



Madison Montana Marathon Trip Notes
(See separate report for Glacier National Park)
July 15-26, 2011

Would I do it again?

Heck no! But am I glad I did it? Heck yes! Wow and double Wow! This was a marathon but we will all think of it as an ultra -- all 8:40 hours of it.

This is Black Butte along the Gravelly Road Range that would be our marathon course for 26.2 hard and tough and hot miles. Yes, the wildflowers were out and prolific.



This is cut from an official photograph and here's a link to more:

<http://www.themadisonmarathon.com/gallery.html>. More Good Stuff:

- ***It's truly "Little Switzerland"*** with gorgeous knock-your-breath-away scenery. Many of us kept turning around, marveling, taking pictures and exclaiming how lucky we were to be there. And we weren't just stopping to get our breath back from the altitude though that was a good reason.
- ***Getting there*** was a pistol and challenge but all along the way was worthy of the trip too. We had to meet the buses and caravans at 5:15am, follow them over a dirt road for 1 ½ hours, then catch another caravan for another 10 miles of dirt road. Did we mind? Heck no!
- ***Small and personal*** with only 200 total participants allowed and that number included marathoners, half marathoners and relays. I suspect the forest rangers prohibit any more than that number. There was a wait list.
- ***Sold out early*** despite only being in its 4th year.
- ***Pasta party*** was part of a charity effort and plenty generous for the \$10 and park like setting right in the middle of the town of Ennis.
- ***Wild West!*** There might be a moose and her baby in the back of my video and we just missed the grizzly bears on the course. Fortunately the sheep dogs didn't come and try to corral us though it was a serious concern and we were warned to NOT run from them.

- **Wild flowers** galore and more than I've ever seen in one place. A multitude of colors were set against mossy green mountains with some forestry areas thrown in. There had just been scheduled an Annual Walk of the Wildflowers but it was canceled due to snow coverage. We just lucked out.
- **Mile Markers** were not just with an interesting message but worth taking a picture of each 26 markers.
- **Email communications** from the race director was spot on and always looked forward to whether to learn race details or to learn if the course would be cleared of snow in time for the marathon to continue. We all began to feel a part of Sam the RDs family.
- **T-shirt** was a nice quality technical fabric with the logo on the front and "Monumental Ridge" showing the elevation on the back.
- **Medal!** What a surprise to even get a medal in such a small marathon.
- **Race Director** was all family to include his family working and supporting the event. Sam had vowed to wait for the last marathon and you'll see that he



was challenged by this commitment to the tune of nearly 10 hours. Here's Sam and Larry reveling in their fatigue.



- **Post race food:** For promising little, Sam sure came through with a lot. There's a famous bread in the region and he had plenty of it with jars of peanut butter, yogurt sticks, the usual apples and bananas, lemonade type of drinks and BEER!

Friend Judy shares my love of bread so here's a picture of Annette with a hoard of bread and a picture we just had to send to Judy to prove we were still standing and had some humor.

- **Staying in Ennis** was a delight. We had a sweet little double room creekside called El Western Cabins. We felt very western. The town was just what you'd expect to see and maybe like in the movie "Lonesome Dove." Sorry for the historical example but I probably haven't seen a movie since then.

Low points

- **Breathing and slipping** – one of us couldn't breathe at the nearly 10,000 feet of elevation so had to walk and one of us was slipping on the gravel going downhill so couldn't run, so we just settled into a walking pace and enjoyed each other's company and the views and the marathoners who passed us.
- **Sun** was at a 9-10 UV Index and despite loads of sunscreen that's never melted off before the burn was terrific and resulted in an armload of blistering and peeling just in time for the next week's San Francisco Marathon.
- **Heat** wasn't as bad as we expected though it was said to be 90 degrees in Ennis and we were up a bit of elevation and had a breeze.
- **Bugs** were beyond belief. The flies were the size of bumble bees and they bit. The mosquitoes were unrelenting despite continual applications of DEET. I applied so much DEET that it melted my water bottle and smeared blue paint all over my hands, arms and white t-shirt. Days later the sores and bumps from the bug bites remained.
- **Traffic** was heavier than usual due to our Gravelly Road being a top tourist attraction of the area. The prior week had been a Walk of Wildflowers which was canceled due to snow cover so everyone came out during our marathon bringing far too much car traffic.

- **Elevation** wasn't just high but the hills were unrelenting and long and just kept coming at us. Someone suggested there was as much as 6,000 feet up and down but we are still seeking clarification from a few Garmin's that ceased working. Just in: 3,951 feet of ascent and 4,617 feet of descent. It certainly felt like a lot of climbing though we only went from something in the low 8,000' up to something under 10,000' elevation but it was continual up and down between.
- **Porta Potties** were not numerous but how could they for a mere few? There was a trailer with two porta potties at the start line that was later wheeled to the finish line. There were very few rocks or trees suitable to help either. Too bad for me as I've been in need of every single one on the course plus more lately. This was no exception.
- **Challenged!** While I think Annette and I both had plenty of 'walking' left in the tank at the end, we were very worried for some of our friends. Larry had been having back troubles and ended up on the side of the road a few times, bent over a lot, and even agreed to a back massage a few times.

A record?

Does it look like Diana and Annette broke two records? Oops, here's from Google. Well, we probably did create a record – PW as in Personal Worse in a marathon but it felt like an ultra. Yet the soft dirt didn't leave us feeling sore at all. Only blistered.

[Two records fall at Madison Marathon](#)

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Diana Burton - 8h 40.30; 24. **Annette Wulffe** - 8h 40.35; 25. **Sharon Kerson** - 9h 50.24. ...

At one fluid station around mile 20 we were told there were about 17 men and 12 women behind us but they didn't appear and maybe smartly stopped at the half way point.

As Annette said so well: We're most willing to do 9 hour events because we have no shame.

Larry Macon, despite being bent over with back pain, did finish in about 9:08 and then had to be helped to his car to drive to Salt Lake City for the next day's marathon. Whether he actually did it or not we don't know since he didn't show up in the results. We all were very worried about him and heard that his doctor told him to lay off for a couple months but that he might have gone onto Alaska for a double!

From Sam the RD:

It was a true pleasure being the race director for the Madison Marathon. I enjoyed meeting and talking with so many of you. Larry Macon, who was running his 766th marathon at the Madison, said it best when he told me that the reason he runs so many marathons is because runners are among the best people in the world. I couldn't agree more.

Annette (who was being overly kind):

Diana was a peach and stayed with me on the course even though I am sure it cost her at least an hour. We had a great time, taking pictures, videos and really talking to probably everyone who drove past us. We even managed to shamelessly beg for food and water. Our matching sunburns were pretty interesting too.

A big worry -- Bears or Sheep Dogs?

I'd been a nervous wreck early in the planning stages about either/or bears or these sheep dogs that we were warned about. We had a lot of laughs over my worry and then came the event and I never thought of either and even made light of the moose and bears that WERE seen on the course.

Steve: *Don't worry about any sheep-herders dogs along the marathon route. First, they will be completely exhausted (and stuffed) having chased (and eaten) all the runners faster than you and I who will have passed them earlier in the day.*

Second, any such dogs out on the course will have been stomped by the moose that infest the course area (you know how much moose hate to be herded). Finally, if you do run into a sheep-herders dog, just go where he wants and he won't hurt you at all. Besides, at 9000+, we are going to be running so slow most dogs won't even be able to tell we are moving much less trigger their herding instinct! Feel better now?

Annette: I sure hope you are not forgetting the sheep that gored to death the older gent with a party of three others hiking in Alaska last summer. Those sheep are beasts too. Hope you are sufficiently scared before you start off for what could be our last marathon!! We'll be fine. This will be a grand adventure. I was always jealous when Diane reported getting humped by the dog on one of her southern adventures. Just think -- we will have much more tonnage to contend with.

Our little El Western Fishing Cabin

This would be our Ennis home for three nights. As it was a big L-shaped room plus a separate bedroom it suited us well. Me best because Annette spoiled me and gave me the bedroom. I only felt marginally guilty. She claims she's used to living with three boys and a husband who is a bathroom hog so that I couldn't upset her if I tried. I'm sure I WAS trying.



Downtown Ennis



This was the site of the pasta party on the grounds of a bank. We're told that the town closes up when it's not summer and only the bars remain open. The horse sculpture was in front of the high school.

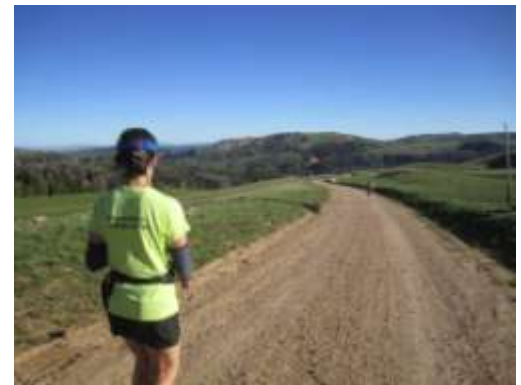
The course with mile markers

Getting there was hairy. At 5am we drove to the high school. At 5:30 we lined up in a caravan and drove on dirt roads for 1 ½ hours to what would be the half way or finish line. There we got in a van and drove another ten miles over more narrow dirt roads. But we got there and here we are before we got filthy and burned and tired.



The signs were great from the start and they remained entertaining through the end.

Some of the road was reasonably smooth and flat but not much . . . as signs showing the elevation changes will prove.





We are obviously glad to be here and mostly that attitude prevailed – despite the altitude. Hopefully the professionals caught a picture of the both of us at Monument Ridge showing 9,587 feet of elevation. This sign and background would be the theme of the t-shirt design also.



The wildflowers were at their peak and we took a lot of pictures of them. My shoes and www.dirtygirlgaiters.com matched. The fluid station folks were the most friendly and helpful and they never seemed surprised when we begged food or assistance. Later we would even stop cars going by to beg food for either ourselves or for them to check on Larry.



The road was rarely flat but always revealing new and gorgeous scenery. That road sign reads “Primitive Road” which is an understatement.



We were too busy reading mile-markers to see the bear that crossed the path or the supposed momma moose and baby that would have been in the background of my video. That's snow you see. It had been on our trail the week before.



We stopped and ooh'd and aaah'd over every sign's message: an excuse to slow down. And be inspired. We couldn't think why anybody would want to (or be able to) hurry through this course.



There were various patches of forest but we weren't timed right and didn't have the shade. At the half-marathon finish line which would later be our finish line was the most spectators. There would be much fewer when we made it in.



We are usually inspired by and pulled along by Larry but this time many would be stopping and offering Larry a hand. Here's Cowboy Jeff offering Larry assistance. Cowboy Jeff had worked the course early morning and the entire day before.





We often felt all alone and were always glad to see somebody. After all his volunteer work, Cowboy Jeff probably enjoyed being alone for awhile. See the lone tree?



I think this tells an accurate story. Crying or holding oneself up at Devil's Lane. There were quite a few Volkswagen pop up buses. Home stretch but it was with mixed emotions.



Marie Bartoletti does 100-milers, finished in the top dozen or so in Death Valley's 137- mile Badwater yet declared that this course kicked her butt. Here she is finished and on her way home while we're still between mile 22 and 23. That's our friendly Forest Ranger who checked in with us to make sure we didn't need anything and that we were still having a good time. Liberty Lady proof in the shadows at mile marker 24!



While we enjoyed the course, we didn't mind seeing 26 by the time it did appear. Here we are clearly happy at the Finish Line and ready for a beer. Me? I usually declare that I'm so hungry that road kill was starting to look good and this was no exception. Whole grain bread, peanut butter, yogurt, apples and bananas were more than we expected at this late finish time, but they even had beer for us.

The winner



Well, we all thought we were winners but this dude really was and he was still at the finish line when we poured in, apparently recovering; serves him right for hurrying. Smile.



Bread and more bread – my love! The second sport of the day was taking care of Larry who was carried to his car eventually where he continued on to drive to Salt Lake City for another marathon. Guess he recovered.



The Road Home

It was a very long way, we were pretty spaced out and I always say that give me a marathon and my head stops working, but anybody would have been challenged to find the correct turn offs on these tiny dirt roads. At one point we knew we were totally lost and were just looking for a rare farm house to go ask when suddenly Annette spotted a small and temporary paper 'marathon' road sign to get us back into civilization. But not until we spotted some wild animals and birds and had thoughts of spending the night with them.



Results – At the turn around near to mile 20, the fluid station folks said there was something like 17 men and 12 women still behind us so we can only presume they stopped at the halfway point or never started. 72 marathoners finished.

