

No Country for Old Men

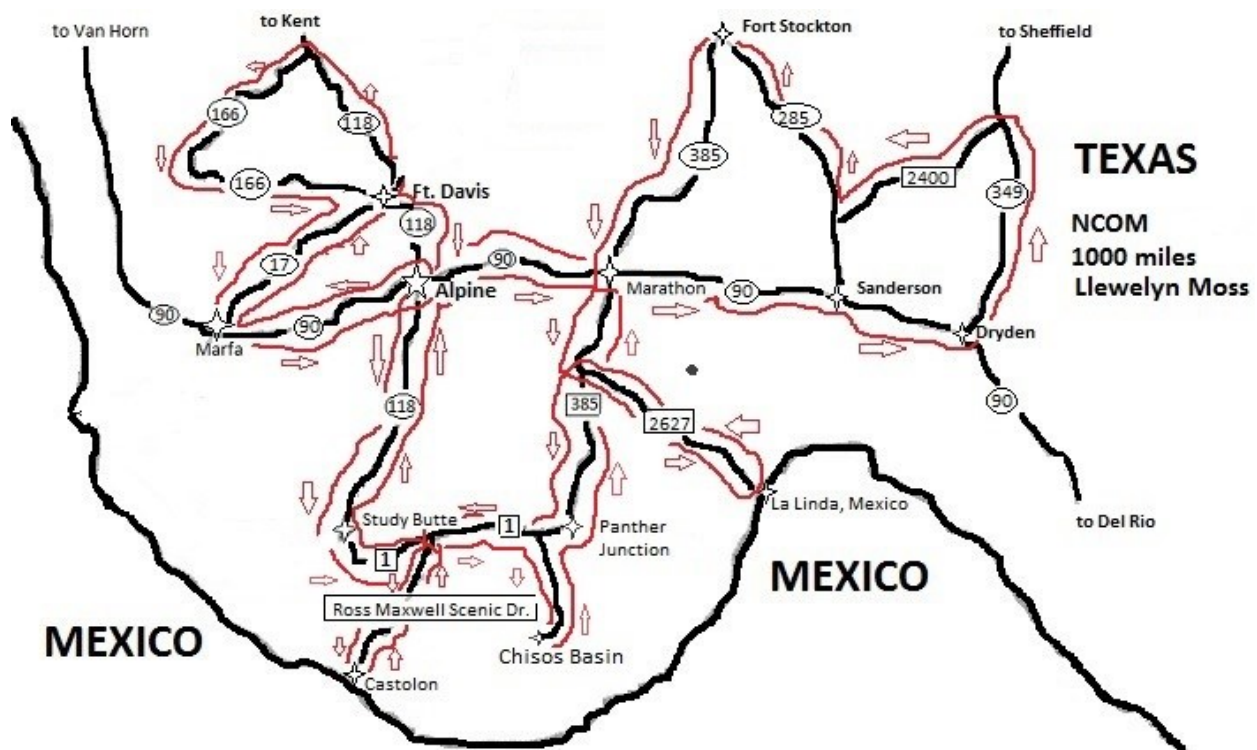
October 14, 2017

For the Love of the Game



Llewellyn Moss 1000 Mile

Llewelyn Moss 1000 Mile



Ultra Unlimited LLC

ultradex.net

Welcome to the 5th annual No Country for Old Men 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 2017 Outlaws

	Racer	Location	Team Name	Age
Llewelyn Moss 1000 Solo				
1020	Foote, Roger	New Zealand		50
1021	Black, Jason	Ireland		46
1022	Baxter, David	Austin, TX		49
1023	Willis, Andrew	Austin, TX		41
4 Person Team				
T-1100	Barrow, Tim	Castroville, TX	RRT4G	52
T-1100	Rocco, David	Bradenton, FL	RRT4G	49
T-1100	Rocco, Dan	Bradenton, FL	RRT4G	53
T-1100	Piechel, Tom	Anchorage, AL	RRT4G	53
T-1103	Baldino, Robert	Jackson, CA	Team Cyclonauts	72
T-1103	Brian, Martin	Canada	Team Cyclonauts	57
T-1103	Williams, Don	Discovery Bay, CA	Team Cyclonauts	51
T-1103	Davies, Chris	Campbell, CA	Team Cyclonauts	49
Anton Chigurh 383 Solo				
334	Morgan, Ben	Tyler, TX		40
335	Nielsen, Per	Denmark		60
336	Priebs, Franz	Austria		39
339	Keeter, Kyle	Plano, TX		58
340	McGraw, James	Ft. Worth, TX		61
341	MacDougall	Canada		48
342	Arnold, Jerry	Valentine, NB		60
343	Tondeur, Philippe	Monaco		60
Anton Chigurh 383 4 Person Team				
T-354	Eads, Larry	Odessa, TX	One Hour Racing	57
T-354	Anderson, Scott	Odessa, TX	One Hour Racing	55
T-354	Anderson, Lisa	Odessa, TX	One Hour Racing	55
T-354	Russel, Amy	Waso, TX	One Hour Racing	47

