

100 Marathon Club Major Changes Announced



2001–2021: 100 MARATHON CLUB NORTH AMERICA

Bob and Lenore Dolphin were a very busy couple in early 2001. Bob was methodically pounding pavement on his way to ultimately finishing over 500 marathons, while Lenore continued to serve as a tireless volunteer at all of Bob's races. Billed as "the world's oldest marathon race directors," Bob and Lenore were working closely with other Hard Core Running Club members preparing for the inaugural Yakima River Canyon Marathon. With input and encouragement from Roger Biggs, then president of the British 100 Marathon Club, Bob and Lenore founded, funded, launched, and promoted the 100 Marathon Club North America. Club membership has slowly grown to 675+ individuals.

While club membership has grown during the past 21 years, little else has changed. Membership has always been free because Bob and Lenore personally funded all club expenses. The membership list has evolved to become an on-line roster that is woefully out-of-date because few members have ever submitted updated information. Club newsletters grew from periodic EMail messages into monthly on-line editions, but few members read them. Members have steadily requested shirts, hats, jackets, pins, other products, and club benefits that have never been created. The few volunteers maintaining the roster, authoring newsletters, preparing and distributing finisher certificates, serving as webmaster, and donating hosting for the club's web pages have all helped maintain the club on life support.

2022: 100 MARATHON CLUB NORTH AMERICA

With Lenore's passing in early 2020 and Bob's passing in late 2021, the 100 Marathon Club North America is at a major crossroads. Although the worldwide pandemic during the past two years has significantly decreased marathon-related activities, the pandemic has also provided an opportunity to fully evaluate our club's current situation. As a result we are introducing what we believe is a beneficial and logical evolutionary leap forward that will continue to honor Bob and Lenore's vision while breathing new life into the club.

Many 100 Marathon Club North America members also belong to the Marathon Maniacs. During the past 20+ years the Marathon Maniacs organization has grown exponentially and is on track to soon register the 16,000th Maniac. This stellar growth is a direct result of continuing to focus on identifying and delivering an extensive array of membership benefits. Rather than spending years attempting to reinvent a similar smorgasbord of benefits from scratch, we have opted to merge the 100 Marathon Club North America directly into the Marathon Maniac organization, creating a highly desirable achievement and recognition level known as the "100 Marathon Club of the Americas." As members are well aware, Marathon Maniac membership offers access to such benefits as:

- An interactive, member-updated database tracking races, states, provinces, countries, race history, personal comments, etc.
- A continually updated race calendar with direct links to race websites
- Race discounts from 5% to as much as \$25 for selected races
- Pacing teams with free entry to races
- Achievement certificates
- Club exclusive events
- Member socials at races
- Gear – headbands, hoodies, tee shirts, singlets, visors, hats, jackets, magnets, stickers, beanies, backpacks, draw-string bags, and more
- Quarterly newsletters distributed via EMail
- Short stories and photos
- Blog, FaceBook, Twitter, and Instagram links

2022: 100 MARATHON CLUB OF THE AMERICAS

The names of all 100 Marathon Club North America members have been added to the Marathon Maniac membership database.

If you are currently a Marathon Maniacs member and have at least 100 marathons input on your My Races page, your name is listed on the newly programmed "100 Marathon Club of the Americas" page and a 100 icon has been added next to your name in the Marathon Maniacs Insane Asylum. No further action is needed on your part. Welcome to membership in the newly created 100 Marathon Club of the Americas!

ACTION REQUIRED: If you are not listed on the 100 Marathon Club of the Americas page and would like to be, simply join the Marathon Maniacs (www.MarathonManiacs.com), input your 100 races, and you will automatically be added to the new club.



KUDOS TO OUR VERY SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS

I'm closing this final newsletter by recognizing and thanking several very special club member volunteers for their significant contributions during the past 20+ years:

Tony Phillippi designed, built, and maintained our web pages, served as webmaster updating the on-line roster and newsletters over 100 times, and contributed funding to support the expense of web site hosting;

Cheri Pompeo created and distributed finisher certificates to members, first via snail mail and ultimately via EMail; and

the club's founders, **Bob and Lenore Dolphin**, were the heart and soul of the 100 Marathon Club North America. The accompanying image is my favorite photo of Bob and Lenore as it truly captures the enthusiasm and enjoyment they both brought and derived from marathoning. This photo was taken March 30, 2012, immediately after Bob finished his 500th marathon at the Yakima River Canyon Marathon. Bob and Lenore were being hugged by Bob's daughter, Ellen Boyd. Jeff Hagen, in the background, walked the entire course with Bob. (Photo by Joyce Hagen)



Good running to all,

Ron Fowler, Director (Retired)
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