

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Male and 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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.

Good press in Runner's World, 2009.

Most runners in a Series race: 97 finishers in Eagle Scout 5K race., 2010.

Since 2004, the Roxbury Road Race Series has sponsored the Roxbury Marathon and Half-Marathon each autumn. 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.

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!