Marathon – Men

1. Eric Huff – 3h 36.10
2. Kevin Sullivan – 3h 41.47
3. Anick Jesdanun – 3h 43.28
4. Bryan Bradshaw – 3h 47.55
5. George Jones – 4h 08.50
6. John Tietz – 4h 16.23
7. Tim Trainer – 4h 19.04
8. Ray Jones – 4h 19.21
9. Scott McMuttrey – 4h 19.50
10. Christopher Bayr – 4h 23.16
11. David Wilke – 4h 23.55
12. Dan Kachmarik – 4h 24.16
13. Rick Bachor – 4h 24.48
14. Jeff Bollman – 4h 29.24
15. Ron Russell – 4h 34.26
16. Greg Iverson – 4h 34.40
17. Andy Russell – 4h 40.19
18. Chris Romano – 4h 43.09
19. Allan Peura – 4h 51.30
20. Brent Hildebrand – 4h 53.10
21. Gerald Joest – 4h 55.10
22. Patrick Miller – 4h 55.14
23. Alan Poole – 5h 05.45
24. Joseph Cutter – 5h 10.08
25. Dave Winguard – 5h 15.39
26. Mike Jacolenne – 5h 17.33
27. Jim Peacock – 5h 22.36
28. Vincent Ma – 5h 23.59
29. Roland Kurz – 5h 25.12
30. Kevin Dean – 5h 28.38
31. Aaric Bryan – 5h 33.21
32. Nicholas Wickes – 5h 40.17
33. Sam Stose – 5h 44.15
34. David Summerfield – 5h 44.40
35. Robert Bishton – 5h 45.05
36. Jeremy Skates – 5h 48.25
37. Bruce Swanson – 5h 50.26
38. Jerald Yoneji – 5h 52.52
39. Michael Brooks - 6h 35.27
40. George Southgate – 6h 40.22
41. Robert Olsen – 6h 51.35
42. Cliff Burgess – 6h 59.20
43. Rocky Holly – 6h 59.33
44. James Betts – 7h 02.50
45. Henry Reuden – 8h 09.53
46. Tim Hurst – 8h 16.22
47. Larry Macon – 9h 08.20

Marathon – Women

1. Debbie Gibson – 4h 05.32
2. Alison Bach – 4h 22.17
3. Jenny Wolfe – 4h 26.22
4. Launi Evans – 4h 30.21
5. Sarah Lawrence – 4h 52.44
6. Linda Fuqua-Jones – 4h 56.55
7. Diana Burbank – 4h 59.04

8. Jessica Schlagenhauser – 5h 07.49
9. Jamie Wieferich – 5h 09.27
10. Melissa Zemlicka – 5h 15.19
11. Marie Bartoletti – 5h 19.53
12. Susanne Wooley – 5h 41.14
13. Rachel Peura – 5h 43.59
14. Marie McDonald – 5h 45.05
15. Megan Ricci – 5h 48.48
16. Julie Dark – 5h 52.52
17. Barb Cestero – 5h 56.15
18. Jinny Brooks – 6h 12.29
19. Dottie Holly – 6h 51.01
20. Cynthia Whitman – 6h 59.32
21. Vickie McDonald – 7h 07.38
22. Joan Van Arsdale – 7h 33.20
23. Diana Burton – 8h 40.30
24. Annette Wulffe – 8h 40.35
25. Sharon Kerson – 9h 50.24

From others about MM

Cynthia: It never has to do with us! Hey, 66?? My hat off to you; I thought you were in my age bracket (58). You and Annette looked so happy walking along, it was a learning moment compared to my suffering:) Actually I'm overdramatizing: at about mile 15 I thought, "If I'm not enjoying the view and the flowers, I need to change tactics." And so that helped a lot. Each mile marker gave elevation. That might be on the web, or Sam might be willing to share. My experience was that the first part was incredibly difficult to breathe--less oxygen--and the last half was simply hot, dusty, with not quite enough water in my system and that backload of less oxygen in my muscles. It took me 1 1/2 longer than usual! I do wish that the last up and back were not on the same route as the halfers returning home, too much dust and car interaction, but then, it permitted me to fill water-bottles and hand out gummies for several folks. Larry is amazing...you are amazing. I hope to see you again☺

Cynthia, any chance you or someone you know has the info on how much we climbed? I'm trying to justify why this took me so long. I'm sure it has nothing to do with being 66 or having hiked the entire week before. Diana

Larry: Thanks for waiting for me and supporting me. Unfortunately my Garmin gave out before my back did. Hope to see you soon.

Sam the RD: During the race, you probably noticed two photographers from Wild West Photos perched on top of Monument Ridge and along the course. They were madly taking photos of all the runners as they ran past. These photos are now available for viewing and purchase. Click on the link below and it will open the gallery. Then, look for your bib number and check out your photo. In some cases, the bib number could not be seen and these photos are listed as "unknown" near the bottom of the gallery page. Please consider purchasing a photo of yourself or of one of your running friends. I've already picked up four, one for my nephew (Joe McKay) who ran a great race and three for volunteers who also ran. Wild West Photos also donated the team marathon prize and the large print of Black Butte Mountain that was raffled off at the pre-race dinner. In a day or two, Wild West Photos will be posting several photos on our website as well as on Facebook. Please check those out, but first take a look at your own photo. www.wildwestphotos.com/mm2011

Jeff: Yes, that was me Annette! I totally blanked on your name the first time and the second time I was too far gone to pull it. I did tell my wife that I saw one of the people we had dinner with in Missoula last year. Hope you enjoyed the race and had fun in MT! Madison is a gorgeous course (almost biffed it at one point staring at the scenery).

Sam the RD: Sent to All Montana Newspapers - Madison Marathon Draws World Record Runners

As marathon running resumes go, Larry Macon has one that raises eyebrows. No, he didn't win the Boston or an Olympic medal. He does not hold the world record for the fastest marathon. He is, however, in the Guinness Book of World Records for marathon running.

On December 31st of last year, the San Antonio Texas runner celebrated his 65th birthday by completing his 107th marathon in a calendar year. This matched the record set the previous year by IM Chae Ho, a South Korean runner, who ran 107 marathons in 2009. Macon has a few more impressive notches on his belt such as completing a marathon in all 50 states 12 times, running 13 marathons in one month, and completing the coveted 50 states in one calendar year five years in a row. From 2004 to 2009, he averaged 91 marathons a year. The Madison Marathon, scheduled for Sunday, July 24th in Madison County, Montana, will be his 766th marathon. "Insanity is one approach," says Macon with a laugh when asked the inevitable question of how and why he has run so many marathons. Macon, a lawyer, got into running marathons by accident in 1997 when he bluffed his lawyer friends by saying he was going to run the San Antonio marathon. He was trying to one-up them and had no intentions of running the race, but then he had to because

they called him on it. He ran the race, thought it was fun, and got a good sense of accomplishment from finishing. For the next several years, he ran two a year and then thought he could do more. In a phone interview from his office in San Antonio, Macon says there are three basic reasons he picked up the pace to such an extreme degree. First, it was fun to be outside and see so many new places. Second, it gave him a good sense of accomplishment which he considers somewhat rare and hard to do these days. Third and most importantly, it was the people. "Runners, but especially marathoners, are about the best people you'll ever meet," he said. "You can't be a marathoner without being an optimist. No one in his right mind would ever run 26.2 miles," says Macon with a laugh. Macon said he couldn't wait to get to Montana to run the Madison. For the first time in a long time, he is taking this coming weekend off from running in order to be ready for the Madison.

The Madison Marathon is in its fourth year only, but the race capped out nearly one month before race day. There are 200 runners coming from 26 states and Germany. One-third of the registered runners will be traveling from out of Montana for the race. The race is marketed as the Highest Road Marathon in America because it has an average elevation of over 9,000 feet and it is run entirely on a good quality gravel road in the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest. It is not a trail run. The starting line is at 9,250 feet and there are just 13 states with mountain peaks higher than this point. The race peaks out at nearly 9,600 feet on Monument Ridge. "I was expecting a good turnout due to all the phone calls and emails I had been receiving from runners across the United States. This started in about November and they were worried about getting in. By race day, I hoped to have about 160 runners. I never dreamed we would cap out before the 4th of July," said Sam Korsmoe, the executive director of the Madison County Economic Development Council and the Race Director for the Madison Marathon. Korsmoe added that although the race is sold out, there is a waiting list and several runners have been able to get into the race due to injury or work-related cancellations among the registered runners. The successful waiting list runners no doubt consider themselves lucky to get into the Madison Marathon, but they will probably feel even luckier when they meet some of the runners who are already signed up.

Believe it or not, Macon is barely the most experienced marathoner signed up for the 4th Annual Madison Marathon. Henry Rueden of De Pere Wisconsin will have run 738 marathons, ultras included, in his 61 years of life by the time he gets to the Madison. Rueden's running resume is equally impressive. He has completed the 50 state swing (a marathon in all 50 states) 10 times. However, Rueden's running resume has some interesting twists such as completing all 50 states plus Washington D.C. just last year, completing an inaugural marathon in all 50 states, and completing a marathon based on starting location with every letter of the alphabet from A to Z. And by the way, he has also completed marathons on all seven continents and all the Canadian Provinces and Territories. His first marathon was in 1988. As to the big question of why, Rueden has an easy answer. "I started with local marathons that I could drive to and then went on to the 50 state club and wanted to see different areas of the country," said Rueden in a phone interview. Rueden had to get creative with his running goals. For example, he had to research the means to finish his 50 state swings in a different state each time. He also had to work hard at getting a marathon in for all the letters of the alphabet. "That was a hard one to get out of the way. There's only one 'X' that I know off. It's Xenia Ohio," said Rueden. "The race has actually been around a long time." Rueden has run the Pike's Peak race which is above 10,000 feet so he knows about high altitude trail runs, but he says that him and elevation do not get along. His plan is to start slow and then see if he can go faster.

Not to be outdone by the men, Sheron Kerson has around 400 marathons to her credit. She and Rueden are running buddies and plan to carpool to the Madison Marathon from the Bozeman airport. The 69 year old runner from Culver City California is a member of the 100 Marathon Club of North America, has done 50 states four times, and is just 11 states shy of getting it done five times. Montana is one of the 11 states she needs to get 50 states for a fifth time. Inspired by the 1984 Olympic Games held in Los Angeles, Kerson had been a runner but never more than five miles distance. A friend convinced her to try a marathon and she did the inaugural Los Angeles Marathon 26 years ago. It was her first marathon. "I cried when I finished right outside the LA Coliseum," said Kerson in a phone interview from Florida. She is a legacy member of the LA Marathon which means she is one of just 200 people who have run every race. When asked how many marathons she has run, Kerson just laughed. "I guess it's close to 400, but I don't keep an accurate count. When I started to run, it [counting the races] wasn't important. I was not into math," she said. Kerson doesn't seem to worry about elevation either. When asked if she was worried about the high elevation of the Madison, she seemingly brushed it off. "I can walk. I don't care." When informed the race was, on average, over 9,000 feet in elevation. Kerson just laughed and said, "That's okay. I'll be doing a lot of walking."

There are at least six runners currently registered for the July 24 marathon that are members of the 100 Marathon Club. Collectively, just these six runners have over 2,300 marathons to their credit. Other runners are going for their own goals.

Vincent Ma, a runner from California, contacted race director Korsmoe beginning in December 2010. He was carefully scheduling his races for 2011 because his goal is to complete all 50 states within the calendar year of 2011. Ma, a native of China who became a Naturalized US Citizen last year, had always been a runner but more along the lines of three or so miles per day just to stay fit. A co-worker encouraged him to try a marathon and he ran his first, the Big Sur Marathon in California, in April 2008 and has been hooked ever since. "I ran the first half no problem," says Ma about the Big Sur marathon, "but I totally collapsed over the second half. It took me two weeks to recover, but it got me hooked." Ma learned about the 50 state idea (running a marathon in all 50 states), joined the Marathon Maniacs, and has not looked back since. He completed his first 50 state swing in December of last year. He ran his 100th marathon in Argentina just two weeks ago. The Madison Marathon will be his 46th marathon of this year and his 32nd state for this year. He is on track to finish all 50 states, for a second time, within the calendar year of 2011. In fact, for the Madison weekend, he will be doing back to back marathons with the Madison Marathon on Sunday and then driving 6.5 hours to do the Dessert News Marathon in Salt Lake City on Monday. "I'm running double marathons each weekend for most of the fall and then I'll finish the year with a marathon in Thailand and Taipei City, Taiwan," said Ma in a phone interview from his home office in California. When asked how he can manage travel, work, and running schedules to do so many marathons, Ma explains in detail the race research process, use of airline miles, and the ability to do a lot of work from airports and laptops. "It feels a bit surreal that I've been to every state. The second time I'm doing this I look forward to the course, atmosphere, and the people that I meet. I just take it all in," he says.

Local runner Sunni Knapton from Ennis is in a league of her own as well. She will be the only runner to have run in all four Madison Marathons. Her husband, John Knapton, has run in two of the three and would have run all three except for a broken foot in year two. "What it comes down to is that we need to support our local opportunities and this is one heck of a run to support," said Knapton from her home in Ennis. "The run itself is in a league of its own," she added.

