

Baker to Vegas: A (Hot) Race for the Glory



Club sponsors five City teams in annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup race.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager, and Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor;
Photos by Arlene Herrero; Fitz Mora; David A. Gomez; and Angel Gomez, Club Sales Director

For stamina, dedication and physical fitness, there's nothing like the annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay. And that time came again to the desert April 21-22.

This amazing foot race is an annual event for public safety organizations throughout the world. The relay race is a 120-mile, 20-stage foot race between Baker, Calif., and Las Vegas and is considered the "Super Bowl" of law enforcement and the champions are the best, in terms of physical fitness and logistics the police world has to offer. The race was created by and is managed by the Los Angeles Police Rotary and Athletic Club, and the City Employees Club is grateful for their leadership.

This year was the Club's eighth covering this amazing event. The Club sponsored five teams (teams 116, 140, 153, 168 and 271): the Port Police, LAPD Emergency Services Division (Bomb, K9

and Force Investigation Division) and Transportation, which again joined forces with General Services Office of Public Safety. Two new teams sponsored by the Club were the Airport Police (LAX) and LAPD Jail Division.

"Each year the race grows, and with 270 teams from the law enforcement community around the world, this year's race proved to be the biggest Challenge Cup Relay ever," according to race coordinator Chuck Foote. By noon, the temperature rose to more than 107 degrees, with the asphalt temperature reaching more than 130 degrees.

Airport Police entered in the "mixed" category, with a team consisting of five women and 15 men. This is the first year Airport Police Security Officers participated, placing ninth out of 50 teams in their category and finishing in 17 hours, 1 minute and 57 seconds, incurring no penalties. For their first time in seven

years of entering, they were able to bring home a mug, a kind of race trophy. Overall the team placed 81st out of 270 teams. "I am exceptionally proud of the teamwork, persistence and determination demonstrated by the members of our organization in achieving success in this race under very adverse conditions," said Airport Police Chief Michael Hyams.

Overall, four teams sponsored by the Club came home with a mug. Congratulations to all the teams, including the four teams that mugged (Airport Police, Jail Division, Transportation/General Services, and Port Police). "One of our runners suffered heat exhaustion, [which] brought our race journey to an end. But we will return next year stronger and more determined than ever," said Officer John Long from the LAPD Emergency Services team.

Overall Winners:

The LAPD Team took first place in the Open Category, finishing the race in 13 hours 7 minutes 33 seconds, knocking last year's winner, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Dept. Countywide team. It truly was an LAPD year, as LAPD Women's Team also took first place in the women's category.

Congratulations to all who participated in this amazing event (including the support teams), and special thanks go to the following for their assistance: Officer Alex Castillo, Officer John Long, Lisa Pallares, Sgt. Jim Katapodis, Chuck Foote, Officer Tony Adler, Milan Romero, Dawn Eck and Sgt. Mike McComas.

RUNNING RUNNING RUNNING

OFF
THEY
GO...



Off they go with the asphalt recorded at 120 degrees.



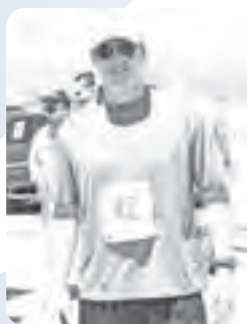
With Team 160: Sr. PSR Anita Yang, Club Member, runs the 4.2 miles of leg 3.



Team 115: LAPD Pacific Station.



Port Police Sgt. Rosario Ferrara, Leg 1 Runner, Club Member, with his wife, Jessica.



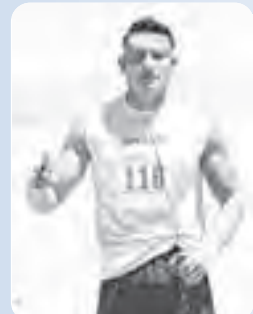
Team 42: LAPD Training Division.



Team 42: LAPD Training Division.



Team 98: LAPD Major Crimes.



Team 116: Airport Police (LAX).



Team 110: LAPD Van Nuys Station.



From left: Dawn Eck, Sr. MA, 26 years of City service, Club Member, Leg 10 runner and B2V Jail Division Team Captain; Capt. David Lindsay, Leg 5 runner, 25 years, Club Member; and Sgt. II Scott Engedal, 77th Jail Division, Club Member.



Sgt. II Scott Engedal, 77th Station, Club Member, running for LAPD Jail Division.



With Team 271 (LAPD Emergency Services): Officer Robert Cervantes, Leg 3 runner, Club Member.



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With Team 168: Dawn Eck, Sr. Management Analyst, Club Member, 26 years of City service; and Sgt. Mike McCombs, Club Member, 9 years.



