

## Illinois Marathon Trip Notes

### April 9 – 13, 2009

#### ***Champagne Bubbly!***

The Illinois Marathon is held in Champaign Illinois, apparently pronounced also as champagne so aptly hosted for this bubbly marathon.

- The glass is more than half full for this Inaugural.
- Exuberant sorority sisters and fraternity brothers line the course.
- Management is more than qualified.
- This university town is poured full of cheer.
- Perks bubble over.



#### ***It was meant to be***



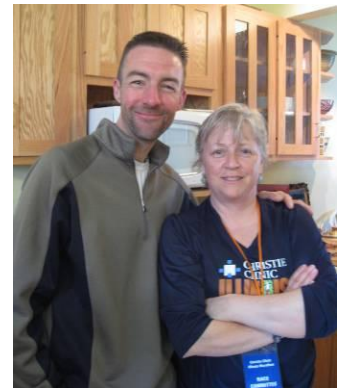
Jan Seeley of Marathon & Beyond (the top rated magazine that looks like a book) is a long time friend and she'd emailed forever ago suggesting we add this marathon to our collection, but logistics played a role in my lack of response. Champaign is about half way between St Louis and Chicago and I'm not prone to fly and drive. Then more recently brother-in-law Carl (the new runner at age 60 who's beating his 6 half marathons in his 60<sup>th</sup> year goal!) emailed with the idea that he might run the half marathon and that his route took him right by the St Louis Airport. . . . That was all I needed. I think he invited me . . . . Well, maybe I did invite myself!

#### ***Disclosure***

BIL Carl had to stand in for the other Liberty Lady. Maricar was off to a dozen countries on a whirlwind European tour with a couple dozen teenagers. I'm sure she accomplished her own marathon-a-day (and didn't care to run Illinois again anyway.) I should have tried to get Carl to wear a Liberty Lady crown and he might have. I later heard him say that he maybe should have worn rabbit ears in honor of Easter. I think spectators need something to spectate so I wear my Liberty Lady crown no matter. I love the attention, and being found too. I had a lot of comments on the course and had to also wonder if some didn't want to let a Liberty Lady pass them up. Isn't that what Keith the six-and-a-half foot runner who wears a pink tutu and pink sneakers says? Who'd let a Fairy pass them! (It takes a real man to wear a pink tutu.) It takes an egocentric runner who wants a lot of attention, wants to be found, and wants more photographs, to wear a Liberty Lady crown. All of which works.

#### ***Management***

Though I'm trained to not trust any inaugural marathon, I knew this one would be different. Jan Seeley kept saying she was only "on the committee," but I knew this human-dynamo ball-of-fire would ensure that everything worked and worked well. Jan is accomplished in everything she does including sports, motherhood, wife, business owner, magazine publisher, and her continued Yale connection. She'd give credit to the marathon's owner, Mark, yet Mark lives in Fargo North Dakota, so who do you think you'd give credit?



I met Mark and his parents at an Easter Sunday Brunch at Jan's house and there's every reason to believe he is totally competent so this marathon had the best of chances. He manages at least the Fargo Marathon as well as some smaller races.

### ***Look out Wellesley girls and Boston College boys***

There is every reason to believe that this marathon could give serious competition to Boston's cheer squad. Despite it being Easter weekend, the remaining sorority girls and fraternity boys were absolutely awesome if not downright tireless. They were still going strong for those of us in the back. Will they run future events or be cheerleaders? This is a huge university compound, encompassing a large portion of the half-marathon course, so there will be enough kids to supply both runners and cheerleaders. Even the wealthy residential neighborhoods came out en masse with every driveway full of cheering households, seniors and children alike. When I saw a couple starting to pack up I yelled "Hold on, don't leave, we runners in the back of the pack need you the most!" they settled back into their cheer mode. I can only guess that being a university town gives them spectator practice. Remember, this was Easter weekend and an inaugural and yet the spectators were plentiful so you see what I mean about giving Boston a run for their money?

### ***The Queen of Swag***

Jan has been known as The Queen of Swag and the marathon site promised no less. Though she insists she can't take credit for the shirts, they have her flair and a woman's touch. At t-shirt pick-up we heard various comments like "I like your shirt the best" and "No I like yours the best." It was hard to choose between the navy and orange half-marathon shirt, or the half-zip mock turtleneck navy shirt for the marathoners. Both were high quality and most desirable. They apparently ran out of size small half-marathon shirts resulting in major disappointment but I later learned that the organizers had agreed to mail the correct size so the disappointment would be only temporary.

The medal needs to be pictured here as it has a unique insert of a spinning State of Illinois, playing on the same theme as their logo and shirts with a runner etched onto the state. Remember the play Miami got for their spinning medal? The other Liberty Lady said she entered just so she could get the spinning medal!



The goody bag and the vendors might be lured into some more swag in coming years. The goody bag could contain more but it did have a couple items including a Frisbee, and the vendors might give away more than just chap-stick. We missed the usual food samples as they were not to be found and yet there might be a safety net here: some of us eat our way through the Expo at our own peril. Jan, thank you for saving

me from myself -- but some Lara Bars would be nice.

