

8 - COURSE DESCRIPTION ~ 2020

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

Stage 1 5.3 Miles Difficulty 13

Start Line – Flat with very slight rolling hills. Relatively easy stage but weather conditions can make this difficult.

Stage 2 5.4 Miles Difficulty 15

474' Flat with slight declines then at 4-mile point a gradual incline until 4.5 mile mark then .9 mile downhill.

Stage 3 4.0 Miles Difficulty 16

Start at 474' The first mile is slight downhill. The next 3.0 miles are flat. While an easy stage the weather conditions can make this difficult, wind and heat.

Stage 4 4.2 Miles Difficulty 8

Start at 470' m-1 590', m-2 746', m-3 935', m-4 1137', Finish at 1168'. This is a strenuous climb 4.2 miles, combined with wind and heat can make this a very tough stage.

Stage 5 5.1 Miles Difficulty 6

Start at 1168'. m-1 1403', m-2 1650', m-3 1912', m-3.5 Summit 2090', m-4 1970', m-5 1886'. This stage continues the climb to Ibex pass at 3.5 miles of steep uphill before reaching the top and 1.6 miles downhill.

Stage 6 6.1 Miles Difficulty 19

Start at 1880'. m-1 1774', m-2 1636', m-3 1530', m-4 1434', m-5 1376', m-6.1 1319'. The entire stage 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.

Stage 7 6.1 Miles Difficulty 9

Start at 1319'. m-1 1340', m-2 1396', m-3 1399', m-4 1426', m-5 1482', m-6.1 1528'. The first several miles of this stage are fairly flat, 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.

Stage 8 6.2 Miles Difficulty 4

Start at 1528'. m-1 1560', m-2 1624', m-3 1870', m-4 2159', m 4.7 summit 2390', m-5 2345', m-6.2 2143'. Fairly flat until about 1.5 miles where the uphill begins. The gradual incline soon becomes a very arduous hill, topping out at 4.7 mile mark. The stage finishes with 1.5 miles of downhill. The stage begins about .7 miles south of the intersection of Highway 127, and State Route 178 at Shoshone. Turn right onto State Route 178.

Stage 9 6.6 Miles Difficulty 5

Start at 2143'. m-1 2111', m-2 2143', m-3 2211', m-4 2274', m-5 2376', m-6 2566', m-6.6 2664'. This stage 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 1.6 miles. The stage ends just a few hundred feet over the crest of the hill.

Stage 10 7.5 Miles Difficulty 7

Start at 2664'. m-1 2730', m-2 2850', m-3 2816', m-4 2706', m-5 2587', m-6 2476', m-7.5 2536'. This stage starts, almost immediately, with a short downhill then goes uphill for about 1.5 miles. The remainder of the stage is along a gradual descent. The stage finishes with a very short uphill to the handoff .3 mile past Cal/Nev Stateline.

Stage 11 5.8 Miles Difficulty 12

Start at 2536'. m-1 2518', m-2 2533', m-3 2554', m-4 2564', m-5.8 2606'. This stage is flat. It takes the runner into the friendly community of Pahrump Nevada.

Stage 12 5.3 Miles Difficulty 11

Start at 2606'. m-1 2650', m-2 2710', m-3 2720', m-4 2741', m-5.3 2766'. This stage is a slight but continuous incline. At 1.6 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!

Stage 13 4.7 Miles Difficulty 14

Start at 2766'. m-1 2780', m-2 2775', m-3 2870', m-4.6 3076. This is a short but steady uphill stage. The runner leaves the Town of Pahrump.

Stage 14 6.9 Miles Difficulty 3

Start at 3076'. m-1 3155', m-2 3265', m-3 3368', m-4 3429', m-5 3442', m-6 3426', m-7 3370'. This stage begins with a long steady incline of 5 miles then levels off with a gentle decline for last 2 miles. Beginning with this stage the runner and the FV will use the paved shoulder lane.

Parking at # 13 is on the Race Course; very limited. Only one vehicle per team, PLEASE!

Stage 15 10.7 Miles Difficulty 2

Start at 3370'. m-1 3326', m-2 3342', m-3 3377', m-4 3476', m-5 3602', m-6 3703', m-7 3772', m-8 3820', m-9 3930', m-10.7 4215'. This stage begins with 1 mile of downhill and then the runner begins a steady climb toward Mountain Springs Summit. The second 5 miles is difficult due to the elevation and the steep grade. Finish one-half mile from Sandy Valley Road.

The entire length of this stage is uphill except for the first mile.

Parking for # 14 is on the Tecopa Road, south of Hwy 160

Stage 16 6.4 Miles Difficulty 1

Start at 4215'. m-1 4376', m-2 4562', m-3 4730', m-4 4940', m-5 5280', m-6.2 Summit 5495', 200 yards downhill to exchange. This stage, without question, provides one of the most difficult challenges of the race with 6.2 miles of tough, continuous uphill running. At 4.5 miles into the run, it gets steeper. The stage starts at an elevation of 4400 feet, and ends just short of the summit at 5600 feet. This stage climbs to the highest point in the race, not unusual to see snow!

Stage 17 7.8 Miles Difficulty 10

Start at 3760'. m-1 3557', m-2 3395', m-3 3250', m-4 3130', m-5 3020', m-6 2940', m-7.3 2842'. The entire stage is a 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' ahead. Watch for Cattle Crossing at 2.5 mile.

Stage 18 5.7 Miles Difficulty 17

Start at 2842'. m-1 2828', m-2 2735', m-3 2628', m-4 2578', m-5.7 2640'. This stage is flat for .4 miles and then becomes a slight incline for .2 miles. At the 1.0 mile point the stage begins a gradual downhill for 2.8 miles and then is slightly uphill to the exchange.

Stage 19 5.6 Miles Difficulty 20

Start at 2640'. m-1 2666', m-2 2694', m-3 2587', m-4 2454', m-5.6 2315'. This stage 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. Runner and FV turn right and enter a coned off traffic lane. The remainder of the stage is downhill.

Stage 20 4.6 Miles Difficulty 18

Start at 2315'. m-1 2212', m-2 2148', m-3 2125', m-4.6 2040'. This stage is flat to downhill for the first 2.0 miles. It winds through a flat industrial area and into the Rio Hotel parking lot of off Twain Ave. At this point the F/V will be directed to a designated parking area while the runner continues on a different path into the Rio Hotel Convention Room.