

2014 Post Event Report

What a race! Thank you all for making the 2014 Moab Trail Marathon, ½ Marathon, 5k and Kids K a success! What a wonderful group of runners and volunteers! And to Mother Nature for making one of the most stunningly beautiful places in the world even more beautiful with the perfect weather, the snow-capped peaks, and brilliant yellow leaves.

We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day, and as race director I attempted to make every effort to assure all details were taken care of, and I hope everyone is pleased. Our wonderful staff and volunteers were once again: AWESOME! Thanks to all of our helpers and making it possible.

I want to make a sincere apology to those ½ and full marathoners who were in the last 50% of the field for the back-up at the rock at mile 9.3. I thank you for your patience. As a racer myself, I would have been pissed (excuse my French...) and I realize this was unacceptable. Our marshals at that spot did not use the alternative routes down the rock, including the main route, and instead cautiously took everyone down the slow route. This was the first year in 6 that this has happened (with similar volume of runners coming through that spot.) By the time we were made aware of the back-up and able to get someone there to correct it most of you already had to "bear the wait." I am glad that no one got hurt but I realize the backup was unnecessary and unacceptable. I am sorry. I promise you this will not happen in the future. And once again thank you for your forgiveness. (Surprisingly only 3 or 4 complaints so far.)

Onto the highlights! Our elite field was amazing this year and it was so cool to see how smooth and effortless they cruised through this very tough course. Their championship status is well deserved and they are an inspiration to the rest of us! Three cheers to Dakota, who I sponsored 6 years ago with a comp entry and Milt's t-shirt and burgers. And look at this kid now! And to Travis Macy a one of a kind friend and amazing athlete and dad. Check out his book. And to Justin Ricks, returning for 4 years and top 3 every year! And to Megan Kimmel, who rocks this course and makes it look easy, amazing. And to Anita Ortiz at 50 years old and a top ten finish in an elite field. Heehaw!

And to the many stories I've heard from those who broke down personal barriers by participating in this race to achieve a new level of life success. Many of these stories bring tears of joy to my eyes. I can relate. From first timers to cancer survivors to those coming back from tragic accidents and those overcoming drug and alcohol abuse; and more. These stories are inspirational. The race, this course, this is a place "between reality and the other place" and it's a day when dreams come true and barriers are broken. And even those who just come back every year for the exercise and the beauty—that's cool too! Thank you for sharing your stories and being a part of the optimistic energy that makes this race special.

Our staff and volunteers this year were AWESOME and AMAZING! As race director I have to say it was truly a pleasure to work with the crew this year. Some of the crew has returned for the 6th year! And this year we worked with several local non-profit groups who were amazing! They will soon be receiving a check on behalf of all the participants of the race that they will put towards a good cause.

We had some special perks this year. Jeff G and The Fiery Furnace Band were amazing for the start of the race. And I hope you all enjoying 'Echo maker Evan' playing the native flute up Pritchett Canyon. Steve Moland did a wonderful job announcing every finisher. John Graham brought us the delicious "racer pourage". And we had the return of Mike and Mike to guide us through rope 1 and rope 2 and the wonderful Baileys returned for year 6 of 6 at Hunter Canyon, and the always energetic and optimistic Kevin Minard and Stacey Todd were super at the obstacle course and finish hill. Jim Aleff once again made some really special and unique age group awards. And Jason Bryant with USATF was super to work with and National Championship status brought the race to a new level. The team from Journey Racing couldn't have been better helpers. Friends 4-wheelin, John and Melissa, and Matt all served wonderful buffets at aid stations 'in the middle of nowhere'. Greg Poettgen was my right-hand man the 3 weeks before and on race day and he's wonderful to work with. Darrin and Jill from Racing Underground are the best around. We've been friends for years and they truly are a joy to work with. Our employees at Milts worked hard to serve the runners (thanks for the business!) And my family: mom, dad, BC and my two boys Noah and Will. They stood by and helped out for another year of race directing ups and downs. And my dog Taz, who without I wouldn't be here to have the opportunity and pleasure of coordinating this race. Good dog! Oh, and the bee's at mile 11.5 of the ½, could you please go away for next years race?

Onto some details: I have a pile of about 100 lost and found items. If you would like yours back please send an email describing your item and I'll send to you (please send shipping). I also have some ½ marathon awards unclaimed. Let me know if you didn't pick yours up and I'll send. Results are posted. What else? Please send feedback. Some I take, some I drop, but I read it all and in the end you will see that your feedback really does make a difference. Photos from Chris Hunter will be available soon and we will put a link on the website so that you may view and purchase photos.

I'd like to invite you all to next March 7th's Dino Duathlon and Spring Trail Run. This will be the first year of this event and currently the only multi-sport event in Moab (other than an adventure race.) It's organized by the same folks as the Moab Trail Marathon (that's uh, me). It will be pretty low-key this year, with plans to grow. Details of the course are still being confirmed with the BLM and will be posted at www.trainingrx.com. For those who "beared the wait" at the 9.3 mile mark, send me an email and I'll give you a code for 20% off the entry fee.

And...mark your calendars. Next year's Moab Trail Marathon will be November 7th, 2015. Registration will open on March 1st. See you next year and congrat's on a super race.

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