

Baker to Vegas

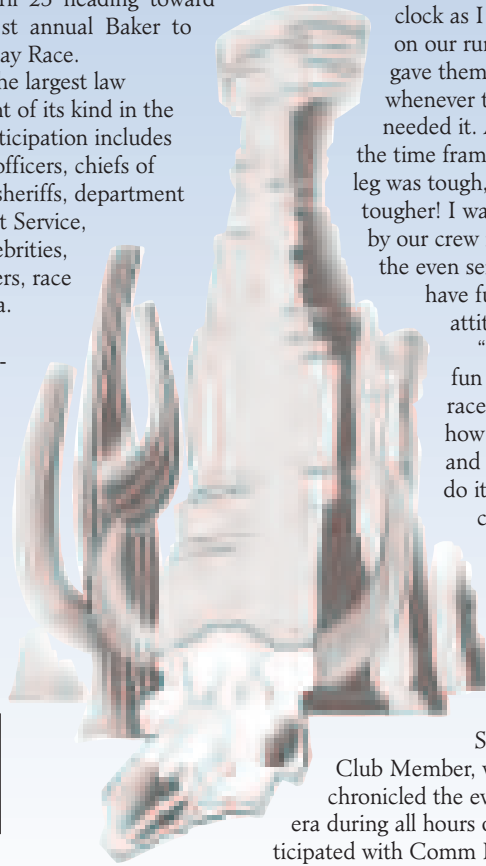
■ LAPD team takes on the challenging 120-mile Baker to Vegas footrace.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor
Photos by Arlene Herrero and Daniel Wang

POLICE DEPT. — And they're off!
Brave members of the team from the LAPD took off from Baker April 23 heading toward Vegas as part of the 21st annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race.

The race has become the largest law enforcement athletic event of its kind in the world, organizers say. Participation includes 10,000 law enforcement officers, chiefs of police, agents-in-charge, sheriffs, department heads, the FBI, the Secret Service, DEA, military police, celebrities, dignitaries, family members, race sponsors, press and media.

The race attracts more than 220 teams representing law enforcement and judicial systems from throughout the United States and around the world. Teams who have participated in the race have traveled from as far as Great Britain, Germany, Australia and Canada.



Vehicle magnets.

"I am a first-time support person for Baker to Vegas, and the event and weekend in Vegas was a fabulous experience for me," said Deby Herdrich, PSR II. "I went to support a particular runner [John Craig] on Leg 16. Anita Whited and Dan Basilgo were nice enough to accommodate me by assigning me his leg as the follow vehicle along with three other runners.

"I worked with two other dispatcher/friends Pam Liske and Jacqui Dreben. Jacqui was the driver and Pam worked the time

clock as I cheered on our runners and gave them water whenever they needed it. Although the time frame for our leg was tough, our runners were tougher! I was thoroughly impressed by our crew in particular. We took the even serious but also went to have fun and I believe that attitude prevailed.

"In fact, we had so much fun that at the end of the race when we talked about how we felt, we all [runners and support] said that we'd do it again next year, same crew, same leg! I'm still in awe of all the runners and support for this event and look forward to being a part of it for many years to come."

Cathy Sotos, Support member and Club Member, was a trooper as she chronicled the event with her video camera during all hours of the race. "I have participated with Comm Division's team for 14 years, and



ON YOUR MARKS...

Slow and steady.

was the team captain for five years [1998-2003].

"I am so proud of Anita and Dan, and all the runners and support. Their leadership and motivational skills were evidenced by the team's great improvement.

"This is a massive undertaking, and if just one person doesn't do

their part, the whole thing could be ruined for the entire team. I've always enjoyed the fact that this event builds a strong camaraderie among the participants. The teamwork involved builds friendships and allows coworkers to get to know each other better in a social setting outside the workplace."



The program cover.



Runners sign in prior to the race.

GET SET...

BAKER TO VEGAS BAKER TO VEGAS

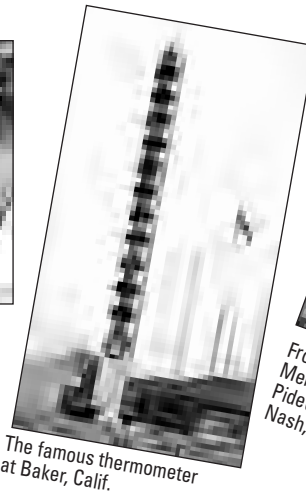


Runners in the back and support on the front; looks like they are ready to go.



