

"The Boston Marathon Experience"



The first-timers, left to right: Bobby & Grace Johnson, Lise & Claude Ruel, Claude Picard & Johanne Parisien, Raymond & Francine Tremblay, Chantal Gerinon & Gilles Boutte, Peggy & Dotson Guinn.

by Katherine Melbern

While attending the "Pikes Peak or Bust!" rally in June of 2006, my husband Bob and I were approached to host a New England rally in June of 2007. Because "Pikes Peak or Bust!" was the first major rally we had attended, we were unsure about making such a commitment. Our only prior rally experience was co-hosting the club's two Canadian mini-rallies, held in 2004 and 2005. Also, Bob and I are not from New England, we're from northern California. We had been to the Boston area just once before, years ago. Subsequent rally committee discussions established that the 2007 Boston rally theme would be elegant, and that Bob and I would serve as rally hosts. Our planning began immediately with a whirlwind trip to the New England area. We spent months searching the Internet for the best caterer, top-notch

entertainment, venues, tours, and museums. We listened to prospective entertainer's music, read proposals, sent e-mails, and interviewed countless vendors by telephone. We thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

Normandy Farms Family Camping Resort in Foxborough, Massachusetts, was home base for our June 4-10 event. The staff of this special campground was wonderful to work with, from the efficient manner in which they checked everyone in, to allowing us exclusive use of their Recreation Lodge for activities. Another group that we want to acknowledge helped on the setup side of our event, our parking volunteers. Thanks to Chair Lou Watson, Hal Bjorklund, Dotson Guinn, Ted Grossman, Bob Melbern, Peter Naumburg, Bob Nolan, Bill Nurcombe, J.R. Potter, John Riley, Karl Roberts, Pat Ryan, Kit Thomson, George Tolley, and Bob Wood.