

SNOSHU-NEWS

ALL TIME POINTS/ MEN END OF 2002

01.	Ken Clark	1782.87
02.	Bob Dion	1503.84
03.	Leigh Schmitt	1489.13
04.	Jim Preite	1217.33
05.	Dave Dunham	1190.72
06.	David Boles	1166.55
07.	Bob Worsham	1095.30
08.	Ed Alibozek Jr	1013.26
09.	Dave Hannon	965.73
10.	Karl Molitoris	955.85

ALL TIME POINTS/ MEN END OF 2003

01.	Ken Clark	2609.27
02.	Bob Dion	2354.06
03.	Leigh Schmitt	2269.77
04.	Dave Dunham	1772.79
05.	David Boles	1639.23
06.	Ed Alibozek Jr	1581.61
07.	Dave Hannon	1430.77
08.	Bob Worsham	1421.88
09.	John Pelton	1396.17
10.	Jim Preite	1290.06
11.	Kelly Herrington	1287.42
12.	Edward Alibozek	1240.74
13.	Richard Bolt	1175.01
14.	Larry Dragon	1140.47

ALL TIME POINTS/ WOMEN END OF 2002

01.	Carol Kane	775.42
02.	Darlene McCarthy	770.40
03.	Beth Herder	683.13
04.	Laura Clark	635.96
05.	Deborah Livingston	535.18
06.	Lisa Schmitt	517.72
07.	Claudine Preite	441.65
08.	Tracy Van Dyke	338.06
09.	Barbara Sorrell	307.60
10.	Debbie Briggs	231.17

ALL TIME POINTS/ WOMEN END OF 2003

01.	Carol Kane	1058.62
02.	Darlene McCarthy	1036.02
03.	Deborah Livingston	1032.38
04.	Laura Clark	1022.30
05.	Beth Herder	683.13
06.	Sheryl Wheeler	651.69
07.	Lisa Schmitt	625.07
08.	Tracy Van Dyke	493.91
09.	Barbara Sorrell	474.24
10.	Jacque Schiffer	449.09
11.	Claudine Preite	446.53
12.	Laurel Shortell	436.53

Before the start of the 2003 season we thought three men would have a chance at eclipsing the 2000-point barrier in the WMAC Snowshoe Series. We were right! And with a normal snow season in 2004 Kenny Clark, Bob Dion and Leigh Schmitt should be able to break the 3000-point mark.

We listed each man with at least 1000 accumulated points over the 6 years of official WMAC Snowshoe Races (31 events). Karl Molitoris dropped out of the list from last year; the Old Goat made only one race due to his move to New Jersey in 2003, but is knocking on the door to one thousand (983.63 points). His Stafford Springs buddy Bruce "Cemetery Man" Marvonek is right on his heels with 975.12 points.

Meanwhile, on the ladies side, we were trying to figure who would break 1000-points first; Carol or Darlene. Darlene was within 4 points of 1000 after SPA Winterfest, and at the next event for both ladies (Hawley Kiln) they both went over with Darlene in the lead temporarily. At Moody Spring, the Kaniac regained the top spot with a total of 1058.62.

Six men moved into the one thousand point club standings in 2003, joining the eight who had previously made that plateau. None moved through the standings as much as Rich Bolt, the 2003 overall champion, with 888.69 points for the year.

In the meantime, two other young ladies ended up surging past the 1000-point mark and shortening the overall lead of Carol and Darlene. 2002 WMAC Snowshoe Champion Deborah Livingston used a 1st, three 2nd's and two 3rd's (as well as a 7th while lost at NFM) to almost double her total point accumulation to move into third in the overall standings. Laura Clark added close to 400 points to her total, and remained in 4th place with 1022.30. The top four ladies are all within 36.32 points of each other after 31 events.

Our top three lifetime point producers continued to lead the way past two thousand accumulated points in 2003. Ken Clark (826.40 pts in '03), Bob Dion (850.22 pts in '03) and Leigh Schmitt (780.64 pts in '03) will have opportunity to eclipse three thousand-points in 2004. That is a lot of high finishes at a lot of races through the years!

Edzu Alibozek

IS THERE A LOT OF MONEY TO BE MADE BY DIRECTING A SNOWSHOE RACE?

