

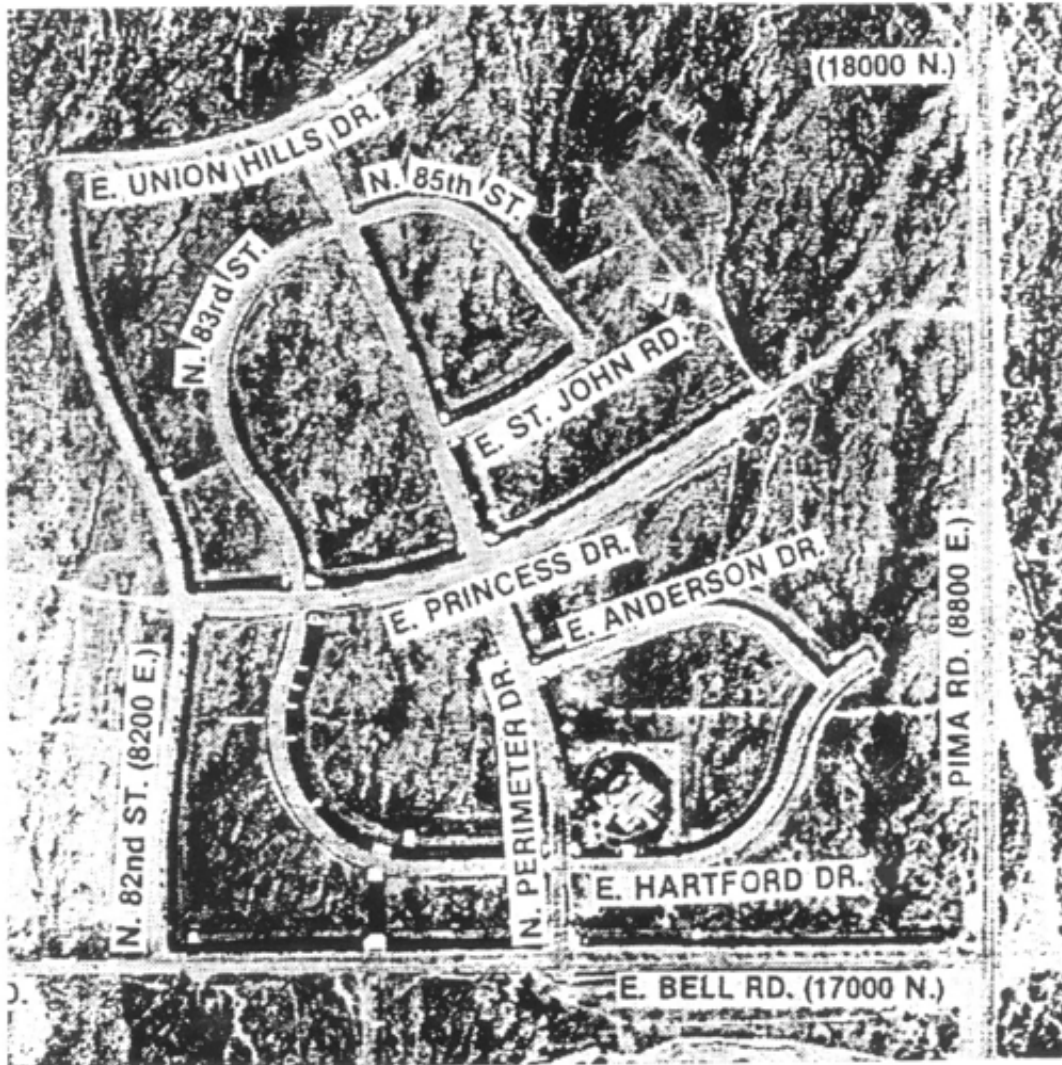
# MEASUREMENT NEWS



January

1994

Issue #63



## COME TO PHOENIX

Read about the Phoenix Measurement Seminar inside. Here is the area we will measure. For scale, begin at N Perimeter Dr and E Princess Dr. Follow E Princess Dr, N 82nd St, E Union Hills Dr, N Perimeter Dr, N 85th St, E St John Rd, N Perimeter Dr to starting point. This circuit has been measured at 1.33 miles. You will be sorry if you miss this seminar. Be there!

## MEASUREMENT NEWS

#63 - January 1994

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## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

A. C. Linnerud no longer uses a post office box address. His proper address is: 1309 Deboy Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-1719.

Pete & Joan Riegel - Our address has not changed, but our local Post Office would like you to use our complete ZIP code. Also, AIMS listings have numbers transposed in our house number. Our correct address is:

Pete/Joan Riegel  
3354 Kirkham Road  
Columbus, OH 43221-1368

## THE PHOENIX MEASUREMENT SEMINAR

The dates are May 21 and 22, 1994. The seminar will be held at the Princess Resort, just north of Scottsdale, Arizona. This is a fancy and attractive place. Free housing will be provided to the first 16 measurer registrants, and possibly some additional expenses will be covered. Four-room suites have been reserved, with two people to a room. If you do not wish to share a room, you are free to pay for your own (\$82.00 per night at this time). We are tentatively figuring on no more than 16 attending, but remain flexible at this time. We have reserved the block of rooms for Friday, May 20 through Sunday, May 22. Thus you can arrive Friday for the evening social festivities, and leave either Sunday late afternoon or Monday morning. A shuttle service operates from the Phoenix airport.

The measurement venue is about a mile from the hotel, on new, smooth and untrafficked roads, with enough curves to challenge without being ridiculous.

Attendance at the seminar is open to all. It is not limited to certifiers. All who wish to attend are welcome. Bikes will be provided. Bring your own Jones counter.

This is your chance to meet with other certifiers and some foreign measurers. It is not a test or an ordeal. We will measure together and talk about what we discover.

Phoenix is within driving distance of several noteworthy western attractions (Oak Creek Canyon, Grand Canyon, Sedona) and you may wish to spend a couple of days touring before or after the seminar.

## JEAN-FRANCOIS DELASALLE'S 4X4 PUZZLE

This was a tough and impractical puzzle. I thought I had the answers, but in reality had only the easier ones correct. A couple of simple-minded geometry errors marred my work. If Roger Gibbons had not submitted different answers, I would never have known. Read our correspondence, and see the correct answers next to the diagrams. The next puzzle will be easier, I promise.

## FINISH LINE CHAIRMAN FOUND

Ryan Lamppa of Road Running Information Center has accepted an appointment to be RRTC's new Finish Line Chairman, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Alan Jones. Readers may be familiar with Ryan through reading On the Roads, where his informative and interesting articles appear.

Ryan probably sees more sets of race results than anybody in the world, as he deals with the inflow of information to RRIC. His unique perspective may help us find ways to knit up this weak spot in our technical structure. Welcome, Ryan!

## EXPIRED COURSES

At the 1992 TAC convention we discussed giving certified courses a 10 year life, after which they can be renewed upon a request by the race director, and a statement that the course has not changed.

500 1983 courses were dropped from the list on December 31, 1993. In January 1995, 800 1984 courses will be dropped. Finally, in 1996 we will drop 1200 1985 courses. Since 1200 courses per year has been the recent historical rate of certification, we expect the course list to stabilize at a size of about 12,000 to 13,000 courses. All courses, expired or not, will be retained in the files. Expired courses remain certified if physically unchanged since certification, but a request for renewal must be made for the courses to be listed as certified. Bob Baume designed a form for this purpose, which you will find elsewhere in this issue of MN.

We suspect that the overwhelming majority of the 1984 courses are either inactive or have suffered physical change, or loss of reference points. Still, there are certainly a few that remain in valid use. Using the renewal form will permit the directors of races using these courses to reestablish their courses to good standing.

This process will sort out the deadwood and keep our lists useful. This subject was discussed at the USATF convention. See the minutes by Bob Baume.

## WRITE FOR A COURSE LIST

Certifiers - Send a postcard and receive a free course list, arranged any way you like. It will help you to know what's being listed in your state. In the past, it was customary to send everybody a course list from time to time, but no more. It was mostly wasted effort, since few seemed to care or respond, since the timing may have been off.

We want the listings to reflect reality, and we are happy to send out lists as often as you ask. Don't be shy or afraid to overload us - we want to make the information available. Send a postcard when you're ready for the information, and we'll send what you need.

**RRTC MEETING – USATF NATIONAL CONVENTION – LAS VEGAS, NV  
WEDNESDAY, DEC 1, 1993**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Riegel at 8:00 p.m.; following this, at Pete's request, all present introduced themselves.

**Attending:** Bob Baumel, Janet Boughner, Norman Brand, Dan Brannen, Bill Callanan, Felix Cichocki, Barb Grass, Bill Grass, Norm Green, Finn S. Hansen, Bob Harrison, Basil Honikman, Linda Honikman, Jim Knoedel, Justin F. Kuo, Ryan Lamppa, Bob Langenbach, Carole Langenbach, A.C. Linnerud, Mary Anne McBrayer, Tom McBrayer, Carol McLatchie, Jack Moran, Al Morris, Wayne Nicoll, Rick Recker, Joan Riegel, Pete Riegel, Allan Steinfeld, Mike Wickiser, Mark Winitz

**Officer's Reports:** As all officers have submitted written reports published in Jan '94 *Measurement News*, details are not included here. However, some highlights follow:

Eastern Vice-Chairman Wayne Nicoll noted progress in establishing certified officials for road racing, and commented on his experience judging wind aid. The moral: If a course has legal drop ( $< 1$  m/km), it is worthwhile to submit record applications even if the start-finish separation exceeds 30%, as records can be accepted unless the performance is aided by a significant tailwind.

Validations Chairman Mike Wickiser reported that validation remeasurements were done for 30 courses this year—up considerably from 17 the previous year—due to more efficient use of available funds. Unfortunately, 7 of the 30 courses remeasured this year came up *short*, illustrating the importance of using an adequate “short course prevention factor” when initially measuring a course for certification.

Course Registrar Joan Riegel urged certifiers to always enter the *drop* and *separation* on race-course certificates, as these are important for record eligibility. This led Wayne Nicoll to comment on the Maggie Valley 8 km, where the measurer had overestimated the drop by using a topographic map with coarse contour interval; however, as the start and finish were within sight of each other, a surveyor was later able to directly measure the start-finish elevation difference, which was within a meter or two — entirely legal for records.

Basil Honikman of the Road Running Information Center sounded a plea for all races to send results to RRIC. Of the roughly 5000 races that RRIC currently corresponds with, only about 2000 actually return results. Given that RRIC maintains rankings for about 15 000 runners, even small races can find that if they report results, runners in their race achieve national rankings.

Carol McLatchie, Active Athlete representative, stated that she reads *Measurement News*, and appreciates the work of RRTC in providing the opportunity to run certified courses and have her performances recognized.

**10-year Course Expirations & Renewals:** Bob Baumel led a discussion intended to clarify the 10-year expiration policy adopted last year. When Pete Riegel proposed this policy last year, his only intention was to control the size of the course list. However, Bob observed that the policy addresses a second concern, namely that courses change over time (construction can alter streets and obliterate landmarks; start, finish and other key points tend to wander as race officials set up the course without checking the certification map). Thus, after enough time has elapsed, it is reasonable to ask races to verify that the originally-certified course still exists without alteration, and is being used correctly, if they wish to keep their certification in good standing. To this end, Bob distributed copies of an application form he had drafted (see copy reproduced in Jan '94 *Measurement News*) entitled “Application to Renew an Expired Road Course Certification.” This form asks the race to compare their

course against the official certification map, and to return the filled-out form, *together with copy of the certificate/map*, to RRTC. After some discussion, nearly all present agreed it's a good idea to ask races to fill out a form of this type after ten years. Basil Honikman, Pete Riegel, and Bob Baumel agreed to meet privately, between the Wednesday and Thursday meetings, to discuss details of implementing the policy (e.g., how to inform races of the need to renew their certifications, what to do when records are set on expired, non-renewed courses, etc.).

