

MEASUREMENT NEWS



March

1993

Issue #58



The Mexico City Marathon has a high degree of cooperation between the race organization and the police. The video cameraman is being driven by an officer who has been instructed to stay out of the way of the runners. Unrestrained media people, as we all know, can sometimes be a problem.

MEASUREMENT NEWS

#58 - March 1993

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BOB HASAN JAKARTA 10K

This is the race that offered a \$500,000 prize to anybody who could run a world best 10k at sea level on the equator. Few felt the prize money was in danger. Marty Post of Runner's World called me and asked if the course was credible. I didn't know, but the same evening I received this in the mail, from Bob Thurston via Wayne Nicoll:

"1/25/93

Dear Wayne & Pete -

Here is the Jakarta map and certificate. I should have sent it before but I was hoping to hear from them as to elevations. However, having heard that a world best time (27:40 - for loop course) was run by Abebe, I'm sending it without elevation data. I think start/finish is about 3-4 meters above sea level.

I had this all measured in November, but they made a slight change - namely, using the 'wrong' side of Jl. Sudirman to avoid runners crossing paths. So I went back in December to re-measure & re-do' (a quick 5 day trip - 48 hours in Jakarta of which I slept about 4!). I had a feeling this course could lead to a record - but I haven't really heard the details of the race.

Happy New Year!

* I literally traveled around the world to measure - as it turned out - 15 meters!"

Readers will see Bob's map of the course as this month's Map of the Month.

NEW CERTIFICATES

All certifiers should find two copies (one with elevations in feet/meters, one in meters) of the new certificate form enclosed with this issue of Measurement News. The certificates were produced by Bob Baume and include the new USATF logo as well as a new text at the bottom which reflects the new 10 year life for certifications. Please use these new certificates. If your copy is bad or missing, write to Pete Riegel for a new one.

The reader's turn

Wayne Nicoll's departure

I note regretfully that Wayne Nicoll has stopped writing his column "The Rundown" for *Running Journal*. To say that I will miss his writing is an understatement. I have cut out and saved every issue of "The Rundown" from the monthly *RJ* for the past few years. I wish I had started clipping Wayne's column earlier. I'm afraid I missed many thought-provoking issues. Perhaps someday Wayne will publish a book containing all the issues from his column.

I think what I will remember most about Wayne's column, aside from its educational value, was its accuracy and objectivity. There was no impaired credibility in Wayne's column. Wayne possesses a solid grounding in the technicalities involved in road racing and walking, and he wrote his column with plain common sense in language that provided his readers with a clear view of the issues and trends.

Yes, he did write about controversial subjects from time to time. But he always presented the facts, made his point, and was candid -- to state his view as he saw it.

Wayne not only possesses the ability to write and a deep knowledge about the sport of running and walking -- he is an undisputed expert in road race course design and measurement for the USAT&F (formerly TAC) Road Running Technical Committee (RRTC). Wayne, being a West Point graduate, also has distinguished qualities of a gentleman and patriot.

It was at West Point that Wayne learned to racewalk, and he went on to compete in the U. S. Olympic Trials during the late 50s and early 60s. Today Wayne still racewalks and is a recognized spokesperson for the sport.

I have known Wayne and his wife, Sally, since I was elected Southern Director of the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) in 1986. At that time Wayne was the RRCA Georgia state representative.

Wayne and I often discussed what we considered challenges for both TAC and the RRCA. I could always count on Wayne to furnish me with grass-root ideas about how to improve programs and policies. He had his hands on the pulse of running and he kept me well informed of the running scene in Georgia as well as the country through his travels for the RRTC.

It has been said that behind every good man is a better woman -- Wayne confided that he often asked Sally to read his *RJ* articles before he submitted them for publication. Sally has held a variety of positions with TAC/USA such as records keeping, officiating at championships, and TAC Validations Chairperson.

She, too, has assisted in measuring courses, including the 1992 Women's USA Olympic Marathon Trials course. I could tell you much more about Sally's ability, educational achievements, and benevolent accomplishments; but her fight with cancer and her loving concern and care for her children and grandchildren bear witness to her courage, love, and devotion.

It's not easy to write a brief biography about Wayne -- to do justice to Wayne's accomplishments -- even if it only covers a few years of his life. He has done so much for running and walking on the local, national, and international level. We miss Wayne Nicoll's pen.

-- AL BECKEN
San Antonio, TX

FIRST MEASUREMENT OF CAL COURSE = 1000 FT
SECOND MEASUREMENT OF CAL COURSE = 999.92 FEET

TEMPERATURE = 41F

PRECALIBRATION RIDES:

DATA OBTAINED ON COURSE:

POSTCALIBRATION RIDES:

JACK	JILL	POINT	JACK'S COUNT	JILL'S COUNT	JACK	JILL
		START	23000	89030		
37000	88900	KM 1	34180	598	42133	12370
40411	92422	KM 2	45414	12166	45542	15891
43823	95944	KM 3	56589	23734	48952	19412
47234	99465	KM 4	67828	35302	52361	22935
50645	2987	FINISH	79026	46870	55770	26475

TAKE THE CERTIFIER TEST

Dear Certifiers,

Here is a test I would like you to take. These are the conditions:

Jack and Jill have laid out a 5k course for a very important race, with big money and probable records. The race is tomorrow - no time for more measurements.

