

## Atlanta Peachtree Road Race Trip Notes July 2-5, 2011



Bandit pictures from the web. Obviously having loads of fun!

**A record** - This is the famous Peachtree Road Race – the largest road race in the country at 60,000 and they broke even their own record. I wanted to be a part of history and here I am having a super time despite 91 degree highs with over 90% humidity. Not making much time but so what – I stopped and talked and took pictures and stood under the sprays of water. I ate and I drank but I never could drink enough to make up for sweating for 7 hours. After finishing the 10K and wandering the festival and eating at the Atlanta Track Club tent, I went back to the finish line, watched runners wandering in, perused the park awhile and then did the entire course in reverse. And yes it was a record number of participants and almost a record heat.

Can you imagine a run that starts at 7:30am and yet the last corral doesn't get to start until 9:05am? True! From my hotel room I watched a number of the corrals starting and there was a lot of time in between them. I then went out much later and started at something like 8:37am.

**Costume** – Yes, that's one of the Liberty Ladies in Texas flag shorts. Thank you very much David Williams who helped me find these shorts. If it's too hot to wear my Liberty Lady drape-costume in Medoc France, this might be it. At San Francisco's Bay to Breakers I had to revert to cold weather gear.

**Our party** – There were various calling cards and friends played a role in my deciding to attend. Diane, Tommy and family have been to Peachtree many years in a row. Judy lives in Atlanta and has participated for many years. Judy clued me into the idea of joining the Atlanta Track Club so as to gain early entry to one of the coveted slots. Here's Diane and Tommy as well as Judy and her new daughter in law Sophie. That's ME very flushed at the ATC tent after a morning of 90 degree temperatures.



**Course pictures – compliments of Diane**



Miss Firecracker. The start that we could both see from our hotel window. Mr. V-8.



**Course pictures – compliments of Judy's husband**







See the guy who is 90 years old? When I returned to the finish line much later I stayed with him a while. That's Judy in the middle between a couple cute Germans, but just before the hula skirt boys.

**Hotels** - My Grand Hyatt in Buckhead was at Judy's suggestion and did me very well. It is a lovely hotel with much richness and its classy and within 4-6 blocks from the start line. The Westin would be the closest and next closest would be the Intercontinental. Across the street from the Hyatt was the Embassy Suites but it was similar price and as it turned out they had a disaster checking folks in the day before the run – at 7pm they still had a lobby full of runners camping out and trying to check in and not getting decent information. Apparently they had a group with late check out and a short staffing of housekeepers.

***My initial post race report to Judy:***

What a super day! Congratulations for your finish but even more importantly for getting Bonnie through her FIRST. One never forgets their FIRST anything.

The rains held off for me until about a mile from the hotel and there was a B&N just as it looked black and windy so I took cover and read a book about Munich for awhile, well, in between the shivering because I was fairly wet and the a/c was cold. The rains let up and I walked the rest of the way and really have taken 7 hours to complete a 10K.

I'm looking forward to the shower and then a walk to the Lenox Square area for the fireworks this evening. I might meet up with Diane and Tommy during the Embassy Suites happy hour. I'm into some much needed caffeine right now. Odd to me how many stores and cafes were closed but I guess it is a holiday. I should have stopped near to the finish line where there were some places open.

This morning it had been my intention to just start out the front of my hotel and pay no mind to the fact that I wouldn't have an official time. Though it was only 4-5 blocks to the start line (in the opposite direction of course), it was hugely more distance to get to my corral so I had decided to heck with it. I got up at 7am and went out at 8:20am (after watching the various coral starts from my window) but what should I find to my surprise but a lot of fencing and no way to get onto the roadway to start unofficially/illegally. I ended up walking far enough to get past the start line and just missed my N corral's start and started with the Ps at about 8:37. All in all next to perfect for me as I didn't have to go through the long line up in corrals.

The spectators and scenery were an absolute delight all day and I took a huge number of pictures and even went off course a few times as evidenced by my not finishing until 10:15am – gee, one could crawl in that amount of time!

After the finish line I walked the perimeter of the large festival area to include up the hill but missed the Atlanta Track Club tent so went back to the Michelob beer tent where someone told me to go back up the hill. After breakfast sandwiches and potty stop and freebies compliments of ATC I returned all the way back to the finish line again and reversed course. As the time would expose, I stopped at a lot of places both for pictures and for cooling down. I was on the course again, reversing direction, from about 11:30am. On the road leading to the finish line were a lot of fun characters such as the 90 year old man who was and should be very proud of himself. I walked a good bit of the park before leaving the area.

So from 8:20 to 3:10 – for one delicious 10K! YES! I'd love to see some of your husband's pictures. Your driving me on the course and the commentary made today much more interesting and hopefully I caught all the important sites as I had two times to find them. I even walked around The Temple.

Thanks again, Diana

PS I'll copy Marv and Maryanne – Marv just helped Seth in from a 50-miler in Tulsa where it was also 90 degrees. Now to the shower.

From Judy: Are u still in Barnes & Noble? Want me to drive you back? I'm just taking a break. Hope you had a good walk back. Yes, great day. My husband got some amazing pictures of people in weird outfits...I'll send later after he puts them on computer. I'm so proud of my sister-in-law Bonnie who finished her first "Peachtree" today, "got the t-shirt," and as far as I know, she is still alive. It's been a fun weekend...and what are your plans now?...perhaps a shower...unless you were already washed clean by the storm. Pretty decent timing for the storm, considering everything.

From Diana to Judy at around 2:30pm: Hope you got in before this storm. I have been a tourist for a long time. I wonder if anybody else has taken 7 hours to do a 10k? I'm safely in a Barnes & Noble watching the monsoon and about 1 mile from hotel. All is fine for me. It's been a great day.

**THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE** IN PEACHTREE CITY HAS ISSUED A \* SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR... NORTHWESTERN DEKALB COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL GEORGIA CENTRAL FULTON COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL GEORGIA WEST CENTRAL GWINNETT COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL GEORGIA \* UNTIL 245 PM EDT \* AT 200 PM EDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR INDICATED A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM CAPABLE OF PRODUCING DAMAGING WINDS UP TO 60 MPH. THIS STORM WAS LOCATED NEAR BUCKHEAD...MOVING NORTHEAST AT 15 MPH. PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS... IN ADDITION TO LARGE HAIL AND DAMAGING WINDS...CONTINUOUS CLOUD TO GROUND LIGHTNING IS OCCURRING WITH THIS STORM. MOVE INDOORS IMMEDIATELY! REMEMBER...IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER...YOU ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING. IF YOU SEE WIND DAMAGE...LARGE HAIL OR SIGNIFICANT FLOODING...WAIT UNTIL THE STORM HAS PASSED.

**More - Hot, Hot Heat – from the ATC website:** For all of you who love everything about the weather, here's a fun tidbit about the 2011 AJC Peachtree Road Race for you! Last year we were spoiled by the weather with a 66-degree temperature at the starting line. This year as the gun went off, it was a hot and humid 73 degrees; the hottest starting temperature since 1997's 74-degree mark. It went up to 91 degrees and nearly 100% humidity!

**More pictures** - ATC website with lots of pictures and articles about the race:  
<http://atlantatrackclub.tumblr.com/>

**Course pictures by Diana**



Remember I watched the start from my hotel room from 7:30am until about 8:20am. As I walked to the start-line I saw a lot of the corrals being started.



I just missed my N-corral start and lined up with the P-corral. There were a bunch of runners with signs saying "I flew 9,234 miles to run 10K" and they were from Hong Kong. There were an amazing number of 'old timers' who were proud of having run in every Peachtree Road Race. The spectators were often worthy of a stop to chat and definitely for a picture.



