

## Zane Grey Highline Trail 50 Mile

Pine, Ariz.  
50.2 miles

May 5, 1990

- |                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| 1. Scott Modzelewski | 12:55    |
| 2. Karsten Solheim   | 13:31    |
| 3. Sabin Snow        | 13:39    |
| 4. John Cheely       | 14:26    |
| 5. David Selzer      | 14:31    |
| 6. Steve Papp        | 15:59:59 |
| 17 starters          |          |

### Under the Tonto Rim.

If you think that the above title sounds familiar, you either have an excellent memory or are an avid reader of Western classics. With apologies to the author, Zane Grey, who wrote five of his adventure classics only a stone's throw from Arizona's Highline Trail, his title seemed very appropriate for the first ever Highline Trail 50 Mile Run.

The country of the Tonto (Mogollon) Rim has been described as follows:

*"Mountain, forest, valley, and streams are blended in one harmonious whole . . . few worldwide travelers in a lifetime could be treated to a more perfect landscape, a true virgin solitude, undefiled by the presence of man."*

Although these words were written over 100 years ago, the landscape described has been changed little by modern man. The

Highline Trail is one of the most scenic trails in the western U.S., and it offers an excellent route for today's adventurers to the country under the Tonto Rim. Starting near Pine, Arizona, it passes by Camp Geronimo, Washington Park, historic Pyle Ranch and Zane Grey Lodge, and ends just east of Christopher Creek at the 260 Trailhead on Arizona Rte. 260. The trail basically follows along the base of the Rim at an elevation varying between 5,400 and 6,800 feet, and it includes several stream crossings. Its "official" distance of 50.2 miles seemed perfect for Arizona's newest ultra.

At 6:00 a.m. 17 runners were gathered at the starting line hoping to be among the first group to complete the entire trail the same day. Hikers often plan to spend three or more days to cover the trail. I conservatively expected about a 50% finishing rate. That estimate turned out to be optimistic as only six of the 17 starters were able to complete the entire distance, with just three of them finishing before darkness. The winning time of 12:55 by Scott Modzelewski (a sub-six-hour 50-miler) reflects both the difficulty of staying on the trail and the trail itself. Karsten Solheim and Sabin Snow (winner of Arizona's Ultra Championship Series) were the only other runners to the finish in the daylight. One veteran trail runner described it as the most challenging trail that he had ever been on. Two runners had to drop out after being lost for several hours

while two others ended up on top of the Mogollon Rim after taking wrong turns.

One eventual finisher, John Cheely, almost dropped out at the fifth aid station 43.9 miles into the course. But after more than an hour's rest stop, which included a couple of beers and half of a bag of pretzels, John teamed up with David Selzer to run most of the last section together.

Steve Papp was the last finisher. At the fifth aid station, three support vehicles saw Steve head down the trail towards the crossing of Christopher Creek. The three vehicles slowly headed down a forest service road and toward the finish line. Little did we realize that Steve could not locate the trail on the other side of the creek and had backtracked to the aid station only to see three sets of tail lights heading down the road. Having little choice, Steve headed back to the creek crossing and after several frantic minutes finally found a sign and the trail.

The race director wishes to acknowledge the dedicated volunteers who provided their assistance and encouragement at the aid stations: Sheila and Erin McKenzie, Cal and Dottie Lash, Mike McKenzie, Tom and Julie George, and Vinnie and Theresa Gonzalez. We would also like to acknowledge the Boy Scouts and Forest Service who allegedly marked the trail for grossly overestimating the abilities of 17 ultrarunners to stay on the proper trail.

