



# OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

## CONTENTS

<a href="#">Fanatic Reunion</a>	1-5
<a href="#">Signature Race Series</a>	6
<a href="#">Did You Know?</a>	7
<a href="#">Race Photos</a>	8
<a href="#">Achievements</a>	9-10
<a href="#">Race Photos</a>	11
<a href="#">Regional Facebook Pages</a>	12
<a href="#">Race Photos</a>	13
<a href="#">Upcoming Races</a>	14
<a href="#">Race Photos</a>	15
<a href="#">Gear/Fanatic Poll</a>	16
<a href="#">Race Photos</a>	17
<a href="#">New Members</a>	18
<a href="#">Our Why</a>	19-20



Grand Country Half – Fanatic Reunion



Follow us!

Half Fanatics | @halffanatics | @MainFanatics

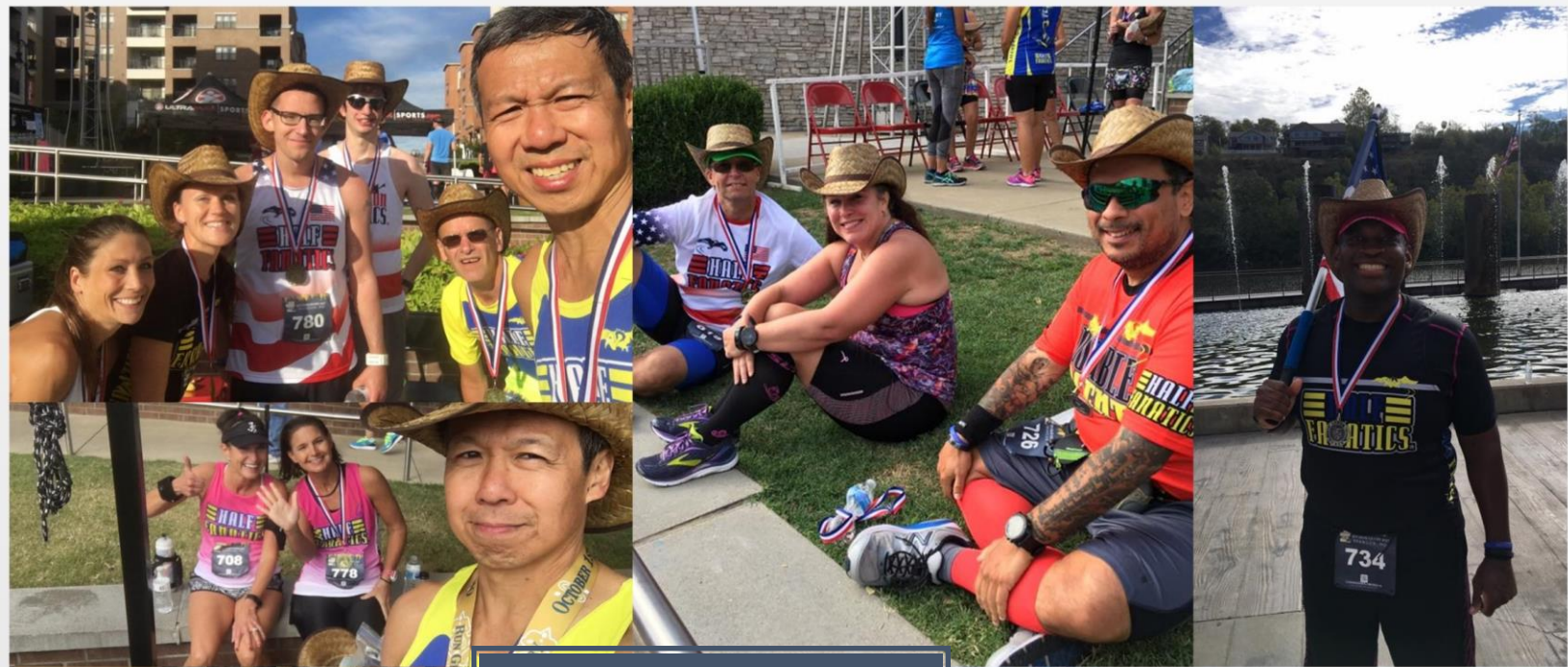


USE #HALFFANATICS TO BE FEATURED!





[Return to Contents](#)



THIS WAS SUCH A GREAT RACE AND A FUN TIME. EVERYONE WAS SO FRIENDLY, AND I WILL DEFINITELY DO THE RACE AGAIN. GREAT SWAG

-ANGIE WINSTEAD







[Return to Contents](#)







[Return to Contents](#)



THIS WAS A NICE COURSE WITH PLENTY OF HILLS TO CHALLENGE YOU. THE SCENERY CHANGES ALL THE TIME .... IT WAS SO NICE TO MEET A LOT OF OTHER FANATICS AND MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS. THERE WAS A LOT OF GOOD FOOD AND DRINKS.

