

BAKER TO VEGAS RUN 2009

Results of t



Baker to Vegas

■ Three Club-sponsored teams participate in annual challenge cup relay race for law enforcement personnel.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor; Photos by Arlene Herrero, Fitz Mora and Daniel Wang

#120234

And they're off! The Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Race for law enforcement personnel from throughout the world took place March 14 and 15 in the high desert. 2009 marked the fifth year that the Club sponsored teams in the big race.

The Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay

race is a grueling relay race on foot between Baker, Calif. and Las Vegas, comprising approximately 120 miles of sometimes challenging elevation changes. The race, in its 25th year, is produced by the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club Inc. The Club is grateful for their leadership in this event.

The Club sponsored three teams: LAPD Communications, Port Police and LAPD Rampart. Overall, 247 teams participated, with more than 20,000 participants and more than 1,000 volunteers.

Here are the outcomes of the three teams the Club sponsored:

RUNNING RUNNING RUNNING



The host hotel.



LAPD Rampart Area took third place in their category, finishing at 15:40:10.

Awards Ceremony



Bill Martin, Larry Moore Award recipient, Communications Electrician, DWP, Club Member, and Baker to Vegas support team member for 14 years.



The LAPD Women's Running Team took first place in their category, finishing at 16:18:36.

AWARDS



Chief William J. Bratton thanks everyone for attending.



Sherriff Lee Baca shares his Baker to Vegas remarks.



From left: Simone Clinton; Lisa Simmons, wife of the late LAPD SWAT Officer Randy Simmons; Melinda Harleaux; Suzette Gauthier; and Dayna Dorris.



Lisa Simmons, wife of LAPD SWAT Officer Randy Simmons. SWAT officers ran in memory of Officer Randy Simmons.

BAKER TO VEGAS RUN 2009

f the Big Race

LAPD Communications Recap By Anita Whited, Team Captain

This was the year of changes for our team. We had six different leg assignment drafts until we got to the final one. And then that one changed one week before the race and then that one changed the morning of the race. Many of the runners were not sure which leg they were going to run until the week before the race. We used two of our alternates, which left us with only one alternate for the entire race.

One obvious goal was for all of our runners to complete their leg with 100 percent effort and injury free. We met that goal. Each runner completed their leg and gave an all-out effort.

We did not meet our time goal this year. When I think of all the changes that occurred and how people responded to the changes, it doesn't even matter. We ran a perfect race. Whatever leg I assigned the runners, they were up for it; they took on the challenge; they showed up on time and got it done. When an alternate was called up, no problem, they had been training and eating properly; they were ready for the challenge. Every runner and support person had a fabulous attitude and did what was asked of them like true champions. We finished the race with no penalties, which was another phenomenal accomplishment.

We have competed in this race for 19 years. The City Club has sponsored us for the last five years.

The race being earlier this year was an added stress. Even though I knew in April 2008 that the race would be early, there's not much that can be done at that time. So I definitely felt rushed toward race day. And our timeline for fundraising was cut short by five weeks, so that was a concern.

I had two Co-Captains this year. One was Maria Coronado: Maria was so dedicated to the sport of running and to the Baker to Vegas running team. She would always show up to each training event and trained through pain and injuries to run a fabulous race. She assist-

ed with time trials, monthly meetings and fundraising. My second Co-Captain was Berta Ugas: Berta made sure that I stayed organized and sane. She assisted with organizing the two training days we had for the runners at the Police Academy, time trials and fundraising.

I had an entire team full of superstars. To have people who can adapt to change, runners and support, show up on time, stay healthy, and finish with no penalties, is awesome. Each and every runner and support person made this a successful race this year. I could not ask for a better team.

Port Police Team Recap By Officer Alex Castillo

This year we had most of the same team from last year, with the addition of some new officers. Are strategy was receive no penalties and win that glory mug every team wants.

This year our strategy was to run as hard as we could and avoid any team penalties (three consecutive years with no penalties). Unfortunately we did not mug this year, but we are getting very close.

This year we assigned different legs to individuals who improved their times during our running trials. And we used some new officers with fresh legs to improve our overall time.

Our team finished one hour and four minutes faster than last year. We were 22 minutes away from winning a mug.

This was our third year participating in the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. Every year we have improved; especially this year, we had our biggest improvement. If the Port Police team continues this type of improvement and the discipline of not getting any penalties, we will become a competitive team in the years to come.

One of our biggest team sponsors has been the City Employees Club. The Club started sponsoring us since the beginning of our team in 2007.

We were prepared for the earlier start, even

though we could have used the extra month for training. The only worry I had was the cold weather. There were rumors of possible snow and ice frost, but it actually turned out to be good weather.

