

24th Annual Montana Cup (10/31/15)
Hosted by Helena Vigilante Runners
Post-Race Notes (1/6/16)

What went right

- race committee did a great job
 - 21 members
 - met every other week starting the end of August
- course preview took place on August 2nd - Helena, Billings, and Butte attended
- pre-race publicity went great (and thanks to Joel & Jesse for Race Recap article too!)
 - Joel's piece appeared on the lastbestnews.com blog
 - Jesse's press release ran in the Helena Independent Record
 - Jeff's television interview
 - Jesse's HVR facebook updates
- the switch to runsignup.com was very successful
 - Smeltzer requested this
 - HVR uses runsignup for its membership already
 - Gov's Cup has had good experiences with them
- very good registration & attendance
 - 264 registered (surpassing our goal of 250)
 - 114 male finishers & 113 female finishers
 - 7 complete open teams in both races
 - 4 complete male masters teams, 5 complete female masters teams
- the location and course were very popular
 - easy to access from Interstate
 - great parking area
 - great shelter
 - very scenic & historic
 - mix of terrain, with mostly good footing
 - challenging & memorable, with a great climb!
 - opportunities for spectators
 - great hosts, and great price! (they were added as "Additional Insured")
- course was immaculately groomed & marked, which made it enjoyable AND safe
- barn cleaning party went VERY well (two-dozen helpers on 10/25/15)
- the weather cooperated
- we had plenty of water and refreshments on site, including hot beverages
- 10 porta-johns worked well -- and we had plenty of TP on site
- equipment worked well
 - A1 Rental for tables, chairs, and coffee cambros
 - (170 chairs was sufficient for the **264 registrants**)
 - (note that we only had **227 finishers** -- a reduction of 14%)
 - chairs were transported with horse trailers and dollies (50 at a time) using ramps this worked very well and saved lots of time
 - it was good that we covered the tables with newsprint the morning of the race (decided not to put out the crayons, to help prevent markings on the barn)
 - HVR water jugs, mile & kilometer markers, flagging, cones, etc.

- 10 garbage cans worked well
- directions to the site (including signs) worked well -- nobody had difficulty finding it
- parking coordinators did a great job -- worked well having two areas (lower & upper)
- hunter gatherers / greeters did great
 - pre-race signage helped immensely in keeping hunters to a minimum
 - offering them donuts / coffee was also a great idea
- announcing was outstanding, as always
- registration went smoothly (although we did have some lines - people showed up early!)
- people seemed to like the cinch packs
- communication with runners went well (one email & the packet stuffer piece)
- Incident Commander and cell phone text group for the volunteers worked well
- races started on time and we had clean starts (alley assignments also worked)
- lead mountain bikers did great
- course guards also did great -- no confusion / runners going off course
- course sweep went well -- all runners accounted for
- it was very good we had the ambulance on-site
- no incidents for the Jury of Appeals
- timing went very smoothly, and results posted quickly (thx Raz for hosting Matt!)
- awards went very smoothly (and people seemed to like the spikes)
- food & beer were very popular (although we did have some lines)
- photographers did a great job too
- we denied 2 requests for late entry & 2 requests for men to race in women's race
 - (the men had arrived late and still wanted to race)
- clean-up was very fast and efficient (Carson & Drew did awesome, table crew, etc.)
- good decision to keep things simple (no door prizes, video, live music, etc.)
- Baucuses seemed generally very pleased (and we gave them a care package)
- sponsors, volunteers, and businesses came through splendidly
- Ray liked his pumpkin
- stayed on budget (thank you BCBS!) -- HVR made a slight profit (about \$150)
- Helena runners did well! :)

What didn't . . .

- 3 medical issues (could have used more first-aid kits, & EMTs identified)
 - Missoula woman had accident on stairs and then didn't race
 - Billings woman collapsed on the course, but received prompt attention
 - Missoula woman had abrasion on hand
- check-in should be organized alphabetically instead of by region
 - (because regions tend to arrive all together, at least with the buses)
- clear signage to all services on-site (water, coffee, registration, etc.)
- Pat missed the Jury of Appeal meeting
- we fell behind schedule for awards (Karmadillos showed up 20 minutes late)
- spirit signs were much enjoyed, but took a beating from the elements the night before
 - should have laminated them
- should have had some porta-johns at the start line
- the jersey mix-up was unfortunate, but people didn't seem too upset
 - we offered refunds on request -- only 11 runners took us up on that

- the race distance ended up being 7.84 km -- should have wheeled the course earlier
(never got that change made with Competitive Timing for paces calculations, etc.)
- should have put "Ks" and "Miles" on my blue and green signs to avoid confusion
- we ran out of Ms
- didn't need to buy so many safety pins -- Matthew provided 4 in each packet
- Pat didn't get around to requesting sanitizer in the porta-johns -- did we need it?
- we didn't initially have enough cups for the water at the finish line
- we didn't have pre-designated volunteers for clipping timing chips

Other thoughts for the future

- figure out the jersey/singlet situation -- make pillows with the old ones? sell for \$10?
- need to order more bibs
- need to order more Ms and Js