

Trilogies Past & Present

Major bumpage that Savoy is off the list of races in the Grand Tree Series this year. It will be missed. I did it for many years and saw it go through a lot of changes, always for the better.

There was a nice little trilogy of races between Greylock, Savoy and Monroe but without Savoy I guess there won't be a trilogy unless Savoy can find some help and a race director.

The only thing to do is have another trilogy. This year there will be a new trilogy called the "Blue Dot Trilogy" as the 3 races involved make use of the blue blazed trails of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. The 3 races are Soapstone, May 17th, Goodwin, June 7th and Nipmuck South, June 28th. All 3 are within a 6 week period and all are within a 40 minute drive.

In the old trilogy we would get a hat or a fanny pack which I still use but for this year it will be simpler. The top male finisher and female finisher will get a NipMuck Dave homemade apple pie. Winners will be selected on the lowest elapsed times of the 3 races. Pies will be given out at Nipmuck South the last race in the trilogy.

Anyone else who does all 3 races will get their name listed in a future newsletter.

All 3 races have a lot going for them. Soapstone has been around since the dawn of time. Highly organized, well marked and more than adequate aid stations. Skipping to the 3rd race, Nipmuck South will be in its 3rd year. They learned a lot from their first year as last year's race could not have been smoother. This is another well marked course with lots of aid.

The second race of the trilogy is the Goodwin Forest Trail Run. Part of my motivation for the trilogy is to plug this race which I help with a lot. But not as much as some members of the Friends of Goodwin. This is a highly motivated bunch that does so much more than putting on this race. They put on many nature programs throughout the year. If you'd like, you can catch a program or 2 on the Saturday before the race, camp for free at the Goodwin Conservation Center and then be right there for the run on Sunday. Camping is pretty rugged. Bring your own water. We're talking pit toilets. We learned a lot last year putting on a new race like marking important turns more prominently.

So glad to get another trail running season going. Even though some things go by the wayside, all and all this year's Grand Tree Circuit will be just as good as last.

Dave Raczkowski