Our Captain was Lt. Michael Kettelkamp, and we had a Co-captain, Ofcr. Rudy Meza in charge of Logistics. I was in charge of the runners.

Officer Mark Velasquez stepped up as an alternate runner and ran leg 11 for our designated runner Officer Carlo Oliveri, who got stuck in traffic on his way to his leg.

The Los Angeles Port Police Baker to Vegas Team would like to thank all those officers who stayed behind protecting the Port while the team represented our agency in Baker to Vegas.

LAPD Rampart Team Recap By Mariana Vasquez, Co-Captain

Rampart Station had only 10 returning runners this year. We lost a lot of people when the two new LAPD stations opened, so when we started with the timed trials, we had a lot of new people.

Our number one goal was to have fun and do everything as a team. That included runners and support personnel. We fielded the best team that was representative of the station. This year, we sent a strong team in the station category. It was important that we included our support personnel because without them, we'd be lost. Our additional goals were to travel to and from Las Vegas safely, and to get a mug.

Besides new personnel, we were also faced with the tough economic times affecting everyone else. We were very fortunate that the City Employees Club assisted our team in that endeavor. We are also a smaller division now, and we were lucky that we had family members join us as support personnel during the race.

I would say that we succeeded in what we set out to do. We did not incur any penalties, and we represented our department well. Our team really gelled, and we're so happy with the results.

Rampart Area has participated in all 25 Challenge Cup Relays. This is the second year that the City Employees Club has sponsored Rampart Area. We couldn't be successful without you! Our team also appreciates that fact that you're out there cheering for our runners. That encourages them also. For that, we thank you!

We were worried about the earlier start in that we weren't sure if we would be financially set. The increase in costs of everything to field a team made us work that much harder to ensure that we were ready and able to send a team. Some of our runners also felt the pressure, because they had one less month to prepare to get to where they wanted to be in their running.

The Captain was Rick Ramos. I was the Co-Captain.

This year's superstars were the entire team. Our more-experienced runners assisted the less-experienced ones by pacing them and helping them with their techniques to improve their overall time. Rampart Area, both runners and support, worked hard to make the team successful, and as far as we're concerned, everyone involved was a superstar.

Honorable Mentions

- After years of participation, LAPD Jail Division finished 114 overall with a finish time of 17:11:45, and no penalties.
- Transportation finished the race at 18:24:33 with no penalties, finishing 171 overall.
- LAX finished the race at 17:23:07, incurring a 15-minute penalty, finishing 130 overall.
- City Attorney's Office finished the race at 19:52:17, incurring a 15-minute penalty, finishing 223 overall.

Special thanks to Anita Whited, Officer Alex Castillo, Det. Rick Ramos, Mariana Vasquez and Lt. Michael Kettelkamp for their assistance.

RUNNING RUNNING RUNNING



LAPD Communications, back row, from left: Rick Lopez, PSR II, Club Member; Beth Hicks, Sr. PSR II; Michelle Willis, PSR III, Club Member; Yul Johnson, Sr. PSR I, Club Member; and Whitney Olafson, PSR II. Front: Anita Whited, Sr. PSR, Club Member; Marisol Vielma, PSR II, Club Member; and Sharlene Sutherland, PSR II.



Congratulations to LAPD Communications!



Team 41 LAPD Rampart Area.



Far right: Port Police Chief Ronald Boyd, Club Member, is just in time to see Port Police Sgt. Glenn Twardy, Club Member, at the finish line.



Team Berlin.



Century.

247 TEAMS

BAKER TO VEGAS RUN 2009



With her game face on, PSR II Marisol Vielma, Club Member, focuses on the task at hand, to start of her team on Leg 1 for LAPD Communications.



The LAPD Jail Division team gathers at Leg 1 prior to start of the race.



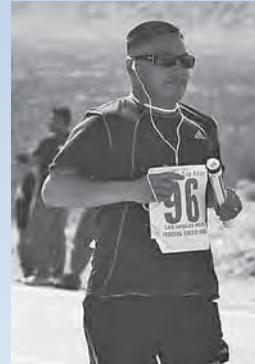
From left: Lt. Jeff Bert, OVB; and Commander Andrew Smith, Club Member.



On your mark...



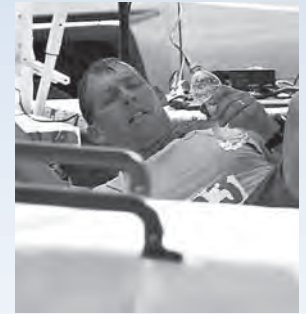
Sgt. Chris Costley, Club Member, runs hard for LAPD Training Division as he is closely monitored by his follow vehicle.



The LAPD Harbor Sharks.



