

On the Road to Baker

PASADENA QUALIFYING RUNS ROSE BOWL, MARCH 9, 16 AND 23

■ The LAPD team gears up for the incredible Baker to Vegas Run. Who will make the cut?

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

The LAPD Communications Division's running team spent most of March qualifying for the incredible run, scheduled for April 23 and 24.

The Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay is the largest and most unique law enforcement race in the world. It is a 120-mile, 20-stage foot race beginning at Baker, Calif., and finishing in Las Vegas.

The City Employees Club of Los Angeles is a proud sponsor of LAPD 911 Communications 21st Annual Challenge Cup Baker to Vegas Relay team.

Each runner had to run both 5-K and 10-K distances. This was in addition to various other training while they prepared to find out if they would make the cut and be part of the team.

Here are some photos and comments of team members as they attempted to qualify for the team that will participate in this grueling challenge of strength and determination. (Not all participants are pictured here, just those who attended these qualifying runs. Additional qualifiers included Sharon Dormitorio, PSR.)

Good luck!

Special thanks to Team Captain Anita Whited and Co-Captain Dan Basiglio for inviting us along to the trials.



John Craig, PSR II, 2.8 years. His first year running. When asked what leg he is qualifying for, he replied: "[I'm] open to punishment on any leg!" It looks like he is out to challenge Capt. Smith for Leg 3.



Adam Timm, PSR, 2 years. A second-year runner, he was looking to run Leg 1.



Maureen Carr, PSR, 2 years. A second-year runner, she was looking to run Leg 2.



John Harowicz, PSR II, 15 years, Club Member and third-time runner. His first Baker to Vegas run was in 1993. He was trying to qualify for Leg 2 or 4.



Lourdes Varas, PSR II, 16 years. A first-year runner, she wants the shortest leg.



Debbie Ramsey, PSR III, 9 years, Club Member. A fifth-year runner, she wants Leg 2 or 19.



Robin Frazier, SR, PSR, 16 years, Club Member. She's another support member who kept the official time during the afternoon qualifying run.



Angela Tumbeiro, PSR Trainee. As a trainee, this will be her first year. When asked what leg she wants to qualify for, she answered, "Anything flat!"

BAKER TO VEGAS BAKER TO VEGAS



Maria Coronado, PSR II, 2.5 years. A first-year runner, she wants to qualify for Leg 19 or 20.



Anita Whited, Sr. PSR, Club Member. This is her second year as Team Captain. She started running Baker to Vegas back in 1990 and has run five Baker to Vegas races since. She is looking to qualify for Leg 1, 5 or 6.



Angelina Ortega, PSR III, 6 years, Club Member. A first-year runner, she wants to qualify for Leg 10.



Capt. Andrew J. Smith, Commanding Officer, Communications Division, Club Member. Capt. Smith has been running Baker to Vegas for the past 15 years. He is qualifying for Leg 3, which he pointed out is 8.2 miles with four miles going up hill. Leg 3 is the hardest leg of the race.



Veronica Padilla, PSR II, 4 years. It will be her third year running, after having a baby last year. She hopes to qualify for Leg 11. Her sister, Officer Susan Padilla, is also running for LAPD Women's Team. Looks like it will be a family affair.



Cherie Parker, PSR II, 2 years, Club Member. This is Cherie's first year; she is after any flat segments of the run.



From left: Kim McClendon, PSR, 2 years, Club Member; and Robert Lopez, PSR, 1 year. It's not just runners who must practice. Kim and Robert are part of the support team. Kim must accurately write the times of the runners as Robert provides the runner's time as they finish their run.



From left: Sheimeikaa Wagstaff, PSR, 20 months, Club Member; Amy Tariq, PSR, 2 years. This will be their second year as support team. They are ready to hand out the water with smiles.





Gricelda Aceves, PSR II, 3 years, Club Member. A second-year runner, she wants Leg 17.



Carlos Mejia, PSR II, 3.5 years, Club Member. He's a fourth-year runner who wants Leg 7.



