

The Roxbury Road Races
...still running the rolling hills of Roxbury...
since 1977

Under the direction of Dr. William "Bill" Burley of Roxbury, the Roxbury Road Races began on Saturday, July 2, 1977 from the Booth Free Elementary School on South Street. The series ran the course of eight Saturdays in July and August. The New Milford Times published the results of the races in 1977.

In these early days, runners numbered in the mid-teens most weeks.

In the mid-80's the Series grew to the current number of about 40 races, which are now held from the third week in February to early December, weather permitting. About three fourths of the races have no entry fee. On April 7, 1990, the series moved its starting and finishing line to the Everett Hurlburt Community Park on Apple Lane.

Larry Kershner was Race Director from 1980 to 1985. In 1984 or '85 the Series expanded to 14 races.

In 1986, Bob Lewis became Head Director. Ed Sandifer joined the Series the same year and he also proved instrumental in organizing. Jay Kronfield and Dave Harvey joined as ad hoc officials around the same time. Larry Kershner had started keeping records from the races in 1983. In 1987, Bob Lewis started calculating points for finishing runners. A runner received one point for every runner that he or she beat in a race. Soon, Bob saw to it that a base line of five points were given to anyone who walked or ran any distance.

In 1987, 1st Place Male and 1st Place Female were named for the season. Bob Lewis also calculated points retroactively to 1983, using Larry Kershner's records.

Pam Quist was the Women's Champion from 1988 almost every year until 2006.

Men's Champions:

1983 Jim High
1984 Bob Lewis
1985 Bob Lewis
1986 Dave Harvey
1987 Ed Sandifer
1988 Mark Chantry
...
2009 Mike Abraham
2010 Jeff Sheldon

2011 Mike Abraham
2012 Ken Merrick
2013 Ken Merrick
2014 Ken Merrick
2015 Ken Merrick

Women's Champions:

2009 Mary Schafer
2010 Mary Schafer
2011 Baerbel LoSacco
2012 Theresa Krebs
2013 Theresa Krebs
2014 Cynthia Degirolamo
2015 Cynthia Degirolamo

In 1991, the Top 3 Male and Top 3 Female runners were named. Soon, top honors went to the Top 5 in each category, followed by the Top 6 listing beginning in the early 2000's.

Ed Sandifer began to post the web page for the series ca. 2000. For a time, animals were placed in the standings, as were babies in strollers! Colorful commentary for individual races was posted online by Ed Sandifer and, more recently, by Mary (Schafer) Mahrer.

Scott Benjamin is the current Director of the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Our Race Series received some very good press with an article printed in the April 2009 issue of Runner's World. The preview for the article reads thus:

"RACES AND PLACES

The Roxbury Races

Roxbury, a rural town in Connecticut of 2,500 about 75 miles outside of Manhattan that was home to the likes of Arthur Miller, Marilyn Monroe, and William Styron, might very well be the racing capital of the world."

This article helped to put Roxbury, CT on the map! Along with our web presence, word has spread statewide and nationwide to make Roxbury an attractive destination for the Race Series, the Half-Marathon and especially the Marathon in December.

Since 2004, the Roxbury Road Race Series has sponsored the Roxbury Marathon and Half-Marathon each year. Those races have attracted runners from throughout the United States.

Chuck "Marathon Junkie" Engle of Coos Bay, Oregon holds the course record for the Roxbury Marathon with the blazing time of 2 hours 43 minutes

and 59 seconds, which he set on December 10, 2011. In doing so, he smashed his previous course record from 2010 of 2:52.29.

The most runners in a Series race as of this writing in May of 2016 is 97 finishers in the Eagle Scout 5K race., 2010.

Brief History by Larry Deming
With much help from Dave Harvey, Scott
Benjamin and others

...This History is not finished. Additions and corrections are welcomed!