

RRTC 2006 Annual Meeting Reports
Presented at RRTC Meeting - USATF Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana
December 2, 2006

Reports contained in this document:

[RRTC Chairman](#) - Gene Newman

[Vice-Chairman East](#) - Paul Hronjak

[Vice-Chairman West](#) - Jim Gerweck

[Course Registrar](#) - Stu Riegel

[Validations Chair](#) - Neville Wood *

[Workshops Coordinator](#) - Mike Wickiser

[Bulletin Board Manager](#) - Pete Riegel

[RRTC Webmaster](#) - Bob Baumel

* The Validations Report included here is a few days more recent than the version presented at the December 2 meeting.

RRTC Chair's 2006 Report

Interesting year – Records set at Rock & Roll races in Phoenix; MN; New Certifiers (Tom LaBlonde (Utah), Jim Gilmer (NY), Don Garrett (OK), Jane Parks (CT) and David Moore (WI)); Measurement Workshops (Tom McBrayer, Pete Riegel, Kevin Lucas, Jim Gilmer and Mike Wickiser) have taken place and more are planned for next year; Both Mike and I need your help for areas that want a workshop; Pete's web-based Bulletin Board has become the official voice of RRTC and a sounding board for all ideas.

There are many who have given me their support and guidance. First, Mike Wickiser and Pete Riegel have always been there for me. My Vice Chairs (Paul & Jim) have done what I have asked in a timely manner. Paul being the old guy on the block has supplied me with most important information. Then there are the other old guys that have been there when needed (Wayne Nicoll, Bob Baumel and Tom McBrayer). Kevin Lucas has done a good job with the newsletter and given me some ideas to put in place.

Three other people that have supported me and RRTC in times of need. These Gentleman are the best and I thank them for their support. USATF President, Bill Roe and LDR man, Fred Finke and our old time member David Katz.

Well it's time to get onto the meeting and the format will be the same as in the past. I feel there is little need for formal stuff; hence, let's roll on.

Gene Newman
RRTC Chair



USA T&F - Road Running Technical Council

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EASTERN VICE CHAIRMAN'S 2006 REPORT

2006 has been a very active year in the eastern half of the country.

The following is a comparison on certifications received year to date as well as totals for previous years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>YTD(11/28)</u>	<u>Year Total</u>
<u>2006</u>		
Race courses	781	
Calibration	54	
Renewals	46	
Replacements	9	
Total	890	
<u>2005</u>		
Race courses	699	772
Calibration	32	40
Renewals	33	40
Replacements	11	15
Total	775	867
<u>2004</u>		
Race courses	738	788
Calibration	58	66
Renewals	30	33
Replacements	23	23
Total	849	910

It is obvious that 2006 is considerably ahead of previous years in the number of courses being certified - at least for the eastern half of the country.

North Carolina

My assigned state of North Carolina shows a slight increase in activity in 2006 with 71 certifications year to date which compares to 65 at the same point in 2005.

Over the last ten years the following list shows the total number of new certifications (2006 is YTD) as well as the number of active measurers:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Courses</u>	<u>Measurers</u>
2006	71	17
2005	65	12
2004	85	15
2003	60	14
2002	57	10
2001	71	12
2000	72	13
1999	48	6
1998	41	9
1997	64	8

I believe the most encouraging thing shown by these numbers is the significant increase in the number of active measurers through this ten-year period.

State Certifiers

All of the certifiers who submit certificates to me are doing a good job, including the new ones in Ky/WV, CT, and NY. Upon occasion some are a little slow in submittals and as much as I dread getting those thick envelopes, I must plead guilty myself of occasionally letting the work go for too long. This, of course, results in a **very** thick envelope going to Stu.

The three mistakes I find most often are 1) maps that are missing street names or are unclear, 2) drop and/or separation have not been calculated correctly, and 3) certificates are not signed or one of the copies does not have the map on the back.

Summary

Activity is up, quality is up, and everyone is doing a great job.

Vice Chairman West 2006 Report

Early in the year, I assumed the duties of Vice Chairman West when Gene Newman became RRTC Chairman. Gene was most helpful in showing me the ropes of this new job, and after a short time I developed an efficient paper flow to process course certificates from the Western half of the U.S.