They laid out a 1000 foot calibration course, and drove the nails after the first taping. Then they measured it again. Then they laid out the race course. Jill was lead rider. They used one set of marks, and Jack stopped at Jill's marks and recorded his count.

They faxed the raw data (and completed application and a good map) to you, the certifier, and asked for fast help. Their data is shown above.

Questions for you:

- 1) What is the length of the calibration course in meters?
- 2) What (if anything) should be done to the race course in terms of a final adjustment?
- 3) Explain any discrepancies you notice in the data.
- 4) Comment on the overall quality of the measurement.

Send your answers to Pete Riegel before April 9. I will list all the certifiers and how they did in the next MN. If you do not send in an answer you will be listed as "DNR" or "did not respond." Please respond. To be fair I strongly invite test questions from others. These will appear in subsequent issues of Measurement News.

Certifiers, please take this test. Answers from others are also most welcome. Let your light shine!

NORMAN BRAND
5224 Manning Pl., NW
Washington, DC 20016
202 244-2218

January 5, 1993

Dear Pete,

Some further comments on the measurment contest. I was able to see the calibration course from my hotel room (a lot of good that did). However, I couldn't see the contest course from there. The reason my estimate of the distance this year was so far off was that the vantage point where I could see both the calibration and contest courses was on a stair landing between the two, meaning I had to swivel my head about to make my estimates. As a consequence the effort left me a bit dizzy, and my calculations suffered. (There is the possibility that the taped measurement afterward was also faulty, and therefore any comparison for purposes of the contest is inconclusive. In light of the whole operation, this is not improbable).

THIS IS
AN
OUTRAGE!

My thanks to Joan for taking up the cause on the method of determining the winner. Her persistence in the cause of truth and justice will long be remembered in the annals of the RRTC. Besides, it helped further the case for more women as course measurers (or contest winners). Chris also sends her thanks; she's still bemused by the whole matter.

Best regards for the New Year,

Norman

NORM - FRANCE'S MEASURERS ALSO
CONDUCTED A PACING MEASUREMENT
CONTEST. SEE NEXT PAGE.

**1992 FIRST CTM CONVENTION MEASUREMENT CONTEST
(GAP / FRANCE)**

NAME	ESTIMATED METERS	METERS ERROR	PERCENT ERROR	PLACE
DELERUE CHRISTIAN	421,00	-0,66	-0,16	1
HAFFNER JEAN MARIE	422,55	-2,21	-0,53	2
CARRIERE MARC	423,33	-2,99	-0,71	3
SAHUC GILLES	424,00	-3,66	-0,87	4
LEGAT JO	414,16	6,18	1,47	5
SERVAIS FERNAND	427,30	-6,96	-1,66	6
FATHER ALAIN	411,00	9,34	2,22	7
MICHAUT MARC	410,40	9,94	2,36	8
DELASALLE JEAN FRANCOIS	410,25	10,09	2,40	9
CALENGE JEAN PIERRE	431,83	-11,49	-2,73	10
ROBBE DANIELLE	407,00	13,34	3,17	11
GOUSSET RAYMOND	434,00	-13,66	-3,25	12
BRUSTOLIN STEPHANE	434,55	-14,21	-3,38	13
GAYET JEAN	406,00	14,34	3,41	14
GOUNON GERARD	435,00	-14,66	-3,49	15
GRALL JEAN MARIE	404,50	15,84	3,77	16
CABIREAU PIERRE	404,00	16,34	3,89	17
CREPIN CHRISTIAN	403,00	17,34	4,13	18
MARECHAL ISABELLE	403,00	17,34	4,13	18
MARLIER LUC	400,00	20,34	4,84	20
DUCASSE JEAN PIERRE	400,00	20,34	4,84	20
ROBBE GUY	398,00	22,34	5,31	22
REBOUL GUY	395,00	25,34	6,03	23
HERELIER ROBERT	460,00	-39,66	-9,44	24
ROMAN VICTOR	353,50	66,84	15,90	25
GOUGAT MICHEL	594,00	-173,66	-41,31	26
OFFICIAL DISTANCE	420,34	mètres		

MARCH 2, 1993

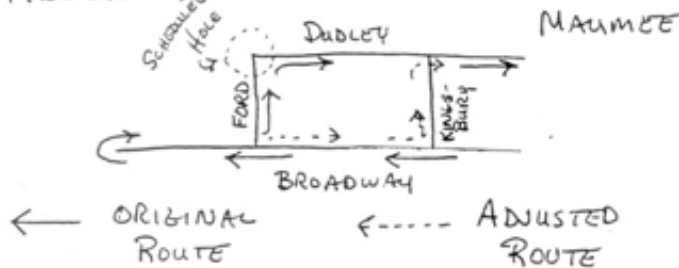
DON STANISH
4011 WESTWAY
TOLEDO, OH. 43612

PETE RIEGER - 3354 KIRKHAM RD. - COLUMBUS

DEAR PETE)

YOU WERE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THE ERROR MADE IN ARRIVING AT THE BLIZZARD BREAKFAST DISTANCE. I WAS NOT CAREFUL, OR THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO COME UP WITH A WAY TO GET THIS DONE. I'LL BE READY NEXT TIME, THANKS FOR THE TIP!

