

**REDDING ROAD RACE NEWSLETTER**

**22 Volume 1**

**2/3/2022**

## 1. RACE STATS

**Average runner age:** 46.9

**Female/Male breakdown:** 59.4% female

**States represented:** 17: CT, DC, FL, GA, IL, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NJ, NY, PA, TX, WA, WI

**Extra donations,** above registration fees: \$1,945, thank you so much – this is going straight to out beneficiaries!!



## 2. SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE RACE

We are pleased to announce that **Bill Rodgers** will be at the race once again this year along with **Amby Burfoot**.

“Boston Billy,” former American record holder in the marathon, won the Boston Marathon and New York City Marathon a combined eight times and was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2000. Mr. Rodgers will be at the expo (April 30) and race (May 1st) to greet runners and plans to partake in the 7 mile race. Secretly, I plan on running my first ever RRR race, running step for step with Bill (for the love of God, Billy, don’t get faster!!). Bill’s girlfriend Karen and brother Charlie are also scheduled to run the 7 miler.





**Ambrose Joel "Amby" Burfoot** (born August 19, 1946) is a former American marathoner who won the 1968 Boston Marathon. After retiring from competition, he became a running journalist and author. Burfoot was editor-in-chief at Runner's World for many years, and both writes for the magazine and serves as its editor-at-large.

Amby Burfoot grew up in Groton, Connecticut, where he started running at Fitch Senior High School. His high school coach, John J. Kelley (The "Younger"), was the 1957 Boston Marathon winner and two-time U.S. Olympic marathoner (1956 and 1960 Olympics,) and his influence led Burfoot to take up the marathon while still a collegian. In his senior year at Wesleyan University, where Burfoot was the roommate and teammate of Bill Rodgers, Burfoot won the Boston Marathon, but an injury caused by running a steeplechase race in a collegiate track meet later that spring prevented him from being fully prepared for that year's Olympic Trials marathon.

Burfoot's influence on Rodgers, who went on to win the Boston Marathon four times, provided a link in a four-athlete Boston tradition starting with John A. Kelley (The "Elder") and continuing through John J. Kelley and Burfoot to Rodgers. [1]

In the Fukuoka Marathon in Japan in December 1968, Burfoot ran a personal best time of 2:14:28.8, which was one second from the American marathon record at the time.

As of 2015, he had run the Manchester Road Race 53 times in a row besting the streak of barefoot runner, Charlie "Doc" Robbins. In the process, he won Manchester nine times. Burfoot also continues to run the Boston Marathon at five-year intervals, marking his 1968 win. He ran the 2013 Boston Marathon but was stopped three-quarters of a mile from completion after a terrorist attack near the finish line. He has run Boston each year since returning for 2014, in what Burfoot calls "the most glorious marathon ever because of the great people of Boston."





3. **WRITERS WANTED**- Send me your person interest stories, so I can get them in future newsletters.

4. **STEAMBOAT CHALLENGE – WHAT IS IT?**

The Steamboat Challenge is a 5k race (at 7:20am) followed by a rest then the Half Marathon at 8:00am or the 7 miler at 8:25am. The 5k race can be used as a warm up or you can race it, depending on your mood. The extra gift will be a cool logo'd hoodie this year. If you are interested in “supersizing” your race, contact me and I can get you signed up for an additional \$10.

## 5. REDDING RUNNING CLUB

For local runners who want to occasionally (or more than occasionally) run with other people, the Redding Running Club was formed after the 2012 race and has grown very quickly. We run twice every weekend and it has gotten a bunch of us in the best shape of our lives (can't sleep in on weekends when runners are waiting for you!!). Our typical runs are around 6 or 7 miles but we go longer when in marathon training mode. The routes can also be shortened for those who don't want to run the full distance. The club is free and very low key –show up whenever you want. We travel together for races, etc.... Email me if you want to be put on the distribution list. As we get closer to the race, we'll have a 7 mile preview run and a half marathon preview run for runners who would like to preview the course.



