

## AUGUST 2016

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This month we did some super decent things, like celebrated July 4th, got to see Joey Barone and Zoe Rogers put on a comedy show at [Westside Comedy Theater](#) for the group, and visited Chris Hendricks in Cardiff for a sleepy weekend. With the race just around the corner, the POR team is focused on putting final touches on our other events and is ready to start the heavy lifting on the race prep. In order to catch everyone up on the newest news regarding POR, we are starting this newsletter to let you know how much fun we are having.

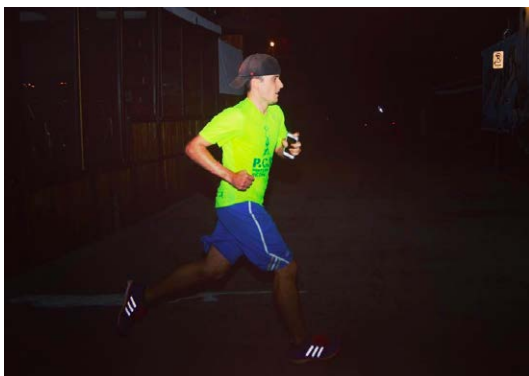
So here we go....

On 4th of July we had a fundraiser and party on the volleyball courts of Manhattan Beach. The Brown family came down (more about them below) and learned how to play cornhole with us. It was a fun time as we had a lot of meerkats in from Austin, TX and the local area. This will be an event we can do each year and have our POR families join us in a long day of beach sports and celebrating America.

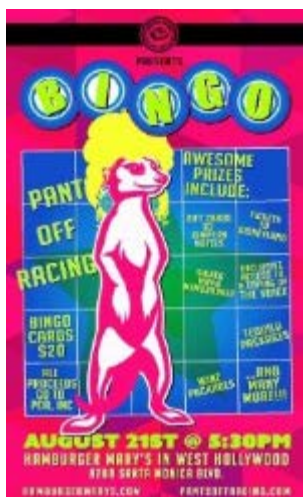
This past week we met with Rebel Coast Winery. They showed us their new digs and told us they hope to be at the race for everyone to do some wine tasting, and of course run without pants. Their label is super fun and a lot like the organization we run, so hopefully we have more support from them in the future. By the time we left, they were wearing POR hats and eating DiGiorno pizza.



Every week we meet up with [BlacklistLA](#). This group focuses on bringing a fun run to the masses. A group of meerkats and meerkittens assembles with BlacklistLA, and has been for the past 6 months. There are typically about 300 runners that meet 3 times a week. We join them on Monday nights @ 10pm. So while everyone else is sleeping we are sautéing some miles. Check out the pics from the group runs and feel free to join us any Monday.

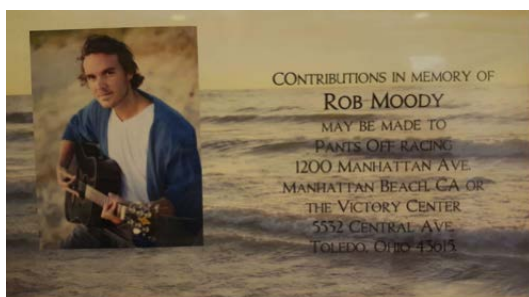


Comedy with Joey and Zoe was a night that was non stop jokes, with no censor and nothing off limits. The comics were from a variety of famous shows, stages and late night comedies - only the best at POR! We are so grateful for their donations--their time and energy! A huge thank you to all our supporters who came out to the Westside Comedy Theater - truly a memorable affair.



This month our event is at [Hamburger Mary's](#). This bingo is nothing like the bingo your parents used to play. Get ready for a production as only they could get away with in West Hollywood. Prizes will be given for the winners of each of the bingo games, and nearly 100% of the proceeds from selling bingo cards will go to the charity. Tell some friends and reserve tables ahead of time. The cost to play is only \$20, and the food is pretty decent there. Games start just after 5pm on Sunday, August 21st. [RSVP here](#) to join in on the fun.

