be our "long slow run." We encourage the participants to communicate with others in their pace group to encourage, support and run with one another on our "off days."

Schedule: Everyone should come ready to run and leave time for parking – we will start promptly with a warm-up/dynamic stretching. At the finish of the run, each pace group will do their own stretch and depart when ready.

Introduction: The Frederick Steeplechasers are a group of runners from our community with very different backgrounds and levels of running experience. We have runners that started running track in high school and want to continue running competitively throughout their adult lives. We have runners that started running in their 30's, 40's, 50's and even 60's. Our members range from elementary school kids to runners in their 70's and beyond. We have people that run to socialize, people that run to prepare for races, people that run to support their love of food or beer, people that run to push themselves, people that run to lose weight, people that run to relax, and people that run because they just love to run. We don't care why you run we just want to support you and to provide an environment to help you thrive. You will meet fast runners, funny runners, inspirational runners, ultra-runners, chatty runners, and every other kind of runner. You will see how different we all are but how we all share a common thread, we are ALL RUNNERS! Some of you will run your first half marathon this fall, check it off your bucket list and move on. Others will go on to try and run a marathon in every state. Some will decide that an ultra is their next big goal and will maybe even run a 100 mile race someday.

These training programs are to prepare you for your goal race but they can be more than that if you want them to be. I met a group of people in the 2013 Fall Marathon training group that I became good friends with and we still communicate almost every day. So if you're nervous, don't be because we are all here to support each other. There will be a wealth of knowledge and experience from your coaches, our members, and our community. In our club we have nutritionists, physical therapists, ultra-runners, trail runners, personal trainers and runners with 50+ years of experience. We also have *If The Shoe Fits* which not only provides a great place to purchase running shoes and gear but a staff that will help you figure out everything from in-race nutrition to answering where a good place to go trail running is.

About this training program

- Don't get overwhelmed and please communicate any concerns with us.
- It is great to focus on your goal because it will drive you to get up on a cold morning when you feel like sleeping in, or get up that one last hill but please enjoy the journey. This is the best part about training with a group. After race day we ask everyone how their race went but people respond not by telling us about the race but by how much they will miss the training runs, happy hours, and friends they made along the way.
- Support the runners around you. It doesn't matter if you just say, "great job" or if you finish your run and then go back to find others and run in with them, just support each other.
- If you're here to get faster we'll help you push yourself mentally and physically. I was way out of my comfort zone during my first training program but it taught me how to dig deep and get more out of my runs.

Must Have:

- Running shoes
- Weather appropriate gear
 - Winter: Hats, gloves, warm socks, water, and reflective gear for evening runs
 - Summer: Water, fuel, light weight breathable clothing, Body Glide (or other lubricant) to prevent chaffing, sunscreen, bug spray for C&O canal runs, hat/visor or sunglasses
- (Recommended) Running watch/GPS or smartphone app (e.g. mapmyrun, runkeeper)
- Water bottle and gels if you use them. Our Saturday long runs are not always supported so participants must prepare accordingly to stay hydrated and fueled. **Please make sure you eat and hydrate properly the night before and throughout the day. If you have any questions on hydration or fuel please ask us.**
- Comfort level to be able to make smart running decisions.
- Commitment to be able to run on your own on our “off days” and if you miss group runs (important to keep up your training)
- Bright clothes or a bright running vest for our road runs. It is VERY important for us to be seen by vehicles. The more bright clothes in our group the easier it is for us to be seen.
- Reflective vest, and/or reflective or illuminated armbands, and/or headlamp for our Tuesday evening runs.

Safety:

- It is very important to be hyper-aware of your surroundings when running. Wear reflective gear and bring lighting if necessary.
- Ensure that you have identification on you. (road ID, emergency contact info on your phone’s lock screen, etc.)
- If possible, carry a cell phone.
- **Cross streets CAREFULLY and never assume that cars see you, because they usually don’t.** Better to stop and wait to cross than to take a chance.
- If you are running in the road rather than on the sidewalks, be even more careful. Please run on the LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD **AGAINST TRAFFIC** AND DROP INTO SINGLE FILE IF THERE’S A CAR COMING. **If a car does NOT move over then GET OFF THE ROAD.**
- If you are in a group, don’t assume that if one person runs to cross a street that it is safe for everyone to cross.
- Headphones: We ask that you don’t wear headphones during our group runs. Hearing is an important sense when running near cars and other people. It really isn’t safe to wear them anytime but everyone can make their own decisions regarding their personal safety. If you need your music try only using one headphone.