Our Club Shirts

## **6. SPONSORS/VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

If anybody has a business that would like to be a Mile Marker Sponsor, contact me. Our sponsors are awesome and help us raise a lot of money for our charities. Families can also be Mile Marker Sponsors. Information is located here:

Likewise, we're always looking for volunteers. Please email me if you or any friends or family would like to volunteer.

## **7. POINT OF INTEREST – UMPAWAUG SCHOOL – MILE 5 OF THE COURSE.**

The Town of Redding was incorporated in the year 1767. Knowing the characteristic of our town fathers, (home, church, and school), it is safe to say the "Little Red School House" is well over two hundred years old. The second oldest deed in the town files is that of Aaron Barlow to Burr Meeker, dated 1789 and mentioning the schoolhouse as a boundary.

The records of its building were destroyed when the British marched through Fairfield, from which town Redding separated from in 1767. Umpawaug, the name of the district in which the schoolhouse is located, had the distinctive honor of being the only school in town made of brick. When people use brick, look for the reason. There was a brick kiln in Topstone and the sagacious promoters-Burrs, Sanfords, Starrs, Barlows, Meekers, Coleys, used the handy and enduring bricks.

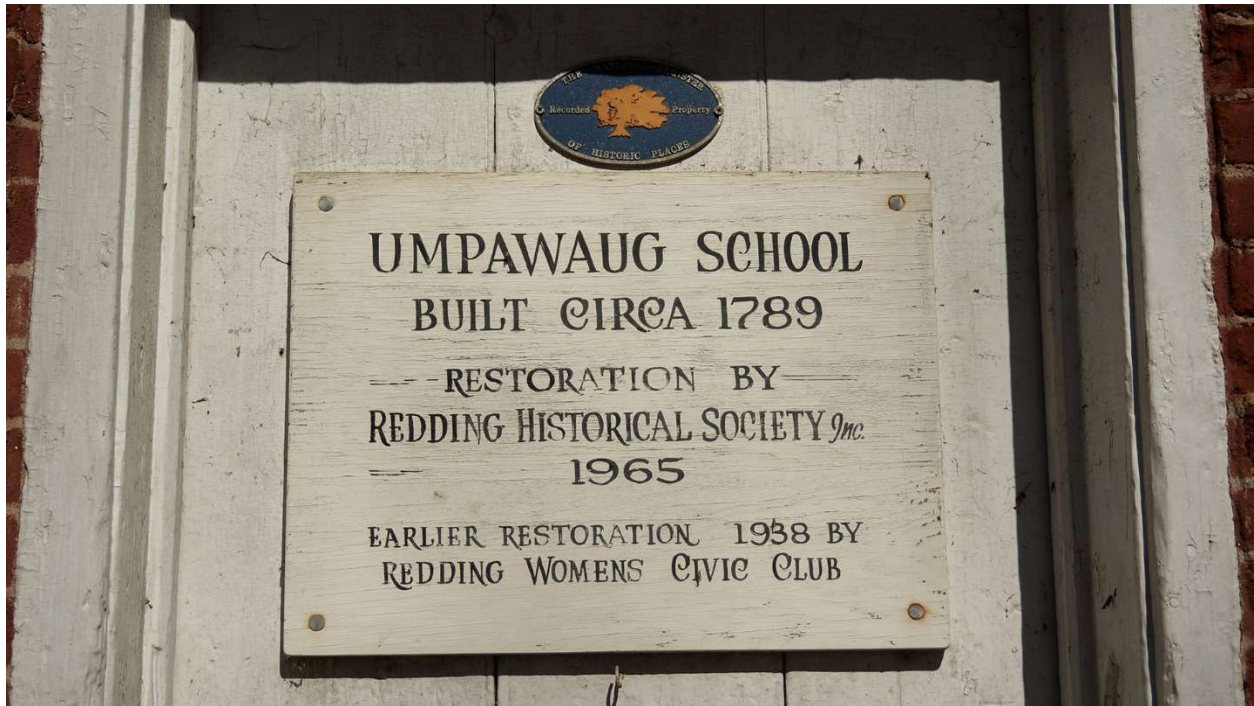
The little schoolhouse was built mostly on the highway. The playground was the street; the neighbor's orchards and fields were the undisputed temporary property of the children. The games then, as now, were seasonal. The public road made an excellent base for ball and the whole hill furnished top and bottom goals. There was no teacher supervision and excursions under child guidance were marvelous.