For at least a few weeks, the Madison Marathon was entirely up in the air on whether it would be held or not. This year's massive snow pack, at least 200% above normal on the Gravelly Range where the event is held, was melting very slowly. The road to the staging area and finish line for the race was supposed to open on July 2. It did not due to snow. It finally did open on July 12, but there are sections of the road still closed down due to snow. The road, however, is in excellent condition and easily drivable in a standard automobile. "I've had more than a few sleepless nights worrying about all this," said Korsmoe who is developing some alternate routes on the Gravelly Range Road in the event that part of the original route is still under snow. The snow that remains is in large, north-facing drifts that covers the road in a few sections. "Thinking that I would have to develop a snow strategy for an event in late July did not even occur to me, but that's what happened," said Korsmoe.

Ennis entertainment

Annette met this bicyclist/singer so we were entertained one evening with Irish songs and stories at the Riverside Motel. We were even offered roasted marshmallows. Songster: Brian McIntyre, very Irish, and from SingSongCycle, www.mycharity.ie/event/singsongcycle, singsongcycle.wordpress.com, www.facebook.com/singsongcycle, www.twitter.com/singsongcycle



Tourist sites



Virginia City and Nevada City were full of AAA Gems. We toured the musical museum and stuck our quarters into the machines to hear and see them play. We wandered through the old town that was comprised of not only original dwellings but also many that had been moved from other locations and would have looked familiar to movie-goers. We took a tour with this guy; his tour was good but he was creepy and we got out of there quickly at the end of the tour.



See the outhouse? We couldn't figure out how the second floor outhouse would work. Think about it. And there were no monkeys for the hurdy-gurdy.

On our way to Bozeman

The canyon was worthy of a trip itself but we only stopped for pictures and to watch the fishermen. It was about a 1 ½ hour drive from Ennis to Bozeman for our connections home.

What's up next?

Annette would next go to Indiana with a bunch of girlfriends for a different and unique marathon.



I would go home for 2 days and re-cycle for a west coast trip. It would be my third San Francisco Marathon and I was delighted to be returning to California despite having only been there in May and the December before. This trip would include Napa and Sonoma visits and many more walking miles than the marathon. It's a perfect walking city and a delight to find mid-50s to low-60s temperatures in July.

After six days in San Francisco I would return home for 2 days and re-cycle again in preparation for 13-year old Marie's visit. Then there would be 3 days before departing to Seattle for a week long hiking trip to Mt Rainier -- again with www.TimberTours.com

September will take Tom and me to France, first for the Medoc Marathon where he's found a lovely sounding chateau for us to stay, then a week at a home in Sarlot which is the fairly nearby in the Dordogne region, followed by a week seaside in Nice. Tom will come home before September is over while I'll go onto Berlin for the marathon – my final of the Five Major Marathons.

October takes Tom and me to Venice for a very special and private tour of villas and palazzos. This new trip caused the cancelation of both Munich and Atlantic City Marathons and of course I lament that I can't do everything. Later in October I'll join up again with Marathon Tours for their Dublin Marathon and tour in Ireland. November will be marathons in Richmond and Tulsa followed by Memphis Marathon in December before Tom and I go away to Budapest mid-December. Marie will return on Christmas Day and stay through New Year's.

Surely I can manage to sneak something else in before the end of the year

Update on others

Diane -- Well...finished the Full mOOn 50K....my time was even longer than Capon I believe! It did begin at 8PM and much to my surprise it was more of a trail run than I expected. Furious with myself for miles that I did NOT have trail shoes on!!! Yes, copperhead snakes were out and about soaking up the heat! Scared me crazy as I almost stepped on one! Found Superman to run with...a guy who decided to share all he could with me about treating snake bites to make worse he spotted something in the bushes as we ran by...backtracked to shine his light where I saw two scary bright green eyes staring...he said it was a bobcat. At the turn around check point another runner said he saw it too and called it a mountain lion. Regardless...I took guard the entire remainder of the trail timidly. Was so wishing I was running with Muscle Man from Capon after this!!! Instead I had superman who couldn't wait to get to the check point to change his socks and tell me more stories none of which was uplifting. I left him at the 50K turn around (approx. 15 miles) The full moon was covered with clouds so I relied heavily on my headlamp which gave me trouble towards the end...was not near bright enough to see the terrain...luckily no falls. But could see runners ahead and I'd eventually catch to coast off their lighting. Next week is the tunnel marathon which is 8AM start and I'm ready for the tunnel after what I just completed in the dark. Capon was still the most difficult course climbing wise but this one on the dirt uneven ground in the dark was the hardest to mentally tackle. Have a wonderful adventure you too! Can't wait to hear all about it! Hello to Cowboy Jeff for me! Wish I were joining you but now I will be right next door in Washington. (Free flight helped secure this and hopefully marathon #80).

Annette -- *I just got home last night after a real grueling trail run in Indianapolis. Eagle Creek Trail run is one of a series of Planet Adventure Racing. I thought it would be a challenge as my husband and I had run one of their events near Purdue a few springs ago. The director is a young guy and really into pleasing his runners. I doubt he would turn anyone down and he kept the course open for over ten hours so that even some early starters could finish. It was hills, roots, elevation change like crazy, hills, logs to jump, hills, broken steps, hills, ditches to jump, hills, well by now you get the picture. This was my third trail run and I love' em. I really need to get out more and run, as I walked way too much of this one too, but I finished and had a great time. My husband and youngest son were out there and saved a few friends with some ice cold water and sodas that they had wisely stockpiled after noticing it was gonna be a scorcher! I have one more trail in two weeks, this time in Lowell, MI with a crazy name, Old Farts. The course is kept open long too so hopefully I'll finish.*

Later: it was hard and I think Diane and I might just have to agree it was tougher than Capon. I did 8:15ish Diane 7:01 a pw for her but an age group win!! Saw the mm cheater - wow was he bold he did the half with diane at 3 15ish but finished the full sub 5 and sweat free. (Diana's note - same cheater we saw at Knoxville.)

On Sept 3 my husband and I and my first travel running partner Annette T and her med student son plan to hike down and up the Grand Canyon. She had done it once, so we are hoping for optimal weather. I am fine with not finishing if it means I get to live to see another day, so I know we won't do anything foolish. Diana insisted I read this book, "Over the Edge. Death in the Grand Canyon" then she lent me Ranger Confidential. Wow, are people stupid, unlucky and lucky, when it comes to doing things at the Grand Canyon.

Miscellaneous

Jeff Galloway on minimal shoes: Many runners who own one of the minimal and exotic shoes that have popped up on today's market will tell you that these shoes have solved their running problems. I hear the other side of this issue, about every day, from those who have been injured (often severely) by using these products or by running barefooted. Many have to stop running for 4 to 6 months. Thousands have reported significant problems.

I've seen this fad come and go 5 times during my 52 years of running. Something will come out in the media about minimal support/barefooted running, and thousands will try it. About a third of those who try it run for short distances and like the tingle of the feet so they run more. Without support, the distance or the surface of the run will often cause an injury--including a number of serious ones such as stress fractures. Each fad cycle ends when those injured tell other runners about their experience--so that very few want to put themselves at risk.

Minimal shoe/barefooted running has its place if the foot can handle it: Short runs when running on a safe surface can give the foot a bit more strength and develop a lighter touch. Unfortunately, there are lots of risks on most running surfaces: pieces of glass, metal or rock--hidden below even the most groomed grass surfaces. There are also lots of surface irregularities that can produce serious trauma injuries in one step.

Today's shoes have decades of orthopedic research behind them and can protect the foot from most of the problems due to running surface. Go to a store with trained and experienced staff members.

Jeff's note mimics a famous sports medicine/podiatrist who treats many winning Kenyans. Minimal shoes have been a big boon to his business and he notes that even the Kenyans continue with support shoes despite having grown up running barefoot. Caution is needed. These shoes sure feel good but they are somewhat expensive house slippers.

Itinerary

Note that Annette and I had come from a Glacier National Park hike. We'd flown into Kalispell, stayed in Whitefish MT and started the hike on Sunday. See Glacier National Park trip report.

Fri Jul 22

6pm Ask for drop off at airport to pick up rental car.

Hotel Hampton Inn Kalispell
1140 Highway 2 West, Kalispell, MT 59901 Tele: 406 755 7900

Sat Jul 23

Am Drive from Kalispell to Bozeman area -- about 6 hours or 320 miles into Ennis

4-6pm Pick up bib package at Peter T's Park, Front lawn of First Madison Valley Bank, 213 E. Main Street, Ennis, MT

5-7pm aprox Pre-race dinner with nominal fee

Hotel El Western Cabins & Lodges, 4787 US Highway 287, Ennis, MT 59729
Tele: 800.831.2773 or 406 682 4212 www.elwestern.com/cabins/creekside.html
Creekside cabin with 2 rooms: 1 with queen bed, 1 with double bed in the room with full kitchen

Sun Jul 24

5:30am Shuttle bus from Ennis High School to Staging Area – for those without car or needing transport

7-9am Check in at Clover Meadows Campground, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, Madison County – about 1 ½ hours from Ennis or 2 hours if wet weather.

8:00am Shuttle from Clover Meadows to starting line at Black Butte Mountain: Last bus leaves at 9am and it's a 30 minute ride

9:00am Marathon – verify times and details when website updated
Highest Road Marathon in America per <http://themadisonmarathon.com>

6:00pm Last call – i.e., 9 hour limit

Mon Jul 25

AAA Gems in area include Virginia City, Bozeman, and 2 parks

Tue Jul 26 - Diana

9:00am Depart Ennis for 1 ¼ hour drive
12:38pm Depart Bozeman, MT BZN via United #624
4:35pm Arrive Chicago O'Hare ORD for plane change
6:00pm Depart Chicago O'Hare via CO#1717
9:17pm Arrive Newark EWR

- Annette

1:19pm Depart Bozeman via Skywest #6425
3:01pm Arrive Denver for plane change
5:18pm Depart Denver via United #592
8:38pm Arrive Chicago ORD

Participants

Jeff Bishton – Cowboy Jeff – went 2010 for marathon
Jeff Bollman went to marathon 2010 and going again in 2011
Rick Holmes went to marathon 2010
Annette for hike and marathon
Steve Meckstroth and Nola Stewart, Glacier NP hiking leaders, for marathon also
Marie Bartoletti for marathon
Henry Rudin for marathon

From the website of The Madison Montana Marathon - <http://themadisonmarathon.com>

The 2010 event race package

Race Time and Date

- Sunday, July 25, 2010
- All Runners Starting Time: 10:00 AM at the base of Black Butte Mountain

Race Check In

Early check-in and late (off-line) registration – Ennis, Montana

- o Saturday, July 24, 2010 - o 4:00-6:00 PM
- o Peter T's Park, Front lawn of First Madison Valley Bank, Main Street, Ennis Montana

Race Day Check-in – Staging Area of Race (for previously registered runners)

- o Sunday, July 25, 2010 - o 7:00 to 9:00 AM
- o Clover Meadows Campground, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, Madison County
- o Shuttle to starting line at Black Butte Mountain: Last bus leaves at 9:00 AM

IMPORTANT: There is VERY limited cell phone coverage in the Gravelly Range. There is no coverage available at Clover Meadows, but it can be picked up at various points along the route. Call 406-682-5923 or 406-570-4531 if you need additional directions PRIOR to race day.

Staging Area - Clover Meadows Campground, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest (Directions below.)

This large meadow is the staging area, the race day registration area, as well as the race's finish line. There is a forest service outhouse toilet along with portable toilets that will be brought up for the race, but there is no running water. The entire race will be held on National Forest Service land in the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest.

Parking: There will be a designated parking area next to Clover Meadows campground. All runners should park their vehicles in this area. Carpooling is recommended. The MCEDC will arrange carpooling as available and also arrange to have a bus from Ennis take runners to Clover Meadows. For campers, tent campers should park in the designated parking lot and then set up their tent in Clover Meadows (the parking spot and camping spots are less than 50 yards apart). For RVs and trailers, they should park their vehicles in the designated areas in Clover Meadows. There are other camping options along the route (see more details below).

Starting Line: The starting line is 13.1 miles away from Clover Meadows and all runners will be shuttled to the starting line. Depending on the number of runners and teams, team marathoners could be on their own to get to their relay points or a specific van could be used for all marathon team runners (more details below).

Directions to Clover Meadows Campground

The best and quickest way to get to the Clover Meadows is via Call Road. We will do our best to post signs and directions along the route to the staging area.