NCOM 2017 Outlaws (continued)

	Racer	Location	Team Name	Age
Ed Tom Bell 208 Solo				
223	Nisimblat, Giancarlo	Alice, TX		49
224	Zahm, Brian	Austin, TX		35
225	Bachman, Michael	New Braunfels, TX		38
227	Epple, Gary	Austin, TX		60
228	Busch, Wheels	Del Rio, TX		54
230	Trammell, Allan	Lindsay, TX		72
231	Gurley, Ron	Grandbury, TX		66
212	Kiser, David	Seabrook, TX		58
232	Betts, Kenneth	Georgetown, TX		
233	McGraw, James	Ft. Worth, TX		
234	Alger, Brian	Lubbock, TX		
2 Person Team				
T-256	Lisa McCabe	Temple, TX	Flying Monkeys	43
T-256	Geary McCabe	Temple, TX	Flying Monkeys	48
T-260	McWhirter, Art	Scottsdale, AZ	Diamondback Racing	69
T-260	Matt, Jimmy	Scottsdale, AZ	Diamondback Racing	51
T-261	Torres, Richie	Alice, TX	Ci3 Multisport	47
T-261	Lozano, Adolfo	Alice, TX	Ci3 Multisport	44
T-262	Ferrell, Micah	Alpine, TX	Local Yokels	30
T-262	McAnally, Jake	Alpine, TX	Local Yokels	37

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: Kokernot Park
 TS1. Study Butte; Big Bend Motel
 TS2. Marathon; Gage Hotel
 TS3. Alpine; Stripes store
 TS4. Marfa; Stripes store
 TS5. Ft. Davis; Hwy17/Hwy118
 TS6. Marfa; Stripes store
 TS7. Alpine; Stripes store
 TS8. Marathon; Gage Hotel
 TS9. Sanderson; Stripes store
 TS10. Ft. Stockton; Hwy 285/Dickinson Blvd.
 TS11. Marathon; Hwy 90W/ Hwy 385
 TS12. Study Butte; Big Bend Motel
 TS13. Border Patrol Check Point
 Finish. Kokernot Park.

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

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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!"

Safety should always be of 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 Diamond Back Rattlesnakes. Please slow down when crossing.

"Who dares wins!"

Kokernot Field Start/Finish

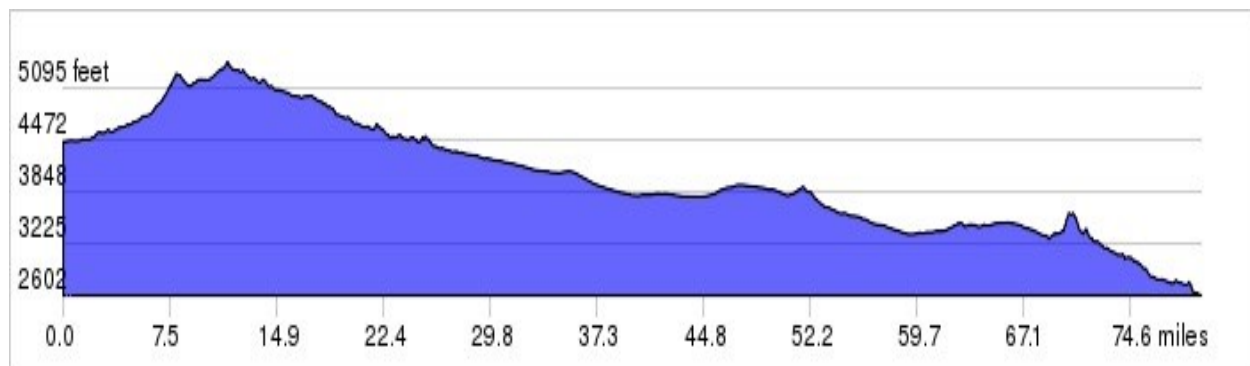
The starting line of NCOM is in the shadow of Kokernot Field, a baseball stadium built in 1947 by Big Bend rancher, Herbert Lee Kokernot Jr for his semi-professional baseball team. Red clay for the infield was hauled in by boxcar from Georgia. Native stone quarried from the Kokernot Ranch was used to construct the outfield wall and grandstand. The Kokernot Ranch "06" brand was incorporated into numerous decorations throughout the stadium along with intricate ironwork of baseballs complete with painted threads.