On cake patrol are, from left, Erika Bert, 7; Emily Chacon, 7; Ivy Bert, 6; and Nicholas Chavez, 7.

Each runner received one of these trophies.



The famous thermometer at Baker, Calif.



From left: Amy Tariq, Support, Club Member (in her "superstar" pose); Sunita Pidech, Support, Club Member; and Robin Nash, Support, Club Member.



Robyn Frazier catches Adam on the side as Angelina takes off.



Team 180, LAPD North Hollywood.



Capt. Smith on Leg 3.

HITCHED?

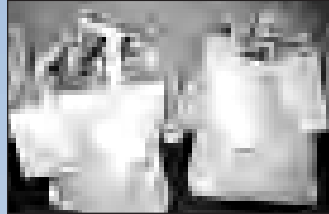
Tell us the good news about your wedding!
(And send a photo, too.)

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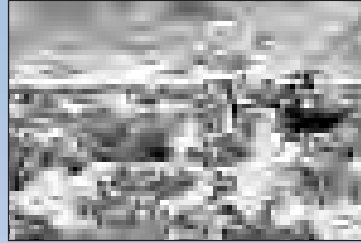
GO!



The start line.



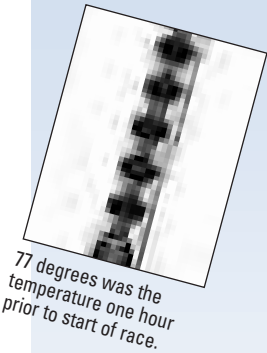
Supplies for the shuttle van. It may look like junk food, but as Anita Whited mentioned at the team meeting, "Dig deep inside; this is a treasure bag full of essentials needed come race day."



A helicopter is ready for an airlift.



Final instructions are given to the runners.



77 degrees was the temperature one hour prior to start of race.



Off they go!

...AND THEY'RE OFF!



Hilton, the host hotel for the Baker to Vegas run.



John Horowicz waits for Captain Smith to approach.



From left: Quincy Mirage, Stage 5 Runner, Debbie Ramsey, Alternate Runner, Club Member; Louie Cuevas, Support; Blanche Bell, Support, Club Member; and Leeza Phaneuf, Support.



From left: Teresa Kachirisky, FollowVehicle, Club Member; Norma Montano, Follow Vehicle, Club Member; Lorena Garcia-Sanchez, Follow Vehicle, Club Member; and Berta Ugas, Support.



Chuck Foote, Race Founder, runs for the Old Blue Team.



Back: support. Front: runners.

BAKER TO VEGAS BAKER TO VEGAS

Club-Sponsored Team Makes Great Showing

The City Employees Club sponsored Team 125, the team from LAPD Communications Division. The team placed 10 runners overall in their category of Invitational Mix without incurring any penalties.

According to Team Co-Captain Dan Basalgo, here is a comparison of the team's goals going into the race, and then the team's results.

Goals Before the Race:

Total team time: 17 hours, 12 minutes

Expected finish time: 8:12 a.m.

Overall placement: Under 100

Category Placement: Closer to first place

Team mantra: "Bring back Baker to Vegas Cup for '05"

Team Finish Results:

Total team time: 17 hours, 17 minutes

Finished time: 8:17 a.m.

Overall placement: 117 (out of 214 teams)

Category Placement: 10th place out of 27 teams

Team mantra: "Brought back Baker to Vegas Cup in '05"

Here is a brief description of the race legs (1 most difficult, 20 least difficult) and the LAPD team member who ran that leg:

Stage 1 (5.7 miles, difficulty 19) Runner: Adam Timm.

Stage 2 (4.7 miles, difficulty 20). Runner: Angelina Ortega.

Stage 3 (8.2 miles, difficulty 1). Runner: Capt. Andrew J. Smith.

Stage 4 (5.1 miles, difficulty 5). Runner: John Horowicz.

Stage 5 (6 miles, difficulty 18). Runner: Alni Mirage (a.k.a. Quincy).

