

LaRosa, Masopust Annex MidSummer

Victories

ROXBURY – John LaRosa and Alison Masopust triumphed in a race named after the founder of the largest road race series in Connecticut.

LaRosa, 35, a former runner at Danbury High School and the University of Rhode Island, took the overall title at the Bill Burley 5.0-mile Midsummer Championship with a time of 31-minutes, 49-seconds – a 6:22-per-mile pace.

The course, which some runners have said is as difficult as any five-miler that they have done, included a series of steep hills on Squire Road and Apple Lane from the 1.7- to 3.1-mile marks.

Dave Harvey, 52, a former resident of neighboring Bridgewater who now lives in Killingsworth, placed second 32:41. He took the Roxbury season title in 1988.

Masopust, 32, of Morris, captured the female crown and was fifth overall in 34:16. It was her 14th victory of the season in the weekly races.

The race is named after Burley, who started the series in 1977 on an eight-week summer schedule. He continued as the head director through 1979. The series expanded to the current 40-week format in 1986. Burley is a former Roxbury resident and elementary school principal who now lives in Massachusetts. The Roxbury schedule is the longest in Connecticut, and through the first 22 events of the 2016 season, it is averaging about 54 finishers per event.

The runners collected \$235 from the \$5 entry fees for the Roxbury park improvement fund at the Burley MidSummer Championship.

The races will continue on Saturday, July 23, at 8:30 a.m. with a 4.8-mile event that will include a trip along part of Judd's Bridge Road. There will be no entry fee.

There will be no race Saturday, July 30, since the New Milford Village Fair Days 7.8-miler is run that morning. The Roxbury series will resume Saturday, August 6, at 8:30 a.m. with a 6.2-mile jaunt. There will be no entry fee. The ninth annual Two For The Show 3.1-mile run will be held Saturday, August 13, at 8:30

a.m. The \$5 entry fee, which can be paid that morning from 7 to 8:20 a.m., will generate money for research into juvenile diabetes and autism.

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

For further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the head director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (860) 354-3521 or access www.roxburyraces.net.