### ***The Emperor's Clothes***

In a unique move, there was very few clothing or running merchandise vendors. The official merchandise contained some of the best designed and quality clothing I can remember with plenty of shirts, jackets, vests, and even hats sized for women. The one main clothing vendor outside of official merchandise was "Race Ready" which is my favorite for pocketed shorts that never chafe and soft high quality shirts. I can never resist a new outfit from Race Ready.

It's a good sign that the Expo sold out early. It was an even better sign that the isles were not crowded and it was easy and pleasant shopping. Runners would find this Expo to be larger than expected for the 8,000 to 9,000 total runners.

### ***Like convenience and price?***

There are hotels within an easy walk to the start, something I feel a strong desire to seek out. We stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn, and nearby was a Hawthorne Suites and even closer was an I-Hotel. The location and pricing was desirable too even though I didn't get a marathon hotel nor marathon rate. I love being able to walk out of my own hotel at 7:45 for an 8am race start, having relied only on

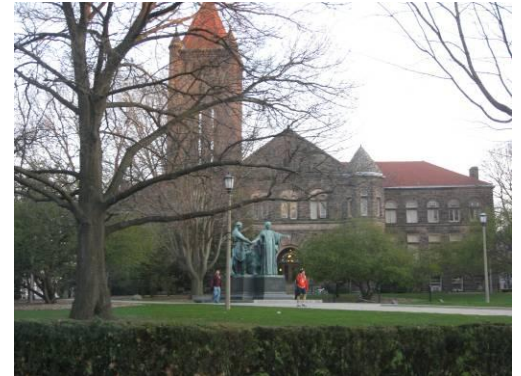
my own toilet. Why would I want to stand in line at the port-a-potties. (Speaking of port-a-potties, I wonder how it worked with their doors and thus lines opening up to the start line area? I suspect the contractor faced the doors the wrong way.) It was just a wee bit over freezing temperatures at the start and though it warmed up to the high 40s, there was 10-12 mph winds and I was grateful to not have to stand around at the start.

### ***Dignitaries and Speakers and Friends***

Not all marathons can draw like this one. Coach GP (Gerald Pearlberg), Dick Beardsley, Bart Yasso, and Dane Rauschenberg (at a booth) were only some of the hot shots available to rub shoulders with, hear speak during the day, and at the Pasta Party, get their books autographed. Plus all of Jan's friends . . . . The Pasta Party was a convenient way to meet and hear them. It was held in a huge gym right at the Expo with plenty of room for all and for a great price of \$10 and the pasta was even offered with meat sauce.

### ***What about the run?***

Did I tell you how spread out is the university? There are some gorgeous old and architecturally significant buildings which are unfortunately intermixed with a hodge-podge of various styles and quality. You'd think the town grew up without any building regulations. It is a huge and expansive and varied area, to include the sorority and fraternity houses, all of which is good for runners as the scenery is excellent.



I felt a need to return to the course via car and foot to see the sights again. For the first half of the course there was more of the downtown and university, whereas the second half of the course found a golf course and parks intermixed with residential, and a few corn fields thrown in (where the wind



picked up.) The half-marathon ran on a trail through a park that was lovely but probably too narrow at least for the runners in my time frame and they'll either need to restrict the number of runners or do wave starts. I'm certainly in no hurry and didn't mind running on the grass anyway.

For the marathoners there was a section of the route we passed twice and it was there, high up in a crow's nest, that announcers were calling out our names, where we were from, and personalized encouragement. This was most unique and appreciated.

The spectators being so fantastic and so many of them for an inaugural, someone needs to whisper in their ear that we could use some more food on the course. We were fed GU early and often and the organizers were generous with it, but only once did I find an orange wedge and never banana or treats. I would be willing to bet that there will be a better supply next year. There were plenty of fluids and Gatorade and the areas of each were well marked. At one place the water station volunteers had stacked up the used cups making about a 15' snake of cups. Most places we were offered full bottles of water and wondered about the waste, only to learn later that FEMA had a huge warehouse of bottled water that they needed to dispose so the use was perfect.



**My finish time?** I had a super time finishing if not a super finish time but I was plenty happy with my 5:33. I'd had a toilet problem before the race as well as during the first half and then discomfort in my hips for the second half. My half-marathon time was 2:35 which is a bit fast for me but it had been fun to run with Carl until about the 10K when he bolted (finishing in an excellent 2:27 despite having run Olathe half-marathon last weekend.) It isn't clear to me why the hip discomfort so I felt a need to walk more which I'm more than happy to do. I suspect the hips didn't like so much concrete pavement so whenever possible I moved to grass, but there wasn't much without trampling on lawns.

**Maybe I didn't want to finish!** Can you believe that at the end they let me run straight instead of turning in to the stadium for the last dash? The music was suddenly gone, I was at the end of the block and saw no one ahead or behind me, so I turned and ran back to ask them 'Where is the course?' and then when they pointed to the direct turn into the stadium, I felt obliged to ask, 'Why did you let me run on?' and they said, 'Well, we wondered where you were going!' Brats. Well, I take that back, as they are volunteers and we must have all been confused. They directed at least 1790 finishers in and if there was one who ran an extra block, so be it.