Stage 6 (6.1 miles, difficulty 11). Runner: Lt. Stand Ludwig.

Stage 7 (6.2 miles, difficulty 4). Runner: Carlos Mejia.

Stage 8 (7.3 miles, difficulty 2). Runner: Sgt. Jeff Bert.

Stage 9 (6.8 miles, difficulty 10). Runner: Veronica Padilla.

Stage 10 (5.8 miles, difficulty 17). Runner: Lourdes Varas.

Stage 11 (5.3 miles, difficulty 16). Runner: Sharon Dormitorio.

Stage 12 (4.7 miles, difficulty 14). Runner: Eddie Gomez.

Stage 13 (7 miles, difficulty 7). Runner: Captain Scott Kroeber.

Stage 14 (5.4 miles, difficulty 8). Runner: Gricelda Aceves.

Stage 15 (5.7 miles, difficulty 6). Runner: Dan Basalgo, Team Co-Captain.

Stage 16 (5 miles, difficulty 3). Runner: John Craig.

Stage 17 (6.8 miles, difficulty 15). Runner: Angela Tumbiero.

Stage 18 (6.7 miles, difficulty 13). Runner: Anita Whited, Team Captain.

Stage 19 (5.8 miles, difficulty 12). Runner: Maria Coronado.

Stage 20 (5.7 miles, difficulty 9). Runner: CT Feng.

Next Year

Can they improve their performance for next year? "This year was a challenge in getting our runners in the competitive spirit," said Dan Basalgo, Stage 15 Runner and Club Member. "We wanted to make sure that our team was consistent with one of LAPD's core values: 'quality through continuous improvement.'

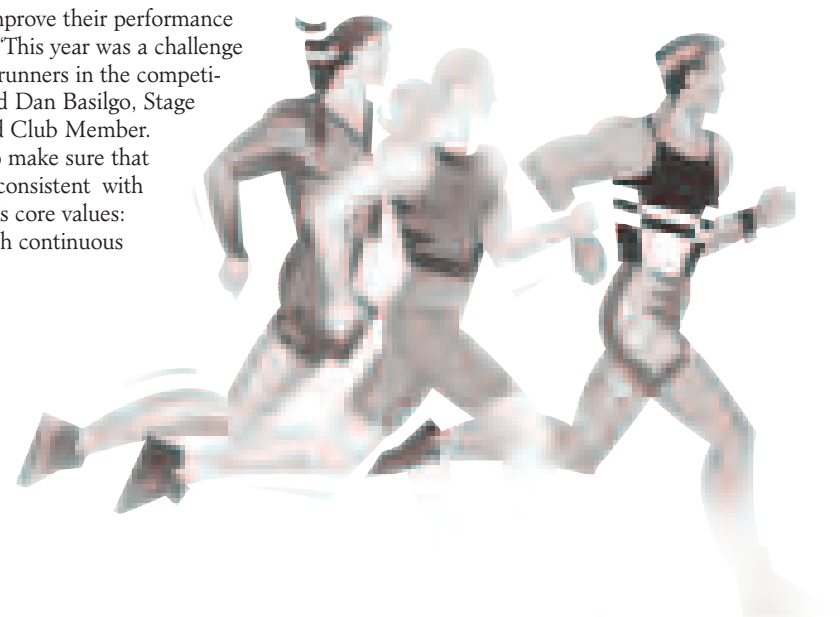
"As we continue to train to achieve the highest level of quality, we hope to set an example by leading our Communications Division team to another success in 2006. We will foster competition, dedication, and excellence but mostly building excitement and ensuring a lot of fun in every aspect of Baker to Vegas from training, fundraising and camaraderie."

The Race was founded by LAPD Officers Chuck Foote and Larry Moore in 1985. Back then, the race was composed of 19 teams of law enforcement officers who braved the harsh Mojave Desert to prove which team was up to the "challenge" and would come away the winner of the Challenge Cup.

