

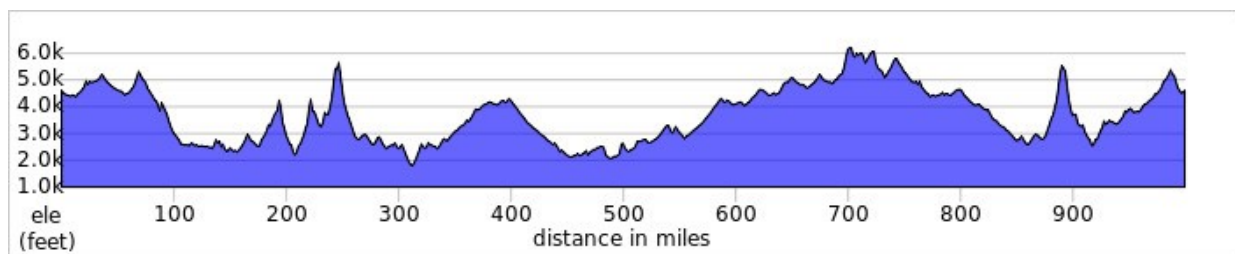
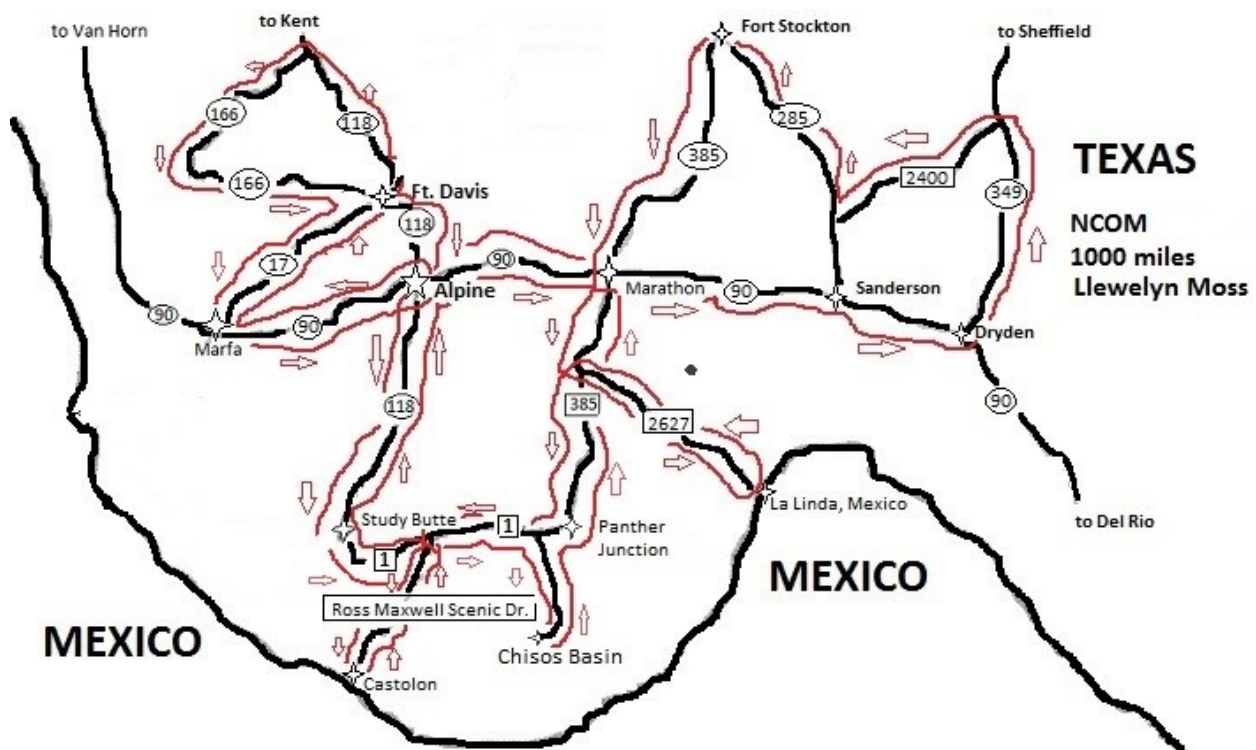
**N C O M**  
***The Story***  
***October 2019***

*For the Love of the Game*



**Llewelyn Moss 1000 Mile Race**

# Llewelyn Moss 1000 Mile



Ultra Unlimited LLC    [ultradex.net](http://ultradex.net)

Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> annual NCOM ultra bicycle race.

This is truly a race of endurance as well as physical and mental challenge. NCOM is born from RAAM experience. You will discover parts of the route that are reminiscent of the Moonscape terrain of Tuba City and Kayenta, climbs similar to the Yarnell Grade and the wide open vastness of the Colorado plains. Enjoy the ugly beauty, appreciate the desolation and respect the ruggedness of this immense land.



“Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming: WOW.....WHAT A RIDE!!”

# NCOM 2018 Outlaws

	Racer	Location	Team Name	Age
<b>Llewelyn Moss 1000 Solo</b>				
<b>4 Person Team</b>				
<b>Anton Chigurh 383 Solo</b>				
<b>Anton Chigurh 383 4 Person Team</b>				

## NCOM 2018 Outlaws (continued)

	Racer	Location	Team Name	Age
<b>Ed Tom Bell 208 Solo</b>				
<b>2 Person Team</b>				

## **No Country for Old Men Course Records**

### **208 Mile Ed Tom Bell Male Solo**

2014. Andrew Willis. 21.44 mph. 193 miles 9 hrs. 0 min.

### **208 Mile Ed Tom Bell Male Solo Recumbent**

2015. Jim Reeves. 13.63 mph. 193 miles 14 hr. 14 min.

### **208 Mile Ed Tom Bell 2 person team**

2015. Cycling Center Dallas. Max Sawyer and Richard Wharton.  
20.53 mph. 193 miles. 9 hr 23 min.

### **383 Mile Anton Chigurh Male Solo**

2012. Marco Baloh. 18.21 mph. 382.6 miles 20 hr. 59 min.

### **383 Mile Anton Chigurh Female Solo**

2015. Ingrid Hillhouse. 13.33 mph. 384 miles 28 hr. 48 min.

### **383 Mile Anton Chigurh Tandem**

2014. Pat and Charley Jenkins. 12.92 mph. 384 miles 29 hr. 42 min.

### **383 Mile Anton Chigurh 2 Person Team**

2013. One Hour Racing. Scott Anderson, Larry Eads. 16.21 mph.  
384 miles 23 hr. 46 min.

### **383 Mile Anton Chigurh 4 Person Team**

2014 Bear Mountain Ultra Racing. Don Ickles, Dustin Sykora, Jeni Sykora,  
Nathan Sykora. 17.21 mph. 384 mile 22 hr. 19 min.

### **1000 Mile Llewelyn Moss Male Solo**

2014. Chirs Hopkinson. 13.89 mph. 1000 miles. 71 hr. 58 min.

### **1000 Mile Llewelyn Moss 2 Person Team**

2015. Amy Russell, Tom Lavallee. 14.13 mph. 1000 miles 70 hr. 45 min.

### **1000 Mile Llewelyn Moss 4 Person Team**

2014. Team Chain Reaction. Kim Gama, James McMasters, Quintin Boehmisch,  
Gregg Godwin. 16.98 mph. 1000 miles. 58 hrs. 52 min.

Start: Quarter Circle 7 Hotel and Spa  
 TS1. Ft. Davis  
 TS2. Marfa  
 TS3. Presidio  
 TS4. Study Butte  
 TS5. Marathon  
 TS6. Sanderson  
 TS7. Sanderson  
 TS8. Marathon  
 TS9. Alpine  
 TS10. Marfa  
 TS11. Ft. Davis  
 TS12. Marfa  
 TS13. Alpine  
 TS14. Marathon  
 TS15. Study Butte  
 TS16. Neutralization Point  
 Finish. Quarter Circle 7 Hotel and Spa

#### Time Station Procedures

Text War Room immediately upon Time Station arrival.  
**830-765-8622**. Secondary number 830-313-6453

Text should include:

- Racer's name
- Racer's NCOM number
- TS number and location
- TS arrival in military time

Example:

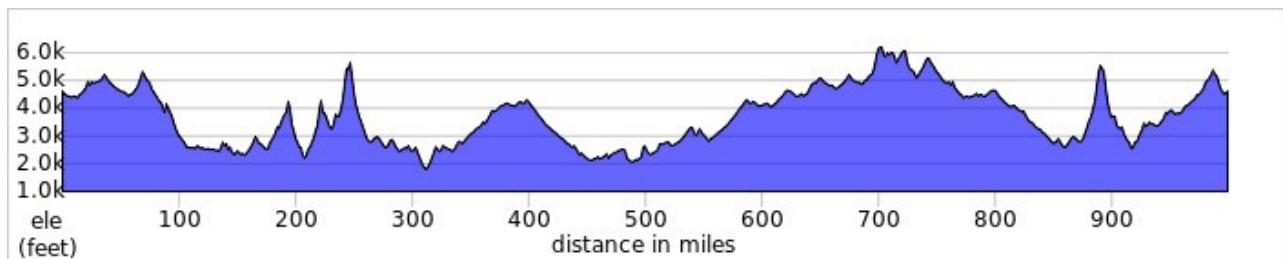
Joe Racer

#111

TS1 Study Butte

15:15

War Room will provide confirmation. It may not be immediate. Keep in mind that cell service might be very limited and the window of opportunity to call in TS arrival could be very short. If text or call does not go through, keep trying. Document your arrival time in your route book.



**“Discover Your Magic!”**

## Fact, folklore and fiction about the No Country for Old Men region.

Of course the race name comes from the book, No Country for Old Men, by Cormac McCarthy. It is a story set in the 1980's about the ensuing results of an illicit drug deal gone wrong in a remote desert location. Several settings in the book are in the No Country for Old Men region.

**“To ride or not to ride? .....What a stupid question!”**

### **Quarter Circle 7 Hotel and Spa**

The QC7 is owned by a fourth generation ranching family. Experience the true cattlemen's hospitality that captures far West Texas. QC7 is situated at the base of “Twin Peaks” Mountains and nestled among the foothills of the Chihuahuan Desert with gigantic views of the Chisos Mountains and Big Bend to the south and the Davis Mountains to the north.

