



V.I. Pace Runners Bulletin: January 28, 2012
7th Annual Cruise-To-Run...First time in St. Croix...



Start: 2013 Cruise-To-Run St. Croix (#221 Rachel Conoff St. Croix Billy Bohlke/Jack stroller far right) V.I. Pace Runners Photo

The 7th Annual running of the Cruise-To-Run was a big hit in St. Croix as some 200 runners got a taste of road running in the Caribbean on one of the most scenic courses to be found.

In mass the runners strolled down the pier in historic Frederiksted after disembarking the cruise ship Adventure of the Seas carrying donated items for the Women's Coalition of St. Croix. They gathered at the fountain at the Henry Petersen Customs House and were welcomed to the island by the Trina Soto-Clark, Marketing Manager of the V.I. Dept. of Tourism, Brad Nugent, Assistant Commissioner V.I. Deptl. of Tourism, Sandra Satorie, President of the Board of Directors The Women's Coalition of St. Croix, Clema Lewis, WCSC Co-Director, Ronald Russell President of the Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation and Wallace Williams Founder for the Virgin Islands Pace Runners and the Race Director. Greetings were extended to Jody Friesen of Cruise-To-Run, Bart Yasso of Runner's World magazine, Sarah Reinertsen Ironman triathlete,

Paralympian and nearly 200 runners signed on for the cruise the unique experience sailing to and running on five Caribbean Islands.

There were basically two races in one as the event is a prediction run whereby each runner designates a predicted time he/she will run the 3.1 mile distance with those running closest to that time winning. Light showers helped cool the temperatures and make for a more comfortable run for the visitors.

Michael Stubber of Reading, Pennsylvania took the honors of coming closest to his time in the prediction race as he ran the 3.1 miles in 23:30.1 with a predicted time of 23:30; Barbara of Lakeland, Tennessee was second in 26:32.7 with a predicted time of 26:32 and Robert Laue of St. Louis Park, Minnesota was third in 24:25.3 with a predicted time of 24:28.

The first place finisher in the race and top male overall were Francis Stanbury of Seattle, Washington, his time was 17:28.7; Amos King of Lancaster, Pennsylvania was second in 18:04.2; Robert Metz of Louisville, Kentucky was third in 19:03.9 and Billy Bohlke of St. Croix, Virgin Islands and pushing his son, Jack in a stroller was fourth in 19:31.4 and Elam King of Strasburg, Pennsylvania fifth in 20:21.3.

Michaela Skelly-Lankford of Glendale, Arizona was the first female finisher in 21:37.8; Kiriam Thompson of Barrie, Ontario, Canada was second in 22:02.5; Margorie Olsho of Fort Washington was third in 22:08.3; Gail Magarrey of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada was fourth in 22:09.9 and Kim Locher of Smyrna, Georgia was fifth in 22:34.9.



Rachal Conoff #221 St. Croix Country Day School/St. Croix Track Club...first race at the distance ...V.I.Pace Runners photo

A few additional local runners showed up for the work-day event including: Sara Stamper, she pushing Eli in a stroller. Also running were Linda Nelson, Cynthia Whitehurst, Melanie Feltmate, Alexis Folger, Rachel Conoff, Ryan Hansen, Kathy Gabrelcik, Diana Lutz, Ray Lutz and others who ran the race unofficially.



Adventure of the Seas marks the finish line of the 2013 Cruise-To-Run St. Croix...V.I.Pace Runners Photo

Notes:

1] 2013 Stops on the Cruise-To-Run: St. Croix, St. Maarten; Antigua; St. Lucia and Barbados. Each island has a unique run.

2] For the first six years the Cruise-To-Run has visited St. Thomas and other islands. It was successfully organized in St. Thomas by STAR, The St. Thomas Association of Road Runners.

3] Cruise-To-Run 2013 St. Croix was in memory of Jerry Freisen, event founder and Joryn Turnbull of the V.I. Department of Tourism who coordinated activities for the event over the years in St. Thomas; both passed away in 2011.

4] Participants in the Cruise-To-Run made donations selected from The Wish List of the Women's Coalition of St. Croix and on-line donations of money. All proceeds from the St. Croix event including local registration fees benefit the WCSC.

5] Jody Friesen took on the continued organizing of the Cruise-To-Run after the passing of her husband Jerry who visited St. Croix many years to help with the staging of the Ironman St. Croix 70.3 Ironman Triathlon. Jerry loved St. Croix and made several friends including Wallace Williams, Kamal Russell and Shawn Hendricks. Jerry and Wallace continued to make plans for when the Cruise-To-Run would make port in St. Croix and looked to running in it together. Kamal Russell was under the tutelage of Jerry and his crew in Canada along with Isabelle and Mark of Sportstats while training him in the technical aspects of race timing and scoring.

6] Bart Yasso joined Runner's World in 1987 to develop the groundbreaking Runner's World Race Sponsorship Program, creating a vehicle for Runner's World to work with over 7,000 races representing 4 million runners per year. Inducted into the Running USA Hall of Champions.

Yasso also invented the Yasso 800s, a marathon-training schedule used by thousands around the world. He is one of the few people to have completed races on all seven continents from the Antarctica marathon to the Mt. Kilimanjaro marathon. In 1987, Yasso won the U.S. National Biathlon Long Course Championship and won the Smoky Mountain Marathon in 1998. He has also completed the Ironman five times and the Badwater 146 through Death

Valley. He has also cycled, unsupported and by himself, across the country twice.

7] Sarah Reinertsen stepped onto the world stage after making sports history in one of the toughest endurance events in the world — the Hawaii Ironman. This legendary race starts with a 2.4-mile swim (3.8km), continues with a 112-mile bike (180km), and culminates with a 26.2-mile run (42.2km), all in a single day. On 10/15/05, Sarah completed the Ironman World Championships in Kona in a very respectable time of 15 hours and 5 minutes, becoming the first woman to finish an Ironman on a prosthetic leg. A year later, she raced around the world on “The Amazing Race,” the Emmy-award-winning CBS reality TV series.

Sarah’s story has been covered in many national newspapers and she has graced the covers of many magazines, including Runner’s World, ESPN, Triathlete, and Competitor. In 2009, GPP Life published her book, “In A Single Bound,” an honest, touching and funny memoir about how a feisty, one-legged girl struggling to fit in with her two-legged friends grows up to become a world-class athlete and TV personality.

8] Wallace Williams in his welcome, shared some brief historical notes with the 200 plus gathered runners as they stood at the spot where on July 3, 1848 Governor General Peter Von Scholten of Denmark declared that all slaves in the Danish West Indies were free. He indicated that the runners would run on the same Mahogany Road and Hamm’s Bluff Road where slaves converged on the Fort to demand this historic moment.

9] The Cruise-To-Run St. Croix was sponsored by The Virgin Islands Dept. of Tourism; with the support of volunteers, staff and board of directors of The Women’s Coalition of St. Croix, The Virgin Islands Police Department, St. Croix Rescue and it was organized by the Virgin Islands Pace Runners and sanctioned by the Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation.

10] Full results can be found by logging on to: <http://virginislandspace.org>

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The next event on the V.I.Pace Runners calendar is the Annual Toast-To-The Captain 8.4 Mile Road Race on Saturday Feb. 2, 6am Christiansted