



Baker to Vegas: Great Results!

Club celebrates 10 years of sponsoring teams in this legendary desert footrace.

Held a month earlier to facilitate cooler temperatures, the annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay was held in the desert March 22-23.

This, the race's 30th anniversary, also marks the tenth anniversary of the Club sponsoring several teams in the race, and covering the race in *Alive!*

This amazing footrace is an annual event for public safety organizations throughout the world. The relay race is a 120-mile, 20-stage footrace between Baker, Calif., and Las Vegas and is considered the "Super Bowl" of law enforcement; 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.

Baker to Vegas was bigger this year, with 261 teams registered.

The earlier schedule was great news to the runners, as the race-course temperature was not expected to exceed 80 degrees with 20 percent humidity, whereas in past years the temperatures topped three digits.

It's hard to imagine that 10 years ago, the Club were approached

by Club Members Anita Yang and Dan Basilgo to sponsor the team from LAPD Communications. The Club is happy to say that since that invitation, the Club has continued to be part of this great race. What was unique this year was having by far the largest team the Club has sponsored and bringing on two new teams as the Club has now expanded to be open to State and LA County employees.

The Club sponsored a great mix of teams this year, and the Club is proud of each and every one of them:

- LAPD Security Division together with Transportation;
- LAPD Mission Station;
- Port Police;
- Airport Police;
- LAPD Jail Division;
- LA County Probation; and
- State of California DMV Investigators.

On the following pages, teams share their 2014 Baker to Vegas stories in their own words.

Thanks to all who participated and contributed to another memorable Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay.



Arlene Herrero

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Director, and Dalila Vielma, Club Counselor;

Photos by Dalila Vielma; Noelle Kauffman, Club Counselor; and additional sources



Dalila Vielma

RUNNING RUNNING RUNNING

Port Police

By Port Police Officer Alex Castillo, Club Member

The Los Angeles Port Police Dept. Baker to Vegas Running Team "mugged" (won a mug trophy) for the fourth consecutive year. The team's goal for next year will be to mug again, and be in the top three in their category (150 Sworn). Their official time to complete the 120-mile challenge was 17:07 hours.

The team appreciates the hard work of its Port Police support staff, who continue to be the same core group from the initiation of the team (2007). The team would also like to thank the City Employees Club for its continued sponsorship of the team since 2007.



From left: Officer Mario Cubillos, Port Police, 17 years of City service; and Mattie Cubillos, guest.



Port Police: Arthur Kurkowski, PIII, 8 years of City service.



Port Police: Brandyn Anderson, PII, 6 years of City service, Club Member.

Department of Justice



Cal. Dept. of Justice: Middle right, Armando Zambrano, Supervising Deputy Attorney General, 41 years of State service.



LAPD Communications: Berta Ugas-Delaney, Sr. PSR I, 24 years of City service, Club Member; and Marisol Vielma, PSR II, 12 years, Club Member.



Cal Dept. of Justice: Capt. Kevin Kuykendall, 29 years of State service.

CDCR Chino



CDCR Chino: Giovanni Perez, CO, 8 years of State service.



CDCR Chino: Giovanni Perez, CO, 8 years of State service, and "LAPD Old Blue" – Mel Sandvig, Retired, 30 years of City service.



BAKER TO VEGAS 2014



Runners at takeoff.

LASD Parks



LASD Parks Bureau: Far right, Cecil Rambo, Assistant Sheriff, 33 years of County service.



From left: Tiffany Mercer, Deputy, LASD Parks Bureau, 13 years of County service; and John Magana, Deputy, LASD Parks Bureau, 24 years.

LAPD Mission Station

By Sgt. Michael McComas, Club Member

This year's Baker to Vegas team was led by Sgt. Julian Munoz, third year team captain. With only nine years of experience in the race, this year's team set out with high hopes. Our greatest challenge this year was to keep all of our runners healthy as we were light on available alternate runners.

