



Tuesday May 19th, 2015

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

Dear Friends,

Each year and each race I find myself doing a few new things I had not done in years past. This year during packet pickup I found myself sitting in a chair across the room from the pickup area just watching the process - there was nothing I could do, nothing I could add to make it go better, smoother or faster - it was being handled to perfection by people who had done it before - in turn, they were teaching new volunteers what to do. This same thing was happening everywhere I looked; at aid stations, equipment and supply, HAMS, medical, timing, merchandising, the finish line and on and on. Maybe this is what they mean when they say "working yourself out of a job" - you see, people always come to me and say, "John, you put on such a great race" or "this is the best race I have ever done" and I always have the same answer "I just get the right people and put them in the right place" - this is not deflection or contrived humility, it is simply the truth. Volunteers are people who do something without getting paid, but so many of you tell me you get so much out of it - that makes me happy. I am however, not sure that everyone we have on the team are technically volunteers at this point... maybe your first time or two but after that so many of you just become part of this, integrated and immersed in something great, taking ownership and making this what it is, it is your race and I have learned that the best thing I can do is let you do what you do well and likely better than I could! I have nothing fancier to say this time, you guys are simply awesome and once again did a great job putting on OUR race, thank you for making it what it is!

As I have noted in the past, we know we are not saving the planet or curing Cancer by putting on a trail race but as I maintain, we do create an envelope for people to connect with nature, themselves and each other in a very natural and meaningful way - in turn I believe that people will go out into the world with spirits lifted, hearts full and will do great things outside of running. As always a quote to corroborate, shared by one of our runners...

*"I can't begin to describe the powerful emotions that these two races conjure up inside me. A new passion was formed immediately following my first Superior Spring Race. So nice to be able to share this with so many other passionate runners. Thanks again to all involved!"*

Thank you all for your ongoing friendship and support of the Superior Trail Races - it is impossible to do without each and every one of you. As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, compliments or complaints, please feel free to drop me a line.

Sincerely,

John Storkamp | Race Director