

For Immediate Release

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Merrick, Schafer Capture Roxbury Burley MidSummer 5.0-Miler

ROXBURY – Former season champions Ken Merrick and Mary Schafer were the top overall male and female finishers along a challenging 5.0-mile course Saturday, July 20, in a featured event at the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Merrick, 44, of New Fairfield was the first finisher in the Bill Burley MidSummer Championship, covering the layout, which included several steep hills along Squire Road and Apple Lane, in 30-minutes, 40-seconds – a 6:08-per-mile pace.

He won the season title last year and has taken 13 of the last 14 events in the weekly series and 14 overall in 2013.

Jeff Sheldon, 33, of Southbury placed second overall in 31:32.

Schafer, 38, of Roxbury annexed the female title and was 23rd overall with a clocking of 42:31. She has twice won the season title in the women's division in the Roxbury series.

For taking their respective divisions, Merrick and Schafer each received a \$10 gift certificate to an area running store.

The runners raised \$254 from the \$5 per entrant fee. The proceeds will go to the Roxbury park improvement fund.

The race is named after Bill Burley, who founded the series in 1977 and served as its head director through 1979. The former Roxbury resident worked as an elementary school principal in New Milford for many years.

Former head director Bob Lewis announced at the post-race awards ceremony that Charlie Euston, Charlie Greystone, Mike Abraham, Dan Lynch, Rob McNamare and Jeff Sheldon had been inducted into the Roxbury Road Race Series Hall of Fame and presented them with plaques.

There will be no race Saturday, July 27, since the 46th annual New Milford Village Fair Days 7.8-mile race will be run.

The weekly series will resume Saturday, Aug. 3, at 8:30 a.m. with a 6.2-mile run. There will be no entry fee.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park on Apple Lane.

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the head director, at BenjaminS@wcsu.edu or (O) (203) 837-9999, ext. 19825.