

[Show this newsletter online>>](#)**#1 2014 February - April**

A new club is born!!!

Welcome!

The Marathon Globetrotters is the world's newest and largest club of runners who collect "countries" by running marathon (or ultramarathon) races in different places. An achievement of flag status in the Globetrotters (each multiple of 10 countries earns another flag) is widely respected. Not only are accumulating countries far more difficult than, for example, accumulating UK counties or US states, but the Globetrotters is a rarity among running clubs – the accomplishment of members in the club has been "vetted" – tested for veracity as to country, genuine race, and race occurring in the country claimed, unlike most clubs where a member need only claim an accomplishment for it to be listed. That's a big tradeoff – it is a ton of work to vet the lists and for the members to compile them for submission, but what the world sees for status is the real thing.

On top of this, all of the officers are volunteers who get no compensation from the club, nor are allowed to promote any business with which they have a financial tie. So it is a true club – a group of runners who want to help each other span the world and make it happen (and possibly save some money by sharing).

We will have our first general election of officers at the annual meeting in Nassau; hope you can make it there for it. In the interim – hats off to the board members you see in this letter (except Cowboy, he doesn't take off his hat) and also to David Holmen, who has helped us throughout, and for the input from many other club members.

Happy running!

Rich Holmes

The founders of Marathon Globetrotters:

Rich Holmes
Raleigh, North Carolina
USA

Integrator

Marathon Countries: 46

Marathon Continents: 7 continents x 4 times

Total Numbers of Marathons/Ultras: 442

Favorite Marathons: Sunrise-to-Sunset (Mongolia), Inca Trail Marathon (Peru), Northwest Passage Marathon (Nunavut, Canada), Festival Trail Semois 55 K (Belgium), Mt. Kilimanjaro Marathon (Tanzania)

Fun Stats: All 50 American States + DC x 4 times, all 13 Canadian provinces/territories x 2 times, marathon on 32 different islands. Rich is the only person to have run the Last Marathon in Antarctica wearing a penguin suit!



Robert "Cowboy Jeff" Bishton
Ft Myers Beach, Florida
USA

Apparel & Merchandise

Marathon Countries: 41

Marathon Continents: 7

Total Numbers of Marathons/Ultras: 295

Favorite Marathons: Antarctica Marathon, Madison Marathon (Montana, U.S), Boston Marathon (U.S), Paris Marathon (France), Baltimore Marathon (U.S)

Fun stats: All 50 American states x 4 times, Sub-4 in all 50 American states



Kevin Brosi, Flower Mound, Texas USA

Membership, Rules, & Country List

Marathon Countries: 10

Marathon Continents: 6

Total Numbers of Marathons/Ultras: 271

Favorite Marathons: Antarctica Marathon, White Rock Marathon (Texas, U.S), Disney World Marathon (U.S), Marine Corps Marathon (U.S), Texas Marathon (U.S)

Fun Stats: Two times around all 50 American states.

Kevin's 6 word memoir: Run a marathon, eat, sleep, repeat!





Anders Forselius
Ljusdal, Hälsingland
Sweden

Promotion, Newsletter

Marathon Countries: 40

Marathon Continents: 5

Total Numbers of Marathons/Ultras: 124

Favorite Marathons: New York Marathon (U.S), Tokyo Marathon (Japan), Prague Marathon (Czech Republic), Dublin Marathon (Ireland), Philadelphia Marathon (U.S)

Fun Stats: 33 countries in one year, 52 Marathons in one year, 42 American States in one year, all 50 American States + DC

Website: www.bikingviking.net

Cheri Pompeo
Woodinville, Washington,
USA

Awards & Certificates

Marathon Countries: 9

Marathon Continents: 7

Total Numbers of Marathons/Ultras: 370

Favorite Marathons: Inca Trail Marathon (Peru), Great Wall Marathon (China), Venice

Marathon (Italy), Tunnel Marathon (U.S), 7 Bridges Marathon (U.S)

Fun Stats: All 50 American states, 7 x 100 miles.

Author of the book: 50 Trails to run on Washington.



Hideki "Kino" Kinoshita
Brooklyn, New York
USA

Webmaster & Social Media

Marathon Countries: 8

Marathon Continents: 5

Total Numbers of Marathons/Ultras: 167

Favorite Marathons: Comrades Marathon (South Africa), Berlin Marathon (Germany), Tokyo Marathon (Japan), New York City Marathon (U.S), Los Angeles Marathon (U.S)

Fun Stats: Sub-4 in all 50 American states + DC., 8 x 100 miles.

