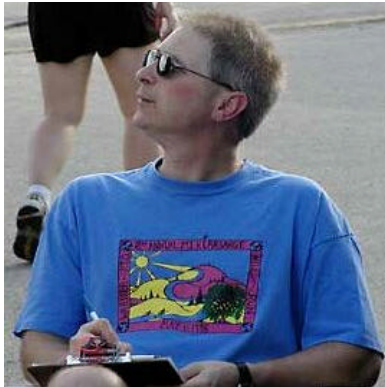


Random Thoughts

By Bob Thompson



The Strider Holiday Party was held on Saturday January 12th at Martha's Exchange. A large crowd enjoyed cocktails and a choice of haddock or prime rib followed by dessert and dancing. A discussion was started at the party about how to split the Striders evenly into teams A and B for the NH Grand Prix, so that we don't dominate the series. Some suggested splitting the teams evenly based on month of birth or day of birth. My thought is that if the Striders are too dominant in the NH Grand Prix, then the teams should focus on the New England Grand Prix and compete against stronger teams such as the Central Mass Striders, BAA, Cambridge Sports Union etc...If our teams focus on those races, we probably won't get as many racers at the NH Grand Prix events. This will raise the competition bar for the Striders while at the same time make the NH Grand Prix a more competitive circuit. That's easy for me to say, since I don't race much anymore and never will score any grand prix points in any league..... The Novemberfest had a nice write

up in the Hocomock Swamp Rat by Katie Kelly. Katie wrote, "I've been running more than 20 years and thought I'd seen everything... until this 18th of November. PASTA PARTY TO DIE FOR! Awesome!" I think she captured the spirit of the race pretty well. A generous donation from the Novemberfest proceeds was made recently to the Nashua Children's Home in memory of longtime Strider supporter Curly Goulet..... This is not the first time a Strider race was reported on in the Rat. The Rat once wrote that some sheep had been molested at the Pack Monadnock 10-Miler after an announcement was made at the start to not bother the farm animals along the course.....

The Welcome Center/Rest Area at exit 6 must be the least used of any state property. Another foot bridge across the Nashua River in that area would make for a nice parking area for Mines Falls Park I think it is just a matter of time before it becomes another rest area with a State Liquor Store. Live Free or Die! I wonder when the lease is up at the State Store on Coliseum Avenue?.... How many of you know how Coliseum Ave got it's name? Back in the 60's there was plans to build a 10,000 seat Nashua Garden on that street. Eventually, plans got scaled back big time with the result being a rink with no more than a couple hundred seats and a ceiling about 12 feet high. Hockey pucks would regularly hit the ceiling during hockey games. A second rink was

added, which is now the State Liquor Store, and the original rink was dismantled. It has probably been 20 years or more since Nashua has had an indoor rink. As you have probably heard, there are plans to build an ice arena in the vicinity of the new Stellos Stadium and Public Works Garage. I hope they don't take away any more of my running trails with that construction.The answer to the question from my last column is Gerry DiGrezio. Gerry was the race director for the 10th Annual Applefest Half Marathon. Gerry has also had the longest continuously running water stop in the area at his home in Hollis. Next time you are near the Applefest 8 mile mark on Wheeler Road look to your left for a refreshing drink....Tired of the same old shoes? Wanna build a pair of custom shoes with your logo on them? Go to www.customatix.com and start designing. Even if you don't want to design your own shoes, the site is pretty neat.....Former Strider and local rock 'n roll legend Buddy Bernard has a new band. The Distractions will be coming soon to a bar near you. Buddy's former band, Aces & Eights will holding a rock 'n roll reunion at Alpine Grove in Hollis on March 16. Let me know if you would like to purchase tickets.....See you on the roads and don't ever let the truth get in the way of a good story.