

**THE ST. CROIX INTERNATIONAL**  
**MARATHON**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2017**



Nov. 3, 2917

**V.I. Pace Runners forced to cancel events...Change marathon...**

The Virgin Islands Pace Runners announced today that the impact of hurricanes Irma and Maria has made it necessary to cancel a number of its events for October and November. The resumption of events will start in December to include the running of the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Croix International Marathon.

Wallace Williams, Founder of The Virgin Islands Pace Runners indicated in a briefing “the last time we canceled races was during the aftermath of hurricane Hugo in 1989...we were able to stage two races to kick off the 2017-18 calendar just before each of the hurricanes, the Labor Day 5k and the V.I. 10K Championships...unfortunately we lost 4H-V.I. Pace Runners Cross-Country season which attracts close to 300 youths and hosted at the UVI St. Croix Campus and the 4H Program...and basically we lost the October and November events.

**Annual Marathon revamped for this year...**

“The plan now is to stage the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Croix International Marathon on its scheduled date December 17. Given the circumstances we are revamping the event for this year only...instead of utilizing the northside/Northshore course we are going to confine it to a multiple loop course in the Christiansted National Historic Site...we hope to encourage the public to take part in what we are calling Recover Virgin Islands, for runners, walkers, spectators and sponsors...the runs will be the 26.2 mile marathon, the 26.2 mile marathon relay which will feature school children, the 13.1 mile half-marathon and the 6.2 mile 10K...

**V.I.Pace Runners celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary...to stage Virtual Races for runners everywhere...**

...an idea we have played around with on occasion is the “Net Race” or what is widely known as “Virtual Runs” ...they present the opportunity for anyone, no matter where they are located to run the race of their choice organized by V.I.Pace Runners and get their results recorded and ranked...in fact we plan to celebrate this the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Virgin Islands Pace Runners by offering Virtual Races for past events and we will start with the past St. Croix Marathons, and V.I. Half-Marathons and selected races on the V.I.Pace Runners Calendar, particularly the ones we canceled this year. It will be a great way for some of our runners who have relocated to stay plugged in...

Further information will be released as V.I. Police and National Park Service permits are confirmed.

**WHAT:** The 16<sup>th</sup> St. Croix International Marathon “Recover St. Croix” to include: The 16<sup>th</sup> 26.2 mile St. Croix International Marathon, The 26.2 mile St. Croix Marathon Relay for school teams, The 13.1

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mile 43<sup>rd</sup> Virgin Islands Half-Marathon, The 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.2 mile St. Croix 10k, The V.I. Pace Runners Virtual Road Race Series (internet event)

WHEN: December 17, 2017

5am Marathon (Registration Fee \$30.00)

5am Marathon Relay Start (Registration Fee \$300.00 per team = 33 runners)

6am V.I. Half-Marathon begins (Registration Fee \$30.00)

7am St. Croix 10k begins (Registration Fee \$30.00)

TBA Start/finish V.I. Pace Runners Virtual Road Races Series (\$30.00 each race)

WHERE: The Christiansted National Historic Site, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands USA

Course: .8 mile loop (multiple laps) Scale House Hospital St. to Steeple Building Company St. to Sunday Market

Square to King St. to Scale House (Hospital St., Company St., Sunday Market Square, King St.

WHO: This event is planned, organized and directed by the Virgin Islands Pace Runners which is celebrating its 40 year anniversary, sanctioned by The Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation with support of its clubs The St. Croix Track Club, The Mary's Fancy Track Club and others; its partners The National Park Service, The Virgin Islands Dept. of Tourism, The Virgin Islands Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation, to be named private sector commercial and business entities with the support and permission of The Virgin Islands Police Department, St. Croix Rescue.

This event extends an international invitation to all countries in the world through the international network of marathons and road races and usually attracts a variety of extreme marathon challengers.

WHY: The marathon is a challenging endurance event. It is even more challenging when run under sub-tropical and tropical environmental conditions. Under normal circumstances The St. Croix International Marathon never presents ideal conditions. Give this, the best of circumstances are sought in the planning of the date for the event. With the extraordinary challenges presented by the impact and aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria, event organizer considered the following options:

1] cancelation or postponement of the event for 2017 2] conduct the event as planned 3] revise the format and venue for the event for 2017 for reasons of safety.

Option three has been selected with revisions of the event to make it more accommodating to the fitness and recreational runners/walkers and importantly, urge community show the spirit of solidarity in participation as a rally toward recovery from the hurricanes.