

Hi A-10 Runners:

Be assured that no one is more distressed about Hurricane Irene's decision to veer left over Maryland, instead of going out-to-sea, than your Annapolis Striders. The race committee put in long hours planning for the event and we are very disappointed. As an all-volunteer organization, we do the work solely for our love of the sport and the enjoyment of the runners. It was, however, necessary for the City of Annapolis to cancel the event as their police (and the county police) had other things to do on Sunday morning. To add insult to injury, Monday morning it was 65F and beautiful – oh what a difference a day makes. Many of us here had no electricity (or email) until Wednesday, but that's another story.

We thank the many runners who sent us supporting emails, expressing their disappointment and their understanding. Some of you included your ideas, which was thoughtful. Some of the suggestions were quite unique, like having the premiums re-stitched with "finisher" crossed out and "hurricane cancelled" put in its place.

A very, very small number of emails have not been so understanding. Two questions have been raised in a few of those emails. A few asked why the A-10 could not simply be re-scheduled. The fact is that there are no other weekends available to the Striders to hold the race as the Naval Academy Stadium calendar is booked through the winter and the City of Annapolis will not grant us permission for a different weekend as they have other major events. We were also asked why a refund would not be given. The bulk of the money collected in advance of the race was used to purchase the premiums, secure permits, place down payments on equipment, and rent the Stadium. Many of these payments are not refundable to the club. In addition, our obligation to the Anne Arundel Medical Center and other charities will be met despite cancellation of the race. These financial commitments are the reason that the race was advertised as a "No Refund" event and we must stick to that policy. Along similar lines, a couple of emails question the receipt of a "t-shirt" in exchange for \$65 (actually \$60, the other \$5 was an Active fee). Remember, the premium is NOT a t-shirt, but a high quality technical shirt with ½ zip opening and a zippered pocket. This item would have a retail price of about \$60-70 if sold in a store (not including the cost of the logo stitching).

Now a historical note – when our Governor's Bay Bridge Race was cancelled several years ago we were able to save money and provided a discount for all entrants for the next year. We are negotiating with our vendors and suppliers to obtain refunds or otherwise reduce our expenses. We looking at the option of providing a discount next year, but we do not have enough information to make a decision (and will not for some time). Another option is to use any saved money to provide a super premium next year.

Finally, we will advise you shortly about the distribution of the premiums. We are considering a distribution for locals (the Annapolis area) at a convenient location to save mailing expenses. An expo would be available. Also be aware that we must order additional premiums. While we have 5,400 entrants, historical 500-1,000 less run the race. We use the money saved by not ordering the premiums for the no-shows to obtain higher quality premiums. As we will be mailing premiums to everyone, we must obtain the needed premiums and that will take sometime for delivery.

Charlie and Will