A few years ago I read an article on why one would tackle the chore of race directing. Most of the reasons given were rooted in altruism, but there among those was also “make some money”.

I know that most of you who organize events of all types are laughing pretty hard at this. But, for those who maybe wonder where all the money from those lofty race fees goes, I am here to settle the myth.

I can only speak from the standpoint of directing a series of snowshoe events over the last 8 years. I will use as my example the South Pond, Hawley Kiln and Moody Spring events.

We had a really great season of snowshoeing in 2003, not only with an abundance of snow but with a high turnout of participants as well. As a matter of fact, we hit highs for attendance at just about every event!

But this in itself doesn't mean that we were able to bankroll a surplus of funds. We chose to do some interesting things throughout the season to pass along some of our good fortune to each participant instead.

- We gave free entry to everyone over 65 years old at these three events; not many were able to take advantage this year but from here on out I think we will be allowing 2 or 3 in each year after.
- We also allowed youngsters under 12 years old free entries. Again, just a few participated last season.
- As usual, we allowed pre-registers to subtract a dollar for each prior finish of an event. This isn't a huge amount of money, but it must add up to a hundred or so dollars. It is a great way to show our appreciation to those who continue to come back year after year.
- Prior to the season starting we decided to add to the incentive of purchasing a pair of Dion Snowshoes by giving free entry to South Pond for anyone who bought a pair. Well, it worked out well and we continued with a couple extra at HKK so we gave out over 40 free entries total for the 2003 season for Dion Snowshoe purchases.
- At both Hawley Kiln and Moody Spring we dropped the day-of entry from the announced \$20 to \$15. The elevating cost of gasoline helped us make this decision, and we appreciated the support of so many coming out day-of to participate. We had close to 25 day-of entries each of those two races, so we gave up about \$250 total with the reduction.
- We continued our tradition of donating to the Hawley Firefighters Association. This season we were able to contribute \$250. We are getting close to \$1000 lifetime contributed to the Firefighters of Hawley!

All of these items were things we wanted and chose to do. There are the normal expenses included with organizing events also:

RRCA Membership/ Insurance	\$260.00 for the season
Applications and Postage	\$70.00 copies/ \$144.00 postage
New Stove for Cooking	\$61.98
Propane Fuel	\$10.00
Food for South Pond and HKK	\$228.42
Tee Shirts	\$816.05
Ribbon for marking	\$10.55
Replace folding saw for maint.	\$18.02
South Face Farm Sugarhouse	\$851.00 (86 people/food tax tip)

Before anyone thinks we spent more than we made, however, let me say that we have enough in the bank to cover our RRCA club insurance due in December, for 2004, with a little left over for application printing. I print some of the packets at home, and Konrad Karolczuk and I hand them out at Breakneck and Dunbar Trail Races to save postage cost.

We were helped along also:

- Seth Roberts of FL Roberts Company helped our series out financially for the second year in a row.
- Red Bull supplied all of our drink fuel for us.
- Hammer Nutrition provided us with individual packets of hamergel for the HKK and Moody Races.
- Dion Snowshoes provided us with loaners. Big deal you say? Consider we always had to pay shipping to return loaners from other companies in the past.
- WMAC graciously supplied us with race numbers for the events. WMAC also allowed us to utilize their fine web site at www.runwmac.com for results and stories through the year. We also ended up mailing out results and stories via email, rather than hard copies through the USPS. This saved us several hundred dollars by the end of the season.

I am sure along the way there were several other helpful gifts too, I just can't recall them off the top of my head. So, while we can never promise enough snow, or enough help to put these events on, it at least looks like for 2004 we should be all right financially to start the season off! That is a huge load off my mind. In the past we always started the season off with only \$30 or so left over from the prior year, which left us in the negative before the season even started.

I also want to once again thank everyone who participated in 2003 and added to our enthusiasm. We appreciate it.