Pat McKenzie

## Zane Grey Highline Trail 50

Pine, Arizona  
50 miles (29 on trails, 21 on roads)

April 27, 1991

- |                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Dow Mattingly,39,CA        | 8:25  |
| 2. Mike Ehlerman,26           | 9:21  |
| 3. Charles Thorn,44,NM        | 9:22  |
| 4. Ed Furtaw,43,NV            | 10:43 |
| 5. Lorraine Gersitz,36,CA     | 10:54 |
| Leslie Mattingly Vitale,37,CA | 10:54 |
| 7. Brad Norris,37,CA          | 11:08 |
| 8. Kirk Apt,28,CO             | 11:12 |
| 9. Tom Rowe,42,MT             | 11:52 |
| 10. Vince Devlin,53           | 12:06 |
| 11. Keith Pippin,51           | 12:23 |
| 12. Karsten Solheim,54        | 12:48 |
| 13. Robert Davidson,36        | 13:03 |
| 14. Roseanne Papp,44          | 15:50 |
| Steve Papp,47                 | 15:50 |
| 20 starters                   |       |

The victor in last year's initial running of the Zane Grey Highline Trail 50 was definitely the trail. Only 6 of 17 starters were able to finish the course, the best time was almost 13 hours, and three of the finishers ran the last section of trail in the dark. In 1991, the runners claimed a victory (15 finishers and only 5 DNFs) over the trail, although they were assisted by the devastation caused by a massive forest fire after the 1990 run — as a result of the fire, the middle section of the trail had to be detoured around on forest service roads. (Some claimed that the forest fire was set by one or all of the 11 DNFs in 1990.) Hopefully the 1992 run will be 100% on the Highline

1990 & 1991  
RESULTS  
FROM  
ULTRA-  
RUNNING

Trail, which meanders some 50.1 miles through the scenic Tonto National Forest at an average elevation of 6,000 feet.

Despite the easier course, Californian Dow Mattingly was very impressive, completing the revised course in 8 hours and 25 minutes. Dow averaged about 8:30 pace on the forest service roads and 11:15 on the trail sections; he led at all checkpoints and made a very difficult run look extremely easy.

The battle for second place was very spirited. Charles Thorn caught Mike Ehlerman in the last four miles, but Mike outkicked him to the finish line. Ed Furtaw, not long after an impressive finish at the Barkley Marathons, was fourth. Ed caught and passed the first two women finishers, Lorraine Gersitz and Leslie Mattingly Vitale (Dow's sister), about four miles from the finish line. Lorraine and Leslie ran virtually the entire 50.1 miles together to finish in a fifth place tie. Eight of the first nine finishers were from out-of-state.

Among the other runners, Kirk Apt missed a turn at 46 miles and made a side trip to the top of the Mogollon Rim; he had a great view. Steve Papp and Karsten Solheim finished for the second year in a row.

I would like to thank the following volunteers for their help: Sheila McKenzie and Theresa Gonzalez at the finish line, and Steve and Rose Papp, Priscilla Pippin, Stan Alkire, Wren Coe, and Erin McKenzie at various aid stations. We also gratefully acknowledge the donations of supplies by Norm Klein and Bill Friedl.

# 1992 & 1993 RESULTS

## FROM ULTRARUNNING

### Zane Grey Highline Trail 50 Mile

Pine, Arizona  
Trails

April 25, 1992

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Kirk Apt,29,CO    | 11:36! |
| 2. John Cheely,40    | 12:45  |
| 3. Gene Joseph,39    | 12:46  |
| 4. Ed Furtaw,44,NV   | 13:55  |
| 5. Gordon Neal,35    | 14:03  |
| 6. Steve Papp,48     | 15:59  |
| 7. Mike Fiacco,37,KY | 16:30  |
| Matthew Moore,35,CA  | 16:30  |
| Karsten Solheim,55   | 16:30  |
- 15 starters      ! = course record

Using a very strong second half, Coloradoan Kirk Apt broke away from two other runners to set a course record at the third annual Zane Grey Highline Trail 50. His time was about 90 minutes better than the old record set in 1990. (Dow Mattingly's time of 8:25 in 1991 was run on a somewhat easier course that included a 20-mile detour on forest service roads instead of trail.)

John Cheely finished one minute ahead of Old Pueblo 50 winner Gene Joseph for second place, and Barkley Marathon finisher

Ed Furtaw came in fourth. Mike Fiacco and Matthew Moore were participating in their first ultra, and both were successful. Steve Papp and Karsten Solheim continued their streaks of completing every Highline Trail 50.