I NEED YOUR INPUT ON THE GLASS CITY MARATHON. SEWER CONSTRUCTION WILL OPEN UP THE STREET AT FORD & DUDLEY. HERE IS A DRAWING AND MY THOUGHTS:



March 6, 1993

Dear Don,

Your method looks sound to me, especially since you are the original measurer of the Glass City Marathon. I expect you can adjust the start or finish to make up for it. I will put this in MW and see what readers have to say.

Pete

SINCE THESE ARE SYMMETRICAL BLOCKS, I THOUGHT I COULD MEASURE FROM COMMON POINTS ON BOTH ROUTES BEFORE THEY BEGIN CONSTRUCTION. COMPARING THE ORIGINAL ROUTE WITH ADJUSTED ROUTE, AND ADJUST THE START OR FINISH LINE WITH THE DIFFERENCE, IT SHOULD BE VERY SIMILAR. WILL THIS BE ACCEPTABLE OR IS THERE A BETTER IDEA? WILL WE HAVE TO DO THIS ALL OVER FROM S-F?

BEST REGARDS,
Don



FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE D'ATHLÉTISME



JF DELASALLE
BP 25
80800 CORBIE
FRANCE
le 31/1/93

Dear Pete,

I too am looking forward to seeing you in Nice on 27-28 February.

Since our last meeting, I have carried on with the development of the method of measurement with the Jones (or Jones Oerth) counter. I now have 117 measurers in France who are able to use the method correctly. 17 of them have qualified to the "federal" level which is a national degree in France for the officials in the athletics field.

At the moment only the main events have to be measured in France.

In 1992 I certified 250 races and you will find the list enclosed.

This represents two meters of film on the shell of my study!

I personally measured 35 of them.

In the n°57 measurement news, I saw the list of the number of courses certified by the RRTC people. Can you tell me whether the calibration courses are included in this number or is it only the measurements of races?

Pierre Weiss told me there were differences between the measurement procedures of the AIMS and those used by the IAAF. Can you tell me what you know about that?

Should we still recommend :

- the average of the pre and post calibrate constant (for the constant for the day)
NB: in France we keep the biggest of the 2 constants
- the smallest of the 2 measurements
- the compulsory 1001 safety factor

I suppose that this should conform with what is stipulated in the IAAF brochure.

Another important matter will have to be discussed in Nice : the one concerning the validation of the performances according to the drop (1 m/km) and separation (30%).

It is very unfortunate that the biggest world championships should not respect our recommendations :

- 1992 Barcelona Olympics games marathon : separation > 30%
- 1992 Tyneside half marathon : separation > 30% and drop > 1 m/km
- 1993 Brussels half marathon (that I personally measured) : drop > 1 m/km

In Nice I will give you quite a number of documents concerning the work we have done in France : national seminar in Gap with 25 officials, several comparative works, first French contest test !

Best wishes.

Jean François



USA TRACK & FIELD

Peter S. Riegel
Chairman, Road Running Technical Council
3354 Kirkham Road
Columbus, OH 43221

614-451-5617 (home)
614-424-4009 (work)
614-424-5263 (FAX, work)

February 10, 1993

Dr. J. F. Delasalle - B. P. 25 - 80800 Corbie - FRANCE FAX 22 48 20 10

Dear Jean-Francois,

I am also looking forward to Nice. I will arrive on Friday, 26 February, at 0810. I will go to the hotel and relax, if they will give me a room so early. John Disley arrives at 1100, and we will do some reconnaissance in the afternoon, and plan the seminar.

You should be very proud of the work you have done in France. I do not know of any person, anywhere, who has accomplished so much in so short a time. I know you worked very hard. You have my highest respect.

The certified courses listed in #57 Measurement News include calibration courses. I was going to remove the calibration courses, because a calibration course is so easy, but decided it was better to keep them. If people are given credit for the work, they will try harder to do more. Also, if a calibration course is easy, it is also useful. So, calibration courses are included just as if they were race courses. We did not begin to list many certified calibration courses until 1988.

There are no differences between AIMS methods and those of IAAF. They are the same. Average constant, shorter measurement, 1.001. In the US we recommend, but do not require, the use of the larger constant. This is less accurate, but safer, since it produces a slightly longer course. The more the calibration changes, the longer the course will be. However, when we do a validation ride, the average constant is always used. I do not think France or the US will have to change. When courses are measured by amateurs, a little extra safety is a good thing, and many US courses are measured by inexperienced people. The larger constant has little effect when calibration change is small - it is only when something causes strange calibration that the larger constant makes much difference. Greater uncertainty justifies greater safety.