Having moved up from number 146 to number 68 last year, this year we were aiming for the podium. Although we came up 22 minutes short of our goal, we secured fifth place in our category (Mixed) and, more importantly, we had a great time and enjoyed the mug that we won, our final time being 16 hours and 22 minutes.

A special recognition goes out to one of our female runners, Heather Herrera, who last year lost her tummy contents at the end of her segment. This year she dedicated herself to improving her performance and smoked her segment, keeping pace with the competition and leaving all she had on the course.

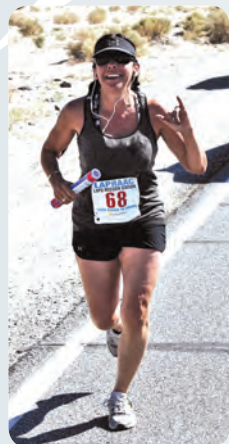
It goes without saying, but we could not have competed without the support of our support team, which ensured that all runners were on time at their assigned legs, and also the folks who lent us a helping hand, the City Employees Club. A big heartfelt thank you from all of us here at Mission Station and the Baker to Vegas team.



LAPD Mission: In the middle, Sgt. Il Kika Wheeling, 24 years of City service.



LAPD Mission Station: Ko Kim, PI, 1 year of City service.



LAPD Mission Station.



LAPD Mission Station: Sgt. Jules Munoz, 25 years of City service; Ko Kim, PI, 1 year; and Sgt. Brian Reynolds, 14 years.



LAPD Mission Station support follow vehicle.

California DMV Investigators

By Elizabeth Gonzalez, Club Member

DMV Investigators improved their time in this year's Baker to Vegas race. Imagine running 120 miles across the Mojave Desert with your co-workers. That is exactly what a group of 20 DMV Investigators did for the 30th annual Baker to Vegas (B2V) Challenge Cup Relay.

Three years ago, Investigator Luis Hernandez coordinated the first DMV Investigations B2V Team. Even though he had been with the Department for just a few months and was attending a full basic police academy, he did not let his new hire status stop his vision of being part of the B2V Challenge Cup.

As this year's team Captain, Hernandez shared his love for the race. "I was honestly a little sad when I came over to this department knowing it did not have a team. I am beyond thrilled that running this race is something I did not have to give up, and even more so, how much I enjoy being with every one during race weekend. Imagine being with 20 crazy cops who go out into the middle of the desert and run under the heat of the sun, or run up mountains, or both."

This year's DMV Investigations Baker to Vegas team completed the 120-mile race in 19 hours, 46 minutes, and 29 seconds. This is a 36-minute improvement over last year and one hour, 32 minutes faster than the first year in 2012. The DMV Investigations team finished 233rd out of 261 teams.

The DMV Investigations race team also had 25 supporters cheering them on along the course. Deputy Director (Chief) of Investigations Frank Alvarez crossed the finish line in Las Vegas. He wanted to thank everyone who has contributed along the way: "Without your support and contributions, our event would not be a success."

The Investigations team is already getting ready for next year's race, set for March 28-29.



DMV Investigations support follow vehicle.



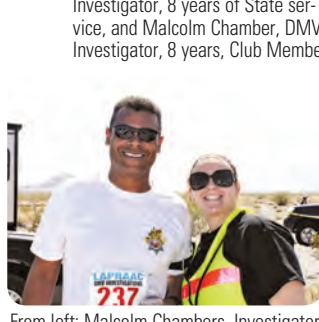
DMV Investigations: The pass off between Jimmy Gomez, Supervising Investigator, 8 years of State service, and Malcolm Chamber, DMV Investigator, 8 years, Club Member.



DMV Investigations: Chief Frank Alvarez, 28 years of State service (on the right).



DMV Investigations, from left: Paula Lucero, DMV Commander, 24 years of State service; and Angie Resendez, DMV Special Agency Supervisor, 24 years.



From left: Malcolm Chambers, Investigator, DMV Investigations, 8 years of State service, Club Member, with Amanda Rice, guest.