**New RRTC Finish Line Chairman:** RRTC was without a Finish Line Chairman for several months following Alan Jones' resignation. Pete Riegel noted that the duties of Finish Line Chairman are somewhat ill-defined, which leaves the office-holder free to redefine it. Pete said he wanted a high-calibre person—an expert in the field, with good writing skills. Happily, **Ryan Lamppa**, who had recently joined the Road Running Information Center, volunteered to take on the job, and we feel confident that he meets all qualifications.

**Phoenix International Measuring Seminar:** Felix Cichocki described plans for the upcoming International Measurement Seminar to be held the weekend of May 20–22, 1994. The course to be measured will be at the northern edge of Scottsdale (a suburb of Phoenix), and participants will be housed at the Princess Resort complex, only about 1.5 km from the test course, which includes a bike shop that can supply bicycles for those who prefer not to bring their own. The seminar will begin Friday evening May 20, with most activity on Saturday, and will conclude Sunday. A possible overnight trip to the Grand Canyon (at your own expense), beginning Sunday May 22, may be arranged for those interested. Felix promises that it will not rain on the weekend of the seminar.

Pete Riegel said the seminar will be open to as many measurers as possible. Several foreign measurers, including Jean-Francois Delasalle of France, are expected to attend. Room and board will be provided to all participants, but most will need to pay their own transportation to Phoenix. Pete also said there will not be any tricky mathematical exams this time — just a low-pressure meeting to measure together and sit around & discuss measurement.

Bob Harrison asked whether successful participants will be designated "IAAF Measurers" as in the earlier 1990 seminar at Columbus. Pete replied that this will not be possible, as the current IAAF setup includes no good procedure for adding & deleting people from the list of AIMS/IAAF-approved measurers. Wayne Nicoll pointed out, however, that participating in these group measurements (such as the present Seminar or the Olympic-related measurements discussed below) is the best way to get *your* skills known, so that you may later get called upon when interesting (international) measuring opportunities arise.

**1996 Olympic and Olympic Trials Courses:** With the 1996 Olympics coming up in Atlanta, we will perform group measurements for the Men's and Women's Marathon Trials courses (in North and South Carolina) and the Olympics courses themselves in Atlanta. Pete Riegel asked for volunteers to lead these measurements.

For the Women's Trials course, Sally Nicoll will once again lead an all-women team of measurers. Tom McBrayer agreed to supervise the measurement of the Men's Trials course. And Wayne Nicoll volunteered to lead the measurement of the Olympic Race Walk course in Atlanta. Contact these people if you would like to participate in any of these measurements.

The Olympic Marathon course in Atlanta is expected to be a modified version of the Atlanta Marathon course, but details have yet to be settled. We have not yet designated a person to head the measurement of this course.

**Foreign Language Abilities:** Pete Riegel noted that people with foreign language skills are needed as he occasionally needs to communicate with measurers in other countries speaking a variety of different languages. Please let Pete know if you possess such skills.

**USATF Certification of Foreign Courses:** Obtaining US course certification for non-US courses (measured by foreign measurers) is not new. Bernie Conway of Canada has been getting his courses certified with TAC (now USATF) for a long time, and Norrie Williamson of South Africa has done this also. The question, according to Pete Riegel, is whether we should make it our policy to promote such certifications more aggressively. Such a policy would encourage correspondence among international measurers, and could help develop measuring talent throughout the world, especially in countries that have no formal certification program of their own (as is the case in much of Latin America). The USATF certification, in these cases, has no standing with the foreign federation, but still gives the course credibility. On the negative side, it was noted that this could "ruffle the feathers" of some foreign federations (as indeed seems to have happened in Canada to some extent). On the other hand, Linda and Basil Honikman strongly endorsed the promotion of USATF certifications for foreign courses, pointing out that even if the US certification has no standing with the foreign federation, it certainly has official standing with *our* federation, and can be very important when US runners compete abroad; thus, it can help gain approval of records set by US runners on foreign courses.

**McBrayer Course Measurement Video:** Tom and Mary Anne McBrayer came to the meeting with two big boxes full of copies of the measurement video they first presented at last year's meeting. Everyone present was able to take home as many copies as they wished. Anyone who needs additional copies, please contact Tom or Mary Anne.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RRTC MEETING – USATF NATIONAL CONVENTION – LAS VEGAS, NV THURSDAY, DEC 2, 1993</b></p>
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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Riegel at 8:00 p.m. As some of the attendees hadn't been present the previous evening, Pete again asked everyone to introduce themselves. Pete also made several announcements: Congratulations to newlyweds Bill and Barb Grass, who had just taken the "biggest gamble of all" at a Las Vegas Wedding Chapel. Pete also congratulated Norm Green, who was honored at the Awards Luncheon earlier that day, and recognized former TAC President Frank Greenberg. Finally, it was noted that this was Sally Nicoll's birthday.

**Attending:** Ruth Anderson, Bob Baumel, Janet Boughner, Norman Brand, Dan Brannen, Bill Callanan, Felix Cichocki, Barb Grass, Bill Grass, Norm Green, Frank Greenberg, Finn S. Hansen, Bob Harrison, Basil Honikman, Linda Honikman, Bill Jackson, Jim Knoedel, Justin Kuo, Ryan Lamppa, Bob Langenbach, AC Linnerud, Mary Anne McBrayer, Tom McBrayer, Al Morris, Sally Nicoll, Wayne Nicoll, Roy Pirrung, Rick Recker, Joan Riegel, Pete Riegel, Ted Vaux, Mike Wickiser

**RRTC Measurement Contest:** Bill Callanan, who laid out the contest course in the parking lot of the convention hotel (Riviera), announced the winners and presented awards. The big winner was Pete Riegel(!!!). He received tickets to the "Enter the Night" show at the Stardust Hotel, where Bill Callanan happens to be the band leader. Second-place winner Bob Langenbach and third-place winner Barb Grass were both given tickets to the show at the Excalibur. There was also a booby prize, awarded to Justin Kuo, whose measurement was off by about 100 m; this earned him tickets to the "Boy-Lesque" show at the Sahara (which is actually an excellent show according to Callanan).

"Eye-in-the-sky" Norm Brand reported that he had an excellent vantage point this year; the dining rooms at the top floor of the Monaco Tower actually afforded *two* views, allowing him to triangulate!

**Number of Decimal Places in Ultra Results:** Norm Brand led a discussion based on his concern that some results of ultra-distance runs were reported with too many decimal places. The events in question are *fixed-time* races, where people run for a specified time (such as 1 hour, 24 hours, 6 days, etc.) to cover as much distance as possible. In this particular case, results were reported in miles with four decimal places; thus, to a precision of 0.0001 mile (which is about 0.16 meter). Norm thought this represented an excessive degree of spurious precision. Dan Brannen explained that this situation apparently arose because he (Brannen) was *misquoted* in *Ultrarunning* magazine as advocating that results of national championships be reported to a precision of 0.0001 mile.

Pete Riegel stated that it's very simple to calculate the official distance run. First calculate the distance run as accurately as possible (For this race, held on a road loop course, use the exact distance stated on the certificate for the full laps, and add on the accurately calculated partial lap distances—which in this case were all measured by calibrated bike on race day). Then express this total distance in meters and round downwards (i.e., truncate) to a whole number of meters.

Norm explained, however, that he was concerned because the race's original reporting of results to a precision of 0.0001 mile could mislead runners into thinking that a very tiny difference between performances (such as 0.0002 miles) is significant (maybe even a new record), when in reality both performances are *identical* after computing the official results in meters using the method described above by Pete Riegel. Bob Baumel noted that reporting too many decimal places is preferable to the alternative of stating *too few* digits. For example, if distances are reported in miles using *three* decimal places, real loss of information would occur because 0.001 mile (which is about 1.6 meters) is a *coarser* increment than 1 meter. Norm suggested that results be stated in miles and (whole) yards when using English units [or, presumably, in whole meters when using metric units].

On the subject of meters vs. yards, Basil Honikman pointed out an ambiguity in USATF Rule 185.7, which states "In all events which are defined by time, distances will be measured to the nearest lesser full yard or meter only." [Note: A similar statement also occurs in Rule 65.9.] Thus, the rules require truncating downwards to a whole number of meters or yards, but seem to allow free choice of doing the calculation in yards or meters. Unfortunately, this can produce discrepancies of nearly a whole yard or meter depending on which units one chooses to work in (See additional discussion and examples by Bob Baumel in Jan '94 *Measurement News*). Basil promised that this will be fixed next year [presumably by submitting rules changes to delete the references to yards in Rules 65.9 and 185.7].

**Course-Cutting in Road Races:** Several races have recently been marred by incidents involving alleged course-cutting and pacing. The pacing issue was not discussed in this committee. (However, it was discussed extensively in the LDR committees; and Women's LDR created a task group to study the issue and recommend changes to the pacing rule next year.) In our committee, Wayne Nicoll led a discussion of the course-cutting issue. The major example was the Marine Corps Marathon, where the winner (from France) was observed to cut many corners by hopping curbs onto sidewalks. (Nevertheless, his victory was allowed to stand, as it was decided that this did not alter the result of the race.)

After some discussion, it became apparent that very different conventions are followed in American and European races regarding the legal running path. In US road races, we normally assume that the legal path is *within the road* (or street). This is implicit in question 23 of our application form for road course certification, which effectively defines an "unrestricted" route as one where "runners have use of the entire road, from curb to curb" (which does imply a restriction—namely, that the sidewalks are off-limits). In Europe, on the other hand, everybody freely cuts corners using sidewalks, parking lots, back alleys, etc., and according to Dan Brannen, that's how the courses are measured! Norm Green said

that in the first 5 km of his first European race, he learned that corner-cutting is acceptable (and expected). Roy Pirrung added that US runners are at a disadvantage in European races until they learn to cut the corners aggressively.

Many speakers suggested that race directors do better at marshaling courses and enforcing the rules to ensure that foreign runners follow the rules in US races. Bob Baumel voiced some concern, however, that in spite of the pride we like to take in the growing worldwide standardization of course measurement, there seems to be some divergence here between American and European measurement methods (if we restrict ourselves to measuring within the roadway, while they measure the shortest possible path that avoids crashing into buildings). Bob also remarked that he has sometimes measured corners across sidewalks or dirt areas if he thinks runners are likely to run that way; and in fact, this is consistent with our *Course Measurement* manual which states (page 22 of 1989 edition) "study is required to determine the shortest route that can actually be run, whether it be in the street, on the sidewalk, or on the grass or dirt." (Note that this may conflict somewhat with question 23 of the application form.)

The general consensus was that more education and better communications are needed. Race directors must understand that it's their responsibility to keep runners on the correct course, and must clearly communicate to runners the location of the legal running path. Before this can happen, course measurers must clearly communicate this information to the race directors. Wayne Nicoll stressed that this requires better information on course maps, precisely defining the limits of the legal running path. (And this must be in plain English. Mike Wickiser noted that some maps include statements like "measured along whole-road SPR"—an expression meaningful only to measurers and certifiers!) As an example, the map should state explicitly whether sidewalks are part of the legal path. [Question: If we want maps to include such additional information, what changes must we make in our *Course Measurement* manual?]

**More on 10-year Course Expirations & Renewals:** Basil Honikman explained procedures for implementing the 10-year expiration/renewal policy, as discussed at the previous evening's RRTC meeting, and worked out in greater detail in a private meeting Thursday morning by Pete Riegel, Bob Baumel and himself.

