



St.Croix Marathon/V.I.Half-Marathon Bulletin: December 6, 2013

The 12th St. Croix International Marathon...39th Virgin Islands Half-Marathon set for Sunday December 15...

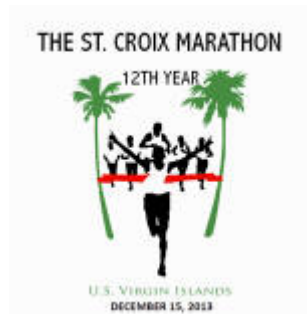
The 12th St. Croix International Marathon will be held in St. Croix on December 15 at 5am. In addition to the 26.2 mile road race, the 39th Virgin Islands Half-Marathon (13.1 Miles) will also be run.

The marathon the half-marathon provide local runners a chance to compete for V.I. national championship titles.

Advertised as flat, fast and scenic, organizers were forced to change the race course this year due to the physical condition of the race route along St. Croix's Ham's Bluff road which worsened as a result of heavy seasonal rain. The switch was made to the north shore of the island which provides views of Buck Island, St. Thomas, Davis Bay Ham's Bluff and is the location of notable movies including: "The Island of Doctor Moreau" and "Trading Places". It passes near historic National Park Service Salt River Bay and the Landing Site of Christopher Columbus.

Runners from as far away as Norway will appreciate the sea side course even though switch made the race (more rolling hills) go from challenging to quite challenging.

Expected to compete are some of the Virgin Islands top endurance runners including: Calvin Dallas a two-time Olympic marathoner, he will be looking for top masters honors in the marathon after taking first place in the race on two occasions, one of them on this side of the island; Billy Bohlke holder of V.I. records from 1500m to 5000m and former St. Croix Marathon champ. Ana Gutierrez, V.I. Olympic Marathoner Barcelona 1992 and defending champion in the race is expected to compete, if not in the marathon in the half. Mike Klein the current top ultra-marathoner (St.Croix Scenic 50Mile champion and his fiancé Brigett Campbell are running the marathon and Brigett is making it her second marathon and it will be their last race before they get married a week later. Troy Holloway a top V.I. ultra-marathoner is using the marathon as prep for the upcoming St. Croix 50miler in January.



In the half-marathon, Ruth Ann David the defending champion will get yet another opportunity to add to her list of V.I. champion titles, her competition will come from Theresa Harper her V.I. National Cross-Country teammate in two CAC medal winning competitions, Heidi Snow winner of the marathon two years ago will also compete in either the marathon or the half along with others.

Juan Robles, the V.I. national record holder in the Steeplechase and previous winner of the race and the top V.I. long distance runner is a favorite although recovering from an injury, Shane Deganes the current top V.I. master long distance runner and fourth place finisher last year will run. He and David are coming off victories in the last week's BVI Half-Marathon.

Age-group honors will go to a host of visiting and local endurance athletes including V.I. Triathletes.

Runners are escaping the cooler climate north for the subtropical event. Over twenty of them are signed up for the half-marathon with a dozen for the marathon.

A Norwegian documentary team that are following a small expedition that are going to cross the ice cap of Greenland in May 2014 are following **Cecilie Skog**, a famous expeditioner and **Truls Svendsen** a famous TV-presenter in Norway have selected the V.I. Half-Marathon as prep for the expedition.

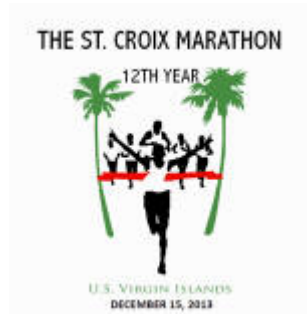
NOTES:

1] Numbers/chips will be picked up at the Buccaneer Hotel beach meeting room from 10am to noon Saturday December 14 where final technical information about the event will be provided.

2] Course tours will start at noon following technical briefing from the Buccaneer. Transportation will be provided.

3] The The St. Croix Marathon starts at 5am on Northside road near the intersection of Rt #75 and Rt #708 approximately 400 meters north of the Kingshill Post Office (this road heads to Lareine) and heads east to Salt River Road.

4] The Virgin Islands Half-Marathon starts at 6am on the North Shore Road at Arawak Bay...The Inn At Salt River



5] All races finish at Arawak Bay...The Inn At Salt River

IMPORTANT! Due to the physical condition of the roads on the route in Frederiksted which present a safety hazard to participants, the races will be run on the North Shore and Cane Bay Roads...the start of the marathon will be on Northside Road Rt. #75 and the intersection of Rt# 708 and proceed to Salt River Road and North Shore Road it will continue to Carambola Renaissance Resort and return to The Inn At Arawak Bay and turn around and back to Carambola and back to Arawak Bay the Inn at Salt River for the finish. The Half-Marathon will start at Arawak Bay the Inn at Salt River...head east approximately one mile...west to Carambola Renaissance Resort...east to finish at Arawak Bay the Inn At Salt River

For latest official updates logon to: <http://virginislandspace.org/stxmarathon2013.htm>