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Missoula Marathon: Participant Study: 2007

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Missoula Marathon: Participant Study

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Introduction

The purpose of this study was to provide the organizers of the first Missoula Marathon with an understanding of their race participants and the total money spent in Missoula. The population of interest was registered Missoula Marathon participants. Of the 1,162 runners registered, 552 were from Missoula County, 217 were from another Montana county, 393 were from out-of-state or country. E-mail addresses were available for the majority of participants making a web-based survey a viable option for this study.

Methods

E-mail addresses of 856 participants (74% of all runners) were obtained from the race organizers. An e-mail was sent to the race participants within the week following the marathon. The email explained the purpose of the study and gave the participants a link to the web survey. No reminder e-mails were sent to the participants.

The survey consisted of 33 questions, however, not all questions applied to all respondents. The questions asked depended upon where the respondent resided. All respondents were asked questions regarding their satisfaction with the event and demographic questions, like household income. Missoula County residents were not asked about their trip characteristics and were not asked expenditure information. Residents of other counties, states, and countries were asked about their trip characteristics and their expenditures in the area.

Limitations

This survey was sent to participants with e-mail addresses. It is assumed that these participants represent all participants of the Missoula Marathon.

Results

The survey link was e-mailed to 856 participants. Twenty-six surveys were returned as undeliverable making a total of 830 possible respondents. A 50% response rate was obtained (417 completed surveys). Of the surveys received, 215 of them were from Missoula County (39% response rate), 63 were other Montana residents (29% response rate), and 139 were from participants who live out-of-state or country (35% response rate). A total of 229 females and 187 males with a mean age of 39.59 completed the survey.

Of the out-of-state respondents, 31 were from Washington, 10 were from Colorado, 8 were from Idaho, 7 were from California, and 7 were from Oregon. Thirty of the fifty states were represented. International participants included 5 from Canada, 1 from Australia, 1 from Japan, and 1 from Spain.

Trip Characteristics

Trip characteristics were asked of respondents not from Missoula County. For respondents from other Montana counties, the mean number of nights away from home was 1.08, and the mean number of nights spent in the community of the event was 1.07. The mean group size was 2.75. For respondents from out-of-state or country, the mean number of nights away from home was 5.32. The mean number of nights spent in

Montana was 3.91, and the mean number of nights spent in the community of the event was 3.06. The mean group size was 3.42.

Expenditures

Expenditure information was asked of the respondents not from Missoula County. The survey asked that they report their best estimate of the total amount of money they and their family (if applicable) spent in Missoula County in the following categories: accommodations, food, transportation, retail/services, gratuity, entertainment/recreation, and licenses/entrance fees/admissions. The mean expenditure for both out-of-county and out-of-state/country for each category can be found in Table 1 along with the percentage of people who reported that they spent \$0 in that category. The mean total expenditure for out-of-county respondents was \$218.71 and the mean total expenditure for out-of-state/country respondents was \$536.96. The direct expenditure for out-of-county respondents was \$47,457.90 and for out-of-state/country respondents was \$211,021.35. The total direct expenditure of Missoula Marathon runners in Missoula was \$258,479.25.

Table 1- Expenditure Data: Total Money Spent in Missoula County

Expenditure Category	Out-of-County Mean Expenditure	Out-of-County % who did not spend money in each category	Out-of-State Mean Expenditure	Out-of-State % who did not spend money in each category
Motel/Hotel/B&B	\$45.68	69.8%	\$157.26	33.8%
Campground	\$0.44	98.4%	\$3.27	95.7%
Restaurant/Bar	\$47.60	23.8%	\$104.03	11.5%
Groceries/Snacks	\$13.81	49.2%	\$38.90	28.1%
Gasoline	\$36.62	25.4%	\$45.10	25.9%
Local transportation	0	100%	\$7.16	96.4%
Auto rental	0	100%	\$32.51	84.9%
Retail goods	\$50.24	58.7%	\$92.09	43.9%
Gratuity	\$4.44	71.4%	\$12.36	52.5%
Entertainment/Recreation	\$3.81	88.9%	\$19.99	74.1%
Licenses, entrance fees, admissions	\$16.06	73.0%	\$24.28	65.5%
Total	\$218.70	-	\$536.95	-
TOTAL Contribution	\$47,457.90	-	\$211,021.35	

Results by Residence

Further results are provided by analyzing all respondents, respondents from Missoula County, the rest of Montana, and out-of-state respondents. Appendix A shows the results of all respondents (sample size of 417). Appendix B shows the results for Missoula County residents (sample size of 215). Appendix C shows the results for Montana residents who are from other counties (sample size of 63), and Appendix D shows results for out-of-state respondents (sample size of 139).

Results of Open Ended Response Questions

Three open-ended questions were asked of respondents. The answers to these can be found in Appendix E and represent all respondents together for each question.

Appendix A
All Respondent Results

Missoula Marathon

All Respondents

Q1 Are you from the County where the event took place?

51.6% *Yes*

48.4% *No*

Q2 Are you from Montana?

31.2% *Yes*

68.8% *No*

Q21 What option best describes the group you were with at the event?

31.4% *Self*

15.6% *Family & friends*

12.7% *Couple*

19.7% *Friends*

12.7% *Immediate Family*

1.2% *Business Associates*

4.1% *Extended Family*

2.2% *Organized group/club*

Q23 Please indicate what age groups are represented in your group (X all that apply).

9.6% *0-5 years*

37.6% *35-44 years*

6.2% *6-10 years*

31.2% *45-54 years*

6.7% *11-17 years*

22.8% *55-64 years*

11.8% *18-24 years*

5.5% *65-74 years*

43.4% *25-34 years*

1.2% *75 and over*

Q24 How long ago did you make plans to participate/attend this event?

0.0% *Today*

3.6% *1-7 days ago*

12.5% *1-4 weeks ago*

65.9% *1-6 months ago*

17.5% *over 6 months ago*

Q25 How did you hear about this event? (X all that apply)

49.9% <i>Word of mouth</i>	1.4% <i>Email from event planners</i>
19.9% <i>Newspaper</i>	14.1% <i>Group or club</i>
13.7% <i>Radio</i>	1.7% <i>Billboard</i>
10.1% <i>TV</i>	7.7% <i>Retail outlet</i>
9.4% <i>Posters</i>	11.8% <i>Flyer</i>
5.0% <i>Magazine</i>	40.8% <i>Internet</i>
1.0% <i>Direct mail</i>	

Q26 Please rate your overall satisfaction with the event.

	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Organization of event	65.7%	30.7%	1.7%	0.0%	1.0%
Event staff	81.3%	16.1%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Cost of the event	42.9%	49.4%	5.3%	0.5%	1.4%
Location of the event	61.4%	30.7%	4.6%	0.5%	1.2%
Food concessions available	38.1%	39.6%	9.1%	0.7%	11.5%
Other concessions available	35.7%	38.8%	8.2%	1.2%	12.7%
Friendliness of locals	85.9%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Number of people at the event	69.3%	26.6%	1.7%	0.0%	1.2%
Types of people at the event	73.1%	24.0%	0.2%	0.0%	1.9%
Duration of the event	69.5%	25.4%	1.0%	0.5%	2.9%
Variety of activities	45.6%	39.1%	3.4%	0.0%	10.8%
Parking	53.7%	33.3%	2.4%	0.0%	9.4%
Sound system (ability to hear)	49.2%	38.4%	5.0%	0.0%	6.5%
Signage/directions	65.9%	28.3%	2.9%	0.7%	1.7%
Safety	71.0%	24.2%	2.6%	0.2%	1.2%
Cleanliness	71.7%	24.5%	0.5%	0.0%	2.6%
Availability of restrooms	42.2%	32.9%	18.7%	4.1%	1.4%

Q27 When would you return to attend/participate in this event?

62.1% *Next year*
 12.7% *Within 5 years*
 0.5% *After 5 years*
 2.6% *Never*
 22.1% *Not decided*

Q28 What is your gender?

44.8% *Male*
 54.9% *Female*

Q30

What best describes your annual household income in US dollars? (X only one)

8.6% <i>Less than \$20,000</i>	17.3% <i>\$80,000 to 99,999</i>
14.4% <i>\$20,000 to 39,999</i>	13.9% <i>\$100,000 to 149,999</i>
16.5% <i>\$40,000 to 59,999</i>	3.1% <i>\$150,000 to 199,999</i>
16.3% <i>\$60,000 to 79,999</i>	6.0% <i>\$200,000 and over</i>

Appendix B

Missoula County Resident Results

Missoula Marathon

Missoula County Respondents

Q1 Are you from the County where the event took place?

100.0% *Yes*

0.0% *No*

Q21 What option best describes the group you were with at the event?

36.3% *Self*

14.4% *Family & friends*

7.0% *Couple*

22.3% *Friends*

10.2% *Immediate Family*

1.9% *Business Associates*

4.2% *Extended Family*

3.3% *Organized group/club*

Q23 Please indicate what age groups are represented in your group (X all that apply).

6.0% *0-5 years*

35.8% *35-44 years*

2.8% *6-10 years*

29.3% *45-54 years*

4.2% *11-17 years*

14.9% *55-64 years*

17.2% *18-24 years*

4.2% *65-74 years*

48.4% *25-34 years*

0.5% *75 and over*

Q24 How long ago did you make plans to participate/attend this event?

0.0% *Today*

3.3% *1-7 days ago*

9.8% *1-4 weeks ago*

67.0% *1-6 months ago*

19.5% *over 6 months ago*

Q25 How did you hear about this event? (X all that apply)

64.2% *Word of mouth*

0.9% *Email from event planners*

29.3% *Newspaper*

19.5% *Group or club*

21.4% *Radio*

3.3% *Billboard*

15.8% *TV*

11.6% *Retail outlet*

16.7% *Posters*

14.4% *Flyer*

3.7% *Magazine*

27.4% *Internet*

1.9% *Direct mail*

Q26 Please rate your overall satisfaction with the event.

	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Organization of event	65.1%	30.2%	1.9%	0.0%	0.9%
Event staff	82.3%	15.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%
Cost of the event	36.7%	54.9%	5.6%	0.5%	1.9%
Location of the event	61.4%	31.6%	4.7%	0.0%	1.4%
Food concessions available	38.1%	39.1%	9.3%	1.4%	10.7%
Other concessions available	34.0%	40.0%	10.2%	1.9%	10.7%
Friendliness of locals	87.4%	10.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Number of people at the event	75.8%	20.5%	1.4%	0.0%	0.9%
Types of people at the event	79.1%	18.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
Duration of the event	75.3%	21.4%	0.0%	0.9%	1.9%
Variety of activities	46.0%	40.9%	2.3%	0.0%	8.8%
Parking	52.1%	33.5%	2.8%	0.0%	10.2%
Sound system (ability to hear)	52.1%	37.2%	5.6%	0.0%	3.7%
Signage/directions	68.4%	26.5%	3.3%	0.5%	0.9%
Safety	70.7%	24.7%	2.8%	0.5%	0.9%
Cleanliness	73.5%	23.7%	0.5%	0.0%	1.9%
Availability of restrooms	40.9%	32.6%	19.5%	4.7%	1.4%

Q27 When would you return to attend/participate in this event?

- 75.8% *Next year*
- 6.5% *Within 5 years*
- 0.5% *After 5 years*
- 1.4% *Never*
- 15.8% *Not decided*

Q28 What is your gender?

- 38.1% *Male*
- 61.9% *Female*

Q30 What best describes your annual household income in US dollars? (X only one)

- 15.3% *Less than \$20,000*
- 18.1% *\$20,000 to 39,999*
- 17.2% *\$40,000 to 59,999*
- 13.0% *\$60,000 to 79,999*
- 15.3% *\$80,000 to 99,999*
- 11.2% *\$100,000 to 149,999*
- 2.8% *\$150,000 to 199,999*
- 2.8% *\$200,000 and over*

Appendix C
Montana Resident Results
(Not Missoula County)

Missoula Marathon

Montana Respondents (Not Missoula County)

Q1 Are you from the County where the event took place?

0.0% *Yes*

100.0% *No*

Q2 Are you from Montana?

100.0% *Yes*

0.0% *No*

Q4 Was attending or participating in the event your primary reason for being in the area?

90.5% *Yes*

9.5% *No*

Q5 What other reasons were you visiting the area?

54.0% *None - the event was my reason*

9.5% *Vacation/recreation/pleasure*

28.6% *Visit friends/relatives*

0.0% *Just passing through*

4.8% *Shopping*

1.6% *Business/convention/meeting*

Q9 During the event, what type of accommodations did you stay in?

34.9% *Hotel/Motel/bed & breakfast*

0.0% *Public land camping*

0.0% *Private campground*

39.7% *Home of friend/relative*

1.6% *Second home/condo/cabin*

0.0% *Rented cabin/home*

0.0% *Resort/condominium*

0.0% *Guest ranch*

0.0% *Vehicle in parking lot*

Q21 **What option best describes the group you were with at the event?**

34.9% <i>Self</i>	9.5% <i>Family & friends</i>
15.9% <i>Couple</i>	15.9% <i>Friends</i>
22.2% <i>Immediate Family</i>	1.6% <i>Business Associates</i>
0.0% <i>Extended Family</i>	0.0% <i>Organized group/club</i>

Q23 **Please indicate what age groups are represented in your group (X all that apply).**

11.1% <i>0-5 years</i>	44.4% <i>35-44 years</i>
11.1% <i>6-10 years</i>	28.6% <i>45-54 years</i>
12.7% <i>11-17 years</i>	19.0% <i>55-64 years</i>
4.8% <i>18-24 years</i>	4.8% <i>65-74 years</i>
36.5% <i>25-34 years</i>	3.2% <i>75 and over</i>

Q24 **How long ago did you make plans to participate/attend this event?**

0.0% <i>Today</i>
7.9% <i>1-7 days ago</i>
19.0% <i>1-4 weeks ago</i>
57.1% <i>1-6 months ago</i>
15.9% <i>over 6 months ago</i>

Q25 **How did you hear about this event? (X all that apply)**

42.9% <i>Word of mouth</i>	0.0% <i>Email from event planners</i>
19.0% <i>Newspaper</i>	12.7% <i>Group or club</i>
17.5% <i>Radio</i>	0.0% <i>Billboard</i>
12.7% <i>TV</i>	6.3% <i>Retail outlet</i>
4.8% <i>Posters</i>	7.9% <i>Flyer</i>
1.6% <i>Magazine</i>	38.1% <i>Internet</i>
0.0% <i>Direct mail</i>	

Q26 Please rate your overall satisfaction with the event.

	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Organization of event	69.8%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
Event staff	85.7%	11.1%	1.6%	0.0%	1.6%
Cost of the event	36.5%	49.2%	12.7%	0.0%	1.6%
Location of the event	63.5%	27.0%	6.3%	0.0%	1.6%
Food concessions available	39.7%	36.5%	9.5%	0.0%	14.3%
Other concessions available	34.9%	38.1%	7.9%	0.0%	17.5%
Friendliness of locals	88.9%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
Number of people at the event	66.7%	30.2%	1.6%	0.0%	1.6%
Types of people at the event	73.0%	25.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
Duration of the event	69.8%	25.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%
Variety of activities	49.2%	31.7%	4.8%	0.0%	14.3%
Parking	61.9%	27.0%	1.6%	0.0%	9.5%
Sound system (ability to hear)	55.6%	30.2%	4.8%	0.0%	9.5%
Signage/directions	69.8%	25.4%	1.6%	0.0%	3.2%
Safety	74.6%	22.2%	1.6%	0.0%	1.6%
Cleanliness	76.2%	19.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%
Availability of restrooms	36.5%	27.0%	30.2%	4.8%	1.6%

Q27 When would you return to attend/participate in this event?

- 61.9% *Next year*
- 9.5% *Within 5 years*
- 0.0% *After 5 years*
- 1.6% *Never*
- 27.0% *Not decided*

Q28 What is your gender?

- 49.2% *Male*
- 50.8% *Female*

Q30 What best describes your annual household income in US dollars? (X only one)

- 1.6% *Less than \$20,000*
- 12.7% *\$20,000 to 39,999*
- 22.2% *\$40,000 to 59,999*
- 30.2% *\$60,000 to 79,999*
- 14.3% *\$80,000 to 99,999*
- 11.1% *\$100,000 to 149,999*
- 1.6% *\$150,000 to 199,999*
- 6.3% *\$200,000 and over*

Appendix D
Out of State Results

Missoula Marathon

Out of State Respondents

Q1 Are you from the County where the event took place?

0.0% *Yes*

100.0% *No*

Q2 Are you from Montana?

0.0% *Yes*

100.0% *No*

Q4 Was attending or participating in the event your primary reason for being in the area?

85.6% *Yes*

12.9% *No*

Q5 What other reasons were you visiting the area?

46.0% *None - the event was my reason*

27.3% *Vacation/recreation/pleasure*

37.4% *Visit friends/relatives*

1.4% *Just passing through*

3.6% *Shopping*

0.0% *Business/convention/meeting*

Q9 During the event, what type of accommodations did you stay in?

67.6% *Hotel/Motel/bed & breakfast*

0.7% *Public land camping*

3.6% *Private campground*

26.6% *Home of friend/relative*

0.0% *Second home/condo/cabin*

0.0% *Rented cabin/home*

0.0% *Resort/condominium*

0.0% *Guest ranch*

0.7% *Vehicle in parking lot*

Q21 What option best describes the group you were with at the event?

22.3% <i>Self</i>	20.1% <i>Family & friends</i>
20.1% <i>Couple</i>	17.3% <i>Friends</i>
12.2% <i>Immediate Family</i>	0.0% <i>Business Associates</i>
5.8% <i>Extended Family</i>	1.4% <i>Organized group/club</i>

Q23 Please indicate what age groups are represented in your group (X all that apply).

14.4% <i>0-5 years</i>	37.4% <i>35-44 years</i>
9.4% <i>6-10 years</i>	35.3% <i>45-54 years</i>
7.9% <i>11-17 years</i>	36.7% <i>55-64 years</i>
6.5% <i>18-24 years</i>	7.9% <i>65-74 years</i>
38.8% <i>25-34 years</i>	1.4% <i>75 and over</i>

Q24 How long ago did you make plans to participate/attend this event?

0.0% <i>Today</i>
2.2% <i>1-7 days ago</i>
13.7% <i>1-4 weeks ago</i>
68.3% <i>1-6 months ago</i>
15.1% <i>over 6 months ago</i>

Q25 How did you hear about this event? (X all that apply)

30.9% <i>Word of mouth</i>	2.9% <i>Email from event planners</i>
5.8% <i>Newspaper</i>	6.5% <i>Group or club</i>
0.0% <i>Radio</i>	0.0% <i>Billboard</i>
0.0% <i>TV</i>	2.2% <i>Retail outlet</i>
0.0% <i>Posters</i>	9.4% <i>Flyer</i>
8.6% <i>Magazine</i>	62.6% <i>Internet</i>
0.0% <i>Direct mail</i>	

Q26 Please rate your overall satisfaction with the event.

