



Hell Creek Ranch

This past weekend, I participated in a trail race aptly named Hallucination 100. It's part of the [Run Woodstock](#) racing weekend consisting of a half dozen races ranging from 5 kilometers to 100 miles. The race took place at Hell Creek Ranch in Pinckney, MI. I embarked upon this adventure with Dr. Steven Donchey, MD, my college mate, client and business partner. Here is my 60 second synopsis of this insanity.



Historically, the Hallucination 100 has accommodating early fall weather with average temperatures in the mid 60s. At race time (Friday at 4:00 p.m.) the temperature reached the low 90s. I was told that it was the hottest day of the year; not the ideal way to begin an ultra marathon. Nearing mile 12, the weather shifted and what had been hot and humid was now becoming stormlike. Winds increased from a breeze to gale force; a tornado siren wailed for what seemed like forever; large trees in the forest started to bend and sway in abnormal ways. We ran as fast as we could to get to the end of the first loop, mile 16.7. After calming our nerves for 10 minutes, we hit the trail for loop 2 of 6. Early Saturday morning, we headed into the sun feeling as if we were going to fall asleep while running. The sleep deprivation was short lived as a pronounced rainfall woke us up and heightened our awareness. Nine hours later, I would describe our state as *Mud, Sweat and Fears*. The discomfort was disheartening. Everything hurt from the waist down; our quads were so shot from the undulation of the hills that we could hardly support ourselves on the slippery muddy descents; our feet and toes were "defeeted." The goal was to cross the finish line by sunset. The notion that every step taken was met with wrenching pain seems rather dramatic, but true. The final mile we banded together with other 100 mile stragglers and crossed the finish line together. We met our goal with little fanfare. It was more like we completed an impossible task and were utterly relieved to be done with it.

[William "Chip" Corley](#)