



**End of the World Marathon and Day-After Marathon
Houston-Humble, Texas
December 20 to 22, 2012**

This was about the shortest trip I can remember and is against my usual 'rules of travel' but had an exceptional situation: I'd booked and paid for the dual event prior to Tom coming up with the idea of taking music-loving, 14-year-old Marie to The City of Music and the famous Christmas Festival in Vienna for Christmas and New Year's. Marie was to arrive early Sunday morning to begin our adventure. So I reluctantly (or was it gratefully?) canceled the Day-After Marathon, donated the registration to a military member, and thoroughly enjoyed the End of the World Day.

This marathon report can be brief because the trip was short, the event isn't one that will be offered again and thus it doesn't need commemorated nor listed Pros and Cons, and there was NO touring. Just friends and a marathon. Steve and Paula Boone are famous for putting on great events and their New Year's Day event sells out in minutes. This one was likely the same.



Monkey is always where you find the Boone's and always in a new costume. David not only spectated and supported but he was there for the bib pick up. Bib pick up might have been the only flaw of the event but the Boone's wouldn't have expected the cold – we stood forever in a line outside shivering, and then had to line up again for our bag and shirt and then had to line up again the next morning for our chip. Oil derricks were in abundance as this is Texas after all.

From my update to 'family' friends:

We had loads of fun at the End of World Marathon. I liked the trails but that's my kind of thing. Some felt there were a lot of holes, heavy and deep sand, a few big hills, and four loops was boring. Because we knew so many folks in attendance I was never bored. Because I like the dirt and hills challenge, I was never bored.



According to the Mayan Calendar
The world is ending this month.
Fortunately, the Oreo cookie says
not to worry.

Theme: The Mayan calendar has suggested December 21st would be the end of the world, but then it was discovered that the calendar merely went that far and didn't intend to suggest a stop. I'll add below some additional scientific discoveries about the Mayan calendar and what brought this up, but the theme brought more runners than martians or aliens out.

It was not only great fun to talk about but it was the theme of the day with numerous signs denoting the Mayans, aliens or martians.



Caution! Alien trip wire; Alien Corps of Engineers: Your Tax Dollars at Work; Caution! Super Volcano; Prefontaine's Car (there was a rusted out sports car)



Remaining Oil Supply – Do Not Enter; Caution! Dehydrated Quick Sand; Cheap Post Apocalypse Housing; Fresh Water 98% pure

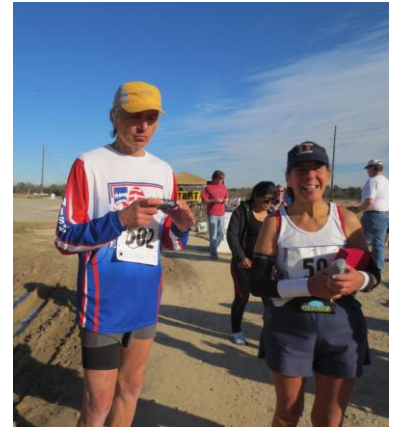
Weather was odd starting with 40mph winds on bib pick up day when I shivered for hours thereafter and worried that I'd made a big mistake while coughing through the evening. Then the morning of the event it was 32 degrees. It might have gotten up to the mid-60s. We started in winter woollens and ended in summer shorts. We were grateful that the record 81 degrees of the prior date had passed.

Remember the horrid drought of the south last year? The remnants of many dead tree groves became fodder for the winds and there were downed trees in abundance. I'd noticed the acreage of brown when flying in and out last month on my way to and from Peru.