Spectators were generally in costume themselves and many were set up for a picnic.





More than one body-paint-job got partially washed or sweated away. There were showers offered at many locations. See the cross bearing bible reader? His partner was reading scriptures. Mr. Big Cup guy was giving away smoothies. Some were tossing out t-shirts with the MOE navy blue t-shirt being a coveted one. They only gave away about 9,000 so no wonder I missed them. But Diane and Marie both fetched one.

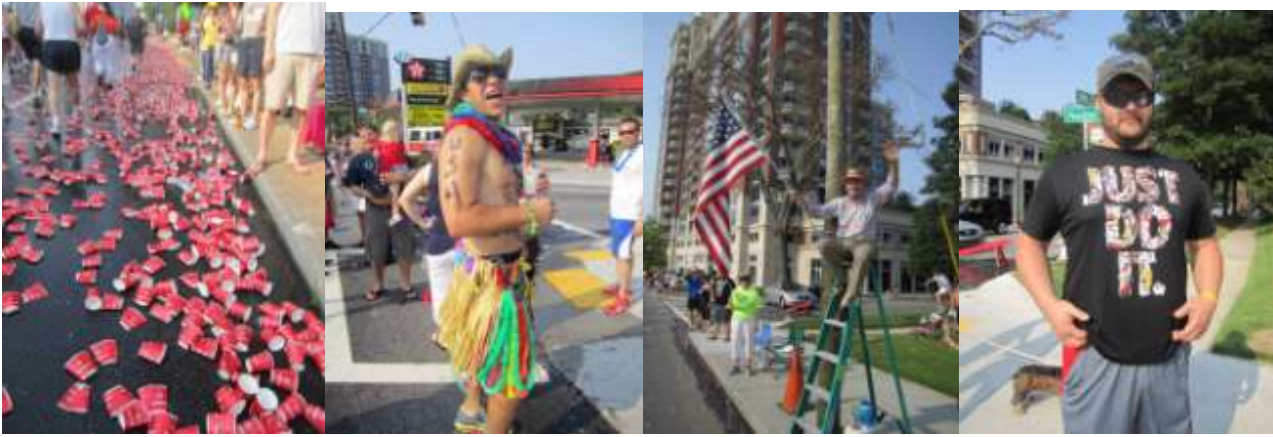


Of spectators, I should have started counting doggies there were so many, to include the Greyhound Society with their dogs dressed in hats and neckerchiefs.



One simply couldn't drink enough. I carried a bottle and drank at every station and simply couldn't keep up. See the doggie in sunglasses? Right before a fellow Liberty Lady. This last picture is a lady so pregnant she was due just a few days later; this is such a nice change from my days when we weren't even allowed to run for fear of our uterus dropping out. Thank you Kathrine Switzer for helping bring in Title IX and women's running.





See the finish line festival? It was huge and pretty much a sea of people. And the good looking body painted boys were pretty much washed up.



Mr. Peach was a huge guy and very popular for pictures. The post race refreshments included fresh peaches! Here's Mr. 90-year-old at the finish line where I returned to about an hour later. He looks great! The back of his shirt reads: I'm 90 and I just passed you!





Piedmont Park was designed by the Olmsted Brothers and I enjoyed wandering some of it. See that skyline? There are three separate skyline areas to Atlanta. Now we start walking the course in reverse starting with the Margaret Mitchell “Gone with the Wind” house. At the Atlanta History Center the day before we’d toured a special exhibit with her papers.



I talked to the owner of these wee doggies – he’d just acquired them at three months old. I sat in the next park awhile until the noise of the street cleaners pushed me out. Yes, there were still people on the course but I’m not sure this t-shirt that read: “Please let there be someone behind me” saved her any more than that I was there.



That’s ME in a building’s reflection, before finding the children’s center with lots of bronze statues.





I find it amazing that clean up can be so thorough and quick. Porta potties were being vacuumed out and streets cleaned as I walked home. Porta potties were even being carted away. See the guy with the squirt gun? There were many of them on the course and this guy managed to catch me even though the streets were clean. It felt good. I was drenched anyway.



There really are a lot of churches. Most worthy of a picture. This is Judy's Temple – its one with a grave history of having been burned to the ground but then rebuilt. Atlanta has had a lot of disruption in its history. From Judy later: *More about the Temple on Peachtree -- The Temple did not burn to the ground. It was bombed during the Civil rights era, in 1958. My rabbi, Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, was liberal, outspoken and worked with MLK and others trying to make change come sooner. An outstanding book, a finalist for the National Book Award, "The Temple Bombing," by Melissa Fay Greene, can be "peeked into" so that you can read a sampling on Amazon.com. She is an accomplished writer with other impressive books as well.* Thank you Judy. Travel should be educational and you certainly helped make this trip so. I learned more about Atlanta's background during this trip than I did during my 2008 trip.



A little mini Fiat used as advertisement for a restaurant. That little old Fiat is going to be returned to the market and is coming to the U.S. Lots of lovely flowers along Peachtree Road. Did you know there are over 100 street names with Peachtree as part of the name? Maybe even more churches than Peachtree street names.

So now we've "made it to the top" and my second tour of the course has finished.



### ***The top!***

On my second hike up the hill I found the Atlanta Track Club tent and it was worth it. They gave out goodies and a full breakfast.



### ***Fireworks at Lenox Square Mall***

A big fireworks show in Atlanta is at Buckhead's Lenox Square Mall. Complete with a kid's zone and live music, this celebration has the largest fireworks show in the Southeast. The fun starts at noon, when the Kids Zone opens, and goes until 10 p.m. Musical entertainment begins at 6 p.m.

Unfortunately it was also Taste of Atlanta and just as they were setting up the monsoons hit. Then it cleared awhile and as I walked there at 8:45pm it was only sprinkling but it opened up with full and heavy rain very quickly and fireworks were held off until 10:00pm. I saw the end of them from my hotel window.







People found multiple ways to try to stay dry but probably only the couple in the porta-potty was successful.

**Judy's Post-Peachtree report.** I had a wonderful time yesterday. Jogged some and walked a lot...I didn't want to get hurt in what I consider a party/parade! Just before I got to my condo building I "met" 2 adorable costumed runners and asked them to be my friends and run with me as we approached my place. They were delightful and posed with me and my husband took pictures. I didn't get any food or freebies in Piedmont Park, but found 2 people near the High Museum promoting and giving out sample 4-pack cartons of cans of energy drinks made by the LIVESTRONG group, so I guess the organization named for Lance Armstrong is branching out. Proud that I had scored such a cool freebie, I planned to take it back to the condo and present it to Jonathan and Sophie...I saw so many participants toward the end of the race that I gave them all away! I decided that perhaps I was worthy of one can and drank some...it is not good, perhaps chilling it would help. I had hurried from Piedmont Park back up Peachtree Road hoping that I would see my sister-in-law Bonnie. She was one of the last few...honestly she looked so cute...I had told her that she "HAD TO POUR WATER DOWN THE FRONT & BACK OF HER T-SHIRT AT EVERY WATER STOP" or I was afraid she wouldn't make it. Since the most she had ever walked at one time was 4 miles (and that was during what should have been her tapering period) and she STARTED in the X Corral at 9:00, I was worried. When I saw her near the Temple, she was so wet that she looked like she had been thrown over Niagara Falls...her clothes were stuck to her and she was happily walking along with a big stick (tree branch) she had found, using it like a back scratcher. I said "you're funny with your back scratcher stick" and she said "oh I've done this the entire way." I'm so proud of her for her courage and good attitude. Fortunately, there were enough t-shirts left for her to get one. I walked the rest of the way back and met someone who had childhood traumas that we discussed and psychoanalyzed. Came back and started eating everything I could find which included Krispy Kreme doughnuts that I had purchased for Jonathan as well as other fattening things that I purchased for him for HIGH CALORIE cycling snacks. Showered, looked at the news and took a NAP right through the fireworks, BUT when I got up at 2 or 3 am searching for food, I saw fireworks set off in the area near your hotel.

