

# August 2021 - Jerry and Debbie Douthit

*Congratulations and thank you to Jerry and Debbie Douthit for being our August volunteers of the month! Between the two of them, Jerry and Debbie have a combined 39 years of volunteerism at Atlanta Track Club. If you have run the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race before, you would recognize them at the start of this event ensuring everything at the start goes smoothly. Last month, they definitely had a difficult job with new procedures at the Peachtree start, two days in a row. Thank you Jerry and Debbie for supporting us every step of the way!*

## **How long have you been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?**

Debbie: I have been volunteering for Atlanta Track Club since 2008.

Jerry: I've been a volunteer for 25 years; just celebrated this milestone at the last Peachtree.

## **Do you remember your first time volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?**

Debbie: The first time I volunteered was in 2008 and Jerry had been volunteering forever. He asked if I wanted to help volunteer with setting up the start on July 3rd and raising the flag on the 4th. I said "sure!" Then he said, "we have to be there at 4:30 a.m. on the 4th." I thought, "oh my goodness...4:30 a.m.?" We left our house at 3:30 a.m. and I truly thought we were crazy. It gave me goose bumps the whole time. Seeing the big flag raise into the air is just something you can't explain. We then helped at the start line until it was our time to run. After that, I couldn't imagine being anywhere else on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.



Jerry: My first year working with the Atlanta Track Club was helping with the big flag for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race. During rehearsal on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, it broke and I had to go to Home Depot and engineer a fix. I had a sense of pride when it was flying over the crowd on the 4<sup>th</sup> and I was hooked from then on.

**What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event?**

Debbie: The Peachtree is my favorite event. I can't think of being any place else on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Marathon were pretty darn awesome!

Jerry: So far, the Peachtree is my favorite event, but I did enjoy the Olympic Trials as well!

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

Debbie: The memories that are the most special to me are when my sons, Thomas and Spencer, have been there with us. When they were little boys - their dad and I would get them up very early every July 4<sup>th</sup> and we would sit and cheer on the runners. Having them come full circle and be there helping volunteer is just very special to me.

**What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club?**

Debbie: My favorite thing about volunteering and what brings me back is the staff at the Atlanta Track Club. It's the best group of people you ever want to work with. They truly are just great.

Jerry: I enjoy volunteering and being a part of helping make these events happen. Being able to volunteer with my lovely wife Debbie for the last 12 years makes it a truly a family event for us.

**What do you do for a living?**

Debbie: I am an Iron door restoration specialist, interior designer and a real estate agent with Keller Williams Atlanta North - East Cobb.

Jerry: I own a door company in Woodstock and have for 35 years: JD's glass works.

**Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for any new Atlanta Track Club volunteers?**

Debbie: My advice for new volunteers would be: enjoy each event and cheer on all those running. Get to know your other volunteers because they are great folks coming from all over.

Jerry: My advice for new Atlanta Track Club volunteers is get plugged in and enjoy what you do for the Track Club; it'll keep you coming back.

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

Debbie: We have lived on a houseboat for 2 years and are now working on a fixer upper in Woodstock. It's been great fun having a simple lifestyle and living in nature. I love going out west - love being in nature - hiking, walking, and digging in the dirt. I love the beach.... God's earth is where I'm my best.

Jerry: I love woodworking and creating furniture and things that people can enjoy in their homes. We do a lot of craft festivals throughout Atlanta, and it's fun to see Atlanta Track Club people at these events and share with that family.

