

Parker, Gallagher Romp At Roxbury

ROXBURY—A Shepaug Valley harrier and a former female season champion were in the winners' circle Saturday, April 11, following a 2.4-mile jaunt at the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Sean Parker, 16, who runs for the Spartans, was the overall champion in 14-minutes, 6-seconds – a 5:52-per-mile pace – with Justin Burchett, 42, placing second in 14:08.

Theresa Gallagher, 45, of Roxbury, who captured three consecutive women's season championships in the weekly series from 2011 through 2013, topped the female contingent and placed 15th overall over the rolling loop, which included a trip up the steep hill on Chalybes Road, with a time of 17:01.

The series will resume Saturday, April 25, at 8:30 a.m. with a 4.2-mile run that will include a trip down the long hill on Hemlock Road and the steep incline on Ranney Hill Road. There will be no entry fee.

The 25th annual Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge will be held Saturday, May 2, at 8:30 a.m. over a 4.3-mile layout that will travel down the hill on High Bridge Road. There will be a \$5 entry fee that can be paid that morning from 7 to 8:20. Proceeds will go to the Roxbury park improvement fund.

The race is named after the late Kershner, who was head director of the series from 1980 through 1985 and expanded it from the initial eight-race summer format to 40 races from February to December.

The top overall male and top overall female finishers will each receive a gift certificate to an area running store.

A benefit run for the Shepaug Valley Class of 2017 is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, at 8:30 a.m. over a 4.2-mile course. There will be a \$5 entry fee that can be paid that morning from 7 to 8:20. The proceeds will go to the class fund and donations also will be accepted for promoting Lyme Disease Awareness.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

For more information, please contact Scott Benjamin, the head director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com or (860) 354-3521.