Edward Green







[Return to Contents](#)







[Return to Contents](#)



2017's Signature Race Series Medals. How cool is this?

## 2018 Signature Race Series

**RACE-1 Tobacco Road Marathon 3-18-2018**

<http://www.tobaccoroadmarathon.com/>

**RACE-2 Fargo Marathon 5-19-2018**

<http://www.fargomarathon.com/>

**RACE-3 Missoula Marathon 7/15/2018**

<http://www.missoulamarathon.org/>

**Race - 4 Akron Marathon 9/29/2018**

<http://www.akronmarathon.org/>

**Race - 5 Route 66 Marathon Date-TBD**

<http://route66marathon.com/>



Get your child moving! An 8 week running program with fun and challenging running activities.

### Mission

- To introduce our youth to the physical and emotional positive effects of running.
- To increase the physical activity of our youth.
- To create a positive environment where all participants are equal.
- \*Hard work and determination will be rewarded at the end of the journey!

Find out more at: <http://www.halffanatics.com/flying-fanatics>.

## FROM THE EDITOR

WOW, this Fall is taking its time getting here. I recently went on a run-cation in the Appalachian states. I ran on several beautiful courses in several states and they were having some record heat. Hope the cooler temperatures get here soon!

Want to share your "why you run", your achievements, goals, and any stories? Did you have a really great run -- or a horrid one? Are you celebrating any milestones: 50 half marathons? 100? 1000? Did you level up?

Shoot me an email to include you in the next newsletter!

[halffanaticnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:halffanaticnewsletter@gmail.com)

-Kellie Follett #4560





[Return to Contents](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Half Fanatic Pace Team

Are you interested in being a pacer?

Upcoming opportunities:

**Ole Man River Half** – Gretna, AL (Dec)

**First Light Half** – Mobile, AL (Jan)

Pacers will receive a free entry to the race as well as pace signs. The time slots displayed are the ones that are still available, if you would like to pace please contact the designated Ambassador listed on the [Half Fanatic Pace Team](#) page.

<http://www.halffanatics.com/half-fanatic-pace-team/>



## EXPO SCHEDULE

The Gear Guy will be at the following Expos with club gear for Marathon Maniacs and Half Fanatics:

**Route 66 Marathon**

November 19<sup>th</sup>

**Tucson Marathon Expo**

December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Tobacco Road Half Marathon**

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## October had 236 race events listed on the Half Fanatics Race Calendar.

The top three events from this month include the Grand Country Half-Reunion event, Detroit Free Press Half, and Baltimore Half.

- The **Grand Country Half** Marathon was by far the most attended event in October by Fanatics. And for good reason. It was the first ever Half Fanatic only reunion race! Many folks commented on how wonderful the event was with great swag and meeting lots of other Half Fanatics. The course was a bit hilly, but was very scenic.
- Everyone who commented on The **Detroit Free Press Half** Marathon said it was a great event with excellent organization and communication. The bonus about this race is that you run part of it in Canada. However, beware the tunnel coming back to the USA.
- A lot of Half Fanatics also ran the **Baltimore Half** Marathon. While it was a decent event with great crowd support, it was a bit hot and hilly. The later start time made things more difficult. A couple free drinks at the end was a nice bonus though!



## Membership Discounts

**Race Discounts:** Visit our **Race Calendar** and any race with a \$ has a member discount.

Visit our **Members Forum** for the **Running Warehouse** discount code. This discount alone has paid for my membership several times over.

Our **Members Forum** will also have a few other run event discount codes posted by fellow fanatics. Feel free to post additional race discounts for other members as well.





[Return to Contents](#)



Brookshire Heroes Run



Evelyn #9694



David #5739



Franklin #7028



Christabelle #3501



Chris #8786



Columbia River Gorge Half



Hero Half



Crystal #16129



Battle of Hillotes



Baltimore Running Festival



Halloween Half



Chuck #10903

Greg #8068  
Landed on Earth





[Return to Contents](#)

## THE SUN

- 52 Half Marathons or more within 365 days.
- 30 Half Marathons in 30 US states\* within 365 days.
- 20 Half Marathons in 20 different Countries within 365 days.

## MERCURY

- 45 - 51 Half Marathons within 365 days.
- 23 Half Marathons in 23 US states\* within 365 days.
- 28 Half Marathons within 183 days.

## VENUS

- 38 - 44 Half Marathons within 365 days.
- 20 Half Marathons in 20 US states\* within 365 days
- 13 Half Marathons within 79 days.