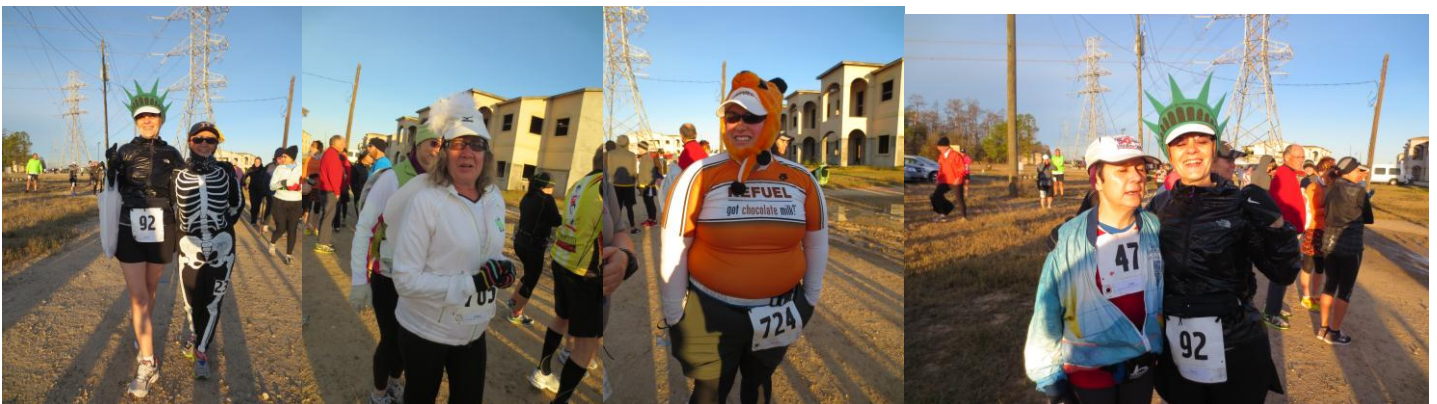
Results: We did great. Judy did great. Gee, just doing is great and we did! Judy made a big deal out of my going back for her but remember that pretty much all my training is on this kind of terrain. I was glad to have the time to walk/hike with her; it was amazing to see Judy with a "new face" -- no

longer shy and a very stronger Judy. She regaled me with humorous stories about her recent ten day cruise through wine regions with her girlfriends. One of those girlfriends runs a marijuana supply store All have been friends since childhood which is pretty amazing because we aren't young chicks any longer.

Probably Judy came in around 9:23, me at 7:10 and Diane around 6 hours. Lois was before me, Carol a bit after, and Fran just moments after me. It was Fran's completion of second time around the 50 states. I had been with her in Yakima when she completed 100. Now don't think we were last in either -- there were folks behind us despite it getting dark. We were offered a shortcut back (more on that next) but Judy said NO. Hopefully she took kindly to me pressing her on to keep her legs moving as fast as her mouth. We liked and needed both!



The sun was just coming up causing a glow to some of the costumes and there were many costumes including some boys in skirts and tutus.



Some pictures just prove that anybody can and anybody does a marathon. If you want to and doubt yourself, just go to any finish line after 6 hours and give a look. It's just one foot in front of the other! And a few bucks.



The two most famous rock stars: Yolanda and Larry who hold Guinness Book of World Records with a matching 116 marathons a year, but soon to be 120 and 150. See Judy with Jim? Then cute Carol, Diane and Karen.



I couldn't resist another picture of Carol. Then it takes a real man to wear a skirt let alone a pink skirt. At the finish line we thought the lady in blue was pregnant until she revealed the hairless doggy she was keeping warm. The little fluff ball belonged to her too.

The course as described above really was rocky, holey, muddy, gravelly, sandy, hilly and sometimes treacherous (Judy was said to have fallen in a hole), yet at times there was reasonably flat terrain. I don't think anyone expected so much of a trail condition.

It was also likely more than 28 miles in length. After the first turn around (four loops) there was consensus that GPSs were showing a bit over 14 miles. Steve Boone acknowledged such with a big laugh. Near the end there was a cut off that would have saved about 1 ½ miles which was offered to us but probably most took the LONG way wanting to start what they finished. Judy only vacillated a couple seconds before deciding to GO ALL THE WAY. That took guts since darkness was falling. I said yes but had wished for a flashlight (smile.) Many GPSs, even despite the tree cover, showed over 28 miles.

Thus what mileage did I do? If my extra 1:45 hours was between 15 and 20 minute mile pace, then I did from 5 to 7 additional miles so I did anywhere from 33 to 35 miles. Fortunately it was soft surface and varied so I no soreness at all.