The field has been called "the Yankee Stadium of Texas" by *Texas Monthly* magazine. An estimated 6,000 attended a 1951 exhibition featuring Satchel Paige's St. Louis Browns versus the Chicago White Sox. Future Major Leaguers Norm Cash and Gaylord Perry also played on Kokernot Field. The field is currently home to the Sul Ross State University Lobos.

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

Start to TS 1; Kokernot Park to Study Butte. 79.3 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Ac- tion	Control	Comments
0	0			Start line/Kokernot Park'
0.2	0.2	Left	Stop	Stop sign; Hendryx St.
0.3	0.3	Left	Stop	Hwy 118
1.4	1.4	Left	Flash- ing red	Hwy 90 E./Holland Ave
1.8	1.8	Right	Flash- ing red	Cockrell St./118 S.
1.9	1.9			Railroad tracks
2	2	Bear left		Stay on 118 S.
10	10			Begin Optional Direct Follow
15.8	15.8			Border Patrol Checkpoint
19	19			Picnic area on left
27.6	27.6			Picnic area on left
68.7	68.7			Begin steep climb
79.3	79.3			Time Station #1. Study Butte. Big Bend Motel on left. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



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 of my nose, chewing on my Power Gel and farting at the same time!"

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!

**"Man who run behind car get exhausted"
"Woman who run in front of car get tired"**

Ross Maxwell Scenic Road

The Ross Maxwell route is one of the most scenic roads in Texas. The 30 mile route leads to Castolon Historic District and Santa Elena Canyon. Pay attention to such landmarks as Sam Nail Ranch, Blue Creek Ranch Overlook, Sotol Vista Overlook, Mule Ear Viewpoint and Tuff Canyon

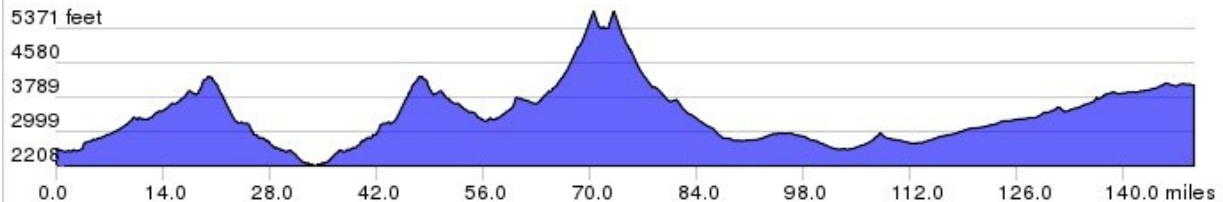
It is just past Mule Ear Viewpoint where you will enter some of the most bizarre landscape on the entire course. It is almost as if you are on the moon surface. There are mounds and odd formations barren of growth. This area is known as Cerro Castellan. The layers visible in Cerro Castellan reveal millions of years of volcanic events.

Stacked in this tower are several lava flows and volcanic tuffs (ash deposits), with layers of gravel and clay from periods of erosion between eruptions. Pale beds of volcanic ash and dark basaltic boulders are visible.

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

TS1 to TS2; Study Butte to Marathon. 149.1 miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
79.3	0.0			Continue straight on Hwy 118 S.
83.2	3.9		Stop	Maverick Station. Big Bend National Park Entrance; All racers and crew must obtain Park permits; NO DIRECT FOLLOW ANYWHERE IN THE PARK.Special Big Bend rules apply.
91.4	12.1		Right turn	Castolon; Santa Elena Canyon; Cottonwood Campground; becomes Ross Maxwell Scenic Road
113.3	34.0	Turn-around		Call out race number to official
135.2	55.9	Right turn	Stop sign	Panther Junction Road (main park road)
144.7	65.4	Right turn		Chisos Basin Road; Begin 7 mile climb
150.9	71.6			Campground; Amphitheater sign. DO NOT TURN HERE
151.1	71.8	Turn-around		Chiso Basin parking lot. Call out race number to official.
157.6	78.3	Right turn	Stop sign	Panther Junction Road (main park road)
160.5	81.2			Store on right. Fuel, ice, snacks. If the crew stops here, make sure the racer knows the left turn in .2 mile.
160.7	81.4	Left turn		Panther Junction/Hwy 385/unmarked/Do not miss this turn
186.8	107.5			Persimmon Gap; Exit Big Bend National Park
188.7	109.4			Junction Hwy 2627; Continue straight
217.7	138.4			Roadside park on left
223.1	143.8			Border Patrol checkpoint. All racers and crew must stop for inspection
227.8	148.5			Railroad track
227.9	148.6	Left turn	Stop sign	Intersection Hwy 90 and Hwy 385
228.4	149.1			TS2. Gage Hotel on the right. Marathon, TX. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