I do not believe that important races should be required to have drop less than 1 m/km and separation less than 30 percent. The only place these are important is when record times are compared. If they value the record, they will design a course that is not aided, and do not need authority to tell them to do it. A championship race will produce a champion, no matter what the course. If a world record had been run at Barcelona it would not be recognized. This would seem strange, to have an Olympic Marathon not count as a world record. But it happens at Boston, and nobody wants them to change the course. It would no longer be Boston.

For your interest: The recent 27:40 by Abebe at Jakarta (winning US\$500,000!) was OK, I think. The course was measured by Bob Thurston, who is one of our very best measurers. I will bring his data and map to Nice.

Bring some photos to Nice. I need a cover photo for the March MN!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Peter'.

SEMINAIRE NICE LE 27 FEVRIER 1993
 1er TEST, 1 boucle (First Test, one loop)

NOM/NAME	PAYS/COUNTRY	DISTANCE/MEASURE
John DISLEY	GB	787.36
Jean Paul INGUENEAU	FRANCE	787.46
J François DELASALLE	FRANCE	787.64
Isabelle MARECHAL	FRANCE	787.70
Antoine SEGURA	FRANCE	787.74
Pete REIGEL	USA	787.78
Pierre MOURNETAS	FRANCE	787.90
Walter DOVE	SUISSE	788.30
Jorge TOURINO LADO	ESPAGNE	788.56
Markku VUORIKKINEN	FINLANDE	788.63
Alfredo de ANGELIS	ITALIE	788.84
Roland MAURY	BELGIQUE	789.18
Otto KLAPPER	ALLEMAGNE	789.34
Ted PAULIN	AUSTRALIE	789.35
Fernando LANCELLOTTI	ITALIE	789.43
Victor MOTA	PORTUGAL	789.73
Moncef GLENZA	TUNISIE	789.97
Harri HOLMBERG	FINLANDE	790.18
Mouhsine MAHJOUB	MAROC	790.22
Badreddine HABROUCHE	ALGERIE	791.98
MOYENNE/AVERAGE		788.86
MOYENNE DES 5 PREMIERS		787.58



MEASUREMENT SEMINAR HELD IN FRANCE

On February 27-28, representatives of European and North African countries met in Nice to learn and practice measurement. Instructors were Jean-Francois Delasalle, John Disley, Ted Paulin and Pete Riegel. On the first day a single circuit around the stadium was made, and results compared (see above, courtesy of Jean-Francois).

Next day a 5 km course was measured, and students asked to provide necessary corrections. More results next month.

Finish Lines

Road Runners Club of America National Convention Portland, Oregon April 22-25, 1993

You might want to consider attending the Road Runners Club of America National Convention in Portland, Oregon, April 22-25 sponsored by the Oregon Road Runners Club. One of the highlights of the meeting will be a tour of the NIKE World Campus and NIKE employee store on Friday, the 23rd. The Convention finishes up with the Northwest Natural Gas Spring Classic 8 km race on Sunday, April 25. On Thursday and Friday there will be a number of interesting workshops.

Alan Jones, Chairperson - Finish Line Committee

RRCA Convention Workshops (Preliminary)

Thursday, April 22:

- 9:00am - noon: A) RunScore Beginning Session -- Alan Jones and Alan Avery
B) Building a Newsletter, A to Z
- 10:00am - Noon: Coaching for Club Coaches: video taping protocols and biomechanical analysis of form
-- Roy Benson
- 1:00pm - 4:00pm A) RunScore Advanced Session -- Alan Jones and Alan Avery
B) Coaching for Club Coaches: designing training programs -- Roy Benson
C) Safety: clinic on safety for men and women

Friday, April 23:

- 7:30am - Noon: Course Measurement Seminar
- 8:00am - 9:20am Present and Future Directions of the RRCA
- 9:30am - 10:50am Relays, Ekidens, Grand Prix Events
- 11:00am - 12:15pm A) State Representative Seminar
B) Budgeting: club budget/race budgets
- 12:15pm - 1:00pm A) Coaching for Club Coaches: Biomechanics without tears, a short course on form
analysis -- Roy Benson
- 1:10pm - 2:10pm Regional Meetings -- Regional Directors
- 2:14pm - 3:30 pm Multi events on race day
- 3:45pm - 4:00pm Bus to Nike campus

Saturday, April 24

- 9:00am - Noon: RRCA Business meeting
- 1:30pm - 3:00pm A) Children's Running
B) Sponsorship and Fund Raising



For more information call the ORRC at (503) 531-0133 or write to:
ORRC, P.O. Box 549, Beaverton OR 97075-0549