The course was full of rocks and rock stars. At one point there were photos taken of all those who had completed over 100 marathons in the year. Mud and more mud. Holes and wonderment if the rock stars didn't have

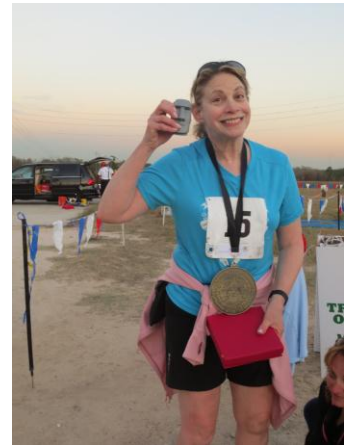


Hills (here is Yolanda one of the rock stars), puddles and snakes however dead.

The medal was humongous. Far too big to wear. We should have expected such as Steve and Paula Boone are famous for their New Year's Day event's medal being even larger than the Little Rock Marathon medal.

Heavens knows what the 2nd day medal will be and then there's a huge coin that is given to commemorate the two events. Each comes in a silk lined box.

Goodies: The Boone's are famous for giveaways and this was no exception. We got a goody bag, a huge and quite decent gym bag, a hat, a high tech (and wild color) t-shirt, and a memento 'animal' that they are apparently noted for giving away and has our finish order (number) on it. All that stuff times two if you were doing each event. Then there was food during the course and pizza to our heart's content at the finish line.



Multiple events: Judy and Diane (and all the other Maniacs) are doing each day! Some did a marathon the day before and some are staying in the area for the Quadzilla. I did 3 loops on and off with Yolanda who will finish the year with 120. Larry was with us for most of 2 loops and he will finish with 150 this year; (both are beating their Guinness records), Jim isn't far behind Larry; we were with him for much of a loop. Jim says he beats Larry's record each year, just a year behind him. Wonder if I understood correctly that Diane will do about 70? Remember that's the figure that got Yolanda into Guinness about 3 years ago? Yolanda claims she's calming down next year, but that's what Carol always says too and it hasn't happened yet. All this, instead of serving like a plague on my psyche, served mostly to temper me and to force start looking for more diversity.

Spectators: There were quite a few and made easier by the fact we retraced our steps often. The best: we were blessed with having David Williams there for the entire event. Spectating, supporting, and some volunteer work at the finish line. He joined Judy and me for dinner the night before. He and Judy are such a delight and they are so very intelligent that they're hard to keep up with. Of course a trip report will come along but much shorter than usual as this was a one-time event plus I'm off to another adventure really quickly.

I'm blessed! But I'm pressed so here's my current report and I'm sticking to it.

Off to Vienna, the City of Music. The Christmas Festival and New Year's Eve celebrations said to beat all. Tom had been to Vienna in the late 70s or early 80s. We were there on one side of our Prague to Vienna bike ride maybe in 2004. I was there en route to Amsterdam from Budapest on the River Cruise in 2007. We look forward to seeing Vienna close up and have an apartment rented very close to the center and St Stephen's Square.

Itinerary

Thu Dec 20

9:08am Depart Newark EWR via UA1430
12:19pm Arrive Houston's IAH

Packet pickup Thursday 1pm to 6pm at the race site. 20550 Townsen Blvd - Humble, TX 77338
Or at 6:30am on race day at the race site.

Directions: From Highway 59, take the FM 1960 exit or Townsen Blvd exit. The course is located along Townsen Blvd. just north of FM 1960E.

Rental car Thrifty Conf#FQ29SS – check for better rates

Hotel Fairfield Inn at IAH, about 5 miles from host hotel
4025 Interwood North Parkway, Houston, TX 77032 Tele 281 227 3434

At airport and 7.5 miles or 14 minutes to marathon start; 5 miles from host hotel

Fri Dec 21

8:00am End of World Marathon start with 8:15am half marathon start
See www.50statesmarathonclub.com - Hard pack dirt, 4 loop marathon
Location: Between Highway 59 and FM 1960: 20550 Townsen Blvd - Humble, TX 77338

Sat Dec 22

8:00am Day After End of the World Marathon – advised Paula that I was not staying over
See www.50statesmarathonclub.com – donated entry to a military person