Call Road Route

From Ennis, you will take Highway 287 as if you are going to Virginia City but you will turn left towards the Varney Bridge about two miles outside of Ennis. From this turnoff drive towards, but not all the way to, the Ennis Fish Hatchery on Varney Bridge Road. The distance from Ennis to the turn-off to the Ennis Fish Hatchery is about 10 miles. Keep to the left at the Ennis Fish Hatchery turn-off and drive on the Call Road which passes through the Bar 7 Ranch and eventually leads you to national forest service land (it is about 10 miles to the national forest service gate from the Bar 7 Ranch). You will be on Road 292, but will be following signs that will lead you to Road 290. The race is on Road 290. Shortly after you pass the headquarter gates to the Bar 7 Ranch, you will make a big climb to get on top of the ridge where you will enter National Forest land at a well-marked gate. There are several forest service signs along the way. Look for Madison Marathon signs as well. From the National Forest gate, keep driving and following the signs until you reach Clover Meadows (about 15 miles). The climb up from the Bar 7 Ranch is a bit rough, but passable in a standard car. The road on top of the ridge is in good shape all the way to Clover Meadows. There will be small signs along the way pointing you in the right direction. Keep an eye out for them to be sure you're on the right track.

NOTE: Allow a minimum of one hour and twenty minutes to get to Clover Meadows from Ennis, Montana. If there is heavy rain on Saturday, July 24th, please allow for more time as the road may be slick. The road is in generally good condition (i.e. you do not need a four wheel drive or even a vehicle with high clearance), but it is gravel the entire length and narrow in certain areas. There are a lot of high hills to climb, but the race director could easily get up there in his Toyota Corolla sedan. If you have any questions or problems on race day, try to call Sam at 406-570-4531. BE AWARE that he may not be in cell coverage range.

Bussing, Carpool Options and/or Requirements

The MADISON MARATHON is being run on National Forest Service land under a special use permit. A key criteria for receiving the permit: the race will not create any negative impacts on the land and the environment. Last year, we successfully made zero impacts on the route and the area. Thank you to all runners, volunteers and race supporters! We look forward to repeating the same success this year. Our big concern: Impact of vehicles if we reach our maximum participation of 200 runners. The parking area at Clover Meadows accommodates approximately 50 vehicles. Depending on the number of registered runners, you may receive an email encouraging you to carpool with other runners or park your vehicle at a shuttle point in Ennis and then board a bus. We will be in touch on this issue and we kindly ask that you cooperate with our requests.

Bussing: Moonlight Basin, a sponsor and partner of the MADISON MARATHON along with the Madison County Economic Development Council in last year's race, may have a large bus and two vans available for the race. Moonlight was a great partner and will ideally be a partner for this year's race. If so, these vehicles will be used to shuttle runners from Clover Meadows to the starting line. They can also be used for runners who want to park their vehicles in Ennis and come up to the staging area by bus. The bus and/or vans will leave from the Ennis High School parking lot at 6:00 AM. They will return to Ennis from 2:00 to 5:00 PM depending on the number of runners who have completed the race and want to return to Ennis. These vehicles will be available for all runners in either direction (up to the course and/or back down from the course) as space is available. Please watch out for emails with further instructions on this issue as it will largely depend on the number of runners competing and who the MCEDC partners with for the 3rd annual MADISON MARATHON. Call Sam at 406-682-5923 if you have any questions or concerns.

Level of Runner Support

We learned a lot from the first two MADISON MARATHONS. We got some things right and some things wrong. Thank you to everyone who gave us some tips after last year's race. Just like last year, the **MADISON MARATHON will be a limited support race**. There will be food and water stations, portable toilets at the start, finish, and along the course, volunteer crews with EMT and First Responder experience, timers, and mile markers. Please do not expect a high level of runner support like other marathons can offer. The logistics and distance from the town of Ennis makes this kind of support very difficult. In addition, we have to be careful about impacting the environment since it is at a high altitude, remote, and on National Forest Service land. We encourage runners to carry their own timing devices, water bottles and food/gels as needed. **BE AWARE AND PREPARED: This is a high altitude race**. All runners will start the race at over 9,200 feet and within a few miles peak at 9,600 feet before leveling off and finishing at 8,550 feet. The average elevation along the course is around 9,000 feet. Please refer to www.webmd.com for some tips on running at high altitudes. Some additional information and tips on running at high altitudes can be found at the following links:

<http://www.mamashealth.com/run/high.asp>

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0NHF/is_9_20/ai_96254887

<http://www.pponline.co.uk/encyc/0323.htm>

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070610181813AAr8KXa>

Cautions:

IMPORTANT: All runners will be required to sign a waiver before running the race. If these waivers are not signed, the runner will not be allowed to run the race. S/he will have their fees returned.

As part of our permit last year and most likely this year as well, the Forest Service in Ennis required us to distribute the following information on sheep and sheep dogs found on the Gravelly Range. (Last year, there were a few hundred sheep grazing somewhat near the route. The race director has seen these sheep dogs and they are extremely huge! The advice provided by the Forest Service is very good. However, the race director contacted the shepherd who moved his sheep away from the road on race day.)

For the 3rd annual race, we will attempt to contact the shepherds again to inform him/them of the race and to request moving the sheep further away from the road.

Sheep Guard Dogs 2010 - This is a Great Pyrenees Guard Dog. These types of Dogs are in use as Sheep Guard Dogs on top of the Gravelly Mountains. They are trained to guard the sheep. **They will chase you if you run.** If you have a dog with you, the guard dog may see it as a threat to the sheep. They are not pets. The

sheep herders have little control over them. They may be seen anywhere. If you come upon one or it comes up to you. **STOP**, stand still, let the dog sniff you and check you out. Tell it to **“GO TO THE SHEEP”** It will then most likely wander away. **WAIT** for the dog to move off and leave a far distance. Then resume your travel. **DO NOT RUN or BIKE** when the dog can see you. **DON'T FEED IT, DON'T TRY TO PET IT!** This is kind of scary advice to “Don't run” when you are running a race. We will make all possible efforts to meet up with and talk to the shepherds on the range and inform them of the route so hopefully no one will come across one of these dogs. In addition, though the dirt/gravel road is in good shape and this race is not a trail run, runners need to be aware of the road conditions and be careful to not twist an ankle, trip over a stone, or somehow fall off the road. Second, there is likely to be wildlife and other animals along the route. While we don't expect a grizzly bear attack, there are grizzlies in the area. In 2009, a participant following his team saw a lone wolf watching the runners and pacing along the tree line just above the road. Eventually, the wolf came down onto the road, but no runners were nearby. Also last year, Eric Huff, the winner of the men's marathon, spent the night before the race on the Gravelly Range and saw within the view finder of his spotting scope a grizzly, coyote, mule deer buck, and an elk just below Black Butte peak. There will no doubt be a lot of wildlife along the route, but there should be little reason to worry about this. More likely, runners will come across cattle or sheep (or the big dogs) and they will probably not quickly move out of the way and runners who come near calves could get butted. Remember that this is a very high altitude race which is likely to lead to exhaustion sooner than normal for even the more experienced runner. Please keep yourselves well hydrated and be aware of what your body is telling you. Finally, be aware of ATVs and other vehicles that may be on the road because this is a public road and also quite popular among the ATV and motorcycle crowd. We will erect signs warning drivers of a 'Race In Progress' at all the appropriate intersections.

The Races

There are three race categories: full marathon, half marathon, and team marathon (4 runners). All runners will start at the same place and at the same time. Presently, we intend to start the race at 10:00 AM at the very latest. The relatively late start is to allow for more time to get to the race from Ennis and because the high altitude and environment of the area should ensure a cool climate for running. There will be no turn-around point for the half marathon runners. It will be a straight 13.1 mile run from the starting line to Clover Meadows. There will be a turn-around point for the team and full marathon. It will be 6.55 miles past Clover Meadows where runners will turn around and run back to the finish line at Clover Meadows. So the team and full marathon runners will have a 19.65 mile straight shot followed by a 6.55 return on the same route to the finish line. The team marathoners (team of four runners) will have relay points at 6.55, 13.1, and 19.65 mile markers. These relay points will be well marked. The team of four runners must split evenly the race into these four sections. Depending upon the number of team marathoners, the teams will be entirely on their own in terms of getting to the relay points or they will be required to be shuttled to each relay point. We will contact team runners directly when this decision is made.

The Course Route

Ready for the route of a life time? This is going to be great. It all starts right at the base of Black Butte Mountain at an elevation of about 9,200 feet. This is not a trail run. The entire race will be run on the Gravelly Range Road or Road 290 as it is listed on most maps. This road is gravel/dirt and in quite good condition. A normal car can easily drive on the road without any problems other than a few areas with potholes. There should not be any large concern about twisting an ankle because of the condition of the road. However, obvious caution should be the rule. The Forest Service has maps of the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest. For this area, view or purchase Broom Trail Ridge and Big Horn Mountain Quadrangle in the Montana-Madison County map series. These maps are available at Shedhorn Sports in Ennis and most likely other sporting goods stores in Montana. A brief mile by mile description is as follows:

First Mile - Elevation: 9,190

Unfortunately or perhaps fortunately, the race starts with a short but steep uphill climb. The good part is you will be running straight towards Black Butte Mountain (elevation 10,546), a huge mountain that dominates the sky line. The road quickly tops out and is flat for about the next mile as you run past this incredible mountain.

Mile 2 - Elevation: 9,370

This is a good long downhill. Within the first half mile or so, Black Butte will mostly be behind you. In front of you is a very long looking climb towards Monument Ridge, the highest point on the race course at around 9,600 feet. The prevailing winds tend to come from the South. So, if it is a windy day, you should have a nice tail wind. In 2008, the race director spooked a black bear near the road on this section of the race. It was running pell mell (as if in training?) for the woods.

Mile 3 - Elevation: 8,990

The downhill run continues to the road junction which then turns into a decent flat section before the start of a very long uphill to Monument Ridge. The country is quite open and has a vast 'Big Sky Country' look about it. Since it's early in the race, you will probably not be too tired. Instead, you will be so thankful that you decided to put this marathon on your calendar. It's fantastically beautiful.

Mile 4 - Elevation: 9,120

*The big uphill begins though there is a slightly flat area before the really steep climb. The country opens up and Monument Ridge is a clear goal that is very much in view. The 2008 female marathon winner, Kathy Ilkinson, saw some sheep grazing on the mountain sides at this juncture and it reminded her so much of scenes from one of Ivan Doig's novels, *This House of Sky*. Be aware of sheep again this year and also of the Pyrenees Sheepdogs.*

Mile 5 - Elevation: 9,350

This section is all uphill as runners do what they can to get to Monument Ridge (the highest point on the course at 9,600 feet). On top of the ridge, runners will get very long range views of the road once traveled and enormously long and steep valleys ahead just in case you needed reminding that you are running a marathon at over 9,000 feet in elevation.

Mile 6 - Elevation: 9,480

This section is either flat or slightly downhill for about half a mile and then flat or slightly uphill for the rest of the mile. Runners will go through large open meadows with Black Butte behind you and very open country ahead. You are basically on top of a ridge with incredible views in all directions. At the 6.55 mile mark, team marathoners will change runners. Much of this section is at 9,600 feet in elevation which is the highest point on the route.

Mile 7 - Elevation: 9,340

There is a steep climb of about a half mile followed by a long, flat area that skirts the top of the ridge. Runners will parallel the top part of the ridge and have excellent views of the Madison Range. Though the Madison Range is about 30 miles away on the other side of the Madison Valley, they are crystal clear on a sunny, haze-free day. Runners top out at over 9,300 feet and cross a large bowl.

Mile 8 - Elevation: 9,340

On this stretch, enjoy the panoramic views that this portion of the run provides. The course still skirts along a large bowl and is mostly flat with a slight climb in the middle portion of the mile. The views to both the East and the West are fantastic.

Mile 9 - Elevation: 9,300

This mile is entirely downhill. However, it provides an excellent view of a good uphill to come. The best views here are mostly to the West and the Snow Crest Mountains and Ruby Range.

Mile 10 - Elevation: 8,990

The first part of this section is half uphill and half downhill. The course seems to put a long uphill climb further down the road right into your face. There are more great views to the West of ranges across the valleys. On a clear day, you can see for a hundred miles. This mile is a really an up/down, up/down section.

Mile 11 - Elevation: 9,050

There is about a half mile uphill at the beginning of this mile. It then flattens out on top and is followed by a good stretch of downhill. This location offers a great view of Sphinx Mountain which is across the valley in the Madison Range. Its elevation is just under 11,000 feet and it has a 'Matterhorn' look about it with snow on top pretty much year round. There is also a good view of the final stretch of road to the finish line for the half marathon at Clover Meadows.

Mile 12- Elevation: 8,790

The start of this mile is somewhat flat and then goes down quite steeply over the second half of the mile. This is the final downhill towards Clover Meadows and the finish line for the half marathoners. Runners will descend into some tree stands which should offer some cool air assuming that it is a sunny on race day. The course will flatten out for the final push home for the half marathoners.