**“You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there.”**

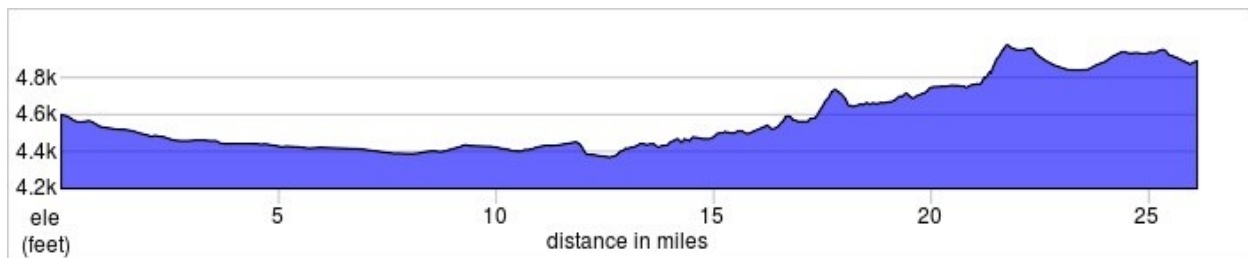
### **Safety should always be the utmost concern for both racer and crew.**

- • Be prepared at all times to shift up to your big chain ring in order to sprint away from chasing Panthers.
- 
- • Please do not feed the Bears
- 
- • Never, ever hit a Javelina broadside. It is like riding into a brick wall.
- 
- • Always be aware of falling cacti as you climb through the rock cuts.
- 
- • It is against the law to adopt Coyotes as rescue pets.
- 
- • Those are NOT speed bumps you see in the roadway. Those are Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes. Please slow down when crossing.

**“Who dares wins.”**

**Start to TS 1; QC7 to Ft. Davis. 26.1 miles**

Ac-cumlate d Miles	Time Station Miles	Action	Control	Comments
0.0	0.0			Start Line/Quarter Circle 7 Hotel and Spa
2.3	2.3	Left	Red Blinking Light	5th St./Hwy 118 North
4.5	4.5			Railroad Tracks
<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>			<b>Begin Optional Direct Follow</b>
19.8	19.8			Picnic Area on right
<b>26.1</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>Bear Left</b>	<b>Yield Sign</b>	<b>TS1/Intersection Hwy 118 N and Hwy 17S/State St. Text War Room. Reset Trip Meter</b>



## **Fort Davis**

Fort Davis National Historic Site, along Texas Highways 17 - 118 at the foot of Sleeping Lion Mountain and Hospital Canyon, is considered perhaps the best preserved of all the 19th Century frontier forts and one of the best preserved "Buffalo Soldier" forts in the west. The nickname was given to the "Negro Cavalry" by the Native American tribes they fought. The "Buffalo Soldiers" were established by Congress as the first peacetime all-black regiments in the regular U. S. Army.

Although one local historian insisted that "Fort Davis never was a wild town," the place had its share of colorful legends. One involved Dolores Gavino Doporto, who as a young woman became engaged to a goatherd named José. While José was out tending his goats she would communicate with him by building a fire every Thursday night on the low mountain just south of town. Shortly before their wedding day José was killed and scalped by Mescaleros while tending his goats in or near Musquiz Canyon. Dolores, overcome with grief, continued to climb the mountain and build her fire every Thursday night for some thirty or forty years. When she died in 1893 she was buried near the path she had worn on her lonely trips up the mountain, which became known as Dolores Mountain.

**“The ultimate thrill was peeing on the bike, snot coming out of my nose, chewing on my Power Gel and farting at the same time!”**

## **Ft. Davis and Indian Family**

In the late 1860s, an Apache female fell wounded in a skirmish between cavalry troops stationed at Ft. Davis and her band. The soldiers took her back to the fort, where a Mrs. Eason nursed her back to health and named her Emily. The Indian girl grew up on the post and eventually fell in love with Mrs. Eason's son, Lt. Tom Eason. But the soldier married a girl of his own culture and the broken-hearted Emily returned to her people. Some time later, so the story goes, the Apaches planned a major assault on the fort. Emily, in an act of selfless love, slipped away from her village in the middle of the night to warn the young officer. As she approached the fort a jittery sentry shot her. She died in Mrs. Eason's arms after telling her of her everlasting love for Lt. Eason and of the impending attack on Fort Davis.

**“Far more bodies rust away than wear away.”**

**TS1 to TS2; Ft. Davis to Marfa 21.0 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
26.1	0.0	Left	Stop Sign	Left turn onto Hyw 17S toward Marfa
28.3	2.2	Straight		Junction Hwy. 166. Continue straight on Hwy 17 S..
46.2	20.1	Straight		Entering Marfa
46.7	20.5	Rt. Turn		Lincoln Street
46.8	20.6	Left turn		Highland St./Hwy 17
47.0	20.8			Railroad tracks
<b>47.1</b>	<b>21.0</b>		<b>4 Way Stop Sign</b>	<b>TS2. Junction Hwy 67 S and hwy 90W. Continue Straight. Text War Room. Reset Trip Meter</b>



## **Glowing Jackrabbits**

There's even the glowing jackrabbit explanation. Under that theory, the jackrabbits race across the desert with a coating of phosphorescent dust or glow worms clinging to their hides. In the absence of a more definitive explanation, legend and folklore have been known to sprout like tumbleweeds. Fortunately, several of these theories can be discounted because they don't apply to the West Texas region. For instance, while jackrabbits are abundant, phosphorous is not, and volcanic activity in the area ceased about 30 million years ago. Also, although jackrabbits are known for their speed, they are not known to fly or outrun cars, and both pilots and motorists have reported being chased by the lights.

**“If I live long enough, ultra racing will make me immortal.”**

## **Dan Blocker**

Dan Blocker (December 10, 1928 – May 13, 1972) was an American actor best remembered for his role as Eric “Hoss” Cartwright in the NBC western television series, *Bonanza*. *Dan was a Sul Ross State University alumnus. He was also a high school English and drama teacher in Sonora, Texas. How many of you can remember sitting in front of your television set on Sunday evenings at 6:00 waiting for the scene of that fire to start burning in the middle of the Nevada state map? Can you hear the Bonanza theme song?*

**Can you name the movie? “Who are those guys? (pause) I couldn’t do that! Could you do that? How in the hell can they do that? Who ARE those guys?”**

## **Mike Flynt, age 59. Linebacker for Sul Ross State University**

Mike Flynt was drinking beer and swapping stories with some old football buddies a few months ago when he brought up the biggest regret of his life: getting kicked off the college team before his senior year. So, one of his pals said, why not do something about it? Most 59-year-olds would have laughed. Flynt's only concern was if he was eligible. Finding out he was, Flynt returned to Sul Ross State this month, 37 years after he left and six years before he goes on Medicare. His comeback peaked Wednesday with the coach saying he's made the Division III team's roster. Look for the movie soon.

**“I’m glad I’m not normal like nobody else.”**

**TS2 to TS3. Marfa to Presidio. 59.8 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
47.1	0.0	Straight	4 way stop	Intersection Hwy 67 S/Hwy 90W. Continue Stragiht on Hwy 67 S toward Presidio
51.6	4.4	Straight		Border Patrol Checkpoint on left for Northbound traffic only.
87.1	40.0	Straight		Shafter. Continue straight on Hwy 67 S.
104.8	58.7	Left turn		Junction Hwy 67S Business. Left turn onto 4th st/Hwy 170/Erma St.
<b>106.9</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>Left</b>	<b>Stop Sign</b>	<b>TS#3. Continue left on FM 170/Erma/O'Reilly St. Text War Room. Reset Trip Meter.</b>



**Mandatory direct follow from Presidio to Study Butte. The traffic will be light but the road is two lane without a shoulder, double striped, blind curves and blind hills. Protect your rider.  
DO NOT IMPEDE TRAFFIC. PULL OVER AND LET THEM PASS!**

### **River Road**

Get ready for the roller coaster. FM 170, also known as River Road is the most scenic portion of NCOM. It's also the most challenging. It will make Wolf Creek Pass seem like a ride at Six Flags.

It follows the Rio Grande. Toss a rock to the right at any time and you'll more than likely hit Mexico. The road dips, curves and rises with the land. It goes from serene to severe, sometimes within moments. You'll see gorgeous vistas, strange shapes, and odd people living in the middle of it all, and you'll wonder what was going on out here, both 40 million years ago and just last week. Watch for livestock, deer, javelinas, and photographers. You'll see them all!!

**“Man who run behind car get exhausted. Woman who run in front of car get tired.”**

### **Lajitas and the Beer Drinking Goat and Mayor of Lajitas!**

Clay Henry III was not only a beer drinking goat, but he was also the Mayor of Lajitas. Clay Henry III took office in 2000 and took on a greater role than his predecessors. Not only did he drink beer, he began acting as a marketing tool as well. Smith's restaurant serves "Clay Henry Queso." His bar is called "The Thirsty Goat" and it features the "Clay Henry Margarita." People come from all over to stand outside Clay Henry's pen and feed him beers all day long. There is no other good reason to be in Lajitas.

Then Clay Henry III, beer drinking goat and mayor of the west Texas border town of Lajitas, was attacked by local Jim Bob Hargrove and castrated. Hargrove committed the heinous deed after seeing the goat drinking beer on a Sunday, when the area's blue laws prevent the sale of alcohol to humans. Tourists had apparently been feeding Clay Henry his usual staple of Lone Star longnecks RIP Clay Henry!

**“Sometimes you are sad....and no one sees your tears, sometimes you are happy.....and no one sees your smile, but the times that you fart.....trust me....people smell it.”**

**TS3 to TS4. Presidio to Study Butte. 66.4 Miles. MANDATORY DIRECT FOLLOW**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
106.9	0.0			Fm 170 S/O'Reilly St. Follow FM 170 S/O'Reilly turns into Millington Blvd
108.8	1.9			Double R/R Tracks
109.4	2.5	Right Turn	Yield Sign	Right turn onto 4th St.
121.8	14.8	Continue Straight		Redford/Continue straight on FM 170
<b>143.1</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>Continue Straight</b>		<b>Steep Descent. Use Caution</b>
144.2	37.2	Continue Straight		Tee Pee Hill Roadside Park on Right
151.5	44.5	Continue		Contrabando Creek
156.3	49.3	Continue Straight		Lajitas
168.7	61.7	Continue Straight		Terlingua Ghost Town
<b>173.3</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>Bear Right</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>TS4. Junction Hwy 118S/FM 170. Study Butte. Bear Right. Alon Store. Text War Room. Reset Trip Meter.</b>



### **What's the difference between Study Butte and Terlingua?**

Study (rhymes with duty) Butte (rhymes with fruit) has about the same history as Terlingua (rhymes with nothing). Both were economically tied to the mining of mercury and both experienced

the same booms and busts. One of the differences the towns have is that Study Butte was named after

Will Study and Terlingua wasn't. If you're planning on visiting the area, you're bound to see them both. Study Butte has a big arroyo running through it and fewer no trespassing signs. Terlingua has the picturesque cemetery.