	<i>Very Satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Very Dissatisfied</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Organization of event	64.7%	32.4%	2.2%	0.0%	0.7%
Event staff	77.7%	18.7%	1.4%	0.0%	0.7%
Cost of the event	55.4%	41.0%	1.4%	0.7%	0.7%
Location of the event	60.4%	30.9%	3.6%	1.4%	0.7%
Food concessions available	37.4%	41.7%	8.6%	0.0%	11.5%
Other concessions available	38.8%	37.4%	5.0%	0.7%	13.7%
Friendliness of locals	82.0%	16.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Number of people at the event	60.4%	34.5%	2.2%	0.0%	1.4%
Types of people at the event	64.0%	32.4%	0.7%	0.0%	1.4%
Duration of the event	60.4%	31.7%	2.9%	0.0%	4.3%
Variety of activities	43.2%	39.6%	4.3%	0.0%	12.2%
Parking	52.5%	36.0%	2.2%	0.0%	7.9%
Sound system (ability to hear)	41.7%	43.9%	4.3%	0.0%	9.4%
Signage/directions	60.4%	32.4%	2.9%	1.4%	2.2%
Safety	69.8%	24.5%	2.9%	0.0%	1.4%
Cleanliness	66.9%	28.1%	0.7%	0.0%	3.6%
Availability of restrooms	46.8%	36.0%	12.2%	2.9%	1.4%

Q27 When would you return to attend/participate in this event?

- 41.0% *Next year*
- 23.7% *Within 5 years*
- 0.7% *After 5 years*
- 5.0% *Never*
- 29.5% *Not decided*

Q28 What is your gender?

- 53.2% *Male*
- 46.0% *Female*

Q30 What best describes your annual household income in US dollars? (X only one)

- 1.4% *Less than \$20,000*
- 9.4% *\$20,000 to 39,999*
- 12.9% *\$40,000 to 59,999*
- 15.1% *\$60,000 to 79,999*
- 21.6% *\$80,000 to 99,999*
- 19.4% *\$100,000 to 149,999*
- 4.3% *\$150,000 to 199,999*
- 10.8% *\$200,000 and over*

Appendix E
Open Ended Responses

Please tell us what you liked about the Missoula Marathon

Content: Q31

- 3: Seemed well run for the first time. An excellent course for the 1/2 Marathon.
- 4: I liked the support of the local people.
- 5: so many people!! i had a great time. my first half marathon! yeah!
- 6: I loved being involved in this event due to the location. I also liked all the energy and support that was felt throughout the race. The community seemed happy to have this event.
- 7: I loved how people came out to support the event and line the road. I loved the sprinklers. The aid stations were great.
- 8: Extremely organized. Nice cool down area after, the free watermelon/fruit was great!
- 9: Plentiful, friendly organizers and volunteers
- 11: Beautiful opening 3 miles on the half marathon. Being with my friends and family.
- 12: The organization was top notch, the volunteers were great. The race organizers went out of their way to make sure there was enough water on the course.
- 13: Everyone from the event coordinator to those attendign were friendly and suportive.
- 14: 1. scenery 2. friendliness of locals / race supporters
- 15: I thought the volunteers were wonderful and very friendly.
- 18: Well organized; nice community involvement.
- 19: All of the previously indicated.
- 20: The whole weekend was enjoyable. The expo and what was offered after the race. I really enjoyed the run out on Mullan and Big Flat. The volunteers were great, even the traffic cops.
- 21: availability of water statitions and bathrooms. well organized.
- 22: organization, friendliness, volunteers
- 23: Everything.

- 24: Well - organized, friendly, not too big. The setting at the park along the river was wonderful. I had a great weekend in Missoula running the race and visiting friends.
- 25: Great attendance, loved the first 21 miles of the course. Very well organized for the first year. The finish line support was great including food, showers (wonderful) and the expo was a nice addition. The community was wonderful in supporting by cheers, sprinklers, etc.
- 26: The event was well organized.
- 27: It was well organized and well advertised
- 28: Loved the course! Not too many hills, very scenic, and lots of shade! Great volunteers!! Very cheerful and helpful! All corners were marked very well! I never felt like I didn't know where I was going - even when I lost sight of the people ahead of me. Loved the kids' marathon! Both of my children participated and had a great time! NEAT idea!! I enjoyed the whole experience! I will definitely come back to run it again and will also try to bring friends with me!
- 29: How the community was out on their front lawns supporting the runners/walkers. How supportive the fellow participants were. The GREAT volunteers.
- 31: It started early! Support of the community. Support staff. The mall aid stations were the best with music, oranges, candy, water, gels, etc.
- 32: The first three miles of the half marathon course
- 33: I really enjoyed the fans, the finishing location and the post race activities/food.
- 34: The course was nice (although hot at the end without shade, but for the 1/2 marathon that was fine). Water stations were great and plentiful. 6:30 starting time was perfect (any earlier would be too early; any later would be too late). The food after the race was great (watermelon! frozen fruit bars! ice cream!). It was very fun to be a part of this.
- 35: All the inspiration and attitudes from the onlookers and volunteers was wonderful! The route was beautiful and well put together. Each mile was well marked..I looked for those balloons the whole way! Everything was wonderful!!!
- 36: Did not attend due to serious illness in family.
- 37: The volunteers rocked! They were so caring-- it was amazing. I run in a lot of events and I have not experienced a better group of volunteers.
- 38: The local feel of the marathon.
- 39: The organization of the event, the course, the friendly people!!!!

40: Very well organized. Lots of aid stations with water and potties. Nice course with someone at each corner and cross street... excellent!! Also, many neighbors put out sprinklers for us runners. Very friendly volunteers. Truly a terrific event. Looking forward to it again next year.

41: The marathon expo was nice and the race course was nice too. I really liked the fact that all the locals were out to cheer us on and share their water hoses/sprinklers to help keep runners cool in such hot conditions. I thought the start and finish were well organized.

42: The organization, the location, the volunteers, the sponsors.

43: it seemed very well organized and the staff/volunteers were very upbeat and encouraging

44: The course, particularly the first 16 miles, was great. End-o-the-bridge finish line. Spectators along the way and their generosity in sharing fluids-- a life saver for me. Canon start. Foot sculpture mile markers. Pace runners. Traffic control folks, both the police and the civilians. Massage at the end.

45: I was very impressed by all the locals who came out to support us for this event. I also loved that there were pacers1

47: great setup, organized

48: Great volunteers, enthusiasm, nice scenery, good medical help at the finish.

50: It was a very well organized race, with well stocked aid stations. All the locals were were out in force to show their support. It was outstanding, though I may be biased as a former Missoulian who misses her town very much!

51: I enjoyed learning the stories of all of the different people involved. I was amazed and pleased to see so many people of many different ages, abilities and body types participating. The encouragement and support available to the locals and first timers was exceptional!

52: The people along the course were very supportive and friendly.

53: EVERYTHING WAS GREAT. THE COURSE WAS BEAUTIFUL. VERY WELL ORGANIZED, GOOD FOOD AND VOLUNTEERS COULD NOT OF BEEN BETTER. YOU DID A WONDERFUL JOB.

54: The support of the Missoulians at the end of the race and throughout was great! The people who organized the event must have put a lot of hard work and energy into this; I thought it was great and a major accomplishment.

55: The organization, volunteers and the aid stations. You did a terrific job!!

56: I liked the course, it was really pretty. Spectators were amazing and supportive and the volunteers and organizers were great too.

58: Bus accommodations to start (i.e., no waiting). Post race refreshments (plenty). Once you got off the 9.5 mile road at the start - the course got pretty - especially through the hills. Paper cups (i.e., not plastic).

59: Great location and atmosphere

60: Well organized, great route, locals terrific, volunteers terrific.

63: Well organized, great destination, cost was very affordable

64: nice people

66: Everything! This is definitely one Marathon I do want to repeat. I may not go back in 2008, but definitely in 2009. Then again, should I find a reasonable fare for 2008, I may surprise you! I had done 466 Marathons before going to Missoula Marathon and you guys sold me. I do want to return and I don't say that to too many Marathons I have covered. Congratulations! You deserve it! It did not feel or look like a first time Marathon even the course was well thought out! Keep up the good work! Some race directors should learn from you. Also this is something I never do; write, or talk about a Marathon I just finished - You guys shined!!!! Bless you!

67: I liked the course and the showers at the end of the race.

68: I thought your course for the half marathon was great, although maybe include running through the downtown area if possible instead of the more industrial parts of town. I also thought your mile markers were historical! The gels toward the end were greatly appreciated (I dropped mine earlier and lost it) Kudos on the amount and frequency of port-a-poties.

69: The organization of getting us to the start, the traffic control by police and volunteers was phenomenal. The (few) locals alongside the route were great. The police officers who cheered and motivated us were much appreciated. The early start was good - 6:00 a.m. on a day like we had would not be bad, either. The finish itself at the Orange St. bridge was welcoming. The medal in the end was a nice touch. The food, and especially the pasta salad, after the race was great. Thanks! The spinklers during the last mile or two were also much appreciated. The volunteers were fantastic! Monty, the UM mascot was a nice entertainment for the kids of all ages. The shower, even though I did not use it, was a great idea. The aid station at the Mall was great. Also the sequence of Gel then Water, ect. was well thought out. :-)

70: The community was terrific! I loved all the support, and how wonderfully organized it was!

71: great town and volunteers - lots of enthusiasm - well organized - running's fun!

72: Absolutely everything! except the below

73: I liked that it ended in town, started at Blue Mountain, it was well organized, a great thing for Missoula. I also loved that there were people of all ability levels who came out for the event.

- 74: The course. The aid station volunteers. The easiness to get around Missoula.
- 75: Awesome community support and volunteers at the event-Local for me-no travel involved and many friends on the route for support
- 76: The organization, cute mile markers, quantity of water stations, availability of water and sport drink, the clear arrows on the pavement and the wonderful volunteers.
- 77: The marathon was so well organized - plenty of food, water, port-a-potties, volunteers. Amazing for an inaugural event. The community support was great as well.
- 78: The people who supported the event were great, volunteers, and just Missoulians in general. Care at the finish line by medical staff was superb. The flatness, (overall) of the course was nice, only one hill to conquer added that extra challenge.
- 79: The people who are running this thing are awesome!!! It was a blast. Everyone was SOOOOOOOO supportive and fun. I loved the mile markers too! AND I loved being a part of training with Run Wild Missoula!
- 80: The volunteers were fantastic, especially out on the course. The goody bags were actually pretty good for a 1st year event. The half-marathon start was great, but could use more portapotties. The guy MC-ing the start was actually funny! The balloons at start and finish were a great touch. Aid stations were plenty and well-placed. Volunteers in the finish shoot were wonderful. Loved the downhill start at sunrise. Food from the natural grocery at the end was AWESOME. Best ever end-of-race food!
- 81: Low numbers of participants, well-organized event, very friendly people, pleasant experience flying in and out of Missoula, the middle of the marathon course was BEAUTIFUL.
- 82: The town support, the early start, the event was very awesome. The water staops were very supportive and on top of their jobs. JOB VERY WELL DONE!! I will be back!!
- 84: The course was great, loved the metals, shirts, and bandana's
- 85: great course! Fun people
- 88: Everything
- 89: The volunteers were awesome! The locals were fabulous! The finish line on Orange Street bridge was cool, especially with the archway of balloons.
- 90: The involvement of the city and other events were great. I didn't participate in Sundae run due to heat, but would have loved to any other time. Race morning it was very easy to park, catch bus, no stress. The route was very pretty, after running in So Cal all summer, (brown), was nice to see running water and greenery. And the toga boys, great humor. And all the water hoses, sprinklers, etc all along the way.
- 91: Finish was downtown. Also it was a race close to home.

- 93: It was a fun time and the race was beautiful
- 94: The course for the half marathon was very nice in the beginning. If the last couple miles went through neighborhoods it would have been perfect
- 95: Porta Potty at each aid station Wonderful course Free shuttle to 1/2 marathon start Great selection of food for after the race Nice t-shirts Wonderful volunteers, friendly police officers, etc Loved it all
- 96: Absolutely beautiful course, with the exception of running thru the mall! Great finish area over the bridge, perfect # of water stations, community support (cheering, sprinklers, etc.) Bus drop off in the morning was fantastic!!! Great people.
- 97: Everything. The staff and volunteers were awesome. I was especially thankful for the community support. Missoulians really know how to come together. There was so much enthusiasm in the area throughout the entire course you really felt like going.
- 98: Well organized, friendly volunteers, beautiful course, great busing system excellent medical staff and capabilities
- 99: It was the best organized inaugural marathon (and better than many perennials) that we've run. Bravo! The mile marker balloons were visible from almost 1/4 mile. Good traffic protection. Nice finish area (tent, ice cream, pasta, etc). Note: I won't return ONLY because I've "been there, done that, got the t-shirt". I only travel to states or countries I haven't run in yet. I will highly recommend you to anyone who wants a Montana marathon.
- 100: The 1/2 marathon course was very nice. Particularly in the the Blue Mountain area.
- 101: The volunteer pacers in the run were awesome.
- 102: I liked the course, the locals all participating
- 103: The support staff.
- 105: Great course. Fast. Shade in the streets. Home owners putting out sprinklers. Lots of water and electrolyde stations.
- 106: Proximity to national parks and birding locales. Ease of access to early start. Friendly officials and spectators. Abundance of water stops and sprinklers.
- 107: Staff, early start to beat heat, community turnout and support, post race in Caras Park,
- 108: missoula is a great city to host any event, the people are great. it was my first marathon and my friends came out to see me or were running.
- 109: That it took place here at all.

111: The course was wonderful. Event Staff were great. It was well organized. Everyone was friendly. Liked the bandana.

112: size (number of runners), nice course, nice volunteers

113: Plenty of parking. Very well organized. Nice run route.

114: The whole weekend was great. In 30 hours I tubed down a river, ran the marathon and hiked up to the "M" on the mountain. I liked it so much that I'd love to come back. I'm working on running a marathon in all 50 states. Once done I will be back. I'd like to bring the family next time.

115: Great course, friendly people, good time of day

116: There was a really positive energy to the event. I did the half-marathon so that's a more comfortable run in general. Still, the course was flat and fast and a really nice run.

117: Everything Missoula is such a great place! I loved all the people that came out to support the runners and all the talk and events leading up to the event it was great. My favorite part was having people sitting outside of their house cheering us on or putting sprinklers out side for us to run through it shows what a great place Missoula is! I also loved having such a great up to date website thank you!

120: Nice Course, well organized

121: I wasn't able to participate in the marathon due to having emergency surgery, but I am looking forward to starting training again and running the next one.

122: It was a great event. I liked that they had people at every turn and had painted arrows and mile markers on the road. They had more than enough aid station and volunteers riding bikes and ATVs with water etc. Was just a great race experience!

123: For a first time marathon event it was very impressive. The participation of volunteers, city workers and sponsors is what really made this event top notch.

124: Everyone did a great job! The buses were a great way to transport and the course was beautiful! Kudos to all who were involved, can't wait for next year.

125: Fun to be a part of the first event of it's kind in Missoula. Glad that you started it early in the day to avoid the heat.

126: It was well-organized. Staff and volunteers were very helpful and friendly.

127: I was also a part of the Runner's Edge Marathon Training group...this was a wonderful experience overall. The Missoula community was amazingly supportive both throughout the race and after. Well done.

128: Good organization. Allowed early start. Cold water at water stops.

- 129: In my town good initial turn out well staffed aide stations
- 130: being local it was very easy for me to attend the event. as a marathon runner i usually have to travel to run in these races
- 131: every person I interacted with, i.e., event staff, was extremely cordial/helpful, etc.
- 132: Very well organized. Very good volunteer help. Beautiful marathon course. Nice T shirts.
- 133: Very Scenic course -- especially the mountainside section between miles 13 - 16.
- 134: Route through the farm land and forest was great. The hill was challenging but not too bad. The people were AWESOME - all of the runners and also the organizers as well as the towns people!! The volunteers on bikes were WONDERFUL!!
- 135: People were helpful throughout the marathon, both volunteers and community. I enjoyed the shoe mile markers. They were unique and entertaining. I especially enjoyed the watermelon and coconut popcycles,YUM!
- 136: volunteers+staff very friendly and helpful. good number of aid stations
- 137: It was very organized for an inagural marathon. As a runner, I felt taken care of. The volunteers at all aid stations were very encouraging and water was readily available. The locals were AWESOME with their sprinklers and kind words. I can't wait til next year:)
- 139: It seemed well organized. The enthusiasm by both staff and participants was good. Best of all we have a quality marathon in Missoula!
- 140: I liked the course and that the race finished before the heat really hit. Everyone was really friendly and encouraging and the course was nice and flat! The balloons at the mile markers were great... we found ourselves getting quite excited when we saw a green balloon (although I might have chosen a brighter color).
- 141: Rural venue, first time event, community support, after race area and refreshments were very good. Aid stations were well organized and let us know which people had water and which had energy drink. Mile markers were great.
- 142: size, people, location
- 143: Great route, very organized, great volunteers. Just a great atmosphere!
- 144: I liked the course and all the people along the way.
- 146: For being the first year went very well job well done!!
- 148: It was a great event for a small town. It was fun to have family and friends surround you on the course. Great job!

- 149: I loved the attitude of everyone involved and how supportive the Missoula community was of the participants!
- 150: Went very well for first time event. Organization was great and support was awesome.
- 151: time of day, course of run, organization
- 152: the turn out was awesome and it was very well organized
- 153: Wonderful volunteers, beautiful location, fabulous post-race food, great course.
- 154: Location, size and friendliness, early start time to relieve from the heat, the beautiful route
- 155: The kindness and support shown by volunteers, staff, Missoula community, and fellow runners! All in all the Missoula Marathon was a definite success in my eyes!
- 156: Nice course. Mostly flat after initial hill (in half marathon). Nice size event. Good selection of food at end.
- 157: the local support, the beautiful scenery along the course
- 158: Lots of friendly volunteers; well-marked, interesting course; Great food!; well organized overall; fun atmosphere with music (even more music would've been nice); the fact that walkers were welcome in the half-marathon...reaching out for all ages,abilities with race choices; a great race!
- 159: It was well organized and supported. This was a great first marathon!
- 160: 1.) The aid stations were frequent enough, well-manned and I appreciated the variety in what was offered near the end. 2.) If I hadn't been so focused on running, I could have kissed the people who had their sprinklers out. 3.) I hugely-appreciated the food and drink in the tents at the finish line. 4.) There was a huge sense of community involvement and support all along the course. 5.) Traffic control was flawless.
- 162: Nice course. Had enough turns in it to keep you from not getting bored, but not too many so you could still keep track of the folks ahead of you.
- 163: n/a
- 164: The Organization!!!
- 166: Easy to get to, and all went well
- 168: It was in the city where I live so it was cheap to attend. Also it was very well organized and there were lots of people monitoring the streets to ensure safety.
- 169: well organised kids marathon was great
- 170: Half-marathon course was great.