Basil said that when the Road Running Information Center (RRIC) receives results from a race whose course has expired, the race will be sent a copy of a letter (which Pete Riegel volunteered to draft) together with a copy of the renewal application form (probably a slightly modified version of the form distributed by Bob Baumel the previous evening). The letter will explain that because courses change over time (due to construction, etc.), we would like the race to review their course certification at this time. They may decide to remeasure, or to stop using their current course after this year's race. If they think their original (10-year-old) certification is still valid, and they wish to continue using it, we would like them to answer some questions (i.e., fill out the certification renewal form).

In cases where results received by RRIC include record applications, and a validation is consequently performed, then the validation (if successful) would update the certification, and it would not be necessary to fill out the certification renewal form.

If a race fails to respond to a request from RRIC to supply information about a 10-year-old certification (for example, the race sends results again the following year but has taken no action on renewing the certification), Basil said he would "have a conversation" with the race director. We want to avoid ugly confrontations.

When runners inquire to either RRTC or RRIC about the status of a course that has expired, they will be told it is no longer listed as certified. Hopefully, these runners will then put pressure on the race management to get the certification updated.



The actual applications for certification renewal should be sent to RRTC Chairman Pete Riegel. Pete will review these applications, consulting with a regional certifier if necessary. The initial version of the form prepared by Bob Baumel included instructions asking that the application be sent to the regional certifier. In the event that regional certifiers receive any renewal applications using this form, they should simply pass the application to Pete.

Linda Honikman stated that the new policies will be announced in as many places as possible. [In the meantime, if you know of any still-active races using 10-year-old courses, please advise them of the policy, and ask them to fill out the renewal form distributed at the RRTC meeting and reproduced in Jan '94 *Measurement News*.]

**Avoiding Conflicts of Interest:** Noting that most certifiers are also professional measurers, Pete Riegel emphasized the importance of separating one's volunteer duties as a certifier from all commercial considerations as a measurer. Pete said he was not aware that any current certifiers are actually acting irresponsibly in this area, but he thought it's a good idea to review these ethical guidelines from time to time.

Thus, it is the duty of every certifier to explain the measurement and certification processes to all who inquire, and make it clear that race personnel can measure their own course, or hire anybody they like to do it, and the certifier will provide assistance to the best of his or her ability (at no charge except for the usual certification review fee). In the event that race personnel really don't want to do it themselves, *then* the certifier can "put on his other hat" and offer his services as a professional measurer. However, in negotiating these arrangements, he should try not to take advantage of his position as a certifier.

Keeping the certifier role separate from one's role as a professional measurer means that any advertising literature promoting measurement services must *not* include the USATF logo or mention that the measurer happens to be a USATF/RRTC certifier. Joan Riegel observed that people often confuse the terms measurement and certification. Using these terms correctly, the promotional literature can include terms such as "course measurement for certification," but should *not* advertise course certification. Bob Baumel added that these terms should also be used correctly in advertising by measurers who are not certifiers.

Wayne Nicoll remarked that in training new certifiers, the Eastern and Western RRTC Vice-Chairmen have always emphasized the importance of following ethical guidelines and avoiding conflicts of interest.

**Short Course Prevention Factor in Track Measurement?** Occasionally, we are asked to certify a track (for LDR events, usually ultra runs). Pete Riegel noted that the measurement can usually be done using one of two steel-taping methods (direct curb tapping or the length-width method) described in a sheet prepared by Bob Baumel and published in Sept 1990 *Measurement News*, page 6. [Direct curb tapping is usable on tracks with a raised inner border; the length-width method is usable on tracks that lack a raised border but have standard oval geometry and permanently-painted lane lines, typically on a synthetic or asphalt surface.] Pete discussed a case where the track has neither a raised border nor standard oval geometry (It's a rectangle with rounded corners), so *neither* method was usable. Here Pete asked the measurers to use calibrated bicycle as we do for road courses, although *without any short course prevention factor*. \

Pete asked whether anybody present had ever used a SCPF in a track certification. AC Linnerud responded that when he was asked to re-mark a 440-yard track for metric races, he used a standard 0.1% SCPF because he felt most comfortable doing it that way. Bob Baumel recalled his 1989 certification of a New Mexico track that was nominally supposed to be 400 m but was actually considerably longer (although still significantly short of 440 yards). The steel-tape measurement of this (curbed) track by John McHaffie was

402.06 m, but Bob entered the official distance on the certificate as 402 meters, thus allowing a 6 cm safety factor (which is 0.015% of the measured distance). That's considerably less than the 0.1% SCPF we use in road course measurements, but Bob thought it was adequate for McHaffie's steel tape measurements, and insured that the track was *at least* the stated length of 402 m.

Note: Actually, the importance of Bob's 1989 New Mexico track certification was not so much his use of a SCPF, but rather that by writing the distance as 402 m, he departed from an earlier tradition that all standard outdoor tracks should be certified as either 400 m or 440 yards. Nowadays, whenever we can steel-tape a track using either of the methods described in Bob's Sept '90 *MN* instructions (curb taping or length-width method), the distance entered on the certificate is normally the exact (average) measurement with *no* short course prevention factor.

[As for Pete's non-oval, bike-measured track, the correct procedure probably depends on whether marks would be considered by Rule 183.10(b) or 183.10(c). Rule 183.10(b) allows approval of *track* records at distances greater than 10 000 m on a track without a raised inner border if the inside edge is marked by a white line and cones or flags complying with Rule 62.3(b). Rule 183.10(c) states that if the track has no raised inner border and does *not* comply with Rule 62.3(b), then performances at distances greater than 10 000 m may be approved as *road* records, assuming that all standard road course certification and validation procedures are followed. In the opinion of this minutes-recorder, Pete's track would probably be considered by Rule 183.10(c), so the 0.1% SCPF *should have been used*. More generally, any track that has neither a raised inner border nor permanently-painted lane markings ought to be measured like a road course, including the 0.1% SCPF.]

**New Blood Wanted:** Pete Riegel expressed concern that we may be turning into an "old boy's club." At this point, several RRTC members immediately announced that they'd *love* to turn over their duties if somebody else wanted them. The message: there's lots of room for newcomers interested in course measurement and certification.

**Finn Hansen's Improved Jones-Oerth Counter:** Finn Hansen demonstrated a modification he rigged up to improve performance of the Jones-Oerth Counter. Finn uses a hose clamp to hold the counter more securely to the gear. (See more detailed description in Jan '94 *Measurement News*.)

**Transcontinental Course Measurement?** Dan Brannen is involved in a feasibility study for a transcontinental footrace that would have a budget level similar to the Olympics and is being coordinated by a Canadian venture capital company. They are interested in a "certification-type" measurement. (One possibility might be to have measurers on bikes accompany the race, in which case accurate elapsed distances will become available only as the race progresses.) There are opportunities for individual measurers, or perhaps RRTC as a whole, to participate. Fees can be negotiated. Right now, this is at a brainstorming stage. Contact Dan if you have any ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by

*Bob Baumel*

Note: These minutes are still preliminary; i.e., they have not yet been submitted to the USATF national office. If you find mistakes, please send corrections to me (Bob Baumel, 129 Warwick Road, Ponca City OK 74601) to arrive by Feb 15. I will then send finalized minutes to the national office for inclusion in the book of minutes to be distributed at the 1994 Convention in St. Louis.



## USA Track & Field – Road Running Technical Council

### APPLICATION TO RENEW AN EXPIRED ROAD COURSE CERTIFICATION

**Use of this form:** USATF road course certifications automatically expire after 10 years, but may be restored to good standing upon application using this form. With this form, you will compare your course against its official RRTC certificate & map to verify that the originally-certified course still exists without alteration and is still being used correctly. (If you don't currently have the course's official certificate/map, you **must** obtain a copy before starting to fill out this form. Copies of all certificates are available for \$2.00 from RRTC Course Registrar Joan Riegel, 3354 Kirkham Rd, Columbus, OH 43221; phone: 614-451-5617.) The present form may be filled out by the race director, or by a race technical coordinator (i.e., person in charge of setting up the course on race day), or by the original course measurer, if still present.

1. Original course name \_\_\_\_\_ Certification code \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name of race now using course \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name, address, phone # of current race director \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do all streets & roads referenced in the official course map still exist, and are these all followed faithfully by the present race? (If not, please explain; e.g., street name change, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If the course map specifies any **restrictions** on the allowable running path (e.g., cones or other barricades that must be erected to keep runners in a selected portion of road, sections requiring special monitoring to prevent course cutting, etc.) are these being followed by the present race? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do all of the "permanent" landmarks referenced on the map for locating key points (Start, Finish, Turn-around points, cone positions, etc.) still exist? (If not, which landmarks have disappeared?)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Can all key points of the race course (Start, Finish, Turnaround points, cone positions, etc.) still be located precisely? (If you answered NO to question 6, but YES to this question, please explain.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Has there been any **construction** (or other alteration, e.g., due to flood, earthquake, etc.) that could possibly have changed the length of the shortest possible route available to runners? If so, please provide details, using additional sheets if necessary. (Be especially aware of construction on curves & turns.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that all statements on this form are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title (Race Director, Course Measurer, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form, **together with copy of the course's official certificate/map**, to your regional certifier. If you don't know who your regional certifier is, you may phone RRTC Chairman Pete Riegel (614-451-5617) or the Road Running Information Center (805-683-5868).

Annual Report - Vice Chairman East RRTC

The following is a summary of activities of the Vice Chairman East for calendar year 1993.

Trained and appointed new state certifiers for three states - Woody Cornwell, GA; Gene Newman, NJ; and Ray Nelson, MA/RI. Elizabeth Longton regrettably resigned her certifier position in TN and was replaced by Bob Harrison, who is also responsible for MS. All four are doing a great job for the RRTC. In September 1992 Bob Teschek gave up his certifier position in NH/VT and I assumed the duties in NH, VT, ME and DE.

Served on the Mens LDR Championships Sub-committee Liaison Team on trips to National LDR Championships at Portland OR, New Haven, CT, and Kingsport, TN. Duties included serving as Referee or on Jury of Appeal, course pre-validator, and scoring inspector. Conducted similar duties at the Womens National Championship 5K in Albany, NY.

Conducted race day wind observations at the Crescent City Classic in New Orleans for the third year. The '93 observations negated any possible records on the point-to-point course due to a strong tailwind. Reviewed a race day video of the '93 Bay to Breakers 12K, determined that wind had minimal effect on performances, and later validated the race course. This validation paves the way for the first ratification of a US Open record on a otherwise ineligible course.

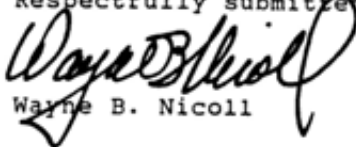
Validated the two race walk loops and issued IAAF certificates for the 1250 meter and 2500 meter race courses for the World Cup Race Walk Championships in Monterrey, Mexico.

Attended the '93 RRCA National Convention in Portland OR and assisted OR certifier Lee Barrett with a very successful measurement clinic. Conducted a similar clinic at the New England Race Directors Conference in Killington, VT.

Served as Chief Measurer for the measurement of the first DisneyWorld Marathon in Orlando, FL. Measured numerous courses in the Northeast.

My deep appreciation is offered to all of the certifiers who are doing such a successful and even handed job in the Eastern region. My thanks go out to all the other certifiers who have been so helpful and hospitable to me (and Sally) during validation visits.

