

W.M.A.C. SNOSHU-NEWS

2009 BARNYARD AWARDS – GUEST FARMER LAURA CLARK

The DRAGON Award: Overall Male Champion for 2009 is **Ben Nephew**, with his second WMAC Snowshoe Title. Ben last won the WMAC Title in 2004, and he has 7 all-time wins. Ben won three races during the 2009 season, Curly's, and both Hallockville events (Pond and Orchard).

The LAUREL Award: WMAC Snowshoe Series Female Champion is **Abby (Woods) Mahoney**. Abby dominated the circuit and won all seven events she entered. This places Abby undefeated through her first 12 WMAC Snowshoe Events.

Our list of WMAC Snowshoe Champions is as follows:

1998	Bryan Dragon	Laurel Rollins
1999	Ken Clark	Beth Herder
2000	Ken Clark	Beth Herder
2001	Leigh Schmitt	Carol Kane
2002	Leigh Schmitt	Deb Livingston
2003	Richard Bolt	Sheryl Wheeler
2004	Ben Nephew	Kelli Lusk
2005	Paul Low	Kelli Lusk
2006	Rich Bolt/ Paul Low	Kelli Lusk
2007	Dave Dunham	Chelynn Tetreault
2008	Dave Dunham	Abby Woods Mahoney
2009	Ben Nephew	Abby Woods Mahoney

MEN'S SNOWSHOER OF YEAR: **Ken Clark** topped 1,350 points and had 11 finishes in the top 11. Ken also is constantly helping set up, break down and even occasionally register participants at our events.

WOMEN'S SOY: **Abby Woods Mahoney** had 7 consecutive wins (all the races she ran). Her winning streak is at twelve straight, extending over two seasons.

POY (PERFORMANCE OF YEAR): **Bob Dion** getting lost in a cloud of snow at the Nationals finish line and consequently having to prove it with the aid of Denise's camera, that he actually not only finished, but won his age group.

MEN'S ROY (ROOKIE OF YEAR): **Justin Fyffe** a possibly former roadrunner, now converted, with 2 wins and 1 second. Runner-up: **Jim Johnson**, with 1 win, 2 seconds and a third.

WOMEN'S ROY: **Amy Lane** had a wonderful first year of snowshoeing. 2nd Overall Woman, Age Division Champion, two race victories and 5th Total Points Women, with over 600 for the year.



Ben Nephew – 2009 WMAC Overall Champ at Curly's

K2 Award: The most improved snowshoers for 2009.

1. **Larry Dragon** shoe'd like it was 2000 again.
2. **Denise Dion** has been on a steady improvement regime for several years now, and soon she'll be ahead of Bob.

The ERIN WORSHAM Award: "Most Lost" had to be **Thomas Hathaway**, who managed to perform two outer loops at the Covered Bridge Half Marathon, giving him close to an eighteen-mile day.

HANNON Award: (Writing Award) Brad Herder. In his summit-a-day quest, Brad Herder has also revealed himself a force to be reckoned with as he chronicled his adventures in an engaging, humorous manner that left us all hungry for more.

BEVERLY Award: (Top 60-64): Martin Glendon. Now that he has retired and has more time to train, Martin has proven a force to be reckoned with. Not only that, he had energy left over to become a driving force behind our ongoing ice storm cleanup.

BARYARD AWARDS 2009 (CONT)

WOODFORD Award: John Pelton again! He added yet another Gold Medal at the United States Snowshoe Association Nationals.

SILVERBACK: (Top 70-year-old): A serious tie between Andy Keefe and Rich Busa. Both fought through adversity and made it to their favorite races. Andy competed at Woodford, his all-time favorite snowshoe race, while Rich won his age group at Nationals.

The STREAK: Laurel Shortell has 8-years without missing a WMAC race day, 97 straight WMAC/Dion Snowshoe Races! Laurel's made everything from Prospect Mountain 2002 through Catamount Sunset 2009.

COMEBACK (S) OF YEAR:

- **Paul Hartwig** came back stronger than ever after facing multiple illnesses.
- **Dave Boles** who plans to follow up his snowshoe comeback with the Mountain Series.

CURLY Award: The folks who joyfully pulled together the **Turner Trail Race** while the rest of MA looked as if Giants had been on a winter rampage.

BEST LOCATION: **AmeriCorps** wins hands down for being the most cheerful, flexible location. Plus, there is a fireplace!

RACE OF THE YEAR: **Greylock Covered Bridge Half Marathon.** The longest race the WMAC series has ever hosted proved to many of us that we could indeed go the distance. If the weather holds, we are hoping for two loops to make a full. Imagine! We get to go up Thunderbolt twice in one day!

