

Hartford Track Club 8K Cross-Country Challenge

November 21, 2009

MDC West Hartford Reservoir Complex

After a moment of silence recognizing our long-time iconic HTC runner, Eddie Gorecki, a record field of 114 finishers attacked the trails and fields of the West Hartford Reservoir complex during the 10th running of the HTC 8K Cross-Country Challenge. With ideal weather, but lingering wet trail conditions, Mark Hixson overcame some early challengers to register a master's record time of 27:16 to take the overall title. On the women's side, Beth Krasemann defended her title and improved her time by over 30 seconds with a winning time of 32:27.

This year's race used essentially the same course as previous years, but a slight modification was made to avoid the new parking area at the reservoir complex. Some standing water made for varying degrees of wet and muddy bodies, but overall very positive feedback was heard from the runners (and no lost souls).

This race could not be possible without the wonderful support of many dedicated volunteers. Tremendous thanks to the excellent timing service of Will Graustein; and the always-capable veteran race volunteers who graced this day, many of whom are well-known race directors in their own right. These included HTC Prez Peter Hawley, race historian extraordinaire David Reik, race dietitian Cindy Kozak, Hartford Marathon director and water station queen Beth Shluger, registration czar Joe Anastasio, logistics coordinator Rick Buckley, and finish line pros Karen Anastasio, Zean Gassman and Brett Stratton.

Tom Buckley, Race Director