



After a day of wrath, looking west at a brooding evening sky from Scotts Pass (mile 65). Photo: Brett Davis

WEATHER AT WASATCH 100

John Moellmer, RD | 10/27/2021

After a year hiatus due to COVID, the [Wasatch Front 100 Mile Endurance Run](#) returned to the Wasatch Mountains of Utah and the ultrarunning community. This year, after careful consideration and adding safety precautions, the race was held on September 10-11.

Utah's mountain weather can be quite variable, but rarely as unpredictable as this year's run. The Wasatch Range suckered runners into its lair with modest warnings and a beautiful morning. A 30% chance of precipitation was in the forecast: some rain perhaps, maybe some wind thrown in, too. So, what could go wrong? A brutal Friday afternoon and evening, complete with rain, hail and wind, pushed runners off trails, leveled aid stations and left welts on exposed skin. The faster runners were farther down course and had a better set of conditions, but the middle to latter part of the pack had no such luck. Because much of the Wasatch 100 course is on exposed ridgelines, the majority of the runners faced the full fury of Mother Nature.



The Decker aid station located at mile 95 is the last aid station before the finish. Photo: Dan Lundwall

The mid and late packs cooked in 80-degree temperatures early on, and then suddenly found themselves in cold wind, rain and hail. Aid station crews were literally holding onto equipment to keep their aid stations together. Radio equipment and food from tables were scattered, and tarps, canopies and tables were overturned. When the weather cleared Friday night and Saturday dawned with much milder weather, the damage had been done. Wasatch had its lowest finish rate in many years (55%) – of the 298 who started, only 165 finished.



A happy Jeremy Kluttz (at 10,000 feet above his home of Hixson, Tennessee) approaching Point Supreme pass (mile 72) in the early morning. Photo: David Pharr

THE MEN'S RACE

This year's overall winner was Cody Priest of Anchorage, Alaska, in a time of 21:24:05. Second place was held by Jose Cruz of Bountiful, Utah, with a time of 21:51:25. Coming in third was Trevor Fuchs from South Salt Lake, Utah, at 22:00:17. Fourth place was Kyle Markisich in 22:37:54.

THE WOMEN'S RACE

The women's race was quite exciting this year with Rebecca Rick in first with a time of 26:09:54, followed by Laynie Markisich at 27:03:33 and Leah Ling in third in 27:22:41. Fourth place was Keri Cannon in 27:43:21.

2021 GRAND SLAM

The Grand Slam of Ultrarunning® is an award that recognizes those runners who complete four of the oldest 100-mile trail runs in the U.S. Because the Vermont 100 was canceled this year, runners could pick (in addition to Wasatch) three from the following four races: Old Dominion, Western States, Burning River and Leadville. Ten runners this year achieved the award. These elite runners are listed in order of total finishing times.

#	Grand Slammer	Old Dominion	Western States	Burning River	Leadville Trail	Wasatch Front	Best 4x100
377	Simon Guerard, 36, MA	26:17:22		20:18:42	24:23:40	28:30:31	99:30:15
378	Chad Lasater, 49, TX	22:50:17		20:28:58	27:08:46	29:37:48	100:05:49
379	Justin Kinner, 34, WY	23:57:18	25:19:58		24:52:54	27:28:02	101:38:12
380	Philip Sanderson, 54, CA	20:53:24	23:45:21		28:52:39	33:28:34	106:59:58
381	Katie Trent (F), 29, NV	23:22:19	26:38:58		29:15:16	34:49:09	114:05:42
382	Scott Lee, 50, VA	27:05:06	29:19:06	27:19:20		33:11:53	116:55:25
383	Howard Wang, 18, CHN	24:37:01		28:10:41	29:38:27	35:24:36	117:50:45
384	Azam Poulatov, 45, NY	27:21:14	29:41:50	27:08:27		34:59:45	119:11:16
385	Panya Somnhot, 40, OR		28:52:09	27:10:40	29:41:37	35:35:30	121:19:56
386	Gina Fioroni (F), 44, CO	27:45:16		29:39:03	29:56:58	35:31:49	122:53:06

THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE CRIMSON CHEETAH

The Royal Order of The Crimson Cheetah is recognition of runners who finish the Wasatch Front 100 Mile Endurance Run within 24 hours. Seven speedy runners achieved this award and received the special and distinctive red coral belt buckle.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FINAL TIME</u>
Cody Priest	21:24:05
Jose Cruz	21:51:25
Trevor Fuchs	22:00:17
Kyle Markisich	22:37:54
Dan Gardiner	23:17:04
Wesley Ormond	23:27:58
Andrew Pavek	23:40:03

TEN TIME FINISHER

The Wasatch Front 100 Mile Endurance Run awards a prestigious ring to 10-time finishers. This year the Ten Time Finisher ring was presented to Sarah McCloskey of Cottonwood Heights, Utah. Sarah's first finish was in 2008, and her fastest finish was in 2013 with a time of 24:31:19. Congratulations Sarah.

CELEBRATING A SENIOR MOMENT

A special shout-out goes to Nicholas Bassett for his time of 35:30:40. At 76 years old, Nick set the age record for finishing the Wasatch Front 100 Mile Endurance Run. This was Nick's 18th finish of the run.

THE SPIRIT OF THE WASATCH AWARD

The Wasatch Front 100 Mile Endurance Run presents a beautiful award to the runner or volunteer who exemplifies high sportsmanship and/or service. It was therefore a delight to see that the Spirit of the Wasatch award for 2021 was presented to John Grobбен, the race director. That's quite a trick to present an award to the very person who oversees this award, and doing it without his knowledge. The award plaque was quietly prepared and then publicly presented to him. John has been the race director for many years. He's steady, thoughtful, and clearly demonstrates a love of the runners and the race. For decades, John has put his heart and soul into the race. Some folks measure a year from Christmas to Christmas. However, for John and so many Wasatch volunteers and runners, the year is measured from Wasatch to Wasatch.



John Grobбен, race director, is the 2021 recipient of the 'Spirit of the Wasatch' award. Photo: Adam Grobбен