***It's not all about the run – tourist sites are important!***



Touring the Swan House inside and out with Judy and new daughter-in-law Sophie. Judy later drove us around to the front of the house too.



The Atlanta History Center is highly rated and gave us a full afternoon of enjoyment. Well, except the reminder of what our country went through not all that long ago. My goodness how nicely life has changed! Later Judy would drive me through the estates and gorgeous homes of Atlanta.

### ***The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library***



I'm embarrassed to say that the Jimmy Carter Library was a big surprise to me. I had no realization that he and Rosalyn were doing such great deeds and were recipients of so many peace prizes. They have had much success and is a man to be admired.

Here is a unique portrait collage of Jimmy Carter that's comprised of historical and smaller pictures.







Along with the Carter Presidential Library was the Carter Center and on the grounds were lovely gardens with a Japanese influence. We walked the lake and worked up an appetite for the Varsity Diner.



On collecting presidential libraries: Some of you know that I've tried to see them all. And some of you who are 50-staters know I've often said "damn, do I have to go to Iowa too?" Well, I only have one presidential library missing and guess what state it's in?

### **Varsity Diner**



Varsity might be the largest and oldest diner in the country. They still have car hops. Judy dressed as one with her hat.

### **Happy Hour**

Before venturing out for the Fourth of July fireworks, I would join Diane and Tommy for drinks at the Embassy Suites. The day before we'd done the same and consumed many leftovers from her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Here's some cute little Bolt On personalized wine bottles for Diane Bolton.



Pre Peachtree included a pasta dinner and cookout at Eileen's parent's home on Windsor Parkway. Eileen had been Marie's roommate in Rio de Janeiro, Marie was staying there, and acquired this lovely invitation for us.

## **Bon Voyage**

All in all, Atlanta was a quicky type trip for me but enough to know I'd like to return again. I had been there in March 2008 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ING Georgia marathon and that was where I'd met "Aunt Loudean" who would later that year bring along little-Marie to Charlotte's Marathon.

## **Others – at different marathons**

**From Charlotte:** I did New River Marathon. It was a toughy !!!! Very similar to Hatfield-McCoy in that it runs along a river bed for a large portion and oh yeah let's stick in a mountain at mile 16. A smaller one at mile 2 and some other rollers. But there were a lot of down-hills which are tough as you know. It was an inaugural race and there were some kinks but the scenery was beautiful !!! I stashed me a beer in the cold river at Mile 23 so that hit the spot. I should have known better than trying to hang with someone whose Maniac nickname is "I eat hills for breakfast " but did manage to until mile 15. Amazingly enough with the hills I was able to finish in 4:54....about the same times as Charleston and Myrtle Beach which as you know were very flat.



So since I'm having withdrawals cause I don't have another one until November I think I'm gonna do Grandfather Mt in July.

**From Diane after the Baltimore Marathon:** I came upon Eugene at the Baltimore Marathon as this was a milestone marathon for him...like maybe his 500th or something big. Could even have been his 4th time completing all states. He was featured in the Wall Street Journal. I should print the photo and get him to autograph it for me. I later found that Eugene has already done at least 15 marathons in 2011.



**From Christi from Cape May/NYC:** Pittsburgh was okay. Despite a wave start, it was very crowded. On the plus side, it was not as hilly as I had expected. (My fiancé lives in Pittsburgh, and my training runs during my visits very much resembled roller coaster rides!) The weather was dank, though, and that gave the city a smell that reminded me of a dirty water park. Again, the shirt from this marathon does not feel durable, but the goody bag was quite full of food and other useful things. So many sponsors also meant that there were many hydration stations throughout the course.

Similarly dank weather met me in VT, but what a race! That course is TOUGH. The hills that I missed in PA were here instead. Only 8,000 runners allowed for enough elbow room even when the course veered onto some trails. My only complaint about the race is that the shuttle bus drivers should have had staggered lunch breaks. I finished shortly before noon, collected my medal and food, and walked to the shuttles for the hotels at the moment when all the drivers went on their 45min break. I was very glad not to be injured or sick. That wait would have been miserable otherwise.

**A little inspiration** compliments of Coach Tom.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq3rOMnLGBk&feature=related>

**A Rally! Atlanta was busy with more than runners:** *Thousands Rally In Atlanta Against Immigration Law by The Associated Press - July 2, 2011* Thousands of marchers stormed the Georgia Capitol on Saturday to protest the state's new immigration law, which they say creates an unwelcome environment for people of color and those in search of a better life. Men, women and children of all ages converged on downtown Atlanta for the march and rally, cheering



speakers while shading themselves with umbrellas and posters from the blazing summer sun. Capitol police and organizers estimated that between 8,000 and 14,000 protesters gathered. They filled the blocks around the Capitol, holding signs decrying House Bill 87 and reading "Immigration Reform Now!" Friends Jessica Bamaca and Melany Cordero held a poster that read: "How would you feel if your family got broken apart?" Bamaca was born in the U.S., but her mother and sister are from Guatemala. She said she fears they will be deported. "I would be here by myself," said Bamaca, 13. "I have a feeling [the governor] doesn't know the pain affecting families. If he were to be in our position, how would he react?" Azadeh Shahshahani of the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia called the rally inspiring and said she hoped lawmakers would recognize the law's potential to damage the state. "I think it's going to have an impact," she said. "Unfortunately, the damage has already been done as far as people of color having second thoughts about moving to Georgia." Several different groups stood with the largely Latino crowd, including representatives from the civil rights movement. The Rev. Timothy McDonald, an activist who has been supportive of immigration protesters, was among the speakers showing his solidarity. "You are my brothers and my sisters," McDonald told the crowd. "Some years ago, they told people like me we couldn't vote. We did what you are doing today. We are going to send a message to the powers that be ... that when the people get united, there is no government that can stop them. Don't let them turn you around." Saturday's rally follows a "day without immigrants" organized Friday, when some parts of the law took effect. It was organized by the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights. The organization asked businesses to close and community members not to work or shop to protest the law. On Monday, a judge temporarily blocked key parts of the law until a legal challenge is resolved. One provision that was blocked authorizes police to check the immigration status of suspects without proper identification. It also authorizes them to detain illegal immigrants. Another penalizes people who knowingly and willingly transport or harbor illegal immigrants while committing another crime. Parts of similar measures in Arizona, Utah and Indiana also have been blocked by the courts. Provisions that took effect Friday include one that makes it a felony to use false information or documentation when applying for a job. Another provision creates an immigration review board to investigate complaints about government officials not complying with state laws related to illegal immigration.

AJC Peachtree Road Race

# AJC Peachtree Road

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Some of the AJC Peachtree Road Race's 60,000 runners cross the Piedmont Park finish line after starting in temperatures above 70 degrees. Nearly 300 received medical attention. **Johnny Crawford** | [jcrawford@ajc.com](mailto:jcrawford@ajc.com)

## Very overheated, but they still run





Jerry Rome, 55, of Easley, S.C., takes a break to stretch out at Piedmont Park after completing his ninth Peachtree. Jason Getz jgetz@ajc.com

## 'Bigger, hotter,' humid, but the same fun ritual



### My Opinion

#### Mark Bradley

For a rookie watcher, Jeff Smith picked the ideal spot — on the shady side of Peachtree Battle, seated on a brick pillar. Then again, he did have some feel for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race, having run the event 20 or so times.