**"I can't sleep. I dream too loud!"**

### **Big Bend National Park**

Known as the last frontier of Texas, Big Bend National Park encompasses over 800,000 acres of breathtaking desert landscape. The national park is named for a curve in the Rio Grande River called the "big bend." For 1,250 miles, the river is an International Boundary between the United States and Mexico. The mountain range is contained entirely within the boundaries of the Park. This is the only mountain range in the United States to be fully contained within the boundary of a national park. It is also the southernmost mountain range in the United States. The highest point in the Chisos Mountain range is Emery Peak at 7,825 ft above sea level.

**"The ultimate thrill was peeing on the bike, snot coming out my nose, chewing on my Power Gel and farting at the same time."**

### **Lost Mine Trail**

The Lost Mines Trail is a 4.6 mile round-trip hike located in the Chisos Basin. The trailhead begins at Panther Pass along the road into the Basin. It is rated as a medium difficulty hike by the National Park Service. The trail begins at an elevation of 5600 feet and ascends to 6850 feet in the 2.3 miles it takes to reach Lost Mine Peak. If you hike the trail for real, remember to bring plenty of water and sunscreen. You will also need a hand counter to keep track of the number of bears you see!!!!

**"In the days before volcanoes were invented lava had to be carried down the mountain by hand and poured on the sleeping villagers."**

**TS4 to TS5. Study Butte to Marathon. 204.8 Miles**

<b>Accumulated miles</b>	<b>Time station miles</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Comments</b>
173.3	0.0			Continue Straight on Hwy 118 S.
177.4	3.9	Continue Straight	Stop	<b>Maverick Station. Entering Big Bend National Park. All racers and crew must obtain Park Permits. NO DIRECT FOLLOW ANYWHERE IN THE PARK DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. RACER SUPPORT ONLY AT DESIGNATED AREAS. SPECIAL BIG BEND RULES APPLY</b>
178.6	5.3			Designated Racer Support #1
185.5	11.6			Designated Racer Support #2
188.6	11.9	Right Turn		Castolon; Santa Elena Canyon; Cottonwood Campground; becomes Ross Maxwell Scenic Road
192.2	15.3			Designated Racer Support #3
193.6	18.8			Designated Racer Support #4
198.0	20.2			Designated Racer Support #5
198.6	24.6			Designated Racer Support #6
203.1	25.2			Designated Racer Support #7
205.2	29.6			Designated Racer Support #8
207.3	31.7			Designated Racer Support #9
	33.8			Turnaround. Call out race number to official.
	34.6			Designated Racer Support #10
	38.6			Designated Racer Support #11
	41.0			Designated Racer Support #12
	46.5			Designated Racer Support #13
	47.8			Designated Racer Support #14
	48.5			Designated Racer Support #15
	50.3			Designated Racer Support #16
	51.1			Designated Racer Support #17

## **The Murder Maverick Steer**

The legend has been told many a times around a campfire. Supposedly the Murder Maverick is an omen of death. It is a big steer, sometimes red, sometimes black, sometimes another color. It is branded on one side with the word MURDER 'in letters a foot high.' If a man or woman gets close enough to read the brand, either that person or someone close to him or her will soon be murdered. According to the legend, two ranchers, at a roundup, disputed the ownership of the steer. The dispute became a difficulty and one of the men was shot and killed. The other escaped. Cowboys who worked for the dead man roped and tied down the steer, then branded it with the word MURDER. According to the teller of the tale, the brand didn't truly scar the hide, but killed the color-producing cells in the hair follicles, so that when the hair grew back it grew in white. The Murder Maverick then began following the murderer everywhere he went, until he had to leave the country entirely. It then went off into the mountains in the trans-Pecos area. It only appeared occasionally, but when it did and the brand was read, someone would be murdered shortly afterward. As you race through the hills of NCOM, be on the lookout for the Murder Maverick Steer. Don't get close!

**“I started to hurt. But then I burped and took a crap. I feel much better now.”**

## **Blood Sucking Chupacabras, Mutants, and Mange Coyotes**

The word chupacabra literally means goat sucker. The creature so often spotted in Castalone and Lajitas is credited with sucking the blood of livestock, especially goats. The Chupacabra has been roaming the abandoned silver mines of Terlingua for decades. Some say the hideous vampire beast is nothing more than a mangy coyote. Others think the beast is a mutant result from alien spacecraft crash that slung debris all across the region over 50 years ago. Mexican folklore has passed down the legend of the Chupacabra in several forms. Most popular are the lizard-like being description and the hairless dog description which is commonly reported in Big Bend as well. In Mexican culture the lizard-like Chupacabra is said to have leathery or scaly, greenish-gray skin and sharp spines running down its back. The creature is said to be approximately three to four feet tall and hops like a kangaroo. This Mexican monster has been described as having a panther or dog-like face with large teeth, and a long, forked tongue. The beast is said to hiss and screech when angry or alarmed. Beware the Chupacabra. Call in to the War Room immediately if you witness one on NCOM. Do not approach and definitely do not attempt to apprehend without professional assistance.

**“It does not take guts to do ultra races. It just takes a significant loss of brain cells to kill off common sense.”**

Continued from page 17

**TS4 to TS5. Study Butte to Marathon. 204.8 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
	51.7			Designated Racer Support #18
	52.8			Designated Racer Support #19
	53.9			Designated Racer Support #20
	54.9			Designated Racer Support #21
	55.9	Right Turn	Stop Sign	Panther Junction Road (main Park road)
	60.2			Designated Racer Support #22
	65.4	Right Turn		Chisos Basin Road; Begin 7 Mile Climb
	65.5			Designated Racer Support #23 <b>LAST RACER SUPPORT UNTIL TOP OF CHISOS CLIMB</b>
	71.6			Campground; Amphitheater Sign. DO NOT TURN HERE!!
	71.7	Turn Around		<b>Chisos Basin Parking Lot. Call out race number to official. Racer support allowed in parking lot. Ride</b>
	71.8	Left	Stop Sign	Exit left out of Chisos Basin Parking Lot.
	78.2	Right Turn		Panther Junction Road (main Park road)
	78.5			Designated Racer Support #24
	81.1			Convenience store on right. Fuel, ice, snacks. If the crew stops here, make sure the racer knows the left turn
	81.3	Left Turn		Panther Junction/Hwy 385/unmarked. DO NOT MISS THIS TURN. There is a green sign pointing left to Mar-
	85.3			Designated Racer Support #25
	104.0			Designated Racer Support #26
	107.5	Continue Straight		<b>Persimmon Gap; Exit Big Bend National Park. Begin optional direct follow during daylight hours.</b>

Continued on page 21

## **Panther Junction**

Panther Junction is park headquarters for Big Bend National Park.

The park is about the size of Rhode Island and while all but two percent of the park is desert, the landscape is extremely diverse. From the Chisos Mountains in the center resembling a green island in the desert, to thermal springs adjacent to the Rio Grande at the southern edge, the park is home to more types of birds, bats and cacti than any other national park in the U.S. including more than 60 species of cactus, 1,100 species of plants, 450 species of birds, 56 species of reptiles, 75 species of mammals and 3,600 species of insects.

Please don't run over any bugs!!!!

**“You can't die from a stomach ache. The worst that can happen is that you'll throw up. Then you can eat some more and start riding again.”**

## **The Painted Rocks of La Linda**

Where are the mysterious painted rocks of La Linda? No one seems to be able to find them. Yet, they exist. There are photos. There are witnesses. Okay, maybe racing down La Linda road at 2:00 am is a little eerie. But at least Border Patrol with scales others with hair. But the painted rocks do exist. All you have to do is have the courage to look for them. was out there for protection. And no, those little green people standing in the middle of the road with little light beams on their head were not aliens, the space kind or the immigration kind. So maybe there were a few critters spotted, some scales, some with hair. But the painted rocks do exist. All you have to do is have the courage to look for them. RIP Scott Luikart.

**Any ride is a good ride. But a great ride is when you:**

- **Find any money**
- **Get really dirty**
- **Get really bruised and bloody**

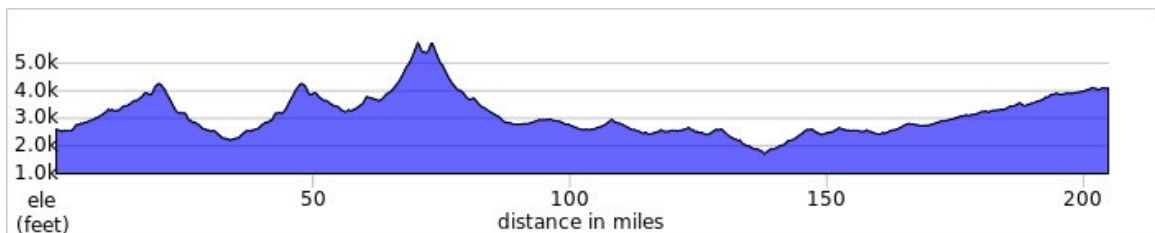
## **Here Little Horny Toad!!!**

How many of you had a Texas Horned Toad as a pet when you were growing up? I sure did. I would hold him in my hand. Rub my fingers in between his little pointed horns. Turn him over on his back and rub his belly until he went to sleep. Ah, those were the days!! Eleven species of amphibians and 56 species of reptiles are presently recorded for Big Bend National Park. Five additional species are listed as hypothetical. Unfortunately, a few species have been extirpated and no longer occur in the park because of habitat loss and human abuse. Frogs and toads make up the only group of amphibians (11 species). Snakes make up the largest group of reptiles (30 species), followed by lizards (22 species), and turtles (4 species). Subspecies are not listed since they are primarily of academic interest and are often difficult to determine from field observations.

Continued from page 19.

