

Philadelphia Marathon Notes & Pictures November 21-23, 2008

Philadelphia is so close and convenient, it doesn't feel like a trip, yet it's a top-rated and well received marathon. So despite having no pictures, here's a small collection of those sent to me.

A moving and cold crowd race morning, picture compliments of Micki's cell phone.



It was an eventful day for most of our group:

- Kathy Donato might have had a new PR. She's fast! It was Kathy who paced me to a half marathon PR a few years ago so I have an extra soft spot for her.
- Allison Roth ran her first full completed marathon despite some issues that would keep any of the rest of us from even trying. BRAVO and Congrats to Allison!
- Micki Contini is a new marathoner but this was not her first yet maybe she did even better than she expected.
- Donna Mancuso holds a special place in our hearts because we ran Wilmington with her. It was her first marathon in the first state on her 50th birthday. She should have been thrilled with this marathon too.
- Liberty Lady Maricar has been on a streak of running every weekend and still managed to run away from the rest of us.
- Liberty Lady Diana is just thrilled to keep going.
- Adrian Telling who we met in Green Bay found us at the start line and had a beer with us after the marathon. He too might be getting new PRs despite trying to run in every state. This was his 10th so he's off to join the 50-state club. What a good looking addition to the Liberty Lady Team.

Donna with husband Jeff and dog Shadow after the marathon. The following pictures are all compliments of Maricar.



Liberty Ladies Diana and Maricar with Donna at the finish line.



Liberty Ladies Diana and Maricar with Pacer Mike at the finish line.



Donna's husband Jeff blesses us by spectating and with family member Shadow.



Donna at the fountain between hotel and start.





Allison out on the course in Manyunk.



Micki, Donna and Allison at the start line. It was cold, but not for long.

Micki and Allison at the fountain between hotel and start line.





Micki, Diana, Allison, Donna and Maricar at the hotel pre-start. The Liberty Ladies dress for the occasion!

Good looking Adrian not only joined the Liberty Ladies At the starting line but for a beer afterwards too.



Why run Philadelphia?

- Expo is plenty large and conveniently downtown.
- Goody bag contained some decent logo gloves and a nice cinch backpack.
- T-shirt is one of the best quality and design and you'll love it IF you aren't a size small. It hangs off me.
- Nice course full of monuments, parks, and a little town at the far end and enough spectators.
- While said to be flat, there's enough small hills to make the legs feel good.
- Hotels are available so close to the start line that you can step out your hotel 10 minutes before the start. Prices are very reasonable.
- Weather is typically good and cool.
- Lots of good restaurants near to the finish line.
- Touring opportunities abound.
- So you can run with your friends.

Sat Nov 21

Am Depart to Phila via car

10:00am Expo at Pennsylvania Convention Center to 7:00pm
Hall C, 12th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dinner Idea: Rose Tattoo Café on 19th and Callowhill Street
Tele: (215) 569-8939

Hotel Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel – 2 nights
17th & Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Tele 215 448 2000 or 800 325 3535

Sun Nov 22

7:00am Marathon and half marathon start at 22nd and Ben Franklin Parkway
www.philadelphiamarathon.com - Ranking 12th in size in the U.S.

Mon Nov 23

Eve Depart Phila via car to home – or to The Club for 5pm?

General Directions to the Hotel

From East

Take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 4. Proceed on Highway 73 North to Highway 38 West. Continue to Highway 30 West over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. After crossing the bridge, continue on Vine Street and turn left onto 17th Street. The hotel is located 1 block further on the left.

From Interstate 95 South (North/South)

Take Interstate 95 South to Exit 22. Proceed on Highway 676 West to the Broad Street Exit, this will take you to 15th Street. Continue 0.5 blocks to Spring Street and turn right. Proceed 1 block and turn right onto 16th Street; the hotel is 0.25 blocks further on the left.

From West

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Exit 24. Proceed on Highway 76 East to Exit 344 which is 676 East/Central Philadelphia Exit. Continue to the Broad Street/Central Philadelphia Exit. Turn right onto 15th Street and proceed one block to Spring Street and turn right. Continue 1 block to 16th Street and turn right. The hotel is located 0.25 blocks down on the left.