Teachers who taught at the school included: David Carter; Catherine Carter; Charlotte Ryder; Mary Fields; Mary Tucker; Gertrude Carter; Mary Esther Carter; Ebenezer Hill; Gershom Hill; Charles Rowland; Minnie Lou Carson; William Hazen; Mary Flood; Maggie Flood; Pauline Sanford; Evelyn Pope Odell; Esther Knapp; Helen Carson; J.W. Dodson; Bessie Hazen Taylor.

Until 1880 the finances of the school were raised by district assessments. The district meetings, using the grand list as a basis, set the amount of assessments. The district collector naturally did the collecting. Often the committeeman and collector



were the same person. In 1909 school districts were abolished. In 1929 consolidation of Redding Schools was affected. In an era of a vogue for private residences being made from discarded school houses, we are fortunate to have preserved the "Little Red Brick School House."









## 8. MEATLOAF TRIBUTE

REDDING, Conn.— Rock superstar and actor Meat Loaf dies at age 74.

Small-town Redding: RIP Marvin Lee Aday a.k.a. Meatloaf who passed away on 1/20/22. He lived in Redding in the 1990's on Orchard Drive. His daughter, Pearl Aday attended Joel Barlow High School and Meatloaf coached baseball in a Little League division in Stamford in 1981. He made history for drafting the first girl to a Stamford Little League team. He later coached first base at JBHS for Pearls freshman team and then became head coach for the '91 season. We who are connected to Redding wrap our arms around his family and hope for his memory to be a blessing.

Meat Loaf had an amazing career, selling 100 million records around the world and appearing in 50 movies and TV shows, but he somehow also made time to coach high school softball in suburban Connecticut. Orchard Drive in Redding has

zero show biz glitz, which is exactly why Meat Loaf and his first wife, Leslie, raised their daughters there in the '90s during a lull in his career.



Chris Lindwall became friends with Meat Loaf while coaching his daughter Pearl at Joel Barlow High School.

“He wanted to go somewhere where people didn’t really know him because he wanted to be Dad. That’s what it really comes down to, he wanted to be Dad,” Lindwall said.

When he saw Meat Loaf’s love for the game and the kids, he asked him to take over the junior varsity team in 1991.

“I said listen, there’s nobody else I want to do this than you, but I don’t know if you can do it with your schedule. It took him about 10 seconds for him to say, ‘I will make it work,’” Lindwall said.

The incongruity of a rock star coaching softball brought the team lots of news coverage.

Jen Carlson, of Gothamist.com, was a player.



She tweeted that while “Coach Meat” drove, yes, “like a bat out of hell,” he was kind and generous. He even sang one of his biggest hits on the team bus months before it was released.

“The girls just absolutely loved him,” Lindwall said. “He was the energy. He brought it all. What we saw on the stage, with everything that he performed and how he performed ’cause he gave everything he had when he performed, the same thing happened when he was coaching.”

Lindwall says it was a special two years with Meat Loaf always kind to fans and opposing teams.

“He stayed there and signed every single autograph, and people did it everywhere he went,” he said. “He loved the game, and he loved the kids. They called him ‘Coach Meat.’”

Like his music, the memories live on.

Meat Loaf coached for two years, from 1991-1992, but his coaching days were done after his album “Bat Out of Hell II” reignited his career.



Yours to earn,

John