

The VIRGINIA HAPPY TRAILS RUNNING CLUB  
welcomes you to the

## Third Battle of the Bull Run Run 50

The trails you will enjoy this weekend have their most prominent historical affinity with their like-named Civil War battles, capsuled summaries of which you'll find in the following pages. This Third Battle fortunately shares no such connection, and thus initiates its own history with hopefully only ultrarunning significance. While the first two historical battles produced nearly 30,000 casualties, we hope all of '95's combatants survive this far less strenuous struggle and return home with their own stories of challenge and victory.

Statistics from our first two Battles:

<u>Numbers</u>	<u>First Battle</u>	<u>Second Battle</u>
Started	60	96
Yanks	30	55
Rebels	30	41
Open	47	70
Senior	13	26
Clydesdale	8	18
Finished	54	86
Women	5	7
Men	49	79
Youngest	21 (D. Johnson)	19 (Barberot/Carey)
Least Young	63 (D. Good)	64 (D. Good)

Records (\* denotes Course Record in overall Open, Seniors & Clydesdale Divisions))

Open Men -- North	Vassili Triantos, MD 7:43	Barry Lewis, PA 7:33:10*
Open Men -- South	Dave Horton, VA 8:15	Jim Spencer, FL 7:38:57
Open Women -- North	Debbie Roth, MN 11:07	Janet Stein, NY 9:21:44*
Open Women -- South	Barbara Fitz, VA 12:30	Jeanne Melanson, DC 9:44:15
Clydesdale -- Men	Mike Strzelecki, MD 11:32	Ted Massa, PA 8:29:25*
Clydesdale -- Women	Erica Russell, MD 12:48	Jeanne Melanson, DC 9:44:15*
Senior Men -- North	Art Moore, OH 10:18	Joe Dabes, NY 9:01:28
Senior Men -- South	Frank Probst, VA 9:44	Frank Probst, VA 8:45:35*
Senior Women -- none represented		

States Represented:

Your and our enjoyment and success in the Bull Run Run 50 can't be measured without the selfless volunteers. Those at the Aid Stations will be most visible to you throughout the day, and as you pass through each station and relish its abundance, please remember to say "**Thanks!**" for their contribution to your forward movement:



## Union Forces

Unlike the historical battles, the North won the Bull Run Run's first two battles. And while the disproportionate numbers for the North may suggest the Yanks' continued triumphs, we'll devise some convoluted, ungeometric, illogical scheme to "level" the field of battle.

## **The War\***

The Civil War was fought in 10,000 places, from Valverde, New Mexico, and Tullahoma, Tennessee, to St. Albans, Vermont and Fernandina on the Florida coast. More than 3 million Americans fought in it, and over 600,000 men -- 2% of the population -- died in it.

As with any civil strife, the war was marked by excruciating ironies. Robert E. Lee became a legend in the Confederate army only after turning down an offer to command the entire Union force. Four of Lincoln's own brothers-in-law fought with the Confederates, and one was killed. The little town of Winchester, Virginia, changed hands 72 times during the war, and the state of Missouri sent 39 regiments to fight in the siege of Vicksburg, 17 to the Confederacy and 22 to the Union.

At Antietam, the Union lost over 12,400 men (double those of D-day 82 years later) and the Confederacy, over 10,300, in the bloodiest single day of the war. At Cold Harbor, some 7,000 Americans fell in twenty minutes! Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the war. Almost a third of those engaged were lost -- 23,000 North casualties, 28,000 Southerners. In Pickett's Charge, half of 13,000 who marched out of the woods had fallen or been captured. Every single man of the University Greys, a Mississippi company made up entirely of students from the University of Mississippi, had been killed or wounded. In all, men who had never strayed 20 miles from their own front doors now found themselves soldiers in great armies fighting epic battles hundreds of miles from home. They knew they were making history, and it was the greatest adventure of their lives.

Women served in the Civil War much as they have in other conflicts, tempered by the values of the combatting societies. Certainly, when men left home, women took up the additional roles necessary to sustain life and order, often extending those duties to provide goods and services necessary to support the troops. In embattled areas, women (notably, Dorothea Dix, Mary Ann Bickerdyke, Sally Tompkins, Mary Livermore) operated through relief agencies to supply more direct assistance, including the mentally and tediously demanding activities of nursing. While the vast numbers of women served in these arguably "traditional" roles, women also fought alongside men. Donning necessary disguises to gain entry into fighting ranks, it's been suggested that as many as 400 women joined northern units. The South did not cotton to such concepts, history revealing no occasions of southern women in combat roles. At Chickamauga, a captured northern woman was returned to her unit with a note: "As the Confederates do not use women in war, this woman, wounded in battle, is returned to you."

