

WMAC SNOWSHOE SERIES 2002

2002 WMAC SNOWSHOE AGE GROUP CHAMPS (top 3 each division if possible)

08 - 11	XXXXXXXXXX		Galen Stump	16.67
12 - 15	Crystal Guilder	34.07	Nicholas Wojciak	80.22
	Alessandra Hall	12.09	Justin McCarthy	15.39
16 - 19	Emily Meachem	53.62	Bryan Dragon	98.08
	Holly Albetski	21.80	Brett Smith	87.91
	XXXXXXXXXX		Calvin Hardin	83.52
20 - 24	Carrie Trimarchi	64.84	Jason Reed	162.18
	XXXXXXXXXX		Joey Wintersteiner	69.23
	XXXXXXXXXX		Todd Worsham	42.31
25 - 29	Deb Livingston	239.07	Leigh Schmitt	400.00
	Lisa Schmitt	132.78	Scott Livingston	276.68
	Stephanie Nephew	82.42	Kelly Herrington	164.38
30 - 34	Tiffany Mann	120.12	Richard Bolt	193.13
	Candice Posis	44.93	Dave Hannon	178.34
	Janet Uhde	40.38	Chris Trager	96.15
35 - 39	Darlene McCarthy	222.37	Ken Clark	386.28
	Sheryl Wheeler	158.97	James Preite	363.61
	Laurel Shortell	139.22	Edward Alibozek	333.03
40 - 44	Barbara Sorrell	176.33	Jan Rancatti	161.76
	Sally Goade	138.90	John Aldrich	149.43
	Maureen Roberts	101.33	Larry Dragon	135.73
45 - 49	Marcia Whitney	65.93	Bob Dion	360.20
	Joann Spinelli	51.65	Bruce Marvonek	323.24
	Ellen Hoover	46.15	Dave Wallace	266.47
50 - 54	Laura Clark	141.75	Seth Roberts	236.97
	Carol Trombley	29.67	Peter Lipka	174.25
	Ann Dobrowolski	1.45	Bill Harper	75.82
55 - 59	Carol Kane	120.79	David Boles	268.77
	Ellen Mach	4.18	Bob Massaro	135.84
	XXXXXXXXXX		Bob Worsham	128.60
60 - 64	XXXXXXXXXX		Ed Alibozek, Jr.	276.84
	XXXXXXXXXX		Jack Quinn	264.60
	XXXXXXXXXX		John Pelton	174.18
65 - 69	XXXXXXXXXX		Bob McFarland	25.27
	XXXXXXXXXX		Jules Seltzer	14.10
70 - 72	XXXXXXXXXX		Richard Busa	146.09
	XXXXXXXXXX		Robert Columbine	1.10
73 - 75	XXXXXXXXXX		Leon Beverly	86.28

We ended up using best four scores for overall and the age group champions (due to abbreviated season). Some age groups were won with less than four finishes, but the majority were based on best four finishes.

We had some really great races and lots of fun this season, despite the winter sort of just quitting on us after January 21st. Prospect Mountain was a gas and a great way to begin (early too!). South Pond was next, and it seemed to help gather back our momentum after the fist Saratoga event was

cancelled. The old magic was present, and the vibe from January 12th carried over into the Greylock Glen the following week. We had a great snowfall for the Glen, making for a huge turnout. Everything seemed to be headed in the right direction at this point, but in actuality we had about three more days of winter in New England.

The Hollis, New Hampshire Beaver Brook event came up next and was hit hard by the warm weather. Those of us who ventured out that way were treated to a fine event that supplied us plenty of fun, although it was limited to three loops in a field. Everyone who went realized that we were lucky that we had the snow that we did for this one. Saratoga SPA was next, and while there was some snowfall it ended up covered with a very hard thick crust of ice that was impenetrable. We raced on what amounted to being on a frozen lake. Once again, it was fun and most everyone was plenty happy to be enjoying the winter outdoors, but I think most of us started to realize that this winter was on its way out.

The two Hawley events didn't happen due to lack of snow cover. This was the first time in eight years of snowshoeing in Hawley that we didn't have decent snow in February. There was snow covering the ground, but it was so shallow that after two or three people went through everyone would have been hitting roots, dirt, sticks and rocks underneath.

