

2020 Quarry Road Summer Race Series

Race Participants & Supporters,

The past few weeks I have been contemplating what the best way to host the Quarry Road Summer Race Series would be. There has been great feedback from former participants, local runners, and Quarry Road representatives, on the best way to hold or not hold races this summer. With that said, I believe we have landed on format that will continue to make the Quarry Road Summer Races Series and attractive option for local runners... which I will address later in this message.

It has been my pleasure to launch a race as successful as the Quarry Road Summer Race Series and direct it for what will be 8 seasons this summer. The Quarry Road is an amazing facility, I have been thrilled to support its growth over these years. With its continued growth in all seasons, the Friends of Quarry Road and City of Waterville has wisely invested into a Program Director & Ski Coach position that was filled last fall by Justin Fereshetian. With this position added, I had planned to work with Justin this summer to transition the Summer Races Series to his leadership and direction, and transition myself to a race participant in subsequent years. This is still my plan, it just looks a little different now.

So what is the plan? I'll call it a **Virtual Time Trial**.

While I appreciate the number of races that have shifted gears to offer "virtual" versions of themselves, I am not generally a fan of the formats I most often see, where racers choosing whatever course they would like to run their race. I love the spirit of competition, and athletes pushing each other to new goals & limits, and hope the format laid out will allow our runners to do so. Here's how it will work:

- **Race Format:** Each week beginning Tuesday, June 16th a course will be setup (on Monday) that runners can run on a "time trial" and submit their times to via google forms:
<https://forms.gle/YAgVrNtVg4M5GbU68>
 - o We plan to have signage to identify the Start & Finish line thank to our sponsor, **Trailspace**.
- **Registration** will be required to submit times, participants will have 3 registration options, Single Race (\$10), 3 Races (\$20), and Full Series (\$45). Registration will be available online only at this link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/ME/Waterville/QuarryRoadRaces>
- We will continue to offer **3 different distances of races** over the course of the summer, each distance repeated 3 times. 3k, 5k, & 8k – these distances are approximate.
- It will be **STRONGLY RECCOMENDED** that runners submit **GPS tracking** info of routes to confirm that routes were run correctly (preferred platform is Strava). It will not be required as we trust that no runners would intentionally take the wrong course.
 - o Each Course has been setup as a **Strava segment**, which has many benefits, including seeing who has recent top times.
 - 3k - <https://www.strava.com/segments/23850496>
 - 5k- <https://www.strava.com/segments/23850533>
 - 8k- <https://www.strava.com/segments/23850521>
 - o If you are not on Strava yet, please sign up at this link (<https://runsignup.com/Race/QuarryRoadRaces/NationalSponsor/Strava>), as it will generate some additional resources for the race series.
- Runners will have until each **Sunday evening at 8pm to submit times** for the week.

- **Compiled standings** will be updated throughout the summer, and available here: <http://www.quarryroadraces.com/results.html>
- **Overall Prizes:** At this time we know that we will have prizes for the overall series champions and age group winners as **New Balance** has committed to sponsoring our series once again.
- **Weekly Prizes:** Traditionally our weekly sponsors have been local restaurants, which as an industry have been hit hard by the COVID19 pandemic. As a community, I would ask that everyone look to support the weekly sponsors that have supported the Summer Race Series for several years, whether they are in a position this year to provide prizes or not. These businesses are: **Selah Tea, Rita's House of Pizza / The End Zone, & The Proper Pig.**
- **Kids Run:** Even though we do not have an official kids run, please bring your kids to the Quarry Road and encourage them to motor around the trails!
- **Race T-Shirts:** Runners will be able to purchase a 2020 QR Summer Race T-shirt through online registration until June 30, 2020. Shirts will be available for pickup by mid-July, pickup dates & times will be sent out to those with orders.
- **If it restrictions change and it becomes feasible to begin holding races in person, our goal will be to do so.**

Series Schedule:

June 16-21; 3k

June 23-28; 5k

June 30-July 5; 8k

July 7-12; 3k

July 14-19; 5k

July 21-26; 8k

July 28-August 2; 8k

August 4-9; 5k

August 11-16; 3k

It is the expectation & requirement that everyone practice the social distancing protocols in place currently and throughout the summer.

While this is not ideal, I am glad that we will be able to offer a series this summer and will aim to make the most of it, with any luck, we can at least bring everyone together for an appropriately social distanced award ceremony in August.

Any series questions/comments/feedback can be directed to me at pguerette@clubaycc.org.

Please direct any facility specific questions/concerns to Justin Fereshetian (jfereshetian@waterville-me.gov).

Thank You,

Patrick Guerette