Respectfully submitted:



Wayne B. Nicoll

USA Track and Field  
Road Running Technical Committee  
Vice Chairman West  
E. T. (Tom) McBrayer  
4021 Montrose Blvd  
Houston, Texas 77006-4956  
(713) 523-5679



November 29, 1993

Pete Riegel  
3354 Kirkham Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43221

**Annual Report of Vice Chairman West**

It's been just over a year since I was appointed to Vice Chairman West, when Bob Baumell "retired." I knew how the system was set up: All certifications from state certifiers in the western half of the US are funnelled through me before going on the Pete, hopefully to lighten his load. What I didn't realize was the competency and efficiency of the network. The state certifiers are the "sergeants" of RRTC. We simply could not operate without them.

As an example of the creativity and efficiency of most of these people, the September *Measurement News* printed a letter from Dave Poppers, Colorado certifier. All new measurers in Dave's state receive this letter. With this type of training for his measurers, Dave is helping to perpetuate the system, and that's what we would all like to see.

Submitted by,

E. T. (Tom) McBrayer  
Vice Chairman West

ETM:mam



The Governing Body for Athletics in the United States  
 including Track and Field, Long Distance  
 Running and Race Walking for  
 men and women and boys and girls  
 at all age levels.

USAT&F RRTC VALIDATIONS

1993 ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 1, 1993

MIKE WICKISER

2939 Vincent Road  
 Silver Lake, Ohio 44224  
 (216) 929-1605

Validations conducted

DATE OF RACE	DATE OF VAL	EVENT	DIST	NOM METERS	MEASURED METERS	DIFF M/10M	COURSE ID	RACE NAME/COURSE	MEASURER	VALIDATOR
5/16/92	11/28/92	R/W	10k	2000.00	2000.24	0.12	WI 92002	WG Petrifying Springs	MOWLES	GRASS
4/12/92	12/11/92	R/W	10k	2000.00	2002.58	1.29	WI 92001	WG U of W Parkside	MOWLES	GRASS
4/4/93	3/27/93	LDR	10M	16093.44	16118.00	1.53	DC 93001	JS Cherry Blossom 10 Mile	SISSALA	THURSTON pre-race
4/25/93	4/24/93	LDR	8k	8000.00	8008.39	1.05	OR 93003	LB Spring Classic	BARRETT	NICOLL pre-race
3/28/92	5/1/93	R/W	5k	5000.00	5005.59	1.12	FL 92022	DL LaVonne Hottensmith 5k	OST	LOEFFLER
5/24/92	5/14/93	R/W	15k	1500.00	1502.60	1.73	CA 88073	RS Inland Empire 15k	HICKEY	SCARDERA
3/21/92	6/29/93	LDR	8k	8000.00	8010.63	1.33	VA 91006	RT Shamrock Sportsfest	CORZATT	THURSTON
6/28/91	7/17/93	LDR	5k	5000.00	4961.50	-7.70	MT 84001	TC Governors Cup 5k	CASSELLS	BARRETT
3/28/93	8/29/93	LDR	30k	30000.00	30012.16	0.41	FOREIGN	Around the Bay 30k	RHODES	CONWAY
9/1/92	9/6/93	LDR	20k	20000.00	20014.30	0.71	CT 91001	WN New Haven 20k	GUIDO BROS.	NICOLL
9/19/93	9/19/93	LDR	24HRS	1806.33	1811.52	2.87	OH 93054	PR Olander Park Loop	STANDISH	WICKISER
8/16/92	9/11/93	R/W	10k	2500.00	2502.76	1.10	WA 92007	MR SFCC/Mugogawa 2500 loop	KINNICK	RENNER
11/30/91	5/20/93	LDR	50k	50000.00	49784.86	-4.30	WI 83005	TC Vilas 50k	HINTZ	GRASS
12/12/92	9/26/93	LDR	30k	30000.00	30028.00	0.93	TX 90074	ETM First Colony 30k	McBRAYER	RIEDEL
10/09/92	9/24/93	R/W	5k	5000.00	5002.48	0.50	CT 92012	DR Quinnipiac College R/Walk	GUIDO BROS.	NICOLL
9/18/93	9/17/93	R/W	5k	5000.00	5012.49	2.50	TN 93011	RH Food City 5k RW Chmpionship	CHANEY	NICOLL pre-race
9/18/93	9/17/93	LDR	10k	10000.00	10018.13	1.81	TN 93012	RH Eastman USA Men's 10k	CHANEY	NICOLL pre-race
11/17/91	9/23/93	R/W	20k	2500.00	2484.37	-6.25	CA 91020	TK Arrowhead Marsh 2.5k loop	MATHEWS	KNIGHT
8/29/93	10/17/93	R/W	5k	1666.67	1655.19	-6.89	CO 92031	DP Bank Western Loop	CARLSON	POPPERS
5/16/93	10/17/93	LDR	12k	12000.00	12014.60	1.22	CA 92003	TK Bay to Breakers	KNIGHT	NICOLL
5/16/93	10/07/93	LDR	10k	10000.00	10014.40	1.44	OH 93014	PR Revco Cleveland 10k	REIGEL	STANDISH
5/09/92	11/13/93	LDR	25k	25000.00	25025.05	1.00	MI 92004	SH Old Kent River Bank	DEWEY	WICKISER
7/23/89	11/07/93	R/W	5k	5000.00	5012.51	2.50	CA 89025	RS Lake Murray 5k	LETSON	SCARDERA
8/12/93	11/13/93	R/W	10k	1250.00	1250.96	0.77	UT 93007	FH USATF Masters 10k & 20k	HANSEN	NICOLL
9/21/91	11/07/93	LDR	5M	8046.72	8025.60	-2.62	IL 87052	WG Good Times Classic	KRAUSS	WIGHT
09/29/93	11/21/93	LDR	10k	10000.00	10020.585	2.06	OH 87072	PR Blade 10k	TUCKER	STANDISH
10/20/91	11/20/93	LDR	HMAR	21097.50	21062.65	-1.65	CA 84053	CW Humbolt Redwoods H-Marathon	WILLIAMS	KNIGHT
4/17/93	11/28/93	R/W	15k	2500.00	2490.77	-3.69	NY 86015	BN 2.5K Racewalking Course	NOEL	THURSTON
6/12/93	11/28/93	LDR	10k	10000.00	10034.40	3.44	NY 93002	AS Advil Mini-Marathon 10k	NOEL	THURSTON
92/93		R/W	1k	1000.00	OK - REPORT	PENDING	MD 92005	BG Bridgeton 1k loop	MULANAX	ECKELMAN

Currently pending :

10/03/92	LDR	5k	5000.00		WN 90001	RR Twin Cities 5k	RECKER
9/5/93	R/W	15k	15000.00		WN 93009	FC North Americal Masters RW	DIX
10/31/93	R/W	25k	2500.00		GA 89001	WN Piedmont Pk Restricted Loop	NICOLL
5/2/93	R/W	20k	20000.00		NC 85073	ACL Southeastern Masters Champ	LINNERUDE

Courses Reviewed

NOMINAL DISTANCE	COURSE ID#	RACE NAME	MEASURED BY	COMMENTS
15 km	FL89001WN	Gasparilla	NICOLL	Previous validated applies to course
2 km	DC88006RT	Reflecting Pool	THURSTON	Previous validated applies to course
1/2 MAR	MD91004BG	Hosp. Hill Run	GLAUZ	Previous validated applies to course
5 km	NY91002WN	Freihofer Albany	<del>Tom Nicoll</del>	Previous validated applies to course
25 km	MN90015RR	City of Lakes	RECKER	Previous validated applies to course
2.5 km	NY93003WN	Suny 2500 meter RW	NICOLL	Accepted on measurers credentials
10 Mile	MI90016SH	Bobby Crim 10 mile	HUBBARD	Previous validated applies to course Accepted on review of course and photos
50 km	DC86041RT	Del Passatore 50k	THURSTON	Validation impossible due to construction Accepted on measurers credentials

Annual Report: USATF/RRTC Course Registrar.....Joan Riegel

The national course list continues to grow at approximately 100 courses per month, with a current total of 12,000 certified courses. Please be assured that certificates of ALL courses are kept on file, even those courses older than 10 years which do not appear on state lists.

During busy Columbus Marathon months, I attempt to keep the list current, but ask help from all certifiers in noting the drop/separation distances. Please mark "0" where applicable, rather than "N/A", as all certificates lacking a specific number are passed on to Pete for his interpretation and correction. This slows the entry process. I could attempt to interpret your numbers myself -- but fear we'd list some pretty strange courses!

I would also appreciate your checking your state list for typos. It's easy for me to misplace a decimal point or type in some other mistake. Thanks!!



# USA Track & Field / Road Running Information Center

December 14, 1993

*Trustees:*  
Ottan C. Cassell  
Charles DesJardins  
Larry Ellis  
Julia Emmons  
Robert M. Hersh  
Don Kardong  
Bob Wood

Pete Riegel  
3354 Kirkham Rd  
Columbus, OH 43221

*Managing Trustees:*  
Basil Honikman  
Linda Honikman

Dear Pete:

I enjoyed meeting you, your wife, Joan and others at the National Convention. I hope to find the time to do "something" as Finish Line Chairman.

*Consulting Trustees:*  
Hal Bateman  
Pete Cava  
Thomas McLean  
Peter S. Riegel  
Mark Springer

It will be an "on the job learning experience" and along the way, I should be able to make a contribution. As you may know, there are several 1994 national championship races here on the West Coast, City of Los Angeles Marathon (men's) and Bay to Breakers 12km (men and women), I would like to go to both races to observe their respective finish procedures.

*Comptroller:*  
Barbara Rush

To-date, the Los Angeles Marathon people haven't always sent us the proper documentation. In fact, the past two years, I've contacted them for results. Bay to Breakers did a much better job this year than in past years.

*Patrons:*  
**Nike**

As I understand it, I will be self-directed and if I find a topic or two of interest for RRTC and others, I will comment on it.

American Specialty Underwriters  
Atlanta Track Club  
Big Sur International Marathon  
Bolder Boulder  
Chemical Banking Corporation  
Elite Racing Inc., Tim Murphy  
Freihofler's Run for Women  
Gasparilla Distance Classic  
Moving Comfort Inc.  
New York Marathon  
New York Road Runners  
Quad City Times Bix 7  
SCA Promotions, Inc.  
Triple Crown of Running Club

Thank you for your efforts and feedback, Pete. Keep up the fine work, and Happy Holidays!!

Sincerely,

Ryan Lamma  
Road Running  
Information Center

P.S. With respect to Nadia Prasad, her times are accurate and I agree, because her Las Vegas Half-Marathon time (1:12:00) was run on a course with excessive drop (12m/km), it should not be considered for a record. As far as drug tests, she was tested at New York and to-date, we have heard nothing to the contrary.





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

October 28, 1993

Dear Pete,

The November issue of Ultrarunning has the results of the 24 Hr National Championships. The results are listed to a precision of .0001 mile, or 6.3360 inches. A note on p. 6 states that "USATF is now keeping records for 'time' events (such as the 24-hour) in miles recorded to 4 decimal places, rather than in miles and yards. Just in case you're interested, 0.0001 miles is equal to about six inches."

*such precision is not possible with techniques now used*

Rule 65.9 states that the "distance achieved shall be measured to the nearest meter or yard behind the rear edge of the last footprint of the competitor." Now, when did this change of measuring unit and precision take place? As a statistician I am quite dubious of this procedure. Looking at the results, an exactly equal distance is reported for 2 finishers 8 times, for 3 finishers 8 times, for 4 finishers 3 times, for 6 finishers once, and for 8 finishers once (for last place). Highly improbable!

