



Saturday April 19th, 2014

**RE: 2014 Zumbro Endurance Run Volunteer Thank You**

Dear Friends,

I start this years letter with a promise; on Friday, after commenting on how nice the weather was and having the audacity to suggest that the beautiful day was our reward for suffering through last year - I did knock on wood, really, I did. To this day, I still contest, it is easier running a race in the rain then it is volunteering in it - at least when in motion you can generate some body heat and have less time to wonder what the hell you are doing out there! In the end we don't always get to choose the conditions but we get to choose how we handle them and our group as usual had it handled! From our aid stations to photographers, social media, DJ, the trail markers, the equipment crew, medical, communications / HAM radio and the sweepers you guys nailed it again!

When organizing a race you can have everything in place but if you don't have the people, you don't have anything - so the sentiment remains, YOU, THE VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE ZUMBRO ENDURANCE RUN WHAT IT IS AND THUS ALL THE CREDIT GOES TO YOU. Obviously I have a vested interest in telling you nice things that are pleasing to your ears (since I want you all back next year!) but as has become customary, I want you to hear it direct from the runners that you help.

*"Running this race in the snow last year and thunderstorms this year, I can without a doubt say that this is one of the best managed races that I've been a part of. From the logistics to all of the great volunteers, this is a top notch race that I would highly recommend to anyone. Well, maybe not anyone because the course is pretty badass and not for the faint of heart. But great job to all the volunteers that helped put this race on! All of your efforts do not go unnoticed and are very appreciated!"*

*"It was a tuff day, cold rain, hail, mud with suction perfectly formulated to pull you shoe right off. Even with these challenging conditions every volunteer did absolutely everything to ensure everyone had a great day. Words fail to convey how incredible the RSR events, the staff, and the volunteers are."*

We all know there are more pressing matters in the world and that we are not saving it by running around in the woods but what we are doing is nurturing the human spirit, setting an example for others to get out and do something physical just for the heck of it and coming together for a simple goal, for fun and for joy. I truly believe there is a lot of value in what we do out there and that it reaches further than any of us may ever understand.

Again, thank you all, we could not and would not want to do it without 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