## EARTH

- 31 - 37 Half Marathons within 365 days.
- 16 Half Marathon in 16 different US states\* within 365 days.
- 6 Half Marathons within 16 days.
- 4 Half Marathon in 4 Days.

## MARS

- 3 Half Marathons within 3 days.
- 26 - 30 Half Marathons within 365 days.
- 4 Half Marathons within a 9 day window.
- 3 Half Marathons in 3 separate US states\* within a 10-days.
- 13 Half Marathons in 13 different US states\* within 365 days.

## JUPITER

- 4 Half Marathons in 23 days.
- 19 - 25 Half Marathons within 365 days.
- 2 Half Marathons in 2 days (or 48 hours) must finish both races!
- 9 Half Marathons in 9 different US states\* within 365 days.

## SATURN

- 4 Half Marathons within 37 days.
- 12 - 18 Half Marathons within 365 days.
- 4 Half Marathons in 4 different US states\* within 51 days.

## URANUS

- 3 Half Marathons within a 16 day time frame.
- 6 Half Marathons in 6 consecutive calendar months.
- 8 - 11 Half Marathons within 365 days.

## NEPTUNE

- 2 Half Marathons within a 16 day time frame.
- 3 Half Marathons within a 90 day time frame.

Congratulations to all the Half Fanatics who achieved their goals.

If you would like your promotion mentioned in the newsletter, please send your name, HF number and Moon level to: [half fanaticnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:half fanaticnewsletter@gmail.com).



Janie #12911  
Landed on the SUN!



Pat #13327  
Landed on Mars



Mary #16059  
Landed on Uranus

States without SUN achievement: **YOU** could be the first for AL, AK, CT, DE, IA, LA, ME, MS, MT, NH, SD, UT, VT, WV, WI  
\*We do have members from GBR!





[Return to Contents](#)

## MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following Half Fanatics who reached a milestone this month! Let me know if you reach one too! Send me an email at [half fanaticnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:half fanaticnewsletter@gmail.com).



David #2764,  
Dee Dee #1398  
SUN x 4



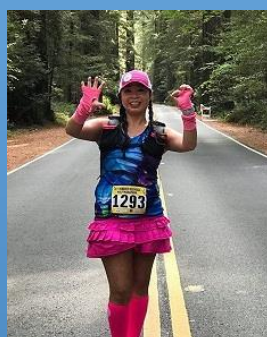
Kimberlee #177  
200th Half



Elizabeth #3817  
100th Half



Paula #1294  
100th Half



Kaori #5683  
50th Half



Tammy #2323  
50th Half

### Signature Race Series

2017-2018



DAMASCUS BAKERIES  
HALF-MARATHON & MARATHON RELAY

As the 1st annual Signature Race Series winds down, the 2018 Signature Race Series comes together. Races 1-3 are ready to go! We will be announcing races 4 & 5 soon. All races come with discount codes that can be found on the race calendar.

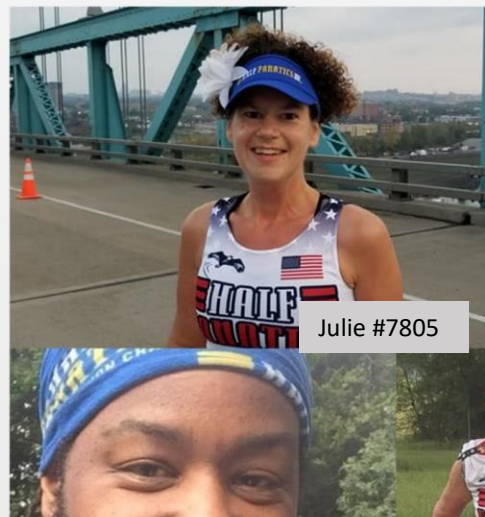
<http://www.marathonmaniacs.com/signature-race-series/>

\*Please remember that you will need to join the race on the Half Fanatic Race Calendar to receive the Special Club Medal at the finish!





[Return to Contents](#)



Julie #7805



Jamila #3959



Julia #131, Steve #21



Linc #4870



Kathy #4501



Indy Women's Half



Franklin #7028



Ken #11844



Lajuana #6566



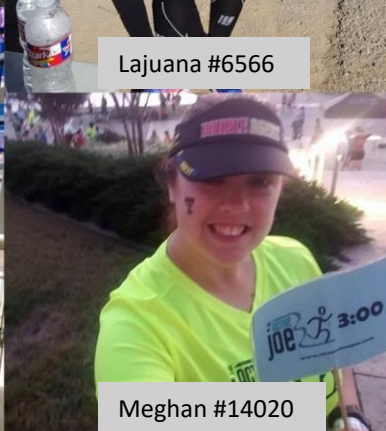
Jennifer #16500



Karen #16075



Kelli #6564



Meghan #14020



Joel #10563, Bart #11538





[Return to Contents](#)

## HALF FANATICS REGION PAGES

Half Fanatics Facebook group pages have been setup in regions across the USA and beyond. If you live in one of the areas, connect with your local chapter!