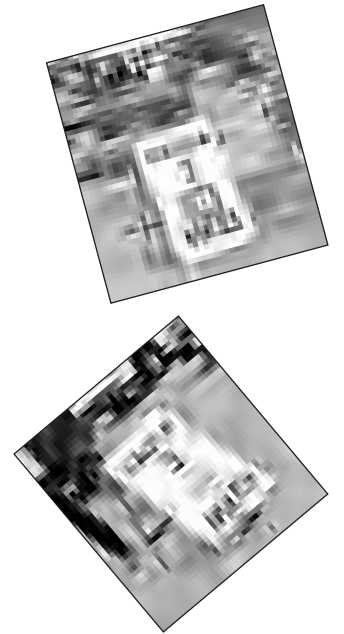
Shown on the next few pages are photos of the LAPD team (and others) as they braved the 120-mile, 20-stage foot race.

The Club thanks Anita Whited, Dan Basalgo and Jim Katapodis for their assistance.

Congratulations to all who braved this incredible event!



BAKER TO VEGAS BAKER TO VEGAS



5.7 miles to go.



Tanisha Guillory, Support, Club Member.



Lilly Gomez, Support



Christopher Hardy, Support.



Angela Tumbiero, Stage 17 Runner.



John Horowicz, Stage 5 Runner, Club Member.



Veronica Padilla, Stage 9 Runner.



Dan Basilgo, Stage 15 Runner, B2V Team Co-Captain, Club Member.



Lt. Stad Ludwig, Stage 6 Runner, Club Member.



Cathy Sotos, Support, Club Member.



Jeff Brown, Support. He hopes to run next year.



Quincy Mirage on Leg 5 is closely monitored by his follow vehicle.



All vehicles involved in the race must be identified with their team number or suffer a penalty on their team.

CONGRATULATIONS



From left: Adam Timm, Leg 1 runner; Anita Whited, Team Captain; Jim Katapodis, LAPRAAC; and Dan Basilgo, Team Co-Captain.



From left: Elizabeth Meza, Shuttle; Cherie Parker, Alternate Runner, Club Member.



John Horowicz, after finishing Leg 5, is joined by his wife, Kathy.



Back: support. Front: runners.



Stage 4.



From left: Dan Basilgo, Team Co-Captain; Jeanie Whited; Anita Whited, Team Captain; Adam Timm, Leg 1 runner; Angelina Ortega, Leg 2 runner; Robyn Frazier, Runner Catcher; and Margaret Peters, Shuttle.



“The race has become the largest law enforcement athletic event of its kind in the world”



Back, from left: Stephany Williams, Follow Vehicle, Club Member; and Freneshia Clark, Follow Vehicle, Club Member. Front: Shemeikaa Wagstaff, Shuttle, Club Member.



From left: Maggie, daughter of Capt. Debra McCarthy; Capt. Debra McCarthy, Commanding Officer, Rampart Community Police Station; Sgt. Jeff Bert, Leg 8; and Capt. Andrew Smith, Leg 3, Club Member.

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From left: Jeff Brown, Shuttle Support, Augie Serna, DWP, Catcher; Kim Serna, 21 years, Support, Club Member; Carlos Mejia, Leg 7 runner, Club Member.



Lt. Ludwig begins his leg as the darkness falls.



Team 125 LAPD Communications, CT Feng.



Adam Timm, Leg 1 Runner, holds up the official race baton.



"Newbies" in the Follow Vehicle. Inside are Norma, Lorena and Teresa.



Angelina Ortega on Leg 2 waits for the baton.



Lt. Stan Ludwig and son Jake wait for Leg 6 to begin.



Team 180 LAPD N. Hollywood Area.



Team 62 LAPD Rampart Area, from left: Police Officer Michael Jones, 16 years; Officer Herman Van Twist, 9 years.



Angelina Ortega, Stage 2 Runner, Club Member.



Eddie Gomez, Stage 12 Runner, Club Member.



Adam Timm, Stage 1 Runner.



Maria Coronado, Stage 19 Runner.



Lourdes Varas, Stage 10 Runner, Club Member.



Carlos Mejia, Stage 7 Runner, Club Member.



Jackie Dreben, Support.



Anita Whited, Stage 18 Runner, B2V Team Captain, Club Member.



Pam Liske, Support.



Deby Herdrich, PSR II.

RUNNERS!



Runners gather around, awaiting for their baton.



A team effort!



The LAPD Women's Team.



