

Jim Bridger 50K 1998 Results (Inaugural)

20 June 1998, Bozeman MT

30.3 miles (3 loops of Sypes/MC due to snow), 7500' climb

Finishers -- female

1. Liz Moroney.....5:58:53
2. Nancy Dolan.....6:10:37
3. Lynn Ritzdorf.....7:27:10
4. Pam Naugle.....8:34:35

Finishers -- male

1. John Sveen.....5:18:11
2. Rick Cooper.....5:44:55
3. Bob Feeney (Alberta)...6:00:05
4. Marcus Engler.....6:45:30
5. Matt Lavin.....6:45:36
6. Scott Gill.....6:46:36
7. David Summerfield.....6:51:50
8. Bob Sola (WA).....6:55:59
9. Charles Day.....7:02:38
10. Ed Newhall.....7:07:39
11. Martin Miller.....7:14:15
12. Tom Rowe.....7:15:27
13. Eric Nelson (WA).....7:16:59
14. Jim McKenzie.....7:26:07
15. Charles Steele.....7:37:40
16. Chip Tuthill (CN).....8:34:35

22starters. 20 finishers.

As part of the information packet we sent to all runners who entered the inaugural running of the Jim Bridger trail Ultra, it stated "Please be prepared for all types of weather" and "Montana weather in June can be unpredictable".. I should have heeded my own warnings.

The week prior to the run it started raining. It rained and rained and rained some more. It also snowed on the upper section of the course above 7,000feet. Not just a dusting either. It snowed over a foot of wet, sloppy,slushy snow. The trail conditions as a result of so much rain and snow were slightly more than hideous. The original course was to be an out and back travelling up Sypes Canyon,Up Middle Cottonwood Canyon, through two very remote canyons called Bostwick, then down Trumen Gulch to the turn around. In spite of my familiarity with the trails for this course, I knew it would be dangerous and potentially risky to hold the race as planned. So in the interest of all runners safety (including my own) the course was modified to eliminate several miles of already difficult trails that were covered with slippery sloppy snow. This is not to say that the run became less difficult. The improvised course turned into 3 trips around a 10.1 mile loop. A loop that still featured 7,500 feet of climbing, several knee deep stream crossings and as Charles Steele put it "a section of trail that resembled a cliff of mud". Many runners were reduced to crawling up this steep section of trail, grabbing and clawing their way to the top.

All runners who finished the "mudfest " were rewarded with plenty of pizza and beer at the finish, and one of the best darn finishers awards around thanks to blacksmith extraordinair and first time Ultra runner Marcus Engler.. Also as part of the information packet,an inspirational quote was included from Shunryu Suzuki that stated "When you do something, you should burn yourself completely. Like a good bonfire, leaving no trace of yourself". See you all next year and happy trails!

Rick Cooper (R.D.)