

The Almost 29th Annual Hangover Classic To Get 2009 Off With a Bang

The Almost 29th Annual Hangover Classic Road Race will be held on New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, 2009.



While the term "race" is somewhat loosely applied in this case and/or is a complete misnomer, whatever it is will begin more or less promptly at 11:00 a.m. at Courtney and Carolyn Bird's, 43 Sippewissett Road, Falmouth. Again this year the Official Cannon of the FTC will be fired by Bob Richards, Falmouth Track Club Exalted Cannoneer, or someone else who is hard of hearing.

The out and back course with a loop starts and ends in Sippewissett Place behind Bird's, follows Sippewissett Road south to Quissett Harbor Road, skirts Quissett Harbor, follows the Carey Lane loop, and returns back along Sippewissett Road to Sippewissett Place.

The Official Certified Distance is 7.34 miles as measured eons ago by the Falmouth Track Club Chief Certifier, Ron Pokraka.

As those of you who have attended this gala gathering and race know, the Hangover Classic Trophy, distinguished by its size and utter garishness, is awarded to the winner. It was painstakingly fashioned in 1980 from trash picked up along the roads, one of Courtney's old running shoes, a copper toilet flange and drain, a chrome hub cap and a gold plated galvanized mop bucket, on which is inscribed the name of every past recipient. In 2007, the trophy was hijacked by persons still unknown, but it was thankfully returned and was placed under 24/7 guard at an more or less undisclosed location. However, it turns out that it was less undisclosed, and the guards were bribed with many flagons of Offshore Ale. Their ensuing slumber gave another band of trophynappers the opportunity to make off with tasteless trinket again. Since its second disappearance, it has miraculously appeared at the starting line of the 2008 Boston Marathon and at the Falmouth Recreation Center about the time of the Falmouth Road Race. But it is still missing and a reward is offered.

But the question of the day is "Are folks up to running such a great distance at 11:00 am following the celebration of the advent of the new year in ways that would have made even Bacchus, the God of Wine and orgies blush." In fact folks whose brains are still a bit scrambled have been known to run a three-mile loop around Gunning Point, and some have even gone to the extreme of only running from the start on Loop Road to the Birds driveway (.38 mile). So as a bow to reality, the organizers long ago have altered the usual criteria for awarding the trophy. Given the uncertainty about the times (and distances) the participants run, the first person to cross the finish line, while not disqualified from receiving the trophy, will not automatically win it, unlike other races. Rather, the winner will be selected by lot.

But only one wins the trophy. In order to spare people the unbearable trauma of not winning the treasured trinket, no one will go away empty handed. Bottles of delicious non-vintage champagne, a variety of leftover FTC road race prizes, and numerous tasteless bits and pieces are also handed out by lot. Here's where the lost-and-found treasure chest from the CCM comes into play. Valuable and, more often than not, non-valuable items left by the runners at the start, along the course, and the the Lawrence School will be awarded. These goodies were given to Good Will after the marathon, but were rejected. These treasures of wearing apparel will be carefully packaged so that each award winner receives a variety of valuable items. In the past participants in the Hangover Classic have traded with each other for desired items and have even been spotted later wearing their prizes on training runs! Sadly, this year, perhaps because of economic uncertainty and more likely because of the baggage truck that stores runner's precious belongings during the race, the amount of discarded items left by runners in the CCM was down by another 80%! So the Birds are pleading for contributions. However, two kitchen sinks have been donated this year to help



assuage the dearth of other valuable goodies. If you have something you'd like to contribute, please bring it. You will be publicly acknowledged for your generosity. While there is a rule that a prize recipient must take their winnings home (or at least off-premises), in the recent past some recipients of awards have generously donated their prizes back -- frequently anonymously. When the Birds go to take down their Christmas Tree in preparation for the Super Bowl, some of the gorgeous gewgaws magically resurface. Accordingly some bottles of champagne have been awarded 10 or more times, thus making their quality rare indeed!

After the run, the traditional brunch is served, consisting of scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, breads, fruits, juices, a variety of soda, bottled water, coffee and a keg of one of the Offshore Ale Company's finest brews, the official beer supplier of the 2008 Dunkin' Donuts Cape Cod Marathon. Participants and their families of all ages are encouraged to attend. Please bring a brunch item. Call Carolyn at 508-548-0348 for suggestions.

A NOTE ON PARKING: Please park only on west (same side as Bird's) side of Sippewissett Road or in Sippewissett Place.

Past Winners of the Hangover Classic Trophy

1981	Don't Remember
1982	Doug Poole
1983	Phyllis Laking Hunt
1984	Dennis Lyonnaise
1985	Jim McGuire
1986	Anne Ford
1987	Gary Miller
1988	Paul "88" Phinney
1989	Gloria Ratti
1990	Judy Saunders
1991	Greg Taylor
1992	Melissa Burke
1993	Phyllis Laking Hunt
1994	Barbara Sellars
1995	Barbara Nickerson
1996	Wes Chadbourne
1997	Fred Keller
1998	Dave McPherson
1999	Bye Year
2000	Wally Ballou
2001	Susan Jolie
2002	Neila Bennett
2003	Doris Beatty
2004	Betsy Gladfelter
2005	Bye Year
2006	Dave McPherson
2007	Linda Dalton & Maggi Yates
2008	Helen Kennedy