

Merrick Rambles To Fourth Victory Of 2016;

Naugatuck's Carvalho Wins Female Division

ROXBURY – Four-time defending season champion Ken Merrick ran to his fourth win of 2016 and Naugatuck's Natalia Carvalho was the female winner over a 3.7-mile loop at the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Merrick, 47, of New Fairfield covered the course, which included a trip down the steep hill on Chalybes Road and up the long incline on Ranney Hill Road in 22-minutes, 44-seconds – a 6:09-per-mile pace.

Justin Burchett, 43, of New York City was second in 23:13.

Carvalho, 23, placed 13th overall with a clocking of 27:49.

The series will resume Saturday, April 9, at 8:30 a.m. with a 3.9-mile run that will include a trip along a jeep trail. There will be no entry fee.

The 26th annual Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge is slated for Saturday, May 7, at 8:30 a.m. over a 4.3-mile layout. There will be a \$5 entry fee that can be paid that morning from 7 to 8:20.

Proceeds will go to the Roxbury park improvement fund. The race is named after the late Dr. Kershner, a longtime former Roxbury resident who was the director of the series from 1980 through 1985 and developed the concept of expanding it from eight races in the summer to the 40-race format that was established in 1986 and stretches each year from mid-February to early-December.

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

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