Mile 13 - Elevation: 8,550

This mile has a slight uphill and then is all flat and goes mostly through the trees. In 2008, the race director saw three moose, lots of antelope and a black bear near this section of the course. Congratulations! You have just completed the highest half road marathon in America. You're ready to take on the world. For full and team marathoners (for team runners this is a relay point), congratulations to you as well – you're halfway finished with the highest road marathon in America.

Mile 14 - Elevation: 8,650

This part of the course is mostly flat with some slight uphill sections. The views change a bit as runners are moving further north and the land opens up a bit more. However, there are forested areas that you will run through.

Mile 15 - Elevation: 8,700

This is quite open country that is mostly flat with some slight but quite long uphill sections. The view to the east and the Madison Range is good in certain sections. The open meadows offer the best perspective on the wild flowers of the area. Hopefully our late July start of the race will mean the flowers will still be in bloom.

Mile 16 - Elevation: 8,680

Again, this is open country that is mostly flat with some long and gradual up and downhill sections. If there is a wind, it should be at your backs since the prevailing winds are from the south (you will remember that when you reach the turn-around point). Eric Huff, the winner of the men's full marathon, felt this section of the course was the most difficult because of the long but gradual uphills.

Mile 17 - Elevation: 8,640

Runners are moving due north with views of the Madison Range on the right side and the Ruby Mountains on the left side. The large meadows are often populated with antelope and elk. On one scouting trip for the race, the race director came across several large elk grazing in the meadows.

Mile 18 - Elevation: 8,600

More open country here combined with running through thick stands of trees. There are some incredible views of the Madison Range to the east.

Mile 19 - Elevation: 8,650

At the 19.55 mile mark, full marathon runners will turn around and run back to Clover Meadows. This will be the final relay point for team marathon runners. The terrain is much like the previous couple of miles with open meadows interspersed with stands of trees. Keep an eye out for elk and antelope and, who knows, you may spook some other animal in the tree stands.

Mile 20 - Elevation at start: 8,650

Same as Mile 19 above.

Mile 21 - Elevation: 8,600

Same as mile 18 above. As mentioned before, if there is a wind it will most likely be in your face for your run back to Clover Meadows. Again, this is probably the most difficult part of the course for full marathoners as the long and gradual uphills begin to wear runners down.

Mile 22 - Elevation: 8,640

Same as mile 17 above. Getting close to finishing the 'Highest Road Marathon in America.' Unfortunately, after a day of climbing and descending hills, the route is essentially flat. That's what happens when you are running so high.

Mile 23 - Elevation: 8,680

Same as mile 16 above. Is this where marathoners hit the wall? The race director did not hit any wall while driving the course to plot the route, but most of the runners said this was the toughest spot on the run.

Mile 24 - Elevation: 8,700

Same as mile 15 above.

Mile 25 - Elevation: 8,650

Same as mile 14 above.

Last Mile - Elevation: 8,600

Last Mile to the finish line at Clover Meadows. The Clover Meadows area is visible from quite some distance away, but you need to cross large meadows before you can actually see the finish line. Nevertheless, you have done it. Congratulations on completing the Highest Road Marathon in America!!

History from the website - The inaugural running of the Madison Marathon took place on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend in 2008. With essentially no marketing funds available and a very late start to organizing the event due to high snow levels on the Gravelly Range combined with a lack of understanding of the US Forest Service event permit system, a total of 36 runners participated. The 2nd Annual Madison Marathon was held on Sunday, August 2, 2009. Again, with essentially no marketing funds or a website but with a better knowledge of the road route and a developing relationship with the US Forest Service, a total of 53 runners participated. Both events offered full, half, and team (four runners) marathon races.

The 3rd Annual Madison Marathon will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2010 on the same road and using the same route. It will also offer full, half, and team marathon races. The goal for runner participation for the 3rd annual race is at least 100 runners though up to 200 runners can be accommodated. The five-year goal for the event is to cap out (fill to the allowed capacity of runners) at 200 runners and become a well known regional event. The 10-year goal is to become a premiere international running event for professional and serious amateur marathoners around the world. They will have to run the Madison Marathon because they will need a high altitude, competitive race to prepare for the five major marathons in the world (New York, London, Berlin, Boston, and Chicago) as well as the Olympic Games.

From its inception, the MCEDC wanted to develop an annual tourism event that took the best advantage possible of a local asset within Madison County. The local asset was a good quality public road that was mostly above 9,000 feet in elevation. The demand for a unique, high-altitude foot race was apparent considering the enormous popularity of running and extreme sports in Southwest Montana and in reality in much of the United States. The conventional wisdom was that the local market of runners would ensure that the event would become a success early on simply by meeting existing demand. For example, the Ed Anaker Bridger Ridge Run in Bozeman caps out at 275 runners usually within 10 minutes of opening its online registration on active.com. Like the Bridger Ridge Run, word-of-mouth marketing from the Madison Marathon's initial runners will put the event on the map. Adding to word-of-mouth and social media marketing, the high elevation aspect of the race will ensure that the Madison Marathon will become a well known regional, national, and international event for marathoners within a few years. We are well on our way to achieving this goal.

From www.marathonguide.com

My favorite half-marathon! (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 2

M. M. from West Yellowstone, MT (10/31/10)

4-5 previous marathons | 1 The Madison Marathon

Scenery - nothing in comparison. Course - dirt roads, few potholes. Spectators - few, thankfully. The few spectators I encountered actually made things (unwittingly, I'm sure) much more difficult, as they cruised alongside the runners in their cars, kicking up dust and forcing us into the ditch so they could pass. The hills were incredibly, incredibly challenging. I would advise camping the night before, in the small, primitive campground at the start. It was hot, very sunny and exposed (no shade), and the flies were BIG and swarming. But I can't wait to come back to this race again!

★★★★☆ **Spectacular, Challenging, Community** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 1

[Rich Holmes](#) from North Carolina, USA (8/31/10)

50+ previous marathons | 1 The Madison Marathon

Not many marathons in the world offer vistas as spectacular as these - jaw-droppingly gorgeous! And no road marathons in the US have this little oxygen due to elevation, but that's OK as long as you recognize that you will have to go slower. And you'd be hard-pressed to find as friendly a community or as dedicated a set of volunteers and organizers. Come do this! You'll be glad you did.

★★★★☆ **It's all about the view and elevation** (about: 2010)

Course: 5 Organization: 3 Fans: 1

[T. H.](#) from Montana (8/2/10)

6-10 previous marathons | 1 The Madison Marathon

This run is very difficult to rate with stars because it's unique. I've given the course 5 stars since they say exactly how the course is... very high, difficult and with incredible views. There's no other course I've heard of that puts you on top of a mountain range and gives you a very decent gravel road to run on. If you've ever wanted to see 60-80 miles in any direction, this course delivers.

As a small town (very small), they're still learning what is required to put on a high-elevation run. A lot of the times listed were pushed back and there were ample opportunities to speed things along. However, a participant needs to remember that all the race gear needs to be trucked up a long gravel road and placed above 9,000 feet - not an easy task, regardless of the location.

Spectators: One star. Not a lot of folks want to drive way the heck up into the mountains to watch a few folks burn themselves up on a road, and I understand. But this is the beauty of the race; as a participant, you must be mentally fit to run the longest marathon you've run. No music, no cheers - just you and your mind getting you through. The steady sound of your feet on a gravel road and meeting other racers on the course should be the most and best to expect. If you need a zillion folks to keep you motivated, stay home. If you enjoy the solemnity that only 9,500 feet, 26.2 miles and views of the Rocky Mountains can provide, sign up now.

Depending on the year you attend, make sure you know where and when there's water and what sort of nutrition will be provided - and be prepared to bring extra of your own. Also, a small camera would be a good extra, as the photos you take you'll be grateful for as you build upon your marathon career.

From Tour Guide Steve re The Madison Marathon outside of Ennis: Could you handle it? Of course--just think of it as a 26.2 mile hike with periodic fits of comfortable (if somewhat breathless) jogging.

From Montana Native Dave Cole re Montana marathons and area: The marathon I did in MT was Lewis and Clark Marathon in Bozeman, MT. That is where I was living at the time but I liked most of the course. It made a big S type shape in the mountains east of town right below the Bridger mountain range then went into town. It was probably more dirt road and trail (not rough trail) than road and quite scenic. On the other had there were almost no spectators, I don't think expo had much, and when I finished it in its 3rd year (?) there was only 150 marathoners (but also had halves that do the last half and marathon relay people). It was my first marathon but I enjoyed it. The Metal was not fancy metal plate with a simple design carved in and it had twine to hold it on your neck (I thought that was funny). Oh yeah the elevation gets up to 5,500' but is net downhill. I liked it though. Another big marathon that may be appealing is part of the governor's cup races in early June (I have seen snow later than this in MT). It is one of the biggest racing events in MT. I did the 10K there twice and also did a separate 5K in the same town. That is in Helena, MT and that is a nice town and at least towards the end of the race it should bring in more spectators. The race shirt was a nice thick sweatshirt (non-technical but maybe pre-technical).

I know Montana has a couple of really good running communities although maybe they are more the crazy Ultra type. The one Marathon in WY that caught my attention was a "double marathon" but I think it was a couple of Ultras and a marathon and think it was in southern WY-Laramie (Univ of WY town?) near Cheyenne. Close enough to Colorado to drive from there(?).

Bozeman is 1-1/2 hours drive to two entrance of Yellowstone, 1 hr to Big Sky (ski resort), Helena is a few hour's drive to Glacier but maybe not the most interesting way to go (Helena itself has some national forest around it). If you did the Billings marathon it would be ~1hr drive to Red Lodge and the Beartooth Highway into Yellowstone (very scenic, interesting, and a lot of switch backs to drive up to 10,000ft+). I once drove down Hwy 25 through eastern WY. It is amazing how little is out there. Little/no trees often could not see mountains, often no houses-more trailers than houses really. There were some very interesting rock formations from time to time. Cheyenne was nice though. Also Devil's tower and some area nearby (on the trip moving out here) was really pretty/interesting (but there's nothing close to it).

Later from Dave Cole with driving suggestions - I personally don't think I would have a problem driving 5-6 hrs the day before a marathon but I am not sure you feel the same way. I think it really would take that much time to make the drive. If you do take the drive I recommend driving along HWY 83 towards I-90, I think that would be the most scenic and interesting route. If not I still recommend that you drive down to I-90 on the west side of glacier because that area if you come east of glacier it is flat, Baron, and boring except for the groundhogs you have to avoid running over (again-lol). If you stay to the west headed down to I-90 trip should be pretty scenic.

The Madison marathon sounds interesting, I have never heard of it before. Sounds tuff though and remember I don't think glacier N.P. gets up to 9,000' and in general Butte-Bozeman area is a little higher elevation than most of the state. Also I think Madison is a ways from Bozeman-maybe like an

hour? West of Bozeman?? Also, Madison sticks out in my head as Grizzly country but maybe that is a different place. This marathon actually sounds like it could be really neat in terms of scenery.

From Coach Jon - IT actually merged with the Billings Montana Big Sky marathon now called the Montana Governor's cup marathon: 9/19 /10 in Billings Montana. There is nothing easy about getting to Montana where the sheep out-number the people. Actually, I have run both decent though the other was better- I liked Helena. You take your time on your runs. I just want to get them done. Have fun.

From: info@themadisonmarathon.com [mailto:info@themadisonmarathon.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Diana Burton
Subject: RE: question re Madison

Hi Diana, Thanks for writing. We don't have an official cut-off time right now. The unofficial cut-off will be around 6:00 PM. Considering a 9:00 AM start that would give runners nine hours to complete the marathon. Last year, a 73 year old runner finished in 8 hours or so. At the finish line waiting for him was myself and one other runner who had finished in about 6.5 hours. Everyone else had left. I imagine the same thing occurring this year.

The drive from Kalispell to Ennis is about six hours or so. Montana is a big state. You could fly from Kalispell airport to the Bozeman airport, but I have no idea about those routes. I assume there is a flight. There are no rail links so you're pretty much left with either driving or flying.

Hope this helps. I'll add your name to our growing list of runners/potential runners. The online sign up will begin on June 1 as currently planned.

Have a good week, Sam Korsmoe, Race Director, Madison marathon

Subject: question re Madison
Date: Tue, February 01, 2011 9:12 pm
Maybe the info is on the site and I didn't look closely enough -

What is your cut off time? Might a 5:45-6:15 hour 65 year old marathoner handle this?

And if so, I will be in Glacier NP for a week long hike the week before and ending in Kalispell. What would be the logical way to get to your area from Kalispell?