Marathon, Texas.

Marathon was founded in the early 1880's when the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway built across what was then part of Presidio County. The railroad turned Marathon into a shipping and supply point for area ranchers. In 1884 the population was estimated at fifty, and local businesses included four livestock breeders, one sheep breeder (Shepard), and one saloon. At that time the principal products shipped from Marathon included livestock, wool, and large game animals, including deer, antelope, and bear. In that year Jim P. Wilson shipped an entire trainload of cattle to Marathon, then hired fourteen Mexicans to drive the herd, on foot, to his ranch in Green Valley, some sixty-five miles to the southwest. On December 1, 1885, Shepard deeded Section 18 of Survey Block 4 to his son, Ben E. Shepard, for five dollars. A windmill in the middle of North First Street was Marathon's first jail. Drunks and other petty offenders were chained to one of its legs; serious offenders were taken to the Alpine jail. Later, a one-room adobe house behind French's Store served as a jail but, after several escapes, was replaced by a rock jailhouse.

"You can't know till you go."

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."

TS2 to TS3. Gage Hotel/Marathon Texas to Stripes store in Alpine. 30 miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
228.4	0.0			Gage Hotel. Marathon, Texas; continue straight on Hwy 90 West
239.9	11.5			Memorial to Rene Joseph Ulmschneider. Stop DUI
250.3	21.9			Junction Hwy. 67. Continue straight; Roadside park on right.
256.4	28.0			Alpine city limits
258.4	30.0			TS#3. Stripes store on left. Intersection Hwy 90W/E. st. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



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.

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

The Marfa Lights

The No Country for Old Men 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?

"If we all weren't crazy we would surely go insane."

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.

"There is a crowd at the fountain of youth.....and I'm getting dehydrated!"

TS3 to TS4. Alpine Stripes to Marfa Stripes. 26.5 miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
258.4	0.0			Alpine Stripes store. Continue on E. Ave East/ Hwy 90 W.
259.5	1.1			E. Ave East becomes Hwy 90 W/ Hwy 67 South
264.4	6.0			Picnic area on right
276.1	17.7			Marfa Lights viewing center on left
284.2	25.8			Entering Marfa Texas
284.9	26.5			TS4. Stripes store on right. Marfa, Texas. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter



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.

"If I live long enough, ultra racing will make me immortal"

Fort Davis and Indian Emily

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!"

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 this 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?"

TS4 to TS5. Marfa Stripes to Ft. Davis. 21.2 miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
284.9	0.0			Stripes store. Hwy 90 W. Marfa, Texas. Continue straight
285	0.1	Right turn	Flashing red light	Hwy 17 N./South Highland Ave.
285.1	0.2			Railroad tracks
285.2	0.3	Right turn	Stop sign	E. Lincoln St/ Marfa Courthouse Square
285.3	0.4	Left turn		N. Dean St./ Hwy 17 North
305.6	20.7			Entering Ft. Davis, Texas
306.1	21.2	Bear left		TS5. Intersection Hwy 17N/Hwy 118. Ft. Davis, Texas. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



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!”

McDonalds 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 know how old you are?”

TS5 to TS6. Ft. Davis to Marfa via McDonalds Observatory Loop. 91.3 miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
306.1	0.0	Bear right		Hwy 118N and Hwy 17S/State Street
307.4	1.3	Bear left		Hwy 118 toward McDonalds Observatory. Do not go toward Balmorhea
307.7	1.6			Roadside park on left
309.2	3.1			Roadside park on left
310.2	4.1			Davis Mountain State Park on left
311.9	5.8			Prude Ranch on right; Roadside park on left.
319.5	13.4			Picnic area on left
321.3	15.2			McDonald's Obervatory. Do Not Turn; Roadside park
322.1	16.0			Roadside park on left
330	23.9			Picnic area on left
335.6	29.5	Bear left		Hwy 166. Do not continue on Hwy 118
343.6	37.5			Caution Cattle Guard
344.7	38.6			Caution Cattle Guard
345.3	39.2			Roadside park on right
348.2	42.1			Caution Cattle Guard
355.6	49.5			Ranch Road 505. DO NOT TURN
356.9	50.8			Caution Cattle Guard
358	51.9			Caution Cattle Guard
360.1	54.0			Caution Cattle Guard

Continue on page 19.