CT Feng, PSR III, 7 years. This sixth-year runner was qualifying for Leg 7 or 8.



From left: Liz Meza, PSR, and Robin Nash, PSR, are both part of the support team making sure the runners are well hydrated.



Eddie Gomez, PSR II, 2.5 years and second-year runner. He hopes to run the same leg which he ran last year: Leg 9.



From left: Freneshia Clark, PSR III, 13 years, Club Member; Stephany Williams, PSR III, 8 years, Club Member. It's their first year on the support team.



Dan Basiglio, PSR III, 9 years, Baker to Vegas Team Co-Captain, Club Member. It's his ninth year as runner and first year as co-captain. Way to go, Dan! As team co-captain, he will take any leg that nobody wants to run. What a guy!



From left: Teresa Kachirisky, PSR II, 6 years; Lori Garcia-Sanchez, PSR III, 7 years; and Norma Montano, PSR II, 4 years, Club Member. They called themselves the "newbies," as this will be their first year on the support team. It looked like they were having fun already as Teresa kept time, Lori provided drinks and Norma wrote down their official time. Ask them why they decided to participate and Norma who served as the spokesperson for the three answered, "We want to show support for our winning team and be part of all the excitement."



Quincy Mirage, PSR II, 3.5 years. His third year running, he will be happy to run any Legs from 1-10.



Chris Wieser, PSR III, 17 years, Club Member. This is her fifth year running for the team, although she has been involved with Baker to Vegas for the past 16 years. She, too, is looking to qualify for the shortest and flattest leg of the race.



EGAS BAKER TO VEGAS

SHAMROCK AND ROLL 10-K RUN TORRANCE, MARCH 13



From left: Angelina Ortega, PSR III, 6 years, Club Member; Anita Whited, Sr. PSR, Baker to Vegas Team Captain, Club Member; Gricelda Aceves, PSR II, 3 years, Club Member; Capt. Andrew Smith, LAPD Communications Division, Club Member; and John Craig, PSR II, 2.8 years.



The race poster.



Off they go.

BAKER TO VEGAS PRE-RACE PARTY

Partying Before the Pain

■ The Baker to Vegas event kicked off with a pre-party.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor
Photos by Michelle Moreno, Club Events Guru

The LAPD Team 911 Baker to Vegas squad and its supporters and fans gathered at the LAPD Police Academy Lounge April 13 to get things started off in style. The Club donated gift certificates for door prize drawings raising an additional \$100 towards the teams fundraising goal. The event raised over \$1,800.



Left to right: Captain Smith (CM); Dana Kano, PSR III, (CM); Iris Sanchez; Lourdis Varas; Anita Whited, B2V Captain; Carlos Mejia; Dan Basilgo, B2V Co-captain.



From left: Yvette Salazar, Communications; and Johanna Ramirez, Communications.



From left: Alex Covarrubias, guest; and Fira Lucero, guest.



Delaney and Berta Jones, Communications.



From left: Gina Carrol, Communications; and Dan Basilgo, Team Captain, Communications.



Louie Cuevas, Communications; and guest Sandy Benitez.



Marisa Lujan (far right), Communications, and guests.



From left: Anthony Gonzalez, Hollywood Division; and Marco Rodriguez, Hollywood Division.



From left: Ernesto Silva, LAFD; Horacio Lopez, Foothill Division; and Mathew Garza, Van Nuys Division.



Lisa Phaneuf, Communications, with her husband, Matt Reynolds.



From left: Liza, Communications; and Eddie, Wilshire Division.



From left: Ramon Martinez, N. Hollywood Division; and Michelle Lopez, West Valley Division.



From left: Daniel Gonzales, Central Division; and Tony Gonzalez, Central Division.



From left: Adam Ramirez, North East Division; Dina Ramirez, Communications; and guest, Alicia.



Debbie and Dan, Communications.



From left: Tony, Communications; Cristina, Communications; and D'arcy, 77th Division.



From left: Michelle Willis, Communications; and Roz Edmondson, Communications.



Teresa, Lupe and Norma from Communications.