But not this year. Smith's foot had been hurting, and he was a spectator at the 2½-mile mark awaiting his wife and his 12-year-old daughter, who were running and walking the

Peachtree. And already Smith, an Atlantan since 1988 and a technology manager, had seen something new.

"Those guys up front," he said. "They really run fast."

Such is the scope of the Peachtree that you can run the race and see a couple hundred thousand folks along the way without ever glimpsing the elite runners, who start first and are long gone by the time the masses begin their trek. "Those guys finished 40 minutes ago," Smith said, and still the 42nd Peachtree was in its nascent stages.

The massive race grew even bigger this year, increasing to 60,000 participants. Think of it this way: If you took everyone in a sold-out Turner Field — counting Braves and umpires and ushers, too — and arrayed

Bradley continued on C5

## Kenyan Kitwara wins as 28 go to hospitals.

Much of race run under 'black flag' as hundreds seek medical attention.

By Doug Roberson  
drrberson@ajc.com

Competing in dangerously hot conditions, Sammy Kitwara won Monday's running of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race — an event that sent 28 runners to hospitals and forced 269 others to seek medical attention at the finish line.

Unlike last year's cool start in 66-degree conditions, this year's race opened in 73 degrees with shirt-soaking humidity. It was the hottest starting temperature since 1997's 74-degree mark.

"It was just too hot," said Kitwara, who received \$15,000 as the first-place finisher in the men's competition. He finished in an unofficial 28 minutes, 5 seconds.

"There's no way it was 73 degrees," runner Ed Moran said.

The race began at 7:30 a.m. under "red flag" or high-risk conditions, based on the heat stress index, which takes into account temperature, humidity, wind, sun and shade. From 9:30 a.m. on, the race was un-

Peachtree continued on C4

### Top men's finishers

- Sammy Kitwara, Kenya, 28:05
- Mathew Kisori, Kenya, 28:07
- Ridoune Harroufi, Morocco, 28:27

### Top women's finishers

- Werknesh Kidane, Ethiopia, 31:23
- Alice Timbilli, Kenya, 31:48
- Belainesh Gebre, Ethiopia, 31:59

# At 60,000, race isn't too big yet

## Bradley

continued from C1

them in rows in front of Lenox Square mall, you still wouldn't quite approximate this elephantine event.

"If it gets much bigger," Smith said, "it'll turn into a big walk."

Not that he was complaining. Smith was having a fine time watching the runners and his young son was enjoying himself leaping at a tree branch. For all that the Fourth of July in Atlanta entails – runners and watchers and dogs, and crazy costumes and blaring music and the army of volunteers, and even a fighter-jet flyover this year – griping doesn't register.

"You notice that nobody is upset," Smith said. "Everybody's in a good mood. All these people are in good spirits."

It was hotter and more humid this Peachtree, and the good-spirited participants were sweating harder than usual after 2½ miles. "And they haven't gotten to the hill [in front of Piedmont Hospital] yet," Smith said. But still: Over its four-plus decades of existence, this signature Atlanta event has proved indestructible.

Why, Smith was asked, is that so? Why is the Peachtree such a humongous deal?

"People are always looking for ways to celebrate the Fourth," he said. "I'll see people at the Peachtree that I only see once a year."

Not far from Smith's perch sat Jean Ingram and Blanche Roberts, sisters-in-law from Sharpsburg. They used to park themselves in front of the big water oak at Peachtree Battle, but a few years ago they scooted up the street because the tree's roots grew.

When this correspondent

last encountered Ingram and Roberts, the year was 2002 and they were accompanied by two of Ingram's grandchildren, the younger of them in a stroller. On this day those grandchildren – Taylor, 19, and Tiffany, 13 – were running the race. As ever, so was Ferma Ingram, the 73-year-old husband of Jean and brother of Blanche.

"It's bigger and hotter," Roberts said, speaking of this installment of the Peachtree.

A few updates: Since 2002, Ingram has retired as postmaster of Sharpsburg and Roberts from her job as a teacher. Their Peachtree ritual, however, hasn't changed. They left home at 5:30 a.m., were in place by 6 and came wearing red, white and blue. (Although Ingram's sequined visor of years past had, alas, fallen apart; it has been replaced by a "Peachtree Road Race Spectator" visor.)

Afterward, the family – 32 members were expected this year – would convene at Ingram's house for the staple grilling-out. As for her indefatigable husband, who was run-

ning the 42nd Peachtree, Ingram said, "He's had cancer; he's had open-heart surgery."

"About ready for brain surgery," Roberts said of her brother.

"One year he ran with a kidney stone," Ingram said. "Another year he ran with a cracked rib. After his open-heart surgery, we had someone run with him to make sure he didn't fall over."

Let the record reflect that Ferma Ingram and the other five members of the Ingram/Roberts running party – each of their names were pasted in glitter on a poster mounted on a wall – made the 6.2 miles without wilting Monday. "They're still coming into the house," said Ingram, speaking by phone from Sharpsburg shortly after noon.

Earlier, someone had wondered when big becomes too big. Not just yet, came the sisters-in-law's considered verdict. Said Ingram, "They organize it so well."

☞ Said Roberts, "Sixty thousand is a good number."



## Peachtree Road Race

# Many run race in costumes

By Ken Sugjura  
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Wonder Woman, Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz," runners body-painted as bald eagles and at least two men in full bodysuits took the starting line. One group wore capes and carried small brooms to play Quidditch, the fictional sport in the Harry Potter book series. The group even included a winged golden snitch, which, if you must ask, is the ball used in Quidditch.

"We're just kind of repping Harry Potter," said Sean Lovett. It was, perhaps, one of the first times in recorded history that the bespectacled wizard has been "repped."

Lovett and his crew wore soccer jerseys and vuvuzelas last year in a nod to the World Cup.

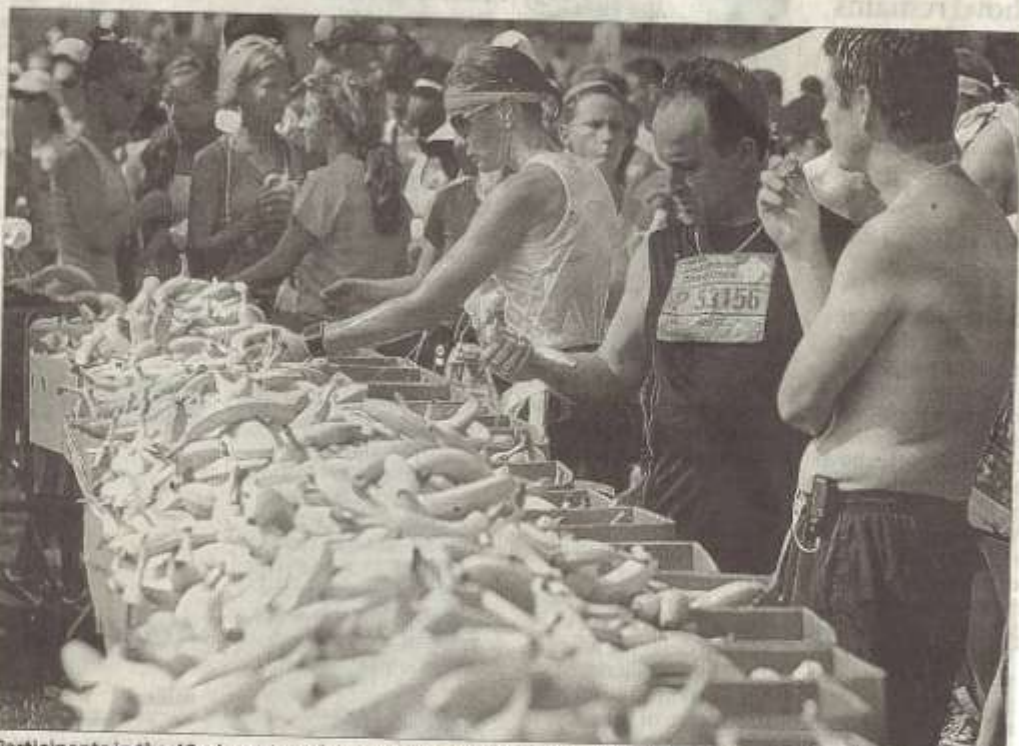
### Thorn runs 42nd

Bill Thorn, Landmark Christian School track and cross country coach, retained his distinction as the only person to run every Peachtree. He ran No. 42 with granddaughter Kenzie Thrasher, who cut short a trip to New York to run alongside her grandpa. The two ran the entire way and finished in about 80 minutes.

