

1st ANNUAL SOUTH POND SHUFFLE 4 MILE SNOWSHOE RACE

**FEBRUARY 21, 1998 SAVOY STATE FOREST
SOUTH POND SHUFFLE
4 MILE SNOWSHOE RACE**

1.	Bob Dion	41	Readsboro, VT	40:30
2.	Bryan Dragon	14	Cheshire, MA	41:10
3.	Brian Blanchard	27	Manchester, CT	41:20
4.	Karl Molitoris	42	Stafford Springs, CT	43:10
5.	John Trahan	41	Mystic, CT	43:20
6.	John Tremblay	36	Cheshire, MA	43:24
7.	Paul Hartwig	41	Adams, MA	43:32
8.	Bob Worsham	52	Woodstock, CT	43:37
9.	David Boles	51	New Paltz, NY	44:18
10.	Gotha Swann	48	Pittsfield, MA	46:44
11.	Sam Majger	27	Chicopee, MA	46:50
12.	Jim Preite	34	North Adams, MA	47:25
13.	Ed Tompson	46	Northampton, MA	48:15
14.	Fran Mach	55	Adams, MA	48:25
15.	Ed Alibozek Jr	58	Adams, MA	48:45
16.	Lawrence Dragon	37	Cheshire, MA	49:40
17.	Todd Worsham	17	Woodstock, CT	52:41
18.	Curt Pandiscio	36	Simsbury, CT	53:14
19.	Stan Tiska	40	Hinsdale, MA	53:50
20.	Bill Donovan	43	North Adams, MA	57:35
21.	Leon Beverly	71	Stamford, VT	58:45
22.	Mel Band	54	Williamstown, MA	1:02:20
23.	James Mathews	31	“Visiting”, GA	1:04:32
24.	Laurel Rollins	41	Shelburne Falls, MA	1:08:17
25.	Scott Rollins	49	Shelburne Falls, MA	1:08:18
26.	Erin Worsham	20	Woodstock, CT	1:11:30
27.	Tim Mathews	28	Worcester, MA	1:11:45
28.	Patrick McGrath	32	Adams, MA	1:12:01
29.	Tracy McGrath	30	Adams, MA	1:12:02
30.	Claudine Preite	31	North Adams, MA	1:12:03
31.	Konrad Karolczuk	45	Windsor Lock, CT	1:20:10
32.	Phil Quemette	64	North Adams, MA	1:25:45
33.	Ken Freitag	34	Cheshire, MA	1:25:46
34.	Ellen Mach	50	Adams, MA	1:11:00
35.	Vicki Pandiscio	36	Simsbury, CT	participated
36.	Sara Pandiscio	07	Simsbury, CT	participated

AGE GROUP WINNERS

00 - 18	Women “Vacant”	Bryan Dragon	41:10
19 - 29	Erin Worsham	1:11:30 Brian Blanchard	41:20
30 - 39	Tracy McGrath	1:12:02 John Tremblay	43:24
40 - 49	Laurel Rollins	1:08:17 Bob Dion	40:30
50 - 59	Women “Vacant”	Bob Worsham	43:37
60 - 69	Women “Vacant”	Phil Quemette	1:25:45
70 - 79	Women “Vacant”	Leon Beverly	58:45

Climbing up the Mohawk Trail towards Savoy State Forest was a trip indeed, especially for the many of us traveling from Central Massachusetts and Connecticut. By the time we reached Whitcomb Summit, the snow looked a solid foot deep and hoarfrost covered everything in sight, leaving many to feel as though we ventured into a whole new hemisphere. The “tip off” event of the Western Massachusetts Athletic Club’s 1998 Snowshoe Double Header would go on as planned.

Bob Dion, the 1997 New England Trail Running Circuit Champion, had the courage to attempt a new competitive activity and use his racing knowledge to surge past Bryan Dragon while on the final spur between North and South Pond to become the first champion at the 4.3 mile South Pond Shuffle Snowshoe Race. The more “race tested” Bob allowed Bryan the luxury of leading the majority of the race, causing the youngster to tire a bit due to the extra energy it takes to break trail and stay focused following the route. Brian Blanchard was closing the gap quickly and finished a strong third, only 10 seconds behind Bryan.

In the women’s race, Laurel Rollins kept a steady strong pace to capture the first ever Lady’s Trophy. Laurel’s time of 1:08:17 is most impressive when you realize she power hiked on snowshoes and most of the other entrants ran on theirs. As 4th place finisher and veteran snowshoer Karl Molitoris said, “Snow and snowshoes are a great equalizer for bringing the field closer together and closing the gap between running and walking.” Erin Worsham finished three minutes back mostly due to a missed turn on the course, thus adding another mile to her journey around South Pond and Tyler Swamp. In snowshoeing, as it is with trailrunning, getting lost is a slight possibility.

36 starters and finishers for the first time event organized by the Western Massachusetts Athletic Club. The top nine finishers all broke under 45 minutes for the race, evidence of the conditions being near optimum for fast performances. The high number of couples and families taking part in the event was a welcomed bonus, as the event displayed a more festive atmosphere rather than strictly a competitive one.