Emergencies: If there is an emergency, please loudly call for help so that someone can let the pace leader know. 911 should be called immediately if necessary. At least one pace leader per group should have a cell phone. After 911 is called, please contact Billy @ 301-807-7062.

Weather: The summer thunderstorms are very unpredictable and can come and go very quickly. We will run in the rain. If we hear thunder that is approaching, we will return to our cars and cancel the run. If we are already running and can't get back to our cars safely, the groups should seek shelter. If we know within 20 minutes that a storm will definitely be coming, we may cancel ahead of the run. We have also canceled due to ice or other severe winter weather. Cancellations will be posted on Facebook and through a text message service. Here's the link to sign up for weather notifications:

https://www.rainedout.net/team_page.php?a=ce19ac98033c52a64599

Hydration and Nutrition: Staying hydrated and fueled is very important, not only to your performance but to your safety. As we build up our mileage you need to be hyper aware of your body's needs. Hot weather and sweating means you'll need to make sure you're hydrated with water and electrolytes on the longer runs. Please make sure you eat and hydrate properly the night before and throughout the day. Please bring a handheld, waist pack, or hydration pack to even our short runs in the extreme heat. Cold weather and hydration are tricky. You won't feel thirsty as often but it is still very important to hydrate. Please ask if you have ANY questions about fueling before, during or after our runs.

Pace & Distance:

- Pace and distance are tricky, especially for newer half marathoners who are building up to longer race distances
- It's a balance of pushing your body but not pushing too hard too fast
- Our Saturday, "Long Slow Run" should be at CP (Conversation Pace)
- Our tempo runs will vary in speed from light conversational pace to your 10K race pace
- Each type of run serves a different purpose but all will prepare your body for race day
- If you feel like you are in the wrong pace group please let us know and switch groups. Everybody will have different goals and we respect whatever you decide to do.

Social: This program is meant to be social! Please talk to each other and get to know each other's story. You will be meeting local runners of all ages and running abilities. The Frederick Steeplechasers Running Club has resulted in life-long friendships. Please hold conversations to help motivate each other and encourage each other along our journey. Watch out for each other and let your coaches know if you are concerned about someone you may see struggling. If you are a seasoned runner and know a lot of people, make introductions and talk to our newcomers. Don't be nervous – we are all here to help each other. Running together is a great way to stay motivated, especially during the summer heat or bitter cold of winter. We will periodically have post run happy hours, family ice cream socials, and group breakfasts.

Leaving the Run Early: If you decide to drop out of a run early because you need to leave or you don't feel well, please let someone know. If someone tells you they are leaving early, please let the coaches know that they are okay.

Communications: We will be emailing the entire group before each group run with a mapmyrun.com link to our route as well as turn by turn directions. We will also post every group run on the Steeplechasers Facebook Page. We ask that the pace groups also communicate with each other on a regular basis to keep each other motivated and to sometimes run together on our "off days."

COACHES (for all training programs)

Billy Clem didn't start running until he was 37 in 2006. He's run multiple ultra races, marathons, and half marathons. He has coached the Steeps Half Marathon and Marathon Training Programs. He became an RRCA certified coach in 2015. "I love coaching the training groups and promise to provide a great positive atmosphere for strengthening your running by preparing you both mentally and physically. My goal with the training groups is to really foster a collaborative atmosphere. I'm inspired by and learn from both the newer and more experienced runners within each training group. I pride myself on helping each participant feel a sense of ownership of the group. I will share what I've learned (both the good and the bad) and lean on those within the community who know what I don't to help you reach your goals."

Heidi Novak Prior to 2014 Heidi Novak stayed active by attending various classes at the gym or using various cardio machines. She never thought about running until a group of moms from her school started a Coach to 5K program. She jumped into the program a little late, but soon discovered how much she enjoyed running. It wasn't until her school's 5K that fall that she heard about the Steeplechasers. As Mark Lawrence was talking before the race he mentioned that anyone serious about running in the Frederick area needed to join the Steeplechasers. Shortly after the race she joined, and then decided to take on the challenge of a half marathon. She still remembers showing up for her first group run at Talley Rec Center in the winter of 2015. The temperature was below freezing and she asked herself "what am I doing here, I should be in bed?" She soon came to enjoy getting up early and even running in cold weather. This couldn't have been possible without all the support from the group, as well as her training partners. Since then she has participated in several half marathon training programs, 5 half marathons, a trail Ragnar in West Virginia, and recently she completed her first marathon last fall. She became more involved in the club last fall when she took on the role of co-chair of the Happy Hour Committee with Syble Roane. She is looking forward to completing the RRCA Coaching Certification Course in January and then helping Billy to coach the spring half marathon group. She hopes that she can inspire others to love running as much as she does, as well as helping them to set and achieve goals.

