



Wilderness Research  
Expeditions Ltd.

Non-profit Charity & Educational  
Organization IRS 501(c)3

Cultural and Environmental  
Research and Support  
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- **Food Delivery Programs 2004 Thanksgiving & Christmas**
- **New! Tarahumara Racing 2004**
- **Websites - All Grand Canyons Worldwide**
- **Tucson Natural Corridor**
- **Research Projects 2004-2005**

## Guidebooks

### Copper Canyon 2004

New 3D Canyons Map in 2004 Edition. This much in demand edition of the Copper Canyon guidebook has a major feature on the newly discovered Crystal Cave of the Giants, the largest crystals on earth. ISBN 0-9678907-0-5 **\$20.00 USD** inc. S & H.

### History of Copper Canyon & the Tarahumara Indians

ISBN0-9619170-9-1 **\$23.00 USD** inc. S & H.

**Coming Christmas 2005!**

### Grand Canyons of Earth & Mars

The first comprehensive encyclopedic guidebook to all of the grand canyons on the six inhabited continents and the planet Mars.

# The Copper Canyon Comet

*News and Views from Copper Canyon and the Sierra Tarahumara*  
Christmas 2004

## The Tarahumara Relief, Humanitarian and Educational Project Christmas 2004

Remember when Native Americans and pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving? Well, each year we reenact this wonderful sharing of harvest benefits for the children of the most remote and isolated Tarahumara Indians. We ask for your support for the delivery of tons of food for these beautiful yet needy native children.

Our fund raising goal for these food deliveries and kindergarten building upgrades is \$6,000 USD.

During the past eight years Wilderness Research Expeditions under the direction of Richard D. Fisher has delivered over 150 tons of famine relief to the most remote Tarahumara Indians of Copper Canyon, Mexico.

Mexico, however, is in a deep financial crisis and cannot fund the Tarahumara school system effectively. In some of the more remote areas, the boarding schools do not receive the food rations necessary for the school children.

I think you will agree that this web site is one of the most comprehensive and beautiful available on the Internet today. Our goal is to support worthy indigenous and ethnic ecocultural tourism initiatives in canyons around the world. Additionally, our objective is to provide the most accurate geographical information and most attractive 3-D color maps in existence today on



*We want to assure these children a place in this world. Thank you for your continued support!*

This year we are going to focus during the month of November on supplying the much needed food for the remote boarding school and put the finishing touches on our kindergarten project.

We ask for your kind assistance in this endeavor. We

need donations to purchase materials and foodstuffs and to pay for their delivery to the schools in communities in the Sierra Tarahumara.

Your donations are tax deductible as we are a non-profit group with an IRS 501(c)3 status.

## Comprehensive Website to Canyons Worldwide Completed! [www.canyonsworldwide.org](http://www.canyonsworldwide.org)

canyonlands of the six inhabited continents.

The excellent quality of this web site can be fully credited to the volunteers listed here:

Barry Thorsness - *Webmaster/Paquime*, Martin Mancha - *Art Director/Canyonlands of Australia/Venezuela*, Goro Komatsu - *Canyonlands of Mars*, Dennis Caldwell - *Map Designer*, Muthiah Radha -

*Africa/Tibet site designer*, Luis Manriquez - *Copper Canyon site designer*, David L. Teschner - *Photographer*, Gil Gillenwater - *Tibet map sponsor*, Kate Bauer - *Editor/Proofreader/Archaeological Research*, Christina M. Tonelli - *Management/site Coordinator*, Terry Byron - *Technical Information Manager*

# Tarahumara Racing 2004

For the past several years I have been getting questions as to how the Tarahumara runners are doing. On July 17 I had the opportunity to meet almost all of our old runners and some new world class runners as well. I am happy to report that everyone was in good health and good spirits. Most of the runners were wearing high status cowboy boots, so it seems they are doing fine in their lives. It was interesting to note, however, that it was the new runners who were wearing the traditional rubber and leather thong sandals who took the top spots in this year's 100 km Sinforosa Canyon Ultra Marathon.



In another news worthy development, the Department of Tourism in Chihuahua has been sponsoring the Ultra Marathon for the past five or six years now. I can report firsthand that they are doing an excellent job and are supporting the Tarahumara running

culture in a very productive manner. They are providing \$1,500 USD prize money for the winner of the race, so the best Tarahumara runners feel it is worthwhile to run. Additionally, our non-profit organization provided 7.5% of the total prize money to show American support for excellence in the sport of Ultra Marathon running. We were also able to provide some valuable cloth and sewing materials, some nice dress shirts, and a hatchet courtesy of David L. Teschner.



The race started well before dawn and entered the rough and treacherous Sinforosa Canyon about sunrise. It seems there were about 150-200 runners total. Approximately 25% were Tarahumaras with the remainder coming from throughout

Mexico, Latin America, Europe, and even Kenya. The race was very exciting for us as we were in a totally ethnic situation where we were the only Americans present. After seeing how Ultra Marathons are run in the USA, it was quite a treat to experience the more low key and less pressured management style of our wonderful Mexican neighbors. The first runners emerged from the canyon just after noon and ran a "lap" on the rim. The first place male finisher, Arnulfo Químare, crossed the finish line at about 3:00pm and was well ahead

of the next runner who was about half an hour behind. All of the first four finishers were Tarahumaras. This substantially reinforces the legend of the running Tarahumara. The first place female finisher, Marina Valencia, was from the capital, Mexico City!

Men's 100 km. race  
 1st. Place Arnulfo Químare  
 2nd place Silvino Cubesari  
 3rd. place Pedro Químare  
 Women's 100 km. Race  
 1st. Place Marina Valencia  
 State of México



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**YES!** I want to participate with:

- Sponsor Wheelchair
- Special School Thank-giving and Christmas Food Delivery
- Tucson Natural Corridor
- Contribution Tarahumara Runners (\$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_