



Dear Club Member,

Those first three years as you club President hold many memories and feelings that will always be with me. Over the years, one question is always asked of me, "How did the club get started?" I was a very good friend of Rollie Dyer, the true "Father of Maine Road Racing." We traveled to races together, we raced against each other, and he taught me the important aspects of running promotion. After his tragic accident, the running program in Maine appeared headed to its own demise. I felt the only answer was the formation of a strong running club in southern Maine that would eventually encourage the formation of other clubs statewide. I knew that, in time, the club would grow in size and much more leadership beyond my promotional ability would be needed. I had hoped that members with financial and managerial backgrounds would come forth in time of need. It happened. It is why we are here tonight.

The memories; Wednesday night intervals at the Expo, our first club banquet at the Ramada Inn, Bethel Inn weekend races, the 24 Hour Relay at Portland Stadium, the Bermuda Marathon club trip, and all the races.

The feelings; watching Kim Beaulieu improve tremendously after a summer of Wednesday night intervals, seeing Gene Coffin run a tremendous race at Bethel Inn weekend, losing a very close friend, John Fyalka.

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to you on behalf of myself, Gene Coffin, Wayne Laroche and Dave Paul. It certainly does not seem like ten years since that night we sat at my kitchen table organizing the Maine Track Club. Hopefully, in the next ten years, it will do for others what it had done for us.

Sincerely,

Brian "Ziggy" Gillespie  
President 1979-1981