

September 2015 - Gary Hosmer

Congratulations to Gary Hosmer, our September 2015 Volunteer of the Month!

If you participate in any of Atlanta Track Club's events, chances are that Gary helped prepare your race bib for the big day! He's a regular around our office, and we are honored to have him as a volunteer. (Gary is pictured below, right.)



1. How long have you been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?

I think I joined around 1988 or 1989, so 26-27 years.

2. Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? If so, what event was it and what brought you back again?

It was a cross country event at Al Bishop Park in Marietta, and I think I was a split caller at the 1 mile mark. I came back because I simply love running and enjoy the camaraderie associated with runners and racing.

3. What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event and why?

I know this is textbook, but it is the AJC Peachtree Road Race. I have run 36 in a row, with a goal of doing 50 in a row when I am 78 years old.

4. What is one of your best memories from volunteering at any race?

Packet pickup at the 2013 AJC Peachtree Road Race. When I saw Bill Thorn (the only person to do all 46 Peachtree's thus far) approaching packet pickup, I dropped to my knees and started doing the "we are not worthy" wave which of course greatly embarrassed Bill. People were looking at me like I was crazy, but then when I announced "This is the only man to do all the Peachtree's," people started swarming around him to get their picture taken with him. He was humbled and somewhat embarrassed, but I think he really did enjoy it.

5. Do you have a favorite volunteer assignment? If so, explain.

Since I race most weekends, I really enjoy being able to help out by B-tagging and labeling race bibs in the office. I enjoy packet pickups too, and help at 3-4 of those per year.

6. Do you do any volunteering in the community beyond Atlanta Track Club? If so, what other organizations do you volunteer for and why?

I deliver Meals on Wheels each month for Cobb County, I deliver meals to the homebound and drive church members to doctor's appointments for St. Ann's Catholic Church, and lastly I take my wonderful therapy dog Lexi to visit nursing homes, assisted living facilities and autistic children under the auspices of Happy Tails Pet Therapy. I volunteer around 25 or so times per year for Atlanta Track Club, and about 50 times per year for these other organizations.

7. Tell us something interesting about yourself – an interesting fact or story that will help us get to know you...

I have been doing the New York Times Crossword puzzle in ink essentially every day since about 1990 including Sunday (which, contrary to popular opinion, is actually easier than Friday or Saturday).