**The finish?** Many will find it extremely exciting to finish on the 50-yard line of Memorial Stadium. I remember that being a highlight for runners while at Green Bay Wisconsin. Yet some might have given up the exciting finish in order to avoid the steps leading out of the stadium. The organizers realize too that they had a crunch of people at the finish and need to re-work the flow. We went up the steps to find baggage and real toilets, and then found a huge array of food from the usual bananas, bagels, drinks, pastas and pizza. This finish line went well for me though I understand for those coming in at the 2:30 range found it a bit crowded. I've no doubt it will be fixed.

**The chip?** This is nice! Like at Marine Corps, it is a souvenir chip and thus the runners don't need to have it removed. No volunteers needed to clip and/or untie this Champion Chip looking chip with the marathon name and logo on it. There was some confusion as to whether it was a 'keeper' since the envelope had a mail return and the website listed a fee for chips kept. (I bet they got a lot of the souvenir chips mailed back.) On top of the nice souvenir chip, there was a lovely finisher's certificate that came along a few days later. (As well as an email reminder that the chip was a souvenir.)

### **A bandit in our midst? No, its superwoman!**

We were standing at the starting line, which began pretty much on time (we crossed the start line was only about 5 minutes later), and who shows up but Bundle of Energy Jan. She was lamenting that she didn't find her bib in time but there she was running. It's amusing to think that some might have thought this race director was a bandit. The next time I saw her she was directing traffic at the finish line, and the next time I heard from her she was spending the evening doing course clean up.

### **Have you ever seen so many volunteers?**

I'm sure anybody at the event was impressed at the number of volunteers, and in these bright orange well-designed t-shirts. There was never a shortage of exuberant and helpful volunteers and far more than I can remember ever seeing at a marathon. Could it have been only a couple weeks prior where Runners World ran a story saying the Illinois Marathon was in jeopardy of being canceled for lack of volunteers? Wow!

### **Easter Sunday Brunch**



This invite by Jan and her team would have been enough to lure me to Champaign on its own. (I'd decided prior.) It was a treat to meet Jan's husband and son (another one is off to college), some super runners, a lot of dedicated volunteers, the race director and his parents from Fargo N.D.

### ***It's not all about the running***

It's about friends and that was clearly covered at this marathon. From the Women on the Move Conference in conjunction with the Leading Ladies Marathon last August in Spearfish SD, we had attending Isabelle Schweitzer, Jenny Stinson, Laurie the walking coach, and Bonnie – if not more. My new friend from Little Rock, Beth, was running too but we kept missing each other despite many efforts and telephone tag. And just when I wondered if my hips should keep going, I found Lois Berkowitz who I'd met in Leading Ladies, and who is the newsletter editor for the 50-states club and who was running her 299<sup>th</sup> marathon. (Yep, you read that right, and she remembers details of them all!) She kept me going and was a delight with introductions and information. I must have added 20 marathons to my To Do List as a result of Lois's positive memories of marathons. At the pasta dinner we met a pair of delightfully sweet and pretty gals (they were so gorgeous as to be from one of the Eastern Block countries) who got incentivized to sign up for NYC Marathon lottery on the spot. At the end of the marathon I ran into virgin marathoner Adam for the second time. He was failing but rallied at the suggestion that he couldn't let an Old Liberty Lady beat him and thus he didn't. I got a big sweaty hug at the end.



And then it's about touring too. On the way from St. Louis we drove by Neoga where Carl grew up and where his parents live. It could get lost on the map it's so small. On the way home we went via Springfield Illinois to tour the Lincoln Presidential Library, Lincoln's home and reconstructed neighborhood, the old train station, and outside of town to the Lincoln Tomb. Here is a picture of Diana and Carl with the Lincoln family. I loved the town and museums and we had just enough time to feel like we saw Springfield and even sufficient time to drive by the houses where Carl had lived when he was first married, worked on his masters, and had daughter Carrie. At the end I'll add some tourist notes on the sites we visited.

### ***There is never an end***

Carl has caught the bug. Just like the other Liberty Lady, we spent hours in the car coming home talking about "What Next?" and thus he's off to Go! St Louis this weekend and committing to the Kansas City Hospital Hill Half in June and the new Chicago Rock 'n Roll half in August, if not more. Me, I'm adding to my charm bracelet that became a necklace and now will become a belt with the Kentucky Derby Marathon the last weekend of April, Capon Valley 50K in West Virginia in May, as well as Buffalo Marathon, Lake Placid Marathon in June, San Francisco Marathon in July, and in between there are two major hikes in June and in July to Yosemite, as well as some half marathons, and the most special is new runner and 11-year old Marie (niece of Loudean from Olathe) has agreed to visit New Jersey and New York City in July and run her first 5K as the Third Liberty Lady.

### ***And just to try it on . . . .***

Are you addicted to running marathons? (*from [www.marathonmaniacs.com](http://www.marathonmaniacs.com)*)

- Do your thoughts switch to the next scheduled race immediately after finishing a marathon?
- Are you signed up for more than one race right now?
- Do you know specifics about many of the marathons? Dates, courses, years run, etc.?
- Do you know the story of how the marathon got started? Also why the course is 26.2 miles?
- Do you read books on marathons like *Marathon & Beyond*?
- Is [www.marathonguide.com](http://www.marathonguide.com) book marked on your computer? Do you look at the race schedule more than once a week?

