

4 December 2000

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: "Cruising with the Cranes 15K Road Race"

The Socorro Striders and Riders, with the support of the Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, are proud to announce the upcoming "Cruising with the Cranes 15K Road Race," to be held at the Bosque del Apache on 3 February 2001. The 15 km (9.3 mile) running race will start on NM 1 just south of the junction of NM 178 and precede north-east on NM 1 to the Bosque del Apache NWR Visitor's Center.

"This race offers a real opportunity for Socorro to host a truly wonderful event, with the beautiful scenery of the Bosque and its wildlife as the backdrop. In time, we hope this event can develop into a regional attraction for the Socorro area," said Cathy Pearce, President of the SS&R. A portion of the proceeds of the race will support the Education Transportation Fund, which helps New Mexico school districts with transportation costs for field trips to the Refuge. "We are pleased to partner with the SS&R to produce an event which will both benefit the local community and support the Refuge," said Steve Green, representing the Friends of the Bosque. The 15 km race will also be the 2001 New Mexico/USATF Championship event. Additionally, three person relay teams may participate in a special division. "The event will offer something for everyone, with the 15K appealing to the experienced runner, and the relay offering a shorter race for both beginning and advanced runners," added Pearce.

The Cruisin' with the Cranes 15 km is sponsored by the City of Socorro, Socorro Super 8 Motel, Socorro K-Bob's Steakhouse, Brooks Sports, Merrill Lynch (Cheryl & Emerson Learn), Fleet Feet Sports, The Athletes Edge, Middle Rio Grande Realty, The Water and Ice Store, The Super Salve Company, and Martha's Black Dog Restaurant.

About the Socorro Striders and Riders: The Socorro Striders and Riders (SS&R) is a local club of approximately 30 runners, triathletes, and cyclists. The primary focus on the club is the social, recreational, and health benefits of sport. The SS&R holds regular group runs and bicycle rides and holds a monthly business meeting and social gathering on the first Monday of each month. The SS&R is a member of several national organizations, including the Road Runners Club of America, the American Cycling Association, and USA Triathlon. For information, contact SS&R President Cathy Pearce at (505) 835-2507.

About the Friends of the Bosque: The Friends of the Bosque is a non-profit organization dedicated to the safeguarding and enhancing the habitats of the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge and to providing a quality educational experience for visitors. In addition to the Education Transportation Fund, the Friends sponsor the Junior Duck Stamp Program in the State of New Mexico, conduct interpretive tours, a summer workshop series, training for Refuge volunteers, and product educational literature. The Friends, in concert with the Refuge and the City of Socorro, also organize the Festival of the Cranes.

