

General Information and Driving Directions

The races are a half marathon starting at 7:30, a 5K starting at 7:45 and an earlier walking event (which has a 6:00 start, but we won't track them, although we may see some stragglers). The 5K runner's turnaround at the "5K turnaround station", meaning that the remainder of the stations on the mesa will only see half marathoners. Also the 5K turnaround station should be clear of 5K runners before the half marathoners return. It's unclear at this point if different color bibs will be used for the different events. A Guardian ambulance is usually stationed near the start/finish, as well as a group of quads/four wheelers available on the mesa for transportation.

Primary frequency will be the 146.980 Elden repeater. Secondary frequency will be 146.980 simplex. Use tactical call signs. Please try to record all runners but due to the speed of these runners, I'd recommend only reporting "first five" and "last five". Report the sweep passing your station (each time if passing more than once), then you may request to secure the station after the sweep's final pass through your station (Informal sweep may be a couple carrying the American Flag).

Driving information. Access to stations beyond the 5K turnaround can be via I-40 a few miles west to the A-1 Mountain Rd Exit #190, then along the forest roads shown on the "Forest Roads on Observatory Mesa" attachment. Roads are hard packed dirt, with ruts and potholes possible, especially if there's significant rain before the event. Course marking will be done late Friday afternoon. Aid station materials will be delivered about 4 am Saturday and will be staffed by about 7 am, so there should already be folks present if you're assigned to an aid station. South Corner and North Corner have no aid station. North Corner – open the wire gate if it's still closed (keep cattle from entering/exiting through this gate).

A-1 Mountain Road Discussion: Mileages are from the end of the A-1 Mountain exit off ramp; at 0.3 mi, pavement ends; at 0.9 mi, ignore FR 9224J which goes left, instead keep straight, you'll see a brown FR 506 on right; at 1.9 mi this is Halfway Aid where FR 506 goes left (toward Haag's), you'll see a yellow sign "No Outlet, locked gate 4.6 mi" and a worn brown sign for FR 515; at 3.3 mi cattle guard at "Flagstaff Corporate Boundary" which shows on topo course map; at 3.4 mi is Junction Aid Station; at 4.7 mi is Brown/Green Gate Aid. *Specific notes:* Haag's - via FR 506; North Corner – best to go thru Haag's then turn right (east) for the one mile leg; South Corner – recommend drive to Brown/Green Gate, then hike the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the turn; Start – Neil says park anywhere as close to the start as possible; 5K turnaround – it's 0.7 mi, about 20 min hike from the Thorpe Park ballfield.