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.

**"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."**

Blood Sucking Chupacabras, Mutants, and Mangy 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 No Country for Old Men. Do not approach and definitely do not attempt to apprehend without professional assistance.

**"Some times 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."**

Why are you looking over here? You should be watching your racer!!

- My typical responses include:**
- 1. Because I can...**
 - 2. ...It's training for when my car breaks down in the middle of nowhere...**
 - 3. (Perhaps most seriously) Overcome severe guilt and compensate for Dis-functional lifestyle...**

Continued from page 17.

TS5 to TS6. Ft. Davis to Marfa via McDonalds Observatory Loop. 91.3 miles

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
361.5	55.4			Caution Cattle Guard
361.9	55.8			Caution Cattle Guard
362.7	56.6			Caution Cattle Guard
364.6	58.5			Caution Cattle Guard
366.4	60.3			Caution Cattle Guard
369.4	63.3			Picnic area on left
364.7	58.6			Caution Cattle Guard
369.4	63.3			Picnic area on left
378.5	72.4	Bear right	Yield sign	T intersection; Take Hwy 17 North
396.4	90.3			Entering Marfa
396.9	90.8	Right turn		Lincoln Street
397	90.9	Left turn	Stop sign	Highland Steet. Courthouse on right
397.2	91.1			Railroad tracks
397.3	91.2	Left turn	Flashing red light	Hwy 90 East/San Antonio Steet
397.4	91.3			TS6. Stripes store on left. Hwy 90E. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



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."

TS6 to TS7. Marfa Stripes to Alpine Stripes. 26.3

Accumulated miles	Time station miles	Action	Control	Comments
397.4	0.0			Stripes store/Marfa TX. Continue on Hwy 90 E.
406	8.6			Marfa Lights on right
417.7	20.3			Picnic area on left. Stay straight on Hwy 90 E
418.4	21.0			Paisano Peak on right
421.2	23.8			Alpine city limits
422.8	25.4			R/R UNDERPASS. CAUTION!! DRAIN!!!
423.5	26.1		Flashing red light	North 5th St/Hwy 118 North
423.9	26.5			TS7 Stripes Store on left. Get fuel. Text War Room. Reset trip meter.



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!

"Will there be showers at the finish line? I dunno, depends on the weather!"

Terlingua International Chili Championship

Each year on the first Saturday of November, Terlingua hosts the granddaddy of all chili cookoffs. The four day celebration begins each year on Wednesday and culminates on Saturday for anyone who can survive. It is the 'Burning Man' of Terlingua. Points of interest include the Starlight Theater, Restaurant and Saloon. Moonlight serenades are not uncommon with music from talented Terlingua locals. Plan on staying up late and partying till the moon goes down.

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

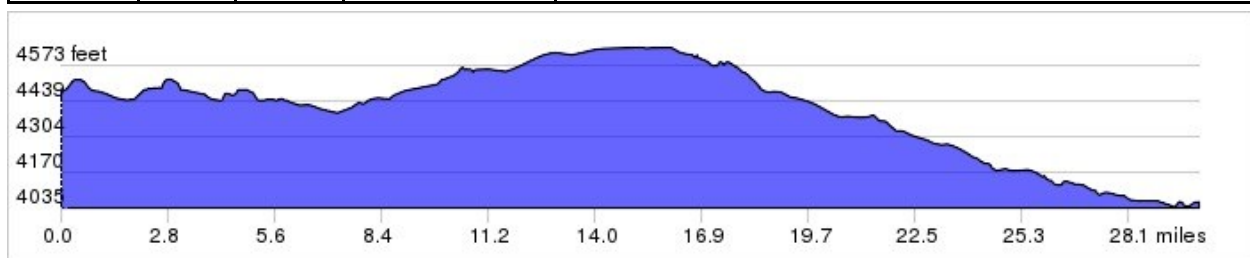
What's the difference between Study Butte and Terlingua?

