



Dear Club Members,

I will try to explain what made the Maine Track Club special for me. First of all, it was the type of person the club attracted. They were friendly and supportive to members and non-members alike. Our races were popular because runners knew they would be done with efficiency and feeling. Advice on curing a running injury or developing a training schedule was always easy to find.

Our club meetings were unique too. We met in the cafeteria of the Portland Police Station and speakers often had to compete with noise from soda machines. It didn't seem to bother people too much. They just had to sit closer together. Russ, Kim, Charlie, Dick and Herb kept the meetings interesting and informative.

I remember many club runs. The long runs getting ready for the Casco Bay Marathon were always easier because so many did them. The banquet awards always had a long list of Casco Bay Marathon finishers as part of the presentations. These experiences and many others made the club special.

Sincerely,

Bob Coughlin
Bob Coughlin
President 1982



In the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" the main character (played by Jimmie Stewart) becomes depressed and self critical as the small town bank, of which he is president, teeters towards bankruptcy. His wingless guardian angel returns to take him back through the years to let him witness what life would be like without his unselfish efforts.

In a similar manner, the Maine Track Club Ten Year Celebration could include a review asking the question "What would Maine be like today if there had never been a Maine Track Club?"

For certain, few of us would hold Casco Bay and Boston Marathon memorabilia because only the most ardent would have attempted the long training runs. The number of performers and supporters, I suspect, might not have sustained these yearly events.

Without our model, other clubs may never have formed. Imagine no Musterds to the north, Central Maine Striders to the west, Road Runners from Saco-Biddeford or Rowdies, who came from everywhere!

My health minded friends would still be overweight and glued to Sunday and Monday nite football. We would have never witnessed the grit and progress of our fellow members recorded in the monthly newsletter. Pasta would still be an ethnic food!

Few races would be run - even the Portland Boy's Club race with all its tradition - might not have the familial faces that now sustains this 5 miler. The Officer Friendly, Cape Challenge, Bowdoin 10 Miler would mean nothing or little to present day joggers. Portland would still be a speck on the map for many out of State runners who joined the MTC for the Road Runners National Convention. Their early morning view of this city could not have been appreciated along the Backbay pathway, established with the money and support from this organization.

Would Kim Beaulieu, Phil Pierce and many other of our mega-milers have set their sites on the long distances without the three hour slow'n'easy fun runs with other MTC members? I think not.

As we review this Maine Track Club history and numerous contributions to this community and State, I trust we will all conclude, it's been "a wonderful life!"

Dick MacFarlane