The time interval needed to cover 1/10,000th of a mile is less than 1/10th of a second at any pace under 15:50 per mile. My experience in this type of race is that it is very difficult to determine the exact position of a competitor at the sound of the gun, even if you are judging only one person and are within a few feet.

I think this should be discussed by RRTC at the convention.

Best regards to you and Joan,

*Norman*

*copies to Hersh, Hankman & Brannen*



NATIONAL ULTRARUNNING SUBCOMMITTEE  
Dan Brannen, CHAIRMAN

1 Nov 1993

Norm Brand

5224 Manning Pl., NW  
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Norm,

Thanks for your letter of 28 Oct. Boy, those 4 decimal-place results from Toledo really lit a fire under you. This is the second time you've complained about it.

The note in Ultrarunning to which you refer was a conclusion drawn by the editors of that publication from the results which I sent them. It was not a notice or memo from me. It is not an accurate announcement of a USATF change in policy.

As for the alleged change of practice re Rule 65.9, no change has taken place. Rule 65.9 was written at a time when the only partial-lap measuring ever to be done was on a track. We now use longer road loops. Consider the venue. Both the 1992 and 1993 National 24-Hour Championships were held on road loops of approximately 1 mile. On such a course the most accurate and feasible method of partial-lap measurement is by calibrated Jones counter. Hence, for both events I insisted to race management that a calibrated Jones counter (on a bike ridden by an experienced measurer) be used for final partial-lap measurements. Jones counters do not measure in feet, meters, or yards. They measure by God's yardstick, the single Jones click.

At Toledo the elaborate computer program used for the event listed every single lap distance in miles and decimal places of miles--the only meaningful or feasible way to do so under the circumstances. Calibrated Jones counter readings on courses measured in miles (instead of meters) are calculated and recorded in decimals of miles (and later converted to yards, feet, inches). Since the computer program was already set up in decimals of miles, it would have been counterproductive to translate the Jones counter mileage decimals into yards, then back into decimals to be plugged into the computer for final individual totals. Since it took quite a while to get the final Jones counter readings taken, calculated, recorded, and fed into the computer, we were under a time crunch to print a results sheet and get it faxed to the appropriate media and wire services.

If anybody is at fault, it's me for not translating all the decimal readings into yards and then re-typing the final results sheet in that format before sending out the various faxes. Of course if I had, everyone's deadline would have been long gone. When I got home I was too tired to change all the totals into

miles and yards, figuring that the only ones that really mattered were the record performances, but RRIC simply translates them into kilometers anyway.

Yes, going to 4 decimal places suggests that we've got accuracy to 6 inches, which of course we don't. But going to 3 decimal places would take the accuracy level over 1 foot. As long as a calculator and Jones counter will generate 4 places (in fact, they generate more), what harm in recording to 4 places?

The multiple listings of exact distances for more than 1 runner are easily explained: they quit on the same complete lap before the expiration of 24 hours, and therefore legally are entitled to no more nor less than the exact same distance (to as many decimal places as anyone cares to record). It's no more improbable than when a bunch of people on a 440-yard track quit at exactly 100 miles (some at 18 hours, some at 20 hours, some at 23+ hours), and the results then show them all with 100 miles, 000yards.

See you in Vegas, where I now fully expect "the eye in the sky" to turn in his RRTC contest entry to four decimal places....

Best,

*Dan*

cc: Hersh, Honikman, Riegel, Ultrarunning

## Meters vs. Yards in Fixed-Time Races

by Bob Baumel

USATF Rule 185.7 states: "In all events which are defined by time, distances will be measured to the nearest lesser full yard or meter only." Similarly, Rule 65.9 includes the sentence: "The distance achieved shall be measured to the nearest meter or yard behind the rear edge of the last footprint of the competitor." Both of these rules make it clear that the exact measurement must be rounded down (i.e., truncated) to the nearest lesser whole number of yards or meters. However, we seem to have a free choice of doing this calculation in meters or yards.

The following examples show that the discrepancy can be nearly a whole yard or meter, depending on whether we choose to report the final result in yards or meters. I will present *two* examples, showing that the discrepancy can go in either direction. Both examples refer to possible distances covered in a 1-hour run:

Example 1: The exact measurement is 18 448.01 meters. Truncating to a whole number of meters gives 18 448 m, whereas truncating to a whole number of yards gives 11 miles 814 yards (= 18 447.106 m). Here, the runner is credited with about 0.89 m more distance when reporting the result in meters than in yards.

Example 2: The exact measurement is 18 127.99 meters. Truncating to a whole number of meters gives 18 127 m, whereas truncating to a whole number of yards gives 11 miles 465 yards (= 18 127.98 m). This time, the runner is credited with 0.98 m more distance when reporting the result in yards than in meters.

At the RRTC meeting in Las Vegas, Basil Honikman promised that ambiguities of this sort will be eliminated next year. The proper way to achieve this is to delete the references to yards in Rules 65.9 and 185.7. Then, *only the calculations in meters* will be official, matching the calculation method proposed by Pete Riegel at the Las Vegas RRTC meeting. This would make sense because RRIC *already* lists records for fixed-time events in meters (not yards). Also, the rules for distance calculation in fixed-time running events will then be entirely analogous to the present rules for field event distances.

For field events, Rule 63.2(b) requires that the official measurements are metric, and are truncated to whole-centimeter units (or to whole 2-cm units for the discus, hammer, and javelin throws). While it is true that feet-inch figures are often assigned to field event performances, only the *metric* measurements are official, and the feet-inch figures are just approximate equivalents provided for the American public. As these feet-inch figures are *not* the official measurements, they are not subject to any truncation rule; thus, there is no requirement that the feet-inch figure be less than the true distance jumped or thrown.

Specifying only the metric measurements in Rules 65.9 and 185.7 does not require that all managers of ultra runs actually have metric measuring tools. It requires only the *calculation method* that Pete Riegel described at the Convention; i.e., calculate the measured distance as accurately as possible in any units you like, then convert to meters using exact conversion factors, finally truncate to a whole number of meters.

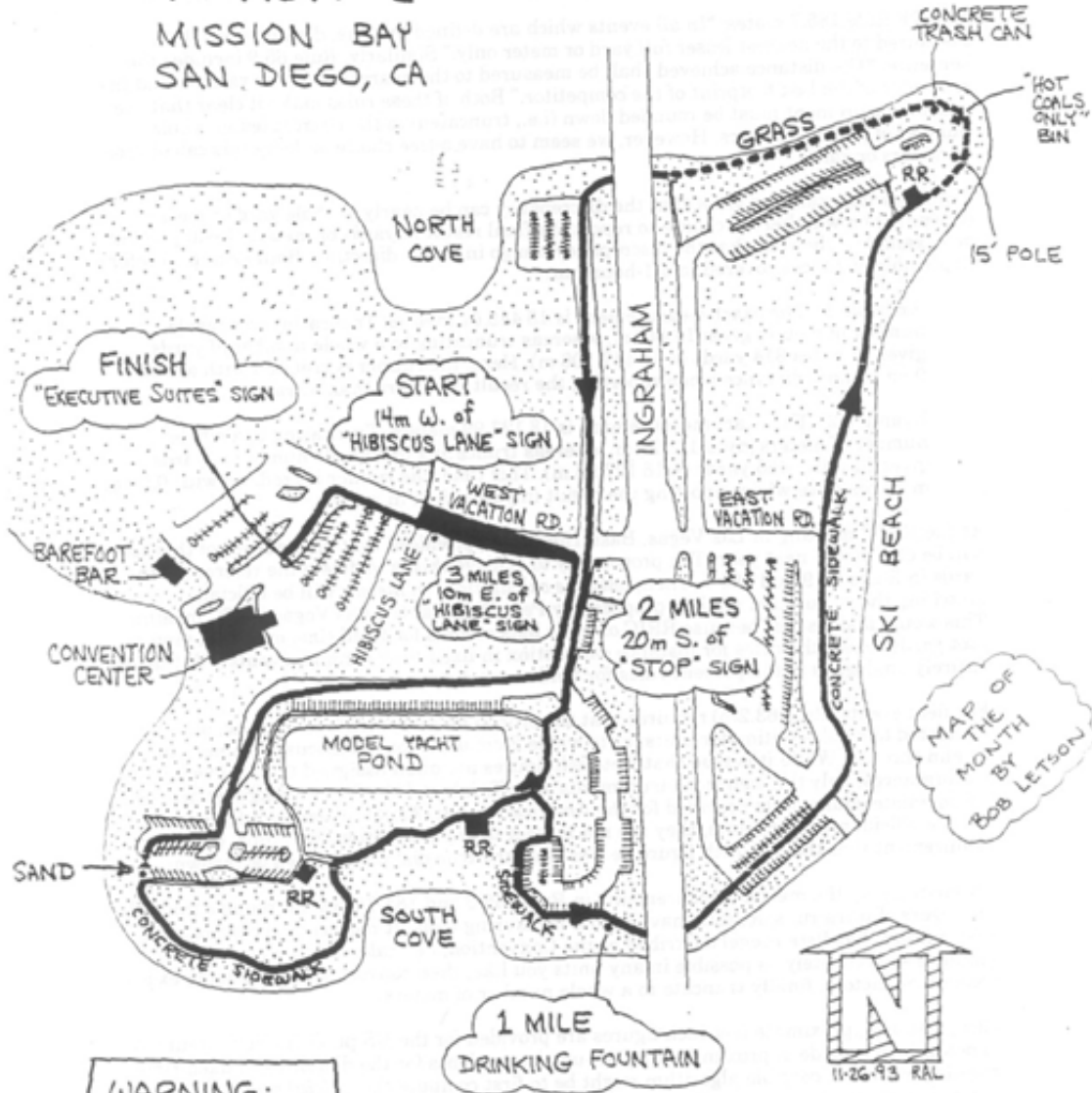
Also, just as approximate feet-inch figures are provided for the US public in field events, it is possible to provide approximate English-unit equivalents for the distances in fixed-time running events. A possible algorithm might be to first compute the *official* result truncated to whole meters; then convert this to miles & yards and round to the *nearest* whole yard (*not* nearest *lesser* whole yard). This would be an acceptable algorithm because distinct official performances in whole meters will always convert to distinct mile-yard figures, although certain mile-yard combinations (such as 11 miles 1265 yards) will never occur.

**A** — RUNNERS ONLY —

THIS COURSE CANNOT ACCOMMODATE WALKERS & RUNNERS SIMULTANEOUSLY

# VACATION ISLE 5000 m

MISSION BAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA



**WARNING:**  
THIS COURSE  
MUST BE  
EMPTY  
AT THE START

1 MILE  
DRINKING FOUNTAIN



**SAN DIEGO PRINCESS**   
A Princess Cruises Resort

2420 Glenwood  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
Nov. 14, 1993

Hi Pete,

Been a while since I've last written, I have a few certifications that will be on the way to you via Tom McBrayer, hopefully soon. In the meantime, I wanted to write you and indicate the status of some of the certified courses here in Alaska. Some of these courses have truly been destroyed and should get the axe or in the light of Bob Baumel's recent long discourse, the most "eliminated" category that you have. Others are perfectly fine courses that are just no longer used. So here goes the list:

AK 86002 TF	Inactive, course is too expensive to use because of the coning costs.
AK 87001 FW	10 Km, Inactive, probably impossible to relocate landmarks.
AK 87001 FW	5 Km, Same as above.
AK 87002 BH	Course destroyed, many parts of course repaved and relocated. The certificate should be voided.
AK 87041 BB	Course partially repaved and relocated, the certificate should be voided.
AK 88001 FW	Same as above.
AK 88002 FW	Course active, may be recertified this year.
AK 88003 FW	Course long gone, The certificate should be voided.
AK 88004 FW	Race and course long forgotten. Doubt it will be ever used again. I believe it is relocatable though.
AK 89001 FW	As far as I know, this course has never been used! It was certified for a race that didn't come off. I did get an inquiry last year from a race director about using it but didn't hear the final decision. The race was held but no certification was claimed and I don't know what course was used.
AK 89002 FW	Again, I don't think it was ever used.
AK 89005 FW	Inactive course, National Master's Championship course in 1989.
AK 89006 FW	Inactive though course is still locatable and could be used. I expect though it will be remeasured to eliminate some restrictions.
AK 90001 FW	Active course, National Masters Championship course in 1993.
AK 90002 FW	Course will be remeasured and recertified this year. The certificate should be voided.
AK 90005 FW	Course abandoned, possibly not relocatable. However, I'd not yet void certificate.
AK 90006 FW	Still in use I believe.
AK 90007 FW	Course destroyed and not reusable. The certificate should be voided.
AK 91001 FW	Active course.