"It got to be a little bit of a struggle in the last mile, but I was OK," Thorn, 80, who exercises seven days a week, said. "It could've been worse."

The T-shirt will go into a garbage bag with the rest of his complete set.

"I'll sell 'em for \$100,000," Thorn cracked. "Where else are you gonna get [every T-shirt]?"



Participants in the 42nd running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race grab bananas as they walk through Piedmont Park after the race. It was the hottest race in the past decade. Photos by Jason Getz jgetz@ajc.com



Runners painted as eagles warm up for the 42nd AJC Peachtree Road Race at Lenox Square. Many runners wore costumes or body paint.



Dean Sam Candler, of The Cathedral of St. Phillip, tosses holy water in the air as elite runners pass in front of the cathedral.



## UWG designer wins

What Kenyans are to the race, the University of West Georgia is becoming to the T-shirt design competition. For the second consecutive year, a student in Clint Samples' digital media class won the contest. This year, it was Kenesaw's **Jessica Ferguson**, 22, whose design was the word "Peachtree" spelled out in orange, red, yellow and white on a gray shirt. The "c" was a semi-circle slice of a peach, including a leaf and stem.

On a scale of one to 10, with 10 being best, the mean score of 22 finishers surveyed was 6.6 with a range of three to 10. Comments included: "It's clean," "I always like when they get a peach on it," "I wish it was brighter," "just boring," "cute" and "lacks oomph." Several runners expressed disappointment more in the gray shirt than the design.

Two of Ferguson's classmates were finalists.

## Happy to be running

One of the voters awarding the shirt a 10 conceded he would have given that score to a blank design. Ten-time Peachtree runner **Miles Chesley**, 62, of Cartersville, was back in the race after sitting out the last two fighting prostate cancer.

"It's my favorite day of the year," Chesley said, who made clear he actually did like the design.

Chesley's race-day buddy was **Ivan Santus**, 31, a priest from Bergamo, Italy. Santus arrived Friday in Cartersville to study English and learn Amer-

ican culture. An American flag was attached to his hydration pack.

Said Chesley, "What better way to teach him than to get him with 60,000 of our closest friends."

Padre Santus' evaluation? "It was good," he said. "Many people."

## Second-favorite shirt

The most sought-after T-shirt was the one that awaited runners in Piedmont Park. No. 2 was available less than two miles in at the Moe's in Buckhead. For the 11th consecutive year, the restaurant set up shop in its parking lot with giveaways. It's become a must-stop for many runners on the 6.2-mile route.

"It's as important as getting the shirt at the end," said Peachtree long-timer **Lynne Hancock**, owner of about six Moe's Peachtree T-shirts.

Employees and their children stood atop a fire truck and tossed navy blue T-shirts into a crowd below, made up of runners begging, pleading, raising outstretched arms and shouting "Welcome to Moe's!" They gave away 6,000 shirts, their most ever. The swag also included green Frisbees, which were handed out, rather than thrown.

## Newlyweds hit road

Per usual, the field included newlyweds announcing their nuptials via T-shirt.

**Debra and Alvaro Ramirez** wore matching "Mrs." and "Mr." T-shirts, along with a veil and hand-made tutu (Debra) and a top hat and bow tie (Alvaro).

Alvaro, who wed Debra on June 18, used the race to perform one of his first acts of spousal sacrifice, moving back from start wave K to M to run with his wife, though he conceded he'd never run a 10K by himself.

"I run with her," he said.

Less than 24 hours after their wedding, **Michael Fountain** and **Marie Mattimoe** ran, walked and danced down the course wearing custom-made wedding-dress and tuxedo T-shirts.

They decided to run despite the fact that Fountain, who is in Air Force pilot training, was only in town from Friday to Monday afternoon. Running played a part in the couple's relationship; they got to know each other as Georgia Tech students running the campus "Pi Mile" together.

"I said I'd marry him, but I wouldn't give up the Peachtree," Mattimoe said.

About 10 family members, including Mattimoe's sister and maid of honor **Brigid Drozda**, also ran.

## Etc.

Atlanta Track Club officials reported that the increased field, from 55,000 to 60,000, did not hamper the execution and flow of the race. The suc-

cessful implementation of the start wave system last year allowed the club to expand the field, still believed to be the largest 10-kilometer race in the world. About 55,000 participants completed the race.

Former Sen. **Max Cleland**, a race fixture, was not present. Cleland usually waves to runners in front of his Buckhead apartment. The building concierge said Cleland might be out of town. Many runners asked where he was.

"He was missed, obviously," said **Violet Mathis**, a neighbor of Cleland's.

Atlanta Mayor **Kasim Reed** was the race's starter, a year after missing it to attend a benefit dinner in Colorado. Reed was asked in a live interview by WAGA-TV sports reporter **Buck Lanford** why he didn't run the race. Reed responded by challenging Lanford, who after his work duties ended ran in his 22nd consecutive Peachtree, to a race next July 4.

Runners donated 1,418 pounds of old running shoes at the start line to GreenSneakers, a charity that cleans and repairs the shoes and sells them at a low cost to non-profits and charities in third-world countries, primarily to enhance economic development.

In their second year at the race, farmers with the Georgia Peach Commission handed out more than 60,000 peaches at the finish line. ... A few veteran runners noted that the crowd was smaller than usual, perhaps because of the weather.



# 'It was quite unbearable at the end'

## Peachtree

continued from C1

der a "black flag" warning, the highest level of caution.

The conditions were "extremely dangerous for untrained and unconditioned people" and "extremely stressful for trained athletes," race medical director Joe Wilson said.

By 9:30, most of the better-conditioned runners were finished, leaving the course to slower joggers, walkers and older participants. The last race participants to leave the starting line were on the course in black-flag conditions for all but 25 minutes of their race.

Wilson said a male runner suffered cardiac arrest at the corner of Piedmont Avenue and 10th Street, less than a half-mile from the finish line.

The man was awake and asking questions on his way to Emory Hospital Midtown. He might have been fortunate to have his heart attack during the race because he received immediate medical help, Wilson said.

"That kind of cardiac situation could have happened anywhere," he said. "He's alive because he ran Peachtree."

The race conditions were probably the most physiologically stressful of any Peachtree in the past decade, according to Wilson.

"[The Peachtree] is a disaster, in the sense that we know people are going to need help," Wilson said.

The 28 runners transported to local hospitals mostly suffered heat-related injuries on the course, Wilson said. At the



The heat and humidity didn't stop Jed Byrne from running in a head-to-toe American flag body suit made out of polyester.

Ken Suglura ksuglura@ajc.com

finish line, the 269 runners who required attention were treated by 140 medical volunteers. Combined, one out of every 200 runners entered in the race needed some sort of medical treatment.