- Do you start to feel down when you haven't run a marathon in a while?
- Are your closets and dressers filled with marathon t-shirts?
- Do you have so many marathon medals that you've run out of room on the hook they hang from?
- When asked about your racing from non running people, do you find yourself talking with great passion to the point that the person that asked the question regrets ever asking?
- Have you run marathons on back to back weekends? Or better yet back to back days?
- Have you run a marathon as a training run? Or just to pace a friend?
- When asked by loved ones what your plans are for the weekend, you feel guilty telling them your running another marathon so you tell them "it's only a half this weekend"?
- Do you plan all your vacations around a marathon race?

Well if you answered yes to any of these questions, you just may be a Marathon Maniac. Me, I qualified for 5-star level and when I caught myself checking to see what it took to be 6-star, I knew I needed to take a hike instead.

## ***Itinerary***

### **Thur April 9<sup>th</sup>**

2:35pm Depart Newark (EWR)  
4:13pm Arrive St Louis

Shuttle to hotel

Hotel La Quinta Inn at St Louis airport  
5781 Campus Court, Hazelwood, MO 314 731 3881

### **Fri April 10<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am Carl picks up Diana on way to Champaign – 3 hours drive

Expo and speakers at the University of Illinois Activities and Recreation Center (ARC).

Hotel Hilton Gardens  
1501 S. Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820 Tele: 217 352 9970

### **Sat April 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am Marathon and half marathon [www.illinoismarathon.com](http://www.illinoismarathon.com)  
Half runs with full marathon through mile 11

### **Sun April 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:30am Brunch at Jan's house

Tourist in Springfield IL

Hotel La Quinta Inn at St Louis airport  
5781 Campus Court, Hazelwood, MO 314 731 3881

### **Mon April 13<sup>th</sup>**

4:46pm Depart St Louis via Continental # 2868 (no meal)  
8:20pm Arrive Newark

## **Participants:**

Carl Greeson  
Diana Burton  
Isabelle Schweitzer from Leading Ladies  
Beth Proffitt  
Jenny Stinson  
Laurie from Leading Ladies  
Lois Berkowitz

From [www.illinoismarathon.com](http://www.illinoismarathon.com) as of 4/01/09:

The Illinois Marathon promises to become one of the country's premier running events.

How will we do it? Take a look at just a few of the ways:

1) Flat, Fast & Fun Course! From the starting line to the finish line, the Illinois Marathon course will have it all: The U of I campus, fan-filled residential neighborhoods, breathtaking parks, a revitalized historic downtown and back to the campus for a fantastic 50-yard finish line at the awesome Memorial Stadium....all combining to make this a runner's dream come true!

2) First Class, Hassle-Free Treatment for our Runners! We have listened to what you want and will be happy to provide it: We start by holding all of the marathon events at the University of Illinois, and from there, we focus on things such as (1) the ease of getting to the race, (2) plenty of lodging alternatives, (3) ample parking throughout the weekend, (4) a simplified registration and packet pick-up process, and don't forget about the port-a-potties. You have enough to think about during race weekend ...let us make your Illinois Marathon experience a memorable one!

3) A Health & Fitness Expo with something for everyone! The country's top retail vendors and exhibitors will fill the UI Activities and Recreation Center....one of largest on-campus recreation facilities in the country! Add to that, a mouth-watering pasta feed and first rate speaker series, and you have it all right here in the heart of the country!

In an ongoing effort to improve our event and our website, The Illinois Marathon has partnered with [realbuzz.com](http://realbuzz.com) to offer our runners a new level of interaction on line. Our partnership with [realbuzz.com](http://realbuzz.com) provides a host of cool web tools that will increase your ability to share your passion on-line.

**Course:** See [Course Tour Video](#) on website. The Start & Finish of the *Illinois Marathon* will be at the nationally acclaimed University of Illinois...home of the Fighting Illini. All of the races will start outside of **Assembly Hall** and finish on the 50 yard line of the newly remodeled **Memorial Stadium**.



When it comes to a course, this one will have it ALL!! **Flat and Fast**, you will enjoy a scenic tour of beautiful crowd-filled neighborhoods, the historic downtowns of Champaign and Urbana, terrific tree-lined parks and the ultimate **U of I Finish Line!**

The Illinois Marathon is more than 26.2 Miles....okay, let's re-phrase that! The Illinois Marathon is a 26.2 mile marathon and a variety of other events that will give everyone an opportunity to participate in the weekend fun.



The Marathon will be a tremendous tour of two of the finest cities in the country....Champaign & Urbana, Illinois. Complete with the fast, flat and scenic course, the fun entertainment and the spectacular finish! The 1/2 Marathon will share the first 10.5 miles with the marathon and head south back to the finish, in Memorial Stadium.

**Gear check:** We will offer gear check for all marathon and half marathon participants. Look for box trucks at the southwest parking lot of Assembly Hall. You will be able to pick up your gear check bag as soon as you enter the West Great Hall of Memorial Stadium once you finish your race.

**Amenities:** All marathon and half marathon entrants will receive a long-sleeve, 1/2 zip technical fabric shirt and a custom finisher medal. Plus – Jan Seeley is known as Queen of Swag.

