

# 2011 Race Comments

“I feel that you are operating a first class race and you should be proud of your baby. (I also forgot to mention that I love the medal and the shirt - bigger races could take example from yours).” - Guillaume C.

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“Having the high school crosses country and track kids out there on the course, is always a great booster and fun to witness their involvement. I think the Skagit Flats is one of the better races in the Northwest and certainly a well kept secret.” – Glenn J.

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“While it's never easy to walk off the course with an injury, I just wanted to say thank you to the support staff who were understanding and got me back to the finish area. The Search and Rescue team members were especially helpful and were great about making sure I was okay.” Kelly D

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“A friend of mine and I drove down from Vancouver for the event with specific intent to get him a good qualifying time for next year's Boston Marathon (which we achieved in spades). We picked the event for two key reasons: a) because it was the last event before Boston registration begins today (my friend had to get into some semblance of marathon shape in a hurry!), and b) it was close to Vancouver.

Not knowing what to expect, we had a great experience. Registration was straightforward, onsite parking was very convenient, aid stations were plentiful (especially welcome given the warm weather), and the atmosphere was very friendly. I wanted to especially note the aid station workers ... there was one at around 20 miles who went the "extra mile" with his mister and ran/sprayed so we didn't have to stop ... and there were several (part of a local cross-country team I'm guessing) who broke into a jog to give me water/GU (you know how tricky it is to not spill when you get a cup from someone holding one out).

These were little things that just added to a positive experience, so please pass along my thanks!” – Dave G.

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“Thanks for putting on a terrific event yesterday. Your volunteers couldn't have been nicer.” – Robert D.

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“Thank you so much for yesterday's marathon. All of the volunteers were wonderful and encouraging.” – Karen O.

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“First of all; thank you for such a well-organized enjoyable race yesterday, three members of my family, including myself participated and made many happy memories.

...I appreciate all the hard work that obviously went in to this event and look forward to running it again in the future!” Amanda L.

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“Great race. Well organized. Beautiful scenery. Wish it was cooler though. The heat definitely tested my limits. The Olive garden made for a nice pre race carbo load & the Hampton Inn was a nice hotel. Awesome volunteers...please thank them.” – Anders G

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“You did a great job with the Skagit Flats race.” Reed

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“Thank you for another super Skagit Flats Marathon. As I told you yesterday, please thank your volunteers for all of their efforts. They were helpful and very enthusiastic. It was a nice touch giving them rosters with runners' numbers and names on them so they could encourage you by name. The shirts are as nice as any you have given out and recognize the 9/11 events 10 years ago. The medal with the spinner is great. The weather was perfect. Warm for some, but just fine for me (not as hot as your Badwater run!). I hope to see you at a fall marathon. Thanks again for a superb event.” - Michael W.

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“Thank you for information re the problem of the timing at the start of the race. A problem that wasn't your fault. As usual, it did seem to be a very well organized race and it was so nice to see so many high-school kids helping out at the aid stations and at the finish area. Thanks also go to the Search and Rescue team who also helped out. The medals are super and so unusual to be able to turn them around. I received my third gorgeous plaque for this race, having run it four times - twice for the marathon and twice for the half-marathon. These plaques are so unusual and are proudly on display in my living room. The T-shirts are very nice and comfortable - a lovely color and design, and the red bags will be very useful. Thank you very much for all your hard work and for getting the results on line so quickly.” Allan K.

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“I wanted to take the time to tell you how GREAT your event was on Sunday. This was my 9th half marathon and by far was the best. I TOTALLY appreciated the fact that each water stop had COLD water. Most times water stops have luke warm water so it was great to have it cold! Especially for dumping over your head! And the sprayers! Fabulous idea! Even that water was cold. Better yet, having cold water at the finish line. The grub was also delicious! Overall, I was very impressed with the event and give kudos to everyone involved. My only suggestion is to have a water stop along that very long stretch of road. Sorry I don't know the name of it. I remember it though because it was hot, there was NO shade, it was straight, and there was no water. It was around mile 6-8 or so on the half. Thanks for a great race!” - Jennifer S.

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“Terry, thanks for looking out for Sonja. Your support group at mile 20 had her rest. Sonja said she needed to too. She started the race with three foot blisters that was bothering her as well. She doesn't know how to advocate for herself, so she needs the help. Thanks for doing so. Donna and I appreciate you more than you know.” -Doug

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“This is the 1st time I've run this event and even though I hadn't covered the 1/2 distance or further in the last 14 years just want to let everyone know how much fun? (Everything is relative) I had. Beautiful area but it was unusual (for me) to have as many long straight always as this course has. With my long run of the year at 8 miles I finished the 1/2 in under 2-1/2 hrs. and ran the entire distance and I give the aid stations a 10 plus. The GU was great and hope to be back next year. Also, the medals were very special. Thank you.” - Neal S.