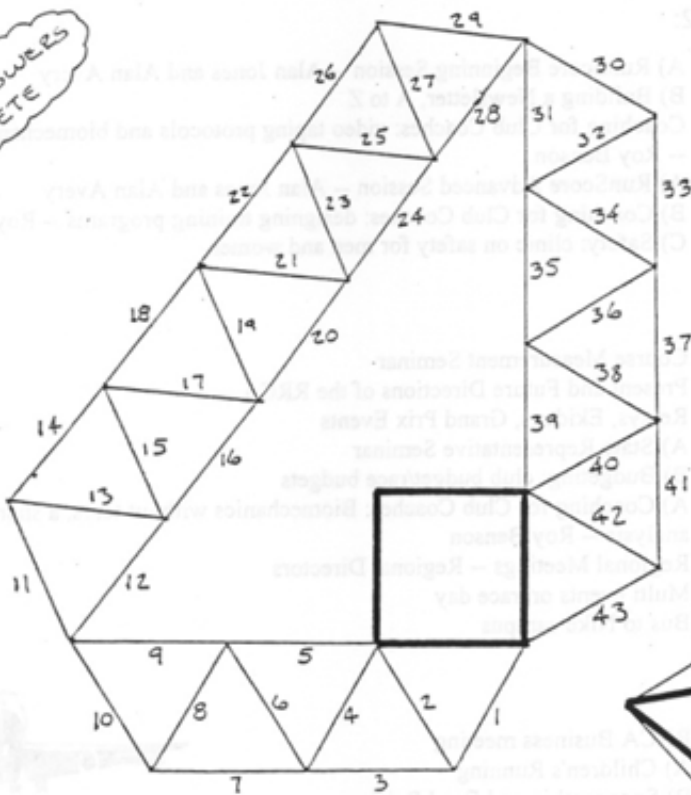
BRACING THE SQUARE - A PUZZLE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

Your task is to brace a square - that is, to build a rigid structure around it so that the square cannot deform into a parallelogram. The following conditions apply:

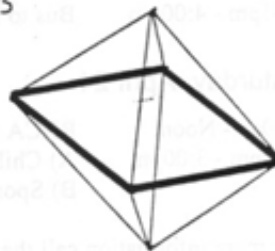
- 1) The square is exactly one unit on a side.
- 2) The links used for bracing are exactly one unit long. No approximations!
- 3) You may not go out of the plane nor into the square. This is a two-dimensional problem.
- 4) Links may not cross each other, and may be joined only at their ends.
- 5) The links forming the four sides of the square do not count as bracing, but may form part of the structure.

Below is an obvious example of one way the square can be braced, by building it into the corner of a 3-4-5 triangle. This uses 43 links. It can be done using fewer links. The person who submits the solution using the fewest links will be each month's winner. The current best answer will be shown in each issue until no improvement is made - and then I will show the best answer I have seen. Take your time on this one.

SEND ANSWERS
TO PETE



RENEWED
FOR
BY 1993
POPULAR
DEMAND.



A 3 DIMENSIONAL
ANSWER

3717 Wildwood Drive
Endwell, NY 13870
February 23, 1993
(607) 754-2339

Peter S. Riegel
3354 Kirkham Road
Columbus, OH 43221

Enclosed is my finish line column for the March MN.

Are you ever going to tell us the solution of the bracing a square problem. I hate to tell you the time I've spent on it -- all to no avail. Either there is no solution, or it is awfully clever.



Alan Jones

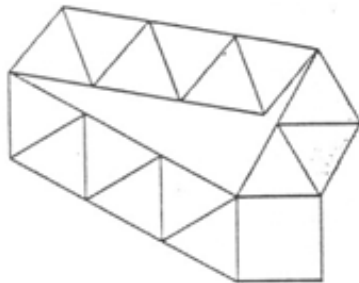
Dear Alan,

Below is a solution to "Bracing the Square." It uses 31 rods.

I have got out of the habit of putting puzzles in MN, since the last few have had nobody send answers. This discourages effort to produce puzzles. Maybe I will start again.

For openers, "Bracing the Square" is hereby reinstated until the end of this year. There are other answers to the puzzle, some using 31 rods, and some using even fewer.

The best solution (using 31 rods or less) received by December 31, 1993 will receive a new Jones/Oerth counter!



Pete
**WIN A NEW
J/O COUNTER!**

Dear Pete:

My two cents worth.... I applaud the ten year expiration date. Regarding courses certified at multiple distances, I don't know how your data base system is set up but a reasonable method would be to issue one "Course ID" but list the course separately under each record-keeping distance. For your "multi-course," this would reduce the listings to 5, 10, 15, and 20 km, 5 and 10 mile, and the half and full marathons. Thus, counts of the number of active courses by distance would be accurate. An accurate count of the total number of certified courses however, would require a sort and elimination of duplicate course ID's.

The appropriate SCPF for courses which involve relatively little measuring.... Suppose you measure a 1 km loop that is to be used for a 10 km race. The measurement error made in one loop is multiplied 10 times. If the loop was measured 20 times, in pairs taking the measurement of each pair giving the longer loop, the measurement errors would tend to cancel out. From experience, it is not uncommon for individual mile splits in a 10 km measurement to vary by more than 0.08% between the two measurements whereas the overall comparison of the two measurements agrees to well within 0.08%.

