

Saturday, April 27, 2024

## Defending Season Champion Prevails Over Roxbury 6.5-miler

ROXBURY – Chris Deming, who captured the season title in 2023 at the weekly Roxbury Road Runners Club series, outlasted a strong field win the most recent race over a 6.5-mile loop.

Deming, 57, of Danbury was clocked in 49-minutes, 7-seconds – a 7:33-per-mile pace – over the course, which included a trip down the long hill on Hemlock Road and up the Horrigan Trail.

With 268 points, Deming is currently second in the 2024 standings to Jeff Lipchus, who has 279 points.

Mike Abraham, 64, of Roxbury, another former series champion, took second place with a time of 51:07.

Donna Lesch, 57, of Southbury was the first female finisher and was eighth overall in 56:16.

The series will continue with the annual Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge on Saturday, May 4, at 8:30 a.m. over a 4.3-mile route that will include a trip down the hill on High Bridge Road.

The race recognizes the accomplishments of the second person to serve as race director of the series. The late Kershner, a longtime Roxbury resident, took the position in 1980 and started to expand the schedule from eight races in the summer to the current 38-race format that goes from late February to early December.

He was chairman of the Science Department at New Milford High School and later was a professor in the Education Department at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

A brief ceremony will be held following the race to honor Kershner.

Runners can compete through the \$30 season membership. They also can run after completing the weekly waiver and paying \$5. Current and former first responders and military personnel as well as youth entrants can compete for free after completing the weekly waiver.

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 further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at [ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com](mailto:ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com), (Voice-mail) (860) 354-3521 or access [www.roxburyraces.net](http://www.roxburyraces.net) or the Roxbury Race Facebook page.