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*The Virgin Islands Pace Runners...
30th Anniversary...
Review...*

**THE 7TH ST. CROIX
INTERNATIONAL
MARATHON
01/01/09
ST. CROIX
VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Overview



The 7th St.Croix International Marathon on January 1, 2009 presents a special opportunity to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of The Virgin Islands Pace Runners. Its first running activities were V.I. Pace Runners Run for Fun, Run for Health, Run for Life on the campus of the University of the Virgin Islands St.Croix Campus in 1978/79 that were open to participants of all ages.

Up to now V.I. Pace has conducted an average of 30 races/running related activities annually totaling approximately 900 events at an estimated cost of \$1,260,000.00. There have been nearly 30,000 individual participations in these activities, representing thousands of miles run, millions of calories burned, tons of weight lost and thousands of lives saved.

V.I. Pace runs have facilitated the raising of thousands of dollars for the benefit of abused women and children, the homeless, victims of disaster, Cancer and other causes. Some of the non-profit organizations that V.I. Pace has supported/collaborated with include: The Women's Coalition of St. Croix, Camp Arawak, The Queen Louise Home, The Boys and Girls Club, The Rotary Club of St. Croix, The Rotary Club of St. Croix West, The St. Croix Dolphins, The Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation, The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee, The Florence Williams Public Library, The American Cancer Society, MOTEEP, Muscular Dystrophy, Ten Thousand Helpers of St. Croix, The University of the Virgin Islands, Project St. Croix (America's Paradise Triathlon/St. Croix Ironman 70.3), The 4-H Club, The Red Brick Reading Club, St. Patrick's School, The V.I. Dept. of Tourism, Health, Housing, Parks & Recreation and others.

Runners associated with and benefiting from The V.I. Pace movement have represented the Virgin Islands in major competitions including: The Central America & Caribbean Championships, Central America and Caribbean Cross-Country Championships, North America and Caribbean Cross-Country Championships, The Pan Am Games, The World Cross-Country Championships, CARIFTA Championships World Masters Championships and The Olympic Games. Participation continues in major races around the world including: The Boston Marathon, The Classic Athens Marathon, The Chicago Marathon, The New York City Marathon, The Marine Corp Marathon, The Comrades Marathon, The Rotterdam Marathon, The Twin Cities Marathon, The Trinidad Marathon, The World's Best 10K and other running events.

Children in The V.I. Pace movement are introduced to running at an early age through their participation in the annual Children Race (21 years) which kicks off the annual Crucian Christmas Festival Children's Parade; The Children Run Christiansted (20 years) at the start of the annual Triathlon Jump-up and in the annual V.I. Pace Runners/4-H Cross-Country Series and a number of annual track and field meets.

Over the years there have been an increasing number of sponsors, supporters and volunteers who play a major role in keeping the idea of V.I. Pace Runners alive. Run for Fun, Run for Health, Run for Life, the motto for the Virgin Islands Pace Runners in its formative years is being revisited in hopes of rediscovering ways to motivate people in the Virgin Islands community to continue running.

To all the runners, sponsors, supporters, volunteers...we express our sincere appreciation.

Wallace Williams,
Founder



Plans

V.I.Pace Runners Film Series (feature films/others) @ Kalima Center
V.I.Pace Runners Lectuers @ Kalima Center
Governor's Fitness For Fun, For Health, For Life®
ChampionChip Timing Training
Road Race Course Measurement Training
V.I.Pace Net Race®
V.I.Pace Training Runs – Track, Road, Cross-Country
V.I.Pace Runners Training Camp

Affiliations

The Women's Coalition of St.Croix
(The Women Race)
The American Cancer Society/Relay For Life
The FRIENDS of The Florence Williams Public Library
(National Library Week Run To Your Library)
The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee (Olympic Day Run)
The Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation
The University of the Virgin Islands
(The 4-H Program Cross-Country Series)
(The Queen Mary/UVI 5K Road Race)
The National Conservancy (CoastWeeks Beach Relay)
Project St. (Croix Ironman 70.3)
(The Paradise 5K, The Children Run Christiansted)
The Fort-To-Fort Relay Road Race—Run For Respect
(Ten Thousand Helpers of St.Croix)
The Buccaneer Hotel
(The Coral Reef Swim)
(The Caribbean Classic Triathlon)
Stamina Sports
(SS Duathlon)
(The West Is Best Triathlon)
(East End Sprint Triathlon)
(Wall-To-Wall Triathlon)
The Society of Olympic Marathon Runners
(The St.Croix International Marathon)
The NACAC/ITFF/IAAF
(The NACAC Cross-Country Championships)
(NACAC Half-Marathon Championships)
The Martin Luther King Jr. Committee or Raleigh, North Carolina
(MLK Fort-To-Fort Run)

Race History

About The Virgin Islands Pace Runners



The Virgin Islands Pace Runners organize and host running events and running related activities in the Virgin Islands of the United States, particularly in St. Croix. The organization was founded in 1978 by Wallace Williams, an Olympic Marathon Runner at the Seoul Olympics in 1988. It is a nonprofit organization. V.I. Pace serves runners throughout the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean, as well as visitors to the islands from the world over.

