

"PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS"

"TALES OF MARATHONS, MORE NEW MEMBERS AND A BANQUET COMING!"

Strider Gerry Clapper graces our cover this issue and with good reason. Gerry's second Maine race of 1986 was just short of sensational, as the Bucksport native took on one of the stronger runners in the east, Stan Bickford, and came home a winner with a SUB-30 10-K effort!!! A complete report on the "Good News-Bad News" Benjamin's race appears in our "Race Report" section, and Gerry represented our club colors proudly with one of the fastest times of the year in Maine.

We have lots of news, results, new members and your invitation to our big annual Strider Banquet which is always a highlight of the year. This year's awards will be announced at this great, informal event, to be held on January 11th, a Sunday, starting at 6 pm at "Champions" in Waterville's Elm Plaza, right off the Holiday Inn/Fenway Exit from I-95. This just happens to be the same date as Gene Roy's Belgrade "January Thaw" road race, so you can how our evil minds work! You head for the central Maine area, enjoy a great winter road race, head for the President's home to relax a few hours then it's off to the banquet!! Details inside - we sincerely hope to see all of you for a wonderful Strider day!

Your annual ballot is also in this issue for our "Runner Of The Year" and "Most Improved" male/female awards, with a little history on all candidates. This gives you only one mailing to return to us, and sure - if you want to include your 1987 club dues, it's fine with us, as they become due in January anyway. As most of you know, our dues are only \$8 for a single membership, or \$10 for a family (household), still one of the best bargains in the state!

Now for a little info on some of your fellow striders, gathered by our ever watchful crew of Strider officials. No, we're not quite like "Candid Camera", but you never know when something you've done may appear in these pages!!

We'll start by bringing you up to date on Strider Mark Jose, a former Waterville based runner who appeared in the March "Killarney's 10-K" in Waterville then disappeared! Well it seems Mark has married and re-located to the Arlington, Mass. area. He and new wife Barbara are enjoying life there, and we looked for him as some of us cruised through that city in the recent "Boston Peace Marathon" but didn't spot him among the crowds. Mark hopes to return for a race or two in '87, and enjoys keeping track of his Strider friends. Great to hear from him.

Speaking of marathons, a few words of this tender subject! First, our string of having at least one club member in the famous New York City Marathon continues, with club official Paul Dall reporting he did complete the 26.2 mile route. Paul would rather not discuss his time, as he's on the mend from a late summer knee injury, but just couldn't pass up the race, so trotted along as best he could to keep our string intact. Another club official, Claudia Takacs, has pegged her previous two efforts in this event as among her favorites, and also not for her finishing times. The tremendous spirit of the crowds, and the winding course through the very heart of America's biggest city make this a truly lifelong memory and something all who do this grueling distance should try to do at least once.

And yes, your aging, overweight, jaded president is now a member of the "I ran a marathon" club. This is YOUR doing! All of you who have bent his ear with tales of glory and glamour, fun and thrills, challenges and excitement, yes, you finally got to me, even a little known Strider named Marilyn Benedetto-Yanus. She is the lady who wrote on her application to the club that her goal was to someday run the "Casco Bay Marathon"! Well Marilyn, you were on my mind as I plodded along in this year's Casco Bay, as were about a hundred other Striders!! I'll follow Paul's lead and will speak of other things besides my finishing time, but as Chris Bovie so tenderly put it - "It was supposed to be a marathon, not a week-end in Portland!!" Oh well, all of you out there who are responsible for this beware - I'll get even!!

The truth be known - I LOVED IT! So much so that I did a second one some 6 weeks later, and am headed for the Bermuda Marathon a week after our annual banquet! Jerry Allanach was right - they are a special kind of race!!!



McNamara wins Peace Marathon

John McNamara of Watertown led more than 1,000 runners to win the second annual Boston Peace Marathon, beating the closest competitor by more than four minutes. McNamara, who runs for the Greater Boston Track Club, completed the 26.2-mile race in 2 hours, 28 minutes, 30 seconds. Jack Cleland of Cambridge was second in 2:32:40 while Joel Sumerall of Wakefield finished third in 2:33:45. Monique Piwowarczyk of Quebec won the women's race in 2:55:56 while Betsy Bacon of Marlboro was second in 2:5:13. Jacqueline McNiff Regan of Beverly was third in 2:57:09.

Area runners in Peace Marathon

Three area runners competed in last weekend's Boston Peace Marathon. Bryant Bourgoïn of Waterville led the local runners by touring the 26.2-mile course in 2 hours, 47 seconds to finish 23rd in the field of more than 1,600 competitors. Other local runners who finished the race were Geoff Hill of Oakland (3:50) and Jerry Saint Amand of Winslow (4:22).

John McNamara of Milton, Mass., won the event in 2:29.

Bourgoïn's time qualified him for the 1986 Boston Marathon next spring, and he plans to run in that event.