Wilson gave credit to Peachtree participants for staying hydrated and not pushing the pace.

"It's very difficult conditions for runners, but the runners have become smarter over the years," the cardiologist said.

Peachtree rookie Mathew Kisorio tried to take control of the race at the beginning, posting an unofficial two-mile time of 8:38, a pace that would have shattered the course record (27:04).

Kitwara caught up and the duo ran shoulder to shoulder for most of the final three miles of the 6.2-mile journey through Atlanta. Kitwara outsprinted Kisorio to the finish line for his

second victory in three years in the event.

Ethiopia's Werknesh Kidane won the women's race, topping the field in 31:23.

Ben True was the top American runner, finishing fifth in 28:28.

"It was quite unbearable at the end," said True, who was competing in the event for the first time.

Cedartown's Krige Schabert won the men's wheelchair race for the fourth time in 19:47, and Tatyana McFadden defended her title in the women's wheelchair event in 24:46.

Some runners handled the heat better than others. Adriana Nelson, who at sixth was the top U.S. women's finisher, was happy with her time of 32:49 and didn't mind the conditions. She recently ran a race in New York in similar heat, which helped prepare her for the Peachtree.

The heat didn't affect many of the racers until they turned east and began the final stretch down 10th Street toward Piedmont Park.

"That's when I could feel the sun beating on me," Alpharetta's Parris Mitchell said.

More than 91 percent of the race entrants live in Georgia and many said they felt fine, even if they noticed the steadily creeping humidity.

"It was hot," said Ed Swords, 90, a Canton resident competing in his 13th Peachtree. "But my daughter helped me stay hydrated."

Those who braved the course in costumes – including Jed Byrne, who chose to wear a head-to-toe American flag body suit made out of polyester, and Pete Coleman Jr., who ran in a tuxedo and resembled a Six Flags mascot – said they actually prepared as if the temperatures were going to be worse.

"It's Atlanta," Coleman said. "If you're not prepared for the heat you're probably from up North. I like I am."



# Runners still face 'Cardiac Hill' climb

Generations know early downhill conditions give way later in race.

By Meghan Rose  
mrose@ajc.com

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race isn't your average 10-kilometer race, catering to 60,000 participants, some running, some walking, over a course from Lenox Square to Piedmont Park.

While a number of race-day conditions can't be controlled, including this year's weather that was tabbed as the hottest in more than a decade, the course itself doesn't change. From year to year, it remains the same 10K path that challenges professionals and novices alike.

"It has a little bit of everything," Tracey Russell, Atlanta Track Club executive director and Peachtree race director said. "The course is downhill through the first three miles, and then there's a tough climb

through mile four."

Advertised as the largest 10K in the world, the Peachtree has become a road-racing institution.

"It's a great tour of Atlanta through one of the most famous streets," Russell said.

Over the years, runners have come to expect the hill that awaits them, an ascent near Piedmont Hospital that has earned itself the nickname "Cardiac Hill."

The 10K course ranges in elevation from 1,017 feet at Piedmont Road to 817 feet at Peachtree Creek two miles later.

To accommodate the changes in elevation, as well as the various hills of the course, participants have made slight adjustments in their racing styles to find success.

In the wheelchair division, Tatyana McFadden earned her second consecutive Peachtree title, with a time of 24 minutes, 46 seconds.

Familiar with the course, McFadden played to her strengths during the uphill stretches of the course to edge ahead of her

competition.

"I needed to make sure that I got my focus for the uphill, because that's where my strengths are," McFadden said. "I'm not a coaster like some of the other girls are."

Early in the race, the runners at the head of the pack posted incredible times at the two-mile split. But that pace began to slow as the race continued. Still, first-place finisher Sammy Kitwara noticed a particular racing pattern among the top runners.

For much of the 6.2-mile race, the top male elite runners ran in a tight pack, a style that suited Kitwara's running.

"In Kenya, you have to train in packs together," Kitwara said of his running days in Africa. "When someone goes fast, you go faster with them and adjust."

In the end, the course remains one of the many elements that make the Peachtree a road race a memorable experience.

"It was a great course, phenomenal," top American runner Ben True said.



A winning number

Ed Swords is already wearing a shirt marking the occasion as he crosses the finish line at Piedmont Park. At 90 years old, Swords was running in his 13th Peachtree Road Race.



## ***Itinerary***

### **Sat Jul 2**

9:10am Depart Newark EWR via UA4717  
11:28am Arrive Atlanta ATL

Shuttle to hotel – RT \$37

11:00am Expo at AmericasMart, 230 Spring Street, Bldg 2, West Wing to 7pm

Hotel Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead – 3 nights  
3300 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305 Tele: 404 237 1234  
Internet free; coffee service and refrigerator

### **Sun Jul 3**

11:00am Race number pick-up will take place at the Peachtree Health and Fitness Expo (Americas Mart, 230 Spring St N.W., Building 2, West Wing, Atlanta, GA 30303) to 7pm

Paid for mailing of bib to home.

Noon Jimmy Carter Library at 441 Freedom Parkway, 30307 Tele 404 865 7100 to 4:45pm  
Directions: Marta to Five Points, then catch 16 Noble bus.  
Drive Interstate 75/85 to exit 248C Freedom Parkway or  
Interstate 20 to Moreland Avenue North exit, 2 miles on Moreland to Freedom Parkway

6:00pm BBQ at Eileen Fannon (friend of Marie Bartoletti – met in Rio) to 9pm  
With Judy Altman

### **Mon Jul 4**

7:30 AM Peachtree Road Race starting at Atlanta-Lenox Square Mall-Buckhead,  
3393 Peachtree Rd NE

Judy in Coral K with start at 8:14am; Diana in Coral N with start at 8:27am – see map in file

At finish ATC membership gives access to members-only hospitality tent; wear logo on bib for access - Finish is in Piedmont Park, designed by sons of Fredrick Law Olmsted in 1904

42nd running of the AJC Peachtree Road Race, a 10K event organized by the Atlanta Track Club that takes place every Fourth of July in Atlanta, Georgia. The first Peachtree was held in 1970 and featured 110 runners, and the AJC Peachtree Road Race has grown into the largest running event in the US with 60,000 participants. The AJC Peachtree Road Race is perhaps most famous for the coveted Peachtree T-shirt, which is handed out to all the event finishers.

Start Waves:

•Start wave assignments for the AJC Peachtree Road Race are performance-based. Participants wishing to run in the top-seeded wave will need to submit their finish time from the 2010 Peachtree or any other USATF certified race - 10K, 5K, 5M/8K, 15K, 10M or 13.1M distance - run on or after January 10, 2010. View top-seeded wave time standards.

### **Tue Jul 5**

3:32pm Depart Atlanta via UA#4746  
5:56pm Arrive Newark

**Participants:**

Iva Grady and Brian

Diane and family at Embassy Suites across the street

Judy Altman

Marie Bartoletti arrives Fri pm thru Monday at 6pm

Eileen Fannon: [onthego@travelinggracer.org](mailto:onthego@travelinggracer.org) or 404 308 3003

Laura Qualman

From Judy: Diana, I think that this is the 42nd running of the Atlanta Peachtree Road Race coming up. It's July 4th, so it's HOTLANTA at its hottest. Humidity is a higher number than our national debt. To be almost guaranteed a place in the race, join the Atlanta Track Club (u get yr app early). They will LIMIT the race (party parade really) to 60,000 participants. It is a very SERIOUS wave start to avoid problems for the city and the participants...back waves start an hour or two after the elite runners. Race starts in front of Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza, the best shopping in the Southeast, located next to the Buckhead Ritz Carlton. It's a running orgy of sorts, I guess. Orgies always sell out quickly, so they have gone to a lottery this year.