As for some notable performances (the overall champions), the 2002 WMAC Snowshoe Series Men's champion was the defending 2001 champion, Leigh Schmitt. Leigh was victorious at all four of the races he entered, including new course records at South Pond and Saratoga SPA. He looked to be super fit, and added a course record for Prospect too (a first year event). Runner up was former WMAC Champion (1999 and 2000) Kenny Clark. Kenny had another consistent season on the snowshoes, and I don't know if anyone enjoys snowshoe racing as much as he appears to.

On the ladies side, Sheryl Wheeler and Inge Aiken started off the season making things look like the ladies division was headed toward new heights. Sheryl took a dominating win at Prospect as Inge broke a shoe and DNF'd. South Pond found Sheryl and Inge in a race down to the wire, with Sheryl winning by a mere step. Debbie Livingston was in third, and she would begin to creep up the standings from this point on.

Greylock Glen added another close finish as Jennifer Rapaport closed out a 40 second victory over Debbie Livingston. Our ladies champion was up for grabs as we felt that any of four women would have a shot at the title in 2002, it just would matter who continued to show up.

Laurel Shortell shoed to a win at Beaver Brook, adding a third overall winner to the ladies series. It moved Laurel up in the standings and the season appeared to be even more unpredictable.

Saratoga SPA was next, and unknown to all it would also be the finale. It was a brutally quick event on hard packed ice, with leg speed playing a big part in deciding the winner. Stephanie Nephew skated to an eleven second win over Debbie Livingston, and we had our 4th ladies winner out of 5 events, as well as our 2002 champion.

Debbie Livingston had the finishes she needed to close the season as the 2002 WMAC Ladies Snowshoe Champion. A pair of second place and a third against competition that is ever changing and getting better and better each season. Debbie is a really great young lady and very successful trailrunner; once she spends a little more time getting used to the running snowshoes I believe we will see even more improvement in her times. She really packs a lot of energy into a very small package, and for everyone who is on the smaller side, the snowshoes will take a little more time to get comfortable in.

3rd Annual SARATOGA WINTERFEST 5KM SNOWSHOE RACE

WMAC February 3, 2002

SPA PARK

Saratoga Springs, NY

WMAC

1	Leigh Schmitt	29M	18:48	100.00%
2	Richard Bolt	31M	18:51	98.90%
3	Ben Nephew	26M	20:20	97.80%
4	Ken Clark	39M	20:43	96.70%
5	John Noonan	42M	21:27	95.60%
6	Scott Livingston	29M	21:58	94.51%
7	John Pelton	62M	21:59	93.41%
8	Paul Arciero	39M	22:08	92.31%
9	Jim Preite	38M	22:15	91.21%
10	Philip Borgese	42M	23:10	90.11%
11	Michael Robertson	29M	23:27	89.01%
12	Brett Smith	17M	23:44	87.91%
13	Jay Laitenberger	28M	23:43	86.81%
14	Nick Lamado	43M	24:09	85.71%
15	Edward Alibizek	39M	24:10	84.62%
16	Calvin Hardin	16M	24:15	83.52%
17	Stephanie Nephew	25F	24:33	82.42%
18	Debbie Livingston	27F	24:44	81.32%
19	Nicholas Wojciak	15M	24:51	80.22%
20	Bob Dion	46M	25:00	79.12%
21	Dave Fiorini	40M	25:30	78.02%
22	David Boles	55M	25:50	76.92%
23	Bill Harper	54M	25:51	75.82%
24	Bruce Marvonek	48M	26:07	74.73%
25	Ed Alibozek, Jr.	62M	26:20	73.63%
26	Patrick Hoffman	33M	26:26	72.53%
27	Tom Lansing	50M	26:38	71.43%
28	Keith Meyer	44M	26:41	70.33%
29	Joey Wintersteiner	20M	27:09	69.23%
30	Robert Trimarchi	32M	27:29	68.13%
31	JoAnn Stevens	39F	27:33	67.03%
32	Marcia Whitney	49F	27:50	65.93%
33	Carrie Trimarchi	24F	27:55	64.84%
34	Jeff Allen	56M	28:08	63.74%
35	Paul Hartwig	45M	28:14	62.64%
36	Jack Quinn	63M	28:21	61.54%
37	Robert Wasiczko	44M	28:23	60.44%
38	Stephanie Landy	42F	28:42	59.34%
39	Tony Mangano	55M	29:39	58.24%
40	Peter Lipka	50M	29:49	57.14%
41	Darlene McCarthy	39F	29:50	56.04%
42	Maureen Roberts	44F	29:51	54.95%
43	Chuck Trimarchi	55M	29:55	53.85%
44	Barbara Sorrell	44F	30:17	52.75%
45	Joann Spinelli	48F	30:45	51.65%
46	Sally Goade	43F	30:54	50.55%
47	Lisa Schmitt	27F	31:08	49.45%
48	Jared Fuller	16M	31:12	48.35%
49	Bob Massaro	58M	31:42	47.25%
50	Erik Fuller	31M	31:51	46.15%
51	Aurora Lamparetta	29F	31:54	45.06%
52	Mike Trimarchi	27M	32:05	43.96%
53	Rich Busa	72M	32:28	42.86%
54	Beth Trapasso	40F	32:39	41.76%
55	Jim Gleason	49M	32:40	40.66%
56	Ellie George	46F	32:49	39.56%
57	Steve Madden	38M	33:02	38.46%
58	Martin Glendon	55M	33:10	37.36%
59	Brian McCarthy	41M	33:18	36.26%
60	Laurel Shortell	35F	33:28	35.17%
61	Crystal Guildler	15F	34:21	34.07%
62	Steven McAlpine	41M	34:37	32.97%
63	William Wojciak	41M	34:38	31.87%
64	Maggie Quinn	42F	34:45	30.77%
65	Carol Trombley	51F	34:52	29.67%
66	Jeffrey Ogle	38M	35:28	28.57%

