

**READINGTON RUNS – (originally printed in the Readington News Dec 07)  
Bruce Marshall**

Approximately 45 cross-country athletes from the Readington Middle School trained from mid-September to early November under the tutelage of head coach Janet Howard and assistant coach Steve Barrett. There was a good balance of both girls and boys, and solid representation from grades 6, 7, and 8. In cross-country, the top 5 finishers for each school are included in the scoring, with 1<sup>st</sup> place in a race being charged 1 point; 2<sup>nd</sup> place is 2 points, etc. The lowest total wins. Course lengths vary by school, but are typically between 1.5 and 2.5 miles. For example, the RMS course at the rear of Holland Brook School is just short of 1.9 miles.

The competitive season got underway the week of September 24<sup>th</sup>, and finished with an invitational meet at Pingry on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In addition to learning sportsmanship and teamwork; benefiting from the camaraderie and being exposed to competition;

demonstrating noticeable improvement in their speed and stamina since the start of the cross-country season; and just having a lot of fun – both the Readington boys and girls had successful seasons against other schools in the region. The girls won as often as they lost, and the boys had an 8-3 winning record.

Top scorers for the boys from meet to meet were Brendan Jaeger, Mike Stankus, Jeremy Desmond, Dan Testa, David van Doren, George Gogeljak, and Tony Folk. For the girls, those that routinely figured in the scoring were Mel Jones, Alexa Cervasco, Allie Dames, Jaime Mastorgiagmo, Christine Auriemma, Jane Riley, and Kirsten Scalera.

Throughout the season, the grade 8 seniors led the team in both their training and in competition by example and with encouragement to their younger teammates. Regarding the latter, they demonstrated not only enthusiasm and willingness to learn and improve, but also clear potential that they will be a force to be reckoned with in the coming years.

The local adult running club – the Hill Runners of Hunterdon – had 26 members running 26.2 mile marathons in October and early November. Despite mid-summer weather conditions on October 7<sup>th</sup>, five of them did run times that qualified them for the Boston Marathon held the third Monday in April; three more did the same at the New York City Marathon on November 4<sup>th</sup>; and yet another was successful in Richmond VA on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Here are latest Boston qualifiers, their BQ times, and where they ran them:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Marathon</u>
Steve Brookman	55	3:43:00	Mohawk-Hudson River



Kim Haris	41	3:26:33	Chicago
Janet Howard	46	4:00:28	New York
Gordon Kennedy	48	3:30:32	Richmond
Melanie Lenahan	39	3:25:33	Steamtown
Bruce Marshall	58	3:44:02	Mohawk-Hudson River
Holly McDonald	45	3:29:47	Steamtown
Karen Robinson	38	3:25:37	New York
John Weidner	44	3:04:20	New York

Other area residents and club members who ran October and early November marathons included Beverly Atkinson, Kimberly Borin, Dave Brown, Barry Coopersmith, Hector Cruz-Rosa, Joe Galioto, Mike Humphrey, Gordon Kennedy, Wes Knowles, Mike McDonough, Andrew Paton, Colin Saville, Dennis Schmatz, Dan Sullivan, Mike Vasisko, and Audrey Zabawa.

Additionally, there are club members scheduled to run the Philadelphia Marathon and the JFK 50-miler in late November.

When a marathon just isn't long enough....

John Fischer completed the Florida Ironman Triathlon, completing the 2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run in 11:28:37.

Herm Richards and Joe Galioto conquered the Vermont 100-Mile Trail ultra with Herm winning the 50-59 age group; Joe and Dan Sullivan ran the Ramapo Madness 60K; and Herm finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in his age category in the Mountain Madness 50-Mile Trail run.

Wes Knowles and Gordon Kennedy were part of a 10-person team that survived the 200-mile Reach the Beach Relay in New Hampshire; and back in August, the Hill Runners of Hunterdon fielded four 7-person teams that crossed the state of NJ in the 92-mile River to Sea Relay.

For more info on the Hill Runners of Hunterdon, visit [www.HRHNJ.org](http://www.HRHNJ.org), or contact Bruce Marshall at [BGMarshall@earthlink.net](mailto:BGMarshall@earthlink.net).