As a result of taking on this new job, I relinquished my duties as editor of *Measurement News*.

I developed an email list of all Western certifiers so that mass emails to all of them can be sent easily. This has been used several times to convey important news and information.

As usual, the West remained busy in course certification, with two of the top four states (Texas and California) and two of the top five certifiers.

Two new certifiers began their duties in 2006: Don Garrett in Oklahoma, and Tom LaBlonde in Utah. Don was granted final signatory status late in the summer, and Tom should be ready soon to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gerweck
Vice Chairman, West

Course Registrar's Report for 2006

1226 new courses were certified this year (1340 in 2005)

We have a total of 11,693 active courses.

New measurers: 270 (this is surely an invalid result, due to using the full names of measurers now, rather than the first initials. I would guess the actual number at around 50~60.) From this, however, we can infer a reliable list of 270 active measurers.

New York has the most active measurers, with 31 (24 in 2005).

5km most popular distance- 51% of courses measured

Breakdown of new courses by distance:

5km: 625 - 51%

10km: 136 - 11%

Half-marathon: 99- 8%

Marathon: 74 – 6%

Calibration: 71- 5.8%

8km: 39 – 3.2%

5mi: 29 - 2.3%

10mi: 29- 2.3%

1mi: 21 - 1.7%

4mi: 16- 1.4%

15km: 16- 1.4%

1km: 6- 0.5%

2km: 6 - 0.5%

20km: 5 - 0.4%

12km: 5 - 0.4%

2mi: 5 - 0.4%

30km: 4 - 0.3%

25km: 3 - 0.25%

50km: 3 - 0.25%

1.25km: 2 - 0.16%

20mi: 2 - 0.16%

3mi: 2 - 0.16%

7mi: 2 - 0.16%

Other distances: 23, including one each 100km and 50mi. – 1.88%

Top 10 Certifiers:

Jay Wight: 101

E.T. McBrayer: 101

Jim Gerweck: 60

Pete Riegel: 54

Ron Scardera: 50

Doug Loeffler: 49
Jane Parks: 47
Paul Hronjak: 42
Dale Poppers: 40
John Ferguson: 38

Top 10 states:
Texas: 143
New York: 102
Illinois: 74
California: 69
North Carolina: 68
Ohio: 55
New Jersey: 54
Florida: 49
Colorado: 40
Tennessee: 38

Top 10 measurers:
John Ferguson: 32
Jane Parks: 29
Kevin Lucas: 28
Duane Russell: 27
Neville Wood: 25
Ken Ashby: 24
Ray Nelson: 22
Ron Scardera: 21
Bill Belleville: 20
Larry Baldasari: 20
Pete Riegel: 20
Don Garrett: 20

Most of the numbers are down from last year. This is due to a rather extensive housecleaning effort on my part, getting rid of duplicate courses, of which I found over 200. With nearly 28,000 courses spanning more than 25 years, even this is an acceptable number, but I felt the effort was warranted.

All numbers are accurate to the best of my limited abilities.

Stu Riegel
Course Registrar

I just wanted to say a few words about your new Course Registrar, and how well he's coping with the responsibilities of Office.

After Mike delivered the file cabinets and downloaded all the old files onto the hard drive, I was more than a little bewildered at the scope of the job. What seemed at first a simple matter of scanning and filing appeared to be a Herculean task, as if each course were a stone around my neck. Learning a lot of new software and generally getting the hang of things took a few weeks, and then...

The Hornet's Nest was opened.

The electronic age is going to hit us sooner than we'd like. Certainly sooner than I'd like. Fully electronic maps that have never seen a pencil will soon be the norm rather than the exception. And that presents another set of challenges for everyone.

Until 2006, all the map files were stored as TIFF images. In fact, all the pre-2006 images are still stored as TIFFs. When they're uploaded to the USATF website, Keith Lively, major tip of the hat here, used to convert them to PNG format for use on the website. A council of elders was consulted, consisting of Bob Baumel, Gene Newman, Keith, my father, Jim Estes, Andy Martin and Paul Hronjak. I'll bet we spent a month going back and forth with e-mails, scanning maps into at least ten formats, trying out different conversion programs, until we finally settled on PNG as the final format for storing the files.