From: Jeff Bollman <jeffbollman@gmail.com>
Date: February 3, 2011 10:51:05 PM CST
To: "annettewulffe@yahoo.com"

Hi Annette: I would agree with the comments on MG. It is a super scenic race, one of my favorites and I'm going to run in 2011. It is a tougher course. The elevation is obviously a challenge. It is run on a single lane gravel road, so I think it is closer to a trail race. There is limited aid, not every 2 miles, so I carried a bottle. There is some traffic on the road from other runners support rigs which can get annoying, but most were sensitive and tried not to kick up too much dust. The other thing that I thought was kind of challenging was that there is little shade on the course and last year they started at 10 (I think) and so it was getting hot toward the end. I believe the RD talked about moving the start up, but I'm not sure if he can. It is a trek from Ennis to the finish. Then you have to load those that drove on the bus and all go to the start. If you want crowds, this is not the marathon to do. If you don't mind small races where you might start a little late, but folks are friendly, this is a good one. Hope this helps. Let me know if you have other questions. Jeff

Hi Diana, Very cool on the growing group of runners from the Windy City. The Madison Marathon is totally appropriate for you and your friends. It will never be a PR race for anyone. It's just too damn high in elevation for that. On the contrary, it is a race to be run and walked and completely enjoyed at whatever pace you set. Last year, even the serious runners stopped to have their pictures taken at the high point of the race - the Monument Ridge sign at 9,587 feet. I can't see serious runners stopping for their photos in too many races, no? I can guarantee you that the scenery will blow you away.

As for nice hotels, I would probably recommend the El Western which has some nice cabins. This might be suitable if there is a group of you and you all get along well enough to rent a large cabin with multiple rooms inside. Another option would be B&Bs and houses for rent and I'll get around to posting these on the site in time to make bookings. If you really are a wimp (can wimps run marathons??), I would not suggest camping as it gets cold at 9,000 feet even in the summer and the horse and deer flies can be bad as well as the mosquitoes during the day. There is always a chance of a bear rooting around your camp as well. Fun stuff, but not for wimps. The upside of camping is that you'll be at the staging area in the morning as opposed to having to wake up about 5 AM and get to our bus shuttle by 6 or so for a 1.5 hour ride up the mountain.

Don't hesitate to send more questions. Have a good weekend. Sam

From: Madison County Economic Development Council [mailto:info@madcoedc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:53 PM

Dear Madison Marathon Runners, Supporters, and Wannabe Runners,

Spring has sprung in Madison County in Southwest Montana! Finally!! Having said that, it will probably snow six inches tonight, but I believe we have turned the corner on a very long and snowy winter.

This is just a quick shout-out to the many, many athletes from across the United States who have written and called me in the past couple of months with queries about the Madison Marathon. I have been in touch with the US Forest Service and we are on track with our permit and all the other logistics for the race. It will be as scheduled on Sunday, July 24. We are still working on the permit and logistics for the inaugural running of the Madison Duathlon (bike/run) which is tentatively planned for Sunday, August 28. I've even held a few meetings for the Madison Triathlon (swim/bike/run) which we will kick off next year. This means, for those athletes who truly want to challenge themselves, that starting next year you will have the opportunity to do the **MADISON TRIFECTA** – the Madison Marathon, Madison Duathlon, and Madison Triathlon all in the same year.

The online registration for the 4th Annual Madison Marathon will begin at 10:00 AM (Mountain Standard Time) on June 1, 2011. Our race cap is 200 runners in total (meaning full marathoners, half marathoners, and team marathon runners). We have a relatively low cap number due to the isolation of the race route and the logistics in getting runners and volunteers so far into (and up!) the mountains. The most common question I have received, in particular from out of state athletes, is whether or not we will cap out. I fully appreciate that many of you need to book airplane tickets and hotels well in advance. Obviously, you don't want to do this if you end up not getting into the Madison Marathon. So, will we cap out on the morning of June 1st or not?

The honest answer is, "I don't know." My guts says that we will not cap out on June 1, but we could come close to capping out a week or so before race day. My goal as race director is to get at least 150 runners (last year we had 93 which was almost double from the previous year). On the marketing end for the race, we will begin placing race posters around Montana at the beginning of May heavily advertising the race and the opening of online registration on June 1. This effort, combined with returning runners and the numerous runners who have reached out to me via the internet, marathonguide.com, and other sites, means that a lot of runners will most likely sign up on

June 1. For this reason, I highly suggest that anyone receiving this email and considering running this year should be ready to register at 10:00 AM on June 1st. My gut, heart, and head tells me that starting next year – the 5th Annual Madison Marathon – we will cap out on the first day of online registration. We have a really cool marathon event and athletes from around the world are starting to know this.

I also want to provide some information for athletes coming from out of state. At the end of this email, I have provided a listing of Madison County lodging facilities. Please call them to arrange your stay in our community. For those who intend to fly in for the race, there are not too many options. The most convenient option is to fly into Bozeman Montana and then rent a car for the one hour drive to Ennis. The next option would be to fly into Idaho Falls, Idaho and then rent a car for the 2.5 hour drive to Ennis. One of the few drawbacks about living in Montana is that it is often expensive to fly in and out of the state. I am not sure about the cost of flights into and out of Idaho Falls. A quite solid and inexpensive option is to fly into Salt Lake City. In order to save money on flights, I have done this numerous times. The drive from Salt Lake City to Ennis is six hours. It is a long drive, but also quite beautiful. Last year, one of our Canadian runners ran the Salt Lake City Marathon on Saturday and then got into a rented car and drove to Ennis for the Madison Marathon the next day. How's that for gumption!

I have included below a schedule of events on and around race day. I hope to see many of you for the 4th Annual Madison Marathon. There is a lot of snow on the Gravelly Range now (the location of the route) which means that the road may not open as scheduled on July 2. I'm sure it will be fine by race day, but a heavy amount of snow often means that the wild flowers bloom later than usual. This means that you'll be running among millions and millions of incredibly colorful and beautiful wildflowers. It is truly a sight to behold. Check out our website's photo gallery section for an idea of how beautiful this can be <http://www.themadisonmarathon.com/gallery.html>

As always, feel free to call or email with any questions. I look forward to welcoming you to Madison County Montana in July.

Stay healthy, happy, and keep running forward. Sam , Race Director, Madison Marathon

Race Time and Date

- Sunday, July 24, 2011
- All Runners Starting Time: 9:00 AM near the base of Black Butte Mountain

Race Check In

- **Early check-in and late registration (if available*) – Ennis, Montana**
 - Saturday, July 23, 2011
 - 4:00-6:00 PM
 - Runners check in, sign waivers, receive bib number, and collect SWAG
 - Peter T's Park, Front lawn of First Madison Valley Bank, 213 East Main Street, Ennis Montana
 - * If the race has not capped out, runners can still register to run the race until 200 runners (the maximum allowed by the US Forest Service permit) have been signed up.
- **Pre-Race Dinner** – Specific details TBA, but it will be from about 5:00 to 7:00 PM and coincide with early race check in. All runners, spouses and family of runners, friends, and community residents are welcome. The dinner will be hosted by a Madison County nonprofit organization for a nominal fee per person. This is an opportunity to meet other runners and support a local organization.
- **Race Day Check-in – Staging Area of Race (for registered runners)**
 - Sunday, July 24, 2011
 - 7:00 to 8:00 AM

- Clover Meadows Campground, Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, Madison County

Race Day Schedule

- **Morning Shuttle Bus:** The shuttle bus(es) will leave from Ennis High School for the staging area at Clover Meadows at 5:45 AM. This bus is for runners who do not want to drive their cars up to the race course.
- **Race Day Registration:** Registration, signing of race waivers, collection of SWAG, and other details will be from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at Clover Meadows for those who did not register the previous day in Ennis.
- **Shuttle to Starting Line:** The shuttle buses will leave from Clover Meadows for the starting line beginning at 8:00 AM for the approximately 30 minute drive to the starting line.
- **Race Start:** All runners will start the race at 9:00 AM.
- **Half Marathon Winners Awards Ceremony:** The awards ceremony for all half marathon runners will begin at approximately 12:00 noon.
- **First Shuttle Bus Return:** The first bus to return to Ennis, only if there is more than one bus, will leave Clover Meadows at approximately 1:00 PM
- **Full Marathon Winners Awards Ceremony:** The awards ceremony for the full marathoners and team marathoners will begin at approximately 2:30 PM.
- **Second Shuttle Bus Return:** The second shuttle bus (or the single shuttle bus if there is only one bus) will return to Ennis from Clover Meadows at approximately 3:30 PM.
- **Staging Area Clean Up:** Volunteers will begin to breakdown and clean up the staging area/finish line beginning at 4:00 PM.
- **Last Call For Runners:** The race director of the Madison Marathon will potentially be the last person standing. He would like to leave Clover Meadows at approximately 6:00 PM. Though there is no official time limit, it is desired that all runners will have completed the race by 6:00 PM which means nine hours to finish the race.

From: Madison County Economic Development Council [mailto:info@madcoedc.org]

Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 3:21 PM

Subject: Madison Marathon Update: Gold Medal Marathon = Gold Medal Website

Dear Madison Marathon Runners and Supporters,

Did you know that there are just 148 days until the 4th Annual Madison Marathon? I didn't either, but I just calculated it now so I hope your training is going well.

This is the first Madison Marathon message of the year. I've a couple announcements, but it is mostly a chance to reach out and say hello to everyone and to many new runners, thanks for your interest. Over the past few months, I've been fielding a few emails per week from runners from across the United States and a few foreign countries. The message is obviously getting out that the Madison Marathon is a 'must run' kind of event.

First the big and cool news. The Madison Marathon website – www.themadisonmarathon.com – has won a Gold Medal ADDY Award for best consumer website in Montana for 2011. The credit goes entirely to I Spy Design and its web designer and owner, Brian Farrell. Thanks, Brian, and good job on the site. For those of you shopping around for a website designer, I can definitely recommend these guys. Check them out at www.ispydesign.com

Second, the race information packet for this year is completed. It is attached to this email and also posted on the website. Check it out and let me know if you have any questions. Also, please send it to any and all of your friends who would be interested in running the Highest Road Marathon in America. I'm thinking about including in parenthesis (and probably the world) after this statement because I still cannot find any road marathon run at a higher elevation anywhere in the world. Can

you? Should we start saying it is the Highest Road Marathon in the World? Quite a notch to put on your belt or lip stick case or wherever marathoners put their notches.

I am still planning an online race registration opening for 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. We will not be using Active.com for this year. In an effort to support a new Montana company, we will be going with www.racemontana.com We're already listed as a featured event on the site. I'll be in touch on how its online registration system works as June 1 gets closer. Race day, of course, is set for Sunday, July 24, 2011.

Our race cap is 200 runners. I have received a lot of emails from runners who are worried if they will be able to get in or not. To be 100 percent honest, I don't really know. Last year, we had over 90 runners. With the volume of emails and interest that I've received up to now and the wonderful word of mouth marketing that all of you have done, I would guess that at least 150 runners will sign up pretty much right away. Will we pull in 50 more runners between now and June 1st? I obviously hope so, but of course I don't know. It's safe to say that if you intend to run this year that you'll need to be ready and in front of a computer with a fast internet connection the morning of June 1.

Though I'm still working out the details, the proposed Madison Duathlon (bike/run) is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 28, 2011. The rough plan, still to be worked out with our US Forest Service partners and some landowners, is a 20 or so mile bike ride up Johnny Ridge Gulch road to Clover Meadows. Then, the athletes would jump off their bikes and run to Monument Ridge on the Gravelly Range Road. The run portion of this duathlon would be on the same route as the Madison Marathon. The bike portion would be on a decent quality road and would pretty much be entirely uphill. I'll be in touch with more information on this event in the near future.

That's about it, everyone. Thank you for your emails and support. Let me know if you have any questions.

I hope to see all of you in July. Stay healthy, happy, and keep running forward.

Sam, Race Director, Madison Marathon
Sam Korsmoe, Executive Director
Madison County Economic Development Council Inc.
West Yellowstone Economic Development Council Inc.
Madison Marathon
PO Box 365, Virginia City, MT 59755
Tel: 406-682-5923 Fax: 406-682-4564 Cell: 406-570-4531
Email: info@madcoedc.org Website: www.madcoedc.org and www.themadisonmarathon.com

From: Madison County Economic Development Council [mailto:info@madcoedc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 2:32 PM

Subject: Madison Marathon on Facebook

Dear Madison Marathon Runners and Supporters, Like 500 million other people and groups in the world, the Madison Marathon is on Facebook. Please check out our page by clicking the link below.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Madison-Marathon/98750728230>

Be sure to check out the draft poster for the 4th Annual Madison Marathon. It's posted on the Facebook page. Tell me what you think about it. There is also a feature to indicate which distance you intend to run in this year's race or if you want to volunteer. Please fill it out.

As always, feel free to write or call anytime. More updates to come as the June 1 online registration date gets closer.

