

Somebody always has to complain...

Ben - lest you get a big head from another fine race....I thought I'd issue some complaints.

1. I only found two ticks on my person, both of them small and more interested in hitching a ride than feasting on my blood.
2. The aid stations were entirely too well staffed and stocked. Given the number of runners that turned out for a post-holiday run, I was counting on supplies running out.
3. The mud was only shin deep at best. The addition of the fresh horse manure was a nice touch, I'll give you that, but it was not of a sufficient volume to make up for the modest quantity of mud.
4. The temperatures were much too pleasant. I know you can't control the weather, but maybe you should consider rescheduling the event if the forecasted heat index is below triple digits.

Sunday, I felt great with a total lack of burning urinary pain. I feel cheated!

- Mark Stovall

Mark,

Your complaints are duly noted. Here's my reply:

1. You can blame Tony Clark (1st Place finisher in the 50K) for the lack of ticks, AKA "Arachnid Americans." Tony picked-up a lot of hitch-hikers, (being one of the first runners to fly through the course). A couple of them were big enough that they bullied me into giving them finisher's medals!
2. We tried our best to run out of fruit, food, water, ice, and electrolytes at the aid stations. Our volunteers were shoving all kinds of crap into the runners' mouths in a valid effort, but vain attempt, nonetheless. Our solution: Next year there will be a "mouth size requirement" for any runners entered in the 15-mile or 50K events.
3. Lack of mud was a problem. Next year, we're going to stage a long-distance horse event on the same day, and have the Chinese Army help with cloud-seeding operations prior to the race. Six inches of rain just wasn't enough, this year.
4. If the temps aren't high enough next year, we'll initiate our "Harrison Bergeron Handicapper Standard." Any athlete that is not wearing a thick Winter parka will be considered to be under-handicapped, and should be regarded as "extremely dangerous." And they will be disqualified immediately.

Happy trails,
Bad Ben
Race Director

James Barker, course volunteer extraordinaire adds:

"What exactly are you doing on the trails to anticipate suffering from a "burning urinary pain"? And, more importantly, who are you doing it with?"