

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Watkins Wins Roxbury 4.2-miler

ROXBURY –Former season champion Randy Watkins easily prevailed over a 4.2-mile course at the weekly Roxbury Road Runners Club series.

Watkins, 59, of New Milford was clocked in 29-minutes, 52-seconds – a 7:07-per-mile pace – on Saturday, April 1, over the loop, which included a trip down the hill on Hemlock Road and up the steep incline along Ranney Hill Road. Watkins was second in the season standings in 2022.

Jeff Lipchus, 39, of the Sandy Hook section of Newtown placed second in 30:52.

Natalie Orletski, 13, of Bridgewater was the first female finisher and took sixth overall in 31:55 in the rainy conditions.

The series will continue on Saturday, April 8, at 8:30 a.m. with a 4.3-mile race that will include a trip up hill on High Bridge Road.

Runners can compete through the \$25 season membership. They also can compete by completing the weekly waiver form. If they have a timing chip the cost is \$2. If they do not have a chip the cost is \$5.

The Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge will be held on Saturday, May 6, over a 4.3-mile route. The race honors the former race director for the series, who extended it from a summer schedule to a nine-month calendar in 1986.

Youth entrants, military veterans and current former first responders can participate for free after completing the weekly waiver form.

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

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (Voice-mail) (860) 354-3521 or access www.roxburyraces.net or the Roxbury Races Facebook page.