**Pacers:** Only to 5 hours.

### **(1) Speakers:**

Dick Beardsley is referred to as a running legend in the United States. (See partial list of his achievements below, or go to [www.dickbeardsley.com](http://www.dickbeardsley.com).) But perhaps the most amazing thing about him is his climb back to health after becoming addicted to pain medication for more than four years. Dick is best known for his incredible race in the 1982 Boston Marathon. That race, on a very hot day, was dubbed the "Duel in the Sun" as he battled world record holder Alberto Salazar down to the finish line. Both broke the American record: Salazar won in a record time of 2:08:51, Beardsley's time was 2:08:53! He was at the height of his professional running career.

Then tragedy struck in November 1989. While using an auger to lift corn into a bin on his Minnesota farm, Dick became entangled in the machine; it began to literally tear him apart. Not expected to live or walk—much less ever run again—he managed to survive. But that was just the first of a series of events that would forever change his life. During the next few years, Dick was involved in a severe car accident, later he was hit by a truck while running, later still, he rolled his vehicle in a snowstorm, and finally while hiking one day, the ground gave out and he fell off a cliff! Each time he ended up in the hospital and had multiple surgeries to try and put him back together. Due to all the large amount of pain medication he was taking, he became addicted—and that's when his life really started to spiral out of control.

It has been a long road back, but Dick has been celebrating every day of his sobriety since February 12, 1997. In 2007, after living in Minnesota for 51 years, Dick moved to Austin, Texas and got remarried to Jill, and in addition to his son Andrew, he adds to his family, two more children, Christopher and Matthew and a lot more pets. He loves running now more than ever. He is a competitive Masters runner, who completes marathons across the world in less than three hours!

In 2002, he authored a book called "Staying the Course: A Runner's Toughest Race." Dick also has a marathon camp and numerous high school running camps. The Dick Beardsley Foundation was recently established to help individuals who cannot afford treatment for chemical dependency. The work of the Foundation allows Dick to travel around the country, talking to children about positive, active lifestyles, and being chemically free. For more information, go to [www.dickbeardsleyfoundation.org](http://www.dickbeardsleyfoundation.org).

Bart Yasso, CRO Chief Running Officer at Runner's World

Yasso joined Runner's World in 1987 to develop the groundbreaking Runner's World Race Sponsorship Program, creating a vehicle for Runner's World to work with over 7,000 races representing 4 million runners per year. In 2007 Yasso was Inducted into the Running USA Hall of Champions for his contribution, impact and dedication to the sport of running.

Yasso also invented the Yasso 800s, a marathon-training schedule used by thousands around the world. He is one of the few people to have completed races on all seven continents from the Antarctica marathon to the Mt. Kilimanjaro marathon. In 1987, Yasso won the U.S. National Biathlon Long Course Championship and won the Smoky Mountain Marathon in 1998. He has also completed the Ironman five times and the Badwater 146 through Death Valley. He has also cycled, unsupported and by himself, across the country twice.

Author of "My Life on the Run ".

## ***THE ILLINOIS MARATHON – The course by Michael Zielinski***

With the 2008 Summer Olympics over and the new school year starting before September's Labor Day, it is interesting to note that a drive south from the Chicago area on Interstate 57 past the bountiful corn and soybean fields of Central Illinois to the Champaign-Urbana area crosses West Olympian Drive ([www.chicago2016.org](http://www.chicago2016.org)), about a mile north of Interstate 74 before turning east to the University of Illinois whose motto is "Learning and Labor". The inaugural Illinois Marathon ([www.illinoismarathon.com](http://www.illinoismarathon.com)) is scheduled to take place on April 11, 2009 at the University of Illinois in the downstate cities of Champaign and Urbana almost one-hundred years from the very first college homecoming at the University of Illinois in 1910. The various events include the marathon, half marathon, marathon relay, 5K and youth run that all will start outside of Assembly Hall and finish on the 50 yard line of the newly remodeled Memorial Stadium.

The Illinois Marathon starts on the southwest corner of the University of Illinois campus just to the west of Assembly Hall, one of the world's largest edge-supported domes with maximum capacity for 17,200 that opened on Honors Day in 1963 and continues to be the site of basketball games, concerts, performances and commencement ceremonies. The first mile of the marathon follows First Street north before turning east on Green Street and heading through Campustown on the approach to the University of Illinois.

At the southeast corner of Green and Wright Streets is the Alma Mater Statue by sculptor Lorado Taft that has graced the northwest entrance of the Main Quadrangle to the University of Illinois which makes up a large part of the Liberal Arts and Sciences portion of the campus. The statue is a woman in scholastic robes with her arms outstretched that includes an inscription, "To thy happy children of the future those of the past send greetings." As the runners pass the Alma Mater Statue, just to the south they can also see Altgeld Hall, the home to the Chime Tower that contains fifteen bronze bells. To the other side of Altgeld Hall is the grave of John Milton Gregory (the first U of I president from 1867 to 1880) with the inscription, "If you seek his monument, look about you."