67	Greg Taylor	55M	35:42	27.47%
68	Mary Quinn	39F	35:53	26.37%
69	Bob McFarland	68M	36:08	25.28%
70	Bob Madden	50M	36:44	24.18%
71	Lori Christina	41F	38:31	23.08%
72	Meg O'Leary	31F	38:58	21.98%
73	Randall Palmer	47M	39:08	20.88%
74	Konrad Karolczuk	49M	39:27	19.78%
75	Gary Emery	54M	39:35	18.68%
76	Amy Morse	25F	39:56	17.58%
77	Claudine Preite	35F	40:54	16.48%
78	Collin Plummer	16M	41:34	15.39%
79	Carolyn Hampton	42F	42:16	14.29%
80	Wendy Pokalsky	35F	42:17	13.19%
81	A. Bange-Hall	15F	44:56	12.09%
82	Julie Ryan	36F	45:01	10.99%
83	Lauren Rothermel	26F	47:27	9.89%
84	Chad Gates	27M	47:28	8.79%
85	Eileen Battle	45F	48:08	7.69%
86	Dan Goade	45M	52:16	6.59%
87	Pam Stianson	34F	53:46	5.50%
88	Tricia Delly	36F	53:47	4.40%
89	Martha Hojnowski	37F	54:29	3.30%
90	Suzanne Wonder	41F	59:07	2.20%
91	Robert Columbine	71M	59:36	1.10%

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1st ANNUAL BEAVER BROOK ~5KM

January 26, 2002 Hollis, NH

1	Dave Dunham	17:39	100%
2	Stephen Peterson	19:15	95%
3	Ken Clark	20:09	90%
4	Edward Alibozek	22:23	85%
5	Bruce Marvonek	23:26	80%
6	Jim Preite	23:26	75%
7	Scott Bradley	25:42	70%
8	Allen Beebe	27:11	65%
9	Ken Deary	27:27	60%
10	John Aldrich	27:43	55%
11	Dough Connelly	28:45	50%
12	Bob Massaro	29:02	45%
13	Michael Amerello	29:54	40%
14	Laurel Shortell	30:56	35%
15	Richard Busa	32:17	30%
16	Rhory Lee	33:34	25%
17	Leon Beverly	35:35	20%
18	Konrad Karolczuk	37:02	15%
19	Sath Sakhorn	37:59	10%
20	Chris Beverly	39:42	5%
21	Stacia Hunter	DNF	
22	Sara Lucia	DNF	

CONGRATULATIONS

We had six folks accomplish the feat of participating and finishing all five official events.

Thanks and Congratulations to: Laurel Shortell, Richard Busa, Ken Clark, Konrad Karolczuk, Bruce Marvonek and James Preite.

WINTERFEST '02 BEHIND THE SCENES

Directing a snowshoe race is roughly equivalent to inviting about a hundred or so friends and potential friends to a big family reunion in a large outdoor area with primitive or possibly non-existent facilities. To pull this off successfully, a race director must know how to beg for loaner snowshoes, mark a trail and not get lost while doing so, recruit volunteers who enjoy doing large-scale cooking on a Coleman stove, orchestrate an effective snow dance, coordinate travel plans of out-of-towners, etc. Rather like the mix of skills required of your average, everyday housewife.