No, starts uptown in Buckhead. I think the host hotel last yr may have been the intercontinental. I believe the beautiful Grand Hyatt (in Buckhead) is right across the street. Go to [atlantatrackclub.org](http://atlantatrackclub.org) to join...don't do "basic" membership, but do the next level up, I think. Check to be sure it says that level membership "includes early application to Peachtree Rd Race." Not as complicated as I make it sound.

I'm looking for a picture of the Japanese serenity garden with 3 story waterfall at the Grand Hyatt to show Tom, but haven't found yet.

***Tourist info from Judy***

<http://www.thevarsity.com/> -- big, old and famous drive in; Food is probably considered by many as awful...I love it...been having it since I was a child. The food oils (greases) your system. Tom likely would not understand what the fuss is all about.

[www.atlanta.net/50fun/](http://www.atlanta.net/50fun/)



#### 24 Midtown Nightlife

Midtown has so many options for evening fun. For a casual and laid-back evening, try urban bowling at **Ten Pin Alley** or laugh with friends at **Laughing Skull Comedy Lounge**. Famous clubs such as **Butra Lounge**, **Aurum** and **Opera** reign from Midtown. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 25 Midtown Walking & Bicycling Tours

Midtown walking and biking tours are available for many Atlanta attractions. **The Atlanta Preservation Center** offers walking tours of historic neighborhoods and The Fox Theatre, one of the few remaining movie palaces of the 1920s. More info: [www.preservationatlanta.com](http://www.preservationatlanta.com) or 404-688-3350. **Bicycle Tours of Atlanta** caters to many ability levels and features numerous options across the city, such as the Heart of the City Tour. The Progressive Dinner Bicycle Tour lets you experience Atlanta's coveted cuisine while sipping a few catboles. More info: [www.biketouratl.com](http://www.biketouratl.com) or 404-273-2558.

#### 26 Piedmont Park

**Piedmont Park** features lush woods, Lake Clara Moore, picnic spots, skating paths and many annual events. More than 140 acres, the park is situated between 10th Street and Piedmont Avenue, where it joins the Atlanta Botanical Garden. More info: [www.piedmontpark.org](http://www.piedmontpark.org) or 404-475-PARK.

#### 27 William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum

Through its exhibitions, publications and resources, the **Atlanta Jewish Federation Museum** explores Jewish heritage and how it relates to other cultures and religions. It also contains two permanent galleries and hosts special rotating exhibits. More info: [www.thebreman.org](http://www.thebreman.org) or 404-673-1661.

### BUCKHEAD

#### 28 Atlanta History Center

The **Atlanta History Center** features 32 acres of gardens, wildlife trails and woodland areas. The complex includes the 1540s Tulife Smith Farm and the fully restored 1928 Swan House mansion. The museum offers exhibitions on the Civil War, African-American heritage and Southern folk art, with a wing dedicated to the 1996 Olympic Games. More info: [www.atlantaatlhistorycenter.com](http://www.atlantaatlhistorycenter.com) or 404-674-4000.

#### 29 Arts & Galleries

Major Buckhead design and cultural districts include Miami Circle, Peachtree Decorative Arts Plaza, the Galleries of Peachtree Hills and Bennett Street. The **Swan Coach House Gallery**, located at the Atlanta History Center, features both established and upcoming Southern artists. The **Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCA-GA)** permanently houses more than 600 works by local artists in contemporary mediums. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 30 Buckhead Entertainment & Nightlife

The luxurious community of Buckhead boasts exquisite dining and top-tier accommodations. See and be seen in the fabulous lounges such as **The Gold Room**, and enjoy the city's most talented musicians at **Sambuca**, **Dania's Doves** and **the Hatch** and the **Buckhead Theatre**. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 31 Legendary, Luxury Shopping

Experience Buckhead's legendary shopping with exclusive specialty retailers such as Calvin Klein and Zara. Designer boutiques such as Hermes, Cartier and Kate Spade add a touch of glamour to any visit. Luxury retailers are found throughout **Lenox Square** and **Rhpps Plaza** including Saks Fifth Avenue, Jimmy Choo and Tiffany & Co. Visit **Miami Circle** and the **Bennett Street District** for museum quality art and antiques. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

### EAST OF DOWNTOWN

#### 32 Atlanta's Eclectic Neighborhoods

**Little Five Points** is Atlanta's bohemian hangout and home to a rich mix of art, theater, and shopping. **7 Stages Theatre**, **Dad's Garage**, and **Horizon Theatre** are must-see! **Virginia-Highland** features hip boutiques while **East Atlanta** is filled with hometown restaurants and gastropubs. The historic district of **Cabbagetown** prouly boasts impressive architectural restorations. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 33 Decatur Square

The charming, quirky neighborhood of **Decatur** is found just six miles east of downtown. Friendly, walkable and right on the MARTA line, the community is home to more than 200 boutiques, restaurants and galleries. **Eddie's Attic** is a must-see for live, local musicians. Year-round festivals include the Arts Festival in May, the Beach Party in June and the Book Festival on Labor Day weekend. More info: [www.decaturga.com](http://www.decaturga.com) or 404-370-4100.

#### 34 Fernbank Museum of Natural History

**Fernbank Museum of Natural History** brings the world's largest dinosaurs to life and explores global cultures through hands-on exhibits. Enjoy a classy mix of culture and cocktails with Martinis & MAX9 every Friday night. More info: [www.fernbankmuseum.org](http://www.fernbankmuseum.org) or 404-929-6300.

#### 35 Grant Park

Atlanta's oldest city park features lush lawns and stunning views. Framed by gorgeous Victorian homes and bordering **Zoo Atlanta**, **Grant Park** is a haven for families. It is also near **Oakland Cemetery** as well as the **Atlanta Cyclorama** which immortalizes the 1864 Battle of Atlanta. More info: [www.grantpark.org](http://www.grantpark.org) or 404-521-8800.

#### 36 Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum

The **Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum** is an opportunity to learn about the life and work of the 39th president's life. Explore an exact replica of the Oval Office, view special exhibits, and listen to oral histories and interviews from the Carter White House. You will also trace Carter's life from his 8th grade report card to his 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. More info: [www.jimmycarterlibrary.org](http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org) or 404-865-7100.

#### 37 The Michael C. Carlos Museum

Located on Emory University's campus, the **Michael C. Carlos Museum** houses ancient objects from Egypt, Rome, the Near East, and the West. It is also home to collections of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Sub-Saharan African art and European and American Renaissance works. More info: [www.carlos.emory.edu](http://www.carlos.emory.edu) or 404-727-4252.

#### 38 Zoo Atlanta

Located in historic Grant Park, **Zoo Atlanta** features more than 200 species of animals from the African plains and Asian forests. Visit the playful pandas, manxless mammals and adorable reptiles and amphibians! The Ford African Rain Forest houses 24 gorillas, one of North America's largest captive populations. More info: [www.zooatlanta.org](http://www.zooatlanta.org) or 404-624-WILD.