**TS4 to TS5. Study Butte to Marathon 204.8 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
283.4	109.9	Right Turn		Junction Hwy 2627; Turn right toward La Linda
289.6	116.1	Continue Straight		Halle's Hall of Fame Museum
300.1	126.6	Continue Straight		Black Gap Wildlife Management Area
311.4	137.9	Turn Around	Barri-cades	End of America. Turn Around
333.1	159.6	Continue Straight		Stillwater Store on left. Probably not open.
339.4	165.9	Right Turn	Stop Sign	Turn right. Hwy 385 North toward Marathon.
368.1	194.6			Roadside park on left
373.5	200.0			Border Patrol checkpoint. All racers and crew must stop for inspection.
378.2	204.7			Railroad tracks
<b>378.3</b>	<b>204.8</b>			<b>TS5. Intersection Hwy 170 and Hwy 118/Big Bend Moter Inn/Study Butte Store/Alon. Text War Room Reset Trip Meter</b>



## Giant, the Movie

The 1956 movie epic "GIANT" won 4 Oscars and 12 nominations. It was based on the novel by Edna Ferber which covered the family life of a Texas cattle rancher and their conflicts. Stars of the movie were Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson, James Dean (final film role), Chill Wills, and Dennis Hopper.

Marfa is also home of the historic Hotel Paisano. The hotel was built by Charles Bassett in 1930. The Paisano was for the most part a cattelman's hotel for the first 40 years. But in 1955, Warner Bros. chose The Paisano as home for cast and crew while filming *Giant*.

Every year, the city of Marfa closes their downtown main street in order for *Giant* fans to watch an outside viewing of the movie. People come dressed in costume as their favorite *Giant* movie actor.

"Speed is sex. Distance is love."

## Mike Flynt, age 59. Linebacker for Sul Ross State University

Mike Flynt was drinking beer and swapping stories with some old football buddies a few months ago when he brought up the biggest regret of his life: getting kicked off the college team before his senior year. So, one of his pals said, why not do something about it? Most 59-year-olds would have laughed. Flynt's only concern was if he was eligible. Finding out he was, Flynt returned to Sul Ross State this month, 37 years after he left and six years before he goes on Medicare. His comeback peaked Wednesday with the coach saying he's made the Division III team's roster. Look for the movie soon.

"Those who ask would not understand....those who know can not explain"

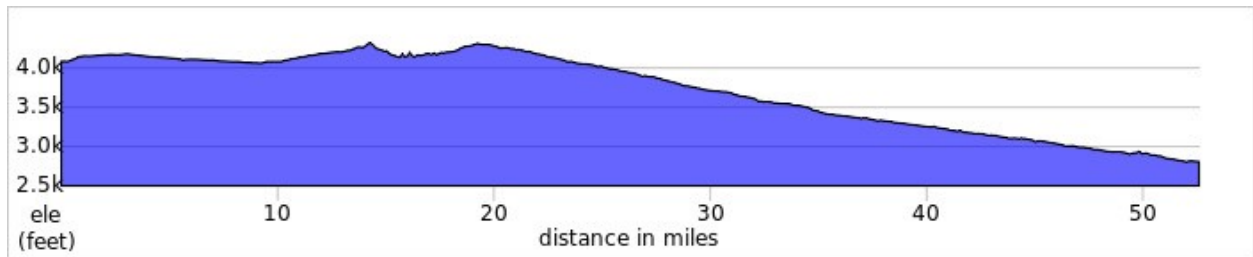
## Sul Ross State University.

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is a public university in Alpine, Texas. Named for former Texas governor, Civil War general Lawrence Sullivan Ross, it was founded in 1917 as Sul Ross Normal College and was made a university in 1969. Notable alumni include professional big time wrestler, Dusty Rhodes, baseball great Norm Cash and Champion professional bull rider, Tuff Hedeman.

"I'm glad I'm not normal like nobody else."

## TS5 to TS6 Marathon to Sanderson. 52.6 Miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
378.3	0.0	Continue Straight		Continue on Hwy 90 E toward Sanderson
379.3	1.0	Continue Straight		Jct. Hwy 385 N. Continue on Hwy 90 E
381.6	3.3	Continue Straight		Pull out on left
398.1	19.8	Continue Straight		Picnic area on right
421.4	43.1	Continue Straight		Picnic area on left
430.9	52.6	Continue Straight		<b>TS6. Stripes store Sanderson, Texas. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.</b>



## **Sanderson and the Big Bend Open Road Race**

Racing on Hwy 285 North toward Ft. Stockton isn't only done on bicycle. This 64 mile stretch of road is home of the Big Bend Open Road Race. It is the most challenging auto road race in the world. On race day, speed demons launch themselves one by one down the ribbon of highway from Fort Stockton to Sanderson and back again, winding through 59 curves and elevation changes each way. top racers regularly breaking 200 mph

**“When you're old, and tired, and suspicious, and plagued with doubt, you'll still hear the world calling to you. You'll wish with all your heart you'd taken the time to listen to it. And you'll be filled with regret. ...OR MAYBE NOT.”**

## **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid**

Do you remember in the movie where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid kept repeatedly robbing the Union Pacific Railroad? Remember as Woodcock, of E.H. Harriman, would lock himself up in the train and refuse to open up as Butch would threaten to blow him up? “Butch Cassidy: Woodcock, is that you in there? Now, open up that door. Woodcock, you can't want to get blown up again... Woodcock: Butch, you know that if it were my money, there is nobody that I would rather have steal it than you. But, you see, I am still in the employment of E. H. Harriman, of Union Pacific Railroad.

Butch Cassidy: Woodcock, you can't want to get blown up again.”

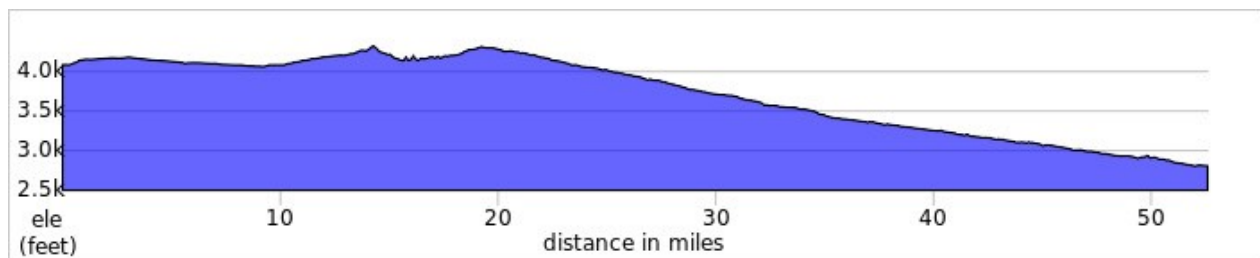
Woodcock's character was actually based on Wells Fargo express manager David A. Trousdale. Texas State Historical Marker 16553 at NCOM mile 416 tells the story of Baxter's Curve and Trousdale.

“In the early hours of March 13, 1912, Ben Kilpatrick, a former sidekick of Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid, and Ole Hobek attempted one of the last major train robberies in west Texas. The two robbers boarded the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio railroad train when it stopped at Dryden on the way to El Paso. They ordered the engineer on to Baxter's Curve, a sharp bend in the railway's rail bed. The baggage cars were uncoupled from the coaches, but while the two searched for valuables, Wells Fargo express manager David A. Trousdale bludgeoned one with an ice mallet and killed the other with the first robber's rifle. Kilpatrick and Hobek were buried in Sanderson, and Trousdale was recognized and rewarded for his bravery

**“The future is not what it used to be.”**

# **TS5 to TS6 Marathon to Sanderson. 52.6 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
378.3	0.0	Continue Straight		Continue on Hwy 90 E toward Sanderson
379.3	1.0	Continue Straight		Jct. Hwy 385 N. Continue on Hwy 90 E
381.6	3.3	Continue Straight		Pull out on left
398.1	19.8	Continue Straight		Picnic area on right
421.4	43.1	Continue Straight		Picnic area on left
430.9	52.6	Continue Straight		<b>TS6. Stripes store Sanderson, Texas. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.</b>



## **Dryden, Texas**

Dryden was founded in 1882 and became the headquarters for the Pecos Land and Cattle Company established in 1884. The company drilled a well that supplied the area with water. By 1912, a hotel, the Dryden Hotel, had been established, along with a combined schoolhouse, community center, and church. Dryden had a population of nearly 100 by 1929. I don't think there is quiet that many still living in Dryden today.

**“If you ever reach total enlightenment while drinking beer, I bet the beer shoots out your nose.”**

## **Judge Roy Bean, the Jersey Lily and the Law West of the Pecos**

You are not far from Langtry, Texas. Rumor has it that Langtry, home of the Jersey Lilly, was named by Judge Roy Bean because he had a schoolboy crush on Lillie Langtry. The Jersey Lilly Saloon also served as Bean's courtroom. The saloon wasn't very pretty, but it was colorful. Bean had a reputation not only for his drinking and shady character, but also for his tough hand in the Law West of the Pecos.

Bean is known for fining a dead man \$40.00—the exact amount in the corpse's pocket.

Bean never actually hanged anyone, although he occasionally "staged" hangings to scare criminals. Bean would prepare a script with his "staff" - if they were sober enough - which allowed for the prisoner to escape. Given this "second-chance" - the culprits never appeared before the court again.

Roy Bean died at 10:03 pm March 19, 1903 after a heavy drinking spree in Del Rio. He returned home at 10 a.m. and died that night at 10:00 p.m. The real reason he died, was he simply lost the will to live. Bean could not adjust to modern times. The thing that sent him on his binge was the start of construction on a power plant on the Pecos River. He used to say that times were changing and he was being left behind

**“I plead contemporary insanity.”**

## **Pecos Bill**

As the legend goes, Born in the 1830's, Pecos Bill was the youngest of eighteen children of a [Texas](#) pioneer, and was so tough even as a baby, that he used a bowie knife as a teething ring and made wild animals his playmates as a toddler. When the boy was very young, he fell out of his parents' wagon as they were crossing the Pecos River and was swept away by the current. Rescued by coyotes, the boy was raised by the wild animals. Years later when he was found by his brother, living with the coyotes, his sibling had to convince him that he wasn't a coyote himself. When Bill returned to civilization he became an excellent cowhand, credited with inventing the branding iron, the lasso, cowboy songs to soothe the cattle, and many other tips and tricks.

