

# Pace Cadets Win Trail Relay

BY TAYLOR VORTHERMS

ELLSWORTH — A team composed of Hancock County runners won Maine's first overnight relay race — the Down East Sunrise Trail Relay.

"The Pace Cadets" finished the 102-mile course from Ellsworth to Eastport on Saturday, July 26, in 12 hours, 38 minutes and 59 seconds to win the Sally Jacobs Down East Sunrise Trail Trophy.

The award is named after the late Sally Jacobs, who was instrumental in the creation of the Sunrise Trail — the northeastern-most section of the East Coast Greenway that begins in Key West, Fla.

"My mother was such a proponent of the outdoors and getting everyone outside," said Sally Jacobs' daughter, Stephanie Lull. "She would be so happy that not only are people using and enjoying the trail, but that they are also experiencing what Downeast Maine has to offer."

Seventeen teams began the race Friday evening, July 25, at Washington Junction. Starting times for each group were staggered, with quicker teams beginning later in the night to facilitate a more simultaneous finish.

Teams of four to eight runners divvied up legs of the race, which ranged in distance from four to 10 miles.

The relay was planned by Gary Allen and Mary Ropp,



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Members of The Pace Cadets, a team of seven Hancock County runners who won the first-ever Down East Sunrise Trail Relay, include (from left) Wes Danforth, Nick Brown, Andrew Kephart, Andrew Tiemann, Christa Brey and Joshua Torrance. Directly behind the Sally Jacobs Trophy is Jennifer Leech, daughter of the woman for whom the trophy is named. Absent from the photo is team member Laura Anderson.

who also organized the award-winning Mount Desert Island Marathon and the Great Cranberry Island Ultra Marathon.

Ray Archer, director of the Sunrise Trail Coalition, drove his ATV back and forth between Ellsworth and Machias, a 58-mile gap, to monitor the runners.

"It's nice to see all the runners out there. Everyone was cheerful," he said. "Any time you get a group that goes out and does something like this, it's a fun event."

The relay concluded at a seaside lobster bake on Moose Island near the Bay of Fundy, where 106 runners feasted after crossing the finish line.

Sally Jacobs' other daughter, Jennifer Leech, presented the trophy to the winning team: Nick Brown, Andrew Kephart, Andrew Tiemann and Joshua Torrance of Ellsworth; Christa Brey of Lamoine; Laura Anderson of Bar Harbor; and Wes Danforth of Winthrop.

The gravel trails are car-free, so runners got to experience the unspoiled beauty of the woods.

Participants reported sightings of a bear in a blueberry field and a whale in the bay.

The event raised \$2,160. Half will go to an Eastport charity that has yet to be determined. The other half has been donated to the Sunrise Trail Coalition, a group that helps maintain the 85-mile multi-use corridor connecting Ellsworth to Ayers Junction in eastern Maine.

"It's not a lot of money," Allen said. "But I know every dollar counts."

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