V.I. Pace is an organization which strives to develop the competition and physical fitness aspects of the sport of running. In addition, V.I. Pace places a heavy emphasis on public and community service and participation in club events. It accomplishes this by conducting races, fitness runs, fun runs, tour runs (for visitors), clinics, and safety sessions on running, fund raisers for charity, marathon classes at the University of the Virgin Islands. It gathers and provides literature and information on running has provided the website <http://virginislandspace.org> since 1978.

V.I. Pace accommodates all types of runners from beginners to international/world-class athletes. V.I. Pace projects are suited for children, adults and masters runners. It is a member of The Virgin Islands Track & Field Federation which is affiliated with The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee and The International Amateur Athletic Federation. The V.I. Pace serves as consultant on long distance running, cross-country running, road racing, the marathon and track events to the V.I. Track and Field Federation and other interested parties. It also consults on Triathlon and Duathlon. It organizes the V.I. National Cross-Country Championships and several V.I. Road Race Championships. Several V.I. Pace Runners have represented the V.I. in The Central America and Caribbean Championships, The Pan American Games, The Olympic Games, Central America and Caribbean Cross-Country Championships, North America, Central America and Caribbean Cross-Country Championships, World Cross-Country Championships and other events.

V.I. Pace was the initiator of The Central America and Caribbean Cross-Country Championships (now The North America, Central America and Caribbean Cross-Country Championships). It was the organization responsible for organizing the staging of The Central America and Caribbean Cross-Country Championships held in St. Croix in 1990.

V.I. Pace produces a schedule of running events in the Virgin Islands annually, and provides information on events world-wide on its website: <http://virginislandspace.org>

The Virgin Islands will host two North America, Central America and Caribbean championships, The NACAC Half-Marathon Championships in 2009 in St. Croix and 2010 The V.I. will host the NACAC Cross-Country Championships. These events will be organized by V.I. Pace Runners and sanctioned by the Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation and directed by Wallace Williams Founder.



The St. Croix International Marathon is a product of the "running boom" of the 70's. Wallace Williams, Olympic Marathon Runner, for the Virgin Islands in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games began his marathon venture in the 70's and continues as a volunteer to develop the interest in running in the Territory. Realizing that no marathon had been run in the Virgin Islands since 1979, he made plans for organizing and staging The St. Croix Millennium Marathon.

With the coming of the "new millennium" his idea was to stage a major marathon in St. Croix to bring in the new year, the new century and the new (3rd) millennium. As it turned out, V.I. Pace Runners staged The St. Croix Marathon Relay instead a couple of days after on the morning of New Year's Day 2000. That race started at Grapetree Bay in the East of St. Croix, Virgin Islands and traveled West via the South Shore Road to Fort Frederik.

For 01-01-01-(many believe the actual 3rd and new millennium) The St. Croix International Marathon was held and was technically the first to be run in the world for the new millennium. The race is now in seventh year (01-01-09) and is run in historic Frederiksted on a course certified by The Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS)/ The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). Runners can qualify in St. Croix for major events including: The Olympic Games, IAAF World Championships, Pan American Games, North America, Central America and Caribbean Championships, The Boston Marathon, among others. It is one of the few certified marathon courses in the Caribbean.

The marathon is a major movement in the world of running. Most major cities have annual marathon races which regularly attract 40,000 runners or more each year. These races have become major tourist attractions to the point that the Europeans have coined the term "marathon tourism".

The goal of The St. Croix International Marathon is to continue to develop running as a healthy and fun activity; to make St. Croix and the Virgin Islands a destination in the evolving "marathon tourism" tradition.

The St. Croix International Marathon provides a very unique experience for the veteran, the world-class runner, the beginner and any runner who takes on the challenge of the marathon. Its course is basically flat, beautiful and historic and is one of the smallest in the world in terms of the number of participants.

Annual sponsors, volunteers, The V.I. Police Department, St. Croix Rescue and of course, marathon runners help make our race exist and continue to grow. To each of them we express our sincere thanks.

Currently V.I. Pace Runners is considering a change in the date of this race due to logistical considerations.