171: The course was great! The only other half marathons I've done in Montana are the State Games and the Montana Marathon. Those courses are awful, straight shots on long, dull highways. This course was scenic and had a lot of turns!

172: The organization and the attention to details of the facilities needed for the hot weather and the effort put forth by participants. I felt the volunteers were outstanding and were very supportive. I think the way the whole community seemed to support the event was great. Since this could be an ongoing event there will probably be even more awareness next year and probably more participants. The race organizer deserves so much credit. I cannot believe the magnificent accomplishment she achieved. Thanks to Jennifer Boyer. Everyone else of course as well. Oh, the showers at the end were terrific and so were the showers on the bike trail near Boyce Lumber (Kathy Fischer I think)

173: food at end course mileage markers Clothman MC at start Local hype and build up

174: The location was great, very beautiful, well run, a nice event for my first marathon.

175: Everything!! Great 1/2 marathon!!

177: The volunteers were all friendly and the people that came out to show us their support were AWESOME! And also the sprinklers and the waterfall shower at the finish line.

178: The course was great

179: beautiful scenery

180: Well staffed and very happy volunteers. People from the community were supportive and positive. Everyone involved was happy and there was positive energy coming from all participants and organizers.

183: Great course - venue - people

184: For a "first ever" marathon, the organization was "first class"! The volunteers were great and the enthusiasm was terrific!

185: I am part of run wild missoula. So I enjoyed that the people who organized the event were also in charge of the running club.

186: It was a well-organized event, with so many people out cheering us along. The first half of the marathon was nice and rural, very scenic. There were plenty of aid stations and volunteers to hand out water. So many kind people had sprinklers and irrigation lines spraying the road. Nice flat course! I really enjoyed the first 18-20 miles. I appreciated the PowerBar packs... very good boost and they tasted great. Great to see kids were incorporated into the race. Some of the bicycle escorts/coaches/monitors were extremely helpful in providing info about how far to the next aid station, what the terrain was like, and they were very motivational.

187: Marathon

188: everything was great

189: it was very slow runner friendly

190: I liked pretty much everything about the event, one of the best organized I have done in Missoula

191: I really liked all of the mile markers and there was a ton of people cheering you on. It was also nice that at every turn there was someone guiding you to make sure you didn't get lost.

192: Missoula. Marathon course was well marked. Overall organization was very good for a first time event.

193: The Training Support ie running clubs, seminars, nutrition, experienced marathoners giving out knowledge.

194: The staff and volunteers were very helpful and friendly. i thought it was very organized and felt very smooth for being the first missoula marathon.

195: The Marathon was extremely well staffed and executed. For a first marathon Missoula should be very proud. We enjoyed the experience greatly.

196: The starting route was great.

197: the people ... the scenery

198: Very well organized.

199: Great feeling of comraderie.

200: People involved had great attitudes!

202: I was very pleased with all aspects of the event.

203: I was very happy with the event. I thought it was well organized. The enthusiasm of the volunteers and Missoula community was wonderful and made the event that much more enjoyable.

204: I loved that Missoula finally had a marathon. The volunteers were friendly and tried to help whenever possible. For a first year event, I thought it was handled very well. There is always room for improvement. It will continue to grow and be a success. Thank you to the people brave enough to go for it and put this together!

205: Great location. Great course.

206: I can't believe this was the first time you held this race. It was ran perfectly. I have participated in dozens of races over the years. I was very impressed by the friendliness and professionalism exhibited in putting on this race.

207: Good course.

208: Great view! Great Location! Friendly people. Overall a great race.

210: More participants and cheerful volunteers at the beginning of the race. Lots of great information for training, good support from Runner's Edge with training, Wednesday and Sunday, even though I never attend, I knew I had a back up plan. Morning route from Frenchtown to Clements was beautiful!!

211: It was well organized, especially the last part where there were so many turns. Beautiful scenery and low key start. We had a lot of water stops which were needed. The finish into town over the bridge was very impressive.

212: The energy of the people and the town and the great organization of the event.

213: The event organizers did an exceptional job in representing Missoula. The event was well run and the marketing was some of the best I've seen for an event.

214: Friendly atmosphere; great community support

215: This was my first visit to Missoula. I was tremendously impressed by the friendliness of the people here and by the character of the town. The race was very well run and enjoyable.

216: n.a

217: I thought it was very well organized. The volunteers were very supportive and helpful. I liked the different races. I thought the kids marathon was a fantastic idea. All of the organizers of the event obviously put in tons of time, and they were very welcoming and nice. I liked the course except for the last three miles or so.

218: Being from Cincinnati, Ohio, I wanted to be able to run in a scenic environment for my first half marathon. Missoula provided not only that, but a whole lot more, with friendly people, an amazingly helpful staff at the Runner's Edge, and a truly beautiful city to spend a few days.

219: For the 1/2, the beginning of the course was beautiful. Definitely liked starting at 6:30. Would even start at 6:00 for the marathoners. Excellent that even half marathoners got medals. Loved the medals for both half and full. Excellent that water was plentiful.

220: The course was great. The people and volunteers were great. Very organized...I had expected a few more hitches in the giddyup for the first year but everything was well marked and well executed. Great work!

221: The support from all of the volunteers and spectators was great. Traffic control was excellent.

222: The people. From the volunteers to the community who came out to watch. Everyone was supportive and helped motivate.

223: Nice course. Well organized and run.

224: Hospitality of town and beauty of city. An event that the kids could participate with their parents. It looks like a lot of time and work went into the event, however it was not geared toward the seasoned runners. The website and recording of event has been excellent...great job.

225: nicely organized, nice route, friendly people.

226: The beginning 16 miles of the course was beautiful. The finish line area was well organized. The crowd at the finish line was a decent size. It seemed as though there were plenty of volunteers. The runners were all courteous. The small number of community members along the course were supportive.

227: We had five family members participate in the 1/2 M

228: Well organized. Friendly people. Nice scenery. Easy to get to or to be dropped off.

229: The crowds through residential Missoula was a treat.

230: The locals were friendly, putting out their sprinklers. The water stop people were nice. I really liked the foot sculptures at each mile marker.

231: The training and the friendships I made. All of the signs from the local companies and families supporting their loved ones. The fact that my friends and boyfriend could be along the route. That I finished and was greeted by smiles from all of the volunteers and event coordinators!

232: The lovely volunteers. They were ever so very friendly. The commentator at the finish was really cute too.

233: To be honest with you I could not tell it was the First marathon in Missoula.

234: The location (Missoula, my hometown), the organization, the logo.

235: The first part of the race was gorgeous. The finish line was great and while we didn't stick around, the festivities at Caras Park were great. Event staff and volunteers were very friendly and helpful. Thanks for doing this race because it really was a lot of fun!

237: I like the City of Missoula and all its friendly residents.

238: great vibe - supportive volunteers - this was my first race and one of the most fun events i've ever done -

239: The organization was AMAZING! For a first-time event, this was spectacular.

240: It was the first one and close by

241: Local support. Nice finish line with events/food in park. Great traffic control with priority to the runners and friendly police.

243: well organized goodcourse happy people

244: The race was really well organized for a first time marathon

245: I liked that the race began on Blue Mountain. It was a beautiful morning. The staff that directed runners were very enthusiastic.

246: Well organized. Details really thought out - shuttles, gear bags. Things really seemed to go smoothly. The food at the end was amazing. It was really a great event to be a part of. The organizers made it feel like you were participating in a great thing - medals for finishers, etc. The blue mountain start for the 1/2 was beautiful. Lots of volunteers made things go smoothly.

247: I liked the people, volunteers, it was very organized, especially for a first time event.

248: I was a runner at the event. I was pleased with the amount of volunteers along the route. the clarity of the directions. The revisions of the route so that it was more direct (we ran the route earlier with runner's edge group and it seemed to wind too much - got turned around). having the finish line in the center of town!!! I think this encouraged more folks to attend because they could just walk to the event and brought some new folks downtown who would not normally have come. the community response was wonderful. I do not think I would like the original plan of the use of the stadium for the finish. Down town felt more intimate. The stadium would be grand but would feel too big. However if the event grows, downtown may not be able to accommodate the amount of runners and the foot traffic. I like the fact that Jennifer and Tim were present, shaking hands with folks as they crossed the line. The balloon arch was lovely and really a surprise to see as we rounded the corner.

249: great organization, great view, great town!

250: 1) Easy to get to the start. 2) Volunteers were very friendly and helpful. 3) The selection of marathon things to buy and the finishing shirt. 4) Mile markers. The coolest I have ever seen. 5) Pacers (the guy that ran the first half of the 3:39 pace group was the best).

252: Great Community Support, Great people, fun event!

253: The volunteers were GREAT and traffic control was very good.

254: The enthusiasm of the organization! VERY well organized.

256: Friendly and helpful volunteers. Well-organized water stations. Shuttle service to start was excellent.

257: I liked everything. It was better than I expected. The organization was excellent, the crowd was enthusiastic, the course was scenic, the finish in downtown Missoula was a really great feature, and the volunteers were the best. The parking was ample, the Hotels are great.

258: The organization was top-notch! It was evident that the people putting the marathon on, had experience as participants in previous marathons. There were so many volunteers out there making sure

that runners knew the course, and checking on runners health during the race. Also, the people of Missoula were very supportive of this event, and had their sprinklers, hoses, etc. on along the course. Sprinklers along the RR path towards the end, etc. The announcer at the end was great- really liked that he had some fun anecdotes about specific runners- nice touch! Bandanas were unique.

259: very organized, route well marked, great support along the way

260: It was friendly to people who were new to marathoning. It was very well organized. Volunteers and staff were professional and helpful and friendly. It is in Missoula - one of the best spots in the country!

261: The organization was outstanding from start to finish. The community supported the event well for a first time event which was impressive. Finish line balloons made it festive and welcomed all runners, nice touch!

262: I loved the size, that there weren't elite runners so locals had the opportunity to win. The sports expo, while kinda small, was pretty great because at other races the expos can get overwhelming, and boring for the non-runners. The good deals on running gear from the running store at the expo were amazing, and the route was pretty (at least for the half, which is what I did), and the ending at the bridge with the balloons was a lot of fun. Also, three cheers for such an early start. And the food at the end of the race was the best I've ever seen!

263: The support from the community and the involvement of volunteers

264: The beautiful scenery in combination with the kind participants and the local community. The end where they called out your number to identify to audience who was finishing. The t-shirts and medal were nicely designed.

265: The community involvement was tremendous!

266: Well organized, friendly people, clean, laid back area.

267: It seemed very well supported and it was run very good except for the awards.

268: Excellent support crew.

269: Location was perfect. Often wondered why Missoula didn't have a marathon, with such a natural venue. The residents along the route were gracious and supportive.

270: organization, course support, cheering fans

271: Enthusiasm for the event by participants, volunteers, and organizers.

272: The marathon was well run and supported. I was the last to finish and a volunteer stayed with us the entire distance!!

273: The energy and enthusiasm of the organizers, volunteers and city/county workers; touches like the starting cannon and the balloon arch finish line; newspaper coverage was GREAT; cheering sections all along the route absolutely fantastic!

274: Great to run such a well-attended race in the town I live in.

277: I liked the course, it was so beautiful. The people who volunteered were amazing and it seemed very organized. People from the runners to the people who organized the run were very helpful and courteous.

278: well organized. nice course and they allowed early start

279: Great course, directed well, well marked

280: Beautiful country. Quiet streets. The other participants were great, as were the pacers.

281: The course was nice and flat, the start time was early enough to avoid the heat, the community came out to watch and cheer us on and put out sprinklers. The aid stations were very well spaced and there were plenty of restrooms.

282: 1. early start time 2. shuttle transportation & transport of gear back to finish 3. finish line events, number of fans that lined the finish 4. finish line race goodies 5. good parking

284: As an inaugural event, the organization was great. The volunteers were fantastic - I was one of the last in for the marathon and I still can't believe they kept the clock out for that extra time and people stayed out to greet us as we finished. I LOVED the mile markers. What a great idea! The route was not difficult and showed some beautiful vistas. Missoula is a great town - gorgeous scenery and such wonderful people.

286: The course was beautiful. Volunteers were happy and helpful. The town was supportive. The course was well marked and well attended. The finish-line was fun! But my favorite thing was the watermelon slices at the end.

287: I enjoyed the course. I appreciated the multiple water stations. Having them every two miles was very beneficial and needed. I enjoyed the water stations even more when the volunteers had music and encouragement. Thanks!

288: Loved the course and the volunteers were great. The food and beverages available after the event were super. Good energy and the shuttle bus was a nice bonus!

289: Was unable to make event due to injury. Please mail shirt to: Matt Nelson 4849 Hyde Lane Eugene, OR 97402 541-461-7054

290: The organization. I really thought the number of stations along the route with water was great, plus the people at those stations.

291: Missoula is a great place and I enjoyed staying there and participating in the marathon.

292: How well the marathon was organized. The course was wonderful and the volunteers were excellent

293: I liked the course for the most part - very hot on the bike trails along the railroad tracks. I liked the time the race started. I loved the shirts. I loved the support from the Missoula community and people were so wonderful along the route. For me it was well organized and I had all the water I needed. I loved all the bikers, the volunteers were so nice and helpful Thank you!

294: It was a nice run.

295: Very organized, transportation timely to race start, friendly volunteers. My favorite thing, however, was the mile markers. I didn't have to watch the pavement for markers, or for a sandwich board. The foot statues with balloons was the best way to mark miles I have seen yet! You did a great job!! The announcer at the finish line was more than happy to wish my husband happy birthday as he crossed the finish line, which I really appreciated!

296: I liked the course and the number of participants to keep me company.

297: The starting time was good. The staff/volunteers were awesome (great encouragement along the course). My pacers were fantastic, too bad I couldn't keep up. I am very happy with the people looking out for us at the crossroads throughout the course. They all were very professional and pleasant. I felt my safety was NEVER compromised.

298: Excellent first turnout. Great people. Superior water and fluids support. Great medical tent!

300: it was my first marathon ever and it was a great experience

301: I liked the race pacers and updated start times. That is, I greatly appreciated starting each event an hour earlier. The sprinklers along the course were fantastic! Overall, there was good community support and well-run aid stations.

302: The course was excellent and the people were great. The aide/water station at the mall really helped me finish the race.

303: I was great having a marathon close to home (less than 100 miles away). The organization was terrific, the crowd support, help on the course, and atmosphere was terrific. The organizers did a great job, especially considering it was a first marathon for Missoula. The community went the extra mile in putting out sprinklers and extra water stops. We really enjoyed the extra water stop at mile 12 that a family put out in front of their house. Some people put out their boom boxes or stereos, and it was great having music on the course. The water stop at the mall was great, very lively and refreshing. The music and cold water revived us! Also, thanks for the great food at the end of the race.

305: We loved running on Big Flat Road and ending in downtown.

306: great course, great event staff, lots of cute girls in shorts. Great finish line activities, lots of nice people in the event.

307: class act all in all! Very well organized by obviously a runner. How else would you know exactly what we needed? This was one of the best anagrill events I have participated in. I will recemend it to others looking or a Montana marathon!

308: The spectators were fabulous! Very supportive and encouraging.

309: everyone was very friendly and the course was beautiful!

310: The staff and volunteers were very polite, friendly and helpful. There was a lot of variety of food at the finish. The route was good. It was in Missoula - a town I really enjoy (I don't live there). Free ice cream while waiting for the results (my kids loved it!). Overall I really liked this event.

311: Well organized. Made last minute addition of sprinklers due to extreme heat. I have organized events and know it's always a scrabble.

312: I thought the event was very organized. Great job for the very first marathon! Thank you so much for putting this on. I hope to run again next year.

313: The route was gorgeous!

314: The organization of the event was one of the best!!!!

315: Very well organized. Good start time. Nice route. Spectators on the route -especially those with sprinklers

316: Community support

317: Very well organized for first time event. The course was well marked. The support of the citizens was truly great.

318: Yeah for Missoula - a marathon finally in Missoula! The Runners Edge did a great job.

319: Very well organized - great volunteers - the volunteers were very concerned about the racers and how we were doing in the heat - especially us "back-of-the-packers" who had been out there for hours.

320: Energy of the event. Spectators were great. Port-a-Johns spaced frequently along course. Volunteers and race officials were top-notch.

321: For a first time event I thought everything went very smooth. Folks were very friendly and helpful!

322: Very well organized and well run, course well marked and intersections had great traffic stoppers, lots of water on the course for drinking and 'wearing', liked the bandannas, lots of volunteers on the course, very slow runner friendly. I liked how it wasn't the same day as other marathons in MT but it is the same weekend as the Devil's Backbone ultra in Bozeman so I have to choose which one to do.

- 323: It was well organized. The many volunteers were very helpful. Water stations placed well along the course.
- 324: Great organization. Nice course, the locals were very enthusiastic and the volunteers were great.
- 325: great turn out and organization for a first every matathon
- 326: The organization and the event support was fantastic!
- 327: It was very well organized, great community spirit/participation.
- 328: Sorry, I unable to attend
- 329: Beautiful course, small, friendly expo, friendly, flexible event staff. Also, having the "Bark Park" near downtown was a wonderful way to spend hot days with our dogs and local folks and their dogs. The river was very refreshing!
- 330: the course's lack of hills and most of the course itself
- 331: The pain
- 332: The town of Missoula is pleasant and alive with nice restaurants, easy parking and shopping; the river flowing through adds special appeal to the place; the marathon activities were easy to find; the people friendly; the course surroundings were very nice (river, mountains); good aid stations
- 333: I loved being a part of this first (half) Marathon! I was so exciting! Everyone (all the people helping) were wonderful cheering us on, encouraging us and all. The time went by too quickly for me.
- 334: The course was well layed out. The people in town were great for cheering us on. The volunteers did a good job of directing the racers. The aid stations were spaced just right.
- 335: everything....volunteers and police were great !!
- 336: fun atmosphere
- 337: The people were very friendly and the event was very organized.
- 338: town. local people,
- 339: I liked the finishing over the Orange Street bridge. It was great. The volunteers were awesome and supportive. They did a great job.
- 340: It was a local event that gave me an opportunity to enjoy quality time with my daughter. The event was very well organized.
- 342: Small size of the event and location.