WMAC RACE OF THE YEAR HISTORY

1996	Moby Dick
1997	Spruce Hill Climb
1998	South Pond Shuffle
1999	Hawley Kiln
2000	Saratoga Spa Winterfest
2001	Greylock Glen
2002	Mt Prospect at Woodford
2003	Curly's Record Run
2004	Covered Bridge
2005	Northfield Mountain
2006	I Love Woodford
2007	Camp Saratoga
2008	North Pond
2009	Greylock Covered Bridge Half Marathon

FASTEST: **Northfield**, with its icy surface and no-holds-barred descents broke away from the field.

SLOWEST: **Hoot, Toot and Whistle.** I thought trains were supposed to travel along smooth, flat surfaces. This race was also the surprise of the year, proving once again Karl Molitoris' contention that it's not the course, but the snow that makes the telling difference.

BARYARD AWARDS 2009 (CONT)



Abby Woods Mahoney 2009 WMAC Ladies Champ at Turner

TOUGHEST SECTION:

- The post-hole section at **Hawley Kiln.**
- Runner-up: **Thunderbolt portion of Covered Bridge.**

LONGEST MILE: The first mile of **Turner Trail**, where the up never ended and the mile stretched on to 1.5 miles.

COOKOUT OF THE YEAR:

- **BEST OUTSIDE COOKOUT:** **Hoxie Thunderbolt**
- **BEST INSIDE COOKOUT:** **Winterfest.**

BEST SURPRISE APPEARANCE:

- Mountain/ Roadrunner (mostly) **Justin Ferenc** showing up and winning at Woodford and Northfield.
- **Leigh Schmitt** showing up and finishing 4th at Northfield and then returning in March to win the MA State Championships.
- **Michelle Tetreault** joining her sister **Chelynn** for a surprise doubleheader

LARGEST Race: **Saratoga SPA Winterfest** - just squeaked by **Brave the Blizzard.**

SWEEP VOLL Award (Snappiest Outfit): All those who wore bright neon-yellow jackets

BARYARD AWARDS 2009 (CONT)

ST. BERNARD AWARD: Always ready with a lick and a wagging tail: Tippi, Chloe, Summit & Sierra.

BEST SOUP: Winterfest's **Lentil Soup**. This soup, invented by **Jack Rajczewski**, had been the Winterfest staple and always has its own hit parade of recipe requests.

DUNHAM AWARD (MOST MILES DRIVEN IN ONE WEEKEND): ARE van! **Josh Merlis** and the ARE gang that went to Albany to Hoxie, to the night race at Kingman, then to Hallockville.

BEST MASCOT: **Blizzard the SnowPerson** at **Brave the Blizzard**

BEST DOUBLE HEADER: **Hoot, Toot & Whistle** and **Curleys**.

AWARD FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION: **John Pelton**, from the Green State of Vermont.

MOST MISSED: **Carol Kane**.

BEST NEW WMAC RACE: A tie between **Hoot & Toot** and **Turner Trail**.

BEST NEW WMAC SNOWSHOE RACE: Who has the time? But I guess the award should go to **Pittsfield Marathon** because some of us did do it and it was, after all, a marathon. Besides which I (Laura) finished it!!!!

BEST FOR A GOOD LAUGH: **Karl Moltoris** trying to read the menu at the Sugar House with two pairs of reading glasses.

MISS ELLEN AWARD (Most enthusiastic CHEERLEADER): **Jeff Clark** has turned cheerleading into an art form with his signature "You're almost there!" Even if we know we're not, it makes you feel good to think so!!!!

RACE DIRECTORS of the YEAR: A tie between **Beth & Brad Herder** for developing the Turner Trail Race on such notice and **Paul Hartwig** for giving us the opportunity to test ourselves on a tough half marathon course.

WORST PARKING AREA: The **Woodford** ice skating rink.

MOST INNOVATIVE RD Costume: **Jack Quinn** performing RD duties on ice skates.

BEST FINISHING KICK: **Justin Fyffe** holding off the closing group at Greylock Glenn.

BEST PRIZE: The spikes from the **Hoot, Toot & Whistle**.

BEST RAFFLES: **Hoot toots** for this one too.

BEST SNOWSHOE DUO: **Bob Massaro & London Niles**. Bob mentored 11 year-old London through a fantastic first snowshoe season, coaching him all the way, even cheering him on when he powered down those slopes!

BARYARD AWARDS 2009 (CONT)

FAMILY ACT: **Bill & Martin Glendon**.

SNOWSHOE COUPLE: **Abby (Woods)** and **Tim Mahoney** who racked up a combined total of 15 finishes and didn't even let little details, such as their wedding the next day, slow them down.

MOST CHANGES OF CLOTHES: **Dave Dunham** again who combines a race with fire tower climbing, town bagging and numerous warm-ups and cool-downs.

NEXT GENERATION AWARD: **London Niles**. Coming soon: London's sister.