### Regional Ambassadors

## BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THE YELLOW JACKET.

Regional Ambassadors in your area will be wearing this jacket so you can easily spot them at your next race.

Not a member? Ask them for more information on how you can receive a discount when you sign up.

Melissa Wood HF#8628 Denver, CO Ambassador

### Region:

- [Marathon Maniacs Europe](#)
- [Half Fanatics European](#)

### Region:

- [Albuquerque, NM](#)
- [Anchorage / South Central Alaska](#)
- [Atlanta, GA](#)
- [Augusta, GA](#)
- [Austin, TX](#)
- [Baltimore, MD](#)
- [Baton Rouge, LA](#)
- [Birmingham, AL](#)
- [Buffalo, NY](#)
- [Central Arkansas / Little Rock](#)
- [Central Gulf Coast / Mobile](#)
- [Chattanooga, TN](#)
- [Chicago / Western IL](#)
- [Cincinnati, OH](#)
- [Colorado Springs, CO](#)

### Region:

- [Dallas Fort Worth, TX.](#)
- [Denver, CO](#)
- [Des Moines, South Central IA](#)
- [Detroit, MI](#)
- [European](#)
- [Greensboro, NC](#)
- [Honolulu, HI \(Oahu\)](#)
- [Houston, TX](#)
- [Kansas City, MO](#)
- [Knoxville, TN](#)
- [Lincoln / Omaha NE](#)
- [Long Beach, CA](#)
- [Lubbock / West Texas](#)
- [Miami, FL](#)

### Region:

- [Memphis, TN](#)
- [Nashville, TN](#)
- [New Orleans, LA](#)
- [Northern New Jersey](#)
- [Northwest Arkansas](#)
- [North Dakota](#)
- [Oklahoma City, OK](#)
- [Orlando, FL](#)
- [Panama City / Gulf Coast, FL](#)
- [Portland, OR.](#)
- [Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [Phoenix, AZ](#)
- [Raleigh / Cary, NC](#)
- [Richmond, VA](#)
- [Rochester, NY](#)

### Region:

- [Sacramento, CA](#)
- [Salt Lake City, UT](#)
- [San Antonio, TX](#)
- [San Diego, CA](#)
- [Seattle, WA](#)
- [Shreveport, LA](#)
- [Springfield, MO](#)
- [St Louis / SW Illinois](#)
- [Tacoma / South Puget Sound](#)
- [Tampa / St. Petersburg, FL](#)
- [Tulsa, OK](#)
- [Twin Cities, MN](#)
- [Virginia Beach, VA](#)
- [Washington DC](#)
- [Wichita, KS](#)





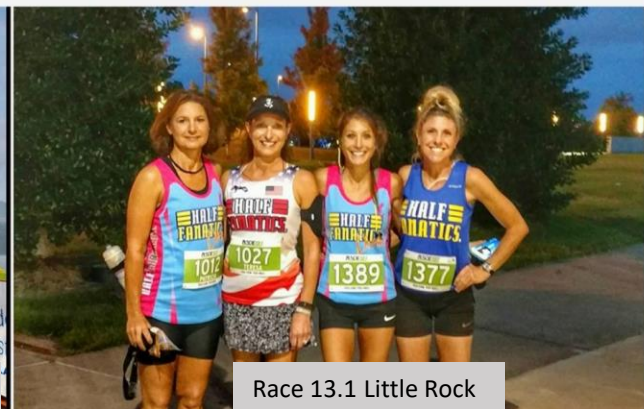
[Return to Contents](#)



Race 13.1 Little Rock



Michael #9149, Greg #4564



Race 13.1 Little Rock



Norm #12869



Mike #8704



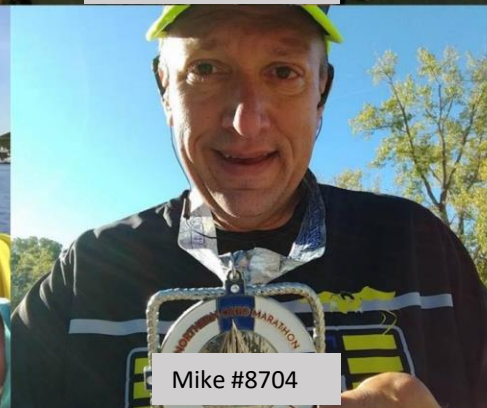
Prairie Fire Half



Northern Ohio Half



Scott #8354



Mike #8704



Nathalie #10047



Mike #10291



Murfreesboro Middle Half



Kanisha #16236, Shanelle #16237



Patty #8375





[Return to Contents](#)

