

Saturday, May 7, 2022

Sheldon, Masopust Capture Kershnar Crowns

ROXBURY – Former two-time season champion Jeff Sheldon and former multiple women’s season champ Alison Masopust finished 1-2 overall in a race named after the former director who is responsible for turning an eight-week series into a nine-month schedule.

Sheldon, 42, of Southbury posted his second consecutive victory at the weekly Roxbury Road Runners Club series with a 27-minute, 49-second clocking – 6:28-per-mile – on a 4.3-mile layout that included a trip down the hill on High Bridge Road.

Masopust, 38, of Morris took the female title and was second overall in the Saturday, May 7, race with a time of 30:00.

Chris Deming, 55, of Danbury was third overall in 30:32. He leads the 2022 season standings with 321 points.

The annual MidSpring Challenge, which was first run in 1991, is named after the late Larry Kershnar of Roxbury, who was the director of the series from 1980 through 1985. He gradually expanded the summer series to the current format in which the season starts in late February with a fun run and concludes in early December.

Reportedly it is the most extensive race series in Connecticut and the second most extensive along the East Coast.

Kershnar’s son, Eric, who lives in Woodbridge, and other family members ran in the race.

Larry Kershnar was chairman of the Science Department at New Milford High School and later taught in the Education Department at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

The top finishers in various categories at the MidSpring Challenge were awarded gift certificates to the Roxbury Market. A list of the recipients is posted in the May 7 link at www.roxburyraces.net.

The series will resume on Saturday, May 14, at 8:30 a.m. with a 4.8-mile event that will include a trip in both directions along part of Judd's Bridge Road. The Roxbury Mile I will be held on Saturday, May 28, at 8:30 a.m.

Runners can enter through the \$25 season membership. They also can compete by completing the weekly waiver form. If they have a timing chip, the fee is \$2. If they do not have a timing chip the cost is \$5. Youth runners 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, (Voice-mail) (860) 354-3521 or access www.roxburyraces.net or the Roxbury Races Facebook page.