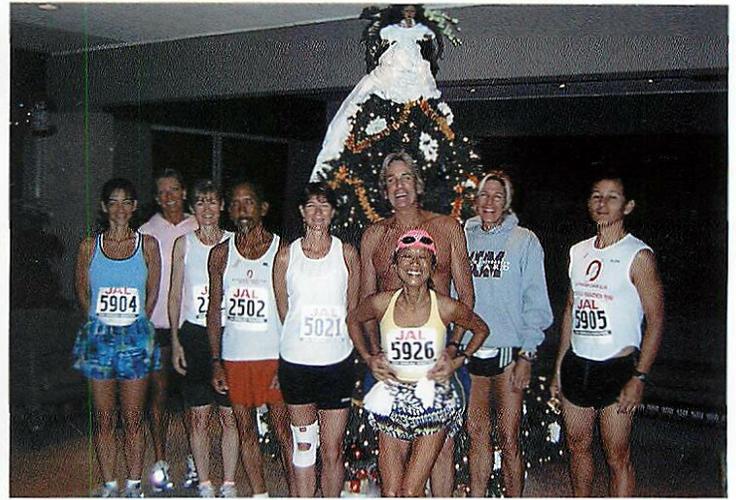


# Marathoners Don't Question Why, They Just Run

By Katy Bourne



Sarah Field finished her first Honolulu Marathon in 3:53:31. She is congratulated at the OCC tent by Katy Bourne who finished in 3:55.



Kris & Liza Kazenchak, Karen Torkildson, Arnold Lum, Pam Merez, Brad Coates, Sachi Braden, Katy Bourne and Gino Merez.

It is 4 a.m. on a quiet moonlight morning and Tommy Damon is blasting the OCC van horn with a huge grin while 15 barely dressed runners squeeze tight for that annual photo by the holiday tree.

The Club pot of coffee was hot and inviting to my sleep deprived body, in contrast to the thought of running at the fastest speed I could muster for 26.2 miles. Karen Torkildson's supportive hubby was there with camera, comfort and cheer, knowing he was soon on his way back home to bed.

We hugged each other for support, the "misery loves company theory", or perhaps it was the bond of anticipated pain before the joy of the holidays.

Why on earth do we do this? Can we think of no better way to wake up? Is it the muffins and cold drinks at the OCC tent in the park? Perhaps it's the bragging rights to confirm our loved one's suspicions of our insanity or maybe it's just 'cause we wanna.

I have no logical answer and have never heard one that resembles any form of intellectual genius, so why then?

I hate the question. Only people who have already decided your deck isn't quite full but want to see if you can possibly remotely persuade them otherwise, ask it. The timing is usually in sync with your inability to gracefully stumble down stairs the morning after. I can't even begin to explain how this marathon wasn't as much fun as usual.

Only a fellow runner can begin to comprehend most marathons being fun. Training on lush mountain trails, long laughs and endorphins from a beautiful run at sunset, the smell of eucalyptus and ginger on Tantalus, the sand through your toes along Kailua Beach, the smashing waves on the cliffs of Kaena Point, the smell of rain through Ho'omaluhia Park, the invigorating shower along Maunawili Trail above its magnificent valleys, and the sounds of nothing but nature and your own footsteps, make me wonder why ask why?

For those whose name is not in print, it's because you didn't record your time with the OCC Front Desk. There are 25,671 Honolulu Marathon runners to search through and I'd rather be out running!

The OCC Running Team is proud of you whether you're insane or not. Here they are for 2004.

If this group sounds like your kind of fun, sign up for the Perimeter Relay at the Front Desk.

## Honolulu Marathon December 12, 2004 OCC Finishers

Gino Merez, 3:28

Wil Yamamoto, 3:40

John Akana, 3:43

Sarah Field, 3:53

Katy Bourne, 3:55

JoAnne Klinke, 3:55

Lynne Wooddell, 4:13

Matt Kresser, 4:37

Terri Field, 4:41

Karen Torkildson, 4:42

Pamela Merez, 5:01

Arnold Lum, 5:30

Colleen McAluney, 6:03

Madonna Reisert, 6:52