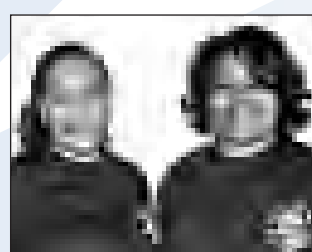
SHHHH!

Listen to what other City employees are saying. See page 3 for the Letters to the Editor.

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From left: Gricelda Aceves, Anita Whited, Deby Herdrich and John Craig.



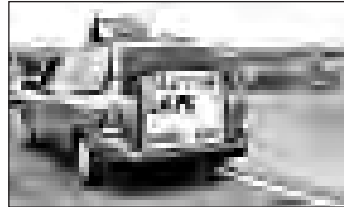
From left: Margaret Peters, Support for the Past 13 years, Club Member; and Kim Moore-Serna, Support, Club Member.

BAKER TO VEGAS BAKER TO VEGAS

*The teamwork involved builds friendships and allows coworkers to get to know each other better in a social setting outside the workplace—***CATHY SOTOS, SUPPORT MEMBER AND CLUB MEMBER**



The LAPD N. Hollywood team.



Team 96's follow vehicle.



Shawnie Livera, Support, Club Member.



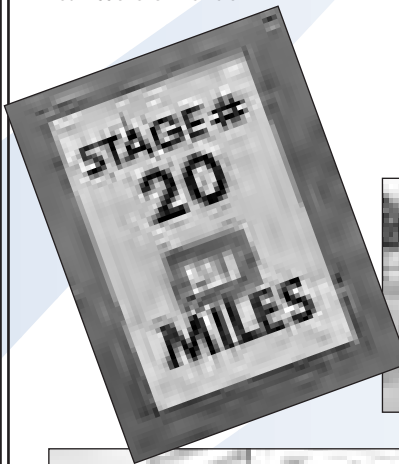
Captain Scott Kroeber, Stage 13 Runner.



Robin Frazier, Support, Club Member.



The finish line.



The LAPD Retired Team.



Club Counselor Arlene Herrero congratulates the team.



LAPD Recruitment booth, from left: Officer Frank Preciado, 8 years; Officer Michelle Howell, 15 years; and Siamone Banghraxay, 7.5 years.



Fellow team members were there to cheer on CT Feng as he made his way to the finish line.



The LAPD Color Guard marches in.



The LAPD Hollenbeck Team.



Team 156 LAPD Hollywood Area.



A runner from LAPD Hollenbeck approaches the finish line.



A Runner from LAPD West Valley Station approaches the finish line.



Team 28 LAPD Retired.



Team 29 LAPD Training Division.



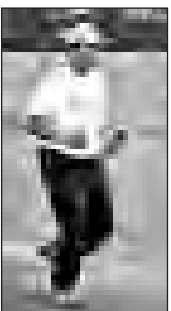
Team 126 LAPD Metro Black.



Team 62 LAPD Rampart Area.



Team 96, LAPD Harbor "Sharks."



The LAPD West Valley Station Team.



Principal Detention Officer Juan Aragon, 77th Jail, Team 217 LAPD Jail Division, approaches the finish line.



The stage 6 sign.



Back, from left: Sgt. Jeff Bert and Lt. Stan Ludwig. Front: Dan Basilgo, Team Co-Captain; Angelica Ortega; John Craig; Blanche Bell; Maria Coronado; Carlos Mejia; CT Feng; and Anita Whited, Team Captain.

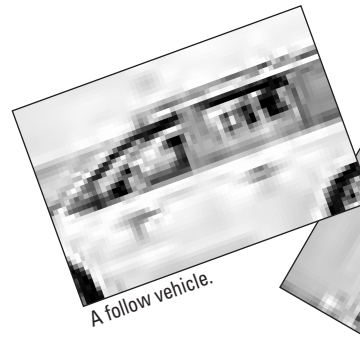
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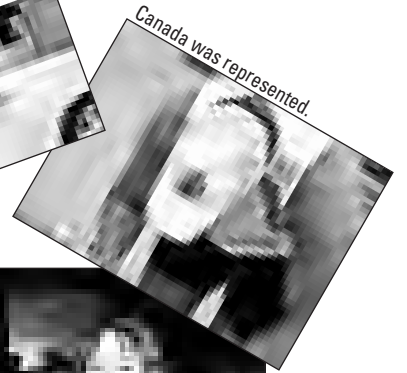
At the evening awards ceremony, some supporters and runners take a moment to enjoy their victory.