WMAC TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 2004

Sunday, December 28, 2003 Woodford, VT
3rd Annual WOODFORD 3.5 Mile

Saturday January 3, 2004 Day, NY
2nd Annual SARATOGA BIATHLON 5KM

Sunday January 4, 2004 Andover, MA
MERRIMACK RIVER TRAIL 4 Miles

Saturday January 10, 2004 Florida, MA
7th Annual SOUTH POND SHUFFLE 4 Mile

Saturday January 17, 2004 Adams, MA
5th Annual GREYLOCK GLEN 3.5 Mile

Sunday January 25, 2004 Pittsfield, MA
2nd Annual CURLY's RECORD RUN 4 Miles

Sunday, February 1, 2004 Saratoga, NY
5th Annual SARATOGA WINTERFEST 5km

Saturday, February 7, 2004 Northfield, MA
2nd Annual NORTHFIELD MTN 7.25km

Saturday, February 14, 2004 Saratoga, NY
2nd Annual CAMP SARATOGA 8km

Sunday February 15, 2004 Sturbridge, MA
2nd HYLAND ORCHARD 5km

Saturday, February 21, 2004 Hawley, MA
7th Annual HAWLEY KILN KLASSIC 7 & 4.5 Miles

Saturday, February 28, 2004 Adams, MA
COVERED BRIDGE 3.5 & 8.0 Miles

Saturday, March 6, 2004 Hawley, MA
4th sort of Annual MOODY SPRINGS 15km & 10km

Saturday or Sunday, March 13 or 14th 2004 Lanesboro, MA
MOBY DICK 2.5 & 9 Miles

From Jack Quinn, co-director of the Woodford event --

"I will be talking to Steve at Prospect Mt again, to try to convince him to lower his price. Love those warm toilets and the woodstove. We could design a course that didn't go quite so high and did more on the base trails. Common Woodford complaints were that the trails were too deep in the snow to pass and it was a short, exhausting course."

DION DEMO DAYS/ FUN-RUNS

Sunday, December 21, 2003 Savoy, MA
Dion Demo Day #1 4 Miles *North Pond*

Saturday, January 31, 2004 N. Adams, MA
Dion Demo Day #2 2.5 Miles *Windsor Pond*

Sunday, March 21, 2003 Florida, MA
Dion Demo Day #3 2.5 Miles *Blackstone Farm*

WMAC TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 2004

Events listed in red will be new additions to the snowshoe circuit, at least as of this report. All four of these were held last season either as a stand-alone race (Hyland), or as fun run type events with good interest.

Merrimack River Trail was held as a spur of the moment fun run snowshoe late last season, and will be directed by Dave Dunham. 4 regular snowshoers to our circuit participated in last seasons fun run here, and liked what they saw. As we attract more and more eastern Massachusetts participants it places us in a position where we need to have more events available toward that area. Lucky for us, Dave is willing to tackle a second directing chore for this coming winter.

Hyland drew a great crowd of 55 participants for it's first year effort, and will be directed by Gary Bridgman. This is a pure central Massachusetts location, held at an Orchard in the quiet community of Sturbridge, Massachusetts. This also helps the eastern Massachusetts crowd with a short drive, and is also close to the Connecticut group.

Paul Hartwig's "Covered Bridge" event begins and ends at the same spot as his mid January Greylock 5km, the gazebo at Greylock Glen. The course is different than that event, including more hills, and will offer a short and a long option. A cookout will be planned for after, much like South Pond/ Glen/ Curly's/ HKK etc. Last season's fun run event drew a beautiful crowd of 26 shoers and several more Dion Demo Day attendees.

The final new addition will be Moby Dick, which we snowshoed as a fun run last March drawing a group of 20 participants. Moby Dick has been around since 1995, and for three seasons acted as the lead off event for the New England Grand Tree Trail Racing Season. Beth and Brad Herder, Curly Record Run directors, are considering organizing this event with help from the Pittsfield Boys Cross Country Team.

With a few more events to chose from, the participants who hope to officially finish the series will not have to be so rigid regarding racing every weekend, and missing a week or two wont be that big a deal. Also, more events will make bad weather dates less a factor, as losing an event wont be that bad.

I will question the Race Directors before the next SnoNews update (sometime in August) regarding how many events will need to be finished to gain an age group or overall title. Last season it was based on best 6 of 10.