AK 91002 FW	Course used this year: however, the race self destructed spectacularly this year and will not reappear. I expect the course will not be reused by another race.
AK 91003 FW	Active course
AK 91004 FW	Inactive course, race moved to a new course. I suspect that this course is short and if I ever get the chance will check it. The times are just too fast. The course remains in existence. I rejected the measurement for the new course, it was definitely short and a sloppy job.
AK 91005 FW	Active course
AK 91006 FW	Active course
AK 91008 FW	Unknown status
AK 91009 FW	Active course
AK 91010 FW	Course good but a race director requested revision is on the way.
AK 92002 FW	Thought to be an active course
AK 92005 FW	Active course, though revision may be required because of changes in permit requirements by state DOT
AK 92010 FW	Active course
AK 92011 FW	Active course

I would like to add a few thoughts on the course list and the expiration of certificates. The come down strongly on the side of NOT having an "official" form to reinstate a course. Just one more form to track and if the race director doesn't supply the necessary information, then you don't reinstate it. I would suggest that the reinstatement be done through the regional ("state") certifier. In this way, some one a little closer to the situation may have personal knowledge of the course in question. I don't have any ten year old certificates (Through the Campbell Creek Classic 8 km, which is not on the list you sent probably approaches that) but clearly from the list above, courses have a half life of about 5 years here. Personally, I like your idea of "I" for inactive rather "D" but that seems a moot point. I think courses that are truly destroyed and therefore forever unusable should be shown differently that a course that still exists be just isn't in use. Given the constant construction here, I've thought of certifying a "backup" course for some races just as protection. These would in reality almost instantly be "inactive." However, I'm lazier than that so none of those exist.

Enough. I thought I'd make to "Lost Wages" Nevada, but it isn't to be. Would have been nice. Good luck there.

Cheers,

*Rae Wilson*

CERTIFIERS - WHY NOT GET A COURSE LIST, AND DO SOME WEEDING AS RIC DID?

NUMBER OF US COURSES CERTIFIED BY RRTC PEOPLE AS OF OCTOBER 29, 1993

THE MILLENNIUM CLUB - 2148 COURSES  
"KILOCERTIFIERS"

WAYNE NICOLL WN 1128  
PETE RIEGEL PR 1020

THE CENTURY CLUB - 8069 COURSES  
"HECTOCERTIFIERS"

BOB BAUMEL BB 683  
A. C. LINNARD ACL 590  
RON SCARDERA RS 562  
TOM MCBRAY ETM 542  
BOB THURSTON RT 410  
CARL WISSER CW 407  
JAY WIGHT JW 348  
DAN BRANNEN DB 305  
TED CORBITT TC 297  
DOUG LOEFFLER DL 274  
BRIAN SMITH BS 272  
BILL GLAUZ BG 259  
BOB EDWARDS RE 250  
BASIL HONIKMAN BH 239  
TOM KNIGHT TK 239  
SCOTT HUBBARD SH 218  
RICK RECKER RR 209  
KEVIN LUCAS KL 200  
AMY MORSS AM 183  
DAVID REIK DR 183  
GEORGE DELANEY GD 174  
BILL GRASS WG 163  
DAVE POPPERS DP 158  
BOB LETSON RL 153  
TOM DURANTI TD 145  
JIM LEWIS JL 140  
MIKE RENNER MR 128  
PAUL CHRISTENSEN PC 126  
JOHN DEHAYE JD 112  
BOB TESCHEK BT 100

11627 TOTAL COURSES

THE DECADE CLUB - 1389 COURSES  
"DEKACERTIFIERS"

FELIX CICHOCKI FC 98  
GREG NELSON GN 94  
JOHN MCGRATH JMC 92  
MIKE WICKISER MW 88  
AL PHILLIPS AP 86  
FINN HANSEN FH 72  
TOM BENJAMIN TB 67  
LEE BARRETT LB 62  
ALLAN STEINFELD AS 59  
JOHN SISSALA JS 58  
BOB HARRISON RH 52  
KARL UNGUREAN KU 46  
ELIZABETH LONGTON EL 45  
MICHAEL FRANKE MF 43  
GENE NEWMAN GAN 42  
RAY NELSON RN 38  
CARL JEANSONNE CJ 37  
DON POTTER DLP 37  
FREDERIC WILSON FW 37  
BILL NOEL BN 35  
WOODY CORNWELL WC 26  
DAVID KATZ DK 25  
KEN YOUNG KY 23  
TOM FERGUSON TF 22  
GORDON DUGAN GLD 19  
DALE MATTY DM 17  
GEORGE TUTHILL GT 17  
STEVE VAITONES SV 16  
LEN EVENS LE 13  
BILL HUGHES WH 12  
BILL CALLANAN BC 11

THE SINGLES CLUB - 21 COURSES  
"CERTIFIERS"

CHARLES GEORGE CEG 8  
WADE STOCKMAN WS 5  
HAL CANFIELD HWC 3  
PATRICIA THORNTON PT 2  
BEN BUCKNER BU 2  
BEN HABLUTZEL BH 1

Lest We Forget - Between 1963 and 1982 Ted Corbitt certified 1867 courses. None of these courses appear in the current listings, since they did not include the 1.001 short course prevention factor, which was instituted in late 1982.



# 7TH ANNUAL RRTC MEASUREMENT CONTEST LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



**THIS COURSE IS LOCATED AT THE REAR OF THE RIVIERA HOTEL IN THE PARKING LOT.**

**THE RULES:** This measurement is to be without the assistance of any mechanical devices. Calibration can be determined by walking the calibration course or you may choose to guess, estimate or use any other non mechanical means.

**CALIBRATION COURSE:** The calibration course is 47.11 meters, between the northern ends of the two median planters.

**THE COURSE:** The course starts directly in the center of the lamp standard (most westerly) as shown in the map above using the shortest possible route (SPR). The finish is directly in the center of the north end of the median planter to the sidewalk on Riviera Drive.

**WINNERS:** The top three winners will be announced and awarded prizes at the Road Running Technical Committee Meeting at 8:00 PM on Thursday, 12/02/93.

**PUT THE ENTRY FORM (ONE ESTIMATE PER PERSON) IN THE ENTRY BOX  
MARKED "RRTC MEASUREMENT CONTEST BY 4:00 PM ON THURSDAY, 12/02/93"**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEASUREMENT (METERS):** \_\_\_\_\_  
(CARRY OUT TO AS MANY DECIMAL PLACES AS TO BE ACCURATE)

### LUCKY SEVEN FOR PETE RIEGEL

RRTC's seventh annual measurement contest was held in Las Vegas, just outside the Riviera Hotel, the convention venue. Bill Callanan, Nevada certifier, set up the 47 meter calibration course with a steel tape, and bike-measured the 270 meter contest course.

19 contestants accepted the challenge, with the usual tight group surrounding the correct answer. You can see the results below:

#### 7TH ANNUAL RRTC MEASUREMENT CONTEST

THE ACTUAL MEASUREMENT OF THE COURSE WAS 269.90 METERS

PLACE	NAME	DISTANCE	DIFFERENCE
1.	PETE RIEGEL	270.25	0.35
2.	BOB LANGENBACH	271.03	1.13
3.	E TOM MCBRAYER	271.296	1.396
4.	BARB GRASS	268.29	1.61
5.	BOB HARRISON	271.617	1.717
6.	BOB BAUMEL	267.13	2.77
7.	FINN S HANSEN	267.08246	2.81754
8.	JOAN RIEGEL	266.735493	3.164507
9.	GEORGE VERNOSKY	273.42824	3.52824
10.	WAYNE NICOLL	273.46756	3.56756
11.	BASIL HONIKMAN	273.532437	3.632437
12.	BOB BOAL	274.538236	4.638236
13.	FELIX CICHOCHI	264.79	5.11
14.	R.D. (DICK) MOCHRIE	275.648225	5.748225
15.	MIKE WICKISER	276.27219	6.37219
16.	MARY ANNE MC BRAYER	276.378	6.478
17.	BILL GRASS	262.968	6.932
18.	EYE IN THE SKY	259.11	10.79
19.	JUSTIN F KUO	378.416924	108.516924

FROM THE DESK OF BILL CALLANAN

TO: Pete Riegel

Pete;

I really enjoyed meeting you and all the other folks I've been reading about in the measurement news all these years. Being at your meeting reminds of how happy I am that I resigned from the Board of Directors of the Musicians Union after seven years. Dealing with issues and people can be very frustrating and getting the real matters worked on usually is more painstaking than I'm willing to give anymore. But you and your folks are doing a service that only a few, like myself, can and do appreciate. Trying to legitimize something that is a business for some and a hobby for others is a big undertaking and you don't make a lot of friends along the way if things don't go their way. Anyway, good luck and I hope that you don't get the burn out syndrome in the near future.

As for the contest. After collating the results I found that Tom McBrayer actually came in third place and Barb Grass fourth. I hope this doesn't ruin her honeymoon but Bob Langenbach, the second place finisher, said that he was leaving town early and couldn't make use of any show tickets so please pass them on to the fourth place finisher. Enter, Barb Grass.

About the show tickets. I've made reservations for two for you for the ENTER THE NITE Show on Saturday Evening at 8:00 P.M. I'll bring the tickets over to the bell desk on Saturday morning.

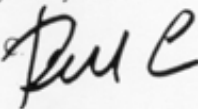
I didn't get a chance to talk to Tom McBrayer about seeing the show but I invited them to see my show also. I would really appreciate it if you could get in touch with him and ask him if he and his wife would like to see the show on Friday or Saturday. Since he is also the third place winner he also has tickets to see the show at the Excalibur Hotel on Friday or Saturday. The Show times at the Excalibur are 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. The Show times at the Stardust are 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm.

Barb Grass also didn't come up to talk to me about whether she and her groom wanted to see the Excalibur Show so if you could get in touch with them also I would appreciate it. The same goes for Justin Kuo. I have two tickets to the BOYLESQUE show at the Sahara Hotel for Friday or Saturday Nite. The show times there are 8:00 pm and Midnight. **I NEED TO KNOW THE ABOVE INFORMATION BY 5:00 PM TODAY IN ORDER TO SECURE THE TICKETS FOR EVERY ONE ELSE EXCEPT YOU.**

You could make it less painful for yourself if you just get in touch with these folks and have them call me directly here at my home. (702) 870 - 8269. If any of the above don't or can't go to the shows you can give the tickets to anyone who wants them. The tickets are allocated and waiting for a name to be put on them. Anyway, I'll be waiting to here from either you or one of the others and on Saturday evening I'll be looking for you in the audience and hope that you will be able to meet me so I can at least buy you a beer.

