

My wife and I were driving to King of Prussia last night when she asked me a very “pointed” question that I could not initially answer. “How would you feel if someone got shot during the Dirty Bird?” Many of you that do our races have become dear friends of ours and are like family to both of us. After I thought about it, I could not answer any other way than to admit “I would be totally devastated”. The fact that I could contribute toward someone losing a husband, a wife, a child etc. due to our decision to hold the race on the first day of deer season would haunt me for the rest of my life! It would probably stop me from ever holding a trail race again and would lead to a depression that I might never, ever shake.

Because of this realization, **we are postponing the Dirty Bird to the 1st Sunday of January, 2020.** That is the FIRST Sunday that I have open in the future that we are not out of town or already holding a race. The 2nd Sunday will be our “backup” date if the roads are impassable on the 1st Sunday. We held off making this announcement until we could confirm that French Creek would allow us to move to this date. If you can make that date, do nothing. Your entry is already received. If you can make the new date and entered in the higher priced post period, let us know and we will give you a Pretzel City gift certificate on race day for the difference you paid. And if you are entered but cannot make the new date, let us know and we will refund your entry fee. Before we made this decision, we already refunded 20 entries of people that were not comfortable running on this date; almost 10% of our prereg's.’

And if this date is one you now CAN make, we have a new race application and have reopened entry online and by mail. Same time, same place, different date; Join us! We’ll send a copy of that race application out via our eblast or you can download it from our site. And we ask you to share this decision with all your friends. We are contacting everyone that has entered and everyone that gets our eblasts. But there are plenty of people that have not entered and do NOT get our eblasts.

I also URGE you to contact your state representatives about this year’s hunting decision. It’s one thing to move the date up for the thousands and thousands of acres that make up the state game lands. But WHY allow it to move up in state parks when this coming weekend will be probably its busiest for the next 4 months? A time when its campground may be full. A time when scouts and church groups may be tent camping there. A time when runners, bikers and hikers frequent the park? Couldn’t they have delayed the hunting ONLY in state parks until Monday??!! And things could be bad NEXT YEAR TOO! I hear that there is a bill on our governor’s desk that would allow hunting on 3 Sundays a year, but that the dates of those

Sundays is arbitrary and will be announced by the game commission months down the road, and may change from year to year. So, we could plan this event for the Sunday of next Thanksgiving weekend only to find out that they plan to allow hunting that day too. And we will have to postpone this all over again.

Again, we apologize for making this decision so late. I know that many of you have planned your weekend around this event. But I'd rather apologize for that than apologize to a family for their loss and heartache.

Ron Horn

Pretzel City Sports