Kino has also raised 82 thousand US dollars for different charities.

Website: www.kinosfault.com

First Annual Club Meeting

Bahamas!!!

January 17-18 2015



Save The Date: The First Annual Club Meeting will be held Saturday 2015/01/17 in Nassau, Bahamas. The following morning, Sunday 2015/01/18 is the Sunshine Insurance Marathon in Nassau (yes, another country!).

The Race Director is giving us a discount on registration, and we are working on getting other discounts like lodging. Try to keep that weekend free, details will follow as they are nailed down!

We will hold elections of officers, vote on the club bylaws, handle any other club business, and even get to meet each other, many for the first time!

<http://www.marathonglobetrotters.org/p/annual-club-meeting.html>

The race site is:

Sunshine Insurance Marathon

Sun 2015/01/18

Nassau, Bahamas

<http://marathonbahamas.com>



Members statistic (2014-05-03):

Verified members: 87

Applications under review: 41

Where do all our members come from?

United States: 39, England: 22, Sweden: 7, Germany: 3, Norway: 3, Australia: 2, Egypt: 2, Indonesia: 2, Brazil: 1, Czech Republic: 1, France: 1, Hong Kong: 1, Japan 1, Northern Ireland 1, Trinidad 1

Flags:

7 Flags (70-80 countries): [Brent Weigner, Cheyenne, Wyoming, U.S - 70 countries!](#)

6 Flags (60-70 countries):

5 Flags (50-60 countries): [Dieter Elster, Bochum, Germany - 57 countries!](#)

4 Flags (40-50 countries): 5 members

3 Flags (30-40 countries): 5 members

2 Flags (20-30 countries): 11 members

1 Flags (10-20 countries): 31 members

0 Flags (5 - 9 countries): 33 provisional members

Brent Weigner
Cheyenne, Wyoming, USA:
70 countries !!!

Congrats to Brent Weigner, the first
 Marathon Globetrotter to run 70 countries!

Brent has run marathons on all seven
 continents nine times and is aiming for his
 10th time. Good luck on your mission
 Brent!!



Member in focus:

Wendy Nail: "If you had told me five years ago that I would be running marathons all over the world within a few years, I would have told you it was crazy talk. As a 40-something woman with Rheumatoid Arthritis, I felt lucky to even run.

I am so grateful for the opportunities I have had to run marathons and see parts of the world in a way I never dreamed possible, and in some cases, never knew existed!

After three years in Asia and being nearly half way through a military hitch in England, I am nowhere slaking my thirst to run in new places. My only regret is that I didn't start run sooner!"

Wendy Nail
Fountain Valley, California,
USA

Marathon Countries: 8

Marathon Continents: 4

Total Numbers of Marathons/Ultras: 24

Favorite Marathons: Taroko Gorge
 Marathon (Taiwan), Yang-Gu DMZ (South
 Korea), Two Oceans Marathon (South
 Korea), Northumberland Coast (England),
 Great Wall Marathon (China)

Fun Stats: 1 x 75 miles, 1 double
 (Saturday/Sunday)



Photos & race reports:

Muscat Marathon, Oman (2014-01-31)

Website: <http://www.muscatroadrunners.com>

Muscat is the fascinating capital of Oman and its marathon starts a little bit outside the city in front of Al Qurum Resort.

The marathon is two beautiful laps along the Gulf of Oman and in the Al-Qurm Park. It is a very well-organized marathon and includes a free hotel breakfast just behind the finish line. This is a small but great marathon!

Advice: Qatar Marathon, Dubai Marathon (United Arab Emirates), Muscat Marathon and Bahrain Marathon are held within four week-ends. It's a great opportunity to knock off four countries on the Arabic peninsula.



Malta Marathon (2014-02-23)

Two Globetrotters were running in Malta Marathon: Wendy Nail (USA) and Donald Bierer (USA).



Tel Aviv Marathon, Israel (2014-02-28)

Website: <http://www.tlvmarathon.co.il/default.aspx?l=en>

Tel Aviv claims to be "the city that never sleeps" and the publishing company Lonely Planet has ranked Tel Aviv as the third best city in the world.

How about the marathon? Yes, the marathon in Tel Aviv is a great experience. It is a beautiful course among the Mediterranean Sea with a lot of runners. And of course, one of the best post-race parties you can find in the world. There is no reason to go to sleep after crossing the finish line in the city that never sleeps!



Antalya Marathon, Turkey (2014-03-02)

Website: <http://www.runtalya.de/home.html?L=1>

It is normally two days between Tel Aviv Marathon (Friday) and Antalya Marathon (Sunday) in Turkey, that makes this a perfect opportunity to knock off two countries in a weekend.