***Tribute to Teddy Corbitt
1919-2007***

Ted Corbitt was a pioneer marathon runner and an Olympian. He is a member of the Society of Olympic Marathon Runners. He is the first black USA runner to run in the Olympic Marathon (1952 Helsinki, Finland); he was one of the top USA runners and one if not the first black USA marathon runner in the Boston Marathon. He is a founder of The Road Runners Club of America, and The New York Road Runners Club. He was an initiator of the idea of the model for the current New York City Marathon and he is one of the pioneers in race course measurement which makes it now possible for runners to receive accurate results based on distances of road race courses and for world records to be accurately established in the marathon and all road race events.

Historically Olympic marathon runners like Ted Corbitt have established their reputations by running in the smallest and least known marathons to the grandest, largest and most well known. More significantly, they have run The Olympic Marathon. Of the 2000-plus men and women who have run The Olympics Marathon, only a few have won medals and set records. Most have their own story to tell about The Olympics Marathon. The goal of SOMar is to help tell their stories. Ted Corbitt's story is one that is rich with the essence of the long distance runner.

The biography Corbitt: The Story of Ted Corbitt, Long Distance Runner by John Chodes tells us of the phenomenal accomplishments of this man. It tells of his experience in the 1952 Olympic marathon in Helsinki, Finland and his crossing the finish line to win the USA National Championship in the marathon as a 34 year-old in Yonkers, New York in May of 1952. It recalls his days at The University of Cincinnati where he ran track and cross-country, and of his eleventh place finish at Boston in 1955. In the first New York City Marathon in 1970, ran in Central Park, Ted finished fifth in 2:44.15 and he wore the number "1".

Each year on the occasion of The St. Croix International Marathon, SOMar will honor an Olympic Marathon Runner. Ted Corbitt is the first Olympic Marathoner to be so honored.

We much appreciate the work of David E. Martin and Roger W.H. Gynn in the book The Olympic Marathon / David E. Martin, Roger W.H. Gynn. Champaign, IL : Human Kinetics, 2000, and others who have also studied, written, and still continue to document this special event.

For more information about the life of Ted Corbitt, logon to: <http://virginislandspace.org>

For electronic version of this publication logon to: <http://virginislandspace.org>

The Society of Olympic Marathon Runners



The Olympiad (4-year cycle) experience is one enjoyed all over the world up to and including The Olympic Games. The Olympic Marathon is considered by most to be the foundation of the Olympic Games. Traditionally the marathon is run on the last day of the Olympics. The marathon is embraced by the city of Marathon, Greece, the birthplace of the event. The myth of the marathon has its origin there with the victory of the Athenians over the Persians who outnumbered them at "The Battle of Marathon". It was in the aftermath of "The Battle of Marathon" that the runner Phillipides (Pheidippides) was tasked to run from Marathon to Athens to tell of the Athenian victory.

The run from Marathon to Athens was key to the revitalization of The modern Olympic Games which were held in 1896 in Athens, Greece. The Greek marathon runner Spiridon Louis won the first Olympic Marathon. Since then over 2,000 Olympic Marathon runners (1984 women ran the marathon in the Olympics for the first time) have cover the distance of 26.2 miles (adjusted in 1908 Olympics in London). These runners have become heroes in their countries and around the world, indeed, they are a society of unique athletes.

There are a number of marathon races that are established as the world's most historic. They are: The Olympic Marathon, The Boston Marathon, The Classic Athens Marathon and the New York City Marathon. The Berlin Marathon has now become the world's fastest marathon. Two world records have been set there (2007 and 2008). In addition, it is one of the largest marathons in the world with nearly 40,000 participants. Experts consider the Beijing Olympics Marathon to be at the top of the list as one of the best marathons ever as the winning time was 2:06.32 by Samuel Wanjiru breaking the record set by Carlos Lopes of Portugal in 1984 by over three minutes while being challenged by the heat and humidity of the Beijing summer!

The Society of Olympic Marathon Runners (SOMar) was founded by Wallace Williams, Olympic Marathon runner in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games and a member of the Virgin Islands Olympic Team. The goal of SOMar is to chronicle the efforts of all the marathon runners who have run the Olympic marathon, including, of course those runners who are not medal winners.

Williams, other scholars and fellow marathon runners concur that each of these runners has a special story and they have made significant efforts and sacrifices to achieve the lifetime goal of a long distance runner, to run the Olympic Marathon. Many legendary stories are associated with the Olympic Marathon runner and his/her race and their lives outside of the Olympic Games.

SOMar will make the effort to chronicle each Olympic marathon runner by building a biographical database of these storied Olympians and preserving their written and spoken words and their images, and that which is associated with them.

Contributions of information, photographic images are welcome and will accessioned to the SOMar database.

Logon to: <http://virginislandspace.org> click Society of Olympic Marathon Runners