DMV Investigations: Juan Hernandez, DMV Retiree, 11 years of State service; Paula Lucero, DMV Commander, 24 years; and Jimmy Gomez, Supervising Investigator, 8 years.

Out of Towners



Berlin Police, Germany.



Cal State University Police: Jessica Ferguson; Chauncey Fonner, PII, 5 years of State service; and Lt. Mark Benavidez, 16 years, team captain.



San Diego Police Dept. 800: Joel Sandoval, PII, 14 years of City service; Det. Steve Berner, 26 years; and David Maley, PII 14 years.



University of California Police: In the middle, Chief Paul Henisey, 38 years of State service, with Team UC Police.

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LAPD Security/LADOT

By Team Captain Milan Romero

The LADOT/LAPD SECS Baker to Vegas running team entered the race prepared, motivated and determined. It was our seventh year competing in this prestigious race and first time in the Invitational Mix category. Our goal this year was to finish strong, have no injuries and get that mug!

We started the race at 1400 hours under warm/dry conditions and completed the 120-mile course in just over 17 hours and 56 minutes. In doing so, we placed 32nd out of 62 teams in the Invitational Mix category and 161st place overall. We achieved our goal this year by obtaining that coveted mug that every team desires. The long hours of painstaking training paid off in the end for the running team.

We would like to thank Arlene Herrero and the City Employees Club for sponsoring and supporting the team for six consecutive years. You guys are out there cheering us on in the hot desert sun and taking pictures in the wee hours of morning. Once again, thanks for all your help.



LA Transportation/LAPD Security Division.



LA Transportation/LAPD Security Division: Dolores Gonzalez, Johnny Raxtun, Traffic Officer, 12 years of City service, Club Member; and Toni Ortiz.



LA Transportation/LAPD Security Division: Lt. Ray Ingal, 14 years, Club Member; Art Ladezma, Traffic Officer II, 14 years, Club Member; Jose Quintanilla, Traffic Officer II, 8 years; and Sgt. Gabriel Mayorga, 15 years, Club Member.

LAPD Gang/Narcotics



LAPD Gang/Narcotics: In the middle, Det. Paul Miller, 25 years of City service.



LAPD Gang/Narcotics Division: Jose Calderon, PII, 10 years of City service.



LAPD West Valley Station.

LAPD Training



LAPD Training Division.



LAPD Training Division: Emigdio Neri, Retiree, 29 years of City service; and Mike O'Donald, PII, 35 years.



The LAPD Training Division pass-off.

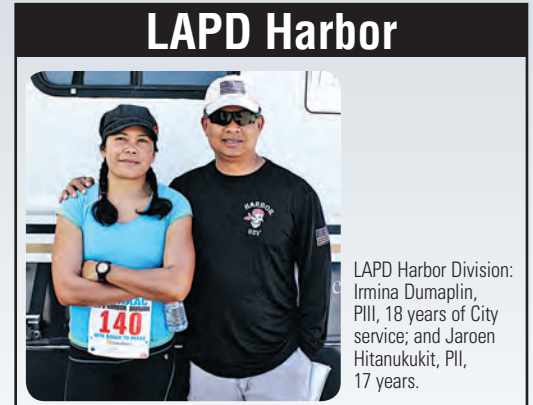
City Attorney



City Attorney: In the middle, Mike Feuer, City Attorney, 19 years of City service.



LA City Attorney: AP Diaz, City Attorney, 15 years of City service.



LAPD Harbor Division: Irmina Dumaplin, PII, 18 years of City service; and Jaroen Hitanukit, PII, 17 years.

LAPD Jail Division

By Team Captain James Lemos

Jail Division has participated in the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race since 2003. We missed 2004 but have not missed a year since. We have enjoyed sponsorship from The Club for four years now.

