

September 20, 2006

26th Annual Tioga Pass Run a Success

Press Contact:

Elin Ljung, Communications Coordinator

Mono Lake Committee

(760) 647-6595

www.monolake.org

For Immediate Release

The weekend after Labor Day was action-packed in the Eastern Sierra.

Following the High Sierra Fall Century bike ride on Saturday, September 9, an immensely successful Tioga Pass Run took place on Sunday, September 10!

The 26th annual Tioga Pass Run began at 8:00 am in Lee Vining, with 42 participants running and walking up Highway 120 west. The Tioga Pass Run boasts the slogan, “12.4 miles, only one hill,” and climbs approximately 3,000 feet—from 6,781 feet at the start to 9,945 feet at the finish—ending at the Tioga Pass entrance station to Yosemite National Park. Run participants were treated to spectacular views along the course, with clear, cool weather and almost no wind.

Dan Yarborough of Bishop again took first place with a time of 1:32:38.

Nineteen-year-old Kevin Morgan from Coleville followed closely to finish

second (1:34:29) after trading the lead back and forth with Yarborough all the way up the course. Kathy Farley of Tahoe City was the top female finisher, coming in 12th place with a time of 2:10:55. Colleen Connors-Pace from Truckee finished in 13th place (2:11:28). Local Lee Vining representatives included Gary Walecke (9th place), Randy Walker (30th), Arya Degenhardt (31st), and Greg Reis (33rd). After completing the run, Reis continued on to summit Mt. Dana, gaining a total of over 6,000 of elevation feet in one day! All 42 participants finished the Tioga Pass Run, with race co-organizer Kathie Kortering-Jeter of Benton bringing up the rear with a time of 3:39:50.

After the run, the Tioga Gas Mart and Whoa Nellie Deli hosted a celebration for the participants, including pizza and raffle prizes. Proceeds from the Tioga Pass Run will benefit the Mono Lake Committee.

The Mono Lake Committee would like to extend a huge thank-you to Skip Harvey of Base Camp Café and Kathie Kortering-Jeter for organizing the Tioga Pass Run and for their generous support of the Committee's work. Thanks also go to chef Matt Toomey of the Whoa Nellie Deli, and Dennis Domaille of the Tioga Gas Mart for feeding everyone after the run. Thank you to Don Banta for filming the Tioga Pass Run every year and sharing his footage with the runners this year! And a big thank you to the Lee Vining High School Lady Tigers volleyball team for their help at the aid stations and finish line.

Keep an eye out for the 27th annual Tioga Pass Run scheduled for September of 2007—registration details and more information will be posted at www.basecampcafe.com.

#

The text of this press release may be downloaded from

www.monolake.org/press.

#

The Mono Lake Committee is a nonprofit citizens' group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.