Thanks again and look forward to hearing from you:

Bill



PERCENT ERROR RECORDED IN RRTC PACING CONTESTS

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Bob Baumel	0.07		-3.03	-0.91	2.63	-0.72	-1.03
Marcia Baumel	0.02				4.37		
Andy Beach					-5.36	-2.42	
Michael Blanchard						1.14	
Bob Boal				27.76	-0.19	-4.33	1.72
Haig Bohagian				6.72			
Norm Brand	41.61	8.07	0.80	-0.90	9.56	-24.63	-4.00
Dan Brannen		-0.21					
Margaret Brooke	-6.52						
Nick Brooke	-6.61						
Jim Brown			0.36				
Frances Childs					10.46		
Felix Cichocki	2.14	0.76	6.51	0.99			-1.89
Robert DeCelle				187.61			
John Dunaway			4.58				
Miriam Gomez		-3.86					
Barb Grass					-1.11	12.17	-0.60
Bill Grass					-0.83	-3.73	-2.57
Dave Gwyn	-3.33		4.91	0.65	1.86	-10.20	
Ben Hablutzel	-3.05						
Finn Hansen	3.31	4.16	-1.02	4.28		-0.07	-1.04
Walter High						-3.34	
Basil Honikman			5.67	-1.22	-29.89	-0.17	1.35
Bard Horton				-0.47			
Jim Jacobs				28.14			
Alan Jones			0.01	1.27			
Clain Jones				0.09			
Bill Keesling					22.29		
Tom Knight	1.50						
Carol Kuo					0.72		
Justin Kuo			17.14	-1.61	0.07	-2.85	40.21
Bob Langenbach	-0.66		3.50		-0.93	0.33	0.42
Carole Langenbach						1.76	
Tom Mayda				-0.21			
Mary Anne McBrayer	-2.91	0.14	4.06	-1.69	0.61	2.54	2.40
Tom McBrayer	-3.66	-2.38	-1.48	-0.90	3.07	-0.43	0.52
Dick Mochrie						-6.11	2.13
Wayne Nicoll	-1.11		-10.34	0.54	-2.55		1.32
Ron Pate				-7.62			
Rick Recker	-0.79	-2.22	-0.17	-1.96			
Joan Riegel		1.74	-3.35	-1.40	2.28		-1.17
Pete Riegel	-1.00	0.95	0.08	-0.52	-1.25	-0.39	0.13
Larry Schloss			2.07				
Jim Smith	0.86						
Christine Steele						-1.83	
Stephen Tabb	0.62						
Bob Thurston		0.84					
Peter Torres Jr				33.21			
David Troy					18.38		
George Vernosky				27.30	-1.49	-4.68	1.31
Karen Wickiser				-1.53		-5.02	
Mike Wickiser				2.49	0.22	-0.86	2.36
Median	-0.72	0.76	0.58	-0.06	0.42	1.83	0.47
Average	1.14	0.73	1.68	11.54	1.50	-2.45	2.31
Std Deviation	10.16	3.12	5.41	36.84	9.45	6.34	9.36
High	41.61	8.07	17.14	187.61	22.29	12.17	40.21
Low	-6.61	-3.86	-10.34	-7.62	-29.89	-24.63	-4.00
Number	18	11	18	26	22	22	18



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614-451-5610 (FAX, home)

December 8, 1993

Bob Wood
PO Box 540302
North Salt Lake City, UT 84054

Dear Bob,

To amplify our conversation of today, here is my recollection of how courses have been treated, as they relate to selection for major teams.

US Courses - The course must be USATF certified. That's the only criterion that's ever been used. Downhill and point-to-point certified courses are OK. The only place they're not acceptable is where records are concerned. So Boston and former Las Vegas marathons, and Pittsburgh's Great Race 10k, are just fine. No problem.

Foreign Courses - Usually everybody agrees that an effort should be made to ascertain that the course in question is accurate, but doing this is difficult to impossible. The upshot of this is that performances set on foreign courses are usually accepted. We do have small knowledge of some foreign courses, but by no means all.

As time has gone by, the quality of all road courses is getting better and better. The vast majority of all courses are probably OK, and those that may be short are not short by an amount big enough to matter except to a rigorous statistician. I'd suggest not losing sleep over road course inaccuracies.

I hope this helps.

Best regards,

Handwritten signature



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November 20, 1993

Roger Gibbons - "Zeando", Swannington, Norfolk NR9 5NW - GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Roger,

Thanks for your answers. When I got the questions from Jean-Francois Delasalle, I solved them and faxed them back to him. He replied that I had got the right answers but there is a 6 m rectangle surrounding the course, thus the front wheel cannot stay within the boundaries when the back wheel is used to measure. This was implied in his foregoing material, but not specifically stated. So I did not feel too bad, since I am sure I would have caught it.

You and I agreed to 6 significant figures on the questions 1a and 1b, on the short circuit. On the long we disagreed. I found that I had made a stupid error in a Pythagorean solution, adding when I should have subtracted. When I correct for this I still get a very slight difference from you. I have not checked your work completely, but I thought I would give you a chance to check mine. At present I suspect you made a tiny mistake in one of your sequences of calculation, because I think the agreement should be better. I have faith in my computer, and any error on my part must lie in basic approach, and not intermediate calculation

On 2a I get 26.0492 to your 26.0662. On 2b I get 40.4769 to your 40.5388. If Since my basic methodology checked out OK on the first problem, I am inclined to think it is OK. I will let you mull this over.

The basis of my solution is that whether the front wheel or the rear wheel is doing the measuring, the front wheel's straight-line riding distance is identical. It is only on the turns that the distances differ. I did not trouble to make my solution pretty, but I suspect you are bright enough to figure out where our differences lie.

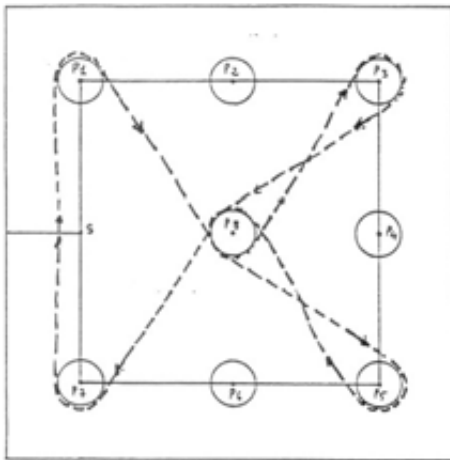
On the published solution I will, unless I receive corrections from you, use my corrected computer answers as correct, and note that I got the last 2 questions wrong, and that Jean-Francois gave me credit for correct answers. To further muddy the water I'll mention Jean-Francois' 6 m surrounding rectangle, and your mention of fork rake which, of course, renders exact solutions impossible unless the geometry is known. One might also have to know the speed of riding, so that sideways lean could be taken into account. Now that would be a real geometrical challenge. Note that at any speed above a crawl the instantaneous shift to front-wheel direction would be impossible.

I am returning your paperwork. I have made copies. Your material looks like the originals, and I am not sure you made copies. If you didn't, you can use the originals to check your work, if you are so inclined.

I also got a Greentyre, actually a pair. I had no trouble mounting them. They shipped two slick plastic paddles with them, and instructions to tie off the tire as progress was made. The operation took less than 5 minutes per wheel. I have only ridden the bike once since mounting them. I am keeping track of my calibrations vs distance traveled, and vs temperature, as I did with my Suretrak and my Capair before.

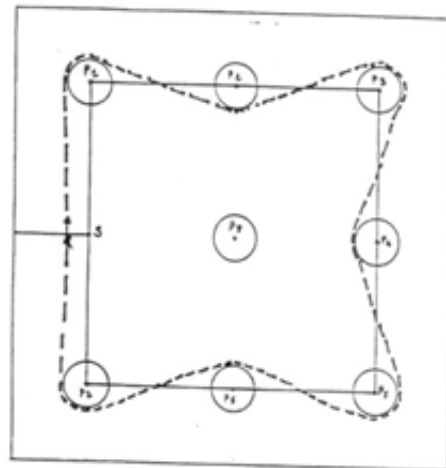
Another thing I track is the creep of the tire on the rim. There is relative movement. If you note a certain letter or landmark on the tire, and count spokes from the valve hole, you will see the tire traveling on the rim. It is fun to take account of this. See graph. My Capair seemed finally to have settled down before I retired it in favor of the Greentyre. I am eager to do enough measuring to see how well the Greentyre behaves.

Best regards, *Pete*



Le4.4

CIRCUIT LONG (long circuit)



Le4.4

CIRCUIT COURT (short circuit)

per JF Delasalle

ROGER GIBBONS' ANSWERS WERE THE ONLY CORRECT ONES

Long Circuit

Short Circuit

Front wheel measuring: 26.06624 m  
Rear wheel measuring: 40.53879 m

Front wheel measuring: 18.42912 m  
Rear wheel measuring: 26.30137 m

The above distances are those traveled by the front wheel.

98 Lindisfarne Road,  
Newton Hall,  
Durham.  
DH1 5YQ

3rd November, 1993

Peter S. Riegal,  
Chairman,  
Road Running Technical Council,  
USA Track and Field,  
3354, Kirkham Road,  
Columbus,  
OHIO 43221.  
U.S.A.

Dear Pete,

I refer to page 12 of issue No. 60 of Measurement News in which you reproduced your letter to me which sought to explain the reason for not incorporating the Short Course Prevention Factor (SCPF) of 1 metre per kilometre in a post race measurement check exercise.

This, as you know, was not an academic or theoretical debate as my good friend Paul Hodgson was called upon to check the accuracy of the half marathon route in Lisbon on which Sammy Leile (Kenya) ran a 'world best' of 57 mins 24 secs.

As you know Paul found that the route was 97 m short of required distance. This result did not include the SCPF as is currently the practice for post race measurements.

Had the SCPF been applied the route would have been 118 m short.

I noted the points you made in response to my verbal query. May I apologise for taking so long to respond in turn.

Quite simply I am not satisfied !

Surely the whole issue boils down to one simple and obvious fact which must, inevitably, be a consequence of different requirements for pre-race laying out of a route viz a viz a post race measurement.

If, for example, Paul's post race measurement (minus SCPF) of Lisbon had found the route to be precisely the correct distance, the record would have stood.

Therefore, given that almost all  $\frac{1}{2}$  marathon races which have runners of a standard to produce such mega times have been subjected to the attentions of a properly qualified course measurement pre-race (inc. SCPF) the athletes on those courses are condemned to having to run 21 m further than the distance on which the record was set.



Assuming a (very) approximate four seconds to run the 21 m it means that, to beat the world best set on a 'non SCPF' route by one second the athlete running a 'SCPF' route has to exceed the 'non SCPF' performance by five seconds in real terms.

This cannot be right - can it ?

Surely it all comes down to maintaining consistency. I really cannot see why a different approach should apply merely because it is a post race check rather than a pre race laying out exercise.

Needless to say, as course director of the Great North Run in England (25,000 runners) in which we have had three world bests, Musyoki (Kenya) 60:44 in 1986, Moneghetti (Aus) 60:32 in 1990 and Mashya (Kenya) 60:24 in 1992 and on which Moses Tanui (Kenya) ran 60:15 this year I am anxious that I am not witness to somebody running a time apparently one second short of the world best when it may be that the 'record' was set on a course 21 m shorter than our route (in fact the G.N.R. as measured by myself 1982, John Disley 1986 and Paul Hodgson 1990 is 15 m over distance on top of the 21 m SCPF !!)

Basically, I understood the points you previously made. I just do not agree. Sorry to commit you to having to respond.