Our team goal for 2014, as was the goal for many of the teams who participated, was to earn a Challenge Cup mug, which we accomplished. We had our eyes on setting a new record for Jail Division that would have put us in the top 100 of participants. Jail Division's current record for the completion of the race was achieved in 2009 with a finish time of 17:11:45. We were not able to achieve that goal this year but we have our eyes set on breaking it in the next few years. Our finish time this year was 17:58:17. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we are working to have more of our runners train year round.

We had some challenges this year, including at one point having only 17 of the 20 runners plus additional alternates necessary to make our team viable. The division stepped up, and we put together a good team, and I do mean *team* in every sense of the word. We worked well together without complaints from the team. It was a team that I will not soon forget. Most importantly, we had no injuries, and everyone had a good time.

Thank you, City Employee Club, for your support. The Club's support to our team has been the difference between sending a team and not sending a team to the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Race.



LAPD Jail Division: David Lindsay, Captain, 27 years of City service, Club Member; Juan Aragon, PDO, 25 years, Club Member; Christopher Aragon; Denna Thompson, SDO, 16, Club Members; Janet Rankin Davis, SDO, 28 years, Club Member; Charlene Ramirez, DO, 5 years; and Anson Anderson, SDO, 26 years, Club Member.



LAPD Jail Division.



From left: Janet Rankin Davis, Security Detention Officer, 28 years of City service, Club Member; and Christopher Escobar, Detention Officer, 5 years.

LAPD Jail Division: David Lindsay, Captain, 27 years of City service, Club Member, and Diana Lindsay.



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LA County Probation

By Sandra Perez-Quintero, Club Member

The Los Angeles County Probation Team competed in the mixed division, comprised of 19 teams. Each team in the mixed division consists of at least five female and 15 male runners. Last year our team finished with a time of 17:08.00; this year, we were expected to finish in 16:45.00. However, our team fought harder than anyone expected and we finished the event with a time of 16:08.22!

Although the team accomplished so much, this year luck was not on our side. On the last leg, DPO II Ted Gomez of the Long Beach Area Office suffered a catastrophic injury. Around 5:20 a.m., approximately halfway through his 4.6 mile run, Ted's tendon ripped from his tibia. A purple streak was visible on his leg and this left him unable to continue. He was helped to the transport van and taken to receive medical attention.

At that moment, SDPO Sam Banuelos of the Long Beach Area Office, who suffered a hip injury while running leg 19, took charge and jumped out of the chase van that follows each runner and picked up the baton. He finished the run and brought our team to the finish line. Without SDPO Banuelos pushing through his injury, we would not have finished the race. Unfortunately, because of the established rules for the race we received a 10-minute penalty and an "unofficial finish," which means we were unable to receive individual team member awards. However, our team was recognized for our hard work and we received a team awards plaque for our accomplishment in the run.

The support team members worked diligently behind the scenes coordinating the transportation of all 20 runners out to the course in the desert. They ensured that the team was taken care of and that everything went well. They also manned the team room during the entire period of the race. Their dedication and support was vital to our success, without them we would not be able to compete.

Although the event did not go as planned, we are all VERY proud of our 2014 Baker to Vegas Team, as they ran harder and faster than any team the LA County Probation Department has entered since 2006. We all take honor in representing the Probation Department, our team members participate on their own time. Our team relies on donations and fundraisers in order to cover the costs of the race. Both individually and as a team, we take away a sense of accomplishment in preparing for and competing in the event.

The Los Angeles County Probation Baker to Vegas committee would like to express our appreciation to everyone who contributed to our participation from the runners, to support staff and to those who purchased shirts. We would especially like to thank the City Employees Club for their sponsorship and management for supporting our endeavor in allowing our Department to participate in the event, and working with staff so that they may be part of our department's Baker to Vegas team.

We also extend an invitation to all who may be interested in participating next year, either as a runner or as support staff. We invite you to take part in an event that fosters a sense of excitement, joy, personal satisfaction, and pride in our Department. When all is said and done, we feel a rewarding sense of pride and accomplishment in professionally and competitively representing the Los Angeles County Probation Department.