There are others who will argue the merits of other file-storage formats, some who have a pet format they wish to submit, and some who want to be able to submit any old thing in any old format. February and March were brutal for everyone on the Formatting Council, and none of us wants to revisit that question. Suffice it to say, if a format existed in February, we tried it and rejected it for one reason or another.

The challenge for me is keeping track of the maps submitted electronically, when the certificates are still in the review process with the Vice Chairs. The challenge for the rest of you is figuring out how to make a 2550x3300 pixel map in PNG format, 300 dpi. Whether or not to apply a standard to the electronic maps is perhaps a question for another day.

Eventually, I ditched Excel in favor of Access, which ended up saving Keith a bit of time. In fact, I'm not sure what he does all day now that the course list and map files are all submitted in the preferred formats.

It's all going smoothly now, the process has taken on the routine assembly-line tedium that I'd been promised, and I'm even able to catch a few errors now and then. And speaking of errors, I took on a pet project, chasing down the maps that are listed as active but don't have a map online. Three days in the file cabinets, rooting through the misplaced files, got me to within one map of perfection. As I can lay no claim to divinity, I'll settle for that.



Road Running Technical Council Measurement Workshop Activity Report 2006

Mike Wickiser – Workshops Coordinator

Measurement Workshops & Seminars in road race and racewalk measurement and certification are offered by the RRTC.

The goals of this endeavor are to;

- Improve awareness of the certification program

- Provide “hands on” training to individuals with an interest in measuring race courses for certification

- Bring the RRTC and it’s certifiers to the local front, building familiarity with certifiers and the road racing community

- Improve the quality of road racing by bringing new measurers into course measurement

Each Workshop/Seminar/Clinic is custom tailored to the requests and interests of the attending group. Therefore no two presentations are identical. Workshops range from a short video presentations with discussion and lecture to a complete “hand on” training session with a calibration and race course being measured for certification.

Continuing the annual tradition, Tom McBrayer, Texas State certifier and former RRTC Vice Chairman West presented a “how to” seminar at the Road Runners Clubs of America’s 49th Annual Convention in Houston March 8-12, 2006. This included viewing The Measurement Video, a 15-minute overview of measuring and demonstrations of bike hand wheels made from old bikes.

Assisting Tom was Bill Grass, former Wisconsin Certifier now living and measuring in Texas. Bill utilized a Power Point presentation based on a 7-step approach to certification. His approach covers certification from layout of a calibration course to map drawing.

Newly appointed New York State Certifier, Jim Gilmer and Mike Wickiser conducted a very well received and attended workshop. This 9-hour workshop was held July 29th 2006 at the University of Albany. As follow up the next morning was offered in conjunction with a validation of Freihofer’s 5k. This in depth workshop covered all aspects of course certification with lecture and “hands on” work from selection and layout of a calibration course, measurement techniques, riding a course for certification, mapping, and eventual Validation of existing courses for records approval.

The USA TF Associations Workshop in Pittsburgh August 26-27, 2006 provided a venue for Kevin Lucas & Pete Riegel to present Course Measurement information. This consisted of an introduction to certification presentation one day and a 4 hour “hands on” demonstration the following day.

Future Goal: In 2006 a presentation planned for the western half on the US failed to materialize in spite of several attempts to enlist a venue and group of interested individuals. Efforts continue to gain an opportunity for a seminar in Western USA.

2007 plans are already under way for the RRTC Measurement seminars;

- Chicago at the RRCA Convention with Jay Wight

- Utica, New York at the Distance Running Hall of Fame

- Potomac Valley Association

Road Course Measurement Bulletin Board – Annual Report

The Road Course Measurement Bulletin Board may be found online at:

<http://measure.infopop.cc/eve/ubb.x>

The Bulletin Board was started in October 2004. Since then 168 people have registered. Of these, 74 have never posted a message, while 88 have posted at least once. Twenty people seem to be the core participant group, each with ten or more posts.

All but six certifiers are members.

Subject matter varies. Each month a summary of the past month's activity is posted.

Last month we had just over 15000 page views. I don't know whether this is high or low for a bulletin board.

By and large the information flow is somewhat greater than I used to see as editor of Measurement News.

