



Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Montana final leg participants. Back row, from left to right: Blaine Heavner, Marvin Reddick, Pat McLaughlin, Brad Moore, Dan Amundson, Josh Giddings, Josh Brown. Front row: Marcus Cook.

Law Enforcement Carries Torch for Special Olympics Montana

Over 500 Montana Law Enforcement representatives and their friends hit the streets, highways, and byways of Big Sky Country starting on April 27, 2009. In addition to fulfilling their duties of enforcing speed limits, maintaining order, and keeping our state safe, they fulfilled another different type of duty.

The relay began with ten starting points around the state with hundreds carrying the *Flame of Hope* 2,400 miles to the State Summer Games Opening Ceremonies in Bozeman. The arrival and lighting of the cauldron officially began the Games.

One such relay leg was coordinated by Trooper Tony Beehler (MHP 172) of Hardin and garnered numerous participants from the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office and Montana Highway Patrol, who came together to make the trip from Hardin to Billings on May 8, 2009. This leg alone

contributed over \$5,000 in pledges to Special Olympics Montana, and was not without its perils, with high winds and rain at times. Pierce RV in Billings donated the use of an RV for the leg, which was greatly appreciated.

The relay continued on in the days that followed, with runners converging on Bozeman from both the east and the west.

As the torch closed in on Bozeman, the following troopers took up the call:

Jeff Sargent participated in the run/bike combination on the east side of Gallatin County, from Bear Canyon to Bozeman.

Brett Charvat handled the escort for east Gallatin County.

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Montana Trooper



Troopers Kyle Hayter (running) and Brain Sampson (biking) make their way from Hardin to Billings, escorted by Trooper Darvin Mees and Sergeant Scott Ayers.



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Participants from the Montana Highway Patrol at the conclusion of their leg from Hardin to Billings on May 8, 2009. From left to right: Sergeant Scott Ayers, Troopers Kyle Hayter, Jason Grover, Brian Sampson, Mark Tome, Justin Kirchheck, Tony Beehler, Captain Keith Edgell, Trooper Shane Warehime, and Sergeant Craig Baum. (Not pictured: Trooper Darvin Mees)



Participants from the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office and the Montana Highway Patrol prepare to depart Hardin early on the morning of May 8, 2009, en route to Billings.

Justin Braun participated in the relay from Three Forks to Belgrade, changed, and escorted the runners from Belgrade to Bozeman.

Marvin Reddick ran 8 miles with Broadwater County and handled the escort from Three Forks to Belgrade, then changed to the run/bike combination to Bozeman.

Mike Walrath handled the escort from Three Forks to Bozeman.

Josh Giddings assisted with transports of equipment, handled calls, and when not busy, joined in the escort.

Shawn Fowler initially offered to take Bozeman calls and provided escort for the Park County leg.

The following troopers assisted with final leg, presentation of the torch, and lighting of the Caldron:

Pat McLaughlin, Dan Amundson, Josh Giddings, Marvin Reddick, and Marcus Cook participated in the run, while Josh Brown and Blaine Heavner provided escort.

Once finished with the delivering of the torch, Troopers Marcus Cook, Dan Amundson, and Marvin Reddick quickly changed into Class A dress uniforms for the Circle of Honor presentation in the MSU Fieldhouse.

The athletes and their families appreciated our participation, and it was great meeting our new Attorney General Steve Bullock. Mr. Bullock personally made the effort to introduce himself and thank each of us for being a part of such a great event. All and all, it was a great success, one of which the Montana Highway Patrol was proud to be a part of. □