LA County Probation: Nancy Roman, Deputy, 9 years of County service, Club Member.

Airport Police

By Officer Alfonso Lagos

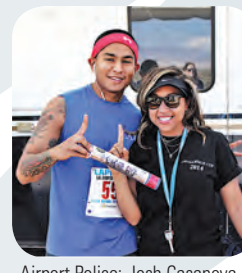
Jerome Evans and I have been co-captains since 2009. Team LAX has won three mugs – in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Our first year of participating was 1999.

This year, we finished 42th overall, with the time of 15:49; both are team bests.

Next year's B2V team is looking bright. We hope to finish in the top 30 and under 15 hours and 30 minutes.



Airport Police: Roger Cuevas, Security Guard, 12 years of City service, Club Member; Elmer Quevedo, PII, 5 years; William Garcia, P II, 5 years, Club Member; and Porchia King, PII, 7 years, Club Member.



Airport Police: Josh Casanova, PII, 4 years of City service, Club Member; and Carley Oliver, PII, 4 years, Club Member.



Airport Police: Chief Patrick Gannon, 36 years of City service, Club Member.



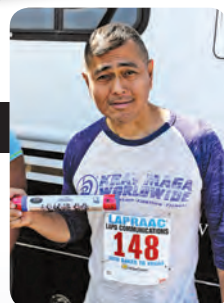
LA County Probation.



"LAPD Old Blue" – Mel Sandvig, Retired, 30 years of City service.



Middle in green shirt: Det. John Macchiarella, LAPD Robbery Homicide, with family.



LAPD Communications: Dan Basilgo, PSR III, 18 years of City service.



Rudy Pardo, PII, 8 years of City service; Det. Adrian Parga, 23 years; and Jacob Avalos, PII, 10 years.



LAPD Metro Black: On the left, Adam Futami, PIII, 17 years of City service.

LAPD



LAPD Rampart: Yesenia Egan, PII, 4 years of City service.



LAPD Metro Blue: On the left, Cliff Chu, PIII, 17 years of City service.



LAPD Valley: David Ham, Senior Lead Officer, 26 years of City service; Capt. John Fagan, 26 years; Det. Jason Wagner, 18 years; Mandeey Duyanen, PII, 6 years; Michael Puno, PII, 5 years, Club Member; and Jose Fernandez, PII, 6 years.



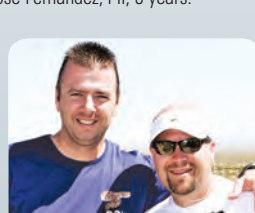
LAPD Headquarters: Det. Andy Aguaya, 23 years of City service.



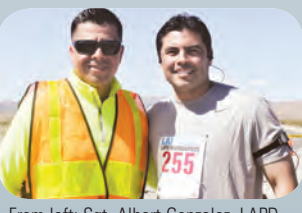
LAPD Newton Division.



Det. Roger Allen, LAPD Major Crimes, 18 years of City service.



LAPD Topanga: Mervill Dunn, PII, 12 years of City service; and Todd Jaron, PII, 8 years.



From left: Sgt. Albert Gonzalez, LAPD Headquarters, 11 years of City service; and Officer Paul Corralejo, 17 years.



LAPD Northeast Area: Javier Bernal, PII, 15 years of City service.



LAPD Rampart Area: Robert Solorio, PIII, 12 years of City service.



LAPD Southwest Area: Blanca Saldana, Jose Saldana, Sr. Lead Officer, 11 years of City service; and Det. John Flores.

Various



Det. Jason Tsui, Cal. Dept. of Insurance Fraud, 15 years of State service.



Women CHP: On left, Sgt. Monica Alvarado, 25 years of State service.



From left: Frank Ngayan, Forensic Attendant, Medical Examiner/Coroner, 1 year of County service; Hayden Velasquez, Billing and Administration, Medical Examiner/Coroner, 1 year; and Caitlin Miller, Sr. Criminalist, 2 years.