## UPCOMING RACES

12/2 <a href="#">OUC Orlando Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL	12/10 <a href="#">Jingle Bell Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	NH
12/2 <a href="#">Everglades Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL	12/10 <a href="#">Rainshadow Deception Pass 25k (trail)</a>	25K	-	WA
12/2 <a href="#">St. Jude Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	TN	12/10 <a href="#">Islamorada Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL
12/2 <a href="#">Last Chance Trail Run</a>	25K	-	SC	12/10 <a href="#">Santa Hustle Cedar Point</a>	13.1	-	OH
12/2 <a href="#">Race 13.1 Baltimore</a>	13.1	\$	MD	12/10 <a href="#">Big Apple Half</a>	13.1	-	NY
12/2 <a href="#">Poop Trail Run Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	OK	12/10 <a href="#">Log Jammer Half Marathon</a>	13.1	\$	LA
12/2 <a href="#">Rehoboth Beach Seashore Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	DE	12/10 <a href="#">Florida Holiday Halfathon</a>	13.1	-	FL
12/2 <a href="#">The Sea Island Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	GA	12/10 <a href="#">Divas Half Marathon - Florida West Coast</a>	13.1	-	FL
12/2 <a href="#">Baton Rouge Beach Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	LA	12/10 <a href="#">Santa Hustle Smokies</a>	13.1	-	TN
12/2 <a href="#">Reindeer Run</a>	13.1	-	OR	12/10 <a href="#">The Runners Den Scottsdale Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	AZ
12/2 <a href="#">NWTR Reindeer Romp Half</a>	13.1	-	WA	12/10 <a href="#">Santa Hustle Indy Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	IN
12/2 <a href="#">Reggae Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	JAM	12/10 <a href="#">BMW Dallas Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	TX
12/2 <a href="#">Mistletoe Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	NC	12/10 <a href="#">Holiday Foot Traffic Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	OR
12/3 <a href="#">Elves on Trails Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA	12/10 <a href="#">Hoover Dam Marathon, Half, 10K &amp; 5K</a>	13.1	-	NV
12/3 <a href="#">Happy Holidays Half MerryThon</a>	13.1	-	MA	12/10 <a href="#">Mississippi Gulf Coast Half Marathon</a>	13.1	\$	MS
12/3 <a href="#">Reindeer Run Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL	12/10 <a href="#">Florida West Coast Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL
12/3 <a href="#">Nittany Valley Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	PA	12/10 <a href="#">Holiday Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA
12/3 <a href="#">Last Call Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	WI	12/10 <a href="#">BCS Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	TX
12/3 <a href="#">The Big C Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	WA	12/11 <a href="#">Holiday Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA
12/3 <a href="#">The Palm Beaches Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL	12/16 <a href="#">San Diego Holiday Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA
12/3 <a href="#">Fredericksburg Blue &amp; Gray 1/2 Marathon</a>	13.1	-	VA	12/16 <a href="#">Eugene Holiday Half Marathon</a>	13.1	\$	OR
12/3 <a href="#">Rock N Roll San Antonio</a>	13.1	-	TX	12/16 <a href="#">Rock'in Santa</a>	13.1	-	TN
12/3 <a href="#">Standard Chartered Singapore 1/2 Marathon</a>	13.1	-	SGP	12/16 <a href="#">Ole Man River</a>	13.1	\$	LA
12/3 <a href="#">Cayman Island Half Marathon</a>	13.1	\$	CYM	12/16 <a href="#">Phoenix Run Run Rudolph</a>	13.1	-	AZ
12/3 <a href="#">Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Half</a>	13.1	-	TX	12/16 <a href="#">Caribbean Christmas Half Marathon, 5k, and Virtual</a>	13.1	-	IN
12/3 <a href="#">Lexus LaceUp Riverside</a>	13.1	\$	CA	12/16 <a href="#">Helen Holiday Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	GA
12/9 <a href="#">Buckeye Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	AZ	12/16 <a href="#">Ameris Bank Jacksonville Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL
12/9 <a href="#">Kiawah Island Marathon/Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	SC	12/16 <a href="#">Go for the Gold Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	LA
12/9 <a href="#">Fa La La Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CO	12/17 <a href="#">Tucson Run Run Rudolph</a>	13.1	-	AZ
12/9 <a href="#">Tucson Half Marathon</a>	13.1	\$	AZ	12/17 <a href="#">Zombie Runner 1/2 Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA
12/9 <a href="#">Walnut Creek Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA	12/17 <a href="#">Mount Dora Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	FL
12/9 <a href="#">Cajun Country Run</a>	13.1	-	LA	12/17 <a href="#">Jeff Galloway 13.1</a>	13.1	-	GA
12/9 <a href="#">Operation Jack Northwest Run</a>	13.1	-	OR	12/23 <a href="#">Ho Ho Ho Hustle</a>	13.1	-	ID
12/9 <a href="#">Santa Runs Tacoma</a>	13.1	-	WA	12/26 <a href="#">Operation Jack Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA
12/9 <a href="#">Holiday Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	NY	12/30 <a href="#">Carolina Beach State Park Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	NC
12/9 <a href="#">The Hitchcock Experience 1/2 Marathon</a>	13.1	-	IA	12/31 <a href="#">Last Chance Half Marathon (WA)</a>	13.1	-	WA
12/9 <a href="#">Race 13.1 Durham</a>	13.1	\$	NC	12/31 <a href="#">Brazen's New Year Eve Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	CA
12/9 <a href="#">CASA Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	AR	12/31 <a href="#">Sporty Diva's Last Run of the Year at Green Lake</a>	14M	-	WA
12/9 <a href="#">Millinocket Half Marathon</a>	13.1	-	ME	12/31 <a href="#">New Years Double - Eve</a>	13.1	-	TX
12/10 <a href="#">Santa to the Sea</a>	13.1	-	CA				

