

Captains, Angels and Racing Chairs? Oh, my!

By Ron Desmarais
November 2013

I just completed my first time as an angel doing the Gobble Wobble (do turkey's really say that for 'Hello'?) 5k this past Saturday. It was all I had hoped and more. Before I go on though, let me tell you how I got here.

I began running on the cross country team during high school. Since that time I would run a few races here and there each year, like some local 5Ks and a Thanksgiving race (usually the Feaster 5). Then 2 years ago I joined Greater Lowell Road Runners (GLRR). As a result I began running longer distances leading up to half and full marathons. I also began to again feel the camaraderie I experienced in high school.

Since I was a GLRR member, I got to run any of the New England Track and Field Grand Prix races for free. Such was the case when I did the Manchester NH Marathon this past November. During that race, I ran for a while next to a Team Hoyt member who was pushing a precious, young lady in a racing chair. All I can say is that I thought – no, I felt – it was a really, really cool thing. I just had to talk with this gent about what he was doing. He told me he was part of Team Hoyt. I could check out their website for further info on how to get involved.

So I used Google to search for Team Hoyt and other opportunities. I ended up seeing a link to myTeam Triumph out in Michigan. I found that there was a Massachusetts one as well, and thought I struck gold. So after talking it over with my wife Amy (remember: Happy wife, Happy life.), I applied as an angel, and now here I was, signed up to be an angel at the Gobble Wobble.

I was a bit nervous and yet excited when I showed up for my first time. I ended up being an angel for Captain Lily. During the 5k, on the somewhat chilly, sunny morning, Lily kept with her sister Abigail (whose angel was Sue). Besides the sun being in our eyes, which Lily didn't seem to like as evident from her keeping her hand up to cover her eyes, I found it to be an awesome experience. After the race I just found the atmosphere to be elating. Everyone was happy and enjoying themselves. I got to meet a bunch of great people. What nice camaraderie to see.

Being a part of this is an example for me of how we should live in life. That is, when we do things together, we end up accomplish things we cannot do ourselves. It's about how nice things begin to happen when we share ourselves. And that is how I felt being part of the Gobble Wobble. It was amazing to see how much the experience was positive for all from what I could see. And what camaraderie!



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