The course in 1990 and 1992 was 100 percent demanding trail. The participants in this year's event were positive that this course is the most challenging 50 in the country. Using Ken Young's difficulty formula and the record time for 1992, the difficulty factor was computed at 22.7! Compare this number to the Western States 100 difficulty factor of 13.6 and the Leadville 100 factor of 21.0 and you should be able to appreciate the accomplishments of the nine finishers. In addition, two of the DNFs, Tom Smith and Ross Zimmerman, made it to the 44-mile checkpoint before dropping out.

Several hundred hours were worked by the following volunteers in helping to mark and clear the trail and to staff the several aid stations on race day: Erin and Sheila McKenzie; Theresa, Nicole, Taylor, and Vinnie Gonzalez; Scott and Kevin Gulbranson; Amy, Karen, and Ralph Balster; Steve and Rose Papp; Priscilla and Keith Pippin; Tad and Penelope Kern; Linda Van Tilborg; and Nora Keane. The race director sincerely appreciates the efforts of each volunteer in making this year's race as successful as it was.

Patrick McKenzie

### Zane Grey Highline Trail 50

Christopher Creek, Ariz.

May 15, 1993

50 km; trails, double out-and-back

- |                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. Doug Griffen,37        | 4:53:51 |
| 2. Zach Markham,32        | 5:01:52 |
| 3. Scott Modzelewski,30   | 5:16:17 |
| 4. Kathy Britcliffe,38,CA | 5:22:15 |
| 5. Lorraine Gersitz,39,CA | 5:57:45 |
| Sherry Kae Johns,38       | 5:57:45 |
| 7. Paul Carr,36           | 5:59:16 |
| 8. Dwaine Batt,57         | 6:20:10 |
| 9. Tom Geantil,46         | 6:25:30 |
| 10. Steve Smalley,46      | 6:28:09 |
| 11. Karsten Solheim,56    | 6:32:11 |
| 12. Lanny Nelson,32       | 6:51:36 |
| 13. Bob Davidson,37       | 7:01:45 |
| 14. Geri Kilgariff,34     | 7:04:07 |
| 15. Craig Coppola,31      | 7:04:53 |
| 16. Kate Hansen,38        | 7:11:00 |
| 17. Philip Ramsey,26      | 7:17:04 |
| 18. Tom Holland,44        | 7:20:00 |
| 19. Vince Devlin,54       | 7:31:00 |
| 20. Don Winkley,55,TX     | 7:54:55 |
| 21. Kathy Balistreri,49   | 8:11:00 |
| Judy Overholtzer,52       | 8:11:00 |
| 23. Patrick McKenzie,53   | 8:13:00 |
- 30 starters

Californian Kathy Britcliffe and Arizona Doug Griffen scored impressive victories in the fourth annual Highline Trail 50. Kathy was the first woman to break 24 hours at the Angeles Crest 100 and hopes to repeat this feat at Utah's Wasatch 100 this Fall. Another elite Californian, Lorraine Gersitz, and Sherry Kae Johns, who claims both Arizona and California as home states, tied for fifth place overall.

Doug pulled away from Flagstaff's

Zach Markham in the last six miles for his victory. Scott Modzelewski finished a strong third. Paul Carr was the seventh runner to break the six-hour barrier.

The course was a 50 km double out-and-back (18.5 miles followed by 12.6 miles) on the easternmost section of the 50-mile trail used the first three years. The 100% trail course was both incredibly scenic and challenging. Of the 30 starters, 23 runners completed the demanding course. In addition, Paul Carr, Craig Coppola, Judy Overholtzer, and Patrick McKenzie did the double (50 km on Friday and 50 km on Saturday).

The race director would like to thank the aid-station volunteers for their dedication and support: on Friday, Beverly Rogers and Kathy Balistreri; and on Saturday, Steve and Rose Papp and Keith "Badwater" Pippin. Thanks are also extended to Norm Klein and Vince Devlin for their continued financial support of the HLT 50.