I was determined not to let this ever-expanding to-do list get the better of me as I pressed on with my plans for Winterfest 2002. This year, however, winter hesitated, then stalled. By the time the final countdown rolled around, I had become intimately familiar with every weather site on the internet, including the one that says "outdoor temperature (pick a number)...feels like (pick another number)." I imagined dozens of weathermen rolling dice to see whose turn it would be to poke their hand out the door. With such scientific predictions, why should I worry? I felt more reassured when the Oneida Indian Nation of Lake George was summoned to do a snow dance for that area's winter festival. Unfortunately, their sphere of influence didn't quite extend to Saratoga. We got some great snow, followed by freezing rain to seal it in, topped off by lots of rain to polish it up. The only good thing about this mix was that most of the rain just rolled off the thick, icy crust.

The rain began just as I headed out to decorate the course with blue streamers. Undaunted, I pressed on. At that point the "snow" was an icy mixture that was still penetrable by serious crampons. The iced tree branches were hanging at a convenient, easy-to-reach height and I soon finished my work. The following day I returned with Jeff to position trail flags and lay down directional arrows. I always worry about those arrows. Composed of an environmentally friendly mixture of ground chalk and sugar, they usually attract hungry dogs of all descriptions. But this time the slick, icy surface kept the dogs and their people off the trails. With that worry nicely taken care of, we got down to business, valiantly trying to ignore the fact that every few steps uphill were accompanied by a backwards slide whenever our crampons refused to grip. Concerned about the safety of the runners, we secured a park snowmobile to break up the surface. Not having been designed for Arctic conditions, however, it soon impaled itself on a particularly thick iceberg and was declared missing in action.

And so, on to the next problem. Where were all my painstakingly tied blue ribbons? Had the Greylock Bandits extended their territory? And was I worried? You bet...until I happened to glance upward to check for snow clouds. There, waving cheerfully twenty feet above my head was a blue ribbon! Glancing further downhill, I spotted another and still another. Bingo! The ice had melted overnight, freeing all those captive branches. No way would any runner ever see those markers. No way would we ever get those ribbons down, either, short of balancing an extension ladder on the slanting, icy surface. That course was permanently marked—a souvenir for all future Winterfests and a conversation piece for summer hikers.

And so, on to Plan C, which involved planting roughly 1,000 strategically placed orange flags. Only trouble was, it had not occurred to us to take along an ice pick! Many weary hours and dented crampons later, we accomplished our mission. As we were trudging back to the car, we encountered a family heading out for a preview of the course.

"Great snow you have here," said the Dad.

"Could have fooled me, " I thought...I guess it's all a matter of perspective!

P.S. One question still remains: Was Farmer Ed's attempt to pass still upright competitors while sliding downhill a legal move, even if his fall was not intentional? And what if it were?

Thanks to all the WMACers who kept the faith and sent in their entry forms despite the weather. I figured you must know something that I didn't!

Laura Clark

HAWLEY KILN RISES FROM THE ASHES

Good things come to those who wait. We were able to have a Hawley Kiln in 2002, and I still can't believe it. I tell people that when we started organizing snowshoe events (about 8 years ago), all we had were fun runs that were very low key and minimally attended. We usually had 3 or 4 people, but once a season we would get close to the magic "double digits". That was a real achievement, getting 10, or 12 people at once.

Those snowshoe fun runs were not really planned in advance. Usually a few days prior to heading out someone would make a few phone calls (we didn't have internet at the beginning), and if you could free up time for that day, you attended. It was usually a last minute thing whenever it would snow. When we were done we would stop someplace along the way and eat.

The Kiln sort of worked out that way this year. On Wednesday (3/20) we were getting snow, and I started to wonder if it would be enough? I called my father to see what the total accumulation was in Adams, and I emailed Tom McCrumm to see if he could check Hawley State Forest for us. I typed out a quick message for the snowshoe list of emails – and let people know that the final decision would be Friday at 6:30 PM.

On Thursday, by noon all the snow we had in CT was gone. It was about 60 degrees and I was wondering if Tom was going to laugh at me for thinking the Kiln event could happen. Tom responded with an excited "lets do it! There is about a foot of snow in the forest..." The rest was up to all of you who were willing to improvise and remain flexible for last minute plans.