**“Regardless of how proud you are of it, your 65 pound collection of beer can tabs does not impress your girlfriend one bit.”**

**TS6 to TS7. Sanderson to Sanderson. 123.0 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
430.9	0.0			Stripes store. Continue straight on Hwy 90 E
434.9	4.0			Roadside park on right.
442.5	11.6			Historical Marker 16553. Baxter's Curve Train Robbery; Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.
452.0	21.1	Left turn		Hwy 349 N. Dryden, Texas
452.1	21.2			Railroad tracks
481.4	50.5			Junction Hwy 3166; Continue on Hwy 349 N.
488.1	57.2			Independence Creek; narrow bridge
497.2	66.3			Steep climb
499.8	68.9	Left turn		Hwy 2400 W.
503.7	72.8			Independence Creek; narrow bridge
528.6	97.7			Junction Hwy 2886. Continue Straight
538.9	108.0	Left turn	Stop sign	Hwy 285 S toward Sanderson
553.9	123.0	Bear Right	Yield	TS7. Intersection Hwy 285 S and Hwy 90 W. Bear right toward Marathon. Text War Room. Reset Trip Meter



## **Town Too Mean for Bean**

One of the first to settle in Sanderson was a man named Charlie Wilson, who established a saloon near the site of the proposed railroad terminal. Calling it the Cottage Bar Saloon, Wilson also bought all of the land which would later become the Sanderson townsite. In these earliest days, he also had a competitor – none other than Roy Bean, who also hoped to capitalize on the incoming railroad crews. However, when Bean opened another saloon, Wilson spiked his whiskey with “coal oil” and Bean soon moved eastward to Vinegarroon and Langtry. Wilson’s riddance of his competitor would later earn Sanderson the name, “Town Too Mean for Bean.”

**“Some are weak and limited and ride with their legs. Others are strong and enduring and ride with their hearts.”**

## **Marathon to Marathon.**

Want to run a Marathon? How about a Marathon to Marathon, marathon. All  
NCOM racers **WILL**<sub>not</sub> receive a  
free entry.

**“There's a light in you that's meant to move---through the wind and the rain  
and the heat, under the sun, under the moon, under the stars, forever. There's a place where everything flows, and no one can tell you how to  
get there but you. The light's already in you---let it burn.”**

**“What is a free gift? Aren’t all gifts free?”**

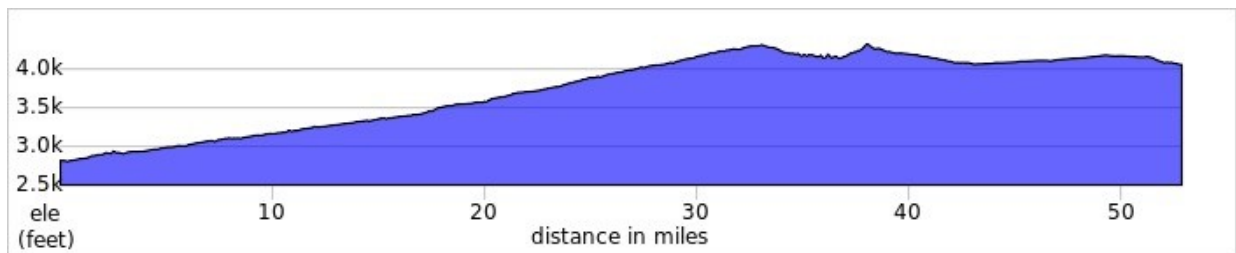
**“One nice thing about egotists: They don’t talk about other people.”**

**“I used to be indecisive. Now I’m not so sure.”**

**“Is it just me, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?”**

**TS7 to TS8. Sanderson to Marathon. 53.3 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
553.9	0.0			Continue straight on Hwy 90 W
563.2	9.3	Continue Straight		Roadside park on right.
586.4	32.5	Continue Straight		Roadside park on left
605.5	51.6	Continue Straight		Junction Hwy 385 N
607.1	53.3	Continue Straight		TS8. Gage Hotel. Marathon. Text War Room Reset Trip Meter..



## **The Gage Hotel**

The Gage is one of several historic hotels on the NCOM route. People come from all across the nation for the unique atmosphere of the Gage Hotel.

Alfred Gage came to Texas from Vermont in 1878, his enthusiasm for Texas fueled by a vast land that offered the opportunity to make his fortune as a rancher, banker and businessman. In 1927, Gage commissioned El Paso architects Trost and Trost to design The Gage as a hotel and ranch headquarters for his 500,000-acre ranch. Sadly, Gage died in 1928, only one year after construction was completed.

Could it possibly be he had an encounter with the Murder Maverick Steer?

**“Some are weak and limited and ride with their legs. Others are strong and enduring and ride with their hearts.”**

## **Eve’s Garden. A Papercrete Bed and Breakfast in Marathon.**

Papercrete is a construction material which consists of re-pulp fiber with clay and/or other soil added. Eve’s Garden is an organic B & B and Ecology Resource Center located in Marathon. It appears as a Paper Mache dwelling. The Garden’s large indoor organic gardens are filled year-round with blooming roses, bougainvillea and countless flowers. The private, quiet thoughtfully hand-built guest rooms open to a central covered courtyard with a pond and tea room. A large amount of recycled content, straw bale buildings, paper adobe/fiber-cement buildings, high Mexican contemporary treatments and a focus on locally produced food, conspire to create an aura Green.

**“There's a light in you that's meant to move---through the wind and the rain and the heat, under the sun, under the moon, under the stars, forever. There's a place where everything flows, and no one can tell you how to get there but you. The light's already in you---let it burn.”**

**WHY ARE YOU LOOKING OVER HERE? YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING YOUR RACER!!!**

**"If the bone ain't showin', keep on goin'**

## TS8 to TS9. Gage Hotel Marathon to Alpine Stripes. 30.0 Miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
607.1	0.0	Continue Straight		Continue straight on Hwy 90 W
618.6	4.0	Continue Straight		Ghost Bicycle Memorial to Rene Joseph Ulmschneider. Stop DUI.
629.1	11.6	Continue Straight		Junction Hwy 67 N to Ft. Stockton. Continue straight on Hwy 90 W toward Alpine. Roadside park on right.
635.6	21.1	Continue Straight		Entering Alpine. Continuing straight on Hwy 90 W
636.8	21.2	Bear Right		Bear right on E. Ave. East
637.1	50.5	Continue Straight		TS9. Stripes store on left. Continue straight on E. Ave. East/Hwy 90 West. Text War Room. Reset Trip Meter



## **Sul Ross University.**

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is a public university in Alpine, Texas. Named for former Texas governor, Civil War general Lawrence Sullivan Ross, it was founded in 1917 as Sul Ross Normal College and was made a university in 1969. Notable alumni include professional big time wrestler, Dusty Rhodes, baseball great Norm Cash and Champion professional bull rider, Tuff Hedeman

**“Speed is sex. Distance is love.”**

## **Marfa, Texas**

This town has one bank, one pizza place, one coffee shop, one laundry, one radio station, one bookshop—basically one of everything, except for the things of which it has none: billboards, pet stores, chain stores, clothing stores, bowling alleys or traffic lights.

Marfa is located in the high desert of West Texas. It is located between the Davis Mountains and Big Bend National Park. It is the home of the Chinati Foundation, an independent, non-profit, publicly funded institution. The institution features art exhibits from several famous artists including, Donald Judd, John Chamberlain and Dan Flavin. Each artists’ work is installed in a separate building on the museum property.

**“There is a crowd at the fountain of youth, and I’m getting dehydrated.”**

## **Who is Chip Love?**

Chip Love is a banker in Marfa. When approached by the producers of No Country for Old Men needing a local to be shot in the head by a crazed crook, Anton Chigurh, Chip said, “I was in the Wizard of Oz as a kid.” So he was perfect for the role.

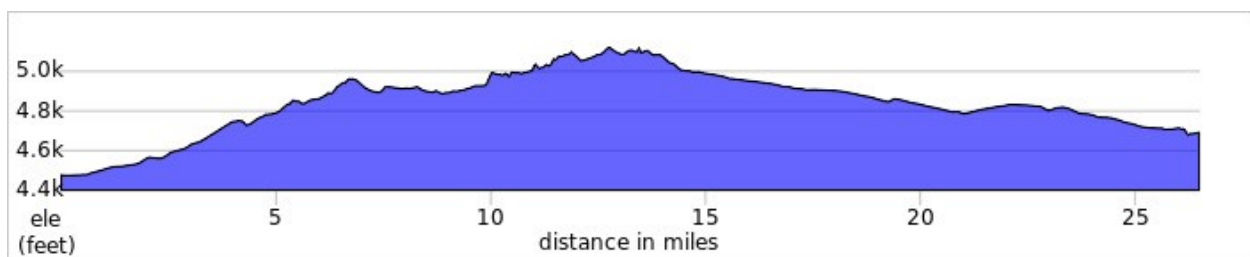
“I need you to step out of the car, please!!!”

Afterwards Chip said, “It was easy. I just had to stand there and be terrified.”

**“Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that is counted truly counts.”**

**TS9 to TS10. Alpine Stripes to Marfa Stripes 26.5 Miles**

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
637.1	0.0	Continue Straight		Alpine Stripes Store. Continue on E. Ave. East/Hwy 90 W
638.2	1.1	Continue Straight		E. Ave East becomes Hwy 90 W/Hwy 67 South
642.1	6.0	Continue Straight		Picnic Area on Right
654.8	17.7	Continue Straight		Marfa Lights viewing center on left
662.9	25.8	Continue Straight		Entering Marfa, Texas
663.6	26.5	Continue Straight		TS10. Stripes store on right. Marfa, Texas. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter



### **Marfa, Prada.**

Close proximity to the NCOM route is Valentine, Texas and Marfa Prada.

Valentine, Texas was formed on February 14, 1882. Every year, lovers and sweethearts from all over the world send envelopes to the Valentine Post Office in order to obtain special holiday postmarks for Valentine's Day from the United States Postal service.

Designed to resemble a Prada store, the building is made of "adobe bricks, plaster, paint, glass pane, aluminum frame, MDF, and carpet." The installation's door is nonfunctional. On the front of the structure there are two large windows displaying actual Prada wares, shoes and handbags, picked out and provided by Miuccia Prada herself from the fall/winter 2005 collection; Prada allowed Elmgreen and Dragset to use the Prada trademark for this work.

**“Those who ask would not understand....those who know can't explain.”**

### **Giant, the movie.**

The 1956 movie epic "GIANT" won 4 Oscars and 12 nominations. It was based on the novel by Edna Ferber which covered the family life of a Texas cattle rancher and their conflicts. Stars of the movie were Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson, James Dean (final film role), Chill Wills, and Dennis Hopper.

Marfa is also home of the historic Hotel Paisano. The hotel was built by Charles Bassett in 1930. The Paisano was for the most part a cattelman's hotel for the first 40 years. But in 1955, Warner Bros. chose The Paisano as home for cast and crew while filming *Giant*.