The date of the Illinois Marathon, April 11, 2009, is slightly more than 200 years after the birth of Abraham Lincoln on February 12, 2009.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act that established public land-grant institutions that would include the University of Illinois. As the runners continue pass the Illini Union, several buildings to the south on the Main Quad is Lincoln Hall, appropriated by the state legislature in 1909 on the 100th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth. Within Lincoln Hall is a bronze bust in the main entrance foyer that students rub for good luck while on the east exterior of the building terra cotta plaques depict scenes from his life with some of his quotations found on the sides. A more recent quotation from the Illinois Marathon is, "I'll C-U There!"

The marathon course continues past the Illini Union and goes near Harker Hall, the oldest remaining classroom building on the campus and home to the University of Illinois Foundation before reaching the Natural History Building. After one more block, the route turns south on Goodwin Avenue close to the College of Medicine before reaching at the two mile marker, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, a complex that seats 4,000 on seven acres with four theaters and an outdoor amphitheater with 350 annual performances. At this point, the main quad is about a block to the west and about two blocks to the other direction is the Campus Visitor Center and Alumni Center as well as the Spurlock Museum that evolved from the prior World Heritage Museum. Nearby is the Hallene Gateway, the east entry to the campus from Lincoln Avenue that features the stone portal from the entrance to the former University Hall.

Returning to the present, the route parallels the Main Quad several blocks to the west with the Foellinger Auditorium as the south anchor before the course goes a block to the east and then two blocks to the south past the Illini Grove park. The marathon then goes east on Pennsylvania Avenue several blocks to the north of the President's Home and Arboretum before leaving the university area by the three mile marker and then turning south on Race Street. For almost the next two miles, the runners are near the University of Illinois owned "South Farms" to the west that includes the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Round Dairy Barns, and numerous agriculture and animal science facilities. When the course turns to the east into Meadowbrook Park (a favorite

running place for the local Champaign-Urbana Second Wind Running Club), the five mile mark is reached as the route then heads north out of the park into residential Urbana by the six mile mark. After another two miles to the northwest, the route is near Urbana High School and next door Carle Park, the home to another Lorado Taft statue, Lincoln the Lawyer. A half mile to the north is downtown Urbana with the historic Lincoln Hotel and Lincoln Square Mall on the National Register of Historic Places. Abraham Lincoln made it to Urbana in 1854 and the community continues to be a government center plus the Champaign County Fairgrounds are about a mile to the north. Returning to the runners, the marathon now turns to the west on Green Street and once again reaches the University of Illinois at the nine mile mark.

The route is a repeat from Goodwin to First but this time the runners are heading west. On the north side of Green Street, The Beckman Quadrangle and the John Bardeen Quadrangle occupy the center of the Engineering Campus. The Beckman Quadrangle is on the far north side of the campus and is primarily composed of research units and laboratories that would include the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), and the Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science. Just to the south is the John Bardeen Quadrangle with the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center being the north anchor to the numerous engineering facilities to the north of Green Street.

When the marathon reaches the ten mile mark, at Green at First Streets, the runners will have once again left the University of Illinois campus and they will not return until the final few miles. The next mile crosses on Chester Street the former Illinois Central railroad tracks by the Amtrak Station as downtown Champaign is reached. This area has had the historic Virginia Theatre since 1921 and across the street is the more recent headquarters of "Marathon and Beyond", a bimonthly magazine tailored specifically for marathoners and ultrarunners located at 206 N. Randolph Street, Champaign. The next half of the marathon is mainly in various residential area of Champaign that includes going by or near West Side Park and nearby Champaign Central High School at mile eleven, Lincolnshire Fields Country Club and Robeson Park at mile sixteen, Centennial Park with its Prairie Farm and Champaign Centennial High School between miles eighteen and nineteen, the Champaign Country Club at mile twenty-one, and Hessel Park at mile twenty-two. As the runners continue east back toward the University of Illinois, Hessel Boulevard as it reaches Neil Street (U.S. 45), becomes Stadium Drive and then goes over the railroad tracks with Memorial Stadium in sight at the First Street twenty-three mile mark with the university owned Willard Airport several miles to the south if the last few miles are too difficult to finish. Nevertheless, the course continues north once again on First and then goes east again on Green Street through the University of Illinois at mile twenty-four. Abraham Lincoln would be proud of his home state Morrill Act University that would evolve to produce 23 Nobel Prizes, 19 Pulitzer Prizes, and more than 80 current National Academy of Sciences Members.

More than anywhere else, the U of I shines in mathematics, science, engineering and computers as evidenced by Microsoft hiring more U of I graduates than from any other university in the world while Intel hires more Ph.D's from the U of I than from any other university in the country.

Not to be outdone, the University of Illinois is currently helping to build the world's fastest supercomputer, "Blue Waters", that will be capable of performing one quadrillion calculations per second; three times faster than today's fastest supercomputer.

Returning to the slower Illinois marathon, mile twenty-five is reached after heading south on Goodwin for a second time. A block to the west is the Institute for Genomic Biology established in 2003 to advance life science research and stimulate bio-economic development (bio-fuels). Next door are the National Historic Landmarks for the Astronomical Observatory and the Morrow Plots, country's oldest experimental agricultural fields in continuous use. Back to the present, the marathon route reaches Illini Grove one last time before heading west on Pennsylvania Avenue for the home stretch.

The final mile of the marathon goes by or near the South Quadrangle's College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) to the north of Pennsylvania Avenue. A block from here is the University of Illinois Library (the third largest U.S. academic library after Harvard and



Yale). The marathon route continues west on Pennsylvania and reaches the College of Education on the north side just prior to Sixth Street.