- 343: Hometown event, lots of affirmation, great volunteer and local business support.
- 344: the oranges and candy and icy washcloths at the mall - all were lifesavers! i liked the route and ending in town for diversity when i was getting tired. the food at the end was great too (watermelon especially). all the locals with sprinklers were lifesavers as well.
- 345: The town, being a part of the inaugural event
- 346: I thought the people at the aid stations were very friendly! I loved the fact that Missoula had a marathon and half marathon, since even though I don't live in Montana, I am from there originally, so it was exciting to run a marathon in my home state.
- 347: Organization was awesome and the word was spread well, the turnout was incredible for a first year event.
- 348: For an Inaugural Marathon I thought the aid stations and support were very good. My expectations were much lower. I have been to numerous marathons and have seen good and bad. Your volunteers really showed up! Congratulations
- 349: the water stations were very well placed and friendly
- 350: The aid stations were well placed and people were all very nice and helpful.
- 351: great spirit, well organized , all the staff wre very supportive, great massage afterwards, great food afterwards - thank you
- 353: Great course, beautiful scenery, friendly staff
- 354: Great organizational team. Great marketing and promotions; most folks in the lcoal area knew about the event. Good "buzz" in the community about the event. Great addition to Missoula event schedule.
- 356: THwe scenery was wonder and varied. Country side and housing. The finish line was a perfect place.
- 357: The community support
- 358: Friendly, friendly people! The entire city seemed to be behind this event. Every single person we encountered; hotel staff, salespeople downtown, locals in the shops and streets and all event staff and runners, without exception, every person seemed so happy to see us! Event planners seemed to have worked really hard to try to make things run smoothly.
- 359: Very well organized. Volunteers, including the cheerleaders along the route, were all great!
- 360: Everything but the heat.

- 361: The course was nice but would have rather ended on Higgins in the heart of Msla. The volunteers were great. Thoughtful locals that provided sprinklers to run through.
- 362: Nice organization; good support along course; good course markings; good mile markers. Nice finish area.
- 363: The volunteers who handed out water and showed directions, the police, and the on-lookers who sprayed water and such were very much appreciated. The cannon that started off the race, the form of the medals. My best regards to all other runners of this marathon. Their company was wonderful and I could speak no English.
- 364: The organizers did such a great job for a first event. Congratulations to all of you for making the run such a success. What a wonderful thing for the community to have. Look forward to next year.
- 365: Friendly organisers
- 366: Well organized, great support from staff during run. Liked that there were no out and back or running the same part of the course twice.
- 367: Everything was awesome for a first year.
- 368: Local support...water hoses, family groups cheering & ringing bells..expo outside under a bridge...unique! runners legs..very original mile markers, friendly people, clean, VERY clean town, well marked course, hotel nearby, free parking, easy to find, plenty water at start and along the way, and the breath-taking view along the mountain ridge after "the hill". I loved the event.
- 369: WELL ORGANIZED
- 370: I liked the volunteers at the event. I thought the placement of the hydration stops were good and the available drinks were excellent.
- 371: Most everything--the post-event catering by Good Foods was exceptional, and I have run a LOT of events. The course volunteers at every turn in the road made a confusing route easy to follow. Cheering at the end. The web site was good, kept up to date. I liked the map of the race course on the web. Good, early starting time. Good shuttle service.
- 373: Great staff and volunteers. Beautiful area to run through.
- 374: The course was wonderful! Cute mile markers, friendly aid stations, pretty scenery. Loved the food afterwards. You took care of a heat-exhausted runner (not me) rapidly and effectively. I was impressed!
- 375: Great volunteers on the course.
- 376: The volunteers were incredible - very motivating and encouraging along the way. I was very impressed with the ease of everything, especially considering that it was a first year event. Great job!

377: EXTREMELY FRIENDLY STAFF ETC AT STATIONS BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING BY RIVER - 1/2 MARATHON! MUSIC AT MALL WAS AWESOME - GAVE A VERY MUCH NEEDED PUSH, WATER SPRINKLERS THAT PEOPLE OF MSLA PUT OUT BY THE ROAD - AWESOME!!! FOOD GREAT FOR RUNNERS AT END - NICE T-SHIRTS- OVERALL A GREAT EXPERIENCE PEOPLE CLAPPING FOR YOU HELPS TOO!AND ENCOURAGING WORDS! I needed ibuprofen and they didn't have at a couple water stations I went by - but one of the helpers gave me 2 from her own- very wonderful

378: I thought was well organized. The event staff where great, everyone was very supportive at the water stations.

379: it seemed very well organized--i was skeptical about the shuttle bus situation, but it worked out well

380: It was so well organized and there was no question about the route - easy to follow and great staff along the way. I think for a first year event it was exceptional!

382: Being a runner, I loved the idea that Missoula finally has its own marathon. There were plenty of event staff around to direct the runners. The aid stations were frequent and very well organized, with plenty of helpers at each one. All the staff and everyone else who helped out at this event (police and medical units included) were very supportive and helpful. The staff of the Runner's Edge went above and beyond the call of duty, organizing a Marathon training group and giving all-around support.

383: The coarse was beautiful, especially from Frenchtown to Blue Mtn area

384: Friendliness of towns people Family at mile marker 12 with their personal water stop and spray(the best water on the route- very cold) water sprinklers on the course Great food at the end, and plenty for the later arrivals.

385: Very nice area to visit.

386: Well organized, early start, lots of aid stations

387: Great volunteers Fantastic course - flat and scenic Nice drop off area for 1/2 marathon - easy to get to Overall everything run extremely smoothly THANKS

388: Marathon training for first-timers That it was a Missoula thing that brought in lots of out of towners The 'boots' at each mile marker The Expo the day before The route and enthusiasm of the locals Encouragement by volunteers was awesome - what a wonderful group of people The route was well marked and attended by volunteers & aid stations were well attended and patrollers on bikes kept watch on everyone.

389: The Volunteers were AWESOME! The support from the crowds at the start, finish and everywhere in between was great. The residents in the areas that the course went through were even out there with water and sprinklers and cheers. The post-race food and events were so great. The shuttle to the race start was very much appreciated.

- 390: Very well organized and lots of community support!
- 392: I felt like it was very organized, especially for a first time event. I am surprised at the amount of food available at the finish. That was great!
- 393: the crowds, the organization
- 394: It was well planned, staffed, and organized. Safety was a high concern.
- 395: First of all it was my first Marathon, and I thought it was well set up for being an Inaugural event. VERY friendly staff. Very smooth overall.
- 397: I liked the starting time, the support throughout the event for water, etc, and the amazing post race food!
- 398: TRANSPORTATION TO THE START.....SHOWER AT THE FINISH.
- 399: The finish line
- 400: Well run, things clicked; plenty of aid stations; pat yourselves on the back
- 401: very well run for an inaugural. if not for the excessive heat there would have been many sights to visit.
- 402: Simply running a half marathon in Montana
- 403: Local feel of the event.
- 405: City of Missoula. Other racers. Support people and people out along the roads. Pacer (4:00) was great. For an inaugural marathon, it was very well executed.
- 406: It was great to run in Missoula with several hundred people, and see the local support and enthusiasm. The route was great and the support volunteers and police stopping traffic were very helpful and encouraging. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to run a challenging race in my own town.
- 407: ORGANIZATION
- 408: I thought the traffic control was very well done!! It was also great to have people out on the streets cheering us on. I thought the people at the aid stations were friendly and helpful.
- 410: the people and the support
- 411: It was a local event. The first half of the half marathon course was great!!
- 412: I loved the community involvement and excitement about the event. (People cheering us on while enjoying their coffee on their porches and setting their sprinklers up for the runners to run through.)

414: Great aid stations. Don't change a thing.

415: multiple water/hydration stations and the beautiful beginning of the 1/2 marathon.

416: Nice track design.

417: The volunteers were awesome, both the official and non-official. Showers were great, the "rainbow" at the finish was great, the awards, most of the half marathon route. The crowd, the generosity and good spirit. Loved the food that was available. The pre-organizing for picking up packets was super simple. I liked being part of a big event in Missoula. I am not a "runner", but as someone who is quite active, I liked that it felt ok to not be so competitive, it felt like everyone could belong, no matter who you are, and that is what I like about Missoula, and have liked for the 30 some odd years I have lived here.

419: Mostly a well organized marathon. The first 16 miles were well done. Friendly volunteers. Good finish line area and post-race festivities.

Please tell us what you did not like about the event

Content: q32

3: No chip timing. Makes the event seem very bush league. I have had chips at much smaller, shorter races.

4: None

5: The website stated included in the fee was a long sleeved dri-wic shirt, but only t-shirts were given out. I justified the high cost by getting a nice shirt at the end but that must have changed???

6: I liked everything, but I thought the second half of the 1/2 marathon could've been more picturesque.

7: The lack of bathrooms, especially at the start. I nearly missed the start because I had to go. I was in line for over 20 minutes. The lack of shade on the mall portion was tough with the heat.

8: Rethink the date of the event. The middle of July in Missoula - 100 degrees!!!

9: The middle of the race (1/2 marathon) lacked mile markers and water stations! It seemed like a long time in between!

11: Not enough bathrooms at the start.

12: The route was not as scenic as I would have liked. Missoula is a beautiful city and the route did not show that. Also the medal was puny.

13: I am only disappointed in the company who took the race photos. It is 4 days later and the race photos are still not available on-line. Any race I have done in the past has made photos available within 24 hours or sooner of the race day.

15: I did not like the course. I was very disappointed that one had to run 16 miles before sniffing the city limits. Once in the city limits, I was disappointed in the route. The two best parts of Missoula are downtown and the University area. The course did not make it to downtown (although the finish line was close) and didn't go anywhere near the university area. The part of Missoula that the course did go through is not a very attractive part of the city. I believe there would have been many more spectators if the course had been in the university area and downtown (also along the Clark Fork riverfront). While relatively minor, I was unhappy that the second water station ran out of cups. Having sufficient cups at a water station seems like an easy step to handle.

18: I wish the course took in other parts of Missoula, and that the race started earlier.

20: The course was great until it got into Missoula. The route chosen was not very scenic and not very runner friendly for a July marathon. We also were confused as to the start. Everything I saw stated the marathon started at the Frenchtown E.S., and the actual starting line was in front of Broncs Grocery. That made for a very hectic 15 minutes for us before the race finding a place to park and getting to the start line. The last few miles the water at the aid stations was warm, which was very unpleasant. I know it was hot, but a cooler with ice to cool the water would have helped. I also wished there was more gel. I got the impression there was only gel at one aid station (Mile 18), but it turned out there was more.

21: No one on road kill patrol. Maybe July is not the best month for a marathon, although well prepared, it was too hot. the last 10 miles of the run where pretty ugly.

22: finisher's medal event tee-shirt

23: Lack of potties.

24: I really don't have complaints. I've run about 100 races over the years, and this was as good as any I've attended.

25: The route at the end was a bit tough. Being from Misoula, I know all the beautiful (and cooler) trails to run such as the river trail instead of the bike trail. The bike trail was very, very hot and smelled bad. That is the only part of the course that didn't do Missoula justice.

26: It would be better without traffic on the route. A few more restrooms during the race. Need better supplies at the aid stations (vaseline is definitely necessary) More water stations toward the end of the race when it is much hotter.

27: Ending was not very dramatic, could have had music and more drama. Shirts were not very nice and they didn't have my size at the end of the race

29: I wish the "Expo" was a bit bigger with more items available. Other than that, the WHOLE event was FANTASTIC!!

31: Lack of shade in the later part of the race (after McClay Bridge) of Spurgen and the trail along the railroad tracks was very hot and dry! No music at the finish! No Clock at the finish!

32: Bathroom availability at the start. I thought some of the course layout through town was too random and twisty.

33: I did not like the last half of the race in the city. There are many more beautiful areas in Missoula that may have facilitated the run much better.

34: Seemed like the awards ceremony at the end started late... it was difficult to wait around for that. And man was it hot, but I understand that's not controllable. Can't complain too much, though, or else it will snow next year.

35: The availability of only one porta potty at each water station.

- 36: Did not attend due to serious illness in family.
- 37: The starting time and miles 11 and 12 of the 1/2. My legs did not feel that tired and I was ready to kick it in but the heat hit me. I'm not a hot weather runner anyways and it does affect me. If the course remains the same and the starting time does not change, I will not be participating next year. I enjoyed my experience but the heat scares me - I'm fair-skinned and light-haired.
- 38: I honestly cannot think of anything negative about the Missoula Marathon.
- 39: I thought everything was great.
- 40: The time... I was still on PDT zone. But I wouldn't have wanted to start any later with the heat. The heat was definitely a factor in the run, but it is better than snow in my book. :)
- 41: In the first half of the marathon, volunteers at the aid stations kept asking me if I needed a break and wanted to sit down. I don't think this is appropriate in a marathon. Although I might not have been having the best marathon of my life and struggled with the heat I was very determined to keep moving and reach the finish line. I felt they should be trained to be more encouraging and not make us slower runners feel like we need to drop out of the race. It was my 12th marathon in 12 weeks!!! And I'm so happy I finished!!! Also some runners do not want to get sprayed or soaking wet. One of the volunteers just blatantly squirted me right in the face without saying a word before.
- 42: For the cost, the cotton t-shirt was pretty cheap. I've been in races with less participants, with a lower entry fee that offered a high-quality non-cotton running shirt (cotton chafes, and I will probably never wear the shirt I received except for yard work)
- 43: I did not realize that this was the first marathon ran here, so that explains why there were not more people out to cheer racers on.
- 44: Energy drink at aid stations was not drinkable-- it made me gag. Since I was carrying no alternative, I suffered dearly from electrolyte depletion-- I almost had to drop out because of this. Not enough restroom facilities at starting line and a couple at each of the first few stops would have been better than only one.
- 45: With weather in July I thought the marathon should have started an hour earlier due to the heat. Also I was very dissatisfied with the aid stations. Warm water was given which made you sick and powerade was promised but instead there was Heed. I plan my race strategy around what is available at the aid stations. If I knew that powerade was not available at all the stations I would have carried extra with me.
- 47: In town route was choppy, original route was slated to end at the Griz stadium, next year the university should allow this to happen so the in town route is more scenic and ends in a great place. It was too bad it could not happen this year.

48: Disorganized at the end with results (though you already knew that ;-). Overall, it was very good, though.

50: The only negative was that the last 8 miles were all in the direct sunlight. I'm sure that course had to be tweaked for certification, but there's definitely areas prettier and shadier than the mall.

51: Running the half marathon was quite lonely. There weren't very many enthusiastic bystanders or music available at the early hour. I understand completely why that was, but after reading about all of the hoopla at the finish line for marathoners, it was a let down.

52: You can't control it, but it did get a little warm.

53: WOULD OF LIKED MORE THAT ONE PORT/POTTY AT EACH STOP.

54: I didn't particularly like the course; namely the weaving back and forth between different streets...it was mentally self defeating, and there's so much great terrain in Msla, I didn't think the route was what it could have been. It also would have been great to have more water stands.

55: More restrooms are needed at the starting lines and the timing results were slow.

56: Definitely not enough water stations; considering the temps, you needed them every 2 miles. Also, in the early part of the race, there was a lot of traffic; one driver was driving the wrong way down the shoulder of the road in the midst of all the runners (and inches in front of me). It was bizarre and dangerous. Not your fault--just a clueless person.

58: First water station was not sufficiently manned. Confusing cups (couldn't tell if you were getting water or gatorade).

59: Difficult to see the time clock at the end. It was too high up. I did not like all the turns in the middle of the course through the neighborhood.

60: It was great!

62: THE ROUTE THROUGH THE RESIDENTIAL AREA WAS A LITTLE DISCOURAGING WITH ALL THE TURNS AND AT TIMES YOU WERE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE FINISH LINE WHICH WAS TOUGH MENTALLY.

63: Course should've incorporated more of the UM campus rather than a few of the rather non-descript neighborhoods that we zig-zagged through in Miles 21-25

64: too hot

65: It would be great to have chips for official times because mine was off by about 30 seconds. I have pictures from after I crossed the finish line that did not match my time.

66: Just two things: How about a 6 AM start? Next time, please keep the heat about 10 degrees lower - I like hot weather, but keep it a tad lower! (I am kidding, of course, no one has control of the weather!) It was a great Marathon! That is all!

67: There were NO WHERE NEAR ENOUGH AID STATIONS!! I only did the half marathon, and I even thought this. Especially with the heat the way it was, especially with the marathoners coming in in 90 degree plus weather, there should have been an aid station every mile (or at least move the first two stations towards the end).

68: These are only minor dislikes: Please include the tshirt in the race packet; carrying it around post race is really annoying, especially if you tried to avoid checking stuff and didn't bring any bags. Also, please write start line directions keeping out of towners in mind. The half start directions were a little tricky. If you could figure out a way to have cold not warm or hot water at the aid stations.

69: The availability of restrooms, especially at the start was a joke. I looked for five minutes to find a trash can to discard my water bottle and my empty gel pack. All I finally found was one little, overflowing trashcan. I could not hear the announcer at the finish. I also could not find the little time clock at the finish. It ought to be bigger and more visible. The t-shirt could and should have been a try fit. The medal had a strange design. The Expo was a joke. The "gooddies bag" was only advertisements. This is not the way to attract people to attend. The Finish area was sometimes very quiet - I did not like that. If you can't have live music, at least have some "canned" music there. To line the Orange street on BOTH sides, the side (in the middle of the street) ought to be secured more from the on-going traffic. It was manageable, though.

70: N/A

71: need more bathrooms at the end of the race. and a timeclock at the end too

72: It was a little difficult to hear the announcer (Clothman) at the half. Also would have appreciated more port-o-potties at the water stations

73: I think there could have been more crowds of cheering by-standers. That always helps and I felt pretty alone for most of the race.

75: the last 6 mile route through Missoula. Missoula has many beautiful neighborhoods and trails. We ran along the hottest, least shaded and ugliest streets/trails through town. No need to finish at the U of M stadium but run through the U area for the shade and scenery.

76: The type of sport drink - tasted awful The heat.

77: Can't they make it easier to run 13.1 miles? (just kidding)

78: Need to put aid stations every two miles WITHOUT exceptions!!! It was too hot, to wonder how far to go to the next station. I cramped up so bad at this event I walked a great portion of it. And a

more direct course through town would have been appreciated. At times I wondered if I was going to make a complete circle after we crossed under Reserve street.

79: The last 6 miles are on a less than desirable stretch of town. It seems like there has to be some way to route it through more shady/pretty areas than the mall and the railroad tracks. Those last miles are the hardest, so the surroundings really can make a difference. Would it be possible to reroute it through the U area?