Every year, the city of Marfa closes their downtown main street in order for *Giant fans to watch an outside viewing of the movie. People come dressed in costume as their favorite Giant movie actor.*

**“My typical responses include:**

**...Because I can**

**...It's training for when my car breaks down in the middle of nowhere**

**...(Perhaps most seriously) To overcome severe guilt and compensate for my dis-functional lifestyle**

**Did you know the word sabotage originated when a left handed polar bear attempted to disfigure the boots of a fellow bear? However, he sneezed and was unable to close his eyes, which resulted in an unsuccessful attempt to swallow a teaspoon of cinnamon.**

**TS10 to TS11. Marfa Stripes to Ft. Davis. 21.2 Miles**

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
663.6	0.0	Continue Straight		Stripes store. Hwy 90 W., Marfa, TX
663.7	0.1	Right Turn	Flashing Red Light	Hwy 17 N./South Highland Ave
663.8	0.2			Railroad Tracks
663.9	0.3	Right Turn	Stop sign	E. Lincoln St/Marfa Courthouse Square
664.0	0.4	Left Turn		N. Dean St./Hwy 17 North
684.3	20.7			Entering Ft. Davis, TX
<b>684.8</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>Bear Left</b>		<b>TS11. Intersection Hwy 17N/hwy 118. Ft Davis, TX. Text or call War Room. Reset Trip Meter.</b>



## **The Prude Ranch**

Grandmother Prude came to Fort Davis over 100 years ago, with her parents, in a covered wagon. The soldiers of Old Fort Davis had to protect them from Indians along their journey. Her marriage to Andrew G. Prude in 1896 began the legacy of the present Prude Ranch operation. The legacy lives on, John Robert and Betty Prude, the third generation, began what is now 58 years of Prude Ranch Summer Camp for Boys and Girls. At the historic Prude Guest Ranch you can do everything from horseback riding, birding, square dance or take in a fabulous Texas Star Party.

**“Growing old isn’t the problem. It is ugly you have to watch out for!”**

## **McDonald’s Observatory**

McDonald Observatory, a research unit of The University of Texas at Austin, is one of the world's leading centers for astronomical research, teaching, and public education and outreach. Observatory facilities are located atop Mount Locke and Mount Fowlkes in the Davis Mountains of West Texas, which offer some of the darkest night skies in the continental United States. Did you know the community of Ft. Davis, Texas nearly 20 miles from McDonald’s Observatory has ordinances that prevent city street lamps from being over a certain height just to keep the skies darker for better star gazing at the observatory.

**“Ride it like you stole it!”**

## **The Hobby-Eberly Telescope**

The McDonald Observatory operates four telescopes. One of the four is the Hobby-Eberly Telescope. The HET is one of the world's largest optical telescopes, with an effective aperture of 9.2 meters and a 78 square meter, hexagonal mirror array made from 91 segments. Its design is revolutionary. It sits at a fixed elevation angle of 55°, and rotates in azimuth to access 81% of the sky visible from McDonald Observatory (discounting the "high airmass" zone right next to the horizon which telescopes normally avoid). The HET was built for approximately 15-20% of the cost of other 9 meter class telescopes. The tilted Arecibo design, and the cost savings realized throughout the mechanical systems of the HET from the fixed axis concept, broke the standard cost paradigm for large aperture telescopes.

**“How old would you be if you did not how old you are?”**

**TS11 to TS12. Ft Davis to Ft. Davis via McDonald's Loop. 74.8 Miles**

<b>Accu- mulate d miles</b>	<b>Time sta- tion miles</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Comments</b>
684.8	0.0	Bear Left		Hwy 118 N and Hwy 17 S/State Street
686.1	1.3	Bear Left		Hwy 118 toward McDonalds Observatory. Do not go toward Balmorhea
686.4	3.1	Continue Straight		Roadside Park on left
687.9	4.1	Continue Straight	Stop Sign	Davis Mountain State Park on left
688.9	5.8	Continue Straight		Prude Ranch on right. Roadside Park on left
690.6	13.4	Continue Straight		Roadside Park on left
698.2	15.2	Continue Straight		McDonalds Observatory. Do Not Turn! Roadside park on left
700.8	16.0	Continue Straight		Roadside Park on left
708.7	23.9	Continue Straight		Roadside Park on left
714.3	29.5	Bear Left		Hwy 166. Do not continue on Hwy 118.

**Continued on Page 37.**

## **Are these really names of Texas towns?**

Gunsight, Point Blank, Cut and Shoot, Gun Barrel City, Raisan, Oatmeal, Noodle, Fink, Grit, Hext, Lawn, Lodi, Nada, Spur, Toco, Voca, Wink, Zorn, Munday, Telephone, Telegraph, Energy, Tarzan, Gordon, Vernon, Seymour, Chester, Sidney, Smiley, Leroy, Dabney, Tomball, George West, Muleshoe, Louise, Edna, Inez, Sarita, Donna, Mercedes, Maybelle, Thalia, Maude, Winona, Idalou, Thalia, Pandora, Mineola, Kermit, Maud, Lydia, Caddo, Seminole, Comanche, Kickapoo, Santa Anna, Kookville, Hulver, Newlin, Weldon, Dad's Corner, Ding Dong, Loco, Bacon, Weird and let's not forget Lukenbach.

**Yogism “You should always go to other people's funerals, otherwise, they won't come to yours.”**

## **Big Bend Flora and Fauna**

Big Bend is famous for its natural resources and spectacular geology. The park is home to more than 1,200 species of plants (including approximately 60 cacti species), 11 species of amphibians, 56 species of reptiles, 40 species of fish, 75 species of mammals, 450 species of birds, and about 3,600 species of insects. The park boasts more types of birds, bats, and cacti than any other national park in the United States.

**“Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much; I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound men and women with their hearts in a safe deposit box, and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this; You will outlive the bastards.”**

## **The Marfa Lights**

The NCOM route takes you right by the Marfa Lights viewing station. Accounts of strange and unexplained phenomena just outside of Marfa began during the 19th century and continue to this day. Ranchers, Apaches, high school sweethearts and famous meteorologists alike have reported seeing seemingly sourceless lights dance on the horizon southeast of town, an area that is nearly uninhabited and extremely difficult to traverse. The mystery lights are sometimes red, sometimes blue, sometimes white, and usually appear at random throughout the night, no matter the season or the weather. While the source of the mystery lights is still a point of contention, the show goes on. By most reports, they are whimsical and friendly; other witnesses maintain that they are ever distant and aloof; and some sources claim they zoom across the plains at terrifying speed, only to whip back around and dissolve before hitting the dumbstruck viewer. The cynics will tell you that this so-called paranormal phenomenon is just the atmospheric reflections of cars and campfires at night. The mystics will tell you that's hooey. There is only one way to find out for yourself.

I saw the Marfa Lights. Did you?

Ultradex.net

**“Will there be showers at the end? I dunno. Depends on the weather.”**

**TS11 to TS12. Ft. Davis to Ft. Davis. 74.8 Miles**  
**Continued from page 35.**

<b>Accumulated miles</b>	<b>Time station miles</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Comments</b>
722.3	37.5	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
723.4	38.6	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
724	39.2	Continue Straight		Roadside Park on Right
726.9	42.1	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
734.3	49.5	Continue Straight		Ranch Road 505. DO NOT TURN!!!
735.6	50.8	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
736.7	51.9	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
738.8	54.0	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
740.3	55.4	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
740.7	55.8	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
741.4	56.6	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard

**Continued on page 41**

Exercise physiologists and athletes have long debated the science vs. myth of the 'runner's high'. Some scientists stand behind the 'endorphin rush' while some athletes contend they have been running decades without ever achieving the runner's high. So I decided to lend my two cents worth. This is an article published in *Runner Triathlete News* in November, 1994.



## THE GUN LAP

### Jonathan Livingston Buzzard

by Dex Tooke

I awoke at 1:00 p.m. Not much rest considering I had gotten to bed at 8:00 that morning. My thoughts quickly reminded me of the day of the week and that I wouldn't have to return to work that night. At least that was good.

I stumbled into the kitchen. Set the microwave on two minutes and started that most important first cup of coffee. Grabbed the half and half out of the refrigerator and went ahead and covered the bottom of my cup with the cream so not only would I be prepared the instant the two minutes had expired, but I wouldn't even have to waste the energy stirring. I peered out the kitchen window to check the limbs on my favorite tree to see how bad the wind was blowing. Bent nearly double. Coming from the southeast again. Must be at least 20 m.p.h. and gusty. Doesn't the wind ever stop blowing in Del Rio? The countryside was parched brown in color and the temperature was already over 100 degrees. Another beautiful day in the neighborhood. The coffee was ready.

105 p.s.i. in my 20c tires. Water bottles filled. I put on my faded shorts and grabbed my unwashed, salt-caked, body-odored jersey. "Ah, smell that! Isn't cycling a glamorous sport?" Shoes, helmet, sunglasses, chapstick. I'm out of here.

The first few miles went slow as I gradually worked the cobwebs out of this ill-treated 44-year-old body. Living in the "land of manana" for seventeen years on the Texas/Mexico border had taught me it didn't pay to rush into anything. Easy spinning. 15-17 m.p.h. The wind hot and gusty. The desert hot and dry. The bunch grass brown and thirsty. A lone jack rabbit competing for a small area of shade beneath a mesquite tree. That first bead of sweat began forming on my temporal region and slowly trickling down the side of my face. The heat rising off the pebbled asphalt as the tar began to melt. Pushing a little. Heart rate near the 150 range.

Then after about 30 minutes a strange transformation started to occur. The wind went dead calm. The temperature dropped. I was headed south toward Tlaloc the Mexican rain god and as I topped the railroad bridge near the International Boundary and Water Commission I could see a solid blanket of purple covering the countryside. A sea of purple waves. The ceniza was in full bloom. And shooting out of the purple sage was the long slender arms of the brilliant red octillo. The large yellow flowers of the prickly pear sprinkled the desert floor. The thick single shaft of a germinating agave rose 18 feet into the blue sky. And the air was so clear I could see some of the white rock facing on the cliffs of the Sleeping Lady over 70 miles in the distance. The Chihuahuan Desert was at her best.

As I approached the riff-raff of the dam I noticed a small buzzard sitting atop the guardrail. Expecting him to fly off as I got close, he surprised me with his boldness and remained on the guardrail even as I passed. Then I saw several more buzzards ahead. Now believe me, seeing buzzards on Amistad Dam is not unusual, but I had never noticed this many. They were everywhere. And all seemed bold. They all stood their ground. I couldn't tell if it was in defiance or fear.