\$ indicates a discount, check [halffanatics.com](http://halffanatics.com) for race discount code





[Return to Contents](#)



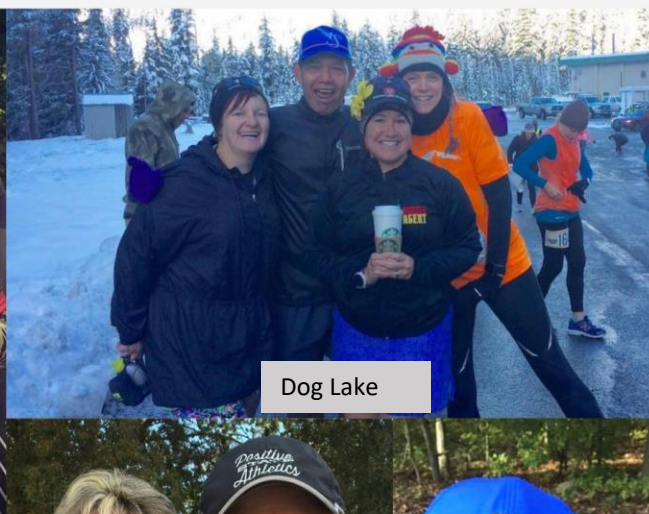
Sherrie #3332



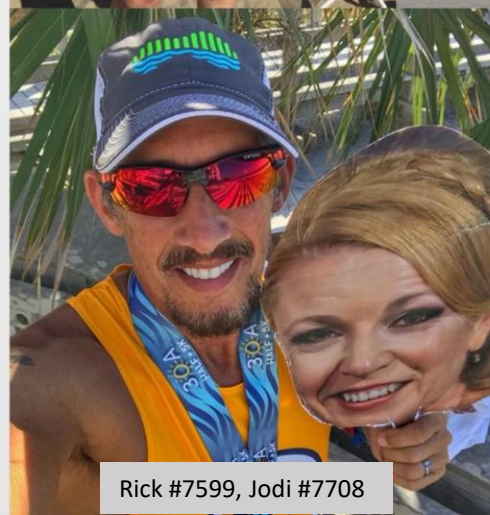
Soaring Wings Half



Steve #21



Dog Lake



Rick #7599, Jodi #7708



Scott #8354



Tina #5138

Sheila #4982



Greg #14245, Melissa #9945



Girlfriends Half



Fayetteville Firefighters' Hero Half



Vernon #11363



Ruben #15909



That Dam Half





[Return to Contents](#)

## FANATIC GEAR

Plan early for cooler temperatures and rain.



## FANATIC POLL



Each month there will be a "Fanatic poll" posted online. Please take a few moments to answer this poll. Results will be in the next newsletter.

### This month's question:

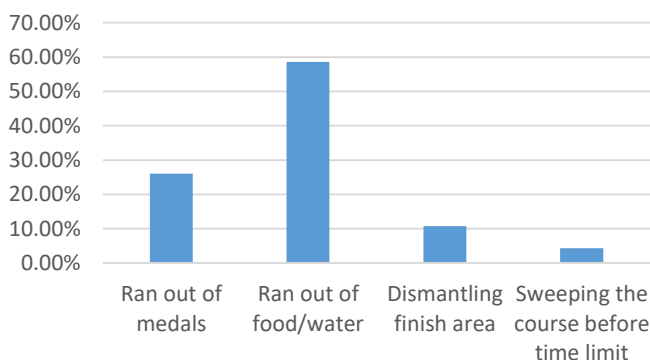
How many 2018 events have you registered for?