80: Uh... I guess having to catch the bus to the start so early. We were just sitting around for a while at the start. But not really that bad!

81: Hot!

82: The water stations needed to be more often with the heat and more water.

84: needed more bathrooms along the course and most importantly at the end

85: Terrible bathroom situations- not enough, too many lines :(

88: Nothing

89: The last few miles of the course were horrible. Running to the mall, on 100+ degree black top was not fun. The last few miles of the route, except for the finish line were pretty boring.

90: The heat. Oh and it was really really hot.

91: Not enough port o potties on the course.

93: I did not like going through the mall or the last few miles not being in the shade.

94: Please have more bathrooms at the beginning of the race. for the half marathon

95: nothing

96: Nothing, except running through the mall parking lot!

98: Too hot a time of year

99: 1. We had difficulty finding the expo. "Caras Park" and "under the bridge" are meaningless terms to strangers. Even MapQuest can't help without a specific street address. More specific directions on your website would have helped. 2. At water point #1, your volunteers were trying hard, but were overwhelmed by the crowd.

100: Can't think of anything.

101: The hotel prices were very high!

102: last minute changes

- 103: The heat maybe earlier
- 105: Order of my finish wasn't correct. Off by three I think. Time was close to correct.
- 106: Hot temperatures.
- 107: food selection after race (9am-12am) wasn't very breakfasty, get some bagels or something!
results were far too slow
- 108: the route through town was not the best. i hated turning back away from my destination to head toward the mall. the other side of town is more treed and might have gotten more fans out of their house.
- 109: I was OK with the heat, but I imagine others were not.
- 112: heat, can ya'll air condition the course next year? :)
- 113: Limited restrooms for spectators. Not clear on where I placed or my time.
- 114: N/A. I wish it would be cheaper to fly to Missoula.
- 115: Timing
- 116: There's little I didn't like about the event.
- 117: All Great!
- 120: I would like water at every mile, it was a very hot day
- 122: \
- 123: The heat!!!!
- 124: The number of restrooms available.
- 125: Sporadic/un-predictable aid stations, hard to anticipate where they would be next. Lack of bathrooms at finish of race. Information indicated that it would be a long sleeve dry-fit shirt. Not the case - not that the shirt wasn't nice, but it is best to follow up on promises.
- 126: The weather was unseasonably hot! But it didn't really put a damper on things.
- 127: N/A I thought it was very well done.
- 128: Having to run with traffic coming from behind. I am accustomed to running facing traffic and feel much safer that way.
- 129: next year make me faster! the route zig zagged a little too much in the good food store area.
- 131: The time of year/heat

- 132: Nothing I didn't like (kind of warm at the end but you can't control that!)
- 133: My only issue was that the exact expo/packet pick-up location was not published on the website. I printed the brochure which said "Downtown Missoula," so I was looking for some kind of sign in front of a building until I met a local who said it was UNDER the Higgins Street bridge.
- 134: No bands or radio stations set up with music. Needed more water stations, especially with the heat level. Needed more stations with oranges, etc. Needed stations with gummy bears !! The shirts were cheap - the design was not creative and the material was not a performance fabric. For the \$\$ we paid the shirts should have been performance fabric and long sleeved. Also should have had first aid stations out on the route.
- 135: Due to the heat, it would have been helpful to have water aid stops every mile or at least closer.
- 136: need more port-o-potties at start. no official time clock at finish
- 137: I wish there would have been more port-a-potty's at the aid stations. I saw some people having to wait in line. That is hard to get your pace back after standing around.
- 140: Well I didn't really like running 13 miles, but that had nothing to do with the event itself =)
- 141: No official clock visible at the finish line. I thought the finisher medals could have been a little nicer, these were "below average" compared to the 15 others I have.
- 142: the heat
- 143: The waiting in between bus drop-off and race start was a little long.
- 144: There was not enough porta-potties!! I had to go in the bushes or I would have missed my race!
- 146: food selection was very poor!! bagels and bananas would be a nice choice. Traffic on the bridge seemed to be a hazardous for spectators.
- 148: Need more music on the course from locals, an electralight drink at the end of the race ans cold water on the course for hot race days.
- 149: The number of bathrooms at the Blue Mountain area to begin the half - marathon was not enough. I was in line for the bathrooms while the countdown to start the race began and was still in line once the race began.
- 150: Maybe think about choosing a different time of the year,like June. It was hot!
- 151: too few restrooms. they were placed ok, but not enough.
- 152: the heat was a bit high. i'd start the even earlier.
- 153: The frigid temperature!

154: NOTHING!!!!

155: The only "one" thing that I noticed was there was not enough porta-potty(s) at each station. One was not enough. I lost most of my time due to the fact that I had to wait in line... but then again I am new at this Marathon stuff...

156: Need to use timing chips for more timely results and to obtain net times. Could have used a few more porta-potties at the start (half marathon). The 6:30 AM start was good but a 6:00 AM start would be better if the weather is normally hot this time of year.

157: towards the end of the race, the water stations were a little too far spread out...that is the time when runners want/need to drink the most

158: needed more porta-potties at start of race, at least for 1/2 marathon (good thing for the bushes); no bathroom opportunities the last portion of the race; I heard the awards ceremony for 1/2 marathon was very confusing and not well organized (we didn't stay)

159: July is the worst month to hold a marathon.

160: 1.) I was sad to hear that the finish line was dismantled while there were still people running.
2.) My tag was torn from the bottom of my number and even though I gave my name to the people at the finish line and heard my name announced, I am not in the time roster online.

162: A 6:30 start makes for a pretty early morning, but with the hot weather that weekend it was nice to get an early start.

163: n/a

164: It was my first marathon, come on now, i ran 26 miles.

166: More of my friends would have come if the airfare was less.

168: Boy, it was really hot out there. The brochure said we would get a long sleeve T-shirt, but we got a short sleeve one instead. However, I'm glad we got a short sleeve one. I just think that the brochure should have been more accurate.

169: more bathrooms needed at the start

171: The price was absolutely exorbitant for what you get out of it. I've paid less to run Half Marathons (such as Las Vegas and Seattle) and gotten much more out of them, such as spaghetti dinners, MUCH nicer shirts, and a ready supply of restrooms at the start. In addition, I wish there had been at least two or three points during the course where someone was calling out times.

172: Well, obviously the weather was very hot and made it difficult. There were two stretches of the course that very hot, no shade and unchanging. One was along 7th St W from Clements to Hiberta and the other was from Southgate mall to 4th street. Pavement, no shade trees at all and not enough

sprinklers to refresh you. I do not think this should be blamed on anyone but is rather just a factor in the race.

174: My name didn't get posted on the website with my finishing time so I don't know what place I came in.

175: The Weather, can you fix that?

177: It isn't really a big deal, but my name and finish time did not show up on the race results. (Shirley Gubatan #322)

178: Not enough rest rooms at the start Consider an earlier start with the weather!

179: sports beverages were not readily available/easy to find at water stations

180: Nothing, except maybe all of those kids taking pictures of us at the start... that was a little weird. I enjoy documenting events but that was overkill I felt.

184: The post race free food for race participants was almost non-existent! I don't know if most of it had already been eaten with I finished the marathon (around 11:30 a.m) or if there just wasn't much to begin with, but I finally found food to purchase at Caras Park. Had I not taken some cash with me during the race, I would've had no way to re-fuel myself. Every other race I've ever been in, has tons of free post-race food for the runners.

185: Due to the time of the year heat was a factor.

186: The teeshirt was very disappointing— I expected a drifit shirt. July is an awfully hot month. The final stretch through town was kinda boring. Though it wasn't an issue for me, so many runners needed to use restrooms along the early/middle of the course and had to line up at the one portapotty at the break areas.

187: Lack of Port-A-Potties.

189: it was way too hot(not that there is much you can do about that).

190: Some of the zig zagging on side streets made me feel like I was going away from the finish,but it also kept it interesting.

191: I did not like the shirt. For the money you could have given a nice dry weave shirt.

192: The first nine miles of the course (Mullan Rd.) were fairly boring. Lack of chip timing caused a big delay in getting results posted. The heat....either need to start earlier or hold the race in a cooler month.

193: Not enough aid stations for the temperatures 80-90 degrees. I did not see any medical tents along the way. The last six miles of the course was in a terrible location, Missoula has so much more to offer as far as scenery.

194: Parking at the start of the race. The race is just as much fun for family and friends as it is for the athletes. Their participation at the beginning of the race is also greatly appreciated.

195: Hotel did not seem very aware of the event.

196: I am surprised the University was not more involved and the route did not take us around the beautiful streets around the University..or Brooks.

197: not enough water points ... too hot ... bit disappointed about the results not being available.

198: The race start had a weird location....the finish was kind of a weird location too. It would be nice to have the finish line closer to the after party.

199: 100 degrees by noon.

200: Too many turns during the race

203: Waiting for the official results, but it happens. I have been in other events where I have had to wait for results and I believe it is more important to be accurate than hurry to get the results out.

204: More enthusiasm from the water stop volunteers, although I am sure they were as hot as we were. The power drink to be a different color. I was given that instead of water on several occasions. Big trash cans full of soaked sponges in ice water from volunteers. This was done in Maui and helped to beat the heat. From mile 20 on, water stops every mile...with the heat maybe starting even earlier.

205: The sports drink on the course was terrible. Lack of timing chip - still waiting for results four days after event.

207: More portapoties

208: Packet pickup was a little unorganized and signage for the race wasn't that good.

210: Course through the city was not through streets that had many trees for shading, other streets in Missoula would have been better for the heat and sun. Or even more along the river front for senery, but understadably to certify the course this would have been very difficult

211: The heat-- but, hey, we all had to deal with that and that is somethig you can't change. Just makes for more of a challenge.

212: The heat, but you can't do much about that!

213: The heat :)

215: There was nothing at all about the event that detracted from my enjoyment.

216: n.a

217: There were not nearly enough restrooms... I had to start the race late because I was waiting to use the restroom. The heat was an issue... many people were frustrated that the heat made the run so much harder and made us all run so much slower. I thought the last three miles of the course were a let-down after the beautiful beginning of the course.

218: The main thing that is frustrating about the event is the timing. With it being in the middle of July, the heat was absolutely unbearable and caused an extreme amount of dehydration, not that running a marathon ever allows for full hydration anyway. Also, there were not enough restrooms for participants at the starting lines or the finish.

219: Needed more restrooms. Didn't like the celebration area being separate from the finish area. Some people probably never went. Music was a little loud.

220: portapotties! There were dozens of folks lined up at the half-marathon start. I think it is wise to anticipate every single runner needing to use the restroom at least once at the start. It was stressful. Also, along the course, I think there could have been more as well. There were always 2-6 people in line at every portapotty. Also, how about a 6am start? I was fine heat wise in the half, but the marathoners would have appreciated it I am sure.

221: Consider a different route that includes trails. Aid stations need COLD drinks. Aid stations use anything other than Heed, which is terrible. Not enough bathrooms. Delay in obtaining results.

222: Totally not your fault, but the heat.

224: Running 26.2 miles and receiving a medal that looked like it came out of a gum ball machine. The course lacked cover from the elements(was not a problem this race...but if it had rained or stormed, where was cover).

225: the heat! it would have been nice if the water at the aid stations was cold instead of luke warm. that would have helped a lot.

226: The environment of the last 8 miles was not very nice. The course avoided the river trails and any nice neighborhoods. There were a lot of turns back and forth that were frustrating for runners and locals alike. At least one of the locals was hostile to runners trying to get them off the road in the neighborhood around mile 20. We were running a 3:53 goal pace at first and the pace group leader for 4 hours would not drop back. We tried to go faster at times to get separation because she was so loud, but ended up dropping back because she went so fast. I saw near the end of the race and that she had nobody with her, presumably because everyone in her group burned out. I am not sure what the ethics and training of a pace group leader are, but pace group leader performance is vital for the enjoyment of the race for many of the people with and near that time goal. The expo was in the sun and very hot. I understand that some of it moved into the shade after we left but setting u

227: More information as to how to get to the startling for the 1/2 m The bus was a good option but we had a nursing mother who had to wait until the last minute leave to the starting point

228: Heat. Lack of shade. Energy drink offered was not a typical drink and was very odd. Aid stations were a little far in spacing at some points. No chips for timing. The wait for race results.

229: The HEAT!

230: It took me 5 1/4 hours. I did NOT know that there was an early start. That wasn't really advertised, and I would have liked to have started earlier because of the heat.

231: There could have been a few stops with two restrooms. I didn't like the energy drink and it was very warm. And there wasn't hardly any recovery food when I finished (almost 5 hours).

232: More Porta potties were needed at the start of the half marathon.

233: There was nothing I did not like about it.

234: The 1st half of the course was very nice, but the second half of the course was on a lot of pavement without shade (e.g. Southgate Mall parking lot). It would be great if the race course could go through some of the older, more shaded neighborhoods where there might be more fan support. If that's not possible because of logistical reasons, perhaps the river trail system could be utilized.

235: The shuttle situation. No one really wants to get up that early so they can take a shuttle to the start line and there was no shuttle going back to Blue Mountain after the race. Event staff were not totally clued into what was going on. You need more bathrooms at the start line because the line was ridiculous. I appreciated all of the volunteers and aid stations but the volunteers need to know what they have in their cups. We got heed a few times when we were told it was water. Not fun when you dump it over your head! And it would be great if you had a more accurate way to track time. I crossed the finish at 2:15:01 but was recorded as 2:15:24. It doesn't matter for me as much but some people want a very accurate time recorded.

237: There were not nearly enough bathrooms at the start, I didn't like running directly into the rising sun, and I didn't like that the course was mostly uphill!

238: um - i'm new to this but given the cost maybe better quality t-shirts? they seemed a bit chintzy but hey everything else was so great -i just want to get a t-shirt that I WANT to wear around especially because the event was sooo fantastic - it really was -

239: The heat, but the organizers can't help that. The showers by Russell St. (behind Boyce Lumber) and the showers at the end of the race were a wonderful idea.

240: The fact that it was run in the summer and the heat.

241: I lived in Missoula and went to UM, I thought portions of the course (miles 15-23+/-) were not showing the character of Missoula. Several of the water stations water tasted bad and was really warm.

243: packet pickup was very diorganized aand you stood in hot sun

244: try getting water stops on both sides of the street, sponges would be nice once or twice and it would be nice to have champion chips

245: Everything was great, but the post race awards ceremony could have had a little more entertainment.

246: I had to wait way over 5 minutes for a porta potty during the race-- bummer! At the start of the race, people had to abandon the line for the potties and go in the weeds or not go at all. More potties! The route was a little circuitous at times. Overall though, the organizers really did a great job with this first time event. You are to be commended!

247: I lived in Msla for awhile and I don't think the course was symbolic of what a great town it was. Considering how much money this event could bring into the community as it grows, I think you should change the course to go through areas of town that people want to see, the campus, Higgens street, maybe Greenough park, etc. Running under the "UM Gateway" sign would be neat. I thought the start of the half course was really pretty, but a lot of it was so-so.

248: the lane for the runners to cross the finish line seemed to get too narrow with watchers pressing in. if there is a way to hold them back a little further that would be good. I realized after the fact that the announcer was speaking to the runners as they crossed the line (announcing who they are when where they were from). As a runner coming across the line, I did not hear this very clearly.

249: the post race food was a bit rough, the fresh fruit was nice. Chip timing would be helpful.

250: 1) The heat. 2) The course. I didn't mind starting out in Frenchtown, but it seems like we ran through the ugliest part of Missoula. I was real disappointed not to run through the campus and finish in the stadium. 3)The medal. I have run 51 marathons and that ranks as one of my least favorite medals.

253: Warm water at aid stations

254: The atmospheric temperature!

256: Too hot!

257: Need a few more porta potties in Frenchtown.

258: Only suggestions at this point: Have sponges available for hot days at aid stations (dipped in cold water, so that participants can douse themselves, put under their cap, etc.).

259: I would have preferred to drive to the start and park but there was no room at the start of the 1/2 marathon for that.

260: It was all good.

261: Not much, you all did a great job! Okay, the heat, but you had no control over that one!

262: I didn't like that, due to the high number of late registrations, there were no size small shirts left at the end of the race, cause now I have this great dri-fit shirt that's too big for me. The music at the festival was way too loud, but the band was good.

263: nothing

264: There was no official time chip nor opportunity for purchase of a photograph on the course. The lack of cups at the second aid station was very difficult and made me worry about the rest of the race.

265: Lack of signage at the expo on Saturday. People didn't know what line to stand in!! The course over Big Flat was great, but in town, it was not. There are so many amazing places to run in Missoula and I feel like this marathon didn't capture that!

267: The awards were late and the results were never posted. I actually placed third in my age group, but I didn't know until now and we are in Wyoming.

268: Finisher's shirts is not performance quality.

269: The heat, which of course the organizers have no control over. And the change of the finish location from Griz stadium to Orange/Front Street. That seemed to create a need to backtrack the course after milepost 20, going away from the new finish line which was discouraging.

270: lack of porta potties at start, hot weather, last part of course could have been shadier

271: Lack of water during hot and dry sections of the course - while water was available at every other mile, I would have liked to have seen it available every mile from mile 10 through 15.

272: The HEAT!!!! Not your fault!

273: Not enough porta-potties at starting line !!! More water stops -- some were even out of cups! Need better traffic monitoring on Big Flat -- some drivers complete buttheads. Friends that volunteered to volunteer were never called back.

274: I was a first time runner and didn't get a lot of information about some things I needed to know - like how the times / places would be calculated at the end of the race, what to do with my pin-on number and the tear-off tag part, etc.

277: I dont think there was anything.

278: too hot (no ones fault)

280: Energy drink, I didn't care for the taste, and it was warm at most stops.

281: Alot of running on pavement and asphalt but I understand that's how these races are most of the time.

282: I thought we would get a long-sleeve dri-fit shirt, I received a short -sleeve t-shirt. This is the only thing I would recommend.

283: Needed more than 1 port-a-potty on the course (13 mile)

284: There could have been a few more vendors at the Expo. As this event grows...and it will....I'm confident more vendors will want to get in on the expo.

285: Mile markers were not large/clear and there were no clocks on the course. Not enough aid stations. Course was poorly planned - ran east into the sun (with very little shade), and didn't show off some of the beautiful places to run in Missoula area.

286: There wasn't anything about the Missoula Marathon that I did not like.

287: I did not like the time of year. I think that July is too late to have a marathon in Missoula. Perhaps consider scheduling the event to happen during the spring or fall. The temperature was too hot, not only on the day of the race, but during the preparations weeks too. Perhaps during the middle of May. The River bank run will be finished, run for the trees would be finished. Perhaps doing it after the Women's Run. Just some suggestions.