The suggestion to add 0.1% + 1 meter would affect all courses, only a minority of which are short enough to warrant attention. A better method (in my opinion) would be to add 0.1% OR 2 meters, whichever is greater. Thus, no changes would be required for the vast majority of measurements.


Ken Young

February 2, 1993

Jim Brown - 970 Baseline Road - Grand Island, NY 14072

Dear Jim,

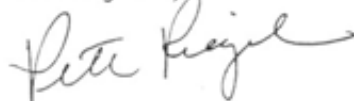
Your subscription to MN is renewed for a year. Thanks.

Thanks also for providing me with the name of the current Stockadathon race director. By copy of this I am informing Chris Rush that the certification of the course has expired due to the ten-year age limit.

Chris, I enclose a copy of the certificate. If you wish the course to be renewed for a new ten-year period, examine the map carefully. Compare the course you are using with the map. If you can say in good conscience that the two are absolutely identical, then write to me and let me know, and the course will be listed for a new ten-year period.

If any changes have been made to the roadways or the course, the certification is no longer valid.

Best regards,



(NO RESPONSE TO THIS
AS OF 6. MARCH)



1220 Sheppard Avenue East, Willowdale, Ontario M2K 2X1
Telephone 416-495-4055
Fax 416-495-4052

January 5, 1993

Dear Pete;

Thanks for the latest copy of Measurement News. I always find something of interest in it, and look forward to getting each copy.

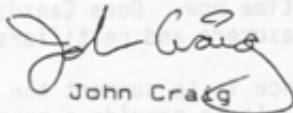
Of particular interest to me in the January 1993 issue is the correspondence and notes regarding Canadian Bernie Conway and his appointment to Certifier status. While I cannot speak for Athletics Canada (our National Sport Governing Body) or for their roadrunning branch the Run Canada Committee, I believe that by recognizing Bernie as a USATF Certifier you are doing us all a service. We have known Bernie to be active and interested in Measurement and Certification for some time and I am sure he will do a good job.

I must point out, however, that Athletics Canada does have an existing program for Measurement and Certification. I know that Bernie has been frustrated with it in the past because it is often slow to react; we have a limited number of Certifiers here and, as with all volunteers, most are overworked.

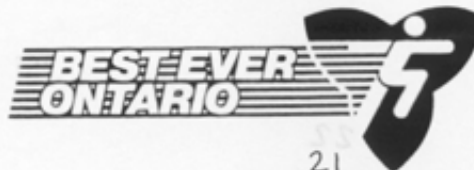
Nevertheless, a system that is based on USATF and AIMS standards was long ago adopted in this country, and some people remain active in promoting and working on Certification. My hope is that Bernie will apply to become an Athletics Canada Certifier as well to help us with the backlog of work that needs attention.

In Ontario, the province where Bernie resides, I have long been the only active, recognized Certifier. A new name, however, has recently been added to the list - Tom Jewiss, who has a good deal of measurement experience and has shown that he is capable of Certification as well. I hope we will be able to add Bernie to the list.

Sincerely,


John Craig

cc. Bernie Conway
Terry McKinty, Athletics Canada
Tom Jewiss



USA TRACK & FIELD

Road Running Technical Council
Peter S. Riegel, Chairman

January 11, 1993

John Craig - OTFA - 1220 Sheppard Ave E - Willowdale, ONT M2K 2X1

3354 Kirkham Road
Columbus, OH 43221

614-451-5617 (home)
614-424-4009 (work)
614-424-5263 (FAX, work)

Dear John,

Thanks for your letter of January 5. I'm glad that my appointment of Bernie did not ruffle any feathers. My suggestion that he could begin a Canadian system was not apt though, I now see.

My last contact with any aspect of the Canadian certification system was, I recall, with Gabriel Duguay, who moved to Wales. It could even have been you - it was so long ago I have forgotten. Whoever, they sent me some of the paperwork and we had some correspondence about it, but then things died out.

I don't recall exactly what we corresponded about, but my recollection was that the proposed Canadian procedures seemed overly detailed and involved a disproportionate amount of paperwork. Maybe this has changed. As I recall, though, it seemed pretty daunting to a prospective measurer, and also to any potential reviewer, who has to read it all.

When we were revising our Corbitt-era paperwork, I took the philosophy that we needed a system where we clearly told the applicant what was required, and then quickly gave him a certificate if the paperwork came back OK. The system we had was not too clear about what had to be done, and involved too much time-wasting letter-writing between measurer and certifier. This led to backlogs, which are bad. People wishing certification are like a kid who has sent in a cereal box top for a prize - he wants fast action. You mentioned you had a backlog - I hope you are able to clear it away soon. If your backlog will not go away, examine your paperwork and ask yourself if it is as efficient as it can be. If a measurer does things right, I can generally turn his application around in 15 minutes. We try to ask no question unless its answer is absolutely required. This saves time by both measurer and certifier.

Measurement News has also had a positive effect, in that it unites the certifiers and provides us with a forum where we can learn new things. You know what I mean - you have been getting it for some time now. Does Canada have any form of central communication between its measurers and certifiers?