2:48pm Depart Houston IAH via UA#621
7:18pm Arrive Newark EWR

Note: Marie arrives Sunday Dec 23 at 9:57am

Registered:

Judy for full on 21st and half on 22nd – at Holiday Inn Express, 22675 Hwy 59 N, Kingwood, TX 77339
Tele: 281-359-2700
Diana for full x1 tho registered x2 – at Fairfield Inn airport
Diane for full x2 - ?
Larry Macon for full x2 – finishing up his 157 for the year
Jim Simpson for full x2 – close to his 1,000th marathon
Lois and Carol at host hotel
Marsha White and husband at Host Fairfield Inn: 20525 Hwy 59 N, Humble, TX Tele: 281-540-3311



End of the World Marathon

Date: Friday, December 21, 2012

Time: 8:00 A.M. Marathon start 8:15 A.M. Half Marathon start

Location: Between Highway 59 and FM 1960

Address: 20550 Townsen Blvd - Humble, TX 77338

Important Information: For the pessimistic marathoners, we suggest you only sign up for the End of the World Marathon. For those optimistic marathoners we also have an additional event on Saturday, December 22, 2012 called the Day After the End of the World Marathon. We'll celebrate that the pessimists were wrong. [\(click here for more information\)](#) There will be something special for those who complete both events (marathon or half). We haven't decided what it will be yet, but we want to encourage folks to share in these once in a lifetime experiences.

Entry fee:

All events: \$65.00 thru 4/30/12 **\$75.00** 5/1/12-8/31/12 **\$85.00** 9/1/12-11/30/12 **\$90.00** 12/1/12-race day

Registration: [To register online \(click here\).](#) [To print a paper application \(click here\).](#)

Events:

Marathon (26.2 miles-4 loops)

Half Marathon (13.1 miles-2 loops)

Course description:

Four loops on hard packed dirt roads through the woods in Humble, TX. There are no street crossings. Click here for [MAPS Course Map & Elevation Profile](#)

Click here for [MAPS Course Map & Elevation Profile Map with all miles marked](#)

Directions:

Packet pickup and race day registration:

Packet pickup Thursday 1 PM to 6 PM at the race site. 20550 Townsen Blvd - Humble, TX 77338

Packet pickup starts at 6:30 AM on race day at the race site. 20550 Townsen Blvd - Humble, TX 77338

Timing chip pickup starts at 6:30 AM on race day at the race site.

Weather:

Temperatures may vary from 32 to 60 degrees. Typically you can expect 40 degree weather.

Air Travel:

The closest airport is IAH- George Bush Intercontinental Airport-Houston, TX (less than 10 miles). The next closest airport is HOU-William P. Hobby Airport-Houston, TX (31 miles). Car rental is necessary because the hotels do not have shuttle service to the race site. Most major airlines have service to Houston, TX.

Lodging:

[Comfort Suites](#)-Kingwood 22223 Hwy 59N Humble, TX 77339 **Race Headquarter Hotel**

Reservations: 281-359-4448 .

www.choicehotels.com/hotel/tx547

Price: \$84.99 for a queen double or king double.

Includes complimentary hot breakfast. Late checkout available on request.

Country Inn & Suites-Humble 20611 U.S. 59, Humble TX 77338

Reservations: 281-446-4977 .

<http://www.countryinns.com/hotels/txhoaire/rooms/>

Price: \$89.99 for one king or two queen suite

Includes free hot breakfast and complimentary shuttle to IAH.

Candlewood Suites-Kingwood/Humble/IAH, 291 Kingwood Medical Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339

Marathon Rate: \$79.99

24 Hour free shuttle, free laundry, pool with gazebo, Jacuzzi, gas grill, free wireless internet, business center, off freeway for safety and security.

www.candlewoodsuites.com/kingwoodtx

Fairfield Inn Marriott, 20525 Hwy 59 N, Humble, TX

Reservations 281-540-3311 \$84.99 double queen or 1 King, all rooms non smoking, includes Continental breakfast, indoor pool and hot tub, free wireless internet

www.fairfieldinn.com/houhm

Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Kingwood, 22675 Hwy 59 N, Kingwood, TX 77339

Reservations: 281-359-2700 Includes free, hot breakfast. \$69 for single or double

<http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/houston/houkw/hoteldetail>

Certification:

The course is not USATF certified and is not a Boston qualifier because Boston 2013 will not take place because of the end of the world.

