

2010:

(POOR preparation for weather conditions) + (Bad weather conditions) = DNF, my own fault

2011:

((GOOD preparation for weather conditions) +(Bad weather conditions))/Safety First = DNF, RD
cancelation of event

Will I try it a third time???

I told the Buffoon (race director) I was not coming back unless chance of rain for the event was 0%!
Ahhhh...but I exaggerate. I'll be back - 3rd time's a charm....right? If there is another C2M in 2012??
Being prepared made all the difference in the world on how I felt both mentally and physically. Add to that the new things I've learned about being in an event with bad weather conditions – conditions we don't see in South Texas.

The most memorable issues/learning while out there:

Food – your hands are encased in gloves (ski gloves in my case - which worked great at keeping my hands warm), useless when it comes to doing the simplest task ...like pulling out a GU flask, unwrapping food wrappers or clipping your camelback's water hose back on its clip. Since I was too lazy to do some of these things my energy started waning about 8 hours into the run. I'd been burning lots of calories staying warm, running and hiking but had only consumed a small amount at the aid stations to make up for it. I hardly consumed anything in between Aid Stations once the weather started getting bad. I knew this was a recipe for disaster...and my hope was to recoup once I got to the Cozy Dell Aid Station (30.2 miles).

Learning – NEED to make an active effort to consume calories while in adverse conditions...even if it's a pain in the arse to get your gloves on/off and your hands get cold. Just do it!

Mud – You slip, you slide, you're surrounded by Poison Oak and it's dark, raining and cold. What a combination. It was the last mile or two (seemed forever!) into Cozy Dell Aid Station. I'll have to admit the mud slowed me to a crawl. I didn't want to eat it on the trail and perhaps fall into a large pile of PO. I was slow and careful...and it took forever!

Learning – Going down was easy, the going up was going to be hell! Stash a pair of hiking poles in your drop bag to help you with traction. Said poles can be used again on the way up from Gridley Bottom to Gridley Top later on in the run.

Alas, I never got to return to the mud trail and make my way up to the ridge. I was ready to do it. At first they were saying that no one was allowed to leave without winter gear. I HAD winter gear...I could still go! I had changed into dry tops and was getting my food out of my drop bag when it was announced just a few minutes later by the Aid Station captain that the event was cancelled due to the bad weather conditions. No one would be heading back up the trail this evening. At that time the ridge was experiencing 30 degree temperatures with lots of snow and very strong wind.

Peter V. and I actually arrived at Cozy Dell at the same time. He started 2 hours AFTER me @ 5PM. This was fortuitous since we both found ourselves at the same location when the cancellation announcement was made. We were given a ride back to the start/finish by Hank from Idaho who was there crewing for Andy Jones Wilkins. Peter, myself, another 100K-er and AJW (who had gotten to mile 68 of his 100M (he started at 10am)) were packed into this guys Subaru (Yay Subaru!) getting his fine leather seats soaking wet. Ouch. It was very nice of him and we thanked him profusely for the ride.

The next morning we all gathered around the coffee pots and compared horror stories...lol. It was very entertaining.

We heard that there were still volunteers stranded at the more remote areas (Ridge Junction AS) who had to spend the night in their automobiles and were planning to hike out in the morning. The trail descending the Ridge would be one giant mud slide at this point. I hope everyone was able to get out safely.

I supported the call by the RD 100%. There is no reason to risk people's safety at any time (runners and volunteers both). The volunteers have my heart-felt thanks for all they went through in the time the event started @ 6PM on Friday through midnight on Saturday. They were out there in the rain, sleet and snow trying to stay warm and in good spirits for us! I've volunteered in the cold and I know what they were going through. Thank you Volunteers!!

Well...that was my C2M 2011 adventure. I can now say I have run the entire course, but have yet to finish the actual event. Maybe 2012 will be a 'dry' year?