Pat McKenzie (R.D.)

## Zane Grey Highline Trail 50 Km

Christopher Creek, Ariz. May 13-14, 1994  
Trails, out-and-back with loop

1. Steve Christian,43,TX	4:57:29
2. Keith Golding,33,CO	5:04:06
3. Doug Frost,43	5:11:01
4. Charlie Thorn,47,NM	5:24:35
5. Scott Modzelewski,31	5:28:46
6. Mark Theken,43	5:40:50
7. Ed Zerambo,42	5:44:58
8. Ed Furtaw,46,NV	5:54:37
9. Steve Pattillo,43,NM	5:55:30
10. Brent Pinder,54	5:55:30
11. Dave Doarn,44	6:01:18
12. John Greer,35	6:01:54
13. Richard Hall,41	6:16:16
14. Michael Marnell,22	6:17:45
15. Tracey Varga,31	6:17:51
16. Dan DiSalvo,42	6:27:00
17. Bob Kite,39	6:39:47
18. John Cheely,42	6:40:53
19. Michael Ponce,47	6:45:20
20. Paul Carr,37	6:49:58
21. Robert Reedy,52,NM	6:52:07
22. Dianne Siegel,38	6:54:34
23. Dave Upah,50	7:21:20
24. John Marnell,49	7:23:50
25. Beverly Rogers,33	7:27:57
26. Jay Engel,29	7:28:38
27. Jim Kirby,43	7:29:14
28. Connie Hayes,37	7:31:35
29. Tim Barber-Lindstrom,46	7:33:53
30. Wendy Doarn,29	7:38:21
31. Bob Audretsch,52	7:38:23
32. Vince Devlin,55	7:44:22
33. Tom Geantil,47	7:50:24
34. Lanny Nelson,33	8:00:26
35. Jean Ann Hardy,55	8:02:01
36. Gary Smith,37	8:02:05
37. John Baumgartner,57	8:18:20
38. Bruce Brown,43	8:21:08
39. Liz DeLong,48	8:33:08

43 starters

*"When through the woods and forest glades  
I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain gran-  
deur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle  
breeze."*

The above verse from one of the great-  
est songs of all time could have been written  
to describe the fifth annual Zane Grey  
Highline Trail 50. The new and challenging  
50-km course for 1994 was a single out-and-  
back with a ten-mile loop in the middle, and  
over 4,000 feet of elevation change with a  
high point of 7,000 feet. In addition to the  
Highline Trail, the runners used the Horton  
Creek and Derrick trails to traverse through  
some of the most scenic and spectacular  
sections of the Tonto National Forest. Sev-  
eral runners encountered elk and deer along  
the route, and a bear was sighted on Satur-  
day only a mile north of the Christopher  
Creek aid station.

For the second year, a unique Friday-  
Saturday format was used. You could run  
the event on either or both days (or neither

day — some 250 million Americans chose  
this latter option). The times for each day  
were combined for the official race results.  
If you ran both days, your best time was  
used. There were 25 starters on Friday and  
23 on Saturday. There were 22 finishers  
each day and five runners who completed  
the 50 km course on both days (Charlie  
Thorn, Steve Pattillo, John Greer, John,  
Cheely and Dan DiSalvo; interestingly, all  
five had faster times the second day). The  
small number of DNFs is a tribute to the  
quality of runners participating. This 100%  
trail course is very challenging. Over half of  
the runners had done the Crown King 50 km  
in March; on average they took about 50  
minutes more to complete the Highline Trail  
event.