The little bit of fun we all had on March 23rd is important to me, and I would like to thank all of you who participated. It helped me travel backwards, to a simpler time, and the trip was fantastic! It was a beautiful day in the forest, and on each of your faces when Paul, Tippi and I passed you by. That's another thing; for real races sanctioned by the RRCA don't allow dogs to be on the course. I would like to thank everyone for being tolerant of my dog and not getting ripped at me for letting her play in the snow with us. That was really cool.

I returned to the forest on Monday to remove the ribbons. It has always been my favorite part of a race or event, to take the ribbons down. I usually like to wait about a week, so that when I return and trace over the tracks everyone made I can think about all the different things that happened before, during and after the event. Monday was another incredible day, and the lack of winter this season isn't looking so bad now.

It was very nice and thoughtful of Marc Lombard to bring all the soda, and it really was something else for Mark Syrett to bring his stove and Chowder to cook off his tailgate; that really made the day for me! Thanks guys! Many of you ventured out to South Face Farm, I hope the visit was enjoyable and the food delicious! I know Tom McCrumm appreciates your business!

5th ANNUAL HAWLEY KILN MARCH 23, 2002

1.	Dave Wallace	7 miles	1:25:17
2.	Wayne Stocker	7 miles	1:32:00
3.	Marc Lombard	7 miles	1:41:09
4.	Larry Dragon	7 miles	1:46:56
5.	Mark "Slug" Syrett	7 miles	1:58:30
6.	Laurel Shortell	7 miles	2:07:18
7.	Marty Glendon	7 miles	2:07:56
8.	Richard Busa	7 miles	2:18:30
9.	Aaron Fitts	7 miles	2:20:39
10.	Emily Meachem	7 miles	2:20:39
11.	Paul Hartwig	7 miles	2:27:03
12.	Edward Alibozek	7 miles	2:27:04
13.	Tippi	7 miles	2:27:05
14.	Jules Seltzer	7 miles	2:36:55
15.	Jeff Clark	7 miles	2:36:56
16.	Bob Massaro	4 miles	57:13
17.	Judy Alibozek	4 miles	1:40:00
18.	Ed Alibozek Jr	4 miles	1:40:01

"BARNYARD AWARDS" 2002 SNOWSHOE SERIES

The DRAGON Award: Named for the first male champion of the WMAC Snowshoe Series, Bryan Dragon in 1998. Overall Male Champion for the 2002 season is Leigh Schmitt. Leigh totaled a perfect score of 400 points, and set course records at Mt Prospect, South Pond and Saratoga Spa's Winterfest! Leigh is a repeat champion, as he also topped our charts in '00.

The LAUREL Award: Named for the first female champion of the WMAC Snowshoe Series, Laurel Rollins in 1998. Overall Female Champion is Debbie Livingston with 239.07 points in three events. Debbie collected more points than any other female snowshoer despite participating at only three of the five events. Her totals were that good.

Men's SOY (Snowshoer of the year): Kenny Clark participated at all the WMAC Snowshoe Series events for a fourth straight season, leading the total point parade yet again. Ken worked his way toward a pair of 2nd place finishes, one 3rd, one 4th and a 5th. It is a pleasure to have him competing at our events, and he is our 2002 Male Snowshoer of the Year.

Women's SOY: We didn't see as much of Sheryl Wheeler as we had hoped, but for the two events she did compete at, she was dynamite. Overall winner at both Prospect and South Pond, including a new ladies course record at the Shuffle, Sheryl was an impressive sight to witness while shoeing through the snow. She is our Female WMAC Snowshoer of the Year.

Men's ROY (Rookie of the year): Jan Rancatti stayed local while participating at South Pond and the Glen, and picked up a 1st and a 2nd in his age division. New to the WMAC Snowshoe Series but not to running, Jan was a welcome addition to the races in 2002.

Women's ROY: Laurel Shortell is the only lady who finished all five of the WMAC events in 2002, including an overall victory in the ladies division at Beaver Brook. Laurel has true spirit for the winter, and it is attracting participants like her that make organizing events an easy task. Seemingly glad for the duration of the events, Laurel is a much deserving winner of our 2002 Women's Rookie of the Year award.