WRITE INS:

- **Most unpredictable Weather:** Hallockville: warm, cold, rainy, sleet, cold, windy
- **Most Yellow Jackets (not the bees) at a Race:** Hallockville
- **Most difficult Finish:** Curleys == yet more uphill!!

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please keep race fees as low as possible. Add team names to results

MOST DIFFERENT WINNERS IN 1 SEASON: 11 different Men's Champs and 7 Different Women's Champs

Thanks to **Laura Clark** for being the Guest Farmer and awarding the 2009 Barnyard Awards! Will we have another Future Farmer of America rise up and score the Barnyard Awards for this season? I sure hope so.



2009 WMAC DION NUMBERS GAME

It was just another great year of snowshoe racing for the WMAC DION Series. We were able to race from December right through to mid-March. The ICE STORM that upset the forest in early December forced us to come up with alternatives, which we managed somehow. While we lost some events (**North and South Pond**), we gained some too (**Turner and Hoot Toot Whistle**). As is our motto, we must remain flexible.

Nothing held as a XC instead of snowshoe. Like last year, there were **11 different men's winners**, but an increase to **9 women's winners**. Last year had 7 women's winners. The breakdown of winners is as follows:

Ben Nephew	3	Abby Woods Mahoney	7
Dave Dunham	2	Amy Lane	2
Josh Ferenc	2	Chelynn Tetreault	2
Justin Fyffe	2	Holly Atkinson	1
Tim Van Orden	2	Jean Desrosiers	1
Jim Johnson	1	Lindsey Dillon	1
Josh Merlis	1	Jacque Schiffer	1
Brian Rusiecki	1	Sheryl Wheeler	1
Leigh Schmitt	1	Kim Webster	1
Kevin Tilton	1		
Corey Watts	1		

Laurel Shortell was (again) the only competitor to run all 17 races. She has currently finished 97 WMAC DION races in a row, without missing a single event. **Konrad Karolczuk** ended the 2009 season with 99 finishes all-time, one away from being the first to 100!

Top Double Digit Racers by attendance:

- #01. Laurell Shortell did all 17 Events.
- #02 Mike Lahey did 16 Events.
- #03 Ken Clark, Denise Dion, Konrad Karolczuk, and Farmer Ed did 15 Events.
- #04 Laura Clark did 14 Events.
- #05 Bob Dion and Bob Massaro did 13 Events.
- #06 Richard Chipman, David Boles, Jodie Lahey, Ed Jr and Bill Glendon did 12 events
- #07 Holly Atkinson, Dave Dunham, , Richard Teal, Paul Hartwig, Jamie Howard, London Niles, Martin Glendon and Tim Van Orden did 11 events.
- #08 Jeff Clark, Larry Dragon, Chris Johnson and Jay Kolodzinski did 10 events.

619 unique finishers in 17 races, and a total of 1416 total finishers crossing the line for the 2009 WMAC DION Snowshoe Series Season! Last season, 2008, we had a total of 511 unique finishers and 998 total finishers.

- Six finished 9 events.
- Nine finished 8 events.
- Seven finished 7 events.
- Ten finished 6 events.
- Nine finished 5 events.
- Twenty Five finished 4 events.
- Forty Finished 3 events.
- One Hundred and Eight finished 2 events.
- Three Hundred and Seventy Nine finished 1 event.

Most wins all-time – Dave Dunham extended his lead on the men's side with 19 wins and now leads **Kelli Lusk** overall. **Abby Woods Mahoney** moved into second place on the women's list and is currently tied for 5th All-Time with **Paul Low**. The list is as follows:

#	Name	Wins	Name	Wins
1.	Dave Dunham	19	1. Kelli Lusk	18
2	Leigh Schmitt	15	2. Abby Woods	12
3	Richard Bolt	13	3. Sheryl Wheeler	7
4.	Paul Low	12	4 tie Beth Herder	6
5. tie	Josh Merlis	7	4 tie Chelynn Tetreault	6
5 tie	Ben Nephew	7	5 tie Laurel Shortell	4
6	Ken Clark	4	4 tie Michelle Tetreault	4
7 tie	Kevin Tilton	3	5 tie Tracey Van Dyke	4
7 tie	Josh Ferenc	3	6 tie Jessica Hageman	3
			6 tie Nikki Kimball	3
			6 tie Jacque Schiffer	3

Consecutive wins (in races run) – Abby Woods Mahoney won all seven races she entered, extending her two year unbeaten streak to twelve. Her streak breaks both **Dave Dunham's** five in 2001 and **Kelli Lusk's** 6 consecutive in 2005. **Kelli Lusk** has the most consecutive wins in races run over multiple seasons with an incredible 13 in a row from 2004-2007.



Tom McCrumm, maintainer of trails and maker of maple syrup.

Farmer Dave Dunham
Farmer Edward Alibozek