About bears from our hiking leaders:

From: Nola Stewart [mailto:cat_trax@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 7:18 PM

Subject: RE: NYTimes: Study of Black Bears Finds It's Not the Mamas That Should Be Feared the Most

Hi Diana, Thanks for the interesting link about bears.

I have lived in bear country -- and am no longer "Bear-anoid". I would say I'm "Bear Aware". I was quite nervous years ago when I first moved to Whistler because I had no experience with bears. Whistler used to have a huge issue with bears as the town was growing and bears were coming to get food in town and at the dump. First time I met one I was trail running solo. The bear did not see me. I had a rush of adrenaline but slowly backed down the trail & when I was at a good distance, hauled it back to the car. Lol. One summer they had to put down somewhere around 30 bears. It was quite sad.

One time I was hiking with my girlfriends at Lake Louise and we nearly ran into a mama grizzly & two cubs coming from the opposite way on the trail. We just backed off slowly. We weren't too far from the "back of the lake" rock climbing area so we went back to alert the climbers of her approach. One of them was an off-duty warden who we helped coax her away from the trail, toward the non-populated side of the lake. Parks Canada at times would put a "hike in groups of 6 or more" requirement on certain bear-frequented trails in that area. (I kept asking if the bears had to hike in groups of 6, too?)

The most startling bear encounter I had was when I went up to Jasper for a couple days on my own & camped in a "front country" campground. I awoke at 6am to sniffing outside my tent, yikes. Once again, a shot of adrenaline! I kept quiet and let the bear wander off (thinking he'd better not put his furry paw through my new tent!). Once the bear went away, I slowly unzipped the entrance to find the bear circling a *cooler* that my next-door camp neighbors had left out!!! (Slime dogs -- there are very specific instructions on how to store food when camping & they apparently didn't read them.) Needless to say, I didn't really hang around -- got an early start, including leaving a note for the camp host to please educate those folks with the cooler!

I could go on...! Basically, we encourage people to hike together (at least with a partner) and carry on a normal conversation when hiking in bear country. For the most part, if you see a bear from the trail, all they do is eat and maybe look over at you (*not* as a food source). The main thing is to not surprise one so that is why hiking together & talking along the way is encouraged while it goes without saying not to approach bears for a better photo! :)

Hope wherever you are, you are having fun!

> Subject: NYTimes: Study of Black Bears Finds It's Not the Mamas That Should Be Feared the Most

>

> Black bears have killed only 63 people in the United States and Canada over the last 109 years. Most attacks involved a bear on the prowl, likely hunting for food, not mothers protecting cubs. <http://nyti.ms/kYuw4F>

Dear Madison Marathon Runners and Supporters,

The clock is ticking towards 10:00 AM on June 1 and the opening of online registration for the Madison Marathon. In just the past two weeks, I've received several interesting emails and phone calls from people across the United States, Europe, and South Asia (I think Pakistan). For example, a woman who is graduating from college has asked her Mother, who lives near Boston, that she wants to run the Madison Marathon as her graduation present though no one in the family has ever been to Montana. A man from Nashville has already booked tickets and hotels for the race. Same goes for runners from Maine, New Jersey, Utah, New Mexico, New York, Illinois, and probably a few other states. An Alaskan runner has asked for flight and hotel details. A California runner is shooting for all 50 states within this calendar year. The Madison Marathon will be his Montana marathon and his 33rd for the year. A French female runner, who has run a 2h35, is considering the race. She sounds like a professional to me. Another runner who has, according to my source, run

over 700 marathoners also wants to run this year. Hardly last nor in anyway the least, all kinds of Montanans fully intend to run. For those who are intending to run the 4th Annual Madison Marathon, you'll be in good and very interesting company.

The purpose of this email is to do a quick survey for t-shirt design. I am shooting to include a nice tech shirt for this year's race. As many of you probably know, tech shirts are quite a bit more expensive than plain old cotton. To make it financially do-able (and this is a still an if), we would have to go with a b/w shirt design. The plan is to have the color logo on the breast and a design on the back of a white tech shirt. Take a look at the two options and let me know what you think. The mountain? Or, the US Forest Service sign?

More race and sign up information to come. Thanks everyone. Stay healthy, happy, and keep running forward.

Sam, Race Director, Madison Marathon



Congratulations! We look forward to welcoming you to the 4th Annual Madison Marathon. Running will never be the same after Sunday, July 24.

We'll be in touch on all the details. Stay healthy, happy, and keep running forward.
Sam Korsmoe, Race Director, Madison Marathon

* * *
This confirms your transaction completed successfully for \$74.75 and your confirmation number is VKVO2B4BD30E. Please note that your credit card statement will read "RaceMT-Madison Marath".

Billing Address: 185 Kingfisher Drive, Middletown, NJ 07748

_____ Transaction Details _____
Amount: \$70.00 Online Fee: \$4.75
Registration: Madison Marathon : Full Marathon
Registrant: Diana Burton (email: dianab@juno.com)
Gender: F Age on day of event: 65
Address: 185 Kingfisher Drive, Middletown, NJ 07748 US
T-Shirt Size: S

Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 12:22 AM
To: sam@madcoedc.org
Subject: First day sign up for the Madison Marathon

Dear Madison Marathon Runners & Supporters,
What a fantastic day!

At exactly 10:00 AM Montana time a little REGISTER logo appeared on the Madison Marathon sign up page on www.RaceMontana.com. I went to the admin page and there were six people in the "not paid" column. This meant they were filling out the forms. A runner named Vicki Scott from Arizona made it through first and officially became the very first participant in the 4th Annual Madison Marathon at 10:01 AM. Thank you Vicki and thank you, thank you, thank you to so many other people.

It has been exactly 12 hours since online registration opened for the Madison Marathon. Though I don't believe I told anyone, I had anticipated about 40 or so runners signing up on this first day. As I've discussed via email a few times, I just didn't know how many would sign up or if we would cap out. I didn't believe that we would cap out on this first day, and we didn't. However, I was very wrong on my initial thought of about 40 runners on day one. I am now making the prediction that we will cap out by race day if not well before.

So how many runners in this first 12 hour period of time?

As the race director, I'm always shooting to do better than the previous year. To date, we've been almost doubling our numbers. I calculated how much time it took to pass, in the number of registered runners, the previous three Madison Marathons. Here are the numbers:

Time needed to pass the Inaugural Madison Marathon total of 36 runners: 6 minutes
Time needed to pass the 2nd Annual Madison Marathon total of 53 runners: 17 minutes
Time needed to pass the 3rd Annual Madison Marathon total of 93 runners: 2 hours 50 minutes

Presently, we are in new territory. We have 107 runners from 20 states signed up and registered to run the 4th Annual Madison Marathon. I will continue to market aggressively to runners from across the United States and around the world until we hit 200 runners. So, if you are receiving this email and are not one of the 107 runners, you're on notice. I hope you sign up and I would advise that you do it sooner rather than later. If you are one of the 107 runners, thank you and I hope you get your family, friends, co-workers, and training partners to run with you.

Thanks everyone. This would not be a race without you and I truly do believe that running will not be the same for any of you after you've run the Madison Marathon.

Stay healthy, happy, and keep running forward. Sam

From: Madison County Economic Development Council [mailto:info@madcoedc.org]

Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 12:53 PM

Dear Madison Marathon Runners and Supporters,

With 46 more days to go before race day and just one week into the opening of online registration, the signs up for Madison Marathon are doing well. As of this writing, we have runners coming from 20 states as well as some queries from Canada, Europe, and Asia. The breakdown so far is:

Full Marathon - 58
Half Marathon - 50

Teams - 8

Men – 67

Women - 73

This should total 140 runners which is what I've tallied so far. This means there are just 60 spots open because of our cap of 200 runners. I am now quite confident that we will cap out. So, if you're on the fence about running the Highest Road Marathon in America, it's time to jump off the fence and make a decision. I hope you agree to join the 140 others who are running. This is one of those races that will probably change your life forever.

From: sam@madcoedc.org [mailto:sam@madcoedc.org]

Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2011 7:11 PM

Subject: Madison Marathon - CAP OUT!!

Dear 4th Annual Madison Marathon Runners,

Congratulations! About 20 minutes ago, Tim Hurst, a runner from the Salt Lake City area, became the last runner in this year's Madison Marathon. We are officially capped at 200 runners. Thank you very much for supporting and taking part in this marathon.

Normally (at least normal for the first three Madison Marathons), I would send a quick personal response to every runner who signed up. I intended on doing the same thing this year, but the sign ups just kept coming without a break. I was waiting for a pause to begin to write personal notes. I guess not having a break in sign ups is a good problem to have. Capping out a race that we started just three years ago is another good problem to have.

Again, thank you for signing up and supporting our efforts in Madison County Montana.

In the next couple of weeks, you'll be receiving a series of emails from me regarding the race. Some high notes for now. The race is on Sunday, July 24. The pre-race registration where you sign waivers (mandatory) and pick up SWAG is on July 23rd from 4 to 6 PM in Ennis, Montana. This is followed by a pre-race dinner at the same location. There will also be race day registration (for waivers and SWAG) from 6:30 to 8 AM at Clover Meadows in the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest on July 24. Clover Meadows is the staging area, the shuttle point to the starting line, and the finish line. It's also a good place to camp the night before the race if you intend to get up on the range ahead of time to acclimatize yourself and get ready to run a marathon at over 9,000 feet above sea level. More news along these lines to come.

My new friend Tim from Salt Lake City called me with a couple of questions right after he signed up.

He was quite surprised that he was #200 because he was going to sign up tomorrow and might have been shut out. We already have a waiting list for the half and team. I was surprised that we capped out this year. I was anticipating doing well and perhaps having 150 or 160 runners. Well, I guess we're for real. I hope you all have a fantastic day or running the Madison Marathon.

I'll be in touch soon and don't hesitate to call or email with any questions. Have a fantastic day. I am.

Olympic National Park warns hikers: Don't wee in the woods

I know not to wee at off trail places where a bear might be crouched, or where rattlesnakes might be, or in cactus groves, and as in today, where there's oodles of poison ivy, but this is a new reason -- goats!

Officials at Olympic National Park are warning visitors to avoid urinating near some backcountry trails because the resulting salt may attract aggressive mountain goats.

By Kurt Repanshek/National Parks Traveler

After a fatal attack by a mountain goat on a hiker last fall, officials at Washington's [Olympic National Park](#) are urging visitors not to urinate along some backcountry trails because the resulting salt deposits may attract the animals.



According to the [Peninsula Daily News](#), the no-pee advisory for Hurricane Ridge and other areas of "high goat use" is part of the park's new "mountain goat action plan" that includes keeping at least 50 yards away from all goats and closing trails for up to two weeks if visitors encounter aggressive, threatening behavior.

Bob Boardman, 63, of Port Angeles, Wash., was gored to death by a male mountain goat last Oct. 16 on a park trail near Klahhane Ridge. Boardman was protecting other hikers from the goat when it gored him in the thigh and then reportedly stood over him as he bled to death, [says the National Parks Traveler](#).

Olympic, whose vampire-friendly Hoh Rain Forest [inspired Twilight author Stephenie Meyer](#), is home to an estimated 300 mountain goats. There have been no reports of aggressive goats in the park this year and officials say hazardous encounters are "extremely rare," the National Parks Traveler adds.

But the Olympic plan says "there is a high potential for goat - human interactions in (the park). Most notable are the many areas where mountain goats are habituated to human presence (and) have also become conditioned to seeking salts from humans. They can be a nuisance along trails and around wilderness campsites where they will persistently seek salt and minerals from human urine, packs and sweat on clothing. They will often paw and dig areas on the ground where hikers have urinated or disposed of cooking wastewater and chew unattended clothing."

From: Madison County Economic Development Council [mailto:info@madcoedc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 11:12 AM

Subject: Madison Marathon Update and Snow Report

Dear 4th Annual Madison Marathon Runners,

Good morning from Montana! The clock is most definitely ticking towards the start of the Highest Road Marathon in America. It's been an anxious couple of weeks for us here in Montana. Our snow pack in the mountains is, on average, over 200% above normal which has caused a lot of flooding here in Montana and in many of the lower Missouri River states. Though flooding is not the issue, the snow pack has been a huge cause for concern for the Madison Marathon as well.

Several Montana runners have called or emailed me to say that the primary road up to the Madison Marathon route has remained closed and would not open until August 1. Of course, I knew this and have had more than a few sleepless nights because of it. Rightly so, they wondered if the race was still on. The US Forest Service normally opens the road – it's called the Call Road and it's the main road onto the Gravelly Range Road into the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest – on July 2. It did not open on the 2nd and the Forest Service staff headquartered in Ennis told me that they were not sure when the road would open because there was an unprecedented amount of snow on the range. No one around remembers ever seeing so much snow at this time in July. They posted the August 1 date because they had to select a date, but had all intentions of opening the road as soon as possible. This was some relief, but the road was still not opened due to some enormous drifts on the range.

