

# Stephanie “Stephinator” Snyder



I joined the Hacker clan in 2007 on a road trip to CIM. As a fence-riding Hacker who lives in Salem, my participation in Hacker activities is dismal, to say the least, but I will never forget my induction to the Hacker clan at CIM. I went along for the ride to Sacramento with my running buddy, Capitan Cully, after a somewhat disappointing 3:04 Portland Marathon. With no grand expectations, I set out to have a good time, run alongside Cully, and gather a bit of wisdom from a few running vets from Eugene. I learned a lot more than I expected on the trip. I learned that leadership is key (Al), humility makes a 2:34 marathon even sweeter (Mac), and you can never have too much smack (Taylor). The part about smack that defines Hacker-hood, in my opinion, is that it keeps each runner from taking themselves too seriously. Elite athletes by nature are self-centered and prone to self-condemnation. The element of smack makes this group of elite athletes unique – it adds levity to the dynamic and keeps each runner from the negative battle and inward focus (and spares the audience). You have to keep your head up high and your wits about you or you’re going to get smacked! I found out that being a Hacker isn’t just about speed, it’s about pushing yourself to your limit, celebrating each victory, and taking each disappointment in stride. I also learned that following a “little red vest” would spur me to a marathon PR of 2:58 and a brief possession of the illustrious “BOOM goes the Dynamite!” Claiming Taylor’s BOOM and leaving him to console himself with his “sweet mother of pearl” was about as good as it gets for this Hacker chick.

My running career began a mere seven years ago as I entered my first 10K in Tualatin. Prior to 2002, “a run” consisted of getting in the car and driving to the nearest liquor store. I never really knew the world of running and racing existed. I was hooked after my first race and went on to live and breathe running (and eventually biking and swimming). My running career personal bests consist of 5K 18:25:06, 10K 36:37:00, 15K 1:00:12, half marathon 1:23:08, and marathon 2:57:50.