



MEMBER PROFILE: DONALD PENTA

By John Wood with Maggie Soule

With Don Penta we are continuing our series on that small nucleus of members who are the reason why MTC is a warm, friendly, yet thoroughly professional club.

Don is our Statistician. He hunts down Race Directors from all over the state and beyond--to the extent that no MTC member can put one foot in front of the other without Don knowing about it. Typically, about a third of every newsletter is composed of Don's data. He is also a regular contributor to Maine Running & Outing Magazine. In the documentation of Maine running, Don is probably the single most important person.

Don is an avid runner. He started jogging a loop in the woods in 1978. His first race was the Bridgton Four on the Fourth, a race he has run every year since except for 1982 and 1989 when he was injured. Don normally trains more than 20 miles a week, peaking to 30 for races like the Casco Bay Marathon, which he completed in 4:02 in 1986. Don's "serious" training began with USM's Lifeline program in 1982, where Dennis Morrill spotted and encouraged him. He joined MTC in 1984.

Beginning with 17 races in 1983, Don has worked up to running an average of 30 races a year. When he's not competing, he volunteers in the finish chute, at water stops, takes pictures, directs traffic, and checks race results (he can spot an error or solve a problem in race results from his memory of past performances).

Don's father is a Doctor. A chip off the old block, Don graduated from Nason college in 1972 with a B.A. in chemistry. He also studied Probability & Statistics at USM. Don always enjoyed math and likes to feel that the application of his skill to MTC race results helps develop friendships between members. He was appointed Statistician in 1986 by Charlie Scribner and Jane Dolley (with whom he attended Deering High School)--certainly one of the inspired contributions those two have made to MTC.

Don lives with and cares for his family--and visa versa--including a poodle named Flash.

We've watched Don being knocked down by an injury and fighting back to a new PR--always with a smile and a friendly word for everybody. It's Don's dedication to excellence that helps explain why MTC is the fine club that it is.



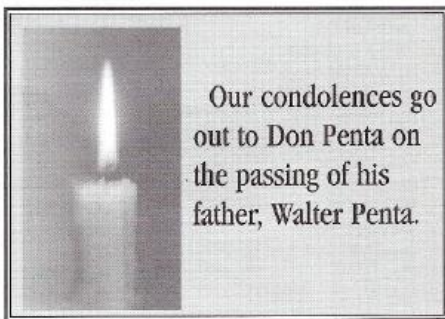


PentaDon 12 1989

01 1990

05 1988

Penta 08 2001



Rachel Vielleux, 2nd Female in the Boys Club 5 Miler

Don Penta and Bruce Ellis at the Boys Club



VielleuxRachel PentaDon EllisBruce 05 1988