Honor mentions, Rookie/ Male: Four young men stand out as deserving honorable mention status for 2002. First off, Galen Stump had a fantastic snowshoe race at South Pond and it has been a while since we had someone under the age of ten finishing one of these things. Great work Galen! Secondly, Bob Massaro finished right in the middle of the pack at three events, and he exhibits a great attitude for the sport. We need to thank Ed Buckley for bringing Bob out to his first event, South Pond. Lastly, we have the reigning Officers of WMAC to acknowledge; President Ed Saharczewski and Vice President John Aldrich. Eddie finished South Pond and Greylock Glen looking like a natural on snowshoes, and he will continue to improve year to year. John finished three events, the two pure Western Mass races and Beaver Brook. It was a close call for John in the 40 – 44 age group; he finished second to Jan Rancatti for the title.

Honor mentions, Rookie/ Female: It was even harder to limit the ladies honorable mentions for ROY to four, but here it goes. The leading candidate is Tiffany Mann, who won a 2002 WMAC Age Division Title in the 30 – 34 bracket, and won her age group at South Pond and the Glen. Fantastic performances at both of those races Tiffany! Next up is Sally Goade, who battled back and forth with Barbara Sorrell for the 40 – 44 age group title but came up a little shy. Sally participated at three events in her first season, and was 2nd twice and 4th once in her age division. Excellent performances Sally! Kerry Combs started the season off right with an overall victory at the Mt Prospect 5km race, and continued her good fortune with a pair of 4th place age group finishes at South Pond and Greylock Glen. That is some incredible snowshoeing for a first year racer! The final honorable mention rookie of the year is Julie Ryan, who missed the opening events but had a ball at Greylock Glen and Saratoga SPA Winterfest. She has fast running genes in her blood, so she'll be one to watch in the future.

POY (Performance of year, Men): Leigh Schmitt really destroyed an incredible field of snowshoers at Mt Prospect to lead off our series. It was a fairly long race to begin the season with, but Leigh didn't appear bothered by that, and the big win seemed to catapult him toward several course records and four out of four overall victories. Runner ups are Dave Dunham and Rich Bolt for going way beyond ordinary to get the Beaver Brook race in the books, as well as for traveling all over the country representing all of New England at snowshoe races. Thanks guys!

POY Women: The Performance of the year for the ladies was the sprint to the finish at South Pond between Sheryl Wheeler and Inge Aiken. This was one of those moments that I am glad I had the opportunity to watch, and will be a part of South Pond folklore for ages. It was awesome!!!!

The K2 Award: Given to the most improved snowshoer, named for Konrad Karolczuk who improved a ton from year one to year two. The 2002 recipient is William Ross. Bill has been snowshoeing with us a couple years, and came from a background of little exercise, extra weight and a couple packs of smokes a day. Bill stopped smoking, lost weight and plans on running the Boston Marathon in the future. He also climbed up the standings noticeably, especially his fantastic performance at this season's Glen race (22nd place). Honorable mention goes to a long time WMAC member, Martin Glendon, who shows up and completes just about every WMAC event, and has fun. Martin has distinctly developed his skills on the snowshoes, and improves each time out.

For the ladies, Barbara Sorrell won her age division and finished four events in the middle of the overall pack. She manages to have fun, but she is also working hard while shuffling through the snow. Your effort has been rewarded, Barbara! You get the female K2 award for 2002. Honorable mention goes to Maureen Roberts, who won her division at Greylock and took a second at Saratoga. That is great running Maureen, congratulations!

Race of the year: All the events were really great and all were special in their own way too. We managed to have fun this winter, despite weather troubles. All the events are deserving, but the one that stands out for 2002 is the Mt Prospect event in Woodford, Vermont. Jack Quinn and John Pelton really worked hard at organizing this early season event and it was splendid. Challenging course and a great big old lodge to hang out in afterward, what more could we have asked for on the last week of December 2001? Thanks Jack and John, your race is designated WMAC Snowshoe Race of the Year for 2002.

The WORSHAM Award: Named for Erin Worsham and her ability to do a couple extra loops at South Pond in 1998, this award annually goes out to someone who got lost during a race. We didn't seem to have any problems with runners going off course this year, but we did lose a couple miles off the Beaver Brook race and three races were lost totally.

HANNON Award: Given to the top snowshoe article of the year, named after NER's *Trail Troll* Dave Hannon. This award goes to Laura Clark for "A Fairy Tale... Sort of..." This was fantastic writing Laura, thank you for sharing with us.