Blanch Bell proudly holds her certificate of appreciation and commemorative race pin. From left: Lt. Ludwig, Club Member; and Blanche Bell, Club Member.



A follow vehicle.



Canada was represented.



From left: Dan Basigo and Anita Whited proudly holds the plaque and mug won by their team.



Matt Gilbert, Support.



Lisa Hadsell, Support, Club Member.



Ann Medina, Support.



CT Feng, Stage 20 Runner (anchor of the leg).



Nicole Salls, Support.



Sandie Rennie, Support, Club Member. Sandie staffed the video team with Cathy Sotos.



The LAPD Harbor "Sharks."



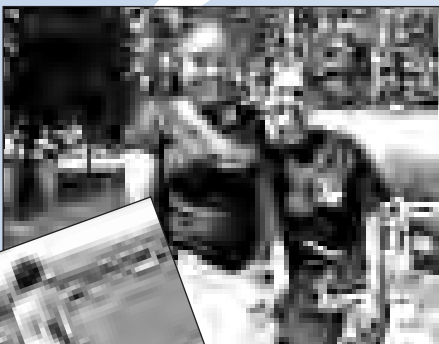
Back, from left: Eddie Gomez, John Craig (who claims that he had such an excellent time that he has already volunteered to run next year); and CT Feng. Front: Carlos Mejia, Lourdes Varas, Anita Whited and Dan Basigo.



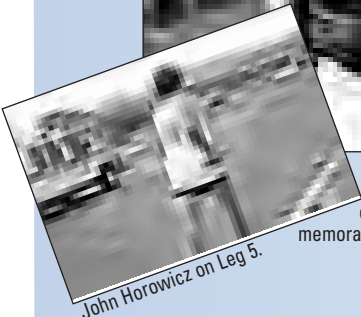
From left: Gricelda Aceves, Anita Whited and Lourdes Varas.



Cathy Sotos and Sandy Rennis, a.k.a. the Video Team.



Margaret Peters (left) receives her certificate of appreciation and commemorative pin from Anita Whited.



John Horowicz on Leg 5.



Catcher Chris Hardy made sure CT Feng was okay after a tough run to the finish line.



From left: Emily Chacon, 7, and Xenia Varas, 8, with their mom, Lourdes Varas.



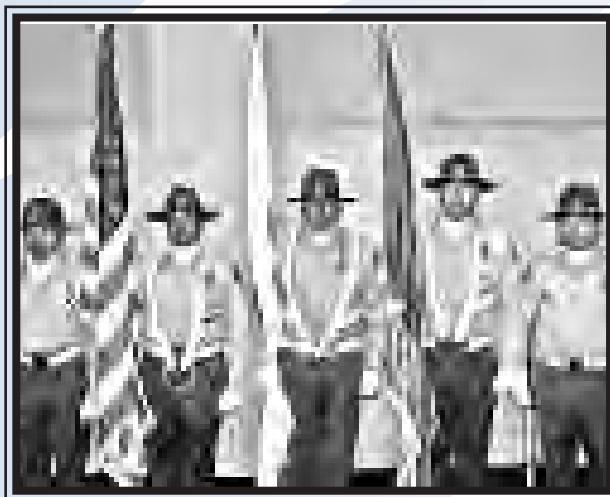
Club Counselor Arlene Herrero is taken by surprise as she accepts an award, a Challenge mug and a commemorative baton on behalf of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles. The Club was a proud sponsor of the Baker to Vegas LAPD Communication Division Team 125.



Jeff Brown, after catching Quincy.



Team Photo with support in the back and runners in front.



The LA County Police Color Guard, from left: Sgt. Felix Huezo; Officer Rashaad Gilbert; Officer Juan Camacho; Officer Segundo Siguenas; and Officer Manuel Saldivar.

YUM!

Send in your recipes to the Club's very own Chef Larios and his Cooking With the Club column. In every issue of *Alive!*

talkback@cityemployeesclub.com