

Marvellite Run History

by Marvin "Marvellite" Winters

Let me give you a bit of history before we start. During the summer of 1989, Debbie Williams (my ex-wife who was Debbie Winters at the time) and I were going around doing several of the nearby races. Debbie had not been racing for very long and wanted to get more competitive and we thought the races were preferable to intervals, etc. On that circuit (in Claremore) we met up with Pat Case, Lydia Borges and (a girl who got hit by a car and is in Oregon) and devised a plan to train together. At that time, Debbie was "running in" right behind Lydia who was behind Pat. I told them that every Tuesday, we met at 11th & Riverside, jogged over and did a "Hill Repeat Workout" up and down Easton Hill (a mile or so away.) Word got around that we were having good success (and a lot of fun) doing this. When Joan Ackerman, Vickie Fegali, Donna Spencer, Dianne Perry, Tracy Lockwood, Peewee (?) [got married and moved to Ohio] et. al. joined the group, they decided to call themselves "Marvelous Marv's Marvellettes" which was shortly thereafter shortened to "The Marvellettes." I have an exact list of names somewhere but, for right now, that's as good as I can do. I am VERY proud of these girls. Donna, Lydia and Linda Brown have all at one time been "Oklahoma Runner of the Year" winners. Several of them have qualified for and run the Boston Marathon and what is more important - are all still very good friends and still running. I love 'em all.

In December 1989, Donna Spencer suggested that, because of the beauty of the Mapleridge at Christmas time, we should move our weekly hill workout over there - at least once a year. So, we did and immediately named it the "Marvellite" run - get it? "Marvellite" instead of "Marvellette" because of the "lights? Groan . . . they even got uniforms and started their own "Marvelletter" and had a "Travelling Trophy for Marvellous Achievements." Everything was always "LL" never just one.

Our first MR was 12-20-89 and there were only five of us because of some "work" scheduling problems (several of them were RN's.) I gave them all a running necklace from Runner's World. (It was on a Wed because of ?) Linda Brown, Joan Alderman, Vicki Fegali, Debbie Williams, and me.

1990 - Again on a Wed (weather?) Lydia Borges, Joan Alderman, Diane Perry, Cindy Jacobi, Linda Brown, Pat Case, Debbie Williams, six male "wannebe's" and I all started and "picked up" five more runners as we went along for a total of 19 at the end. Gave the Marvellettes a bottle of wine.

12-8-1991 Same group (less Debbie) as 1992 but added Nancy Martin. Sang "Silent Night" at Bob Doenges' house (Liddy had just died.) Wannebe's made the group total about 20. The Marvellettes got wine again. The guys got nada. Ha.

12/15/1992 Same as 1991 but added SEVERAL more Wannebes and counted 36. Pat Case invited everyone over to her place for a "Marvellparty" and that started that tradition. The girls brought dessert and the guys donated to buy pizza.

12/7/1993 Not a good run because hardly any lights were up. We decided doing it the first Tuesday in December was a "Marvelloser" and decided the second Tuesday would be better. Party at our house and I counted 105.

12/13/1994 All I have is the total - 112. Party again at our house counted.

12/14/1995 Total 91. I'm sick - barely running. Frank & Jane Hawkins had the party.

12/17/1996 Total 75. I'm sick - barely running. Frank & Jane Hawkins had the party. We are in the process of moving to Owasso. I can barely breathe (asthma.) We may have had to cancel this year had not Jim Musshafen jumped in and saved it. Proves that "Wannebes" are good for something after all.

12/16/1997 Total 110. I'm no longer running and barely had anything to do with it. Several good friends took the run over and allowed me to get completely away from the stress of it. Party at Hawkins.

12/15/1998 Total 98. Party at Hawkins.

12/1999. Bill Hellen and several other angels of mercy took over and did the race and I had nada to do with it. I was not even able to show up and run with them. [In Jan 2000, we found my problem and ended up with two stents in my heart because of a blocked LAD artery. I was told that my running all these years saved my life.]

I am sorry, but I don't have the exact date that LeAnn joined our group. I recall that she, Debbie ? (from F&M), Judy Bomer, and Lynne Morgan were all training to go to the NYC Marathon and joined up with us while training for that. I think it was around the summer of 1995 but am not sure. I asked my wife Maryanne (who was one of LeAnn's many buddies) but she can't recall either. We loved it when they joined up. It was hot and they all ran in black Jog Bras so we named them the "Blacktops." We ran this name stuff *ad naseum*. Ha.

Anyway, I hope this helps. It's a great exercise for me because I've threatened to write a book someday about all my running buddies and this might help get me started.

Bless you, my child, for doing the work on this thing. I've always thought it was a wonderful way to get everyone together for a "good time" without them worrying about having a "good" time. Get it. Uh-oh, there it goes again. LOL.

No kidding . . . THANK YOU. And, I do definitely plan to be there. I've only missed two and am back running every day again – albeit it, VERY slowly.

Let me know if there's anything else I can research for you. I've got it all here somewhere. Had I known it was going to still be around, I would've taken more care. Sorta like my body. (-:

God bless and thanks again . . . Marv