

**Rio Grande Marathon
Sunday, October 26, 2003, 7 a.m.
Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA**

**New Mexico USATF Marathon
Championship**

Boston Qualifier

Events: Marathon Run, Marathon Relay Run, Half-Marathon Run, 5K Run/ Fitness Walk.

Location: Las Cruces is located in the Sun Belt of south-central New Mexico. Las Cruces is forty miles north of El Paso, TX, and the Mexican Border. It is nestled between the majestic Organ Mountains and the meandering Rio Grande. It is at the crossroads of Interstates 10 and 25. The elevation is 4000 feet above sea level.

Weather: For late October, the average early morning low is 39°F. and the average afternoon high is 73°F. Relative humidity < 20%; the probability of precipitation is < .05.

Because of the low relative humidity, participants are encouraged to maintain a high level of hydration before, during, and after the events.

Courses: Flat and fast, maximum deviation in elevation is ±10 feet. All are out and back except for the 5K, which is a keyhole (out, loop, back). All courses are certified.

The courses feature a start outside of the L.C. Public Schools Sports Complex stadium and a finish inside the stadium following a victory lap.

Course Records:

Marathon:

Eric Clifton (44) ABQ NM 2:56:05

Kathy Mastoras (45) Santa Fe NM 3:45:46

Half-M:

David Meyer (37) Silver City NM 1:20:06

Erica Larson (33) Los Alamos NM 1:22:51

Registration: Early Registration by Mail: Must be postmarked not later than October 15 to receive early rates. Mail to: MVTC, 3007 Ronna Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001.

Late Registration/ Packet Pickup: Both functions are available in the Lobby, Mesilla Valley Inn, 901 Avenida de Mesilla on Saturday, Oct 25, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Late fees apply.

Packet pickup (for all events) and late registration for the 5K will be available on Sunday, October 26 in the stadium at the Las Cruces Public Schools Sports Complex, Tashiro Road, from 5:30 – 6:45 a.m. Late fees apply. **No registrations in any other event will occur on race day.**

Age Groups: Individuals (Marathon/ Half M): 18 & Under, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 & Over (Male & Female).

Relay: "Less than 40" and "40 Plus" as determined by average age of team members on race day (Male/ Female/ Coed).

5K: 18 & Under through 70 & Over but in 10-year increments (Male/ Female)

Awards: Individuals (M/ H-M): Kachina dolls will be presented to overall and masters finishers and places 1-3 in all age groups (male & female).

Relay: Kachinas will be presented to all 1st place team members in both age categories (Male/ Female/ Coed). Team places 2-3 will receive commemorative rosettes.

5K: Kachinas will be presented to overall and masters finishers and to 1st place in all age groups (male & female). Places 2-3 will receive commemorative rosettes.

No duplicate awards will be given.

A commemorative T-shirt will be provided on race day to all participants who pre-registered. We make every effort to purchase enough shirts to cover the entire field of participants. Finisher medals and finisher certificates will be presented in all marathon and half-marathon events.

Fees: See registration form.

Relay: The relay will be an Ekiden relay. Exchange points are at 5K, 15K, 20K, and 30K. This implies legs of 5K, 10K, 5K, 10K, and 12.2K, respectively. This event was adopted by USATF during the Annual Meeting held in Albuquerque, NM. Only the 5-member version will be offered this year.

Teams: Each team member must submit a separate entry form and signed waiver. The entry forms for each team must be submitted as one packet not later than 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 25. Please do not ask for substitutions after that time.

Teams cannot register on race day, but can pick up packets. Remember: Only the 5th team member crosses the finish line.

Headquarters Hotel: Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn, located on I-10, Exit 140. Address is: 901 Avenida de Mesilla, Las Cruces, NM 88001, (505) 524-8603 or (800) 327-3314. Rate: \$49 per night for up to four persons (plus tax). Make reservations before Oct 11 or first come/ first served thereafter. Callers should identify themselves as participants in the Rio Grande Marathon to be eligible for this special rate. For additional Lodging information dial: **1-800-Fiestas**

(over)

Directions to Start/ Finish: From the Mesilla Valley Inn, take Interstate 10 west to Motel Blvd (Exit 139). Travel north on Motel Blvd through two traffic lights. The stadium is about 1.7 miles north of the exit. The starting line is in the stadium's west parking lot. The finish line is inside the stadium after a victory lap.

Pasta Supper: A pasta supper will be served Saturday, 25 October, 5 to 7:30 p.m. The location has not been established. Complimentary tickets will be provided in the runner's packet to all individual participants in the Marathon and Half-Marathon. Marathon relay participants/ 5K participants/ other guests can purchase tickets at the door. Spaghetti with choice of meat sauce or vegetarian sauce will highlight the menu.

Event Organizer: The Mesilla Valley Track Club, 3007 Ronna Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001. Phone/ Fax: (505) 524-7824. doneugenia@aol.com

Race Information: mvtcrgm@aol.com A website (www.riograndemarathon.com) is under construction but is not expected to be operational before 1 October.

Restrictions: Strollers (or like vehicles), headphones, pets, skateboards, roller blades, and bikes are not allowed on the course. Athletes participating in his competition may be subject to formal drug testing in accordance with USATF Regulation 10 and IAAF Rule 55. For more info on drugs and testing, contact the USOC Hotline 1 (800) 233-0393.

Questions: Questions about Las Cruces and points of interest may be directed to cvb@lascruces.org or www.lascrucescvb.org/

Registration Form: See attached sheet.

Sponsors:

NMUSATF
City of Las Cruces
Doña Ana County
Town of Mesilla
Las Cruces Public Schools
New Mexico Department of Tourism
Lilley Law Offices
Danny's Drug and Soda Fountain
Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn
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