

The 2023 AZT Oracle Rumble presented by Summit Hut is now a part of history. It was an amazing day for trail running in Southern Arizona, I believe the nicest one we've had for the Rumble in terms of temperature, relatively low wind, and lots of sunshine.

I'd like to begin by thanking the huge number of people who made it happen, including those that played a role in it but are not mentioned below because my of my aging faculties. Those folks include:

The incredible organization for which this event raises funds, the Arizona Trail Association, and their team. Special thank you's go to Executive Director and my cohort in many things Race Director related, Matt Nelson; Donovan Caputo and his hours of loading, transporting and unloading materials, as well as being our chef at the Finish Line cooking up amazing food; Chrissy Fichter who helped with gathering volunteers and was our Medical Lead for the event; and Melissa Schwan who was our Medial Assistant and drove a transportation van for us.

A huge thank you to our presenting sponsor Summit Hut, a local company that is an absolute joy to work with. And to our additional sponsors, The Damion Alexander Team, Skratch Labs, and Darn Tough.

It is impossible to ever thank our amazing volunteers enough, who give their time, energy, money and talent to help breathe life into this event each year and make it a memorable experience for all runners. I have zero doubt that I will miss some names here, and keep in mind that many of these folks pulled double duty for us doing more than one job: Joe Plassmann, Joan D'alonzo, Jim Fisher and the Pima County Office of Emergency Management team, Gary Parcher, Gary Faulkenberry, Kathleen Bober, Lynn Mulhall, Diane Bouchard, Angela Greynolds, Michelle Wences, Susanna Henry, Anne Trumble, Amy Dillon, Bob Bevill, Steve Sheldon, Giselle Bonilla, John Mollenhour, Carrie Harris, Michelle Hawk, Ben Markwart, Bruce Chalk, Randi Steiner, Jeff Klein, Tammy Klein, Lisa Glick, Jim Porter, Julia Rowe, Stephen Woodall, Chase Woodall, Whitney McNeil, Rosemary Beck, Jon Beck, Kris Owens, Lauren Renteria, Tristan Lee, Lena Gooden, Robert Harris, Billy Oliver, Fernando Bustamante, Michelle Spohn, Julie After, Duane Arter, Kevin Trapp, Susan Alexander, Bob Arendt, Noemi Mills, Dari Duval, Denise Fall, Chris Fall, Stephen Hughes, Stephanie Blais, Joshua Blais, Tonya Norris, Ryan Niccum, and Kevin Trapp.

Our fantastic photographers included Damion Alexander, Heather Stone-Hopkins, Jim Porter and Kathleen Bober.

Major props to the professional timing team at On Your Left Timing who spent about 16 hours with us on race day and did a miraculous job! Our results are up on their web site and ultrasignup.com now.

Many thanks to the Southern Arizona Roadrunners for their support and use of materials.

Thanks as well to Pinal County and Oracle State Park for hosting us and all of the race day support.

A major shout out as well to some local area attractions that donated raffle prizes and discounts to participants included Biosphere II, the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and Arizona Zipline Adventures. If you won one of these raffle prizes please make sure to use it or give it to someone who can so that we show our support and love for these great area destinations!

And now we turn to the racing as we should, of course, and we congratulate all of you who finished. These are tough courses that challenge all facets of trail running skill. We are impressed by everyone who makes it to our finish line regardless of distance! In particular, we want to honor those that led the way. The 50 Mile top 3 women were Hannah Hill (2nd overall), Brianna Russell (4th overall) and Felicity Van Meter, and top 3 men were Vasileios Paschalidis (overall winner), Aaron Van Geem and Tyler Moylan. In the 50K the top 3 women were Jessica Jones, Sarah Jansen, Lori Ligouri and top 3 men were Matt Watson (overall winner), Karl Peterson (2nd Overall) and Doug Friman (3rd overall). In the Half Marathon the top 3 women were Billie Lubis, Sarah Britton, and Mary Robbins, while the top 3 overall in the race were Michael Tomchaney, Pablo Puga, and Chapman Howard. In the 12k the top 3 women were Anne Neuenschwander (2nd overall), Danielle Kulpins (3rd overall) and Jenny Easterberg and top 3 men were Wyatt Evatt (overall winner), Julio Garcia and John Mollenhour.

This event, like many, is a massive undertaking with many moving parts. Despite a tremendous amount of planning, not everything goes exactly as expected and every year we do our best to adjust and give everyone the best possible experience. If you were a part of the event and have and have any feedback at all for us, please email oraclerd@aztrail.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the next event in the Arizona Trail Endurance Series: the AZT Vail Scramble presented by Summit Hut on Sunday, April 16 where point-to-point marathon, half-marathon and 10K options feature a particularly scenic segment of the Arizona National Scenic Trail. We're also excited to see ultrarunners at the Old Pueblo 50 on Saturday, March 4 where we will honor everyone who finishes the Southern Arizona Triple 50 challenge with custom embroidered jackets from Outdoor Vitals.

Happy Trails,

Steve Outridge
Race Director, AZT Oracle Rumble