

# TRAILS TO A CURE

## 8-Mile Trail Race

**ROCKS, ROOTS & OPTIONAL WATER CROSSING**

3-Mile Walk for those non-wilderness types

## In Memory of Steve Hancock

Cockaponsett State Forest, Chester, CT

Sunday, Sept 19, 2010 "RAIN OR SHINE"

8:00 AM Registration - 9:00 AM Trail Race & Walk Start

\$20.00 By 9/4/2010 - \$25.00 After 9/4/2010 and on race day

Tee Shirts for the 1st 150 registered

Awards and Refreshments following

**Stephen (Steve) Hancock 12/16/1947 - 8/15/2006**

On the first Saturday of August 2006 Steve Hancock stood on the Ocean Beach boardwalk after the John and Jessie Kelley Road Race and belted out a Rod Stewart song with the post-race band. He even jumped around, like Stewart. His friends watched in amazement, shaking their heads. You'd never know he has cancer, they said.

That's how Steve lived for his last 2-1/2-years after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January 2004. He made it through two more Manchester Road Races as a founding member of the "Plaiders", an impromptu singing group who wear plaid jackets while serenading spectators and other runners. He also resurrected and directed two more "Trails to a Cure" races to benefit pancreatic cancer research, springing himself from the hospital to direct the 2006 race.

But Hancock, of Bozrah, could only fight so long against the cancer that has a 99% mortality rate. He died on August 15, 2006, leaving his wife Brenda, his children Stephen and Michelle and his many friends. He was 58.

Hancock, who retired from Electric Boat, was a longtime runner and marathoner. After the 1982 Montreal Marathon, with friends John Ficarra and Pete Volkmar, he, on impulse, bought 3 hideously attractive, red, white and blue plaid wool jackets. The three wore them that year at the Manchester Thanksgiving race and "The Plaiders" were born. Their signature song was "Only You" and sounded like the original in words only. Dean Festa and Tommy Lee joined the group a year later, wearing their own version of plaid.

During an interview with a Lori Riley-Hartford Courant newspaper article Festa described the scene. "What happens is that we're running and Steve will go "Hey, hey!" we'll stop and he'll point to an old lady. We'll be running and have to back-track a quarter mile and find Steve singing "Only You" to her."

The Plaiders have acquired Steve's long-time friend Billy Marshall to fill the void left by Steve's passing. "It's just hard not having him", Festa notes. "I don't think it's going to stop. It's a tribute to Steve. If we don't do it, the cancer won"