Submitted by Pete Riegel

RRTC Webmaster Report - 2006

The biggest change for me personally: After serving as the Oklahoma course certifier for more than 23 years, I turned that job over to Don Garrett early in 2006. Don has been doing a fine job and has already been promoted to Final Signatory. I remain the RRTC Secretary and Webmaster, although I am no longer a state certifier.

Turning to web issues: During last year's meeting, we'd decided on the disposition of our www.rrtc.net website which RRTC had maintained separately from the central USATF site at www.usatf.org. At that time, most content from rrtc.net had already been ported to usatf.org, and I had been given privileges to maintain the [Course Certification area](#) and [RRTC Committee area](#) on the USATF site. We chose to retain www.rrtc.net as an easily remembered and communicated URL containing a handy collection of links to material on course certification, although most of those links now point to locations on usatf.org where material previously on rrtc.net had been ported.

While most of the content from rrtc.net had already been ported to usatf.org before last year's meeting, one significant chunk, namely, our online course measurement manual at www.usatf.org/events/courses/certification/manual/, still needed work and became one of my projects during the early part of 2006. At that time, the manual still included out-of-date references to pages on the rrtc.net website which had been moved to the usatf.org site, and some other text needed to be changed. Therefore, I went through the whole manual to make required changes. Most of those changes were cosmetic; however, at the same time, I made a few non-trivial changes in content. For example, I updated some discussion of topographic maps which had gotten badly out-of-date. On that topic, I also updated the related information about online mapping tools on our web page at: www.usatf.org/events/courses/certification/tools.asp#mapping

As another of my projects in early 2006, I participated in the discussions to select our electronic map storage format. As noted in Stu's report, many people played some part in that process. But in the end, most of the communications were between Stu, Keith Lively and myself. The format we selected (PNG files, usually monochrome, at 2550 x 3300 pixels, 300 dpi) is about 50% higher resolution (i.e., 50% more pixels) than the 'printable' format Keith had been posting on the web. To the extent that we're using a 'raster' (rather than 'vector') format, this choice is probably optimal (and as long as we're scanning hard-copy maps, use of a 'raster' format is pretty much forced on us). The selected format resulted in many simplifications of previous work flows:

- 1) Only one copy of each map is posted on the web now. Previously, although Keith was already posting PNG format, he'd been posting **two** copies of each map at different resolutions: a 'viewable' version and a higher-resolution 'printable' version. The new PNG format, 50% higher resolution than the previous 'printable' PNG, replaces both previous web formats.
- 2) No conversion is needed when preparing scanned maps for web posting. Stu is now scanning maps directly into the desired PNG format. Previously, Mike scanned maps into huge (uncompressed) TIFF files, which Keith had to convert into the two ('viewable' and 'printable') PNG files that he posted on the web.

- 3) The same PNG format posted on the web is also used for RRTC archiving. Previously, RRTC had been archiving the huge TIFF files that Mike obtained by scanning the maps, rather than the PNG files Keith posted on the web.

Throughout the year, I played a behind-the-scenes role in posting the *Measurement News* issues prepared by Kevin Lucas. First, I built a web page on the USATF site at www.usatf.org/events/courses/certification/measurement_news/ to contain downloadable issues of *MN*; also, using our rrtc.net site, I created the short, easily referenced URL www.rrtc.net/mn which redirects to that usatf.org page. I provided a server-based e-mail list (using the rrtc.net server) that Kevin used for announcing new issues of *MN*. As Kevin prepared each new issue, before I actually posted it on the web, I generally reformatted parts of the file to improve their appearance, and I also did whatever I could to decrease the file sizes (unfortunately, some of those PDF files came out pretty big anyway!).

Less than two weeks before this year's USATF Convention, I and all other 'content owners' of material on the USATF site were informed by USATF webmaster Keith Lively that he was redesigning the site, and that this would require converting all pages from HTML to the newer [XHTML 1.0 web standard](#). I did this conversion for all the pages I'm responsible for in the [Course Certification](#) and [RRTC Committee](#) areas. Of course, Keith had a much bigger job, as he had numerous pages to convert. And before the Convention opened on Nov 29, he needed to give the site a new look, including the new USATF logo. Note: although it's only a relative simple web page and isn't part of the USATF site, I also did the XHTML conversion for our page at www.rrtc.net, which also now sports the new USATF logo:



Submitted by:

Bob Baumel
RRTC Webmaster and Secretary