Our certification system's official reason for existence is to support the USATF Records Committee. Its real reason, in my view, is to provide a broad-based foundation of accuracy for ordinary runners whose only records will be personal ones.

Thanks for writing - I was beginning to wonder whether you still existed!

Best regards,



xc: Bernie Conway

ONTARIO ROADRUNNERS ASSOCIATION



January 26, 1993

Tom Jewiss
2 Assiniboine Road
Apt. 710
Downsview, Ontario
M3J 1L1

Peter Reigel
3354 Kirkham Road
Columbus, Ohio
U.S.A. 43221

Dear Pete,

Although John Craig obviously beat me to the punch by about three weeks, I am also concerned with some of your comments in the January issue of Measurement News in regard to Bernie Conway's new empowerment to certify for TAC in Canada.

Both on page 4 and in the notes from the TAC convention on page 9, you refer to a lack of certification systems in Canada. Not only is this not true, but I have to question your ability to make such a determination. To begin with, Canada has ten provinces and two territories, each with its own athletics association. Some of these have separate road running arms, but as in Ontario, most certification is done with the provincial athletic association. As John has pointed out, Athletics Canada, as the national sports governing body, also has its own program for certification.

While most of Bernie's frustration is more than justified, it would be unfair to state, as you have, that "there is no certification process in Canada," and grossly inaccurate. Bernie's problems with certification have been in Ontario, and I am unaware of problems in any of the other provinces. Moreover, the Ontario Roadrunners Association (ORA), of which I am a member of the board of directors, receives accreditation applications for races on courses that have been certified by Athletics Canada.

I am deeply sympathetic of Bernie's own situation at present, and in fact I am the one presently to blame for the delays in certification. As John also mentioned, it is a volunteer-based system. After complaining myself for several years, I volunteered to become a certifier last year when I really

had too little time to devote to it. Consequently, I managed to certify one of Bernie's courses and then left him hanging. I hope to rectify that situation in the near future, and hopefully through myself at the ORA and John at the OTFA we will eventually catch up on Ontario certifications.

In the meantime, while I certainly cannot presume to tell you on whom you may bestow final signatory status for TAC, I am a concerned that you seem to be doing this because you perceive that there is no certification process here when, of course, there is. I also find it confusing that Bernie, or anyone, would be given such status for Canada when I understand that certifiers are state or regional in the U.S. Since Canada is considerably larger than the "lower forty-eight," I cannot imagine one person being the signatory for the entire country. Finally, I am concerned with the implication that anyone can be both measurer and certifier of the same course here. While I now assume that this is common in the U.S., no one in Ontario is acting both as a professional measurer and a certifier. This concerns me for two reasons: first, Bernie, like the rest of us is not perfect. His applications, like those of most measurers, are not always complete or perfect. Second, this could be precedent-setting in allowing race organizers in Ontario and other provinces to think that they can replace our certification with TAC certification. This in turn would undermine the roles of sports governing bodies here.

None of this is meant to reflect in any way on Bernie who has an excellent reputation in southern Ontario and for whom I have a great deal of respect. However, he happens, through no fault of his own, to be at the centre of this issue.

Please give this careful consideration and advise me if I am in error.

Yours very truly,


Tom Jewiss

cc. John Craig, Ontario Track and Field Association
Bernie Conway

USA TRACK & FIELD

Peter S. Riegel
Chairman, Road Running Technical Council
3354 Kirkham Road
Columbus, OH 43221

614-451-5617 (home)
614-424-4009 (work)
614-424-5263 (FAX, work)

February 1, 1993

Tom Jewiss - 2 Assiniboine Rd, Apt 710 - Downsview, ONT M3J 1L1 - CANADA

Dear Tom,

I stand corrected. I see from your letter of January 26 that there is indeed a certification system in Canada. I was also informed of this by John Craig, and enclosed is my reply to him.

Both your letter and John's allude to backlogs. This is one of the most serious problems that can exist in a certification system. I hope you find a way to deal with it. It's very demoralizing for a race director to have an application drag on and on with no action. By becoming a certifier you are doing the best thing you can do to clear things up in your area.

You may be confused as to Bernie's status as a USATF final signatory. He may sign off on any courses that he measures himself. He is presently not empowered to sign off on anybody else's course. I will explain how Bernie's status evolved:

Bernie, for reasons of his own, wished to obtain TAC (now USATF) certification for some courses he had measured. Since he filled out the forms correctly and his paperwork withstood my scrutiny, I certified his courses. His work was not perfect, nor is it presently perfect. However, it is good enough. I have confidence that when Bernie measures a course it is OK. After reviewing enough of Bernie's courses to gain confidence in his work, I decided to reduce the paperwork, and to stop requiring us both to waste time. Thus I gave Bernie the OK to sign off on any of his Canadian courses.

If others in Canada should wish to obtain USATF certification it is my intent to filter their applications through Bernie, because this will save me work. At first I will check his reviewing thoroughly, and when I have the confidence that he can do a decent job of reviewing the work of others I will increase his responsibility.

