

Possible Western States Course Revisions

Anyone planning to run Western States this June is probably aware that there is an immense amount of snow in the high Sierras. The snow pack this year is the heaviest in northern California since 1952. The snow situation is being monitored very closely by the race management. A decision on any course changes necessitated by the snow pack will be made in early June.

As of late April, there was still about 25 feet of snow at the Emigrant Pass summit (8,700 feet elevation) and about 15 feet of snow at Robinson Flat, which is 6,730 feet above sea level. At somewhat lower elevations, say 5,000 feet, the amount of snow is more or less normal for this time of year. However, in addition to the wet winter, it so far has been a damp and cool spring, so the snow is not melting very fast.

The race management wants to retain the normal course at all reasonable costs. The two big issues will be the safety of the Duncan Creek crossing and the availability of aid-station access into Robinson Flat.

Ultra News

If a course revision is necessary, the most likely scenario would be to duplicate the route run in 1983 (the last big snow year). This would call for turning left at the Duncan Canyon aid station and going out to Mosquito Ridge Road, running down the road for 12.2 miles to road N-44, then turning right and following N-44 for five miles to Dusty Corners.

This route avoids the big climb up to Robinson and the somewhat smaller climb out of Deep Canyon to Dusty Corners. And, obviously, the fact that it is a road will mean that it will be much faster going than the trail.

The 1983 experience would seem to indicate that most runners made up much of the time that they lost in the high country tromping around in the snow. In any event, it is highly likely that there will still be more-or-less continuous snow at least until Red Star Ridge (mile 16).

Due to the expectations of high run-off,

there is a strong likelihood that the river crossing at Rucky Chucky (mile 78) will be accomplished by boat this year.

The race also reiterated that the time limit will continue to be 30 hours regardless of trail conditions.

John Medinger

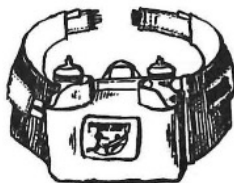
Kansas Ultrarunners' Society

A new ultra club has been formed to organize, sponsor, staff, and support ultra events and competition in Kansas and the surrounding region. Founding members of the Kansas Ultrarunners' Society are Eric Steele, Scott Demaree, Randy Albrecht, and Marc Friesen.

For information contact Steele at 5920 E. Central #205, Wichita, KS 67208.

Correction

Add one more name to the list of ultra winners age 50 or over in 1994: Nico Solomos, 56, won the Doc RIP 35 Mile; there were nine finishers.

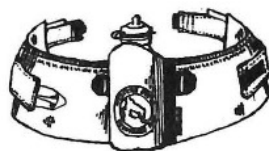
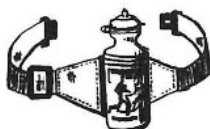


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