BEVERLY Award: Awarded to the top snowshoer over age of 60, in honor of two time champion at South Pond Leon Beverly. This one goes to the Older Farmer Ed, who engaged himself in a real tight battle with Jack Quinn for the 60+ title. Ed Jr also found time to mark and unmark the South Pond Shuffle course, help mark out the Greylock Glen course, bring wood and stoves/ barrels to the Glen, and remove trash throughout the day at South Pond.

SILVERBACK: Awarded to the top snowshoer over age 70, this goes out to Richard Busa, fittingly, since his email handle includes reference to the "silverback" of ape lore. Great season once again Richard, it is a pleasure seeing you compete.

January 26, 2002

Volunteer of the year: We are going to call this the "CURLY" award from here out, since Curly Voll won it for so many years early on. This year the winner is Laura Clark, who does a ton, but lugging around 15 pair of snowshoes would have won it alone. Thank you for everything Laura!

Comeback of year: We had lost Wayne Stocker and family to Alaska for a couple of years, but we got him back for 2002! A race is always a little better when Wayne is around to participate; we are a lucky bunch to get the Stocker family back to New England.

The STREAK: One lone individual has managed to complete all the official WMAC Snowshoe events over the last five years. There have been 21 official events, and he has 21 finishes. In many cases, he completed several of the courses two or three times in a single weekend, putting up and taking down markers as well as finishing the race. The STREAK belongs to Konrad Karolczuk, aka K2. Keep on truckin' Konrad!

25 Ones to Watch: There are many snowshoers who participate, and it just looks like they have potential to develop into *fast* snowshoers (if they want to) or develop into *better* snowshoers. Here is a short list of those we think might have a little extra *potential*, we have unintentionally left a few deserving people out but forgive us (*we try!*):

- Inge Aiken** Will be something special at the longer events.
- Britt Brewer** His finish at the Glen proves he gives his all.
- Karen Claire** Sherpa needs more than one day on snowshoes for us to see the real potential. An ultra-marathoning background is going to translate into fine finishes next year.
- Kerry Combs** The crystal ball shows huge improvement next year.
- Ben Dowds** The big guy is participating a little more than in the past, and his ability is showing it.
- Bryan Dragon** Our first champ ('98), showed he still has it at Prospect.
- Gary Emery** One I just have a feeling about. More time out on the shoes will make for improved technique.
- Dave Fiorini** One time Berkshire County resident caught the lure of our series, and liked it!
- Aaron Fitts** A top 25% finish at the Glen against tough competition.
- Sally Goade** Kept improving at each race, another year will help.
- Bill Herrington** Kelly and Corey's dad didn't fall as much this year; he is getting the hang of it.
- Dan Lavoie** Already having success on the shoes, another year will work wonders for Dan.
- Peter Lipka** The Adams native just needs a little more time to adjust to wearing the snowshoes. A lot of potential.
- Scott Livingston** A bicycling background. Very fast.
- Bruce Marvonek** Cemetery Man trained a little this year and it showed.
- Tiffany Mann** I see a lot of athleticism in this one. Big future.
- Brian McCarthy** Continues to improve each year.
- Emily Meachem** Just 19 years old and had herself a great Glen race.
- William Morse** A few more events is all Bill is going to need to break into the upper top half of the standings.
- Stephanie Nephew** Much faster on snowshoes than on the trails.

WMAC SnoFlyer

- Candice Posis** One race makes it hard to judge, but she had a good one.
- Jen Rappaport** Big win at the Glen, excellent running background.
- Joann Spinelli** Only needs to travel a bit out of Saratoga for us to see more of her, but she appears fast.
- Dave Wallace** His bike background translates well to the shoes.
- Marcia Whitney** Same predicament as Joann, just needs to travel a bit.

Next season, Bob Dion unleashes a new brand of snowshoes for us, his own line! He is thinking either "CATAMOUNT" or "THR33", (because of the three-piece system.). If you think either of these choices are a "winner", give Bob a call to let him know which you like the sound of.