Running on Saturday, Steve Christian  
(4:57:29) was the overall winner and the  
only runner to break the five-hour barrier.  
Five hours on this difficult course represents  
an exceptional performance. The second and  
third place runners, Keith Golding (5:04:06)  
and Doug Frost (5:11:01), ran on Friday and

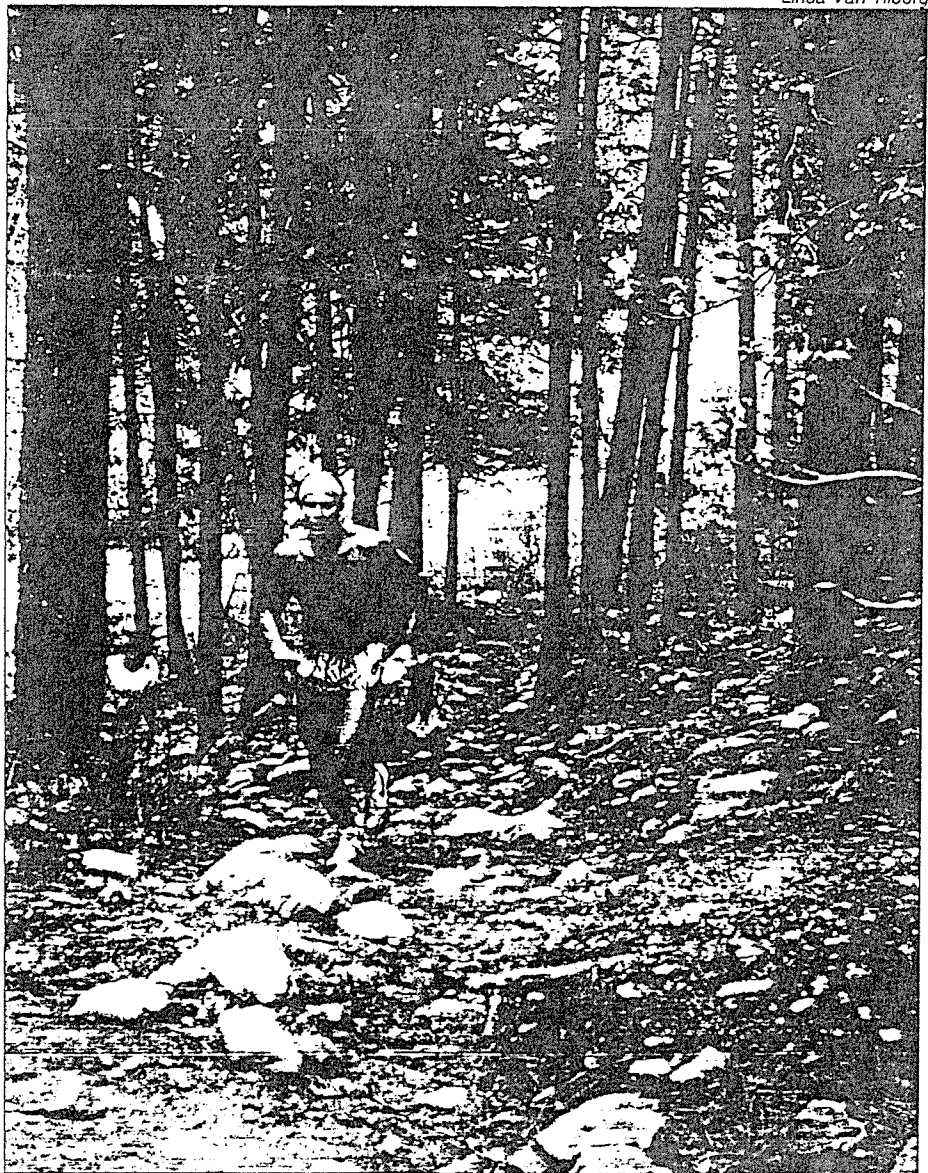
probably would also have broken five hours  
if they hadn't gone off course briefly near  
Horton Creek. Charlie Thorn, who ran ten  
minutes faster on Saturday, and Scott Mod-  
zelewski were fourth and fifth, respectively.

The first woman across the finish line  
and 15th overall was Tracey Varga  
(6:17:51). She was followed by Dianne  
Siegal (6:54:34) and Friday's winner,  
Beverly Rogers (7:27:57).

