



News Release

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CONTACT: Debbie/Brian Redman

301-468-6701/redmancomm@verizon.net

2ND ANNUAL AMERICAN ODYSSEY RELAY OFFERS ANOTHER "HISTORIC" RUN APRIL 23-24

*Larger Field, Course Improvements & Early Registration Deadline
Create Advance Buzz About Unique Team Event*

WASHINGTON, D.C.--If at first you *do* succeed, how can you make this years' version of the American Odyssey Relay (AOR) even better?

According to AOR Race Director Bob Fleshner, you keep the basics of the event intact—a **picturesque and historic 200-mile course from Gettysburg to the Nation's Capital for 12-person teams from across the country**. You then provide whatever enhancements you can to make what was universally acclaimed as an "overwhelming" success even more of a fun-filled one-of-a-kind experience. Here are just **a few of the things Fleshner believes will make AOR II a highlight attraction on the annual team running calendar:**

- an expanded field that can accommodate up to 250 teams*
- larger and better marked transition areas to eliminate any confusion as to course direction or the finish point of a leg*
- the addition of Sheppardstown, W. Va. to the course, making West Virginia the fourth state to be part of the AOR route*
- a Sept. 30 "Early Registration" deadline that encourages teams to sign up early @ www.americanodysseyrelay.com*

***the first 15 teams to register receive FREE
AOR fleece jackets for each of its 12 members**

***all teams to register prior to Sept. 30 receive
FREE AOR fleece blankets for each member**

All team members will run three separate legs of the 36-segment course and each team will be equipped with two vans to transport teammates throughout the race. Last year's

winning team—the *Bucknell Alumni Fossils*—finished in just over 23 hours while many teams took up to 35 hours to complete the course.

“We were, but more importantly, the runners were extremely happy with last year’s inaugural event,” said Fleshner. “We carefully reviewed the team exit surveys and secured some extremely valuable input that helped guide us in making minor changes to the course and adjusting some logistical elements to improve what was already a pretty terrific race. And, of course, it will once again give runners the chance to *run where the locals run.*”

This year’s AOR is again expected to attract teams from most if not all of the **32 states that sent participants to the 2008 race**. The percentage of teams with **military ties**—either past or current—was close to 30% last year and is expected to increase for the 2009 event.

Plans are underway to once again hold the ***Odyssey Oasis***, a mid-race festival held in Boonsboro, Md., offering runners some much needed food and drink, showers and other amenities. This year’s festival will be condensed and coordinated to improve access and transition areas, but it still represents a unique opportunity for participants to meet and interact with their own teammates (from the “other” can) and other runners. The course will then continue directly through the celebrated Antietam Battlefield and onto the C & O Canal, the Appalachian Trail and through Harpers Ferry before passing Riley’s Lock and entering Great Falls Park in Potomac, Md.

Details on the historic homestretch are still being finalized, but it will again feature close-up looks at many of the landmarks that manifest the magnificence of our nation’s capital. Runners of the final leg will head to the finish line against the beautiful backdrop of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials and the Kennedy Center.

In addition to the AOR items that will be given to the first teams to register, there is a financial benefit to signing up sooner rather than later. **Teams registering on or before Dec. 31 will pay a \$1140 fee, an amount that will increase to \$1260 as of Jan. 1, 2010.**

For more information, please contact AOR Race Director Bob Fleshner at bob@americanodysseyrelay.com.