Timing:

Timing will be provided by Run Houston Timing www.runhoustontiming.com

Chips will be available for pickup starting at 6:30 am on race morning at the race site. 20550 Townsen Blvd - Humble, TX 77338

Race limit:

The race has a limit of 1,000 participants. [Check your registration](#)

Time Limit:

This event is walker and velocity challenged participant friendly. Time limit is 9 hours. An early start is not necessary because there is no reason to hurry to the end of the world.

T-shirts, medals, and stuff:

Each participant and volunteer will receive a shirt. Each finisher will receive a **custom** finisher medal and a critter with the finishing position hanging around its neck. Each registered participant will receive a goody bag. (The finisher medals are a secret until race day).

Pre-race Announcements and National Anthem:

Race announcements, introductions, and instructions will start at 7:45. The marathon will start at 8:00 AM sharp.

Aid Stations:

There will be water and sports drink available every 2.0 miles at each of the aid stations. There are snacks available at the start/finish aid station (every 6.5 miles). Portable toilets are located at the start and at each aid station.

Bag Drop:

There will be a area near the starting line where you can leave a drop bag that is easily accessible from the race course.

Awards:

Each finisher will receive a critter with the official finishing position hanging around its neck. Don't blame us if you have a very slow critter. There are no age group awards because every runner is special.

Post race:

A pizza picnic lunch is provided after the race with fresh pizza being delivered every hour starting at 10:00 AM. Also, snacks, fruit, cookies, chips, and soft drinks are available while you cheer on the other runners as they finish.

Results:

Finishing results will be available on the [website](#).

Refund, Transfers and Carry Forward:

There are no refunds because of the end of the world

*If you have a friend that would be willing to take your place, we will transfer your entry to them for a \$5 irritation fee. Please request transfers by December 10th. No transfers after December 15th.

*If you would like to donate your entry to one of our military people on the wait list, we will do it for no fee. Please let us know asap so that we can notify a military person on our wait list.

Race Photography:**Course Records:**

Male

Female

Sponsors:

Does your company have free samples they would like to provide to 1,000 (very appreciative) runners?? If so, we would be very happy to include your items in our race packets. Runners really love freebies! Just drop us a line and we'll do the rest. steveboone@aol.com

Volunteers:

If you know of an adult who wants to volunteer, please include their name and shirt size with your application or send us an email. steveboone@aol.com

We have marathoners traveling to Texas from out of the country. We have had folks ask for rides to/from the race course. If you are willing to be a contact for "shuttle service", please send us an email and we'll list you as a contact for our marathoners. steveboone@aol.com

From: Monica Nop [mailto:runbabyrun200@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 2:25 AM

Dear Diana, We would love to do another race with you in Texas in Dec, but my time off from work during holiday at post office are very hard to get off work. So sorry for we are not able to join you.

Tom & I just did New Year Day Marathon in Humble, Texas 1/1/12. Steve & Paula Boone organized the race. The finisher medal is very BIG!!! It weighs 3.5lbs. Runners got 2 duffle bags. long sleeves shirt and pink pig toy for the year of pig. It was very neat they post runners' name on pink paper taped on the trees. On our 4th loops run, we looked for our names on the trees. Once we found them, we peeled them off and bring them home with us for our good luck from Texas. They served runners fresh hot pizza after the race. They have plenty of foods, cookies, drinks, drawer prize winning, etc. That was very neat and very cool idea. We enjoyed that race very much. We already signed up for 2013 New Year Day Marathon, Humble. We really love doing that race. It's very friendly marathon & awesome volunteers. Great flat fast race course for a PR. Very well organized low key race. Total both marathon & half marathon 650 runners. We ran 4 loops on paved trail under shady trees around upscale rich neighborhood. Weather is very cool and comfortable.