

A Bumper Crop of Winter Fun and Run

Shelby Twp (2/9) – Sports in February in the State of Michigan usually conjurs up mental images of skates, skis, and comfy confines of the hardwood and 3-pointers as March Madness approaches. But there are those crazy few who refuse to let a little - or even a lot - of unfriendly weather interfere with their quest for the fast, the fit, and the fun that come with our great sport of running. And it's these heartiest of souls, those among us who look the bite and bitterness of Michigan MidWinter straight in the eye and brazenly refuse to back down, that the Bumper Run at Stony Creek Metropark was created.

The crews at the park have done a stellar job of keeping the path clear and dry through these snowy, cold months, making for good footing and fast times for the runners that they may only have been able to discover on treadmills in the stuffy confines of gyms and basements at this time of year. Many were pleasantly surprised that, despite temps and winds in the teens, they awakened some outdoor speed that they may not have uncovered since before the holiday stretch of November and December.

Leading the group on this 6-mile paved route was road racing veteran and 3-time winner of this event, Jeff Rizer. Jeff was challenged in the early going by another 3-time winner, Rick Straughen of Utica, but through the hilly last half of the course, his strength proved to be the difference, as he was able to sneak under the 37-minute barrier and prevail in 36:59 for the win.

On the women's side even a slight veering off course near the end could not deter Danielle Savard from crossing the line over 6 minutes clear of her next rival, and 6th overall in the race, as she won the women's race in 42:30.

Many thanks go out to local supporters and sponsors of the event. These include Applebees, Fuddruckers, and National Coney Island, who all generously contributed donations to help make this event fun for all, and to continue to get the message out for runners, walkers, and all pedestrians, that safety while exercising should be the highest priority. This event is held each year on the anniversary of a local runner who was hit by a car while out running and survived, and would like to spread the message of caution and common sense while out sharing the roads with commuters and pedestrians while trying to stay fit and healthy.

Results:

1. Jeff Rizer 36:59
2. Rick Straughen 38:24
3. Rich Power 38:45
4. Jim Oleksinski 41:17
5. Brett Sanborn 41:58
6. Danielle Savard 42:30
7. Jim Laurie 42:50
8. Brent Boes 43:30
9. Leonard Brockman 44:30

10. Mark Van De Velde 45:55
11. Joe Baldwin 46:47
12. Dave McMillan 47:17
13. Sebastian Tochowicz 48:40
14. Kendra Kneer 48:44
15. John Keenan 49:23
16. Art Ibarra 52:02
17. Federico Moreno 52:03
18. Francisco Rivera 52:04
19. Joe Terranova 54:44
20. Jim Zittel 54:55
21. Len Constatine 58:32