288: More restrooms need to be available. Maybe next year timing chips will be added to the event. Also, maybe a few photographers spread out along the course so people can see pictures of themselves running and order them - like the Rock and Roll Marathon events.

291: The heat mostly which is not controllable, but the second water station was out of cups, and the some of the local people didn't seem to know what was going on and didn't seem happy. A small portion of the course the road wasn't blocked off or atleast half blocked of so the traffic.

292: The weather was to hot.

293: I did NOT like the race being held on a Sunday - it bascially ruins a precious summer weekend for the whole family. Have it on a Saturday and earlier in the summer. I did not like finishing on the bridge - lots of asphalt and cement and not many places to gather and cheer other finishers across the line, and the spaces available were HOT. I didn't like running on the Right side of the road - my body and knees are used to the Left hand slope. I did not like the Missoulia only printing pieces about out-of-staters in the day-after article and the news stations didn't provide much coverage during and after the race, especially KECI when they were the biggest supporters prior to the race.

294: The Finsher's Metal was not worth the trip.

295: My husband ran the marathon and was surprised at the long hill around miles 12-14. He thought it was supposed to be pretty flat. Some of the water on the half marathon was warm. Cold water is supposed to be better, but it probably is hard to keep water cool in the summer.

296: I did not like the time of year that it was held. I do not like to run marathons in the heat. I think the ideal time would be the fall, like September or early October.

297: Not enough bathrooms along the course. Guys had it easy, they could just dash off the side of the road. Not enough drink cups at the first water station. The change in the race course was disappointing.

298: Not my favorite route for showing off Missoula. Isn't there some Bitterroot-Blue Mtn-Clarkfoot-Rattlesnake route that couldn't be used?

299: Expo was not what I expected...needs more vendors and better setup. Signage would REALLY help (Marathon line here...A-L, etc.)

300: I think Missoula as beautiful as it is the course could have been in a better location with possibly some dirt trails

301: I would have liked to start the full marathon even earlier. It was in the upper 80's when I finished around 11:00.

302: When organizers realized how hot it was they should have doubled the stations for the last 14 or so miles w/ half the people. Normally by the time I got to the next water station I was ready to fall over.

303: Well, the heat was a factor, but that is something you can't control! Parts of the course, especially the last few miles in town had no shade and no sprinklers.

305: The last 6 miles of the route were ugly. It would have been nice to run through the university area. There are also a lot of trees for shade which would have been nice at that point in the race.

306: Goodie bag had no goodies. Coconut creamcicles were nasty tasting, expected more from the shirt type and design of logo. Every thing else was great. Kinda expensive sign up fee, understandable though.

307: The heat! haha!

308: Not enough porta-potties at the start, when people lined up and many had to skip it to start the race.

309: There needed to be more porta-pottys along the course, had to wait in line for the one potty and lost time.

310: The course was long - according to my GPS 13.28 miles. There were not enough port a potties. The results took a long time.

311: Traffic was a problem a few times farther out on the course. Not so much in town.

312: I think that the marathon should be earlier or later in the year. The heat was really getting to a lot of people. Towards the end I could not get enough water. The last 6 miles of the course. The marathon could have started at 0530 instead of 0630, due to heat.

313: There should have been more information about the awards ceremony.

314: The weather was too HOT!!!

315: Not in July. Too hot!! Late Sept or early Oct would be better.

316: signage at packet pick up and on the buses was absent

317: There were not enough port-a-potties at the start of the half marathon. The results took way too long to be announced. Why not post results as soon as they are available so participants do not have to hang around until the awards ceremony.

318: 1. I am discouraged that the University of Montana did not let the event finish in Washington-Grizzly stadium. Boo to the UM! 2. Mile 16-20 no shade - OUCH!

319: No goody bags at packet pick up even though I was one of the first registrants - I did not arrive into town until 5:30 and all bags were gone - given to late registrants. Website talked about long sleeve shirt - it ended up being a t shirt. But at least I did get the size I signed up for - that doesn't happen in a lot of races. The race course was fairly boring - I know Missoula has more interesting neighborhoods to go through than the slums.

320: Showed up to pick up packets at "Expo" only to find no Expo. Literature said we had until 7 to pick up packets. Got there at 6:30 and there were no exhibitors and "packet" pick-up was actually just a number and already breaking down. Disappointing. And the heat, but nobody's fault on that one.

321: The sport drink that was provided was not very good.

322: It was a tad hot and it was a road run not trail, but in mid July you expect hot and it was advertised as a road run so you knew that up front. I don't like how slow I am but that's not your fault

323: Some of the mileage markers seemed confusing. I ran the half marathon and there were a couple places where it said 11 miles and 11 1/2 miles at the same place so wasn't sure which marker was for me. I didn't know if I had 1/2 more mile to run or 1/2 less mile to run.

324: Heed. It makes me sick; yet is hard to tell the difference between it and water (visibly). Even the volunteers were getting confused and my water bottles kept getting filled with Heed instead of water.

325: Why did the university pull out from letting finishers use the 50 yard line? That would have been cool.

326: The extreme heat.

- 327: I have no complaints about the event.
- 329: There were a couple of turns in the route that were not staffed and we almost missed one. Other runners hollered at us, so we didn't stray too far.
- 330: the heat/time of year
- 331: The pain No Gel the first 18 miles, we needed it every 5k
- 332: All was fine
- 333: The long lines for the restroom at the start line!!! I had to wait so long that I was still in the restroom when the race started.
- 335: getting too hot
- 336: heat.
- 337: There needed to be more aid stations that had food like GU as well as fruit and Ibuprofen. We arrived about a half hour before the expo was to close and the vendors were already packing up their supplies. The race also ran out of event packets.
- 338: T-shirts, finish metals,
- 339: I was disappointed with the packet information. I felt you should get more than just your number. I was also disappointed in the course after the Reserve Street underpass to the mall. The streets were awful.
- 342: The heat!! I am aware this was something you could not control.
- 343: Hot, ugly race course. Got cotton T-shirts when tech Ts were advertised. Hand-out of T-shirts after the race. Unappetizing food at finish, not right items for runners. Crowded food tent. Post-race massages were understaffed and badly managed.
- 344: running on the same side of the road (same slant the whole race)
- 345: The heat, t-shirt was not what was promised, sport drink not as promised, confusing route for spectators and people from out of town.
- 346: I did not like them shutting down the finish line in exactly six hours. There were a few people who were still out there, yet they did not have a finish line to cross over, even though they did finish the course. I do realize that police and city officials may have put on this restriction, but given the intense heat, the race was overall a slower marathon. If they are going to hold a marathon in mid July then they need to start earlier than they did, and give everyone who finishes the marathon, regardless of time, the same finish line experience.

348: Open roads and sunshine the last 8 miles. Not sure how you could change that. I'm sure you worked hard on the course route after losing the stadium for the finish.

349: the heat.. a fall marathon would be awesome in missoula

350: The post-race awards ceremony took too long to get started. With the heat and being tired after a run it was hard to sit through. Just getting the top 3 times for each age group and posting and overall is all the times needed the rest of us can wait to see them on the net.

351: it really was a great marathon - the only difficult part was transportation in and out - we had friends take us - the bus scene seemed confusing

353: Not enough ice available for cold water in the last 10 miles

354: Time of year. This event should be earlier (first half of June) or later (Sept). Would this fit with the River City Roots Festival?

356: HEAT

357: going by the railroad tracks

358: See question 33

361: The heat!!! Not your fault! The finish line--possibly on Higgins in the future? don't like short sleeved tees--possibly long in the future??

362: It was too hot.

363: The course was too straight for too much of the run, and it could have been in shade more of the time. Also, for the cost of the even the lack of souvenirs was disappointing. HAVING COME FROM SPAIN FOR THIS EVEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO TAKE BACK BESIDES THE COTTON T-SHIRT. I still haven't heard anything about a certificate. This is my 13th marathon and I've always received one.

365: Heat-- course should be more shaded and event run at a cooler time

366: Thought there could be more restrooms at the earlier aid stations. I know the weather is beyond your control but it was darn hot - is it possible to schedule during a consistently cooler time of year - spring or fall?

367: I almost got hit by a car on a small side street, I don't think she was aware that the race was occurring on the street she was turning on to.

368: Nothing.

369: NOT ENOUGH PORT A POTIES

370: I thought the route could have been a little better. Maybe including more trails so that you are not running on cement the whole time would have been better for everyone and more scenic. It was hard to get into the work week after the run on Sunday, maybe Saturday would be better.

371: The uncertainty and eventual very long delay in announcing results after the half had ended was compounded by the delay in results being posted online and then the half results disappearing. More than a week later, I have not yet verified the rumor that I placed in my age group, which is disappointing. Also, finish line photo link posted online long before photos were available.

372: Needed more people around the course.

373: One stretch of the half marathon needed an additional water stop - between maybe mile 5 and 8..can't remember for sure.

374: The results. Waited forever at the awards ceremony and finally gave up and left after the half marathon awards were more than an hour late.

375: Sports Drink during the event.

376: The power drink! The water was getting hot towards the end of the race also.

378: I thought going through some parts where a little rough. It would have been much more beautiful to go around the university area. Plus more shade on that side of town.

379: having facilities available for that many people is a challenge, but if there was some way to have more porta potties available that would be great i also was a little unclear about exactly where the finish line was (i knew within a few feet or so, but didn't know the exact spot)

380: The party in Caras Park needs to be going when the first runners/walkers come in so it feels like a celebration when they finish. Music should be playing and the awards should be done later. We didn't end up staying because there was really nothing going on. Also, if possible should be more types of food vendors at the Park

382: I did the half-marathon and at the starting line, there might have been 4 porta-potties at the most. The line was so long that if I had chosen to get in line, I would have missed the start of the race! Like many other runners, my only other choice was to find a relatively hidden bush and do my business there. PLEASE have more restrooms available, or at least well-marked and semi-private "mens" and "ladies" areas!

383: Long, long lines and disorganization on Saturday, the day before the race, when getting race number, info packet, etc...

384: Missoula is a pretty town, but some of the route thru town was not, its hard especially at the end to have a barren course(the bike path along the railroad, by a substation(?) Results were very slow.

385: Race result were not in by the time of the reception. No timeing chips for the event.

- 386: There were too many turns in the last 5-6 miles of the marathon course.
- 387: Not enough port o potties No chip timing
- 388: They ran out of water and the 2nd aid station Needed to explain to novices why there were pacers (to qualify for other marathons). Since I didn't know that, I thought I was running really slow.
- 389: The heat!
- 390: I think it should have started at 6:00 rather than 6:30. It gets way too hot too quick.
- 392: I did not feel like there were enough porta poties at each water station.
- 393: not enough bathrooms at start
- 394: I ran the entire event but my finishing and time was not posted on line. I e-mailed the director and have received no response. I was slow but there were a few slower. This was my only concern about the event.
- 395: Amount of people attending the event. Not too worried about it though.
- 397: I really can't complain ab out muc, but if I had to, my least favorite part was the mini out and back at the mall. The pavement was getting hot!
- 398: NEEDED MORE BATHROOMS AT THE START.
- 399: No trails, but with that many people it wouldnt really be possible
- 400: you can always use more toilets, especially at the start.
- 401: finished near the end; hence: did not get my name reported to maratonguide.com (this is very improtant to me); did not get any food or drink.
- 402: 1/2 marathon water stops were not well spaced. They couldn't tell me the distance to the next water stop.
- 403: Heat, but not your fault.
- 405: When the course came into the city (mile 15-16), from there abouts until the end, it was a little tedious. I'm not sure how to improve it, but winding up and down those streets got a bit boring.
- 406: The organization, particularly regarding transportation to and from the starting lines, was rather shaky. There was some serious miscommuniation to the race volunteers, who told some people that there would be shuttles taking people back to the starting areas of the half-marathon, which turned out not to be the case, leaving some people stranded at the finish. At the end of a race, participants are tired, dehydrated, and low blood sugar, and are not well equipped to deal with the challenge of trying to arrange their own transportation. Details like this may seem minor, but they can seriously impact the overall feeling someone comes away from the even with.

407: THE LAST 5 MILES, THROUGH THE MALL PARKING LOT, VERY BAD FOR ME.

408: There were not enough aid stations in the hottest part of the marathon (the second half after about mile 16). Also, would be great to have orange halves sooner than mile 22, they really helped!! I also think it should start earlier if you are planning on having it in July again, the heat was miserable!!!

410: the heat which you can't do anything about and the lack of race results following thye marathon finish. It would have been nice to have age group results and awards available.

411: The last half of the course was awful, running on concrete, tight corners, and too few water stations. I heard from marathon participants that they needed "gu" sooner in the race. Also, the number of bathrooms at the start and finish lines was UNACCEPTABLE!!

412: The race course!! It was terrible. The only parts I liked were running on Blue Mountain road at the beginning of the half marathon and finishing on Orange Street bridge. We have several friends and famiy from the area and they all thought a better course could have been designed. There are much better areas of Missoula that could have been showcased. Running through a mall parking lot and a trail next to an industrial park was not the best part of Missoula that would attract people to come back.

415: the last 1/3 of the 1/2 marathon-- along the train tracks was a stark difference from beginning in the mountains.

416: I completed the half marathon and by the time I crossed, which was not that late, the only sizes of T-shirts left were XL. It would be nice for next year if there would be smaller sizes for those who are walking for their health instead of trying to set a time recore

417: some of the route, I hear is being reconsidered. Good. Better instructions for where to decompress afterwards, and to what is available. Some say July sucks, as with global warming, its only going to keep getting hotter. But I can't complain too much about global warming to you.

419: The heat on race day was not adequetely planned for. There were not enough aid stations in the last 10 miles. The water was warm. There was no ice. The course had very little shade. Some intersections in the city did not have any traffic control. The aid station at the mall was very good. The people were super.

What suggestions do you have for improvements to this event?

Content: q33

3: Get chip timing.

4: None for now.

5: it was great!

6: More porta potties.

7: More bathrooms. More vendors at the expo...that was pretty disappointing.

8: At about mile 20 when the sun was really starting to blaze the water stops weren't close enough together. I was dehydrated and started having to ask how far to the next water stop. Also, get something other than heed, it was too heavy, and the water wasn't enough. I'm thinking gatorade.

9: See Q32

11: More bathrooms at the start.

12: Better post race food and the medal should be the logo of the marathon. The logo painted on the road was very cool!

13: I would shop for a new photography company for next year. Have jel packs available before mile 18 and have food 1/2 way through like bagels, muffins, bananas & oranges. NOT candy. :)

14: 1. start the full marathon at 5:30am instead of 6:30am. it was light enough the hour earlier and would allow completion when it's cooler. 2. use championchip (or equivalent) timing system. my initial results were off by about 7 minutes due to the system used. 3. more aid stations along the course

15: If the marathon runs the same course next year I will not participate. However, if the course includes downtown, the university and the river front (or some combination) I would participate and recommend it to others.

18: Move the starting time of the race up 1 hour (to 5:30 a.m.); this will help mitigate the heat. Move the date to the fall, where the weather will not be as much of a factor. Also expand the food tent options after the race, and the products available the day before the race.

20: I would choose a route that is more shaded, possibly by the university. I think most mistakes may be because this was an inaugural event.

- 21: Clear road kill and trash before race, different/better route, maybe look at a different date that does not conflict with other major events.
- 22: Start the race at 5:30 AM to take advantage of the coolness. There was plenty of day light even though the sun had not come up. Do not start people early
- 23: More potties.
- 24: For a \$50 registration fee I was hoping the T-shirt would be a bit nicer than cotton -- some performance material. But that's a small complaint...after a hundred races I have too many T shirts anyway!
- 25: Colder water at the aid stations and stay off the bike path. Otherwise, it was near perfect! Maybe more porta-potties. It was a wonderful event and I will be back.
- 26: Need to put directions on the website for getting to the expo. Just putting the name of a park or bidge does not help those people coming from out of state.
- 27: See above
- 28: Maybe a few more port-a-potties at the start of the 1/2 marathon.....there were still a significant amount of people in line with only three minutes until the start.
- 29: More port-a-potties at the starting line.
- 31: Put a clock at the finish. Have speakers and music at the finish. More water stations towards the end of the race. Would be better to finish at the 50 yard line of the Grizzly Stadium.
- 32: I would try and change the course to hook up with the Kim Williams trail and then meander through the University neighborhood. Keep the start at Blue Mountain though.
- 33: Exploring a better route for the course but possibly keeping the same finish line if (possible). More restrooms and possibly more water stations in the final 3 miles of the course.
- 34: Maybe more portapotties at the starting line. Maybe timing chips. I'm looking forward to it!
- 35: More porta potties along the way. Maybe a little better quality medals?
- 36: Did not attend due to serious illness in family.
- 37: Start the event at 5:30 AM and change last couple miles to go thru shaded streets. The mall parking lot and the bike path were way too hot!!
- 38: None
- 39: Louder sound system at the start of the race, it was tough to hear the announcer.

40: Aid stations every mile the last six miles. More of those sprinklers that was along the last mile (I think that is where it was.) More poweraid along the course. But I would stress I thoroughly enjoyed this as my first half-marathon and hope to do it again next year. If the event is the same as it was this year I would be quite happy.

41: Due to the extreme heat I would suggest more aid stations, especially in the last half of the marathon. Train the volunteers a little more. Don't try to make slower runners give up and drop out of the race! I would also suggest using regular old Gatorade as the sports drink.

42: Distribute a quality non-cotton shirt specifically made for running. Other than that, well done.

44: Gatorade or Powerade please! A more detailed map available on the internet prior to race day-- one that showed mileage points and aid stations as well as good locations for spectators to park and cheer. The registration area could have been laid out better with easier access. Fruit or some other small food item at more of the aid stations-- especially 2nd half of the course. Appointment times for the pre-paid massage.

45: Start the race earlier Serve cold water use time chips for accuracy

47: university helping by lending stadium, earlier start

48: I would give something away that has the place on it for the overall - even with the pictures you could have a plaque on the frame or something to say how they finished. I think all of us marathoners are ego-centric enough to want something on our prize to say how we finished, from age group to master's and overall top 3. The pictures looked nice, though, and I'm sure the winners really enjoyed them! I would also have some vaseline available on course, from half marathon on. I know some people who really need it by then. Also, I would have a bit more for orange slices and gel packs in the middle of the race. And, I would have an alternative to that HEED flavor - it was pretty bad, though I think it helped.

50: Too bad it can't happen in June, when the weather is more likely to be cooler:)

51: The only improvements I have are not controlled by anyone, but Mother Nature...pick a cooler day!