So, we now have good news, better news, not great news, but still good news scenario.

The first good news – The road opened yesterday.

The better news – The road is clear all the way to Clover Meadows which is our staging area and finish line for the race. It's also a place where some of you may wish to camp the night before the race. With the road open to Clover Meadows, we have the green light to hold the race. We're on.

The not great news – There are still some very large drifts covering the road so the road is not entirely open. This could force us to alter the existing route of the Madison Marathon. It will still be on the Gravelly Range Road and it will still be on a route that reaches as high as 9,587 feet above sea level on a good quality gravel road. It is still legitimately the Highest Road Marathon in America with an average elevation of above 9,000 feet. It just might not follow the original and same route as last year. Today, or for sure this weekend, I will drive up to the Gravelly Range Road and take my bicycle. I intend to drive as far as the first snow drift (from here on out I'll call them glaciers!) and then hump my bike and self over the glaciers to the other side and start cycling as far as I can. I want to see how many glaciers are covering the road and what it would take to bust them out with a plow. I'll also get a better sense of what 12 more days of melting might do. Yes, we are considering hiring someone to plow out the remaining snow for this race. If it's not feasible, we'll re-work the route and ensure that the entire beauty of the Gravelly Range and the uniqueness of running the Highest Road Marathon in America remains intact.

The still good news – The best news, of course, is that the race is on and it will be on the Gravelly Range Road and will still be the Highest Road Marathon in America. A Bozeman runner stopped by my office yesterday on his way up to the Range. He called me later to report on the glaciers that he saw and also said that the wildflowers are incredible and will probably get even better due to the snow, the route is totally amazing, and that any route on the Gravelly Range will blow people's socks off (he didn't actually say those words, but that was his basic meaning). There is a good chance that the original route will still be used. The 10 day forecast calls for 80 degree weather. I'll give you all a report after I tour the route.

A few other details:

A handful of runners have had to cancel due to injury or work. We do have a waiting list and several runners have already moved from the waiting list to the running list because of these cancellations. If you have a friend who wants to run, he or she should email me to get their name on the list. I said earlier that I would reimburse runners who cancel. I will providing that we can move a waiting list runner to cover your spot. In some cases, it might not cover the entire cost (i.e. a half marathon runner taking the spot of a marathon runner), but at least it covers part of your entry fee. One of my co-directors was surprised that we would offer reimbursements since it is far from standard procedure for marathons across the country. Our reason for doing so is that we want to build the Madison Marathon into a nationally known and credible race. This year, we managed to cap out almost one month before race day. This is great, but we want to maintain not just that trend but also the credibility that needs to come with such a well known race. If not capitalizing on some runners who cancel due to injury or work will do that, then that's the route we'll be taking.

Camping and Transportation – The partially opened road might alter some transportation as well as camping plans. The camping issue should be okay since Clover Meadows is open. However, I will be implementing a strict parking policy for runners who do camp the night before. Please follow these instructions when they are developed and issued. I may also create a car-pooling plan that originates from Ennis up to the race course. More on that as needed.

All in all, please be patient and flexible as we deal with a route still covered by several 'glaciers' that might alter our original plans. We're still on.

Thanks and I look forward to meeting you and welcoming all of you to Madison County. Stay happy, healthy, and keep running forward, Sam

Dear 4th Annual Madison Marathoners,

We're getting really close. I've already met a few runners and have heard from several of you. Earlier today, I picked up a runner at the Bozeman airport who made the cover of a Wheaties Box as a runner. I had been impressed with the likes of Larry Macon's 766 marathons and Henry Reuden's 738, but then I met someone who has actually been on a Wheaties Box. How cool is that??

We're down to the wire so this message will be short. Like the others, previous emails are pasted below.

The shuttle bus will leave from Ennis High School at 5:30 AM. The Ennis school is on Charles Street. As you come into town from the Bozeman side, you'll come to a t-junction. Take a right and then the first left and the school is right there.

If you're camping, please adhere to the camping regulations that I outlined earlier (see below for a refresher). If Clover Meadows looks a bit crowded, drive along the route and find other camping spots. There's plenty of room.

Whether you're camping or driving up for the day, please use the designated parking area. This is a gravel mound just south of Clover Meadows. It is literally 50 yards or less distance away. We've staked out an area for you to park. Park in an orderly fashion just as if you're in a standard parking lot and park in order right next to each other. Thanks for this one.

The race check in is from 4 to 6 PM at Peter T Park on Main Street in Ennis. You'll notice the signs and/or the tables set up on a large front lawn of a very beautiful building in the middle of Ennis. At this check in, you'll receive your bib number, race shirt, SWAG, and you must sign a waiver.

Race Day check in will happen from about 7 to 8 AM at Clover Meadows. This is for people who are camping and/or driving up on race day and could not check in the day before.

The pre-race dinner is from 5 to 7 PM at Peter T Park (the same place as race check in). We have a special prize as another incentive for you to attend the pre-race dinner. One of our race sponsors is Wild West Photos of Bozeman. This is the company that built the Madison Marathon website. The owner, Brian Farrell, has donated a prized print of Black Butte Mountain. A PDF of this print is attached to this email. This print is 24" x 36" and incredibly beautiful. If you attend the pre-race dinner, you're bib number will be your raffle ticket for a drawing to win this print. I will also be selling raffle tickets for the print for \$10 a pop. Basically, this means Madison Marathon runners get a free chance to win the print and non-runners who like the photo and want to support our efforts to win the Cowboy Hall of Fame project can buy tickets to win the print.

We have some more fun prizes to be won by runners. We will have trophies for the winner's of the men and women's marathon, and the men and women's half marathon. We'll also have prizes for the runners up in these categories. The team marathon winners will also win a prize. Aside from these prizes, we will have a prize for the runner who has travelled the furthest to run in the Madison Marathon. We'll also have a prize for the oldest runner and the youngest runner. Finally, we will have a prize for the half marathon runner who comes closest to the time to 2h 22 minutes and 22 seconds. We'll have another prize for the marathon runner who comes closest to 4h 44 minutes and 44 seconds. These last two prizes are just for fun and also because there will likely be a lot of runners coming in about those times.

By the way, kudos big time to any runner who breaks two hours in the half and four hours in the full. This route is challenging and it's not just the elevation that will kick your butt. The up-hills are extremely long – two to three miles – and many of you will be too blown away by the scenery to concentrate on your running.

That's it for now. I may or may not send out another email tomorrow. I look forward to welcoming you to Montana, Madison County, and the Madison Marathon. See you soon and get ready to be amazed. Sam

Dear 4th Annual Madison Marathon Runners & Volunteers,
Thank you, thank you, and thank you! I hope everyone enjoyed the 4th Annual Madison Marathon as much as I did. I felt we had a very successful marathon event.

Community events of this size and caliber (and in the Madison's case, the difficult logistics and distance from a town) can succeed only if all the people involved step up and do their best. This requires volunteers to go beyond "volunteering for the community" and to put forth a special effort. This is why we succeeded this year.

At the risk of omitting a name (and if I do, I apologize), I want to tell you who these people are and what they did for this event.

The first volunteer actually flew in from Fort Myers Beach, Florida, a week early to help out. Robert "Cowboy Jeff" Bishton ran the Madison last year. At the end of that race, he offered several good suggestions. He then upped the ante by accepting my invitation to come out to Montana early, stay at my home, and help out with this year's race. Jeff has run 184 marathons so he knows what needs to get done. Without his early help, I would have drowned in the logistics of it all.

Also very early on, Jamie Wieferich, a runner who signed up from Bozeman, offered to help. She sent me several emails to offer to do whatever she could from Bozeman. She did some last minute shopping for the race on Friday and on Saturday, the day before the race, she drove to Ennis early in the morning to help out. Marie Bartoletti, another runner from Pennsylvania, who was hosted by my parents, agreed to help out on Saturday morning. As we were eating our pre-work breakfast at Yesterdays restaurant on Main Street in Ennis, Dave and Connie Wilke from St. Louis [Dave was registered to run the marathon] were also at the restaurant and they introduced themselves and offered to help. Also at the breakfast was Andy Debona from Ennis. He volunteered to work the Madison for the third year in a row. On race day, Andy and Chris Debona did all kinds of volunteer duties including manning the Mile 19.6 aid station and turn-around. Andy and Chris are one of those class acts that offer to do anything and everything that needs to get done. In Andy's case on that Saturday morning, it was the glorified job of loading up six porta-johns together with Jeff and Dave Wilke. They picked up a trailer donated for the event – for the third year in a row – by John Benedict of Virginia City. So by about 10:00 AM, there were five volunteers headed up to the course – Marie from Pennsylvania, Connie from St. Louis, Dave from St. Louis, Jamie from Bozeman, Jeff from Florida, and Andy from Ennis along with myself and a lot of stuff donated by Madison County citizens.

While this group was working on the route, Dave and Nancy Schulz and their daughter Susanne and her husband Matt Hill were up earlier than all of us working on the pre-race dinner. Susanne was also an early volunteer. She worked on the race to get logistics settled and to get as many wait-listed runners into the race as possible. On Saturday, she and her Mom did a lot of cooking.

The dinner was a fabulous success. It was on the front lawn of the First Madison Valley Bank. This bank consistently supports community events. The dinner started just after Jeff, Marie, Jamie, and an unknown volunteer madly checked in racers in for the race. At the dinner, Wild West Photos, a Bozeman photography business owned by Brian Farrell, had donated a large print of Black Butte Mountain. It was raffled off and Chris Martin a coach and runner from Bozeman won the prize.

All in all, these runners and community volunteers did an amazing job on Saturday with a very tight deadline. Thank you!

On race day, the volunteer spirit and tempo kicked into high gear. For the 4th year in a row, Ennis High School donated use of water coolers and stop watches. For the third year in a row, Moonlight Basin donated the use of a 33-seat bus as well as prizes for the winners. Jim Hart, a Madison County commissioner, volunteered to drive this bus from Ennis to Clover Meadows. Sherri Shows, from Ennis and the owner of the Picnic Basket restaurant, prepared volunteer lunches which were picked up at 5:30 which means that Sherri was up about 4:30 AM putting the lunches together. The caravan of three buses, a shuttle van, and a bunch of cars headed up the Call Road to the staging area at Clover Meadows. We arrived on time and the first thing we saw was a very long line to the porta-johns. Thank you Andy, once again! Jamie and Marie stepped up to check in race day runners rather than prepping themselves to run the race.

An angel also appeared at Clover Meadows. Her name is Brandy Ladd and very early on she had emailed me to offer her services as an EMT volunteer. She was fully equipped, knew the drill, and was exceptionally conscientious of every runner on the route. She communicated extremely well with me on all the runners, their health, spirits, and status. Without Brandy, I would have been a nervous wreck. Thanks Brandy!

My parents, Sam and Elena Korsmoe, volunteered to man the Mile 10 aid station for the 4th year in a row. I guess the Madison Marathon can be called a family affair. Four years in a row is pretty committed considering that there have only been four marathons. Joining the team, Mary Hillenius (my sister) manned the Mile 13 station and also drove a sweeper vehicle. At Mile 13, a young man

named Bridger whose father was running the marathon helped out. At Mile 6.8, Tom and Donna Trainer [their son Tim was a marathoner] took care of the aid station together with Matt Hill who timed the runners' splits and ensured the team marathoners were on their way.

Susanne Hill was a huge help in getting everything together and keeping track of runners time as they finished. During the race, Ray Paige, from the US Forest Service, and a sheriff deputy from Madison County Sheriff's Department checked in to tell me how the runners were doing. Ray later helped us breakdown the Clover Meadows staging area.

The awards ceremonies were also quite fun. Brent and Mariah Oliver of Signs West in Bozeman made some really cool trophies for the winners. Moonlight Basin also offered prizes.

Breaking down an event is never as much fun as starting an event up. This is where volunteer spirit needs to run deep. Jeff, Matt, Susanne, Brandy, Jim and Andy stepped up big time. John Knapton from Ennis, a team runner for the Jack Creekers and a Moonlight Basin employee, joined in to help out with the glorious job of loading up well used porta-johns onto our trailer. He also drove the Moonlight Basin bus home an hour after he was intending to because he was busy loading up the porta-potties.

With Ray Paige, Jeff, Matt and Susanne's help along with some late runners (Jim Hart had already towed the porta-john trailer back to Ennis), we left Clover Meadows about 6:30 or so. The job finished earlier this morning when Jim and I drove the porta-johns back to Alder and dropped off John Benedict's truck.

Last in this email, but first in my life, I want to thank my son, Colter Korsmoe, for helping out at race check in and, most importantly, for starting the 4th Annual Madison Marathon.

Thank you everyone! The race results and other emails are to follow within this week. Have a great week. Sam