On the west side of Sixth Street several blocks to the north is the Armory which was designed as a military drill hall, an athletic facility, and an assembly hall. Next door in the Harding Band Building is John Philip Sousa's personal band music library that he willed to the University of Illinois. A block to the south lies the new College of Business Instructional Facility that is directly north of the Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, the second largest art museum in Illinois. On the south side of Pennsylvania just before Fourth Street is the University of Illinois Law School. From here, the runners turn south on Fourth for a block and then turn west on Kirby Avenue for another block before turning north into newly remodeled Memorial Stadium for a finish at the fifty yard line.

Memorial Stadium was completed in 1923 as a memorial to the Illinois men and women who died in World War I and later in World War II with the east and west sides of the stadium having 200 columns that display the names of these men and women. The stadium was officially dedicated on October 18, 1924, when the University of Illinois football team hosted the University of Michigan and "Fighting Illini" Harold "Red" Grange scored four touchdowns against Michigan in the first twelve minutes before later running for a fifth touchdown and passing for a sixth. George Halas (a University of Illinois graduate who helped found the National Football League in 1920 before owning the Chicago Bears) later brought Red Grange from the U of I to the Bears as well as bringing his Illini Orange and Blue colors to his Chicago Bears which to date have won nine NFL championships although another famous University of Illinois football player, Dick Butkus, never won a championship with the Chicago Bears.

Returning to the 50 yard finish of the Illinois Marathon on Zuppke Field in Memorial Stadium, the playing field is named for University of Illinois Football Coach Robert Zuppke who won four national championships in 1914, 1919, 1923, and 1927 during his long coaching career from 1913 to 1941. Memorial Stadium currently can seat 71,000 people and the stands are expected to be full for the resurgent Fighting Illini as school starts again near a September weekend that matches the University of Illinois motto of "Learning and Labor".

## Touring

**Lincoln's Tomb:** You can "enter" the tomb here: <http://www.springfield-vr.com>. History from [http://www.illinoishistory.gov/hs/lincoln\\_tomb.htm](http://www.illinoishistory.gov/hs/lincoln_tomb.htm) as follows:

Dedicated in 1874, Lincoln Tomb is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, his wife Mary, and three of their four sons, Edward, William, and Thomas. The eldest son, Robert T. Lincoln, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Also on the site is the public receiving vault, constructed ca. 1860, the scene of funeral services for Abraham Lincoln on May 4, 1865. In 1960 the Tomb was designated a National Historic Landmark and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The 117-foot Tomb, designed by sculptor Larkin Mead, is constructed of brick sheathed with Quincy granite. The base is 72-foot square with large semi-circular projections on the north and south sides. Double sets of north and south stairs lead to a terrace, above which rises the obelisk. At the corners of the shaft, large pedestals serve as bases for four bronze sculptures, each with a group of figures representing one of the four Civil War services—infantry, artillery, cavalry, and navy. A taller base on the obelisk's south side holds a heroic bronze statue of Lincoln. At the Tomb entrance is a bronze reproduction of Gutzon Borglum's marble head of Lincoln, located in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.



Interior rooms of the Tomb are finished in a highly polished marble trimmed with bronze. The south entrance opens into a rotunda, where two corridors lead into the burial chamber. The rotunda and corridors contain reduced-scale reproductions of important Lincoln statues as well as plaques with excerpts from Lincoln's Springfield farewell speech, the Gettysburg Address, and his Second Inaugural Address. Lincoln's remains rest in a concrete vault ten feet below the marble floor of the burial chamber. A massive granite cenotaph marking the gravesite is flanked by the Presidential flag and flags of

the states in which the Lincoln family resided. Crypts in the chamber's south wall hold the remains of Lincoln's wife and three of their sons.

The Tomb's interior is accessible to persons with disabilities. The exterior upper deck is not. The Oak Ridge Cemetery public receiving vault, the scene of President Lincoln's funeral, is located at the base of a hill north of the Tomb.

The Lincoln Tomb co-hosts a number of special events with sponsoring groups: the "American Legion Lincoln's Birthday Pilgrimage" on February 12, the "Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Pilgrimage" on the Sunday nearest Lincoln's birthday; the "Sons of Union Veterans Lincoln's Death Anniversary Services" on April 15, and "Boy Scout Sunday" on the last Sunday in April. Every Tuesday evening from June 1 through August 31, Civil War reenactors from the 114th Illinois Infantry conduct flag-lowering ceremonies at the site.



[Take a 360° Virtual Reality Tour](#)



**Route 66** – we saw small stretches of it, nothing you could drive on, but pieces. <http://www.historic66.com/>. The Historic Route 66 web site is dedicated to provide free information for those who want to learn more about Route 66. It features a [turn-by-turn road description](#), guiding the visitor from Chicago to Los Angeles. The [forum](#) is available for discussions regarding old 66 by the visitors of this site. There's a [slide-show](#), with [pictures](#) from our trip down Route 66 in 1994. As old Route 66 is not indicated on maps nowadays, any serious traveler of U.S. Highway 66 needs a [detailed map](#) and [guide](#) before hitting the road.