Keep up the excellent work. I am very grateful to be now included on your circulation list for Measurement News. Julie reads them as much as I do !

Yours in running,



P.S. With reference to page 4 of the same issue 60 of MM I have a confession to make. The workshops of Green Tyres, makers of the solid tyres, are less than two miles from my office at work.

One of my dinner time runs passes within 600 M of the front door !

If I had known you were looking I could have told you they were there !



## USA TRACK & FIELD

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November 26, 1993

Max Coleby - 98 Lindisfarne Road - Newton Hall - Durham DH1 5YQ  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Max,

Many people have questioned the SCPF and the way it is applied. I myself am not totally satisfied with the way things are, but I am at a loss to figure how it might be done better.

In the US, measurement's official reason for existence is to support a scheme of national records. The fundamental principle of a record is that the athlete ran at least the stated distance in no less than the stated time. We do not recognize records on short courses.

If you do not agree with this principle, read no further, since we have no common ground.

Given the goal of the records scheme, we must ask people to measure courses using some sort of standard methodology. If they follow the method, we give them a certificate. If a record time is run, we check the course.

Now, you do not like the SCPF, but what will you tell the measurers to do? How long should a measurer make a 10k, if he knows an expert may check it? Nobody wants the check to show the course to be short.

To avoid a problem, we do what you don't like. We tell the measurers to add an extra 10 m in 10 km, to keep the course safe against remeasurement.

In Britain, you do not have the problem, since you are willing to accept the measurement of an approved measurer as gospel. That makes things a lot easier, since you are dealing only with perfect measurements. In the US, we opted for an "every person a measurer" concept, and decided to certify courses based on submitted data, but check if a record is set. There is no person in the US whose work is accepted without question when a record is concerned. I just had a 10k I laid out checked (Bill Rodgers set a master's 10k record), and I was nervous until it was done. It came out OK, at 10014 metres.

Put yourselves in our shoes, and if you can figure out a better way to do things, I would love to hear it. If you measured a course at exactly 10,000 meters, and Paul Hodgson checked it at 9995, you would have excellent agreement - but your course would look short, and a records problem would exist. How would you resolve such differences?

I do not argue that what we are doing is the best way, but it is the best way we have thought of. When you ask people to lay out courses, keep in mind that their work must fit within a framework of a larger world.

You said you understand the points I previously made, but do not agree. No problem, but you have only done the easy part. Disagreeing is simple, but coming up with something better is a bit tougher. Do you have a better way, and can you make it fit into the larger world of records and post-race checking? Think about the bigger picture, and maybe you can develop it better than we have.

In Britain, you measure a course, and that's the end of it. If somebody sets a record, your athletics body will recognize it (if you do indeed have British road records, I'm not sure), because you are a vetted expert. As long as nobody checks, you are on solid ground. But we check, because we don't have enough perfect measurers to handle all the work. And sometimes we get differences that show that things weren't right.

If two good measurers lay out a 10 km course, their opinion of its length may differ by 6 or 8 metres. This is normal measurement error, and is inescapable. The SCPF simply permits them to disagree as to exact length, but agree that the course is not short.

As for athletes being "condemned" to run extra distance, that's bull. All road courses in the world are laid out using the 1/1000 scpf, thus all are theoretically equal. All athletes run the SCPF, thus no one is at a disadvantage. In the world of measurement, no two measurements will exactly agree. Course checking requires that a way exist to take this natural disagreement into account. The SCPF is our way.

Again, if you have a better way, let's hear it. Disliking something is sometimes helpful, but coming up with something better is always helpful. If you've got it, let's hear it.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete".

EDWARD J. HIGBEE  
428 EAST MINGES ROAD  
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN 49015-4055  
(616) 962-4876

November 16, 1993

Mr. Pete Riegel  
3354 Kirkham Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43221

Dear Pete,

Thank you for the marathon list and guidance you provided some months ago. I'm happy to report that my wife, Sharon, selected the *Columbus Marathon* to qualify for *Boston* and did so with a 3:44. [Hope the course wasn't short! Just kidding.]

Now we're all gearing up for fun at the *Las Vegas Marathon* before going up North.

The enclosed check is to cover two more years of **Measurement News**. After all, how could I stop now that my map made "Map of the Month" in the last issue? Incidentally, I've been working to that goal as a way of challenging a statement you made (probably years ago) in *Measurement News* that you never saw a map produced on a computer that was worth a hoot (paraphrased, of course). I have found map making less fun than many measurers--I imagine--until I started using **AutoCAD**. It is a very powerful tool and prohibitively expensive without other uses, but it sure makes the map-making process more fun for me. Enjoy the "Crow".

Best regards,



*P.S. I wonder if any other measurers would be interested in a "map service" such as I could support with AutoCAD?*



## USA TRACK & FIELD

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614-451-5610 (FAX, home)

November 19, 1993

Edward J. Higbee - 428 E. Minges Road - Battle Creek, MI 49015-4055

Dear Edd,

I'm glad Sharon found the Columbus Marathon course suitable for her Boston qualifier.

Today I would not make the same rude statement about computer-drawn maps. We still do not get many, but some are now quite good. Years ago they were a curiosity, like a talking dog. One was impressed that the thing could talk at all, and not inclined to be picky about what was said. But now the computer maps are largely as good as the others.

Actually, the hand-drawn maps are not all masterpieces either.

Mapmaking is my least favorite part of the measurement process, but I try to do the very best I can on them, since they are the end product of all the work, and are what people see of it. I am judged by the appearance of my work, and I don't want to look slipshod.

Perhaps other measurers would be interested in your "map service" supported with AutoCAD. I will put your letter in January MN and they can call or write to you if they are interested.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Peter'.

FROM: Pete Riegel - FAX 614 451 5610

December 14, 1993

Ted Paulin - Olympic Park - Swan Street, Melbourne  
Victoria 3002 - AUSTRALIA by FAX: 61-3-426-5336

Dear Ted,

Doug Loeffler is gung-ho for a US validation exercise. He travels extensively in Latin America and it is not such an adventure to him. Of course he is not a foreigner here, but maybe that's no longer important. Maybe others are hot to trot also. You'll never know until you ask. You can reach Doug at:

Doug Loeffler - 1399 W. Royal Palm Rd - Boca Raton, FL 33486  
407-391-2880 (H) 407-997-2080 (W)  
407-338-0079 (fax, H) 407-997-2110 (fax, W)

Best regards,



copy: Loeffler

---

December 13, 1993

Dear Pete,

The November M.N. contained Ted Paulin's letter to you and your response concerning IAAF/ AIMS validation of US courses. Your letter commented on the reasons why a US based, IAAF/ AIMS approved measurer would be reluctant to validate a US course.

I would like to offer another perspective. Speaking for myself, I would be more than happy to validate any of the mentioned courses for the following reasons:

-I have validated 4 foreign courses that I can think of. All of those foreign courses are closer to my home than any of the mentioned US courses.

-I wouldn't have to travel on "Aero Maybe" to get to the US courses.

-There wouldn't be any language difficulties (except possibly in Boston).

-For someone living in south Florida Portland is another country.

-If you think airfare to bring in a foreign measurer is expensive you should price the airfare from say Miami to Atlanta.

-There is a much lower probability of meeting Montezuma at dinner in one of the mentioned cities.

I do agree with all of your other comments though, especially " If the people join AIMS they should be prepared to abide by the AIMS rules." I just hope Ted will check with some of the approved US validators before concluding that they aren't interested.

Best regards



Doug Loeffler

# IDEAS

\*\*\*\*\*

## Race director's notebook

By Jim Young



## Records and Race Directing *Your race is never too small for record setting*

Did you know that only 41 running events in North Carolina bothered to submit their results to the North Carolina State Record Keeper?

Pitiful! just pitiful.  
"How pitiful?" you ask. Well, in 1992, there were 219 different individuals who were listed as contacts for running events in North Carolina. Many of these contacts are involved in more

than one race each year. But if we assume that each directs just one event a year, and if we further assume that every North Carolina race is listed in *Running Journal*, it is still a very small percentage of races that even bother to complete the necessary forms and submit the results.

When your results are submitted to the state record keeper, not only will your race results count toward state records but also toward national rankings. The state record keeper, after reviewing the results for records, forwards them to the USAT&F Road Running Information Center, where they are reviewed again for national records and national rankings.

"No one in my race would ever run a state record or qualify for a national ranking," race directors say. "We're too small."

Poppycock! Of the 41 events that submitted results in North Carolina last year, 32 races had participants who either set a state record or qualified for national rankings. Many of those races had fewer than 100 participants.

Basically, if you are not submitting results to your state record keeper, you are not doing your whole job as a race director.

Okay, I'm convinced, you say. What can I do? First, you must have your course certified, and you must have the paperwork to prove it. If you

need to find out who in your area certifies race courses, contact your local running club or your state RRCA representative.

And while you're at it, find out who your state record keeper is. Or you can contact the USAT&F Road Running Information Center at 915 Randolph, Santa Barbara, CA 93111. Their telephone number is 805-683-5868 and their fax number is 805-967-5958.

What follows now is how I handle results. This may not be what the "book" says, but it works.

I complete as much of the application form (known officially as the Application for Recognition of Road Race Performances) before race day as possible -- race name, distance, date, race director's name and address. If I am not the race director, I get the race director to sign the form prior to the race in two places.

His first signature attests that it was a "bona fide competition," i.e. the start was fair, everyone ran the course as it was measured, everything was done according to the rules, etc.

The second signature answers questions about the course. You will need a copy of the course certification certificate to answer some of these questions.

(Note: If for some reason the race is not run correctly, I do not submit the form even though I have the race director's signatures.)

On race day, after putting down the start and finish lines, I take photos of each. I will also take photos of any turnaround on an out-and-back course. These photos are kept in our files and are proof of where the race started and finished in case there is ever any question.

When our volunteers report to the finish line, the first thing we have the timers do is sign the forms where it is indicated.

(Theoretically, the timers are supposed to come to you after the race, show you the times that they got for the first male and the first female, record those times on the form, and then sign their names. However, that is impractical. After a road race, the police are pushing you to get the finish line off the road so they can open it up to traffic, the volunteers have left for the mall, and our main concern is getting the results for the awards ceremony FAST.)

Once I have the signature, I put the form aside until after the race.

The next day, in the relaxed atmosphere of my office, I will complete the rest of the form. I will record the times off the printer timing tapes and the select time sheet for the first male and first female. I will complete the part of the form about the number of entries, number of finishers, weather, etc.

I will check for possible state records and record the stopped times for those.

I then send the completed form and a copy of the race results in age-group order listing every runner's name, age, sex, race number, hometown, state, time, age-group finish, and overall finish to the state record keeper for North Carolina.

I also send proof of our select timing. (The latter is a local requirement; not all state record keepers will need the select times.)

The entire process takes about 15 minutes. So why don't more race directors do this?

"We're too small."  
Balderdash!



7 December, 1993.  
17 West Ct.  
Derby, CT 06418

Joan Riegel  
RRTC 3354 Kirkham Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43221

Dear Joan,

On behalf of the Connecticut Association, I would like to thank you and the members of the RRTC for the tapes on Road Race Measurement. I kept a copy on file and sent additional copies to our LDR Chair. and to the Certification Chair.

We appreciate the time and effort that you and your committee members devote to the distance running community. Thanks again.

TOM & MARY ANNE  
MCBRAYER DISTRIBUTED  
NUMEROUS FREE COPIES  
OF THE MEASUREMENT  
VIDEO AT THE USATF  
CONVENTION.  
"THANK YOU" IS  
FOR THEM.

Yours sincerely,

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

Ray Lapinski  
Vice-President  
CT Assoc. USATF