Other resources within our program:

Jan Harris has been actively running since 2011 . In 2012 she ran her 1st marathon and trained by herself. Since then she's run multiple marathons and ultra races. She has coached the Steeps Marathon Programs numerous times. She became an RRCA certified coach in 2015. She also loves running with her pup.

Although she lives in sunny Southern California now, she still assists fellow Steeplechasers by answering questions on Facebook and email.

"I love how the training programs have forged and fostered positive healthy friendships and relationships... my training partners, who I met in these programs, are my best friends and my family! I hope everyone comes out a stronger, happier, healthier runner, and I hope you all achieve your personal running goals!"

Javier Montenegro has been running since high school. He has experience from shorter track distances all the way up to an Ironman Triathlon. He's a great resource for all things running and a genuinely nice guy.

S. Nicole Davis, DPT, RRCA Certified Running Coach. Dr. Davis specializes in running injury prevention and management. She also serves as a consultant and coach to numerous youth and adult running organizations. She will be helping us set up a dynamic stretching/warmup routine before our runs. She's also a great trail running resource!

Luanne Houck has been a Steep for 14 years. She has coached the Women's Distance Festival and Half Marathon training groups. She is on a mission to run a half in every state. She is an RRCA certified coach. She is also an excellent resource to consult on using yoga for cross training.

Risa Clem has run Half-Ironman Triathlons, ultra races, marathons, & half marathons. She bounced back from hip surgery in 2013. She is a great person to talk to if you're dealing with an injury or just need help reaching new goals.

Mark Lawrence is our local running form guru with years of experience. He is a past Steeplechasers' President.. Want to run faster, reduce your injury risk, and feel better during and after your run? Mark's monthly Chi Running classes work on the fundamentals of running form to help you achieve your goals. He works coaching kids as well and manages most of the finish lines at our local races. He'll be demonstrating some running form basics for our group. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Self-Propel-LLC/477166535644119>

John Squared (John Leonardis and John Kippen) at ***If The Shoe Fits*** shoe store and are a wealth of running knowledge. Both are incredibly funny, kind, and generous with their time. John Kippen basically knows every runner that has ever run in Frederick and has endless stories. John Leonardis and his wife Siobhan are big ultra trail runners and can help you out with everything from hydration/nutrition to places to run around town.

Message from Past FSRC President, Pamela Geernaert

Welcome. Thank you for signing up for The Steeplechasers Training Program. Any time we sign up for something we are making a commitment. The commitment you made to come to this program is for you – your health and well-being. But it is also a commitment to your family, your spouse and your children and grandchildren. It is a commitment that you will grow to be a healthier you. Yes, you will learn to run, but you will also learn to listen to your body. You will learn to take time to nourish yourself properly and appreciate yourself and what you can do. Along the way I hope you find a few good friends too.

I love to run. I really do. I ran to “stay in shape”. I ran because I’m awful at other sports. I ran to stave off that post-partum baby weight. But somewhere along the way I realized I just love to run. If I’m stuck on a parenting problem (i.e. How to stop my kid from talking back) or a household problem (i.e. How can we rearrange the living room to accommodate the new furniture we inherited) or a money problem (i.e. How can I find a job that combines what I love with being available at 3:00 to pick my kid up from school) I run.

You know what I love as much as, if not more than running, - my running buddies. Some of the sweetest people I know run. People who will wait for you as you duck into a store to use their restroom on a long run. People who will give you water when you run out. People who will slow and walk with you when you are having a tough day, but challenge you and encourage you when they know you have more in you than you are giving on race day. Long hours training have led to some amazing conversations, some very personal realizations and some incredibly funny and embarrassing stories. Knowing your friend is on the corner, in the winter, in the dark, early in the morning, is certainly reason to get out of bed. Running friends truly are the best.

I hope that at the end of this program you have a successful race. But more importantly I hope that you also learn to love running even more and that you have built some lifelong friendships.

Best in health,
Pamela Geernaert
Frederick Steeplechasers Running Club

FREDERICK STEEPLCHASERS RUNNING CLUB MISSION:

To promote running for fitness, friendship and athletic development, in support of our members and the Frederick community