

Wulfman CDT 14km - Race Report

Diane Jenkins

I have run a few races in the last 10 years. I have run short races, long races, road races, and trail races. I have even participated in organizing and putting on races. So, when my good friend Yvette Olson forwarded me an email about the inaugural Wulfman Continental Divide Trail 14K trail run, I was both excited and skeptical. I was excited because I LOVE TRAIL RUNNING, and I had never run the trails around Butte. I was skeptical because there are many unknowns during an inaugural event.

But, when it came to the Wulfman CDT 14K, there was no reason for skepticism or worry. This race was well organized and worry-free from start to finish. The weeks leading up to the event were FULL of informational emails from the race directors. They left no question unanswered.

The drive to Butte is an easy one. Our little group from Laurel, Yvette, Amy Caldeira, my husband Tim Jenkins, and I just jumped in the car, drove the easy 3 hours to Butte, had a wonderful dinner and night on the town. (When in Butte, definitely go uptown and try a “beverage” or two at the M&M.)

On the morning of the event, June 28, 2008, the weather was perfect; cool temperatures and lots of sun. Race registration was the hour before the race, and we even received a new pair of running socks which was a bonus. (I have to mention the race numbers. Definitely the most unique I’ve ever seen. You must participate next year to find out what they were made of!)

The course was a “14k single-track trail mostly on moderately challenging grades with a few more challenging steep ups and downs with poor footing, and possible mud/snow crossings.” Due to the single-track trail, the start was a seeded time-trial starting/timing format. To those of us who don’t “compete” when we run, the time-trial seeding was a little intimidating. You had to estimate your finishing time. If you estimated too fast, you were passed by those who were actually faster than you; if you estimated too slow, you were doing the passing. But, in the end, it all worked out. The volunteers who started each runner at the beginning of the race did an excellent job keeping everyone on their 15 second interval start times.

The trail began at Homestake Pass and ended at Pipestone Pass. The first 9K was UPHILL. It was “challenging” but still beautiful and invigorating. (Think SWITCHBACK!!!) The snow had melted nicely and 99 percent of the trail was clear. I think I remember a downed tree or two but I could have been hallucinating as we gained elevation. Next year they will run it backwards, so only about 5K will be uphill and 9K downhill, so you must try it on the “easy” year!

As I mentioned before, I LOVE TRAIL RUNNING. When I’m on the trail, I don’t feel the pain and tend to run at a pretty good clip. My husband, Tim, took a different approach and enjoyed the scenery, even stopping at one of the overlooks for a little sight seeing. So, there is something in this race for everyone!

The race was over before you knew it (it is amazing how much faster kilometer markings go by than mile markings) and you were bused back to Homestake Lodge for a wonderful BBQ (complete with a local brew)! Billings’ runners should definitely support this race. Our little group from Laurel LOVED IT.



Left to right: Tim Jenkins, Yvette Olson, Diane Jenkins, Amy Caldeira