

8 - COURSE DESCRIPTION ~ M09-2

This chapter gives a brief description of the topography of each leg, including the mileage and ranked in difficulty from 1 (most difficult) to 20 (least difficult).

Leg 1 5.4 Miles Difficulty 13

Flat with slight declines then at 4-mile point a gradual incline until 5.1 mile mark then .5 mile downhill.

Leg 2 8.2 Miles Difficulty 1

The first mile is downhill. The next 3.0 miles are flat. Then begins the strenuous climb four miles toward Ibex pass. The final mile of this climb is the steepest. This is the most difficult stage in the race.

Leg 3 5.1 Miles Difficulty 6

This leg continues the climb to Ibex pass. There are 3.4 miles of steep uphill before reaching the top at 2,090 feet. The last 1.7 miles are all downhill.

Leg 4 6.0 Miles Difficulty 20

The entire leg is downhill although the last couple of miles begin to flatten out. The runner awaiting the handoff must be alert. Visibility of the approaching runner is limited by curves. The Tacopa Hot Springs road enters from the right at 4.8 miles. Stay on Highway 127.

Leg 5 6.1 Miles Difficulty 12

This leg begins with a brief downhill section and is followed by a fairly flat couple of miles. The last 3 miles are rolling hills ending just before the town of Shoshone. At 1.7 miles, a road enters from the right stay on Highway 127.

Leg 6 6.2 Miles Difficulty 5

Fairly flat until about 1.3 miles where the uphill begins. The gradual incline soon becomes a very arduous hill, topping out at about the 5 mile mark. The leg finishes with 1.2 miles of downhill. The leg begins about .7 miles south of the intersection of Highway 127, and State Route 178 at Shoshone. Turn right onto State Route 178.

Leg 7 7.3 Miles Difficulty 2

This leg begins at Chicago Valley Road with one mile of a slight downhill. Then a continuous slight climb that begins to get steeper at about the 3 mile point. It climbs steadily and becomes even more difficult the last 1.5 miles. The leg ends just a few hundred feet over the crest of the hill.

Leg 8 6.8 Miles Difficulty 9

This leg starts, almost immediately, with a short downhill then goes uphill for about 1.5 miles. The remainder of the leg is along a gradual descent. The leg finishes with a very short uphill to the handoff .3 mile past Cal/Nev Stateline.

Leg 9 5.8 Miles Difficulty 16

This leg is flat. It takes the runner into the friendly community of Pahrump Nevada.

Leg 10 5.3 Miles Difficulty 14

This leg consists of a slight but continuous incline. At 1.5 miles after the handoff the runner will make a right turn onto Nevada Highway 160. ~Caution~ The next 40 miles of the course are characterized by very fast traffic!

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Leg 11 4.7 Miles Difficulty 19

There is a nice downhill for the first .7 miles, with the remaining 4 miles being a steady incline.

Leg 12 7.0 Miles Difficulty 3

This leg begins with a long steady incline of 4.2 miles. The leg then levels off with a gentle decline for the last 2 miles. Beginning with this leg the runner and the FV will use the paved shoulder lane.

Parking for support vehicles is on the Tacopa Road, south of Highway 160.

Leg 13 5.4 Miles Difficulty 7

This leg begins with 1 mile of downhill and then the runner begins a steady climb toward Mountain Springs Summit. This runner will tackle the first 4 miles of the climb from approximately 3000' to 3800'.

Leg 14 5.2 Miles Difficulty 8

The entire length of this leg is uphill. At about the halfway point, the climb becomes most severe, eventually finishing at the Sandy Valley Road. This leg climbs from approx. 3800' to 4400' not unusual to see snow!

Parking is very limited. Only one vehicle per team, PLEASE!

Leg 15 5.5 Miles Difficulty 4

This leg, without question, provides one of the most difficult challenges of the race with 5.5 miles of tough, continuous uphill running. At 4.5 miles into the run, it gets steeper. The leg starts at an elevation of 4400 feet, and ends just short of the summit at 5400 feet.

Leg 16 6.8 Miles Difficulty 11

For .6 miles, the runner climbs to the summit at 5495 feet and then a continual descent to 1900 feet. Very fast very steep downhill!

Leg 17 7.3 Miles Difficulty 10

The entire leg is one long continuous descent until the runner reaches Fort Apache Road, here they will be assisted in making a left turn to the exchange point 500 feet ahead.

Stage 18 5.7 Miles Difficulty 15

This leg is flat for .4 miles and then becomes a slight incline for .2 miles. At the 1.0 mile point the leg begins a gradual downhill for 2.8 miles and then is slightly inclined for the remainder of the leg.

Leg 19 5.8 Miles Difficulty 17

This leg begins with a slight incline over the 215 Freeway. After a short decline the runner will begin a slight incline until they reach the Desert Inn road. The runner and FV will then turn right and enter a coned off traffic lane. The remainder of the leg is slightly downhill.

Leg 20 4.4 Miles Difficulty 18

This leg is flat to downhill for the first 2.0 miles, then a slight incline over the 15 Freeway. The leg then descends and passes under Las Vegas Blvd. It then inclines slightly to Paradise Road intersection where the runner and FV will be assisted in making a left. On Paradise, the runner shall use the sidewalk for the last .3 miles to the Finish Line inside the Hilton Convention Room. The FV will drive to the designated drop off area and drop of their assistant and then continue on to the parking area. **NO PARKING at the DROP OFF POINT,**