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

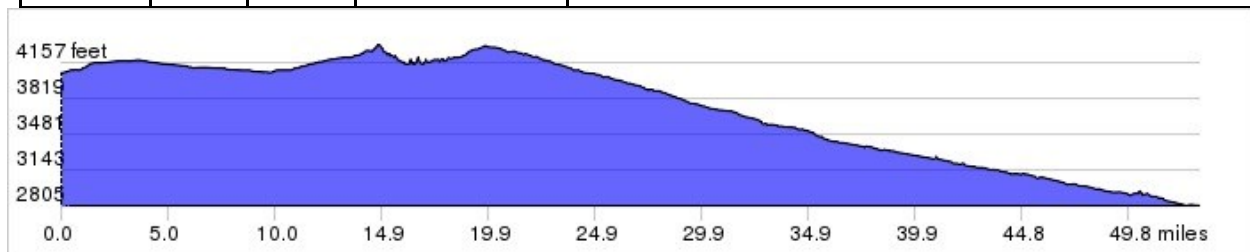
TS7 to TS8. Alpine Stripes to Gage Hotel at Marathon. 30.0 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
423.9	0.0			Stripes store. Alpine, TX. Continue on Hwy 90 E/ Holland Ave.
431.9	8.0			Junction Hwy 67 N to Ft. Stockton. Continue straight on Hwy 90 E toward Marathon; Roadside park on left
442.4	18.5			Memorial to Rene Joseph Ulmschneider. Stop DUI
453.9	30.0			TS8. Gage Hotel. Marathon, Texas. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter



TS8 to TS9. Gage Hotel in Marathon to Sanderson Stripes. 53.2 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
453.9	0.0			Gage Hotel. Continue straight on Hwy 90 E.
454.4	0.5			Jct. Hwy 385 S. Continue straight on Hwy 90E
455.5	1.6			Jct. Hwy 385 N. Continue on Hwy 90 E
457.7	3.8			Pull out on left
474.2	20.3			Picnic area on right
497.5	43.6			Picnic area on left
507.1	53.2			TS9. Stripes store Sanderson, Texas. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



Sanderson, Texas 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."
.....

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 10:03pm March 19, 1903 after a heavy drinking spree in Del Rio. He returned home at 10 a.m. and died that night at 10 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."
.....

TS9 to TS10. Sanderson Stripes to Ft. Stockton. 157.1 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
507.1	0.0			Stripes store. Continue straight on Hwy 90 E
511.1	4.0			Roadside park on right.
518.7	11.6			Historical Marker 16553. Baxter's Curve Train Rob- bery; Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.
527.9	20.8			Entering Dryden
528.2	21.1	Left turn		Hwy 349 N. Dryden, Texas
528.3	21.2			Railroad tracks
557.7	50.5			Junction Hwy 3166; Continue on Hwy 349 N.
564.3	57.2			Independence Creek; narrow bridge
573.4	66.3			Steep climb
576	68.9	Left turn		Hwy 2400 W.
579.9	72.8			Independence Creek; narrow bridge
607.1	97.7			Junction Hwy 2886. Continue Straight
615.1	108.0	Right turn	Stop sign	Hwy 285 N toward Ft. Stockton
642.2	121.0			Roadside Park on right
642.5	156.4			Rooney park on left. Good crew rest or exchange.
664.2	157.0	Left turn	Stop sign	TS10. Intersection Hwy 285 N/Dickinson Blvd./ Hwy 385. Text or call War Room. Reset trip me- ter.



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."

Who is Paisano Pete?

Paisano Pete is the World's largest Roadrunner. Or least he used to be. Paisano Pete Fort Stockton was named a True Texas Icon as "Town Mascot" in the September 2011 issue of Texas Highway's magazine. Paisano Pete, located in the center of town on the corner of Main and Dickenson, is unarguably one of the most recognizable roadside attractions in the southwest.

Paisano Pete, was erected in 1980 and declared the largest roadrunner in the world, at 11 feet tall and 22 feet long. Since that time a larger replica of a roadrunner has been constructed of recycled materials in New Mexico.

"If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much room."

Fort Stockton, Texas

Fort Stockton grew up around Comanche Springs, one of the largest spring waters in Texas. Comanche Springs was a favorite rest stop on the Great Comanche Trail to Chihuahua, San Antonio-El Paso Road and the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. In 1867, Fort Stockton was occupied by the U.S. Calvary Regiment, Buffalo Solders, also known as the Negro Calvary.

"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."

