

Below is an e-mail from Bruce Braley, the founder of the Mt. Graham Hill Climb to Nippy Feldhake, the current race director and promoter of said event, dated 7.26.2007...

"Attached is a scan of the T-shirt we provided to all entrants at the inaugural event. Unfortunately, I don't have any record of who did what in that first event, but I do remember that Eric Krch won, Bob Reis took second about ten seconds behind, and I was about two minutes back in third. The winning time was 1:34 something, as I recall. I believe Louella Holter won the women's event, but can't recall her time. I was returning from a bike race—possibly Mining Country—via Safford to Bisbee when I saw that paved road stretching up toward the mountain, and decided to drive up there and see if it would make a good course. We didn't quite make it to Ladybug Saddle because the snow was too deep, but I was very excited with the idea of promoting a race up Mt. Graham after seeing most of the course. It was held in early November, as I remember. The trophies were hand made out of wood by me the first couple of years. I was involved for the first couple of years, possibly three, but it was always my goal to have someone from Safford take over promotion, and I'm so happy that it has been run (as far as I know) every year since. I checked out the website (again, as I had visited it a couple of years ago, as well), and the race is clearly in very good hands with you, Nippy!"