

Marathon to Marathon (M2M)
Marathon, TX
Saturday, October 15, 2011
8:00 AM

Kamiar Kouzekanani

I had run the M2M in 2010. With the exception of the new course (north to south on State Road 385), everything else was the same. I left home on Friday around 8 AM & was in Marathon by 4 PM. The packet pickup and pasta dinner were in Gage Hotel. I spent the night at Alpine, 30 miles west of Marathon. I left Marathon after the run, spent the night at Del Rio, and home by Sunday afternoon. A total of 1010 driving miles.

It was a small marathon. The shuttle buses left Gage Hotel at 6:45 AM for the start line. Temperature ranged from low 60s to mid 80s. High altitude & direct sun added to the challenge of running the marathon on a course which included several lengthy inclines. The air was very dry, which was actually helpful. There were water/sports drink stations at every other mile. I recommend carrying your own water bottle. There were mile markers. The race was chip-timed. The route was being monitored by EMS personnel, sheriff deputies, state troopers, & even border patrols; all were checking on runners, which was much appreciated, as the hot weather made the run quite tough. As expected, there was no crowd support. Each finisher received a nice medallion. There were plenty of recovery food and drink items at the finish. In short, it was a well organized marathon in a small community.

There were 99 marathon finishers (62 male, 37 female) in the average time of 4:45:14. The winning times were 3:23:44 (overall male), 3:41:51 (overall female), 3:23:58 (masters male), and 3:56:51 (masters female). There were also half marathon, 10K, & 5K races.

There were 4 of us from Corpus Christi who ran the marathon. Clay Brieger was the overall winner! Sid Stech & Mike Wanzer also ran strong marathons. This was my 3rd marathon in consecutive weeks. I took it very easy; ran the first half in 2:16 (10:22 pace) and finished in 4:42:33 (10:46 pace). With the exception of short walks at aid stations, I did not walk any & felt fairly good throughout the run.

Let me tell you about the region which offers warm and sunny winter days and cool summer night. Marathon was established in 1882. It is a small town with the population of approximately 500. Visit the Gage Gardens if and when you are at Marathon. It is known as the Gateway to the Big Bend National Park; the park encompasses more than 800,000 acres in southwest Texas. About 30 miles west of Marathon is Alpine, the home of Sul Ross State University. About 20 miles west of Alpine is Marfa, where the movie "Giant" was filmed. Marfa is also known for the Mystery Lights, two or three lights appearing above the horizon and moving unpredictably. Marfa Lights Viewing Center is 8 miles east of Marfa. Fort Davis National Historic Park, Davis Mountain State Park and

Historic Indian Lodge, and McDonald Observatory are among other attractions in the region.