TS10 to TS11. Ft. Stockton; Intersection Hwy 285N and Dickinson to Marathon. 64.2 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
664.2	0.0	Left turn	Stop sign	Intersection Hwy 285N and Dickinson Blvd.
664.6	0.4	Right turn	Traffic light	Hwy 1053/Main St.
665.4	1.2			Cross over I-10
667.3	3.1	Left turn		45th st. Also called Schlegel Concealed street. Do not miss this turn.
668.3	4.1	Left turn	Stop sign	Hwy 18 becomes N. Front St.
669.9	5.7			Cross under I-10; Flying J Truck Stop on right. Great opportunity for fuel, food snacks and big rest rooms.
671.2	7.0	Right turn	Stop sign	Hwy 385/Railroad Ave./T intersection
671.7	7.5	Left turn		Hwy 385 S. Immediate railroad tracks. Do Not Miss This Turn
700.3	36.1			Roadside park on right
727.3	63.1	Bear right	Yield	Hwy 90 West
728.4	64.2	Left turn		TS11. Intersection Hwy 90W and Hwy 385 North. Text or call War Room. Reset trip me- ter.



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 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 with scales others with hair. But the painted rocks do exist. All you have to do is have the courage to look for them.

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

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!!!!

**"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!"**

Lost Mines Trail

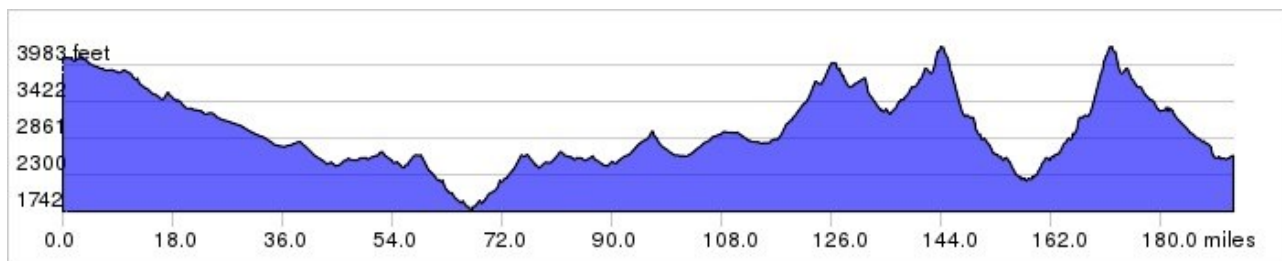
The Lost Mines Trail is a 4.6 mile round-trip hike located in the Chisos Basin. The trailhead begins at Panther Pass along the road into the Basin. It is rated as a **medium difficulty hike** by the National Park Service. The trail begins at an elevation of 5600 feet and ascends to 6850 feet in the 2.3 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!!!!

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

- a. find any money.**
- b. get really dirty.**
- c. get really bruised and bloody.**
- d. you get to see the sun rise and set."**

TS11 to TS12 Intersection Hwy 90W and Hwy 385N in Marathon to Study Butte. 192.0 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
728.4	0.0	Left turn		Left turn off Hwy 90 W onto Hwy 385S
728.5	0.1			Railroad tracks
733.2	4.8			Border Patrol Checkpoint on left
738.6	10.2			Roadside park on right
767.3	38.9	Left		Ranch road 2627 South toward La Linda, MX
773.5	45.1			Halle's Hall of Fame Museum
784	55.6			Black Gap Wildlife Management Area. There are several paved pull outs (parking areas from mile 55.6-78.2)
795.3	66.9	Turn around		Turn around at the end of the U.S.A. Call out race number.
817	88.6			Stillwater Store
823.3	94.9	Left turn	Stop sign	Hwy 385 South toward Big Bend
825.5	97.1		Stop	Persimmon Gap. Enter Big Bend National Park. Turn off amber strokes if at night.
851.9	123.5	Right turn	Stop sign	
852	123.6			Panther Junction/Park Headquarters
864.5	136.1	Left turn		Castolon; Santa Elena Canyon; Cottonwood Campground; becomes Ross Maxwell Scenic Road
884.4	156.0			Tuff Canyon
886.5	158.1	Turnaround		Call out race number to official
908.4	180.0	Left turn	Stop sign	Original Park Road/Hwy 118
916.6	188.2			Exit Big Bend
920.4	192.0			TS12. Big Bend Motor Inn and store/Hwy 118 N. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



"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...

