

“DIRTY BIRD”

10 Mile Trail Race

Sun, Feb 7th, 2027 * 10 AM

French Creek State Park, Elverson, PA

NEW FOR 2027: Mid-winter date, new covered start/finish location; registration very close to heated bathrooms; a real plus in Feb!

NOTE! MAY BE THE LAST ONE EVER! DEPENDS ON TURNOUT

Online registration ONLY so that we have a central source of emails to use for contacting folks in the case of a bad weather or safety issues

When the temperatures drop in the Pennsylvania woods, thousands of deer scurry thru the forests and fields to try to avoid ending up in the scope of a hunter's rifle. Because if they DO, they will probably be dead. Since the Pennsylvania legislature totally ignored the needs of hikers, bikers, runners, etc by slowly allowing hunting to extend to 7 days a week, Pretzel City has ALSO been scurrying to find a date where its entrants that wish to wear antler hats don't get shot in mid-race. Because if we can't get the "numbers" up for this race, much like the deer, it will end up "dead" as well. This event has had to switch the time of year that it is held multiple times purely due to this poorly-thought-out legislation and that has seriously decreased our attendance. What started out as a Thanksgiving Sunday race has now been forced to move all over the calendar. And as a result, it is coming dangerously close to not covering the cost of holding it, and that could lead to its demise. Which would be a real shame, after holding it for 23 years. Plus, we changed the direction of the large loop that makes up the majority of the course last year and runners RAVED about the change and insisted that we KEEP it in that direction, which we will. The Dirty Bird is a classic off-road race with rocks, roots, downed trees, wildlife, lowlifes, etc. After a short road piece to stretch out the field, you'll enter a slightly rolling course; not "South Jersey" flat but not like Nepal either. 80% of the course is on rocky trails, 17% is on dirt road and 3% is on paved road. So, you'll have plenty of places to pass others. It is a moderately difficult trail run with only really 3 hills (nicely spaced) and long sections where you can REALLY open it up. It's an annual favorite of many regional trail runners and we hope you help us keep it "annual". **LEGAL B.S: YOU RACE AT YOUR OWN RISK & ARE SOLEY RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING YOUR DRUMSTICKS OUT OF THE WOODS!** Many of our staff are AARP members and we're too old to carry our own groceries, let alone carry your BODY out of the woods! So if you "jam a hammy" or "nick a knee", beg other runners to drag your carcass to an aide station. Also, we don't look for people that get lost that day so we can get to Sunday evening church on time (you buy that?) but you won't get lost as long as no one screws with our marks or you're a moron. Since this is a medium-tuff race, we'll allow teens to enter too IF they have a parent/legal guardian with them at the race. No exceptions; the medics can't work on "under 18's" without adult permission. Entry is also closed to anyone who named their child after a Star Wars character (except maybe "Luke"-BTW, we actually know someone who did this) and anyone who actually thinks that Vegan Cheese or Vegan Ice Cream taste GREAT! 'Cause they DON'T!

Mandatory Online registration at

www.pretzelcitysports.com

Open until midnight on the Wed of race week. Nominal service fee applies.

ENTRY/FEE Registration is next to the playground, right near the boat launch/ranger station area. Reg goes from 9 a.m. to 9:50. Race starts at 10 A.M.. **WITH shirt:** \$40 until Sun, Jan 24, 2027, \$45 after that date including raceday while the shirts last, \$40 once gone. **WITHOUT shirt:** \$35 until Sun, Jan 24, 2027, \$40 after that (VERY limited number of extra shirts will be printed so if you don't want to be shut out of a shirt, pre-empt even if it's after the cutoff date!) **Cash or check only on raceday;** VERY little internet or cell connection in park so no credit cards, Venmo, pay pal, magic beans, etc. No mailing of shirts or awards; no refunds. Rain or shine; (may delay race start if "lightening"). Racing with a pet IS permitted IF you stay toward the back for the first ¼ mile or so and it ISN'T a ferret, goldfish, dachshund (or any other very shorted legged pet), etc. MUST be on a VERY short leash at all times.. **PLEASE NOTE: MANY OF OUR STAFF WORKING REGISTRATION ALSO HELP AT REMOTE SPOTS ON THE COURSE. TO GET THEM OUT THERE ON TIME, IT'S CRUCIAL THAT YOU REGISTER BY 9:50!!**

GOODIES: Instant results, lots of awards, results on pretzelcitysports.com by noon of the next business day, WELL marked course if no one screws with it, heated bathrooms, loads of parking convenient to the registration area, 2 water stops, decent grub, course viewable at several points via car or bike, camping/cabins in park (610-582-9680) Playground nearby. Lots of goodies afterwards with the possibility of a limited amount of hot food as well; not confirmed yet.

IMPORTANT NOTE # 1: While Pretzel City LOVES running in SUSPECT weather, things may get so bad that the Park stops us from having the race that day; roads closed by state, hail the size of gerbils, escaped axe murderer on the course, etc. DON'T confuse "bad" conditions with "normal" winter weather that causes slow but still drive-able roads, etc.; we race in almost ALL conditions. Race to be postponed **ONLY** in extreme cases. In this HIGHLY unlikely case, a message will be put on the home page of www.pretzelcitysports.com as soon as we make the call (no later than 6:30 AM on raceday) . Our regrets in advance to those that get "burnt" from driving in the night before but PCS won't "control" this; the Park staff will. **IF POSTPONED, IT WILL BE HELD THE NEXT SATURDAY; SAME TIME/PLACE- PENDING PARK APPROVAL.**

IMPORTANT NOTE # 2: PCS shares the Park staff's desire to limit the long term impact of any race on its trails. If the trail conditions & weather that weekend require us to do so, we reserve the right to adjust the course, its distance and/or its "percent of trails versus road" to ensure that the trails will not be damaged.

AWARDS: 1ST & 2ND M & F overall plus the following: 0-39: 6M, 6F 40-49: 5M, 5F 50-59: 5M, 5F 60-69: 4M, 4F (60 & over for women) 70+: 3M **Clydesdales: Top 3 M and F Clydes. Clydesdale Qualifying Weight:** Men: minimum of 210 lbs. or 185 if 5 ft., 9 inches tall or less. Women: minimum of 160 lbs., 145 if 5 ft., 4 inches tall or less. Honor system; bulk up during Thanksgiving if necessary!

Park Address for GPS'ers: Use 843 Park Rd, Elverson, PA Starts next to playground; if coming from Rt 345, turn at the first paved left you encounter. If coming from the other direction once on Park Rd, turn right at the next paved road past the Rangers Station.

10M Course Records:

Clockwise: M: Rob Hampson Havertown, PA 1:02:12 F: Jen Esposito Kutztown, PA 1:25:02

Counterclockwise: M: Marcus Martin Lebanon, PA 1:10:26 F: Jacqueline Alnes, West Chester 1:16:43
(2026) (2026)

Questions? Concerns? Dirtiest Bird: Ron Horn, rhornpcs@aol.com (best means of contact) or 610-779-2668 day or night (but not during an Eagles game or the postgame show), www.pretzelcitysports.com