



Las Cruces El Maraton del Rio Grande Trip Notes
November 1-6, 2013

This was a short add on to my Capitol Reef hike out of Salt Lake City. It was irresistible because friends were to be in Las Cruces and Las Cruces was where Tom and I had taken up housekeeping together in 1970. We hadn't returned since leaving there a year later. Tom would arrive a day earlier than I did as I came in just in time for the event.

This was a series of 5 marathons and I not only didn't do all five but I didn't even do a full. Yet after the half marathon, which I had gone backwards and forwards a number of times so surely did much more than the 13.1 miles, I then went back out with a friend doing the full later on.

Liberating!

A sense of liberation came over me multiple times Saturday night and Sunday morning. In the morning I didn't need to worry about timing. I didn't need to worry about sunscreen. I didn't need to wear a hat. I didn't need to bring all this food. I didn't have to worry about losing my whole day. It didn't make any difference whether I was there on time or not. I didn't need to Vaseline my feet. And just as importantly, when I crossed the finish line there was still food available. Wow, I'm liking this.



Marsha, David, Judy, Diana, Seth, Sharon, Maryanne and Marv

Day of the Dead Marathon Series



Not all of us are Divas (not me!) but if we were here is what we should have looked like for the Day of the Dead Marathon Series. Everybody got a poster of “El Maraton” and every medal was custom made and represented a different Dead look.



The t-shirt for each run and the series which numbered four races and three states. The upper medal was for those who completed all four marathons. They were cute but many of them fell apart upon coming out of the plastic bag.

Sunday at the marathon

It's so nice to be here with a lot of friends and even my husband in the same bed. A rare occurrence with my travel schedule. Oops, I was just reminded that my friends were not in the same bed. All the better -- right place right time.



Look ma! No line. I think ratings for marathons should include if they allocate sufficient porta potties. Judy, Marv, Seth and Maryanne.

I've always thought the sky in the desert to be different. This is as the sun was coming up at the starting line. It was most convenient starting and finish line too as it was at a stadium with lots of parking.



Garbage bags make good sense. I'm a size 30-gallon gal. The race director even got the start nearly on time – maybe 7:05am.



Spectators were varied. Costumes were plentiful. The Organ Mountain range in view.



The house was so tacky you had to presume it was new money. Military exercises.



David on his 3rd marathon in 4 days. Seth being more logical. And yep, this gal was dragging a tire for something about environment awareness. Sharon is all taped up because she does hundreds of these and is even older than me. Isn't she holding up well!



Lots of food and drink on the course. See the pizza? Cotton fields and mountain ranges on three sides of us. At the finish line there was even more food. And not to be outdone with the food supply, here we are at a celebratory dinner.

From Tom: This was a second visit to a brewery/restaurant called the Pecan something or other which featured pecan beer!! Actually quite good and the immediate taste is in fact pecan (the nut is a big industry in Las Cruces with very large groves). We ate there twice - first time was for BBQ ribs that were rubbed then cooked - delicious too.



It was nice to see LC again and I'd been wanting to do that for some time but I must say, it was a pretty big disappointment. It's really red neck west. We've been many places where we've said we could live there but this isn't one of them. We had a good time with runner friends though - some of the same from the marathon in San Luis Obispo.

Marv describing Tom: Tom gets the world to work exactly the way he wants and never ruffles a feather.

Las Cruces and our history - where it all began

From Tom to friend: Yes, it (Diana and Tom relationship) seems to work well for us and there's never the slightest dissension, jealousy or discontent. We support each other and encourage each other to do whatever it is our little heart's desire. Life is good. Next up Las Cruces, NM. You may recall that the army sent me to a little college outside Kansas City (Parkville to be specific) to finish my undergraduate degree. I happened to take a cheap apartment where Diana was living (fate??) with her then four year old daughter. Her folks lived only a couple of miles away and were a support system for her following her marriage break up (the stupid guy hit her and that ended that). So we lived about thirty steps apart and the rest is history. After my graduation I went to Taiwan, came back on three trips to see her, and she came to Taipei for Christmas and spent a month. Then I was assigned to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, just across the Organ mountains from Las Cruces. She packed up her few belongings and put her daughter in the car and came to New Mexico and never looked back. It's been great ever since (43 years now I think). Anyway, there's a marathon there next month and we're going to join a few of her friends for that and have a look at where it all began, kindova nostalgia trip. Boy! Have we come a long way since then!!