As I passed through American Customs and crossed the dam I observed something different about these buzzards. They were all small. No. Young. Some of their feathers appeared immature. Baby feathers.

As if they were molting. The pigment of their ugly faces was more pink than the dull red of an adult buzzard. These were fledglings.

It didn't take long to figure out the occasion. These young Jonathan Livingston Buzzards were perched atop this 200 foot dam looking down into the canyons and water of the Rio Grande trying to work up enough gumption to take their maiden plunge into the flight of life. They were there to learn for the first time about wind, lift, velocity, and atmospheric navigation.

It was neat! They were there to discover the essence of their existence, and I was there, too. It was as though I was a part of their world. A world that I had never been curious about or even thought about was suddenly unfolding before me.

I rode atop the dam. A mysterious metamorphosis transpired. My red taped aero bars seemed to grow a projection similar to that of a large ugly beak. My STI shifters expanded horizontally to form a wingspan and my helmet became a cock's comb. The aerodynamics of my cycling position molded into the image of my feathered friends. I was bonding with the buzzards.

And then suddenly! No friction. The silence. No longer the sound of chain and free-wheel. No click of index shifting. I looked beside me. They were there. Soaring side by side. The wind beneath our wings. I was pack riding with buzzards. The flight. Dipping our wings first one way then the other. Learning navigational tricks. Confidence building. Tucking in close behind one of my compadres and utilizing his draft to gain velocity. As our skills improved we began to dive down faster and faster, daringly close to the rock cliffs, then banking at the last second to glide back over open airspace. Then, pushing the envelope, we dangerously lowered our latitude and flew

wing to wing inches above the cold waters of the Rio Grande at speeds that kept the adrenaline flowing. I felt true freedom. I felt the rejuvenation of enthusiasm and passion long lost to the hectic life-style of mere man. I was a buzzard.

As I journeyed home and got within a couple of miles of my house I again felt the hot, gusty, 20 m.p.h. wind blistering my face. I gazed and saw the familiar brown of the thirst ridden desert. No brilliant colors. No cacti in bloom. Not even a jackrabbit stirred. Another dreary summer day.

I opened the refrigerator door, pulled out a 32 ounce grape Gatorade, grabbed two oranges, a banana, some chocolate chip cookies and an Eskimo Pie. The bennies of being a calorie burning tri-geek. I relaxed under the cool, refrigerated air. I picked up the latest edition of *RTN* and began reading an article entitled "The Myths of Endorphins and the Runner's High." An eerie presence swept over me. I glanced out the window. A young buzzard was perched on the fence post.

*Do you have an interesting story to tell? We will consider it for The Gun Lap, the section that RTN readers write. Please send your original, unpublished submissions (short stories, poems, etc.) about running, cross country, track and field, or multi-sports to RTN, P.O. Box 19909, Houston, Texas 77224. Not responsible for lost or misdirected submissions.*



Continued from page 37.

**TS11 to TS12. Ft. Davis to Ft. Davis via McDonald's Loop. 74.8 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
743.6	58.5	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
745.1	60.3	Continue Straight		Caution. Cattle Guard
748.1	63.3	Continue Straight		Roadside Park on left
757.3	72.5	Left	Stop Sign	T Intersection. Take Hwy 17N
759.2	74.4	Continue Straight		Entering Ft. Davis
759.6	74.8	Bear Right	Stop Sign	TS12. Ft. Davis. Intersection Hwy 17N and Hwy 118S/Muzquiz Dr. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter



Jethro and Buster were having their Sunday morning coffee at the Daylight Coffee House Cafe in Perryton, Texas. They decided they wanted to drive across the border into Oklahoma and do some deer hunting.

They got their rifles all packed and loaded and took off in Jethro's big, red, dually F-250 pick up.

A few miles into Oklahoma they saw a sign on the side of the road that said, "Day Hunting." Jethro pulled his big truck up next to the farm house and Buster knocked on the door. A farmer came to the door.

Buster said, "We'd like to hunt on your property."

The farmer asked, "Where ya'll boys from?"

Buster said, "Texas."

Farmer said, "Sorry, I don't let Texans hunt on my property. Ya'll are too unpredictable."

So Jethro and Buster got back in the truck and drove on down the road a little further until they saw another "Day Hunting" sign.

They knocked on the farmer's door and told him they wanted to hunt on his property.

The farmer asked, "Where ya'll boys from?"

Jethro said, "Texas."

Farmer said, "Sorry, I don't let Texans hunt on my property. Ya'll Texans are too wild."

So they got back in their truck. Everywhere they stopped they got the same story. No one would let them hunt because they were from Texas.

So they turned their truck around and started heading back to Perryton. Just before they crossed the stateline they saw another Day Hunting sign where they hadn't stopped. Jethro decided to give it one more shot. Buster was so frustrated that he said he would just stay in the truck.

Jethro knocked on the farmer's door.

Jethro said, "I'd like to hunt on your property."

The farmer replied, "Ok."

Jethro said, "There's two of us."

Farmer said, "That's okay."

Jethro said, "We are both from Texas."

Farmer said, "That doesn't bother me."

Jethro said, "Great."

Farmer said, "I do have one favor to ask of you." He pointed out the window to the pasture. "See that old mule out there? She's been in the family a long time. She's in a lot of pain and I just don't have the heart to shoot her. Would you do me a favor and put her out of her misery?"

Jethro said, "Are you sure?"

Farmer said, "I would really appreciate it."

Jethro said, "Okay."

Jethro was walking back toward the truck and he thought he would play a joke on Buster.

He got in the truck and hit the steering wheel with his fist and said, "Dang it! Same ole story. Just because we are from Texas we can't hunt! That pisses me off so much I'm going to shoot that mule.

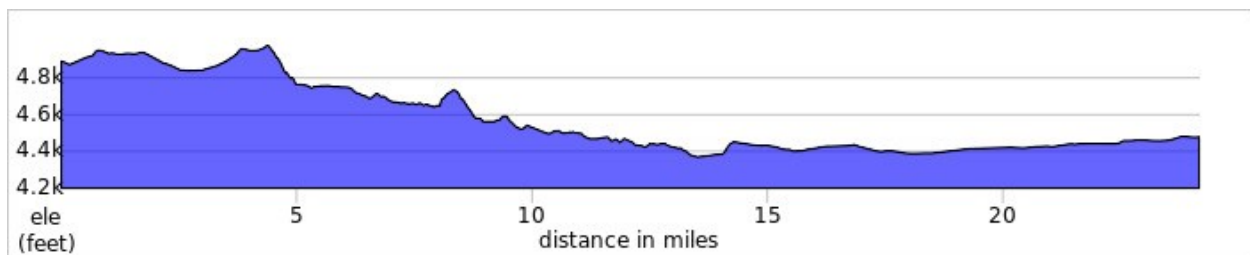
Jethro grabbed his rifle, got out of the truck, pulled a beam on the mule and fired.

About that time, Jethro heard another BOOM, BOOM!!!

Buster said, "I got their horse and dog, let's get the hell out of here!"

**TS12 to TS13. Ft. Davis to Alpine Stripes. 24.2 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
759.6	0.0	Bear right	Stop Sign	Ft. Davis. Bear right off Hwy. 17 N toward Hwy 118 S. toward Alpine.
765.9	6.3	Continue Straight		Picnic area on left
781.2	21.6	Continue Straight	Railroad Tracks	
783.4	23.8	Left turn		E. Holland Ave/Hwy 90 East
783.8	24.2	Continue Straight		TS13. Stripes store on left. Get Fuel. Text War Room. Reset Trip Meter.



## **Twin Sisters Mountains Legend**

The mythology of the Lipan [Apaches](#) of the Texas South Plains includes a culture hero, Killer-of-Enemies. During his stay among the mortals, he killed men's foes, created deer, horses, and other animals, and taught Lipans all they knew, including warfare and raiding. Among Caucasian Americans a few spurious Indian myths circulate, such as the explanation of how Twin Sisters Mountains near Alpine came to be. Two Indian girls quarreled and the Great Spirit turned them into twin mountains as punishment.

**“It will hurt. It will take time. It will take dedication. It will require willpower. You will need to make healthy decisions. It requires sacrifice. You will need to push your body to the max. There will be temptation. But I promise you, when you reach your goal, It’s worth it.”**

**The Murder Maverick Steer Award honors the racer, crew member, or volunteer who displays the true spirit of NCOM with true grit, courage, inspiration and sportsmanship. Remember, if you see the Murder Maverick Steer, don’t stare him in the eyes!!**

## **Murder Maverick Steer Award Recipients**

**2014 Dustin Dinh**

**2015 Wheels Busch**

**2016 Perry Braniff**

**2017 Roget Foote**

**2018 Albert Garcia**

**“if anybody out there has it better than me, would you let me know?”**

## **Yogism**

“I knew I was going to take the wrong train, so I left early.”

“If you don’t know where you are going, you will end up somewhere else.”

“You better cut the pizza in 4 pieces. I don’t think I am hungry enough to eat 6.”

“A nickel isn’t work a dime any more.”

“Nobody goes there anymore. It is too crowded.”

“I used to be indecisive, but now I’m not so sure.”

“A day without sunshine is like night.”

“On the other hand, you have different fingers.”

## TS13 to TS14. Alpine Stripes to Gage Hotel Marathon. 30.0 Miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
783.8	0.0	Continue Straight		Stripes store. Alpine, TX. Continue on Hwy 90 E./Holland Ave.
791.8	8.0	Continue Straight		Junction Hwy 67 N to Ft. Stockton Continue Straight on Hwy 90 E toward Marathon; Roadside park on left
802.3	18.5	Continue Straight		Memorial to Rene Joseph Ulmschneider. Stop DUI!
813.8	30.0	Continue Straight		TS14. Gage Hotel. Marathon, TX. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



## **EVER WONDER . . .**

**Why** the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?  
**Why** you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?  
    **Why** "abbreviated" is such a long word?  
    **Why** doctors call what they do "practice"?  
    **Why** you have to click "Start" to stop Windows 98?  
**Why** lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?  
    **Why** the man who invests all your money is called a broker?  
    **Why** there isn't mouse-flavored cat food?  
**Who** tastes dog food when it has a "new & improved" flavor?  
    **Why** Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?  
    **Why** they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?"  
**Why** they don't make the whole plane out of the material used for the indestructible black box?  
    **Why** sheep don't shrink when it rains?  
**Why** they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?  
    . . .if con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?  
    **Why** they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?

