

Virginia Marathon

November 2021

**"The Virginia Marathon makes the Boston Marathon look as flat as a pancake." -
TODD MUSHER BRISTOW, VA - First Ever Virginia Marathon Winner 3:16:43.28**

The Town of Middleburg, VA hosted the inaugural Virginia Marathon on Saturday, November 6, 2021. 400+ racers from all over Virginia and the nation (Maryland, Florida, California, Kentucky, Michigan, and many other states) gathered at this scenic town for a race that spanned both Loudoun and Fauquier counties.

The Virginia Marathon was originally scheduled in Springfield, VA as a Mother's Day event - for May 2020. The global COVID-19 pandemic pushed the timeline back by a solid 18 months. The reschedule forced Old Dominion Racing (ODR) organizers to find a new venue along with a new date. ODR founder and CXO, Daniel Liechty, used this extra time to think outside the traditional Northern Virginia-centric box and find a location similar to many other parts of the "Old Dominion" state, Virginia. Known as Virginia's horse and hunt and also wine country, Middleburg is not far from the bustle of Northern Virginia at about 35 minutes from Dulles International Airport and 45 miles from Washington, DC.

Running enthusiasts traveled along infrequently-traveled paved, dirt and gravel roads, enjoying scenic vistas, horse farms, rolling countryside, good weather and plenty of shade. Some racers traded precious seconds with stopping and appreciating the unbelievable scenery and snapping photos with picturesque landscapes, horses and Fall foliage. Participants chose to compete in a full marathon, a half marathon, a 10k, a 5k, or a race-length unique to ODR called the Merikós, which is 3/4ths of a marathon or 19.65 miles (just short of the dreaded "wall" many marathoners encounter at 20 miles, the point when a runner's stored energy is often depleted). Athletes seeking a greater challenge opted for the full marathon or Merikós which took them up and down Bull Run Mountain with a total race elevation gain of 2000+ ft - the only race in Virginia to do so.

A combination of local volunteers, police officers, and directional signs ensured a safe race experience for runners and residents alike. Everyone was treated to classic Fall Virginia weather with abundant sunshine - despite a below-freezing 26 degree start. Families and neighbors showed up in full support of athletes, even the race company founder's mother, along with 5 of his brothers from all over the country. A local volunteer noted that most neighbors were encouraging and supportive stating, "I mean, how can you not admire someone running 26.2 miles with all these monster hills?"

Completion times for the full marathon ranged from 03:16:43 all the way to 08:13:15. As the last racer walked by a waterstand at mile 20 and grabbed his 4th drink, he told a volunteer "I ain't gonna quit," noting he "only" had six miles left. ODR partnered with RaceIOT to display the GPS location of full marathon runners in real time. To learn more about RaceIOT go to www.RaceIOT.com.

Volunteers and race organizers helped keep the route scenic and beautiful by picking up all garbage from the race as well as additional garbage on the route that was there before the race started.

Old Dominion Racing thanks the The Hill School - Middleburg, Northwest Federal Credit Union, Old Ox Brewery Middleburg, Lost Barrel Brewing Co., Knead Wine, Upper Crust, Fauquier County, Loudoun County, Reston Shirt, Trottin' Oxen, Great Harvest Bread Co., all the volunteers and the terrific people in Fauquier and Loudoun Counties for their support. Ten percent of race proceeds were donated to The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (www.fallenheroesfund.org). This fund is a leader in supporting the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, in honor of Veterans Day.

Race Results: <https://www.commonwealthtiming.net/2021-results.html>

Old Dominion Racing Upcoming Races: www.olddominionracing.com

For media inquiries contact Dan Liechty at 730-944-2665 or marketing@OldDominionRacing.com.

Word Count = 636



Winner of the 2021 Virginia Marathon, Todd Musher, Bristow, VA
Time: 03:16:43.28 Pace: 07:30 Speed: 8.0mph