

2nd Annual SARATOGA WINTERFEST 5k SNOWSHOE RACE

WMAC February 4th, 2001 SPA Park, Saratoga, NY WMAC

1. Leigh Schmitt	28	S Deerfield, MA	20:00	82 pts
2. Ken Clark	38	Somers, CT	20:32	81 pts
3. Michael Halstead	35	Stoneridge, NY	21:26	80 pts
4. Alex Sherwood	25	New Paltz, NY	21:30	79 pts
5. Michael Jordan	41	Saratoga, NY	21:44	78 pts
6. Brian Hickey	28	Kingston, NY	22:35	77 pts
7. Bob Dion	45	Readsboro, VT	23:21	76 pts
8. Tim Austin	30	Albany, NY	23:27	75 pts
9. Stuart Dutfeld	45	Catskill, NY	23:57	74 pts
10. Gene Primimo	43	Delmar, NY	23:58	73 pts
11. Edward Alibozek	38	Suffield, CT	23:59	72 pts
12. Paul Evangelista	31	Albany, NY	24:04	71 pts
13. John Pelton	61	West Rupert, VT	24:14	70 pts
14. Thomas Skrocki	40	Amesbury, MA	24:57	69 pts
15. Tom DiGulio	39	Mechanicville, NY	25:31	68 pts
16. Michael Robertson	28	Gansevoort, NY	25:40	67 pts
17. Phil Borgese	41	Niskayuna, NY	25:55	66 pts
18. Dave Dangert	40	Ballston Spa, NY	26:04	65 pts
19. Gregory Ward	40	Scotia, NY	26:06	64 pts
20. David Boles	54	New Paltz, NY	26:26	63 pts
21. Tracey Van Dyke	36	Lake Luzerne, NY	26:33	62 pts
22. Ed Alibozek, Jr	61	Adams, MA	26:52	61 pts
23. Fred Miller	42	Guylar, NY	27:12	60 pts
24. Jeffrey Allen	55	Saratoga, NY	27:24	59 pts
25. Carol Kane	55	Weston, CT	27:32	58 pts
26. Dennis Fillmore	48	Ballston Spa, NY	27:35	57 pts
27. Theresa Hance	37	Clifton Park, NY	27:48	56 pts
28. Ron Moon	63	Pittsfield, MA	27:59	55 pts
29. Karl Molitoris	45	Stafford, CT	28:23	54 pts
30. Sean Dolton	32	Ballston Spa, NY	28:27	53 pts
31. Lisa Deggendorf	26	S Deerfield, MA	28:32	52 pts
32. Darlene McCarthy	38	North Adams MA	28:53	51 pts
33. Marcia Whitney	48	Saratoga, NY	28:57	50 pts
34. Gwen Williams	42	Scotia, NY	29:53	49 pts
35. Elaine Lutzker	50	Saratoga, NY	29:42	48 pts
36. Debbie Briggs	49	Rhinebeck, NY	30:25	47 pts
37. Chuck Trimarchi	54	Albany, NY	30:53	46 pts
38. Heather Mason	21	Schenectady, NY	30:54	45 pts
39. Bob DeMarco	49	Saratoga NY	30:55	44 pts
40. John Braymer	37	Salem, NY	31:08	43 pts
41. Barbara Sorrell	43	Delmar, NY	32:02	42 pts
42. Richard Busa	71	Marlboro, MA	32:03	41 pts
43. Claudine Preite	34	North Adams, MA	32:18	40 pts
44. James Preite	37	North Adams, MA	32:18	39 pts
45. Clover Schwartz	37	Saratoga NY	32:22	38 pts
46. Maureen Roberts	43	Williamstown, MA	32:28	37 pts
47. Mark Boudreau	36	Galway, NY	32:47	36 pts
48. Joann Spinelli	47	Latham, NY	32:55	35 pts
49. Deb Crotty	52	Ballston Spa, NY	33:31	34 pts
50. Robert Trimarchi	31	Clifton Park, NY	33:33	33 pts
51. Todd Venetz	23	Saratoga NY	34:07	32 pts
52. Mary Stewart	42	Saratoga, NY	35:18	31 pts
53. Neil Hannon	52	Saratoga, NY	35:19	30 pts
54. Jim Carlson	53	Gansevoort, NY	35:47	29 pts
55. Brian McCarthy	40	North Adams, MA	36:12	28 pts
56. Gerry Fogerty	47	Ballston Spa, NY	36:34	27 pts
57. Justin McCarthy	11	North Adams, MA	36:42	26 pts
58. Mary Quinn	38	Waterford, NY	36:46	25 pts
59. Greg Taylor	54	Delmar, NY	36:47	24 pts
60. Darren Drabeck	26	Saratoga, NY	36:51	23 pts
61. Aurora Lamperetta	28	Saratoga, NY	37:05	22 pts
62. Lori Christina	40	Clifton Park, NY	37:11	21 pts
63. Cathy Taylor	44	Gansevoort, NY	37:21	20 pts
64. Bob McFarland	67	Schnectady, NY	37:36	19 pts
65. Judy Trief	37	Saratoga, NY	37:44	18 pts
66. Lisa Valentine	39	Ballston Spa, NY	37:44	17 pts
67. Meg O' Leary	30	Saratoga NY	38:13	16 pts

