

# WTAC NEWS

## Remembering A Local Legend

John J. Kelley: 1930-2011

In our lifetimes, we have countless interactions with a vast number of people. Some are short-lived, while others last a lifetime. If you are lucky you may find one that has an impact that can change your life. John J. Kelley was this to many local runners, and to others who have been fortunate to spend just a few moments with him. In talking with Johnny, any slight mention his vast accomplishments would send him scattering for a quick walk or a sly cover story. He was one of the most modest of men in an age of self-aggrandizement.

Many tributes have come out over these past few months from people close to Johnny, and the writers who covered his tremendous accomplishments over the years in the media. Amby Burfoot, editor *Runner's World* magazine, another Boston Marathon winner, and a lifelong friend of Johnny's, has a splendid article about him.

<http://footloose.runnersworld.com/2011/08/john-j-kelley-rip-1930-2011-1957-boston-marathon-winner-americas-first-modern-road-runner.html>



Johnny was a pioneer in the running community, an advisor who touched so many over the past 60 years. His advice will be passed down by the people who got to know him, including myself. We dedicate this issue of the WTAC Newsletter to Johnny Kelley. A pioneer, pure vegetarian, environmentalist and a man who would put a fellow runner before himself always.

Here's to you Johnny: Cheers.

### Renewal Reminder

It's time to remind our members to renew their memberships for 2012. Memberships run from June 1 to May 31.

Dues are still only \$5 for an individual or just \$8 for an entire family. Dues can be paid by completing the membership form on the web site <http://westerlytrackclub.org/membership.html> and sending it along with the payment to WT&AC P.O. Box 211, Westerly, R.I. 02891

Dues help us put on the following events all of which are free of charge:

- Tom McCoy Fun Run Series
- CHARLIE STAVROS 3-MILE BEACH RUN
- NICK BOTTONE TRACK MILE

### WTAC Takes 1<sup>st</sup> @ Old Mountain 5k Trail Race

On one of the chillier days of an otherwise unseasonably warm December, members of the WTAC decided to brave the conditions and participated in the Old Mountain 5k Trial Race in Wakefield, RI. The team ran fast that day and claimed the top team award.

After the first race, the WTAC is in first with 6 points followed by team "Fuel Belt" with 4, the Narragansett Running Association with 2 and SouthSide Crew with 1.

Overall, Jeff Walker and Justin Bentley were 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Men's Overall Race with four and two points. Tom Gruczka is in the lead with 10 points after one race.

We are encouraging any of our member to come and compete under the WTAC banner at any of the races in this upcoming series. What better way to kick off the New Year by sticking with that resolution and enjoying a few good running friends?

The race is the first of five in the South County 4<sup>th</sup> Season Race Series. Teams with the most points will be presented with a special team award at the end of the season.

<https://sites.google.com/site/4thseasonraces/>

#### 2011/12 Race Series

- 12-18-11 Old Mountain 5k Trail Race - Old Mountain Field, Wakefield
- 1-7-12 Resolution 5k Beach & Trail Race - Scarborough Beach, Narragansett
- 1-28-12 Belleville Pond 10k Trail Race - Ryan Park, North Kingstown
- 2-11-12 Brrr-lingame 15k Trail Race - Burlingame State Park, Charlestown
- 3-11-12 Spring Forward 1 Hour Trail Race - South Kingstown

## Hammett Take First in Annual Lil' Rhody Road Race

While most New Englanders are making final preparations for the winter months ahead or that fall marathon, others take to the trails to enjoy some famous soup and a nice 8-miler before the icy winter forces runners to the road. Greg Hammett, a perennial winner, took the race out all the way to the finish in a time of 45:03 for the 8-mile course. Since 2006, Greg Hammett has finished in the top overall spot four out of five times. Diana Davis was the first female finisher in a time of 54:45. Overall 298 runners completed the course this year for the 19<sup>th</sup> running of this race. Full results can be found on our website or at [snerro.com](http://snerro.com). Congrats to all of the finishers and to our sponsors. We hope to see you again next year.

### Check out the Website and Archives

The Westerly Track Club has started the New Year off with a fresh look to our web page. If you haven't checked it out yet, take a quick look around at all the different features. One of the big updates comes from the archive section. While we all do look young, the Westerly Track Club (our original name) has been in existence since 1975 so we have collected a few documents over the years. Take a peek at what the local running scene was like in its heyday.

### Warm Up: Another Summer Fun-Run Success

Last summer featured a new course for the 2011 Tom McCoy Fun Run Series. The course was extended to a full 5-k for adults. Andrew Springer of Westerly claimed the course record this year in a time 16:48. For the women, Laura Brustolon of the B.A.A and Stonington, CT completed the course in 17:59

The kids race was as hot as ever with two boys each having three wins. However, Sean Rafferty proclaimed victory in the finale with his 4<sup>th</sup> win of the summer. A tie between Andrew Klinzmann and Ryan Mulcahey produced the fastest time of the summer of 2:13 for the 3/10 of a mile loop.

On the girls side, Liz Gray came out on top 50% of the time while also clocking the fastest time overall for the kids at 1:55.

We would like to thank all who participated and hope to see everyone back next summer...barring another tropical storm.

