

More than 500 trotters finish Goshen's annual holiday race

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By DAVID HUTTER

GOSHEN — More than 500 runners crossed hilly fields and roads in the Goshen Turkey Trot under sunny skies and temperatures in the lower 30s on Thanksgiving morning.

Organized by the Goshen Running Club, about 530 athletes competed in the 31st annual race, running club member Roger Kimball said. He attributed the sunny and clear weather and lack of wind to an ideal conditions for a road race.

"We have great weather this year. The weather is contributing to the record turnout," Kimball said. "Some years there has been snow." The club awards the top male and female finisher with the Laschever Memorial Cup, which honors the late Goshen resident and distance runner Adam Laschever. He served in the 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper based in Fort Bragg, N.C., and died of melanoma in February 1997 at age 36, according to the club.

The club awards turkeys to top Goshen finishers and pies to the top finisher in each age group, Kimball said.

"Most runners are from Goshen and surrounding towns," Kimball said. "We get a lot of families running together. We have a local small-town feel, in contrast to the Manchester (Conn.) race, which is something of a mob scene."

The runners trekked from the Goshen Fairgrounds north to Lyman Lane, west to West Street, south to Ives Road, west to Beach Street, north to Camp Cochepianee Road, east to West Street, north to Lyman Lane and east to the fairgrounds for the finish.

Matthew Markelon, 15, of Goshen, beamed shortly after crossing the finishing line after running 6.2 miles in about 40 minutes, breaking his own goal of 41 minutes. A Litchfield High School sophomore who runs on the cross country team, Markelon competed along with his father John Markelon, mother Darcey Markelon and uncle Chris Markelon.

"I am really glad about my time," Matthew Markelon said. "I've done this race since 2003. It's kind of a tradition. I live close and I love to run."

John Waiveris competed in this race for his 21st consecutive year. A Windsor resident who grew up in Goshen, Waiveris, 34, crossed the finish line in about 47 minutes.

"I burned 845 calories," he said, reading a device attached to his arm. "I can afford to eat a second piece of pie later today."

During the years, he has enjoyed seeing his former classmates from elementary school at the race, he said. "I've also brought former roommates and friends from college to the race," he said.

Amy Emmons, a senior at Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted, ran the race along with her 13-year-old brother Robert. She competed because she loves running and wants to stay in shape for indoor track season, she said.

"I did my best," Emmons said. "I was feeling it around Mile 4. I kept going."

The course was in excellent condition, with only a handful of muddy spots, she said. "For the most part, this is a great day for running," she said.

Marc Robaczynski, 34, of New Hartford, dominated the field, winning the race decisively by more than a minute with a time of 33:41. Eamon Dempsey, 28, of Albany, N.Y., secured second place with a time of 35:00. Jeff Niedeck, 44, of Canaan, took third place in 35:10. Jeremy Schmid, 18, of Litchfield, came in fourth at 37:02. Daniel Lane, 19, of Goshen, was fifth at 37:41. Bob Davenport, 40, of Litchfield, took sixth place in 38:06. Robert Dwyer, 27, of Winsted, took seventh place at 38:09. Johnny Camacho, age unlisted, of Torrington, took eighth place in 38:51. Teddy Gravel, 15, of Morris, took ninth place at 38:56. Addie DiFrancesco, 18, of Waterbury, was the top female finisher and the tenth overall finisher at a time of 39:07.

The running Club organizes the race solely with volunteers, Kimball said. The club plans to post the entire results of the race on its Web site within one to two weeks, he said.

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