52: Might consider having the event start even earlier than 6:30. The first water station should be sooner than it was.

53: AS ABOVE.

54: More water stands (which may mean you need to raise the fee for the race, I know) and different course, at least for the second half of the marathon

55: See Q32

56: Goo or Powergel should be available at aid stations early in the race, rather than the at the later ones, where they aren't as useful. You can't help the temperature, but possibly start a half hour earlier or have the event early or later in the year.

58: Start at 6am (it's early enough to see). Larger medal (it was one of the smallest). Pins with marathon logo for sale. More singlet t-shirts for sale (sold out early). Age group results on race day (reconsider timing chips like other marathons). Water station at every mile starting at mile 2 (i.e., mile 3 was too long for a first drink). Green cups for gatorade (different color than water) and blue cups for water. Advertise the bus tour more prominently...and leave when advertised (i.e., noon not 12:30).

59: Put time clock lower and straighten the course a bit. Lower the cost.

60: More food (gels) earlier in race, more porta-potties at start line(s), better organized liquid hand out (water always on left, HEED always on right or maybe water & HEED in different color cups) Some in my party didn't know what HEED was, maybe that should be in the introductory info on the website (if it wasn't already)

62: IT WOULD BE GREAT TO DO A STRAIGHT SHOT TO THE FINISH LINE.

63: Chip timing, incorporate UM campus in the route

64: host during a different time of year. any forest fires accompanying that kind of heat would be terrible.

65: See above

66: Again, 6 AM start!

67: More aid stations and possibly timing chips.

68: Chip timing? Get your community involved, there were SO few spectators (although, understandable since this is your first year) Great job overall!

69: More free stuff at Expo and not only advertisements. Attract people to the Expo by actually offering us something. The lines to pick up the packets at the Expo could have been diverted if the signs would have been more visible as to in which line one has to be. Better t-shirt after the run. More Port-O-Potties at start and some at the Finish. A more accurate timing system might be welcomed by the participants. The results, even though close, don't seem to be totally correct. Overall, my wife and I had a fantastic time at the actual race and are both looking forward to running again next year. To all of you and your hard work: THANK YOU!!! Well done for the first one. Hey, that even rimes. :-)

70: I would love to see more water stations set up. Perhaps every mile.

71: the course was okay-- but missoula offers much better views and scenery than that course provided

72: I am hoping more vendors, both merchandise and food, will realize the wonderfulness of this event. maybe next year!?!

74: The course outside the city was quite scenic ad peaceful. I personally would like to see you keep the runners outside a bit longer and then perhaps bring them more directly into town. I am not sure, but an out and back from the same finish line seems like it ouwld work well, and decrease the logistics of having to get everyone out to the starting lines.

75: If the date continues to be in July, have an earlier start-0530 or 0600-runners are usually early risers. Cooler route, more aide stations towards the end if the date remains in July

76: Better sport drink. Maybe a date earlier or later in the year when the temperatures are lower??? Keep up the good work. You did an outstanding job. Thanks

77: Keep it up! Maybe route the course so there's a bit more shade.

78: Reference above negative comments. Move the event to June,I can train in March-May and be ready. And if you move the finish line to Washington Grizzly stadium I will definety return in 2008.

79: The only other improvement I can think of would be to make sure the pacers know how important it is to stay on pace. I was totally bummed out when the 4 hour pace lady ran by me at mile 20. After she slowly edged about 2 blocks ahead, I figured my goal of 3:59 was gone at that point. I started walking more and taking it easier then, as I was a bit dissapointed... then at the end I found out she was a full 5 minutes ahead of pace... I still may have made my goal if I would have thought I had a chance! Obviously this is my fault as well for not keeping my own time very well, but for some reason seeing her pass played a big mind game with me. (Not a big deal really... but I ran into quite a few people who had the exact same thing happen so I thought I'd mention it)

80: Could use more water at the finish line, and a little better signage of where to find bag pick-up. Wish the awards had run more on time. You guys should promote the heck out of this run in running mags, it was fast and great.

81: provide timing chips, set up mats at the splits - 10k, 13.1, 18k, etc. to give participants data about their progress.

82: Chip system for placement and faster results

84: just more bathrooms - everything else was very well done.

85: More b-rooms

88: None

89: Knowing that it will probably be extremely warm, event organizers need more aide and water station setup. Also, there need to be 2 porta-potties at each of the stations. I had to wait 5 minutes during the race just to use the restroom! Have the last few miles of the run going down Wyoming and

then hitting the trail system past Russell. I would have rather spent my last few miles on a trail running along the river instead of running to the mall. Lastly, make sure your finish line banner has "Finish" on both sides. That way family members can take photo's of the runners' faces as they cross the finish line, instead of their backs.

90: Have a "best of" competition for the tables, give toga boys a run for it. 2 PORTAPOTTIES NOT JUST ONE SO NO LINES AT AID STATIONS. Maybe a bigger medal, but hey, I know its the first year. And could you do something about the heat? A rain dance the night ahead of it? Earlier start for anyone that wants it? Or just make it a earlier start? Its a great race for 50 Staters, advertise to them, or maybe you did. That's why we ran it.

91: At least two port o potties at the first three half marathon aid stations and more at the start.

93: There needed to be more water. Mile four they ran out and towards the end in the heat there should have been aid stations every mile.

94: If possible, 1 or 2 more water stations in the half marathon especially with it so hot. Overall great thopugh

95: I was a little disorganized at the packet pick up are on Saturday. I did get out of there fairly quickly though. I would of preferred the expo to be indoors to escape the heat. It was too hot for me to want to browse the sponsers/booths. Wonderful event though. Have praised it left and right to everyone I know! Will be there next year

96: None, loved every minute of it!

97: Put on the web site directions to the package pick up.

98: Earlier in the spring or later in the fall

99: 1. Have more water points: at least every 2 miles up to Mile 18 then every mile beginning Mile 19. 2. Offer a discount to Marathon Maniacs and 50 States Club. Many out-of-state runners belong to one or both clubs. Have a "reunion" at your race. It will bring in even more members. 3. Start the half marathon an hour later. It will ease your bussing requirements. Also, catching up with slow halfers is good for the ego. 4. Publicize the free parking meters and garage. Non-locals don't know about it. 5. Have a pre-race pasta party! We Maniacs and 50 Staters really like having a place to meet and mingle. Some marathons also have a party the evening after the run.

101: An indoor packet pick up with more vendors, a medal that is more representative of Montana,i.e. Grizzly,Mountains.Timing chips!!!!

102: keeping people invloved and knowledge of changes and what is happening, other events that could participate at the same time while in the area

105: Chip timing. Not all the water stations were marked on the course map.

- 106: Start the race earlier to avoid the heat.
- 107: find a new results team, get some breakfast vendors for caras park. for the most part though, this was an awesome event
- 108: more water stations. i gues i should have run with my own bottle. but when i ate my power bar half way through, on big flat road, the water stations were limited, and i was thirsty. i think?
- 109: More shade toward end of course and possibly moving event to cooler time of year.
- 111: It would be great to have more than one toilet at the aid stations (I participated in the half marathon). Need to have goodie bags with coupons from local businesses. Need to provide some sort of cloth bag for participants rather than just a t-shirt. Need better directions to packet pick up and buses on the web site.
- 112: chip timing in the future(when you get over 3000 runners)
- 113: Explain to runners not to remove small tab at bottom of number. Explain why.
- 114: Have greater space between the water and energy drink at the aid stations. The awards ceremony should start much sooner. I won an award but had to leave early to catch a flight.
- 115: Knowing that it would add to the registration cost, I would still prefer some sort of timing chip to better gage race time.
- 116: Perhaps there could be a chip system, but you seemed to get peoples times in okay so whatever works.
- 117: None
- 119: have cold water at the water stops instead of warm watr
- 120: More press so that more people could come out to cheer
- 122: More tolies at the start of the race and a early start time of 5:30 or 5am to beat the heat.
- 123: I know running marathons in Montana allows a small window of opportunity, but everyone seemed to do OK with the heat. Maybe make the "Expo" indoors at a convention center, or the university, at least then you could make it bigger. Then we would spend more money.....
- 124: Only the restrooms.
- 125: More bathrooms at the finish and start of the race. Aid stations actually placed at every other mile marker - or at least placed at the mile markers. Doesn't matter too much how frequent, but they should be in very predictable locations, with very predictable supplies. Chip timing would be nice.
- 126: Microchips for more accurate timing. A route that doesn't include too much blacktop which made it seem hotter than it really was.

- 127: None...except...if possible more nutrition out on the course.
- 128: (see above)
- 129: just keep doing it! It will get better and better.
- 131: hold it in April/May or Sep/Oct. Ther route was great, but the heat - even if there had been normal temperatures - made the run extremely tough.
- 132: use timing chips
- 134: See previous answer.
- 135: Place the expo in a building and have enough "goodies bags" for all that pre-registered.
- 136: timing chips see above
- 137: Timing chips would be great. For example, my watch time for my marathon was 3:45:40, yet my finish time was 3:50. I think timing chips are a marathoner's best friend! Maybe an earlier start(even by 15 minutes would be nice) would make it more comfortable. But all in all, It was a great experience overall. Thank you. Highlight of my summer , so far.
- 139: The race should use timing chips, and results could be posted sooner on the web.
- 140: As the event grows in numbers I think you'll find that the number of restrooms will need to increase as well (at least at the start line).
- 141: Consider starting half hour earlier. This was a very hot day and it warmed up fast. Timing chips if you can afford them, but the finish clock should be there.
- 142: the add stations at the end need to be closer spaced and better stocked
- 143: Maybe a little less wait before the event. Otherwise, it was a great experience! Thank you so much!
- 144: More Porta-potties!!
- 145: It would be neat to finish at Grizzley Stadium.
- 146: See above
- 148: see above!
- 149: more bathrooms at the beginning of the event!!! overall though, very good work!
- 150: None other than a different time of year.
- 151: fix restroom problem

- 152: could consider starting the full marathon earlier to beat the heat.
- 154: put signs on the busses in the morning indicating whether it is a marathon or half bus. The bus driver seemed to be getting annoyed saying "half marathon" about six million times.
- 155: Other than the Portable Toilets - Nada. The event was PERFECT!!!! Kudos! Oh! And shirt sizes. I asked for a small and I ended up getting a size WAY too big for me. I want to wear the shirt with pride... not drown in it. *But the event was still notable, no over-sized shirt and lack of toilets will ever distract me from the true meaning of this race; the memories.
- 156: (See Q32) Suggest having different cups for water and "Gatorade" so they can be more easily identified. Timing chips are a "must" for this size of an event.
- 158: more porta-potties at start of race and maybe 1 or 2 in the last 5 miles (???).....
- 159: It would be nice if it started at 6:00 am or if it wasn't in July.
- 160: Perhaps begin the post-race festivities sooner next time, vary the course from this year's. Overall a great job and an awesome experience.
- 162: Definitely, not near enough port-a-potties for your registered numbers. Some more entertainment along the course would have been nice. Very surprised you didn't use chip timing-it should have been used.
- 163: n/a
- 164: Good question!!!
- 165: More water stations:)
- 166: Chip timing earlier start better medal opportunity for a beer afterwards
- 168: Have an accurate race brochure.
- 169: start at 6 am
- 170: Start earlier--at least by 6.
- 171: more restrooms, nicer shirts, and lower price.
- 172: earlier start, maybe? hard to say about that. with normal temperatures this might have been fine. As always, more porta potties at the start area were needed. i guess it depends on cost but at least 50% more would be good, at the start. More awareness of people on 7th St W to turn on sprinklers. Probably more liquid per cup at aid stations would be helpful. In general, I was very pleased with the whole event and my comments are more cosmetic than necessary.
- 173: timing chips more restrooms at start

174: none

175: I would love to have the 1/2 marathon course go by the university more instead of zig zag through town. I think that would be neat.

177: Timing chips would help for a more accurate submission of timing.

179: make it more obvious where the electrolyte containing beverages are

180: There was a water station RIGHT AT mile 18. I could not grab water and hit/look at my watch at the same time. I didn't like winding around the streets at the end. It was too many turns at the end of a marathon. The start time could have been moved to 6am. I feel that everybody was ready to go by then and it would have made a cooler finishing temperature for everyone. A finishing clock would have been neat.

183: keep doing what you're doing - you got it kicked off perfectly

184: See Q32 above!

185: I would suggest starting the race earlier and to have more sport drinks and energy bars like gatorade and power bars. The heat took the strength out of me in the middle of the race. Otherwise all was good.

186: Pick a cooler date — perhaps hold the marathon in June or start the marathon an hour earlier. Forget the kerchief and invest in a great "keeper" shirt. The energy drink wasn't tasty — go with PowerAde or Gatorade. Add another couple of portapotties at each aid station. Provide a more detailed map on the website with more detail about exactly where the aid stations are, where the hills are, the bridge, etc. Definitely add some more tented rest areas at the finish ... not enough convenient shady spots.

188: needed 2 porta potties at the aid stations. There were lines and I saw people using the bushes.

189: maybe a day in June?

190: Turn down the heat!

191: Get better shirts but other than that it was a great race!!!!

192: Chip timing would be the biggest thing to add for next year. Some tweaks to the course would be nice too....seems like there are nicer places in the valley to show off to out of towners than that Mullan Rd. section.

193: I understand this was the first year, but there needed to be more aid stations especially towards the end of the run. If possible with the city to show off some nicer parts of town.

194: 1. A race photographer-someone who will take your picture during the race and then via e-mail(through active.com maybe since we have to register there) you can buy your photo. 2. There is an

organization that offers ankle bracelets and an electronic timing system. some of the benefits include: accurate time, average mph, and my favorite about 100 yards from the finish you step on a door mat size piece of rubber which reads the ankle bracelet and your name and where you are from is transmitted to the announcer who can in turn tell the crowd who you are, it is pretty exciting.

195: Have posters made for all hotel lobbies for the marathon and ask them to offer marathon rates with late checkout. Give a list of recommended restaurants for marathoners.

196: The signage for the mile markers-- get a Sign Company on board!

197: more water points ... improve the scoring

198: too hot. pick a different time of year.

199: Grander EXPO event on Saturday?

200: More people involved

202: Better auto traffic control on the country roads.

203: The only suggestion I would have is to invest in chip timing - but I have no idea what the cost of this would be and if it would be realistic.

204: I guess what I didn't like above are also my suggestions for improvements. Overall, I did like the race and would recommend it to other runners.

205: Start the race earlier to avoid the heat. Use a timing chip. Change the sports drink. Have a pasta dinner.

207: See Q32

208: Better signage and organization

210: Better route through Missoula city limits

211: Maybe a 6:00 am start.

212: Make taking the bus mandatory

215: Due to the warm weather, I might suggest an earlier start (5:30 - 6:00 AM) and more frequent aid stations during the second half of the course.

216: n.a

217: Twice as many restrooms. I would suggest starting the marathon at 5:00 or 5:30 due to the heat. I also hope that the organizers will work towards reconfiguring the last three miles of the course so it ends up in the University area and in the Grizzly stadium. I know that was the original idea; maybe next

year? Overall, I had a blast at the race. I'm so glad that Missoula has this event now. I give many, many thumbs up to all of the organizers!!!

218: The only things I could see to improve the event would be to add more restrooms and change the time of year to a more conducive running time.

219: Celebration area close to finish. High tech running shirt-colorful. Cell phones between emergency people to verify who is recovering where.

220: see above

221: Consider either an earlier start time, or option for earlier start time. Use gatorade endurance at aid stations. The gel at mile 18 was not apparent. Have entertainment at more than one spot along the way.

222: Maybe more running on the trails Missoula has, better on the legs and better views.

224: More restrooms at start, better placement of water station within first ten miles, more people throughout the course for encouragement not just at finish, a finish time you can see as you finish, a sound system loud enough to hear who is finishing and a medal worth keeping to remember the race by.

225: 1) use lots of ice at aid stations to keep water cold. 2) provide cold gaiter aid as an option at the aid stations. 3) start race at 6:00 AM in order to offset the heat factor of a July marathon

226: Overall, I thought that the level of volunteership was extraordinary at this event and that the event was good overall, especially given that it was an inaugural event. My one main suggestion would be to change the latter part of the course with fewer turns and taking us into more beautiful neighborhoods and along the river more. Also, consider a finish in a park setting with more grass and shade.

227: updates on pace at the quarters

228: Consider moving the marathon to early fall or late spring to avoid heat and risk of smoke from summer fires. Aid stations must be at mile markers and no more than 2 miles apart. Use chips for timing, especially as the race grows. Chips will also aid in compiling results more quickly. Use gatorade, powerade, or other mainstream energy replacement fluids.

229: Start race at 6:00.

230: A few more bathrooms at the marathon start, but along the course was good. I know it's a small marathon and not well funded, but I was a little bit disappointed with the medal. It didn't reflect Missoula or Montana.

231: Just the few things I mentioned above which were VERY minor! It was fantastic... Thanks!

232: You could find someone to get the temperature to stay below 50 degrees till about 9 or 10

233: 1) More port a potties a the end of the race and maybe after the mall as well so have one for the last 2 miles. 2) I was dissatisfied with the shirts. They looked good but I think they need to be made out of running material versus cotton. It is a big deal to do the half and even the full and to just get a cotton T-shirt it is sort of a bummer.

234: Please put at least one porta-potty at the shuttle pick-up site. We ended up waiting 1/2 hour before our bus arrived and then left, and there was nowhere to go to the bathroom the entire time. And, of course, once we arrived at the starting line the lines for the the porta-potties were too long. Luckily, there was a local gas station where we were able to use the bathroom. One other small thing, would be to have the race packet pickup be held somewhere where shade is available. It was over 100 degrees the afternoon before the race and we had to stand in line in the sun for quite a while to get our packets.

235: Shuttle back to the start line, more bathrooms at the start line, better time tracking system, event staff that know what's going on (we kept getting different information), more organized aid stations so volunteers are accurate about what they have in their hand.

237: A lot more bathrooms at the start and change the course so it runs East to West and downhill, instead of uphill.

238: my only suggestion is more porta-potties at the starting lines to cut down on standing in line - but this was my first race so perhaps that is normal?

239: Just keep having it every year. I had a lot of fun and can't wait till next year to do it again!

240: Find a date during the spring or fall when the weather is in the 50's-60's.

241: Possibly slightly earlier start time to avoid potential heat. Rerouting a portion of the course past the University or at least through the University neighborhood.

244: see above

245: Invite more vendors to the bag collection day and post race awards ceremony. A band in the park would have been fun.

246: More potties for sure! A slightly less cicuitous route.

247: Change the course. More gels, especially for the full. Overall, it was great, I will be back for the half next year. Keep the 6:30 am start!!! Too hot to run any later!

