

Two for the Road . . . or Sometimes One Race Isn't Enough

For most of us, running two or three races a month is plenty of challenge. But then there are the back-to-backers, who actually plan TWO races a weekend or, amazingly, in the same day. MTC has a few of this breed, road demons like Carlton Mendell, who recently used the Doc's Tavern Race as a warm-up for the Mount Washington Race the following day. Then there's the dynamic duo, Richard Scribner and Mark Clinch, who do race upon race, weekend after weekend, like surfers going after the perfect wave.

Recently, two area runners, Andy Haslam and Tom Gadbois, did an unplanned back-to-back adventure. Pre-registered for the South Berwick Strawberry Festival Five-Miler on June 25th, they arrived in plenty of time for a pre-race warm-up. It was in that pumped-up state, endorphin levels rising, that they acted on an impulse. Taking time out to call the York Police Station, they were told that the Nubble Light 1K would start exactly one hour from the race they were about to begin.

Minds racing, they quickly planned that the first finisher of the South Berwick race would run to Andy's truck and meet the other at the finish line for the ten-mile mad dash to York. Tom, finishing first, picked up Andy at the end of the chute and drove a PR to York despite fog and getting somewhat lost.

Eventually the intrepid pair came upon the York 10K pack just as it took off. Quickly negotiating their registrations, Andy and Tom, still pumped from South Berwick, took off after them. The two racers of time and the road weren't able to catch more than the back of the pack, but they avoided road-racing's biggest nightmare: They didn't finish last!

What's next, all you guys?

--Pat Buckley