With Team 204, from left: Officer Travis Vasquez, 3 years of City service; and Officer David McCarthy, 1 year.



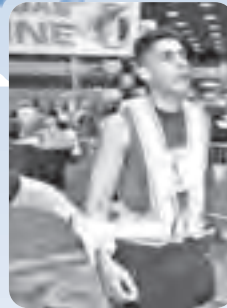
With Team 26: Sgt. Pete Enciso, 23 years of City service.



Team 153: Transportation/General Services.



Team 168 LAPD JAIL Division "They brought home the Mug!"



Team 103: LAPD Department Team.



With Team 140, from left: Officer Rudy Meza, Club Member, 31 years of City service; Barbara Carroll, guest; Officer Stacey Creech, Club Member, 5 years; Officer Charles Sanderson, Club Member, 5 years; and Det. Byron Culbertson, Club Member, 6 years.



With Team 140: Port Police Capt. Al Rosario, Club Member, crosses the finish line.



With Team 116, from left: Officer Jacqueline Zambrano, 2 years of City service, Club Member; and Officer Elmer Quevedo, 4 years, Club Member.

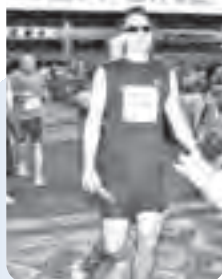


With Team 255: Kathy Keelin, support ("Catcher"), and Tom Kim, Analyst, 5 years.

FINISH LINE



With Team 140, from left: Det. Byron Culbertson, Club Member, 6 years of City service; Officer Roberto Ramirez, Club Member; Officer Rudy Meza, Club Member, 31 years; Officer Tyler Hellinga, Club Member, 5 years; Sr. Lead Officer Alex Castillo; and Officer Stacey Creech, Club Member, 5 years.



Team 104: LAPD Central City Area.



Team 234: LAPD West L.A. Area at the finish line.



Team 178: LAPD Topanga Area.



Team 89: LAPD Wilshire Area.



With Team 186: Sgt. Roland Broussard, 17 years of City service; and Michelle Lew, support ("Catcher").



With Team 153: Transportation/General Services Team Chief Gary Newton, Club Member.



Team 241: LAPD South Traffic Division.



The LAPD Women's Team.



Team 168: LAPD Jail Division.

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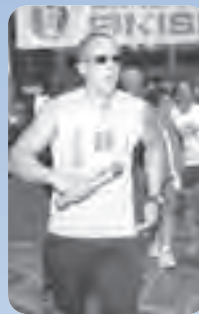
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From left: Lt. Ed Trahan; Sgt. Harold Evans; K9 Officer Jerome Evans, Club Member; Sgt. Sam Pittman, Club Member; Airport Police Chief Michael Hyams; Dana Tipton, Sr. Clerk Typist, 32 years of City service, Club Member; and Stella Belgarde, Clerk Typist, 5 years, Club Member.



With Team 114: LAPD Metro Black Officer III Rudy DeLeon, Club Member.



Team 86: LAPD West Valley Area.



With Team 117: A member of the LA City Attorney Team crosses the finish line



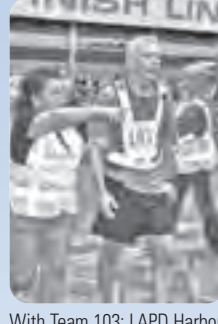
With Team 168: Officer Melo, Club Member running for LAPD Jail Division, was all smiles after crossing the finish line.



The LAPD Department Team takes first place overall.



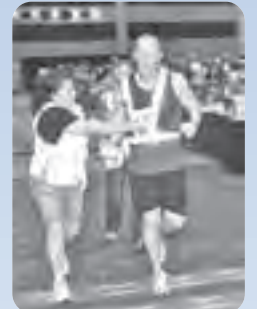
Team 98: LAPD Major Crimes.



With Team 103: LAPD Harbor Sharks Capt. III William Hayes.



Team 42: LAPD Training Division.



Team 115: LAPD Pacific Area.



With Team 140, from left: Christine Pina, Clerk Typist, Club Member, 7 years of City service; Officer Miguele Fagins, Club Member, 5 years; Det. Roberto Redondo, Club Member, 6 years; and Mary Ramos, Clerk Typist, Club Member, 7 years.



From left: Officer III Tony Adler, Club Member; Sgt. Jim Katapodis; and Retired Sgt. Dave Weltz, 21 years of City service.



Team 114 LAPD Metro Black together to show their support for their runner P3+1 Rudy DeLeon, Club Member.



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	Geico	\$1,211
	Auto Club	\$929
	United Agencies	\$876

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