TS12 to TS13. Big Bend Motor Inn/Store Hwy118 N in Study Butte to Border Patrol Checkpoint. 63.8 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
920.4	0.0			Big Bend Motor Inn and store. Continue on Hwy 118 N.
972.2	51.8			Picnic area on right
980.9	60.5			Picnic area on right
984.2	63.8		Border Patrol Check Point. STOP.	TS13. Border Patrol Checkpoint. All racers and crew must stop. Text or call War Room. Reset trip meter.



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.

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 23c 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, chaps tick. 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 Ocotillo. 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 shifts expanded horizontally to form a wingspan and my helmet became a cocks comb. The dynamics of my cycling position molded into the image of my feathered friends. I was bonding with the buzzards.

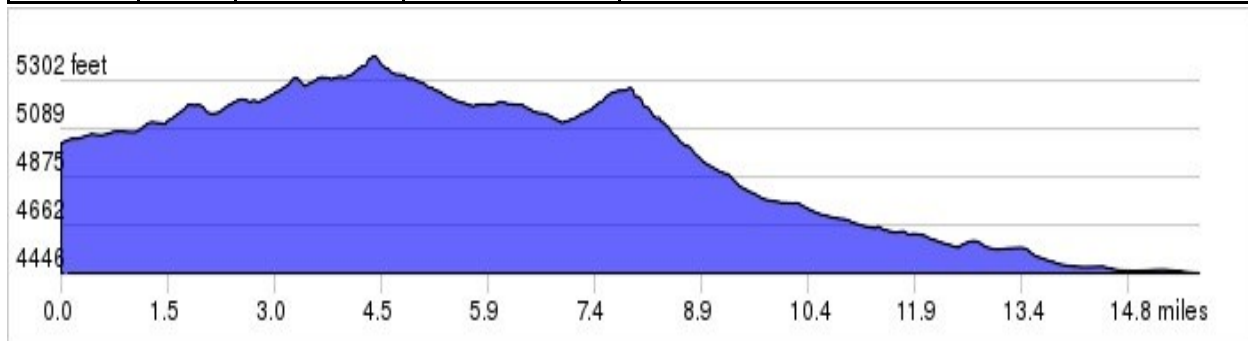
And then suddenly, No friction! The silence. No longer the sound of chain and freewheel. No click of index shifting. I looked beside me. They were there. Soaring side by side. The wind beneath our wings. I was pack riding with buzzards. The flight. Dipping our wings first one way then the other. Learning 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 water 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.

TS13 to finish line at Kokernot Park. 15.8 miles

Accu- mulated miles	Time sta- tion miles	Action	Control	Comments
984.2	0.0			Border Patrol Checkpoint.
997.4	13.2		Neutralized Finish Line	Document arrival time. Text War Room. Calvary Apostolic Church on left; Blue Water Natural Food on left; BAM Complete Auto Care on right. No more racing. Parade to fin- ish line at Kokernot Park
997.9	13.7	Bear left		Hwy 118 N
998	13.8	Bear right		Cockerell St.
998.2	14		Flashing red light	Holland Ave/Hwy 90
998.3	14.1	Left turn	Stop sign.	E Ave East
998.7	14.5	Right turn	4 way stop. Flashing red light	N. 5th Sst./Hwy 118 N
999.7	15.5	Bear right	Yield sign	Hwy 223/Hendryx
999.8	15.6	Right turn		Fighting Buck Ave.
1000	15.8		Finish line	Kokernot Park. Document your arrival time. Confirm arrival time with NCOM Official



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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

NCOM Staff

Joni Tooke 830-765-8622

- Assistant race director
- Packet pick up
- Awards
- War Room
- Finish line

Kevin Jones

- Assistant race director
- Official for 383 and 1000 mile race
- Turnaround La Linda

David Michael

- Inspections
- 208 official
- 383 official

Albert Garcia

- Inspections
- 208 official
- 383 official

Nadia McInnes

- Inspections
- 208 official

Perry Braniff

- Satellite War Room

Chris Potter

- 383 official

Stu Crane

- Maverick Station

Darrell Oge

- Inspections
- 383 official
- 1000 official

Russell Lee

- Inspections
- 383 official
- 1000 official

Scott Vanlandingham

- Inspections
- 383 official

Jim Hector

- Inspections
- 208 official

Dave Finder

- Inspections
- Castolon Turnaround

Scott Smith

- Packet pick up
- 208 Turnaround

Dex Tooke 830-313-6453

- Race Director
- Packet pick up
- Official
- Finish line

See you next year at NCOM!

