



Wednesday May 22nd, 2013

TO: All Superior 25KM and 50KM Trail Race Volunteers

Dear Friends,

Sometimes as we prep for the big race a little paranoia sets in, "what did we forget, who didn't we call, did we place that order?" We carry on with our duties setting up diligently but these days, things sometimes seem to go, well, almost too well! Don't get me wrong, it is never easy, you all know that, but over the last couple of years the team roster has not changed that much and every new draft is as good as a first round pick. As the Race Director, I talk a lot and sometimes loud so people are forced to listen. Runners come and when they have a great experience they naturally come and say thanks to me at the end of the race - each and every time I remind them that I am like the quarterback, I have a decent arm but mostly I have great players around me and we have success as a result. Once again this year, our trail marking / sweeping team did the dirty work, those that arrived early Friday made the day a breeze, runner check-in was seamless and the race went off without a hitch, the aid-stations running like well oiled machines and the finish lined manned by a group of pros'. As many of you know, the end of these races are always the toughest - late in the fourth quarter the team does whatever it can to wrap it up and stay ahead. Everyone is exhausted from a very full day and when most "normal" people would be falling apart on the sidelines, our "players" are putting together a final drive, cleaning everything up, loading thousands of pounds of equipment back into trucks and making sure no detail is left unattended to - you are special people - there is no doubt.

As mentioned above, one of the great parts of being a race director is getting emails and letters after each race and hearing how our events are not only well run (as a result of your efforts) but also hearing how what we do actually means something to people and makes a difference in peoples lives. I would like to share the words from an email sent to me the day after this years race which speaks directly to what we want our races to be about and to your efforts that make this a reality.

"First I want to say thanks to all those who made this year's race possible. I ran competitively in high school, college, and after and would describe myself as hyper-competitive. Then I went through a period that, for medical reasons, I couldn't run. I've enjoyed getting back into the sport and thought I'd try this event. I'm so glad I did! This was my first long-distance trail race, and I can't remember when I've had more fun in a race. I was worried that I'd be dressed OK, would get lost, would finish, etc. The sign at registration that said, "100% chance of sun, 100% chance of fun" that really put me at ease, as did all the volunteers at registration. I found myself grinning throughout the run and since. By the end I was exhausted, cold, sore, soaked, and muddy, and I loved it! I found myself grinning ear-to-ear throughout the race and since then. I really loved the camaraderie: when anyone slipped, everyone nearby jumped in to help. This race totally changed my perspective on why I enter races. For that, and for putting on a great event, I thank you."

As always we cannot thank all of you enough for your help, your kindness and your friendship - it means a lot to the runners and the world to Cheri and I. As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, compliments or complaints, please feel free to drop me a line. Run Wild, Be Free, Rocksteady.

Sincerely,

John Storkamp | Race Director