

THE 8th Annual GATEWAY BANK OUTER BANKS MARATHON WEEKEND

Outer Banks, NC

November 10, 2013: The 8th annual Gateway Bank Outer Banks Marathon and Southern Fried Half Marathon were the highlights of a 3 day event enjoyed by runners from 48 States and 8 Country's. Total registered participants numbered over 6500. Planned each year by Outer Banks Sporting Events, the marathon is one of 4 annual fundraising events supporting economic development during the shoulder seasons while benefiting the Dare Education Foundation and the Outer Banks Relief Foundation.

OBSE offers something for everyone during this weekend long festival. Friday, November 8th began with the Runners Expo, sponsored by the Outer Banks Hospital, at the Dare County Youth Center. In addition to runner packet pick-up and race information, race gear, food, shoes, apparel, art, & massages, were available Friday and all day Saturday.

Along the course runners enjoyed Outer Banks at its best. Sites to see included the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, a maritime forest in Nags Head, Jockey's Ridge sand dune and a sweeping view of the sound and the Pirates Cove Marina as runners cross over the Washington-Baum Bridge to Roanoke Island. The runners were cheered on throughout the day by hundreds of enthusiastic Outer Banks residents and volunteers. One enthusiastic runner stated,

"I am not even sure where to begin! This is my 3rd year running your event! From the looks of it, I'll be back again and again! You should be very proud of what you do! It's no easy task! Thank you to all the Fire Police and EMS workers! THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!! We had an amazing weekend in OBX! " ~ J.Patterson

The Saturday events, sponsored again by Kelly's Hospitality Group, were comprised of the 8K, 5K, Fun Run and Diaper Dash. The local OBX GoFar student running teams added to the excitement by joining not only the Fun Run but also the 5K and 8K! The total numbers of registrations for the 5K were over 800 and the 8K had over 500 runners! All participants went home with a special race medal for their efforts. Throughout the busy fun filled day all enjoyed the Family Fun Festival. Free and open to the public, the festival features kid friendly games, bouncy houses, a climbing wall, food, and the Jolly Roger Pirates!

It was a near perfect day for Sunday's races, cool, sunny and a little windy for some runners. The Gateway Bank Half Marathon Start began at 7:00am in Nags Head with over 3100 runners. Meanwhile, at the Gateway Bank Marathon Start, the start gun sounded at 7:20am with over 1200 Marathoners. Sunday also included the Southern 6 fun run, with over 200 "running to the party" at the Finish in downtown Manteo.

A festive post-race Block party in downtown Manteo completed the weekend after Sunday's races. Everyone enjoyed live music by Jonny Waters & Company, food, fun and a huge sense of triumph! OBSE sends out a tremendous thank you to event sponsors, local town and government agencies, organizers and volunteers for a job well done.

The Gateway Bank Outer Banks Marathon brings an additional economic boost to Dare County's businesses, restaurants, hotels and rental companies. This accomplishment is made possible by hundreds of volunteer hours and efforts as well as the support of the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau.

Make plans now to join us in 2014 for "The Next Great Race". The Flying Pirate Half Marathon & First Flight 5K, May 3 & 4, 2014. Storm the Beach adventure/obstacle course, June 15, 2014. SAGA Outer Banks Triathlon Festival, September 13-14, 2014. The Towne Bank Outer Banks Marathon, November 7-9, 2014.

The Gateway Bank Outer Banks Marathon & Half Marathon is one of the annual fundraising events for the Dare Education Foundation and the Outer Banks Relief Foundation and produced by Outer Banks Sporting Events. For more information about these events, visit www.obxse.org, or call 252-255-6273.

100% of net proceeds from all Outer Banks Sporting Events support excellence in education for Dare County students and Dare County residents in need. Thank you for helping OBSE help others.

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