**"Just go out there and simultaneously piss in your shorts, fart like a foghorn and drink from your mud-caked bottle. While you're at it let some liquid dribble down your chin onto your jersey, look up at the starry night and laugh like a raving lunatic. Fook em all. You're doing what you love to do and no one can stop you."**

## **The Stars of Big Bend**

Big Bend is far from city lights and sources of air pollution. As a result, the starfields visible from the park are stunning: The stars are vivid, sharp, and shaped like diamonds. If by chance your race just happens to be going through Big Bend at night, STOP!! LOOK UP!! You will be amazed.

**"When you finish, you won't have to ask, "Is that all there is?""**

**TS14 to TS15 Gage Hotel Marathon to Study Butte 105.4 Miles**

<b>Accumulated miles</b>	<b>Time station miles</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Comments</b>
813.8	0.0	Continue Straight		Continue Straight on Hwy 90 E
814.3	0.5	Bear right		Bear right on Hwy 385 S toward Big Bend
814.4	0.6	Continue Straight		Railroad Tracks
819.1	5.3	Continue Straight		Border Patrol Checkpoint on left. For Northbound traffic only.
824.5	10.7	Continue Straight		Roadside park on right
853.2	39.4	Continue Straight		Junction Hwy 2627
855.5	41.7	Continue Straight		Persimmon Gap. Enter Big Bend National Park Turn off amber strobes at if at night.
856.9	43.6			Paved pull out #22
860.5	46.0			Paved pull out #23
873.2	58.7			Paved pull out #24
881.7	67.9	Right turn		Gano Springs Road
881.9	68.1	Continue Straight		Fuel/Store on left/Paved pull out #25 on right.
884.0	70.2			Paved pull out #26
884.8	71.0	Left turn		Basin Junction toward Chisos Basin. Begin 7 Mile Climb.

Continued on page 47

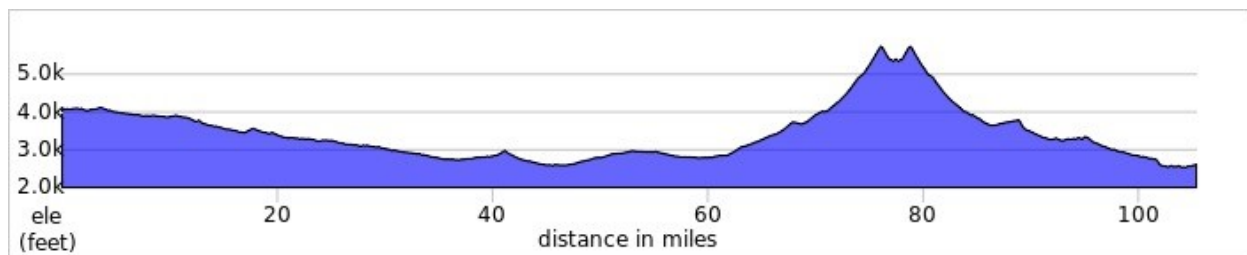
**“The Dogs of Terlingua” (copyright Moore, 2006)**

There's dogs in Terlingua, dogs by the score,  
Dogs underfoot and dogs at the door.  
They sleep in the shade and they sprawl on my floor...  
So many but there's always room for more.  
We've got dogs.  
There's litters of puppies, old gray-faces too,  
And all the cute bitches that the Don Juan dogs woo.  
Some dogs are neutered, some of them spayed,  
But the dogs of Terlingua have all got it made...  
Yes, they've got it made!  
Some dogs are alpha, some of them, not.  
They tip over trash cans! They never get caught!  
Duke of Earl will steal pizzas; Brown Dog might bite.  
Once in a rare while there's a dog fight...  
Yes, there's a dog fight.  
Some dogs are from Texas, some, Mexico.  
The border is closed, but the dogs, they don't know  
So they slip 'cross that river, swim to and fro.  
Not a one has a green card, they just come and go...  
The dogs come and go!  
The dogs are all hungry; they want to be fed.  
They eat what's in their bowl and roll in things dead,  
Just disguising their smell, the better to hunt,  
And I've heard the best dog is always the runt...  
He's always the runt.  
There's dogs that have left us, dogs that passed on,  
Dogs we remember, of which we were fond.  
There's Toby and Bam Bam, Mayor Joe, too.  
Dogs have short lives; it's sad, but it's true...  
Sad, but it's true.  
My dog is old, and although she seems  
Arthritic and slow, she still has her dreams!  
Chasing those ravens, she's faster than light...  
When she runs in her dreams, I know my dog's alright...  
I know she's alright!  
The dogs of Terlingua have their own style,  
Short-haired or shaggy, sweet-tempered or wild.  
Why not play with your dog or just pet him and smile,  
For you know that your dog's only with you a short while.  
It's such a short while...  
There's Sugar, Bessie, my own Sage Hen,  
Cody and Big Dog, Petie and then there's  
Rocky, Chupi, Kinky and Beau,  
Ruby, Mabel, Bear, Ocki and little Leo,  
Diablo, two Angels, low-slung Poco,  
The Duke of Earl, Jesus, and his momma MoMo,  
Roger, Sonora -let's not forget Bob-  
Lobo and Rio and it's a big job  
To recall all the dog friends I have here and so  
I'll just name a few Terlingua dogs that I know. **And they're DAMN lucky dogs...**

Continued from page 45

TS14 to TS15. Marathon to Study Butte. 105.4 Miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
891	77.2	Continue Straight		Junction/Amphitheater/Basin Campground. DO NOT TURN HERE!
891.2	77.4	Turn Around		Chisos Basin Lodge/Parking Lot/Store Go to end of parking lot and make a horseshoe turn out.
896.8	83.0	Left Turn		Gano Springs Road/Panther Junction Road
899.5	85.5			Paved pull out #27
904.9	91.1			Paved pull out #28
907.5	94.2			Paved pull out #29
915.3	101.5	Continue Straight		Maverick Junction. Exit Big Bend National Park
919.2	105.4	Continue Straight		TS15. Big Bend Motor Inn/Alon Store. Text or Call War Room. Reset Trip Meter



## **Badlands, Texas. As seen on Netflix**

If you haven't watched this Netflix documentary series about Terlingua, you should. It is a compelling truth about the lifestyle of the people that live in Terlingua.

The small town of Terlingua, Texas is a little known oasis on the Rio Grande River where eccentric residents trade modern comforts for a unique brand of freedom. But the price of their freedom proves high when a brutal crime threatens to tear their town apart. This true-crime docu-series delves into the eccentric world of Terlingua as its citizens struggle to reconcile the killing of a dear friend and fight to hold the town together as it grapples with change.

**“Those who agree with me are insane.  
Those who do not agree with me are in power.  
Some of those in power are insane.  
And they are right!”**

## **The Starlight Theater Porch.**

Ever sat on the porch at the Starlight Theater? Nothing really happens there. Oh, one of the natives might show up with a guitar in one hand and a harmonica in the other. They might sing a song you never heard before. And while you are listening, reach down and pet that dog at your feet. The Terlingua Dogs love to hang out on the porch. Look to the east and see the Chisos Mountains. Listen to the silence of the landscape. Feel the heat of the Texas Desert. You'll go home with some stories. Ever sat on the porch at the Starlight Theater? Nothing really happens there. And you can't wait for it to happen again!!

**“People don't stop playing because they grow old. They grow old because they stop playing.”**

**“It is better to live and learn than to die stupid.”**

**“Happiness can't buy money.”**

**“It's not an optical illusion. It just looks like one.”**

**“What if there were not hypothetical situations?”**

**“What steams your beans?”**

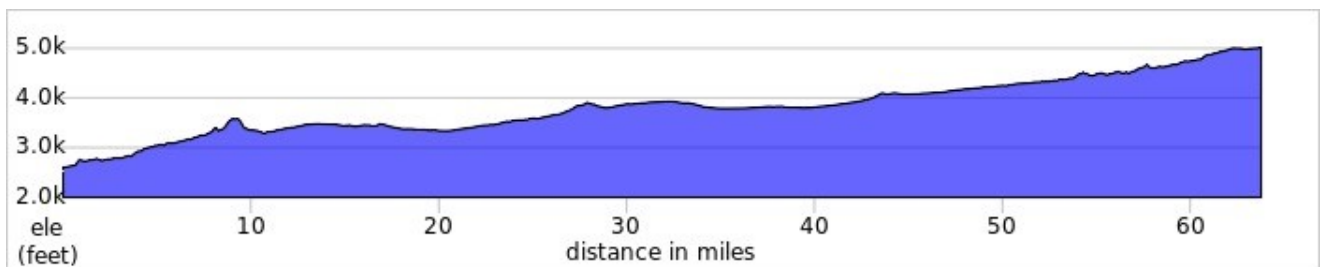
**“This ain't no school zone!”**

**“I had amnesia once.....or twice.”**

**“I am neither for nor against indifference.”**

**TS15 to TS16. Study Butte to Neutralization Point. 77.7 Miles**

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
919.2	0.0	Continue Straight		Big Bend Motor Inn/Alon Store. Continue on Hwy 118 N.
971.0	51.8	Continue Straight		Picnic Area on Right
979.7	60.5	Continue Straight		Picnic Area on Right
983	63.8	Continue Straight		Border Patrol Checkpoint. All racers and crews must stop.
995.9	76.7	Continue Straight		Entering Alpine/ S. Walker Street
996.7	77.5	Bear left		Stay on Hwy 118 N
996.9	77.7			TS16. Neutralization Point. Racing Stops. Jackson Field Parking lot on right. Text or Call War Room. Reset Trip Meter.



## TS 16. Neutralization Point to Quarter Circle 7 Hotel and Spa 3.0 Miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
996.9	0.0	Right turn		Exit Jackson Field Parking Lot to the right on Hwy 118 N
997	.1			R/R Tracks
998.4	.2	Left turn	Stop sign. Red blinking Light.	Hwy 118 N/Hwy 90 West
999.9	3.0			Quarter Circle 7 on Left.  The Finish Line.  Congrats. You Are Rugged Enough!

# Notes

**Learn hurt, trust pain and embrace struggle.**

*push yourself until the pain comes and then go on until you think you cannot survive.*

*here, the ego will let go , here, you will be purified, here is the moment of true prayer*

*for you will feel the power of the universal language, it is here that your quest begins and ends*

***N C O M***  
***STAFF***

**See you next year at the  
NCOM!**