The reality of the situation is we have decided to help families that really need our help and are often pretty deep into the struggle with pancreatic cancer. This past month we have a lot of updates on some of our families:



Rob Moody: Rob was 36 years old and lived in Toledo, OH. POR had kept in touch with him and his wife Emmy. They have a 2 year old daughter that has seen her dad sick her whole life. Annie Rapson has been their sentry meerkitten and has brightened their days through gifts. Even Austin, Texas's favorite orthodontist Blair Barnett got in the action, since Rob and Blair share the same



Leslie Fischer: She has battled pan can for 3 years. She has two children, 12 and 16. Up until June she was the only one working, since she

love for music. On June 27th Rob passed away, and the family was around after a long fought battle. His family made a nice gesture to POR and the help they received through the fight Rob put up. We plan on having them to the race this year. Also, John Amato has a goal of raising \$5k for the race to help the family. His goal is to get 10 meer-K sponsors for this year's race. That \$5k will go to start a fund for his daughter's educational fund.

had the insurance and her husband had been helping the kids but not working. After getting to know the family and spending time assisting them and helping them, she had come to us and said she wanted to do something this summer for her 45<sup>th</sup> bday and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She loved to travel and Portugal was on her bucket list. Long story shorter, we helped her buy flights and set up accommodations. Unfortunately she couldn't go but we continue to help her as she really struggles with her health right now. It's a goal for her to stay positive and healthy. We continue to meet with her and hope for the best, but her health continues to sway, and we need more good days soon!

There are some other updates, but those are the most significant to date. We continue to meet with the families and hope to add others as we hear from them. It is so important to raise money and find people to donate. The money goes quick as we try to help these families and plan for the race. The goal this year is to raise a lot of money to help sponsor the race and increase our participation at the [Almost 10k/5k](#). If you have ideas or just want to recruit more people, please make it happen!

One last note is a big update on one of our families. Each month we will do a longer write up to get to know one of the families that we are helping out. This is a family we have known for a long time and we hope you enjoy learning more about them.

### **Sentry Club: The Brown's**

POR meet the Brown family about 4 years ago. The family was introduced to the group through a non-profit organization called the Hirshberg Foundation. When we first met, Ilona had just lost her husband to pancreatic cancer and had two little boys (Max 3 years old and Leo 6 months young). Not knowing how to prepare for the initial introductions, we arrived and prepared to play with the kids and have dinner with the Brown's.

Recently Ilona had time to go over everything that had happened before we had met. She told us about her husband, Sam, who was a comedian from New York. He went to Syracuse and was voted New York's funniest comedian, which propelled him to move out to LA. Ilona was from the LA area, and after graduating from UC San Diego with a degree in literature and French she moved back to the Westwood area of LA.

Sam and Ilona met for their first date in 2006 at Katsuya. She recalls meeting for the first time and both walked into the restaurant at the same time. Before kids, being organized and on time was equally ingrained in both Sam and Ilona. So the date went pretty well and within 6 months Ilona knew that this relationship was going the distance. Two years later they were married.

Since we never met Sam, we asked for a little more on what he was like. Ilona explained Sam as a very outgoing guy, and everything he did was very thought out and large scale. He was a guy that could make a fun trip, great. He was funny and spontaneous, and full of life. Ilona was onboard with all of his shenanigans and remembers the Willy Wonka parties they would throw, as well as his blog "Meet my better half." Much of their happiness and

comfort came through the group of friends that they had built. This was very important to them before, during and after Sam became sick.

Prior to Sam's diagnosis he had penned a dark & playful skit titled: "Letter to my children if I should die". His father had fought thyroid cancer, and Sam's main concern was being around for his kids. Cancer wasn't an option for him, and he made that point through his comedy. Unfortunately 2 months after Leo's birth, he found out he wasn't spared from a battle with cancer. He started getting back pains and when he went in to see the doctor he was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of pancreatic cancer. It would quickly spread to his liver and in less than 6 months, Sam had passed.

Today, Ilona is very busy as a real estate agent and investor of properties, and a full-time parent. In the years since we have known her she has done pretty much everything you wouldn't expect her to do. She has conquered some of her biggest fears by performing stand-up comedy and an acoustic set of a song she had written to Sam. She also moved out of LA for the first time since college. She took her boys to Boston to be closer to Sam's family, only sparing them from the snow after a year!

The boys are 7 and 4 and have more energy than Michael Phelps. They are great athletes and love to go on adventures. For the POR family it is great to see the kids grow up and see them have fun and remember our names. Four years ago the boys weren't able to play sports or take trips to the aquarium or parks. As they get a little older it is fun to spend some quality time with them and provide new experiences throughout the city. Ilona continues to show her strength and will, raising 2 boys solo with that much energy can get tiring!

It is great to be able to call Ilona a friend and her enjoy playing and exploring with her kids. As hard as it is to see Max and Leo grow up without Sam in their lives, they are very lucky to have such a compassionate and attentive mother. We continue to meet with the Brown's almost on a monthly basis and look forward to spending more time with them. POR has always thought it should be "family first" and it continues to be deeply embedded in all our efforts and events.





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