For the race director and all the run-  
ners, I want to express our sincere apprecia-  
tion to the following volunteers and support-  
ers who made this year's event possible and  
successful: Scott and Amy Gulbranson, C.  
L. Johnson, the McKenzies (Erin, Sheila,  
Tina and Theresa), Vince Devlin, Tom  
Geantil, Keith "Badwater" Pippin, Beverly  
Rogers, Eddie Simpson, George DeLong,  
and last but not least, the 1994 Crown King  
race director and Highline Trail veteran,  
Linda Van Tilborg. Next year: same time,  
same days, same trails, same creeks, same  
forest, same rocks! See you there!

Pat McKenzie (R.D.)

Linda Van Tilborg



Scott Modzelewski near the 1-mile aid station; behind him down the hill is Ed Zerambo.

## Zane Grey Highline Trail 50 Km

Christopher Creek, Ariz. May 12-13, 1995  
Foot trail, 4,000' climb

### Friday

1. John Loeschhorn,51,CA	4:48:26!
2. Scott McKenzie,40,CA	5:02:56
3. Doug Frost,44	5:07:07
4. Fred Shufflebarger,46,CA	5:15:15
5. Paul Bonnett-Castillo,33	5:47:03
Kirk Apt,32,CO	5:47:03
7. Dave Doarn,45	6:07:25
8. Bob Kite,40	6:29:49
9. Vince Devlin,57	6:59:45
10. Dan DiSalvo,43	7:06:01
11. Lanny Nelson,34	7:19:37
12. John Marnell,50	7:20:37
13. Keith Pippin,55	7:22:55
14. <u>Amy Vander Kley</u> ,28,CA	7:42:49
Larry Kelly,35,CA	7:42:49
Robert Goodson,50,CA	7:42:49
17. Steve Papp,51	7:59:43
20 starters	! = course record

### Saturday

1. John Loeschhorn,51,CA	5:06:56
2. Jeff Smith,34	5:20:15
3. <u>Sherry Kae Johns</u> ,40	5:34:01!
4. Kirk Apt,32,CO	6:09:54
Paul Bonnett-Castillo,33	6:09:54
6. Rich Boston,47	7:05:08
7. Bob Audretsch,53	7:20:35
8. Ron Barrett,43	7:35:41
9. Ron Black,45	7:54:00
10. <u>Jean Ann Hardy</u> ,56	7:54:15
11. Larry Kelly,35,CA	8:08:00
12. Philip Ponce,42	8:30:03
13. Steve Papp,51	8:39:37
16 starters	! = course record

Two course records were smashed by ultra veterans John Loeschhorn (4:48:26) and Sherry Kae Johns (5:34:01) at the sixth annual Zane Grey Highline Trail 50. In the Friday 50-km event, John broke the men's record by nine minutes and finished ahead

Pat McKenzie



Sherry Johns cruising along Horton Creek in the Zane Grey 50 Km.

of some excellent ultrarunners (Scott McKenzie, Fred Shufflebarger and Doug Frost) in the process. As if that wasn't enough, John came back to also win the Saturday 50-km event by the same 14-minute margin as Friday to top off an incredible weekend of running. Running on Saturday, Sherry easily won the women's competition and set a course record by over 40 minutes on the scenic, but very challenging rocky trail. Only five men posted faster times than Sherry's impressive clocking, which included some wasted minutes spent backtracking when she wasn't sure that she was on the right trail. Amy Vander Kley was the women's winner on Friday.

The weather on both days was near perfect with cool temperatures and a tailwind for the last ten miles. Friday was cloudy while Saturday was sunny. The 100% trail course included some spectacular scenery, and an alert runner could spot abundant wildlife including deer, elk, and wild turkeys.

In addition to Loeschhorn's 100-km weekend, four other runners completed the difficult course both Friday and Saturday: Kirk Apt, Paul Bonnett-Castillo, Steve Papp, and Larry Kelly. Steve also completed the course on Thursday to record the first-ever Zane Grey Highline Trail 150-km weekend. Appropriately, Steve rested on Sunday.