I'm not particularly anxious for this to happen, but our system is set up so that anybody at all can use it. I am aware that USATF certification carries no official weight in Canada. However, it does carry some weight in the minds of some runners. Also, since it is quick and easy for a person to obtain USATF certification, some race directors may prefer a foreign certificate that is available to a domestic one that is not.

Your concern about professional measurers signing off on their own courses is noted. It is something we have addressed in the past. For a while we

considered the idea of, say, me sending the courses I measure to Wayne Nicoll for review, and so on. This idea did not last long, because it took us only a short time to realize that it did nothing but generate unnecessary work. It is absolutely true that it would provide an extra check on our work, but we judged the price to be too high. Because we are all busy, we did not want to add bureaucracy that produces only a small extra benefit, but to save our efforts for where they are more urgently needed.

As for us being professionals, we don't apologize for that. I know of few certifiers who are purely professional. I myself measure courses for nothing on occasion, and on other occasions charge a fee. I enjoy measuring - that's why I often do it for nothing. But sometimes I am busy and don't want to do it, so I put a fee on it. If people object to the fee, I tell them they are welcome to do it themselves, and that they will get every help I can give them by telephone or mail. Many prefer to spend money rather than time. A busy race director with a budget sometimes prefers to take an efficient solution to his measurement problem, and hiring an expert is one way. I don't usually do my own plumbing, although I could if I studied up on it. I prefer to hire an expert. On occasions, though, I have sweated a few joints in my home.

We are certifying courses at a rate of about 100 per month in the US, and we cannot do this if the best measurers are the only ones who measure. We have tried to set up the system so that anyone at all, no matter what their credentials, can get their course certified with little hassle. The system is not perfect, but we do have a check on its imperfection, and that is the validation measurement that is done when a record is set. That keeps the system honest.

Over 90 percent of our certified courses pass the validation, and we have had only one course measured by a final signatory fail. This is not perfect, but it is pretty good.

Courses from brand-new measurers are easy to pick on, and it's there that the greatest care must be exercised. A new measurer must be encouraged to do it again, not nitpicked to death for every error he makes. If a measure of mercy is shown at the start, new submissions will come along, and the new ones will be better than the first ones. Too much bullying and bureaucracy at the onset will discourage further effort. Also, quick response is very important. If a certifier is too busy to hop on his applications, he is too busy to be a certifier. Fast response is essential if the system is to have any value.

Our system is not picture-perfect, but it is the best we **have so far** succeeded in getting it. The quality check lies not in the paperwork, but in the mutual trust we measurers and certifiers have in one another's abilities. That is the the base of it all. One's reputation rests on the quality of one's work, not on the official title one holds.

If you want to get a feel for how our system works, why not get one of your own courses USATF certified? You can experience firsthand how it works.

Best regards,



xc: Conway, Craig

67 Southwood Cres.,
London, Ontario,
N6J 1S8
Jan. 19/93

Pete Riegel,
3354 Kirkham Rd.,
Columbus, Ohio, 43221

Dear Pete,

I received a letter containing a disk from Bob Baumel with the USATF and RRTC logos as TIFF formats. He knew I was interested in trying to do my certificates electronically and so sent me these plus several files which he hoped would allow me to run off my own certificates. Bob has a Mac but he hoped the certificate files he sent me might be compatible with my IBM clone. They weren't. However I was able to use the TIF files for the USATF and RRCA logos that Bob sent to update the certificate I had already prepared. Bob suggested that I make available to certifiers, either directly or through you, the Word Perfect template for the 4 versions of certificates that are available. Two for final signatories; with either meters above sea level or meters/feet above sea level, and two for non-final signatories (two signature lines); with either meters above sea level or meters/feet above sea level. I have enclosed a disk with these four options. I am also sending a copy to Wayne Nichol and Tom McBrayer as Vice-Chairmen East and West. If any final signatories do not have access to a Mac or an IBM clone/compatible or do not use Word Perfect they may write me with the relevant information of Name, Address, and Phone Number and I would be pleased to send them one good laser copy of which ever certificate form they wish. They can then make photocopies of this rather than using the cut and paste method of taking someone else's form and replacing this person's name with their own.

I am awaiting dry conditions so as to measure a new course for The Other London Marathon also known as the Price Waterhouse Forest City Marathon. I also have a Women's Own 5 km in London and a 2 km/5 km race in St. Thomas (about 25 km from London). All of these must be measured before race dates of April 18 to May 2/93.

I may yet get to run in the Columbus Marathon. I was unable to do so this year because of shin splints followed by achilles tendonitis which eroded my running base I usually get during the summer. I am now trying to get over what I hope is a heel bruise and not a heel spur. I have purchased two pairs of sorbothane heel inserts and am feeling less pain after wearing them for only one week. I was able to run 14 miles Sunday and do a work-out at the track (1600 m, 1200 m, 1000 m, 800 m, 600 m, and 400 m, each with a 400 m recovery). The week before I ran 12 miles and couldn't do the track workout.

Please say hello to Joan for me. I hope both of you are in good health.



yours truly,

Bernie Conway