KEENEY'S MAINE SERIES

Sunday, January 18, 2004 **SCHOODIC**

Sunday, February 1, 2004 **BEECH HILL**

Sunday, February 8, 2004 **TRENTON**

Sunday, February 15, 2004 **GREAT POND**

TBA **BANGOR**

U.S.S.S.A. UPDATE

There are some questions regarding local USSSA Regional Qualifiers for the 2004 season. Mark Elmore was sure that the Lake Placid event would not be available as a qualifier in 2004, so New York is currently without a qualifier. There are some rumors regarding possible replacements for the New York region:

- One of Laura Clark's events would replace Lake Placid; Saratoga Winterfest or Camp Saratoga could step in as the qualifier.
- Dave Boles and Sheryl Wheeler suggested Gore Mountain Snowshoe Race as a choice for the New York Qualifier. Supposedly, the Race Director is looking to attract more participants to the site and a "qualifier" would more than likely do the trick.

On the New England side, Northfield Mountain performed wonderfully as a "Qualifier" site in 2003. It had much going for it, in my opinion. So, where do we stand for 2004?

- Dave Dunham has confirmed "yes" on Northfield acting as a USSSA Qualifier for the Northeast Region once again. One thing he will not be able to do is offer the 2004 USSSA Membership at a discount rate.
- Mark Elmore reports that someone in Burlington, Vermont would like to conduct a USSSA Qualifying event at the Champlain Valley Exposition Fairgrounds.
- Mark also reported that Peter Keeney has offered to hoist a Qualifier in Maine. Peter has been at the helm of a three race series that looks to expand in 2004. He is determined and capable of bringing an exciting group of events together into a nice little series. Peter has been organizing up there the last several years and is ahead of the point where the WMAC Snowshoe Series was after 3 years of events, so there is hope on the horizon for northern New England.

As for the USSSA Championship, we have the following to report:

- The USSSA Championship is being held on the West Coast in 2004 (California looks like the leader at this point), and tentatively set for Alaska in 2005. Regarding the 2004 event, Mark Elmore reports that there have been initial talks with the Squaw Valley region of California, but nothing definite yet.
- My personal feelings, which I sent along to Mark Elmore after the 2003 USSSA Championship in Utah, is that the USSSA Championship should be held at a location under 3000' – 4000' elevation. It just doesn't allow for equal footing having one race designated as the Championship at an altitude of 6000' or higher. I know that this kept 15-20 New Englanders away from the event in Salt Lake City this past year.

U.S.S.S.A. UPDATE

- To be selfish, I wouldn't mind seeing the USSSA Championship event held in New York each season due to the USSSA organization being housed there.
- Dave Dunham goes a bit further on a limb than I do, as he has stated that he believes that having the national in California next season and Alaska to follow will most likely kill the sport or at the very least set it back. Dave wonders "why have a National event where there is no current base of members?"

I looked over the results from the 2003 Nationals (Salt Lake City, Utah). I have to agree with what Dave suggests, as California and Alaska did not send very many representatives to the Utah event (2 each). Where did the participants come from?

- Colorado sent the most total participants, 19.
- New York sent 8.
- Massachusetts sent 6.
- Vermont sent 4.
- New Hampshire sent 3.
- Maine and Connecticut sent 1 each.

So little New England sent 15 by itself and adding in New York jumps our area up to 23 out of 63 finishers. A case can almost be made for including Virginia with us also as Carl Bruggeman represented that state solo in Utah and he participated at Curly's and Northfield as well as the Lake Placid Qualifier in these parts.

So Colorado and New York/ New England seem like they have enough participants to support a National Championship, but who else?

- I found that Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin sent 3 participants each for a total of 9 out of 63. That is pretty worthy effort and the travel wasn't easy for them either.

It seems funny that we can attract 60 – 100 snowshoers fairly regularly, all winter long, at event after event, without really doing any advertising, yet interest in something like a National Championship in a resort area doesn't seem to encourage high number of participants. I believe that Dave Dunham has spent an incredible amount of time participating at, traveling to, reporting on and being involved with running events of one type or another for more than half his life. If anyone has a finger on the pulse of snowshoeing at a National level, he would be my pick. All our race directors do a fantastic job of organizing their individual events, but none of the rest of us has desired to go beyond our own backyard to see how things are done on a larger playing field. I believe we need to follow Dave's view on this, and support these views in the near and far future. I know he will keep us informed.

F.Ed