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“Thanks to you and your team for a well organized and friendly race. The water stop crews were fantastic.” - John K.

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“Thank you for letting us know. I wasn't anywhere close to my PR, but it was nice to see I was less than 3 hours. I look forward to next year and getting my PR. Great race and love the finisher's medal and when the volunteers would call me by name. We all got a kick out of that.”  
- Mike B

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That's OK. I love your race and plan to do it again next year. Keep up the good work.  
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I have run 4 marathons and more half marathons than I can count and consistently enjoyed Skagit Valley Flats. The first race I ever ran was your in 2006 and that what got me addicted. Thank you for the awesome job you do and I am looking forward to next year!  
- Lauralee W.

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The race was a great experience. Wish I had been better trained and the weather had been cooler, but I had a great time running with my wife and sister-in-law. The volunteers were friendly and helpful. The organization was all that you could expect. You are building a great race for the community. Respectfully, - Brent P.

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Thank you Terry for being honest and admitting something was wrong with the timing. I am impressed with your integrity and because of it; I will run your race again next year. I thought my time was slow by about 2 minutes but dismissed it because it was such a big discrepancy. Even if I gained 2 minutes it would not change my result favorably for Boston. I did however, qualify. I ran one of my best Sunday, and thanks to all your volunteers for making it a great event.

I know costs must be kept to a minimum to make a great event. I would like to suggest for you for next year to add signage to inform motorists of runners on the road. Try to encourage them to travel a different route. Some drivers seemed irritated at the runner congestion and drove fast in frustration. Just a safety thought for your fun event for next year! Thanks again, - Travis B.

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This was my first half marathon and I thought it was fantastic. Your stations were well organized, well stocked and well staffed. I was almost surprised by everything that was offered. Thanks for helping make it a memorable event! All the Best,- Lesley

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Hi! I just wanted to drop you a little note to say thank you for the race on Sunday. This was my first 1/2 marathon and it was a very positive experience. I LOVE the medal and I have been proudly showing it off!!! Aside from the accomplishment it represents, it's just a very good looking medal! Thank you to all the volunteers cheering and assisting--they were all fantastic! You have great hospitality! - Deanne G. :-)

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This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> half marathon and my first time running the Skagit Flats. I was so impressed with how well it was organized, with the number of friendly volunteers and the overall positive energy of the race. I look forward to racing again next year! - Jessica E.  
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Your race was amazing. The support, the volunteers, the food, the start, the finish, and everything in between. And I didn't even mention the medal! Wow. That was absolutely fabulous. I was proud to be in your race on 9-11. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. About the mats: these things happen. It's disappointing to some, but that's just a cross section of real life. It's what you do with the bumps in the road that makes the difference. You are a class act. Thank you. - Laura

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I ran the half for the very first time at Oak Harbor in April, then Discovery in Port Angeles in June, and then Skagit. I loved Skagit the most - aid station kids were not in my face with the cups; there was watermelon, lots and lots; and the course was so simple I finally stopped being afraid I'd take the wrong turn and get lost. But yes, it was hot last Sunday, hotter than in Port Angeles, and after the turn half-way, the sun was in my eyes almost all the way back to the high school. But still, I'd do it again in a heartbeat. And I must say the most impressive thing about your marathon, Terry, is that there wasn't a bunch of crap stuff in my beautiful red Skagit Runners bag, there was no ridiculous belly dancing at aid stations, and the post-race food didn't include donuts. Yups, simple, small marathons with their integrity intact are hard to come by. For the experience of precisely that, thank you so much, and more power. Sincerely, - Maria J. (I clocked 2 hours, 48 minutes - yay!)

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I came from Surrey BC to run. Everyone was great. The young people at the aid stations especially. Nothing could be done about the weather. It was my worst time ever for a marathon but I learned a lot about my body, pacing and hydration. Will definitely plan on returning next year. Best regards and thanks. - Damien M. (finished 277th).

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I enjoyed meeting you on Sunday. As I told you then, I really appreciated the quality of the organization and planning for the (very hot) marathon. The young volunteers were wonderful – courteous, supportive, and friendly. Please thank them profusely from all the runners who were out there. I'm wondering if you kept track of the temperatures during the day. I finished in a little over 4 hours and would love to know the temperatures at 8, 9, 10, 11, and noon. Thanks again. Sincerely, - Ken T.

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Thank you for all you do to make the Skagit Flats the success it is. You have definitely have moved it to one of the "elite marathons" in the country and it's become that because of your hard work and dedication. As you know, I have logged 99 marathons all over the country and I can honestly tell you, you are running one of the best organized events in the US. Race Directors never get the true thanks and recognition they deserve and you truly deserve a huge thanks for your unselfish contributions. Thanks, yet again Terry, you are truly one of the best when it comes to putting on a quality race! - Doug M.

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