As the song by Bobby Troup goes:

*If you ever plan to motor west  
Travel my way, the highway that's the best.  
Get your kicks on Route 66!*

Check also the [overview map](#) to see US highway 66 accross America. As Route 66 doesn't appear on modern maps anymore, one needs a good description before heading out on the old 2-lane highway.

**The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** documents the life of the 16th [U.S. President](#), [Abraham Lincoln](#), and the course of the [American Civil War](#). Combining traditional scholarship with 21st century showmanship techniques, the popular museum continues to rank as one of the most visited libraries. It is located in [Springfield, Illinois](#).

**Record attendance** Since its opening in April 2005, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum has ranked as America's most visited state-controlled presidential museum. In about six months the museum generated about \$1,000,000. In less than twenty-one months, the museum received its one millionth visitor.

#### **Awards**

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum has been recognized with two awards; a THEA *Award for Creative Excellence*, presented by the [Themed Entertainment Association](#), and an award from [The Lincoln Group of New York](#), for "being the greatest achievement in America to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln and the times in which he lived."

#### **Museum exhibits**



Lincoln Family in the Museum Entry Plaza



Slave Auction Scene



### Ford's Theater with John Wilkes Booth

The museum contains life-size dioramas of Lincoln's boyhood home, areas of the [White House](#), the presidential box at [Ford's Theater](#), and the settings of key events in Lincoln's life, as well as pictures, artifacts and other memorabilia. Original artifacts are changed from time to time, but the collection usually includes items like the original hand written [Gettysburg Address](#), a signed [Emancipation Proclamation](#), his glasses and shaving mirror, [Mary Todd Lincoln's](#) music box, items from her White House china, her wedding dress, and more.

One of the museum's permanent exhibits, *Campaign of 1860*, features "[Meet the Press](#)" anchor [Tim Russert](#). In addition to its exhibits, the Lincoln Museum runs two special effects theater shows, *Lincoln's Eyes* and *Ghosts of the Library*. Both shows run several times an hour.

Burbank, California based [BRC Imagination Arts](#), led by [Bob Rogers](#), was responsible for all of the permanent exhibits and presentations, music, theaters, lifelike figures and full-immersion historical settings.

### Debate over exhibit design and education

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum quickly became one of the most talked about, studied, and debated new projects within the museum design profession. The museum has received great attention from within the field of museum design and historians for its use of modern technology, theatrics, and high-fidelity figures to tell the Lincoln story, generating larger than expected attendance, enthusiastic visitors and a sharp boost to the regional economy, including increased attendance at surrounding historical attractions. But museum traditionalists have disapproved of this departure from a static display of glass-encased artifacts. Traditionalists such as [Southern Illinois University](#) historian [John Y. Simon](#) have said the popular approach, borrowing presentation technologies from entertainment, trivializes the subject matter. Simon calls the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum a "Lincolnland."

Other academics applaud the Lincoln Museum's revolutionary approach. [John R. Decker](#) in the [Journal of American History](#) sees benefits in using 21st century communication methods to capture the public's imagination, drawing audiences to educational subjects. He writes: "Like any other modern collection (the Lincoln Presidential museum) has an audience base that extends far beyond specialists and academics. Rather than merely pandering to the public or dumbing down history, the ALPLM intelligently and compellingly uses visual culture to meet its mission as a public pedagogical institution. The museum addresses complex historical material and opens the historical discourse to a wider audience than would be possible through more conventional means."

The scholarship behind the content and design for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum was a collaboration between international exhibit designers, BRC Imagination Arts, the [Illinois Historic Preservation Agency](#) (IHPA), and a content team assembled by state historian Dr. [Thomas H. Schwartz](#). This content team included the world's leading Lincoln scholars, [Pulitzer Prize](#) winning historians, and Illinois school teachers representing the fourth, seventh and eleventh grades. A key goal of this collective was that exhibits promote a greater level of personal interest in Abraham Lincoln. Museum visitors wanting to continue learning about Lincoln are reflected in the record sales of history books in the museum's gift shop. Some books have sold faster than the publisher can reprint. Overall sales in the gift shop hit \$1 million within three months of the museum's opening to the public.

### Library collection

The Lincoln Presidential Library is a research library which houses books, papers and artifacts related to Lincoln's life and the American Civil War. In addition to the works associated with Lincoln and his



era, the museum serves as a premier repository of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and other materials of historical interest pertaining to the history of the State of Illinois. While the library is open to the public, its rare collection is non-circulating.

### **Architecture**



Illinois Old Capitol Building

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is located in Springfield, Illinois in the historic downtown section, near many other Lincoln cultural sites. The presidential library opened on [October 14, 2004](#), and the museum opened on [April 19, 2005](#). Until 1970, Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. was designated as the "Lincoln Museum". The buildings which now house the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are in three separate structures. Each structure encompasses one city block. Two of the buildings, the museum and the library, are separated by a street and connected above the street level by an enclosed walkway. The entrance of each building features a [rotunda](#), reflective of the [dome](#) on the [Old State Capitol State Historic Site](#) in Springfield, where Lincoln served four terms as a [legislator](#). Both structures were designed by the architectural firm [HOK](#). The third building, the former [Springfield Union Station](#), has been adapted to serve as the museum's visitor center.