68 Carol Trombley	50	Albany, NY	38:48	15 pts
69 Eric Sanborn	37	Wilton, NY	38:58	14 pts
70 Tim Williams	42	Saratoga, NY	39:24	13 pts
71 Konrad Karolczuk	48	Winds Locks, CT	39:42	12 pts
72 Randall Palmer	46	Saratoga, NY	39:58	11 pts
73 Marge Rajczewski	61	Clifton Park, NY	40:57	10 pts
74 Michelle Filiault	33	Adams, MA	47:36	9 pts
75 Larry Dragon	40	Cheshire, MA	47:37	8 pts
76 Diane Gulbrandson	38	Saratoga, NY	47:47	7 pts
77 Meg Dunne	41	Rosendale, NY	53:35	6 pts
78 Chris Dunne	41	Rosendale, NY	53:36	5 pts
79 Veronica Keck	25	Ballston Spa, NY	60:05	4 pts
80 Theresa Keck	48	Ballston Spa	60:06	3 pts
81 Suzanne Wonder	40	Saratoga, NY	61:29	2 pts
82 Robert Columbine	70	Wells, NY	61:38	1 pt

SNOWSHOE COURSE DIFFICULTY

Prodded on by the ever-inciting Farmer, I took it upon myself to think a bit about our snowshoe courses and how, if at all possible, we could come up with a "rating" system for the lot of them. Most of you are probably saying "just run the thing" and a course rating isn't worth a piss-hole in the snow. I agree, but on the other hand, I also think that most of us have a desire to compare what we've done to other accomplishments and that is hard to do if we're comparing apples to aardvarks. If we had a rating system, we then could equate (...no, not the Wal-Mart Equate, Woodstock...) one race result with that of a different race and thus determine if we're improving or eating too many pork chops, etc. This would also give us one more thing to argue about during our trips to and from races!! So regarding the development of a snowshoe course rating system, I've figured...

...it can't be done! At least not in the true sense of a snowshoe race-course difficulty number.

You could calculate a course rating for that course as if run during the summer (as we've done in the past for trail races) but this would only take under consideration the course's length and terrain (assuming the runner's fitness level is constant). You could calculate a relative rating (comparing one runner's time to the winner's) but that would only give you your comparative fitness level. You could calculate lots of things lots of ways, but if you can't quantify (and I can't) the single-most important factor in a winter course's make-up, your rating is worth as much as a 19-hand in cribbage. This single-most important thing is the snow. If you can't factor it in you can't come up with a comparison factor to be used comparing one snowshoe race to another snowshoe race.

Examples of how snow can make all the difference in the world are as follows. A typical world-class 400meter race is won in 44 seconds +/- 2%. The NYC marathon is won in 2:09 +/- 2%. The Escarpment trail run is won in 2:58 +/- 2%. The South Pond Shuffle snowshoe race is won in about 40 minutes +/- 25% (ranging from 30:19 to 51:20). It not like the hills of Savoy grew or shrank, or there was a different winner. These stayed the same! But what DID change was the surface on which the race was run on. Another example of how snow may affect the times (and thus the potential course rating) is that Schmitt's 1999 time at Savoy was almost as slow as his 1999 time at Hawley... and Hawley is almost twice as long and is more hilly! Does this mean that Savoy is harder than Hawley? Answer: It depends on the snow. It will always depend on the snow! Damn near everything else is moot.

In closing, I just can't come up with a meaningful way of determining the "toughness (or lack thereof) of the snow" and thus can't figure out a snowshoe course rating system. If anyone can, please do so. Or maybe I secretly really don't want to so I can argue either side of any discussion about which of two snowshoe races is harder...!