LAPD Training Division, from left: Sgt. Laguna, Club Member; Amira Smith, D3; Sgt. Chris Costley, Club Member; and Sgt. Randy Holcom.



An LAPD Foothill Station runner is transported due to possible heat exhaustion.



PSR Rick Lopez, Club Member, braves the heat for LAPD Communications.



The LAPD Harbor Sharks.



LAPD Mission Station.



LAPD Jail Division.



Sr. PSR Cathy Sotos, Club Member, is behind the wheel of the follow vehicle for LAPD Communications.



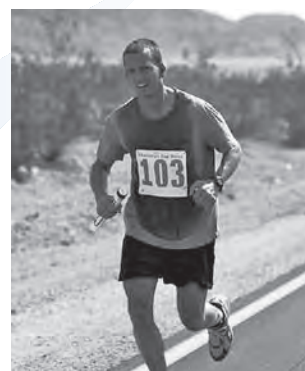
LAPD Topanga/West Valley.



LA District Attorney.



LAPD Training Division keeps hydrated.



Lt. Jeff Bert represented LAPD Foothill Station and has drenched his shirt.



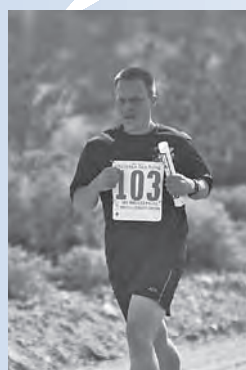
Port Police Officer Arthur Kurkowski, Club Member.



Transportation.



LAPD N. Hollywood VTD.



LAPD Foothill Station.



Sgt. Rosario Ferrara, Port Police, Club Member, is deep in his strategy to finish strong.



LAPD Training Division.



LAPD Topanga/West Valley.

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ICE/LA Blue Team.



LAPD Mission Station.



The LAPD Harbor Sharks.



LASD Mira Loma Det. Ctr.



Sr. PSR Anita Whited, Club Member, gives her thumbs-up as she represents LAPD Communications.



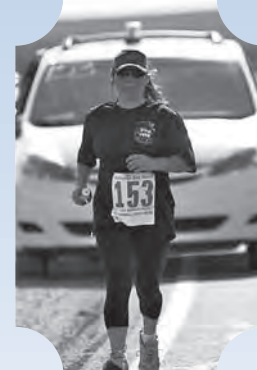
PSR Olivia Sandoval, LAPD Communications.



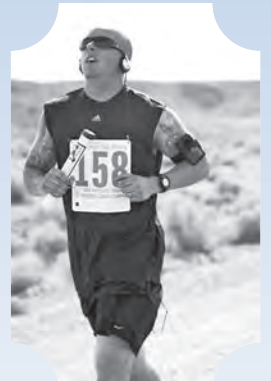
The LAPD Harbor Sharks.



Santa Ana PD.



LAPD Mission Station.



LAPD Topanga/West Valley.



Det. III Amira Smith, LAPD Training Division.



LAPD Jail Division Arredondo.



LAPD Foothill Station.



LAPD Pacific Station.



LAPD N. Hollywood/VTD.



LAPD N. Hollywood/VTD.



Transportation.



Officer Ryan Mullany, Club Member, LA Port Police.



From left: "Cowboy" Connor; Ana Anguiano, guest; and Pete Demetriou, KFWB News 980.



FBI San Francisco.



From left: Kai Anderson, guest; Brandi Holley, PSR II, Club Member; Adriana Herrera, PSR II, Club Member; Carlos Mejia, PSR II, Club Member; and Norma Chacon, guest.

THE EXCHANGE



Inglewood PD at the exchange shoot.



CHP Ventura County at the exchange shoot.



LAPD Foothill Station.



LASD Malibu Lost Hills.



LAPD Training Division.



US Dept. of Labor at the exchange shoot.

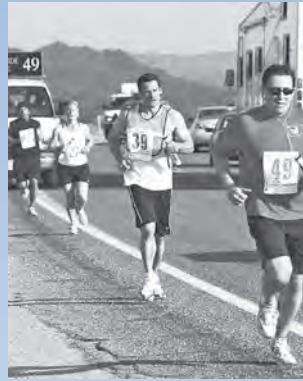
BAKER TO VEGAS RUN 2009



A very tight race: Team 58 Washoe County Sheriff; Team 29 LASD East LA Station; and Team 37 Glendale PD.



LAPD Rampart's Fred Alexander, Leg 1.



A very close race is lead by Team 49 Riverside PD; Team 39 Riverside County DA; Team 27 Orange County District Attorney; and Team 66 LAPD 77th Street Area.