Monday in the Old Mesilla Village of Las Cruces.

We came here on Saturday but due to both the Renaissance Festival and the yearly Art Fair it was wildly busy and impossible to get parking. We left our name on the reservation list to eat at La Posta but gave up. We went to another noted Mexican restaurant which didn't stand up to its reputation and some at the table particularly disliked the waiter with his dry sense of humor.

Monday was like a new world and it was so quiet that we were able to get into La Posta and walk through the various and many museum-type rooms. La Posta has previously sheltered such personalities as Billy the Kid and Kit Carson and Gen. Douglas MacArthur and even Poncho Villa.

It has been the mainstay for Mexican food since 1939. Many sources listed as one of the top 10 Mexican restaurants in the country. After a walk through many of the rooms and taking a lot of

photographs and then a drop by the gift shop where we dropped some money, we worked up an appetite. Then it was decision time as to which margarita to enjoy from a full-page of options. I needed more than a half marathon to work off this weekend's Mexican food calories.



We learned from the gift shop that Saturday brought as many as 1800 diners into La Posta. Even in the gift shop they experienced a record number of about 1000 visitors.

Itinerary

Fri Nov 1 – Tom

9:02am Depart Newark EWR via UA#1711
11:48am Arrive Houston Bush IAH for plane change

12:59pm Depart Houston Bush IAH via UA#4584
2:00pm Arrive El Paso ELP

Rental car Thrifty in Tom's name
Travel about 1 hour or 50 miles to Las Cruces

Directions: Travel on I-10 East for approximately 8 miles, Exit 140 (Mesilla exit). Then left on Avenida de Mesilla. Turn left at Hickory stoplight. The entrance to the hotel is located directly behind McDonald's.

Hotel SpringHill Suites Las Cruces for 5 nights
1611 Hickory Loop, Las Cruces, NM 88005 Tele 575 541 8887

Other hotels: La Quinta at 575 524 0331 ask for marathon rate; AAA lists as 2-star at \$68 to \$130
Drury Inn good per Diane and has managers reception

Sat Nov 2 – Diana

7:45am Depart Salt Lake City SLC via UA#6088
9:13am Arrive Denver DEN for plane change

10:19am Depart Denver DEN via UA#5594
12:04pm Arrive El Paso ELP

12:40pm Seth lands via SW airlines; meet at Hertz car rental

Alternates are shuttle http://www.lascrucesshuttle.com/index_files/FaresAndSchedules.htm or Marsha lands at 12:30.

Request friends to pick up bib and shirt; sent permission letter plus copy of ID to Judy.

Sun Nov 3 – Diana

www.mainlymarathons.com

www.mainlymarathons.com/day_of_the_dead/el_maraton_del_rio_grande

Part of a four day event with four marathons.

Entry fee \$80 marathon and \$60 half if pre 8/31/13; take off \$10 discount for club affiliation using discount code dddisc.

Start: Field of Dreams on Motel Boulevard in La Llorona Park. It's an out and back, with marathon being is double loop. No finish line closure.

Tue Nov 5 – Diana and Tom

2:35pm Depart El Paso via UA#4584
5:25pm Arrive Houston Bush IAH for plane change

6:51pm Depart Houston Bush IAH via UA#1017
11:16pm Arrive Newark EWR

Participants:

Judy – arriving 12:30pm Friday to Monday – same hotel

Marv and Maryanne – arriving via auto Friday to Monday – same hotel

Sharon – arriving late Friday am and departing Monday morning – same hotel

Also with friend Theresa who was in San Luis Obispo

Seth - arrive ELP on Southwest Airline Saturday 11/2 at 12:40pm and depart Monday 11:15am. He has reserved a car and offered a ride; staying at local hotel to our hotel. Cell (407) 491-4021.

David Holmen – doing 3 of the 4 events? Arriving Friday after the El Paso marathon.

Please include in dinner plans.

Mark Landry – doing 4th day of the event

Marsha White and husband - into El Paso on Saturday around 12:30 via DL 2136 from Atlanta.

Returning to El Paso right after the race on Sunday since their flight leaves at 6am on Monday.

Diana and Tom – Diana at cell 732 804 7514; Tom at cell 732 673 5400

Must do restaurant: <http://www.laposta-de-mesilla.com/html/menu.html>