Please submit your response at:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07set7wsw0:9q6qk3/a002j9r9v8xa/questions>

### Last month's question:

Biggest pet-peeve when finishing a race...







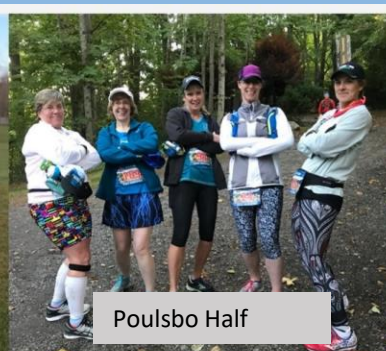
[Return to Contents](#)



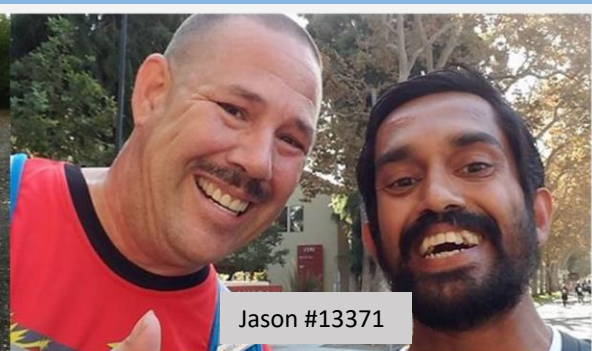
Rock n Roll Los Angeles



Susan #12775



Poulsbo Half



Jason #13371



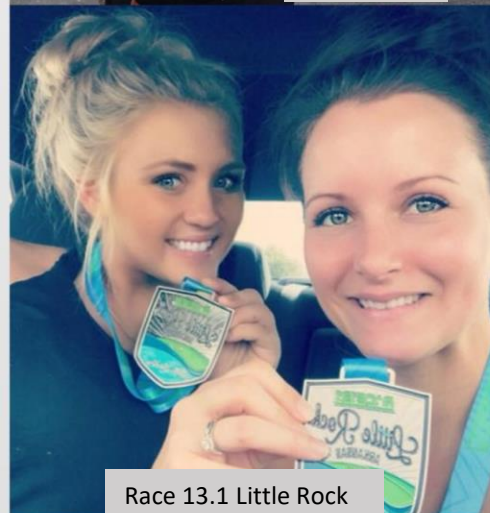
Gary #911



Bill #2409



Scary Run Half



Race 13.1 Little Rock



Don #4757



Austin Haunted Half



Heroes Half



Race 13.1 Little Rock



LaTeisha #10571



Scary Run Half





[Return to Contents](#)



## WELCOME TO THE ASYLUM! NEW OCTOBER 2017 HALF FANATICS



- 16540 Wendy Weigant, MD
- 16541 Kelly Evans, OK
- 16542 Kathleen Crawford, OK
- 16543 Marci Hall, MO
- 16544 Antoinette Lassien, OK
- 16545 Andrea Stanek, WA
- 16546 Cassandra Smith, MO
- 16547 Anthony Alleman, OK
- 16548 Shaunna Winton, WA
- 16549 Mary McDaniel, OK
- 16550 Tanya Shanks, Mis
- 16551 Damon Newman, NC
- 16552 Sandra Abrams, NY
- 16553 Tami Peck, IA
- 16554 Barbara Young, FL
- 16555 Peter Torpie, NJ
- 16556 HEATHER LUBY, OH
- 16557 Sara Fischbach , OH
- 16558 Sandy Alexander, IN
- 16559 Leigh Anne Moscovitz, PA
- 16560 Anna M Horn, IL
- 16561 Hank Lopez, ME
- 16562 Lindy L Kurtz, WA
- 16563 Sheryl Chaco, TN
- 16564 Tiffany Perry, OK
- 16565 Hannah Grimes, AR
- 16566 Avriel Burlot, WA
- 16567 Jen Ingemi, MA
- 16568 Isabella Dixon, OH
- 16569 Ivy Ginsburg, MO
- 16570 Annette DuPuis, CO
- 16571 Tricia Becker, MO
- 16572 Saundra Armstrong , MO
- 16573 Teresa Vincent, MA