The 1995 HLT 50 was dedicated to the memory of local ultrarunner Mike Metko (1941-95) who lost a battle to cancer in March. Mike was an unofficial Western States finisher in 1990. The local ultrarunning community will miss one of the most likable and courageous runners to ever set foot on the Western States trail.

The race director and runners would like to acknowledge the efforts of the dedicated volunteers that made the 1995 HLT 50 possible: Linda Van Tilborg, C. L. Johnson, Martin Bush, and Scott and Amy Gulbranson. It would be impossible to find five more caring and supportive volunteers. Finally, thanks to the runners whose mental and physical toughness made all our efforts worthwhile.

Pat McKenzie (R.D.)

## Zane Grey Highline Trail 50

Payson, Ariz.  
50 miles, hilly, rocky trails

April 27, 1996

1. Dana Miller, 44, ID	10:26:38 !
2. Joanne Urioste, 44, NV	12:46:28 !
3. John Greer, 37	13:33:01
4. Tom Murphy, 34	13:33:45
Troy Olson, 32, UT	13:33:45
6. Fred Pilon, 50, MA	14:46:01
Dave Gaudette, 38	14:46:01
8. Tom Dobosz, 39	15:12:55
9. Dave Doarn, 45	15:35:09
10. Judy Overholtzer, 55	19:19:46
20 starters	! = course record

The 20 entrants for the 1996 Zane Grey Highline Trail 50 were in good spirits at the starting line and eagerly awaited an exciting day of challenges on the Highline Trail. This was only the third time that all 50 miles of the trail would be used for the event; no one had broken 10 hours yet, but with Dana Miller of Wasatch 100 fame as an entrant, this might be the year. But it was not to be, and the race director's prediction of a 60 percent finishing rate would turn out to be a little high. Only ten would survive the 50 miles of rocky, undulating trails; it did not help that the day's temperature would be about ten degrees above normal (mid-80s). The ten DNFs (one at 17 miles, two at 26 miles, four at 33 miles and three at 42.5 miles) would include some very talented runners, including an eight-time finisher at Wasatch.

Jeff Smith (Arizona Jeff, not New Mexico) was the early leader, setting a fast pace through the first two aid stations. By the third aid station (26 miles), pre-race favorite Dana Miller had caught Jeff and was starting to gradually pull away. A groin injury would force Jeff to drop out at the

fourth aid station (33 miles) and the only question left was whether Dana would be able to break ten hours, as he was far ahead of the second-place runner. Through aid station #5 (42.5 miles), he maintained a sub-ten-hour pace, but the last section of the trail is not easy and, with Old Dominion only five weeks off, Dana decided to back off his pace. His 10:26 was still a course record by 70 minutes. In second was Joanne Urioste from Las Vegas, the last runner to finish before darkness set in. Her incredible performance was only a minute over the second fastest time in the race's history. In addition, she became the first female runner to complete the 50-mile. Several hours later, Prescott's Judy Overholtzer would become the second.

John Greer (13:33) ran impressively and finished a strong third and was closely followed by Tom Murphy and late entrant Troy Olson. *Ultrarunning's* Fred Pilon and Dave Gaudette finished together in sixth place. First-time 50-miler Tom Dobosz was eighth and Dave Doarn ninth. The 50 percent finishing rate is a tribute to the stamina and mental toughness of the ten finishers. I doubt that there are any 50 milers with a lower finishing rate.

The outstanding efforts of all the volunteers — Linda Van Tilborg (Crown King 50 Km race director), the ageless C. L. Johnson, Keith (Badwater) and Priscilla Pippin (this was Priscilla's first day of retirement!), Pauls Manning and Bonnet, Martin and Doris Bush, Dan DiSalvo, and

Dianne Siegel — were greatly appreciated by all the runners and the race director. The 1996 HLT 50 was blessed by a great group of runners and volunteers. Thank you all for your efforts.

Pat McKenzie (R.D.)