

Rainshadow Running to take on Waldo 100k Race Management

The Northwest-based event management team will direct the popular Oregon trail ultramarathon, starting in 2017

WILLAMETTE PASS, Ore. — (Sept. 3, 2016) — Rainshadow Running will formally take over race directing responsibilities for the Waldo 100k, beginning with the 2017 race, organizers announced at an Aug. 19 briefing before the start of this year's race.

"We're proud to transfer the reins of the race to James Varner and the team from Rainshadow Running. They are aligned with our values of trail stewardship, post-race atmosphere and celebrating all runners." said Craig Thornley, Waldo 100k co-founder and former co-race director.

Under the new agreement, Waldo Ultras — the non-profit 501(c)(3) that has conducted the race since 2012 — will still "own" the race. Rainshadow Running will handle the race directing and the Willamette Pass Ski Patrol will continue to be the prime beneficiary and will provide the bulk of the race volunteers. Other organizations that will continue to be involved in the event include the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol, ham radio operators from the Lane County Sheriff Amateur Radio Operators, Eugene Mountain Rescue and the Oak Hill cross country team.

Rainshadow Running is an event management company owned by James Varner who has been directing races since 2004. Already with more than 10, top-notch, "destination" trail races in the Northwest, Waldo 100k fits perfectly with their other races such as Orcas Island 25k/50k/100 miler, Gorge Waterfalls 50k/100k and Oregon Coast 30k/50k.

Varner says, "I've been running ultras since 2001 and I ran Waldo in the race's second year (2003). The races we have created at Rainshadow Running were inspired by many of the classic Northwest ultras, such as McDonald Forest, Peterson Ridge Rumble, and White River, especially with the way they foster the trail community. At these classic races,

hanging out before, during and after the race is always just as important as the race itself and that's definitely what we try to do with our races. We look forward to continuing the great traditions of Waldo and maintaining the friendly culture and family atmosphere that Curt, Craig and everyone else have created."

More information about Rainshadow Running and their races can be found at: www.rainshadowrunning.com

Trail stewardship of the Pacific Crest Trail and the other trails in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests used for the Waldo 100k will continue under the new arrangement. Each year volunteers from the race clear hundreds of trees from the trails which are used by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrian and trail runners. Race volunteers have also been involved in tread repair, bridge building, and other special projects under the direction of the USFS and the PCTA.

Craig Thornley and Curt Ringstad co-founded Waldo 100k in 2002. The August 20, 2016, race was the 15th edition of the race.

Stay tuned for announcement regarding registration for the 2017 race at waldo100k.org and follow the race on Facebook at facebook.com/waldo100k