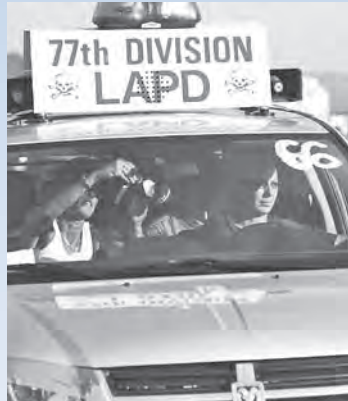
LAPD Olympic Station.



Team 41 Fred Alexander, LAPD Rampart pulling away from the pack; Team 85 Federal Air Marshall-LA; and Team 40 LASD Century Station.



LASD Lakewood Station.



The LAPD 77th Street Area follow vehicle.



Thanks to the motor volunteers for keeping the runners safe.



Team 34 LAPD Metro Blue is closely followed by Team 29 LASD East LA Station.



Team 38 DEA-San Diego.



San Diego Probation.



Team 42 Huntington Beach PD.



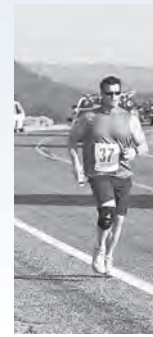
Team 39 Riverside County DA.



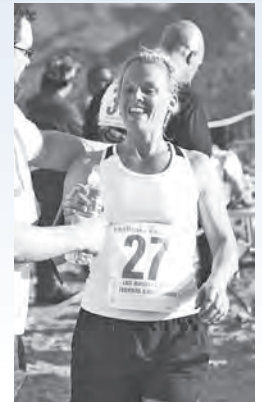
Team 41 LAPD Rampart Area.



Orange County District Attorney.



Glendale PD.



Team 27 Orange County District Attorney.



Federal Air Marshal-LA.



Team 73 LASD Lakewood Station.



LASD Century Station.



Team 34 LAPD Metro Blue.



LAPD Metro Black.



Team 66 LAPD 77th Street Area.



Team 20 LAPD Olympic Station gets a shoulder to lean on.

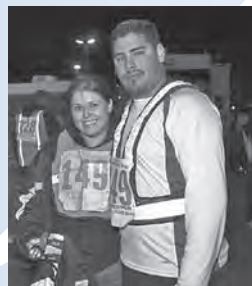
THE HOME STRETCH



Team 200 Calgary Police Service.



Team 437 Sgt. Glenn Twardy, LA Port Police, Club Member.



At right: PSR II Robert Lopez, Club Member, with his catcher.



From left: Debbie Ramsey, PSR III, Club Member; and Quincy Mirage, PSR II.



From left: Brad Gorby and Frank Garcia, LAPD Rampart.



Team 237 LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo.

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FINISH LINE



Far right, from left: Beth Hicks and Michelle Willis, LAPD Communications.



From left: Lily Vizcarra, P3+1 Metro; Yvette Holcombe, D1 RACR; Assistant Chief Sharon Papa, Club Member; and Rikki Klieman, wife of LAPD Chief William J. Bratton.



Dan Borgstrom, K9 Handler, Ventura PD, with Chief Daryl Gates.



From left: Pete Abskharon, Leg 9, P2; Mariana Vasquez, Secretary, Team Captain; and Brad Gorby, Support, P2.



From left: Capt. Sharyn Buck with Chief William J. Bratton.



From left: Berta Ugas, Sr. PSR, Club Member, with her catcher at the finish line.



From left: Jason Abner, Leg 15, P3; and Jeff Bruner, Leg 14 with Metro Blue, P3.



Sr. PSR Berta Ugas, Club Member, flies through the finish line.



From left: Alfredo Aguayo, Leg 11, P2; and Alicia Aguayo, LA County.



Team 166 LAPD Wilshire Area.



From left: Daniel Garcia, Leg 14, P2; and Det. Rick Ramos, Club Member



Team 34 LAPD Metro Blue.



From left: Sgt. Richard Sanchez; Chief William J. Bratton; and Rosie Thompson, P2.



From left: Elden Marquez, Leg 16, P1; Hector Feliciano, Support and alternate runner, and Assistant Watch Commander.



Team 167 LAPD West LA Area.



From left: Joe Franco, Leg 17, P1; and Elden Marquez, Leg 16, P1.



From left: Joseph Getherall, Leg 19, P2, and his wife, Jennifer.



Team 74 LAPD Central-CTD-OCB gets some assistance as he crosses the finish line.



From left: Det. Rick Ramos, Club Member; and Officer Matt Vocke.



From left: Det. Juan Campos, Support; and "Cowboy" Leg 8, P3.



Team 60 LAPD Hollywood Area.



Chief William J. Bratton with Sgt. Mary Kite, Wellness Coordinator.

CONGRATULATIONS TEAMS!

