

March 2016 – Mike Idacavage

Congratulations to Mike Idacavage, our March 2016 Volunteer of the Month! Mike has been volunteering with Atlanta Track Club since 1997. He serves at the highest volunteer level for our four signature events, ensuring participants receive the highest level of service on the course. Mike's enthusiasm makes him a standout volunteer. Thank you Mike for all you do for Atlanta Track Club!

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

I moved to Atlanta in early 1996 but only discovered Atlanta Track Club after the Olympics. With all of the great press on the AJC Peachtree Road Race, I could not resist signing up the following year (1997). My first volunteer position was as a course marshal. It was such a fun experience, I kept coming back!



2. What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event?

Now this is a difficult question. Each race has its own unique and fun experiences so I like them all. Probably the classic answer would be "the last race." From the outstanding Atlanta Track Club staff to the many enthusiastic volunteers, what is there not to like? No matter what the weather is at the time, everyone involved really makes volunteering a fun experience.

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

While I have had a lot of great times over the years at different races, perhaps the most memorable would be the 2015 AJC Peachtree Road Race when one of our large water delivery trucks broke down just as we were ready to head out on the course. The entire water delivery team pulled together and we kept changing plans on the fly to get the water supplies delivered as circumstances changed throughout the morning. I felt like I was on a Super Bowl level team as everyone met the many challenges and went above and beyond that morning with creative solutions. To cap it off, it was also raining! I don't think I ever felt better at a race than when we finished delivering the last supplies at the final water station a few blocks ahead of the first runner.

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

I think that this may be like asking a parent who their favorite child is! ;-) I think I like the variety of different volunteer positions the best. I have found that there are some really fun and enjoyable features for all the different volunteer positions I have done over the years. I don't think there is any volunteer position that I would not do again.

5. Do you volunteer with other organizations in the community?

I am heavily involved in an art organization both locally and nationally. I am also involved as an active board member and past president of a technical organization in my field.

6. How many Atlanta Track Club events do you typically volunteer at during the year? How many events outside of Atlanta Track Club?

I am typically involved in about six Atlanta Track Club events in a year but most of these also involve extra time in planning/meetings. I hope to increase this number as I get more free time in the future (Atlanta Track Club will hold you to this, Mike!). I am involved in 10 or so other events through my other volunteer contributions.

7. What do you do for a living?

I am a scientist (PhD chemist) and currently work for a company located in Boulder, CO in business development and also to help co-run the company. As I like living in Atlanta, I commute out to Boulder as needed. While my position is officially part time, I will work three to four days in a typical week. As my job requires quite a bit of traveling, this is usually additional time devoted to work.

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

If I ever seem a little spacey, there might be a reason for that. I had applied in the early 1980s to be a NASA Mission Specialist astronaut on the Space Shuttle. Much to my wife's surprise ("I really did not think you would get this far!"), I made it through several rounds in the interview process. While I was invited to apply again, I needed to get back to my current career as a scientist so I never re-applied.