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Rib Mountain run raises \$7,000 for Rotary Club

*By Megan Loiselle
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Drizzling rain and muddy trails didn't deter about 100 runners Saturday in the second annual WRUT 'N Run at Granite Peak Ski Area.

The WRUT 'N Run (Wausau Rotary Ultra Trek & Fun Run) is the biggest fundraiser of the year for The Rotary Club of Wausau, which supports youths and educational opportunities in the community, said Rotarian Kristin Barry.

Barry said the run brought in about \$7,000 from participants who paid to race on the 5k or relay-team course.

Starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, runners either took the 5k course midway up Rib Mountain or ran with a relay team of up to four people to the top of the mountain and back. The members of the relay teams tried to complete as many laps as possible in four hours.

Both courses ran underneath onlookers riding a ski lift to see the fall colors.

One four-man team was averaging about 16 minutes to complete one 2.1-mile loop to the top of Rib Mountain and back down.

That team, known as the "Hillbillies," won the race last year.

Team member Mark Thuot, 40, of Hatley helped to design the course and groomed it in preparation for the race.

"This is a very tough course," Thuot said.

Dave Lyon, 47, of Schofield said he hadn't trained for the 700-foot incline but competed in triathlons over the summer.

"It's a personal challenge," Lyon said.

Arthur Corallo, 40, of Schofield also ran with Lyons and Thuot.

"It's great exercise with good friends and for a good cause," Corallo said.

Kris Borchardt, 30, of Kronenwetter won first place in the 5k course in 25 minutes, 36 seconds.

"I love a challenge," Borchardt said. "I try to make all the Wausau races."

William Litzer, 20, of Marathon took second place in the 5k course in 28 minutes, 45 seconds.

Litzer said he runs 25 to 30 races a year in central Wisconsin.

"I do it to compete," Litzer said.

The Rotary Club of Wausau meets weekly to discuss topics relevant to the community, sponsors college scholarships for students at local high schools and supports inbound and outbound high school exchange students.

"We're youth-oriented," Barry said. "That's our focus."