### ALL AROUND ATLANTA

#### 39 A+ in Culture = Atlanta's Higher Education Centers

Globally-known performers are hosted at **The Robert Frost Center** at Georgia Tech and Georgia State University (GSU)'s **Rialto Center for the Performing Arts**, while the **Miriam H. and John A. Conant Center** at Oglethorpe University is home to the Georgia Shakespeare Festival. Art collections are displayed at Emory University's **Michael C. Carlos Museum**, the **Oglethorpe University Museum of Art** and the **GSU School of Arts and Design Gallery**. The **Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)**'s Atlanta campus offers exhibitions at its gallery in the Woodruff Arts Center. SCAD also restored the historic Peters House into Ivy Hall, which now hosts cultural events. **Clark Atlanta University Art Gallery** and **Spelman College Museum of Fine Art** present works by nationally acclaimed artists. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 40 Atlanta Motor Sports

**Road Atlanta** in Buckhead is a 2.5-mile track hosting the Petit Le Mans, plus sports car, vintage, motorcycle, and go-cart races. Tickets: [www.roadatlanta.com](http://www.roadatlanta.com) or 770-967-6143. Head to **Andretti Indoor Karting & Games** where you can slip behind the wheel of SuperKart and speed away on one of two Andretti-designed indoor tracks. More info: [www.andretilkarting.com](http://www.andretilkarting.com) or 770-992-5688. The **Atlanta Motor Speedway** is an 870-acre racing complex hosting NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series events.

#### 41 The Atlanta Opera & The Atlanta Ballet

The **Atlanta Opera** offers four main stage productions seasonally, in addition to pre-opera lectures, student matinees and more. Tickets: [www.atlantapera.org](http://www.atlantapera.org) or 404-817-6700. **Atlanta Ballet** is the oldest professional dance company in America. Performances combine contemporary and traditional with classic ballets and new choreography. More info: [www.atlantaballet.com](http://www.atlantaballet.com) or 404-873-5811. Both companies perform at the **Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre**. More info: [www.cobbenergycenter.com](http://www.cobbenergycenter.com) or 404-249-6400.

#### 42 Chattahoochee River Fun

Soak in recreation areas along a 48-mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River have been designed to preserve the river and provide outdoor family fun. Contact **Chattahoochee Outfitters**, a premier watercraft outfitter, for your next river trip at [www.shoottheriver.com](http://www.shoottheriver.com) or 770-650-1003. The **Chattahoochee Nature Center** in Roswell offers educational programs, canoe trips and other activities. More info: [www.chattahoocheenature.org](http://www.chattahoocheenature.org) or 770-992-3055.

#### 43 Golf in Atlanta

Atlanta has more than 100 public and private golf courses encompassing the metro area. Enjoy in-town hot spots such as **Charlie Yates Golf Course**, **North Fulton Golf Course**, and **Bobby Jones Golf Course**. Championship links just outside the perimeter include **Stone Mountain Golf Club**, **Legacy on Lanier Golf Club**, **Canongate Clubs**, and **Bear's Best**. If you are in Atlanta in September, watch the pros at **East Lake Golf Club** during the finale of the PGA TOUR Playoffs at **THE TOUR Championship** presented by Coca-Cola. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 44 Historic Neighbors

The **Marietta Historic District** offers tours of the town and heritage museums. Visit the Square for specialty and antique shops, dining and entertainment, including the **Marietta Gone with the Wind Museum** and **Theatre in The Square**. More info: [www.marietta-square.com](http://www.marietta-square.com). Attractions in the **Historic Roswell District** include the 1845 **Smith Plantation**, **Bullock Hall**, which is the childhood home of Former President Theodore Roosevelt's mother, and **Georgia Ensemble Theatre**. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 45 Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament

Journey back to the 11th Century for feasting, fighting and fun! **Medieval Times** is a family-friendly dinner theater featuring an authentic medieval feast and jousting tournament with live horses and fearless knights. More info: [www.medievaltimes.com](http://www.medievaltimes.com) or 888-WE-JOUST.

#### 46 North Georgia Day Trips

Just a short drive north of Atlanta you'll find gorgeous mountain scenery and hometown hospitality. **Wolf Mountain Vineyards** is elegantly simple, offering delicious plates paired with Georgia wines. The town of **Helen**, a re-created Alpine village complete with cobblestone alleys and old-world towers, is a fantastic family option. **Babylon General Hospital**, home to the Cabbage Patch Kids, is a unique place where you can take home a hand-stitched baby of your own. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 47 Outlet Malls and Day Trip Shopping

**North Georgia Premium Outlets** in Dawsonville offers 140 stores of current-season merchandise from designer labels. For retail, dining and entertainment options, stop into the shopping meccas of **Discover Mills** and the **Tanger Outlet Center**. More info: [www.atlanta.net](http://www.atlanta.net).

#### 48 See Atlanta From Above

Whether floating in a hot air balloon or free falling from an airplane, you'll be sure to see Atlanta like never before...from above! **Balloons Over Georgia** provides incredible views of Lake Lanier, Stone Mountain, Kennesaw Mountain, the Atlanta skyline and the beginnings of the Blue Ridge and Appalachian mountain ranges from one of the most beautifully colored balloons in the country. More info: [www.balloonsovergeorgia.com](http://www.balloonsovergeorgia.com) or 678-947-9866. Get ready for the most exciting time of your life! Skydiving offers you the opportunity to live life to its fullest. **The Atlanta Skydiving Center (ASC)** experience is like no other! At ASC you will be accompanied on your skydive by the most enthusiastic skydive professionals in Georgia skydiving! More info: [www.ascskydiving.com](http://www.ascskydiving.com) or 770-484-3483.

#### 49 Stone Mountain Park

Home to the world's largest piece of exposed granite rock and longest running laser show, **Stone Mountain Park** is Georgia's most visited attraction. The **Laser Show Spectacular** is choreographed with favorite tunes and breathtaking pyrotechnics. With more than 3,200 acres of natural beauty, you'll find family-oriented recreational activities, special events, lodging and camping. Visit the 1870s town of **Crossroads** for live shows, craft demos, shopping and dining, or enjoy the **Great Locomotive Adventure**, **Scenic Railroad** and **Arboretum Plantation & Farmyard**. Another family favorite is **Sky Hike**, the largest treetop adventure course. More info: [www.stonemountainpark.com](http://www.stonemountainpark.com) or 770-488-9690.

#### 50 Yellow River Game Ranch & Kangaroo Conservation Center

The **Yellow River Game Ranch** is 24 acres of wooded preserve along the banks of the Yellow River. It features more than 600 native Georgia animals, such as deer, buffalo, and the famous groundhog, General Beauregard Lee. More info: [www.yellowrivergame ranch.com](http://www.yellowrivergame ranch.com) or 770-972-6643. The **Kangaroo Conservation Center** is home to the largest population of kangaroos outside of Australia. More info: [www.kangarooconservation.com](http://www.kangarooconservation.com) or 706-265-6100.

From Judy: Wonderful wonderful...do you think you can get more of our buddies to come...I'll help arrange fun activities including THE VARSITY, the largest drive in fast food restaurant in the country (or world I guess). It's sort of like 1950 with carhops, and the inside of the giant restaurant has at least 7 or 8 dining areas, tvs, memorabilia everywhere...it's next to Georgia Tech. My dad went there when he was a young man. I went when I was a teenager with friends and we drove around and around and around the double decker parking lot like in the movie American Graffiti. FUNNY FUNNY! My mother (who is gone now) loved the chili dogs. My grandmother who lived to one month short of 103, was still eating Varsity food until she died. You will certainly wonder what the fuss was all about when you see these small burgers pathetically half way off their buns among other strange characteristics! My dad took me there when I was a little girl and I always got their black cherry ice cream. The ice cream IS DELICIOUS as are their famous individual little FRIED APPLE AND PEACH PIES. Ah... memories, memories like the corners, or is it COBWEBS of my mind...

Also, if you come we must visit the OK Cafe down the street from the Governor's Mansion on beautiful West Paces Ferry Road.

As a matter of fact, maybe you should take one of those tours that takes one past the beautiful homes that look like TARA from the movie Gone With the Wind. I understand that the movie did use the front of one of these homes.

So, can we have a party? PAR TAY, PAR TAY!!!!