## **First Manassas\***

The "first blood" of the war's first major land engagement occurred on July 18, 1861, at Blackburn's Ford (the stream crossing near the Centreville Road aid station). Subsequent

skirmishes brought more men into battle, with the major fighting shifting near Wilmer McLean's farm just west of the Bull Run Run course. While the South usually preferred to name their battles after towns, the North *nom de guerre* often chose bodies of water, as in First Battle of Bull Run. Not long after a Union shell ripped through McLean's summer kitchen and the two day battle moved elsewhere, Wilmer moved his family away from Manassas, far south and west of Richmond (and out of harm's way, he prayed) to a dusty little crossroads town called Appomattox Court House. And it was here in his living room three and a half years later that Lee surrendered to Grant, and Wilmer McLean could rightfully say, "the war began in my front yard, and ended in my front parlor." At the First Battle of Bull Run, 22,000 Confederates, first under Beauregard then Johnston, and McDowell's 35,000 Union troops, together produced 4,500 casualties and prisoners, with the South, despite its fewer numbers, routing the North in this first clash of the armies. One year later...

### **Second Battle of Bull Run\***

By the next summer the North had regained the ground and rail lines earlier captured by the South. Lee, after deciding that McClellan near Richmond wasn't then a threat, sent two commands north (under Jackson and Longstreet), again meeting its foe near the Manassas rail supply depot. Though decidedly outnumbered, Jackson's troops, which arrived earlier than Longstreet's, valiantly held ground that Pope's larger army should have controlled. And with reinforcements, the South again repelled the North in these final days of August 1862, setting the stage for Lee's moving the war out of his native South and into the Union. This second battle produced some immense strategic and political implications, yet its significance has been greatly overshadowed by the event that preceded it -- Lee's repulse of McClellan from the gates of Richmond -- and that which followed it -- the war's bloodiest day along Antietam Creek. Still, Second Manassas accounted for 25,000 killed, wounded, or missing...

### **The Last Days\***

In early April 1865, Sheridan's force of 125,000 was pressing on three sides of Lee's 25,000 near Appomattox Court House. With a string of recent losses, Lee recognized that the Union's nearly one million men outnumbered his own by a factor of ten. On Palm Sunday, April 9th, Lee dispatched a white towel (*cum* flag) along with a note offering surrender.

The day after, guerrillas provided what may have been the final fighting in Virginia, certainly in the Bull Run area. A company of the 8th Illinois Cavalry came upon a portion of Mosby's band commanded by Capt George Baylor, at Arundel's farm (still standing and known as "Brimstone Hill"). The Federals scattered the guerrillas in a running fight to Wolf Run Shoals on the Occuquan. Thus, until the very last, the peaceful valley of Bull Run witnessed the violence and bloodshed of civil war. Four days later, John Wilkes Booth would assassinate President Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

### **The Battlegrounds\***

The landscape you see today differed 130 years ago. Trees stood more scattered, offering little visual cover for approaching combatants. Ridge lines and other higher ground bore fields of grain and large encampments. The North first occupied land on the side of the Bull Run which hosts this ultra, the exception being the southeastern section farther away from the Manassas rail junction. While the rail area evidenced the most embattled action, sections of our event's trail still advertise remnants from adjacent battlegrounds. As noted above, Blackburn's Ford drew the first blood, and Mitchell's Ford (today's Ordway Road crossing) followed suit. Units exchanged fire down the waterway (you'll pass by a ridgeline artillery bunker about 4 miles into your run), with names such as Little Rocky Run, Union Mills Ford (where Popes Head Creek spills into

Bull Run), and Davis Ford (down the ridge near the Wolf Run Shoals station, that upland area then serving as initial bivouac for Union troops) finding specific identity in the history books. The rail crossing just west of Popes Head Creek reveals an insignia-etched reference to a Confederate unit, and just yards inland from the crossing lies a Confederate graveyard. Other more prominent cemeteries dot the landscape you'll traverse, these also having historical significance pre- and post-dating the Civil War. You will venture on hallowed ground, and in certainly a less consequential way, but still meaningful by your presence here this weekend, you'll add lore to this historic area. "Battle" with respect and honor... find your own victory... and come again to do battle with the Bull Run Run!

\* Text was drawn from three sources to provide these summaries:

The Civil War: an Illustrated History, by Geoffrey C. Ward with Ric Burns and Ken Burns, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1990

Historical Notes on Bull Run, published by the Historical Society of Fairfax County  
Return to Bull Run, The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas, by John J. Hennessy, Simon and Schuster, 1993