

40th Season Of Roxbury Races To Feature 40 Regular Season Runs, Marathon and Half Marathon

ROXBURY – The Roxbury Road Race Series’ 40th season will start February 20 and include 40 regular season races - featuring three championship events - a handful of charity runs along with a marathon and half marathon and the usual two editions of the Roxbury Mile.

The series, which began in 1977 with eight summer runs, will kick off Saturday, February 20, at 8:30 a.m. with a 2.4-mile race that will include a trip up the steep hill on Chalybes Road. There will be no entry fee, as is the case in about 75 percent of the races in the series. All of the races start at 8:30 a.m.

The series averages about 50 runners per race and has attracted several runners across the state in the recent years who are seeking to run an event in all 169 municipalities of Connecticut. There will be two new courses added this year – one at about 10 miles and the other at 2.4 miles – in addition to the staple of layouts that have been run for years.

There is a points system and the top six male and top six female competitors for the year receive a plaque at the end of the season.

The championship events will be: The Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge, which is named after the second head director in the history of the series and will cover a 4.2-mile route that includes High Bridge Road, May 7; the Bill Burley MidSpring Championship, which is named after the founding head director of the series will travel along a 5-mile route, July 16; and the Mike Abraham MidAutumn Championship, which is named after a former assistant director and will be a 3.9-mile jaunt, November 5.

There will be a \$5 entry fee for each of the championship races, which will be donated to the Roxbury park improvement fund.

The charity races: “Seussial The Musical,” March 12, snow date March 19, to benefit the Shepaug Valley Middle-High School theater production; the Lyme Disease Awareness race, May 12, to benefit a project sponsored by the Shepaug

Valley High School Class of 2017; the Two For The Show event, August 13, to raise money for research into autism and juvenile diabetes; the Roxbury Land Trust Race, September 17, to benefit the local land trust; the Ed Sandifer Staggered Start Race, September 24, to benefit a 12-time season champion in the series; the Pre-used Sweater Race, November 26, which will help the needy; and the holiday toy collection, December 3, which will benefit needy children.

Additionally, the runners will co-sponsor the annual Run For A Cure November 24, Thanksgiving Day, with the Roxbury Recreation Commission and the Roxbury Congregational Church.

The Roxbury Half Marathon is slated for November 12 and the Roxbury Marathon for December 10. Both races have an electronic pre-registration that limits the field to 100 runners. There is a \$15 entry fee for each event.

Almost all of the races start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

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

Roxbury Road Race Series Schedule For 2016

February

20: 2.4 miles up the hill.

27: 2.4 miles down the hill.

March

5: 3.1 miles to the bottom of Hemlock Road.

12: 3.52 miles down Hemlock Road. "Seussical The Musical" Run

19: 3.52 miles up Hemlock Road. (Snow Date For Seussical The Musical" Run.)

26: 4.3 miles with 2.0-mile mark on High Bridge Road.

April

2. 3.7 miles down Chalybes Road and up Ranney Hill Road.

9. 3.9 miles (jeep trail.)

16: 2.4 miles up Chalybes Road.

23. 6.6 miles to Sentry Hill Road and back.

30: 4.2 miles down Hemlock Road and up Ranney Hill Road.

May

7. 4.2 mile Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge. (2-mile mark on High Bridge Road.)

14. 4.2 miles down Ranney Hill Road and up Hemlock Road. (Shepaug Valley Class of 2017 Lyme Disease Race.)

21. 3.7 miles up Ranney Hill Road to South Street.

28. Roxbury Mile I.

June

4. 4.2 miles down Hemlock Road and up Ranney Hill Road.

11. Moosehorn 10-mile course, which will include Painter Road.

18. 6.4 miles along Minor Bridge Road and Falls Road.

25: 2.4 mile race to West Chalybes Road and back.

July

2: 3.52 miles down the hill.

9. 3.6-mile High Bridge Road to the Jeep Trail.

16: The 5.0-mile Bill Burley Championship Race.

23: 4.8-mile Judd's Bridge Road course.

30: No race in observance of the 7.8-mile New Milford Village Fair Days Race.

August

6: 6.2 miles up Painter Road.

13. Two For The Show Race on the 3.1-mile course down and then up Hemlock Road.

20. 8.2 miles along Judd's Bridge Road.

27. 7.25 mile Boot course.

September

3. Roxbury Mile II.

10. 3.7 mile run down Ranney Hill Road and up Chalybes Road.

17. Roxbury Land Trust 3.0 miles at the River Road Preserve.

24. Ed Sandifer Staggered Start Race at 2.4 miles.

October

1. 11.2 miles up Botsford Hill Road.

- 8. 3.52 miles up Hemlock Road.**
- 15. 4.3 miles with the 2-mile mark on High Bridge Road.**
- 22. 7.25 miles down Hemlock and up Painter Road**
- 29. 5.0 miles down the hills on Squire Road.**

November

- 5. 3.9 miles jeep trail for the Mike Abraham MidAutumn Championship.**
- 12. Roxbury Half Marathon.**
- 19. 3.52 miles down Hemlock Road.**
- 24. The 3.0-mile Run For The Cure at the Roxbury Congregational Church.**
- 26. 2.4 miles down Chalybes Road. (Pre-used Sweater donations for charity.)**

December

- 3. 2.4 miles up Chalybes Road. (Toy donations for needy children.)**
- 10. Roxbury Marathon.**