2003 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 29, 2003	Woodford, VT
2nd Annual PROSPECT MTN	5km & 10km
Saturday January 11, 2003	Florida, MA
6th Annual SOUTH POND SHUFFLE	4 Mile
Saturday January 18, 2003	Adams, MA
4th Annual GREYLOCK GLEN	3.5 Mile
Saturday January 25, 2003	Hollis, NH
2nd Annual BEAVER BROOK	5km
Sunday, February 2, 2003	Saratoga Springs, NY
4th Annual SARATOGA WINTERFEST	5km
Saturday, February 15, 2003	Hawley, MA
6th Annual HAWLEY KILN KLASSIC	7 & 4.5 Miles
Saturday, March 1, 2003	West Hawley, MA
3rd sort of Annual MOODY SPRINGS	15km & 10km

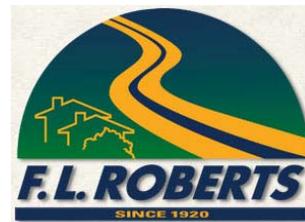
Also, for the optimist: Laura and Jeff Clark believe that the Saratoga Battlefield 5 mile event will reappear in 2003, and they are also excited about the possibilities of having a third Saratoga area event. Whether this will be the Biathlon event or a completely new one we will have to wait to see.

It was also really nice to do a "spur of the moment – no frills" event like we had at Hawley Kiln on March 23rd. It wouldn't be a bad idea to resurrect some of the old courses we used to do years ago as these types of outings. Let me know your thoughts and ideas, whether you all would like to see more or less organized events for 2003.

This about does it for 2002, thanks for the company along the way!

Farmer Ed
edtrnews@yahoo.com

The 2002 WMAC Snowshoe Series is being helped along by sponsorship from F.L. Roberts Company. Thank you Seth for your generosity!



2002 WMAC SNOWSHOE SERIES
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THANK YOU ALL FOR PARTICIPATING AND SUPPORTING THE SNOWSHOE SERIES!!

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PROFILE: HAWLEY KILN

The kiln was built in 1870 by a man named Albert Dyer. Mr. Dyer was building the kiln for a man named William O. Bassett, who in 1870 was Hawley's most successful farmer. I don't think at the time that Mr. Dyer thought he was building the most historical site in the Hawley State Forest. The kiln is also the oldest known flagstone charcoal kiln in New England.

The question is "Why was it called the Charcoal Kiln?" The word "kiln" is related to the word kitchen and is, in fact, a large heated chamber or oven made of brick or stone. The purpose of a kiln is to bake or dry wood. This process is called charring. What then is charcoal? Written like char-coal, we understand that wood has been charred to resemble coal. We see this in a fireplace when the wood is not completely burned. Charring takes place when air, particularly oxygen necessary for combustion, is excluded.

The kiln has three dimensions that are easy to remember, 25' high. 25' in diameter, and holds 25 cords of wood. Wood was carried in through the lower door and stacked as high as a man could reach. Loading was completed through a second higher door located on an embankment at the back of the kiln. After the fire was lit, iron doors sealed the openings. Burning was controlled by means of draft holes around the base which were plugged with bricks. Enough oxygen was allowed to keep a low burning fire that would remove the moisture and combustible gases, but not to burn the wood completely. The color of the smoke would indicate if the fire was the right temperature. Yellow smoke meant that the fire was about to burst into flames and needed to be damped down. The fire had to be watched every few hours, day and night, for the two days that it took for the wood to burn.

PROFILE: HAWLEY KILN

A tar like substance called creosote, obtained by the distillation of wood tar, blackens the inside walls of the kiln. At the end of two days, the charcoal is so brittle it can easily be broken into small pieces and shoveled out of the kiln. It may then be used in a fireplace, by the blacksmith for his forge or used for smelting or like copper. Charcoal burns with a slow, intense heat so a farmer like Mr. Bassett, who may have had several fireplaces in his house, would like to heat with charcoal instead of wood.

Coal and oil became more available by the end of the century so the life of this kiln as a charcoal producer was a short one, only thirty years. The kiln then became home to pigs and other livestock. In 1957 it was bought by the DEM and was restored to its original condition.

Throughout the years with the help of nature and vandals, the kiln was in desperate need of repair. Funding by the DEM at the urging of the Hawley Historical Commission and the Sons and Daughters of Hawley, work to restore the kiln got underway. Mr. Steve Striebel, a contractor, handled the work. Sonam Lama, a Tibetan stone mason, and Tenzin Norbu, helped with the newly restored kiln in 1993.

Come see this relic from the past first hand at our annual Hawley Kiln Snowshoe Race, next up February 16th, 2003. Adventure time in Hawley / Dubuque State Forest.

*Information on the kiln provided by:
Tom McCrumm and Harrison Parker*