248: If you have not gotten this feed back yet...my husband works for the town and the mentioned the success of the run the other day in their staff meeting but also mentioned that the color spary paint used to mark the road was orange. This is the same color they use to mark major water mains on the road. it appeared to be a bit of a concern for them. Perhaps a different color next year. also, we do many surveys like this (online) this is a great time to remind folks that it takes a great deal of hands to put on an event like this and to ask if they would be willing to be contacted about volunteering next year

(before the event if they are running) or for the event if they are not. you could ask for optional contact information. Thanks again for everything!!!

249: see above

250: Earlier start. At least by 6am in case it's hot again next year. Change the course to run through some nicer neighborhoods and include the campus too. Maybe some shaded streets would help too. Once I finish all 50 states, I will be back. I ran my worst marathon ever and I still think you guys did a great job.

252: Need to have more porta potties. Gel, Goo before mile 18 at aide stations, need at mile 7 or 8 and from then on out. More water at end of race, they gave out a bottle, but no where to refill. The results were a bit disappointing, but understandable. Chip timing is great!!

253: Cold water chip timing?

254: A little different route (not as winding through town). It wasn't bad, just a suggestion. Thank you SO MUCH for all your efforts!

256: I don't know how you can control the weather! Starting at 6:30 was a good idea.

257: More of the same.

258: Continue to offer an official early start for slower people. Have two clearly different cups for water and the energy drink- it seems like it was always confusing to volunteers, as to which was which, as well as runners. Go ahead and charge a little more for chip timing. Perhaps have a volunteer hang out around the after-race food tent, to keep away families / friends, etc. from taking what should be left for participants

259: maybe start a little earlier due to heat.

260: Better T-Shirts!!!! If you do a half marathon or a marathon you really want a cool t-shirt - even if you have to pay a bit more. LONG sleeves and perhaps made from some quick drying material. Otherwise - awesome event.

261: Maybe a few more water stops the last 10k of the race. I heard feedback from slower runners that some of the aid station volunteers kept asking if they were okay and wanted to sit down, this wasn't received well by them and they thought more encouragement could be offered instead.

262: Please give us a course map with the mileage on it, not just numbered turns. We couldn't tell our friends where to cheer us on halfway through! The directions to the race start were confusing for us out of towners, we didn't know where or what Lolo is or how to get the Brooks/93 from the side of town where we stayed (apparently Reserve also runs into 93/Brooks?). Chip timing would be amazing, and a couple more port-a-potties at the race start.

263: different course perhaps

264: Include a timing chip.

265: Different course, though I know how hard that can be! Really well done, overall. I was happy with the way it turned out. I'm sure they will get better at it with time. But, for a first time event, I thought it was great!

266: Change last 4-5 miles of the course to city streets that would be more scenic.

267: You need more Port O Potties at the beginning of the race. Maybe Chip Timing and if the event gets bigger, you will either have to change the course (bike trail is too narrow) or you will have to start it in waves.

268: Make early start @ 5:00AM.

269: If Griz stadium is not available as a finish point, then start the race further west of Frenchtown. And/or swing south after crossing McClays Bridge and go through old Fort Missoula working gradually towards Southgate Mall. Also, the bike trail along the rail spur was ugly and void of shade. A more scenic route through the old residential areas should be considered.

270: make last part of course shadier, more porta potties at start and along course

271: Strategic placement of water stops - more often on the open (to sun) parts of the course and uphill sections. Moving the event date to June - for a cooler race day temperature.

273: More porta potties at starting line; more H2O stations; more use of volunteers for traffic control; utilize all that want to help. THANKS -- WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL EVENT!!

274: A mail-out with need-to-know information. This was probably all available online but not in one place. The blog was a kind of haphazard way to send along information. Also more bathrooms at the start-- I think you have to assume EVERYONE will want to go within 20-30 minutes of starting.

278: I enjoyed this event. I will not be back as I am only running one marathon in each state but I would recommend it.

280: Because of the heat, I have found that offering cups of ice in the final 5 or 6 miles is a huge help. I was lucky to find some at mile 23, I shared the ice with 2 other runners, who were grateful.

281: At the finish line, have music and a large digital clock so we can see our finish times. Could someone shout out our times as we cross the finish? Could we have the finish be the Osprey stadium or Grizzley stadium? I love the Bolder Boulder in Colorado because you run into the stadium where every one can see you as you do your last victory lap.

282: Long-sleeve dri-fit shirt. Thanks for a great event, well done.

284: Nothing...can't wait to come back in a few years with my family and do it again. Hopefully, it will be cooler! :)

286: Just keep up the good work! More information(sooner)on the website would have been helpful.

287: Everyone was friendly. I was impressed with the Missoulians who came out and cheered for the race.

288: Make the packet pick at a better and more 'classy' location - Under the Higgins Street Bridge was a little too casual. More restrooms at the start would be nice since the lines were outrageously long.

290: more sprinklers can't ever have enough

291: It was the first year and you learn from experience just like I'll learn from running the race. Maybe next year some more of the local companies will play a bigger role because it brings in revenue and will promote the event a little more.

292: None.

293: More bathrooms at the start of the marathon. Provide gels earlier in the race and forgo the gels at the mall - it is too late by then. Have fruit and food at earlier stops. Have COLD/cool water at aid stations. Have results available the same day.

294: A better metal Bigger

295: Chip timing would be my only suggestion.

296: CHANGE THE DATE of the marathon to the fall, like September or early October. I would put more people at the first water stops when you have more runners coming through at the time. I would also put the energy drink more than water if the marathon continues to be in the summer. I had trouble getting the energy drink since it was often left on the table instead of being handed out.

297: Have more bathrooms along the course. More drink cups. Have a few more aide stations, especially since it is so warm and there is not much shade along the way. Have vaseline on sticks for people whom may be experiencing some chaffing.

298: Maybe a June run instead? Hard to prep in summer because it's so critical in MT.

299: Hold the event in May or June. July is too hot!

301: I would suggest an earlier start. Summers in Montana seem quite hot. It makes it important to take advantage of the morning coolness to avoid heat related woes.

302: If it is this hot (i.e. similar time of year), be prepared to double the water stations and have less people at each station: running in 90 degree heat is dangerous especially w/ some stretches of over 2 miles before the next station.

303: Re-route the last few miles to shadier sections, or areas through neighborhoods where sprinklers could be set out. The water stops were very good, but it would be great to have more music on the course. Some marathons have themes or costumes at each water stop. It really helps to see

something funny or clever at the water stops -- it takes your mind off how many miles you have to go! Maybe have a contest for the best water stop theme. It would be great to have more support for the slower marathoners. There are lots of runners who do a 4 to 6 hr pace. The slowest pace group that I saw was a 4:15. It would be good to have pace groups that go 4:30 and beyond.

305: Start the race earlier. It was almost 85 degrees out when we finished. You must have aid stations at least at every mile for the last 6-8 miles. Also, each aid station needs to be ready for runners with drinks already poured. Electrolyte replenishers must be available at all stations (and not watered down). Gels need to be available earlier than at mile 18 and at more stations. Also, it is critical that there are medical stations available for people. There must be more bathrooms at the beginning and throughout the route. At the end of the race, there should be more salt replenishing foods like chips available.

306: cooler shirt and logo, maybe something like the Run for the trees shirt logo. But marathon related. Start at 06:00 so the marathoners won't have to run in such harsh heat

307: None outside the heat. Maybe a cooler time of year?

309: Other than the potty thing, it was a wonderfully run event!

310: Time chips used. More port a potties. More "goodies" in the packet.

311: Change the date to May, June or Sept.

312: There are a lot of areas in Missoula that are so beautiful. The last 6 miles of the course was not very appealing. Maybe change the end of the course and add more water stations towards the end if it's going to be so bloody hot. Overall, I thought it was a huge success. I just hope the scenery at the last 6 miles didn't turn people off for next year. Maybe get some more music along the course.

313: No Dasani water! It makes me thirstier.

314: next time, dont do it on July or August

315: 1/2 marathon should start about 1-2 hours later then the marathon. Schedule for Sept or Oct.

316: see above; also the band was too loud at the after party, when people are trying to relax, something a little more mellow. also there were no more popsicles for the finishers when i finished

317: 1) More port-a-johns at the start. 2) Make results available more quickly. There are several different systems available for this purpose. (Some computer based.) There should be no more than a half hour delay before print out of the results are posted. As more runners finish you just tape the updated results over the previous list. Basic stuff.

318: 1. More bathrooms at the start of the race - 11 port-a-potties were not enough. 2. GU - gel - at earlier tables during the race.

319: More interesting race course.

- 320: Give out T-shirts when you pick up race number. Keep finishers tent up longer for stragglers...those people work harder than the front-runners.
- 321: Continue to grow this great event.
- 322: There used to be a trail marathon in the Blue Mt Rec Area in April, I don't know who was doing it but get that going again and keep the road race too.
- 323: Make the mileage markers more clear between the half and full marathon. Please see Q32. This wasn't a huge issue because I really think you all did an excellent job with this event. That was the only thing that I noticed that could be improved. :-)
- 324: Turn down the heat <s>. Earlier start; before it gets so warm.
- 325: none. I think they did a great job.
- 326: I have run over 30 marathons and other than the crowd support I thought the organizers did a superb job. Well done Missoula from someone who has run a full marathon in each province of Canada and have run about 8 in the US.
- 327: More porta-potties along the course.
- 329: It would be wonderful to have a pre-race pasta dinner- that is something we enjoy about most of the other marathons we enter.
- 330: chip timing system
- 331: Less pain, can you do that?
- 332: No suggestions--good job!
- 333: More portable restrooms at the start!
- 335: cooler month
- 336: perhaps early June would be a better time for it.
- 338: better expo, nice shirt, better looking metal,
- 339: I suggest next year you have timing chips. This way you can be accurate, efficient, and expedite results. Also, water at the aide stations should be cold, especially when its hot outside.
- 340: Give the warm-up instructor for the half marathon a sound system, it was hard to hear in the back of the parking lot during the warm-up.
- 341: More portapotties

- 342: Would like to see more sponsors at the Expo. Also, I did not like the Heed drink as much as perhaps Gatorade or something more palatable.
- 343: Tech shirts for sure! Route the race through pretty, shadey parts of town. More electrolytes available at aid stations along the course. Bananas, sandwiches, fruit juice at the finish line! Vegetarian-friendly food. Less LOUD music at the finish event. Manage massages better, maybe some privacy (in a tent). Distribute shirts at registration, or at finish event, not right after we finished!
- 344: time clock at the end of race
- 345: Give shirts ahead of time to ensure sizing, deliver what is promised, hold race in spring or fall, make route easier to navigate (more direct, less gallivanting around town blocks, etc.)
- 346: They could charge some more entry fee and have dri fit shirts that should say "Finisher" somewhere. They should utilize that beautiful logo they created for the medals. I was disappointed with the "star" medal. It was sort of plain. Maybe the MM directors should get with race directors from other marathons (i.e. Portland or Twin Cities - they have really cool medals!), and find out where they get them done at.
- 347: Bigger clock at the finish line.
- 348: Have Big Sky Brewery set up a wagon at the park. Don't grin Probable could not get a license or participation but hey I've gone to other marathons ie; Virginia Beach & Wisconsin marathons where the kegs flowed. Having the home town brewery as a sponsor at the finish would be a plus for both.
- 349: try to plan one later in the season maybe october
- 350: Just work out some of the bugs with the post race awards, everything else was great!
- 351: do it next year-- loved the course!
- 353: More Ice and earlier starting time for Marathon
- 354: Need security for end-of-the-race food area, so spectators don't consume the food intended for the runners. This will give food vendors more opportunity to sell food to spectators. Need more seating in Caras Park for end of event.
- 355: have more porta potties at the beginning of the race, the two lines were quite large.
- 356: The registration line on Saturday could have more directional signs on which line in which to wait.
- 358: Timing chips would have been helpful. The first half of the half marathon was really beautiful, but the second half of running through town with multiple direction changes was not so great and in some places the street surfaces were really rough and broken up. Could have used some more port-a-potties at the start.

- 359: More porta-potties were needed at the staging area for the half marathon
- 360: You could improve the route by taking a few of the turns out.
- 361: LONG sleeved t-shirts! Start at 6am because of heat. End on Higgins. Bands along the way??
- 362: Seek out more tree lined streets the last 10K towards the finish. Begin the race at 6:00 AM
- 363: There should be simple gifts to commemorate the event. People who organize such events should speak with people who have run various marathons to see what works. There should be door prizes--this makes the finish exciting for more than just the fastest runners. In Segovia, in Spain there was a great idea in which a competition was set among the spectators to see who could come up with the best marathon photos. It made the spectators feel integrated into the event as well as being an inspiration for the runners.
- 364: Please have more toilets at start & finish.
- 366: More than one restroom at aid stations and possibly change the date or start the marathon run at 6am to gain another half hour before the heat.
- 367: I would have liked faster registration confirmation, and race time posting, better course map with elevations, and maybe a marathon hat instead of a hankerchief.
- 368: Provide chip timing. Make an early start officially available as us older, slower folks like to get going before the sun catches us. Provide salt and salty snacks along course to help prevent the cramping that many of us suffered. Keep those nice volunteers you had and DEFINITELY keep the planners. It was so obvious to me when I saw the big "NO" at a remarked area that a runner did it knowing it's easy to be unsure of what you're seeing at that point in the race and questioning it is time consuming. That brought a nice laugh on. So, as a result of that, perhaps adding more humorous statements to the course would be a nice appreciated touch.
- 370: The route wasn't all bad. I don't want to sound like a complainer. I just thought the second half could have been better.
- 371: I know it is hard to find an open weekend with minimal event conflicts, but I would prefer having it a couple of weeks earlier to reduce chance of extreme heat.
- 372: Overall, I had a great time. I would like to see more businesses setting up tents and supporting the event.
- 373: Get route info out a little earlier. Otherwise, it was great.
- 374: Just clean up the results. Chip timing would solve this. Don't be discouraged; other than this, you did a fantastic job! I loved Missoula!
- 375: Earlier start time.

376: Maybe start earlier - 5:30 or 6:00 am - especially if the weather decides to warm up earlier in the season again.

377: I didn't see or maybe I didn't take the time to check it out more thoroughly but it only seemed that there were water stations but no real aid stations??? At Bloomsday they have several with vaseline, bandaids, etc. etc. -thatwould be helpful- I needed some ibuprofen due to pulled muscle previous to race and even tho I had dosed up before the race, I needed some near the end and at 2 stations I checked with they didn't have anything -

378: All in all I think it was great!

380: I would love to see more participation by homeowners along the route and I know this will come as the event grows and becomes more established. Also, the early hour precludes it somewhat. Would be nice to have bands at various corners as they do in Spokane for Bloomsday. Other thought is could it be held around the River Roots Festival instead of in the middle of July.

382: MORE RESTROOMS!!!!!!!!!! If more people in the community could come and cheer on the runners, it would be a huge boost for us mid-race. Also, it would be nice to have more booths at the Expo; it was pretty puny. Overall, though, I think that this was a very successful first Missoula Marathon, and I'm looking forward to participating in it in the future!

383: More sponsors with better complimentary gifts!

384: Start earlier(6 AM), improve result availability. I realize there are lot of fast runners, many of which do not consider themselves fast, but compared to mortals are...keep in mind those of us that take a little longer are putting in an equal effort, some of the pre race media sounded very elitist to me. At the end I think those who were slower were treated well, and had plenty of refreshments, unlike some marathons.

385: Race results posted that day.

386: Start the marathon about 5 miles east of Frenchtown. This would allow for improving the last 6 miles of the course by eliminating all the twists and turns.

387: More port o potties at the start (1/2 marathon) Add chip timing

388: For the marathon training - don't hold long runs on Sunday mornings; many people go to church then and can't make it. Different logo for shirts. For a first event, it was so very well done - not much to suggest (so that's good!)

389: I know it was the first annual, but the Expo seemed a little bit lacking. Usually, when you pay a \$40-\$70+ entry fee you get a little more than some brochures in your "goody bag".

390: Maybe have it earlier in the year(June?) when it is not so hot. It is always hot in Missoula this time of year.

- 392: More porta potties through out the event at water stations, maybe a little bigger markings for the mile markers especially for the last miles of the Marathon and 1/2 marathon.
- 393: more bathrooms
- 395: More advertisement on Internet, mag, etc.
- 397: Please have more pre race outhouses available in Frenchtown!!! Everything else was just great. Thanks for a well thought out and planned race.
- 400: somehow get parking at the start, and buses back to the finish line. But this is no deal breaker as the process went very well as planned.
- 401: any chance of running at least part of the course on a trail?
- 402: Definite designated aid stations. Better marked route. I came in third in my age group but was not announced at the finals. Is there an award for me. Don Marsh - 2:08:04. Age 60-64. email: donmarsh@frontiernet.net For your first time event overall rating is good.
- 403: Earlier start
- 405: Skip that mall parking lot next time at all costs... lots of black top + heat= misery.
- 406: More porta-potties at the starting lines!! Please have a visible, official time clock at the finish line. It would be nice to delay the half-marathon start by 1/2 hour or an hour, so there was time in which marathoners and half-marathoners were running together. That would also mean a more-consolidated post-race party time.
- 407: I COULDN'T DO ANY BETTER.
- 408: Start the even earlier, or consider moving the date to sometime in April, May, September, or even October. I, as well as others I have talked to, would rather run in rain or even colder weather than the heat we experienced there.
- 410: start at 6:00 Am and have results and awards available after the race.
- 411: Take advantage of our beautiful trail systems, in and around Missoula! At least double the amount of restrooms at the start, and have at least 10 at the finish!
- 412: Timing chips worn on your shoes. Also, getting other organizations involved in the Expo to make it bigger. I think several of the sporting goods stores could sell items there and organizations for other activities to do in and around Missoula would be fun for out of state participants to see. And for sure a new course for the race. Miles 3-12 were rather boring, and I thought there were better areas of Missoula to be seen.
- 414: More portable restrooms at the start-line of the half-marathon!

415: reverse the course of the 1/2 marathon to end in the mountains, begin about 30 - 60 min earlier to utilize the great crisp morning temps.

416: Have available more smaller sizes of T-shirts for those who finish the race later than others.

417: Keep improving the route, you've done a great job. Maybe we should start at 6 rather than 6:30. Right, it will be rainy and cold next time! Just keep fine tuning, and don't get too wrapped up in making things more and more excellent all the time, it will only drive you crazy. Maybe just one nice new twist or surprise every year to keep people surprised!

419: Given the time of year, the race (marathon) needs to have more aid stations after the 17 mile mark. Also, if possible, route the race through shadier areas of the city. An earlier start time (6:00) might help too.