

## SPOKE TALK



### Routt County Riders hires new executive director

**T**ime to pass the cycling advocacy torch. Routt County Riders welcomes Laraine Martin as its new executive director. Since finishing graduate school at the University of Denver, Martin has been involved in nonprofit management for the past ten years. She worked for Rocky Mountain Youth Corps for seven years managing field operations and project implementation.

Through that position she worked closely with land managers and nonprofit partners, including Routt County Riders, and gained an understanding of trail and land management practices. The past winter Martin was the program and events coordinator for Friends of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, traveling statewide for fundraisers and community outreach events.

Although perhaps the most advantageous experience for her new position is her three years with the Peace Corps. She will surely continue the collaborative and community-based advocacy efforts for Routt County Riders and is excited to help the organization grow through strategic planning and organizational navigation.

Martin is primarily a mountain biker but often road bikes on the Front Range and when training for triathlons.

"My favorite rides in Steamboat are the Divide Ride, Creekside, and of course, a speedy whip down NPR on Emerald to put a smile on my face. How can you not smile on NPR?" Martin said.

Martin is also an avid backcountry skier and outdoor enthusiast, with her engine running on strong coffee and the occasional sprinkle donut.

My past three years with Routt County Riders has been filled with collaborative partnerships, amazing new trails, and an admirable passion within the community for expanding and connecting our cycling infrastructure. I hope that Steamboat continues to recognize the importance of diversifying our trail system.

As I leave the Yampa Valley, I am sending my gratitude and encouragement to the hard-working advocates and land managers in all of their current and future trail decisions. It is certainly tough to say goodbye to such an amazing organization and board, but I am confident Routt County Riders will be in great hands.

Congratulations, Laraine, and happy trails.

*Kelly Northcutt is the former executive director of Routt County Riders.*



JOEL REICHENBERGER/FILE

Matthew Hall, right, leads a pack of runners in a past Mountain Madness race in Steamboat Springs.

## Series set for Sunday

*Mountain Madness 10K, half-marathon to kick off 4th of July week*

**Leah Vann**  
Steamboat Pilot & Today

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS — Road runners near and far can sign up for this weekend's Mountain Madness 10-kilometer run and half-marathon.

"It's our second largest race behind the Continental Divide Trail Race," race director Lucas Crespin said. "We get a lot of out-of-town people up here for Fourth of July, and they see a 10K and a lot of people can handle running a 10K. It's a little more attainable than the half-marathon, but we have that option for people who want that challenge as well."

Crespin expects a crowd of 200 runners for the Mountain Madness, which is one of few road races held in Routt County. The race, which will be held on Sunday, will also welcome young runners for a kids' dash at 9 a.m., after both the 10K and half-marathon starts.

Mountain Madness is one of the oldest races in the Steamboat Springs Running Series next to the Hayden Cog Run. The journey takes runners along River Road with views of Steamboat Resort and up

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Mountain Madness 10K and half-marathon

**When:** 7 a.m. Sunday

**Where:** 45 Howelsen Parkway

**Cost:** \$35 10K, \$45 half-marathon, \$15 kids 17 and younger

**How to register:** runningseries.com or from 4 to 6 p.m. at Twisted Trails Running Company

through the challenging ascent in the Dakota Ridge neighborhood.

For the first time in Crespin's three years as race director, the event will have chip timing. In the past, the race has had timers with stop watches to keep track of results.

"That is something we experimented in a couple races last year but implemented for every race this year," Crespin said. "It makes it a lot easier — quicker results, televisions that show instant results across the line and results go up online before we even leave the race."

Chip timing is when a racer's bib has a chip that tracks their time through a computerized process. When they cross the finish, their time is automatically sorted by age division and gender.

Mountain Madness is fully staffed with volunteers from the Steamboat Soccer Club, and in exchange, the club will receive a percentage of the proceeds from

the race sign-ups. Volunteers will be working three aid stations that offer water and Tailwind, but carrying your own hydration for the half-marathon is highly encouraged. Port-a-potties are available at the start, six-mile and nine-mile points. Parking at Howelsen Hill Complex is available 1/4 mile from the start.

People who want to volunteer for future races with the Running Series can sign up at runningseries.com under the volunteer tab.

Crespin also encourages participants to sign up before the race online or from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday at Twisted Trails Running Company. On-site registration will be available starting at 6:15 a.m. Sunday.

Registration costs \$35 for the 10K and \$45 for the half-marathon, while the kids dash is free. All participants 17 and younger can register for \$15 and T-shirts will be sold for \$10. Registration includes post-race food.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers and are not divided by age group. The half-marathon kicks off first at 7 a.m. while the 10K starts at 8 a.m. The cut-off time for the races is 11 a.m., but River Road will not be closed to traffic.

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