There are good flight connections between Tel Aviv and Antalya and it is a short flight.

Antalya is an old city that has much to offer and you will find inexpensive bed & breakfasts in every corner of the old town. And of course, get a Turkish massage!

The marathon is very well-organized and reminds me of the Tel Aviv Marathon. It is a very beautiful course along the Mediterranean Sea and has a great post-race party.





Barcelona Marathon, Spain (2014-03-16)

Website: <http://www.zurichmaratobarcelona.com>

One of the best organized marathons in the world. The huge expo and the start/finish are all located at Plaza Catalunya in the center of the city. The Barcelona Marathon has a beautiful course, great audience and nice weather.

Be sure to spend a few extra days in this fascinating city. If possible, buy a ticket to one of FC Barcelonas football games (soccer) at Nou Camp.





Bratislava Marathon, Slovakia (2014-04-06)

Website: <http://www.bratislavamarathon.com>

At least three Globetrotters found their way to the Slovakian capital. Rich Holmes (U.S) ran his 46th country, Anders Forselius (Sweden) his 40th country and Arthur "Jake" Brooks (England) ran his 30th country.





Tokyo Marathon special:

Tokyo Marathon, the newest member of World Marathon Majors, and a race which definitely belongs to the famous "family". 36,000 runners, 10,000 volunteers and more than 1,700,000 spectators make this race one of the best in the world. A must do!



Tokyo Marathon Expo

The Tokyo Marathon Expo is big, crowded, and a marathon in itself. But it is worth it, the expo is just fantastic.

I had the opportunity to go there both Friday and Saturday, I recommend going on Friday when there are less people. Don't be in a hurry, you might need two hours to find your way around.



The Friendship Run

Don't forget The Friendship Run on Saturday morning. It's a 5k breakfast jog with runners from all over the world and the organizer asks everyone to dress up in their native country colors. (Exactly like the 5k breakfast jog the day before New York Marathon.)

This is also a great opportunity to see the last part of the marathon course. The finish of The Friendship Run is exactly the same route as the marathon, so that will give you great photo opportunities the day before the marathon.

Many people are even walking the course and then head to the expo to get their Tokyo Marathon package.







Tokyo Marathon (2014-02-21)

The only thing that can stop you from having a wonderful time in Tokyo is the subway. The start of Tokyo Marathon is in Shinjuku and the finish at the *Tokyo Big Sight* and that means you need the metro for one direction. But don't worry, the friendly Japanese people will help you find your destination.

The Tokyo Marathon is one of the most fun marathons in the world and probably the best organized. The volunteers, known as *Team Smile*, are cheering for the runners throughout the race, as are the police officers and the audience of 1.7 million people.

There are no words that do the Tokyo Marathon justice. The support from everyone is just incredible. Many of the spectators have food or candies they deliver to the runners. Yes, I even got sushi in the middle of the race!

The finish is amazing with many children giving you the medal and a bag with food. You can take a short walk from the finish to the building where the expo was held, there you can change

into warm clothes, sit down to rest, and even sign up for a free massage.

Advice: Hong Kong Marathon is normally held the week before the Tokyo Marathon and the Taipei Marathon is a week after. This is a perfect triple if you want to "knock off" Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan.









The last samuraj?



Marathon = Golgata..?



JC Sta Teresa & Eddie Vega!



The volunteers (Team Smile)

Team Smile takes good care of you from the start to the finish line and even after the marathon. They deliver your drop bag inside Tokyo Big Sight and treat you like you have won the gold medal in the Olympics.



Green Plaza Shinjuku Capsule Hotel

Website: <http://www.hgpshinjuku.jp/en/>

If you want to experience a typical Japanese phenomenon, then book a night (or even more!) at a capsule hotel. There is one in front of the Shinjuku Metro Station just a five-minute walk from the start of Tokyo Marathon.

The accommodations are very inexpensive, approximately \$40 a night and that includes entrance to the Japanese Spa.

Inside the capsule hotel...

This is a surprisingly comfortable accommodation. It includes a small TV, radio and even wifi.

If/when I go back to Tokyo, I will definitely stay at a capsule hotel again.

We need photos/reports for our newsletter!

Members: We need photos from your races all over the world. If possible, try to organize a group photo before the race. You can always post a message on the Facebook page before the start of the marathon/ultra.

We also need feedback about the club and our monthly newsletter. Is there anything you want to add or change?

Send photos and feedback to: anders@marathonglobetrotters.org

Thanks!

Anders Forselius (Editor)