

**To: 2009 Course Marshals**  
**From: Steve Blau**  
**Re: Final Details for Sunday**

Thanks for volunteering! This is our 25<sup>th</sup> year – a special milestone for the race organizers, sponsors, competitors, spectators – and, most of all, volunteers. It really would be impossible to produce an event of this scope without the hundreds of people who pitch in to see that it comes off smoothly and safely. Those of you who have been with us in the past know how important your contributions are. Those of you who are first-timers are about to become proud ambassadors for the largest annual spectator event on Philadelphia's calendar.

There are a few things that I want to go over – most of which you've probably heard already from Terri – so this is, for the most part, by way of emphasis.

1. **Prepare yourself.** Get a good night sleep. Wear comfortable clothes that are appropriate for the anticipated weather. Sunscreen. Rainwear (if rain is predicted). A hat. We're going to give you a tee shirt (they are dark green – and we have them in medium, large, extra large – and even a few 2X and 3X) and a whistle (bring a lanyard or some string).
2. **Bring some supplies.** We're going to bring lunch to you. It's not a big lunch. A sandwich of some type. Maybe some chips and a piece of fruit. And a bottle of water or two. We will probably have an assortment of sandwiches – but not a very big one (turkey, tuna, cheese – or something like that). If you have special dietary needs, please bring food that is compatible with your requirements – we may not have anything that meets them. Bring some water, too. And something to snack on.
3. **Where to meet.** If you are working in the Manayunk portion of the course, meet Terri at the North Light Community Center (where the Marshal meeting was – 175 Green Lane) at 7:30 AM. If you are working in the center city portion of the course meet me at the Volunteer Tent at 7:00 AM. The Volunteer Tent is located at the **Feed Zone** – the intersection of Kelly Drive and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway – to the right of the Museum of Art if you are facing the Rocky steps. It's hard to miss. Just look for a gaggle of people in dark green tee shirts milling about aimlessly and blowing whistles. Oh, there may even be a sign that says something like "Volunteers Meet Here". Unless somebody lost it. Or, more likely, "borrowed" it to decorate their dorm room.
4. **Parking.** Parking in Manayunk is difficult even when there is no bike race. There will be many road closures from and after 7:00 AM. There are no easy solutions – and if you see a sign that says "Vehicles will be towed by Lew Blum" they aren't kidding. Lew makes enough to retire every time we run this event. There is a paid parking lot on Main Street about a block East of the Green Lane Bridge. You may be able to find on-street parking in the neighborhood streets to the West of Green Lane – but you will probably have to park a few blocks distant from the event.

Parking in Center City is a little easier. You should be able to find plenty of on-street parking in the area just to the North of Kelly Drive and the Parkway. There is a large public lot next to the Eastern State Penitentiary on Spring Garden Street. If you don't mind walking (about 10 blocks), there's a relatively inexpensive municipal garage next to the Wyndham Hotel – around 15<sup>th</sup> and Vine. And there is generally street parking in the area around the Franklin Institute.

5. **Food and water.** As I noted above, we are going to bring food and water to you during the race. Here's how it works. We will have a refrigerated truck filled with bagged lunches, ice, and water that is located next to the Volunteer Tent. During the 4<sup>th</sup> lap of the race (the last lap of the women's race), a small group of Marshals will transfer this material from the reefer truck to the back of my pick-up.

Note – and this important – my pick-up is a **black 2008 Ford F-150**. It will be festooned with decals that say things like “Official Vehicle” and other race-sponsor-related stuff.

As soon as the women's race finishes (which is to say, at the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> lap of the men's race), I will start driving food and water around the course – beginning in the Center City area – then Manayunk – and finishing up on Lemon Hill (it's a great place to watch the race – but you get fed last).

Here are some *very important* things to keep in mind.

First, I will not stop my truck. I will roll past you at about 5 to 10 miles per hour. There will be three or four Marshals on the back of the truck who will be handing down bagged lunches and water. They will have a VERY LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME to hand your lunch to you (for those of you who need a more precise definition of what being handed a lunch means, anything within 50 yards of your hands counts).

The Marshals on the truck may be able to sort through the bags and get you a tuna sandwich instead of turkey – but probably not – so don't get your hopes up for that corned beef special you've been dreaming about since you found out your HDL level was somewhere North of DOA. It's a very imprecise and impersonal procedure. Picture, in your mind, a US Navy Destroyer dropping depth charges. Stuff comes flying off the fantail. The boat doesn't stop.

So, in order for you to make the connection between the lunches that are on the truck and your mouth you need to:

(a) Watch for my approach (lights and flashers will be on, horn may be beeping, hard to miss);

(b) **STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET WHERE YOU CAN BE SEEN;** and

(c) Walk up to the back of the truck and snatch the lunch out of mid-air as it is being hurled, more-or-less, in your direction by a fantastically nearsighted Marshal who dropped his glasses at the Start/Finish line because he also has a severe inner ear infection and is standing on the back of a swaying pickup truck. Oh and did I mention that he has a broken collar bone and his “good” arm is in a sling.

If you miss me (I will only miss you if you aren't (1) standing in the street in a very, very, very visible place, (2) gesticulating wildly while (3) hopping on one foot and (4) singing something I heard the Jim Kweskin Jug Band perform at the Main Point many years ago – “Blues In A Bottle” comes to mind – (5) with your hair on fire), you probably won't get lunch. Sorry.

It's going to be a lot of fun!