

June 2019 - Larry McDaniel

Congratulations to our June Volunteer of the Month, Larry McDaniel. Larry has been volunteering for the AJC Peachtree Road Race for 40 years. In turn, he has been making sure that the Peachtree Junior is also a special event for children. He has fun reuniting with Peachtree volunteers every year, many of whom have been volunteering several years as well.

Do you remember your first time volunteering? What brought you back again?

The first time I volunteered with Atlanta Track Club was at the Peachtree Road Race. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. My friend talked me into volunteering and neither one of us were runners. There may have been some drinking involved when the idea came up, but on July 4 of that year we volunteered doing crowd control near the start line. I have been volunteering at the start ever since. Two years later, I moved to time [wave] two.



What is your favorite Atlanta Track Club event? Why?
Do you have a favorite volunteer assignment?

The AJC Peachtree Road Race is my favorite; it is the biggest and the best. Peachtree is the best because of the party atmosphere. I get to see friends that I do not see throughout the year. I have friends that come from out of the town, both runners and volunteers that come look for me at the start before they head off to where they are supposed to go. For about 10 to 15 years I had the same group of volunteers working with me. Now we have a mix of new and old volunteers.

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

As a crew chief of one of the earlier start waves, I hear a lot of excuses to try and start the race before their bib says they can. A man once claimed that his bib number got switched with his girlfriend's. He was trying to come into my time group and I told him that his girlfriend was going to outrun him that day because the rules have to be

followed. I've also told one gentleman if he could tell me one thing I hadn't heard before, I'd let him into the time group. He turned around and walked away.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering with Atlanta Track Club? What brings you back?

The people of Atlanta Track Club, the staff, and people of the Peachtree Road Race bring me back every year. I run into people from all facets of my life at Peachtree. It truly brings the entire city together. I've seen the race move from about 12,000 to 25,000 and now to the 60,000 person race it is today. However, the fencing and the rope routine that designates start waves hasn't changed much. As we've grown we have found different way to keep track of different waves.

What organizations do you volunteer with beyond Atlanta Track Club?

In the past I've done volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, and some other races, but my passion for volunteering has surrounded Peachtree and Peachtree Junior.

What do you do for a living?

I work for a large law firm in Atlanta.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

As a native Atlantan, I've watched the AJC Peachtree grow from the first 110 to the 60,000 it is today. I think the Peachtree grew once people started running for exercise. My wife says runners never look happy, but I definitely see quite the opposite very 4th of July. People start asking me every January if I'm still volunteering and if I can get them a number. I'm volunteering, yes and no, I do not have a number.