- 16574 Shannon on the Beach, WA
- 16575 PATTY ROCCO, TX
- 16576 Natalia Shunmugan, CA
- 16577 Rachel Barnhart, IA
- 16578 Leann Dietze, TX
- 16579 Dave Barnhart, IA
- 16580 Michael Flynn, MO
- 16581 Alicia Tippett, OK
- 16582 Heather Pickens, OK
- 16583 Christy Beal, NJ
- 16584 Katherine Minter, Nev
- 16585 Jen Landry, FL
- 16586 Lynn Abbott-McCloud, NC
- 16587 Barry Eason, AR
- 16588 Braden Eason, AR
- 16589 Joseph Priorielli, PA
- 16590 Katie Pfaff, WA
- 16591 Rob Gindhart, PA
- 16592 Janet Farina-da Silva, AL
- 16593 Cara Milburn, MI
- 16594 Mark Goldhaber, NY
- 16595 Mickaela Marichal, NY
- 16596 Cheryl Hutchinson, NY
- 16597 Melissa Kindle, KS
- 16598 LB Williams, WV
- 16599 Michelle Hood, AR
- 16600 Christine L, WA
- 16601 Carrie Cunningham, FL
- 16602 Matthew Childers, IL
- 16603 Niki Mckinney, FL
- 16604 Susan E Smith, KS
- 16605 Shelley Opalski, CT
- 16606 Lisa Bevan, OH
- 16607 Tamara Woods, SC



Joseph #16589



Lynn #16586



Tami #16553





[Return to Contents](#)

## OUR WHY... WHY WE RUN

We all have our reason we run – our why – and it’s what gets us out the door most days. The more I run, the more people I meet, the more I’m learning about what brought others on their journey. Each month, I want to share as many of your whys as possible. Send me [email](#) to share yours.



You’ve seen me out there. If you’ve looked closely at my bib you’ll see it says “Hip Chick”. For anyone who doesn’t know me I use this name because I had double hip replacements in 2014. At the time I had ran 7 half marathons and 1 Full over a period of 4 years. I started running because I wanted to lose weight and relieve pressure of being a caregiver to a mentally ill family member. I kept running because after my hip replacements the doctor told me I couldn’t.

Along the way I found myself and I found “my people”.

Currently I’ve done 87 half marathons and 21 full. I have made so many good friends along the way. People who I admire and respect for their abilities whatever that is. I try to give back and have volunteered at several races ( can’t miss me I’m the loud one). I love other runners success and have taken a handful of people to their first half or their first full. Whether I’m running for myself, running to help someone or cheering on the sidelines...this sport is my life now and you all are my people ♥

Marie #12352







[Return to Contents](#)

## OUR WHY... WHY WE RUN



I hate running. That might sound weird coming from someone who just completed her 200<sup>th</sup> half marathon. But I hate it. I don't like running and I certainly don't like training. So why do I run all these races? The friendships, the travel and the bling. Plus, I like to EAT.

You may have seen me at a race – I wear a Nuu-Muu running dress (even in below-freezing temperatures), a Double Agent visor and a yellow Fellow Flower (“I run because I GET to”). Lately I've taken to carrying a Starbucks cup and wearing a Team Fluffy Runner visor in honor of one of the best enablers on the planet.

I ran my first half – my first race – in 2007 in San Francisco. It was a training run for my first marathon. I can't say I was hooked. I trained for another marathon, got hurt. At some point, I decided 13.1 was a much better distance

Along the way, I fell into a “bad crowd” of race enablers. My Maniac friend, Donna Jacobs, prepped me to join the Half Fanatics. She knew they were going to open membership and told me to be ready. I joined as Fanatic #177 in October 2009. In those early years, when you'd call out, “Go, Maniac!” or “Go, Fanatic” at a race, you'd get a ton of weird looks.

I ran a few more half marathons, content to hang out on Mars. I married a man who supports my kind of crazy in 2010. (He's a cyclist. He gets it.) I ran zero races in 2011. Then, on my “comeback” year in 2012, I got hurt again. In my family, if you're not out “doing” then you're out cheering. I met Maureen Bowen when I was cheering in my Fanatic singlet. The next year, she emailed me: “Hey, you live in the west – do you want to run a Quadzuki with me?”

That decision changed my life. Steve Walters's Firecracker 2013 Quadzilla/Quadzuki was (and is) like summer camp for runners. After mooning up there, and meeting some incredible people, (including enablers Michelle and Steve Robinson), the chase was on. I hit Venus that year and Mercury in 2014. In 2015, I hit 100 half marathons on my birthday weekend, then leveled up to the SUN, fittingly, at the Firecracker Triple.

In 2016, I ran a few more fulls and had a great European girls' trip. We ran Paris on my birthday and Rome the following weekend. I did this trip with a friend from pre-running life and women I would have never known, if not for running. How else would I have met an Aussie who lived in NYC, a Coastie who lives in Texas or a travel nurse who lives all over?

Each race brings the opportunity to make new friends. Sometimes, I'm lucky enough to help people struggling to run their first races. (Being a Fanatic means you never worry about time – only finishing.) Other times, someone will recognize me with, “Hey, didn't I see you running in....?” Running has changed my life in so many ways. I'm certainly a better person because of it.

So why do I run when I hate running? The friendships, the travel and the bling, of course!

Kimberlee #177

