RRTC 2007 Annual Meeting Reports
Presented at RRTC Meeting - USATF Convention
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Reports contained in this document:

RRTC's Activities for 2007 submitted by Gene Newman (RRTC Chairman):

One of the biggest changes made for this year was creating a Validation Policy that is acceptable on a world wide basis. In summary this policy for pre and post standards are similar, which did not happen in the past. This Policy can be viewed on the USATF/RRTC web site.

Other happenings for the RRTC are as follows:

Mike Wickiser has had one Measurement Workshop with more will be done.

Both the Olympic Trials Marathon Course have been measured and validated.

The activity on our Online Bulletin Board: (http://measure.infopop.cc/eve) has proven to be a good source to get expert advice.

We have appointed some new Regional Certifiers and they are listed on the Web site.

The policy of a GPS being acceptable for measuring has been rejected.

The Electronic Counter is another device that can be used in submitting a course for Certification. It was developed by Neville Wood.

Future goals for the RRTC are to :

A. find a device similar to the Jones Counter for measuring since parts are becoming difficult to find.

B. encourage people to become measurers.

C. become as efficient as possible with postings of Certified Courses in a timely manner

Vice Chairman West 2007 Report

This was my first full year as Vice Chairman West, and the second year on the job made things smoother in the task. There is a seasonal ebb and flow of certificates, and I've learned that the paper flow to process course certificates must adapt to this. At either end of the year I may only send a batch of certificates and maps to course registrar Stu Riegel every few weeks, while during the height of the measurement season even weekly mailings can be packed with several dozen..

It was decreed that course maps should display the expiration date of the accompanying certificate. Most certifiers have adopted this procedure fully, but I find there is still the occasional map that comes through without it. I add the necessary information before sending it on to Stu. This and other official communications have been sent via an email list of all Western certifiers that I established last year.

As usual, the West remained busy in course certification, with four of the top 10 states (Texas, Colorado, Minnesota, and California) and four of the top 10 certifiers. Some states (Texas, Minnesota, Colorado and Washington) exhibited increased measuring activity, while others remain slow, with a handful or less of courses coming in each year.

There was some change among Western certifiers in 2007: Bob Langebach retired from duty in Washington, and was replaced by Mike Wickiser. Bob retains FS status. Gene Newman is currently filling the vacated positions in Nevada and Idaho as replacements for those states are sought.

Personally, I had the honor of being one of the measurers for the Olympic Team Trials Men's Marathon course in New York City. Dave Katz and I spent several late evenings/early mornings riding around Central Park and through Times Square to do the preliminary legwork. In August, Hugh Jones came in from England to assist in the actual measurement. It was a pleasure and honor to work with such excellent measurers. The morning of the Trials race, I met Gene Newman for a pre-dawn validation ride of the course, the only time it would be set up exactly as run, with cones, barricades and aid station tables in place. It was cold, windy, dark and EARLY, but at the same time, fun. I then aided Dave in making sure the course remained properly set up during the course of the race.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gerweck

VALIDATIONS 2007 (11/24/07) - Neville Wood

Course	Type	Race Date	Cert #	Measurer	Validator	Val Date	Distance, km			% Diff	Comments
							Advertised	Lap	Measured		
APPROVED											
HP Houston Marathon	LDR	1-16-05	TX04072ETM	McBrayer			42.195				D
Twin Cities Marathon	LDR	10-5-03	MN03027RR	Recker			42.195				E
Twin Cities Marathon	LDR	9-29-02	MN01016RR	Recker			42.195				E
Fifth Third River Bank 25K	LDR	5-14-05	MI03005SH	Dewey			25.000				F
Fifth Third River Bank 25K	LDR	5-13-06	MI06006SH	Dewey			25.000				F
Lilac Bloomsday 12K 06	LDR	5-7-06	WA06009BL	Dausman			12.000				G
PREVALIDATED											
Chicago Marathon 25K	LDR	10-22-06	IL06066JW	Wight	Wickiser	7-16-06	25.000				
Chicago Marathon 30K	LDR	10-22-06	IL06066JW	Wight	Wickiser	7-16-06	30.000				
REMEASURED WITH PASS											
Ridgewood 10K	LDR	5-29-06	NJ02015	Brannen?	Wood	7-31-07	10.000		10.020	0.20	A
2008 Women's Trials Marathon	LDR	4-20-08	MA07005RN	Nelson	Parks	7-15-07	42.195	Note B	42.260	0.15	B
Aramco Houston Half Marathon	LDR	1-14-07	TX06058ETM	McBrayer	Barnhill	1/27&28/07	21.098		21.111	0.06	C
REMEASUREMENT SCHEDULED											
Caumsett Park 50 Km	LDR	3-5-06	NY06006JM	Westerfield	Katz	11-13-07	50.000	3.783			

A. Finish is marked 38.1 ft E of pole 2459RW and is even with water cover not hydrant as stated on cert. Start is 12.7 ft E of pole with no label, but is marked with a white line and labelled "S" on S side. Certification was probably in 1987 and renewed in 2002, but as of 11/17/07 is not listed on USATF site.

B. Course consists of a large loop, three identical small loops(overlapping with large), and start to finish. Total distance was calculated from a validation ride of 13.247 km.

C. As run was 0.03%.

D. Approved on the reputation of E T McBrayer one of the most highly regarded measurers in the US.

E. Wickiser validated a very similar course, MN90017RR. Recker has a reputation as an accurate measurer. I measured MN03027RR on "Streets" as 42.0 km, which is in satisfactory agreement considering the complexity of the course.

F. Dewey has been the measurer of the many versions of this course for over 20 years. Versions differ in only small variations at the start and finish. Wickiser validated MN92004SH at 25,025 m. and MN03005SH checks out very well against it by my measurements on "Streets". Routes that are not in common measure 5.57 km on the 92 course and a little longer 5.82 km on the 03 course.

G. Over the last 20 years this course has been validated by such notables as Louffler and Baumel for small changes in the start and finish. Dausman validated WA97006HR as 0.19% long in 2003. (This had also been validated by Oregon State Certifier Barrett in 2000.) Dausman also certified WA06009BL and I have found by measurement using "Streets" that this starts 462 m into and ends 465 m beyond the finish of WA97006HR.

Course Registrar's Report for 2007 (data as of 11/26/2007)

1347 new courses were certified this year (1438 in 2006)

We have a total of 12,091 active courses, up 368 from 2006. All those courses have maps on the USATF website, with the exception of one track, which does not require a map for certification, and the Israel Solidarity Run in Chicago, in which case the organizers wanted the route kept secret.

Every state in the union has a course certified in 2007. One foreign course, as well, in Bermuda.

New measurers: 68, down from last year's overly-optimistic 270 (due to a change in database and recording procedure).

Active measurers: 282.

Texas has the most active measurers, with 26 (New York had 31 in 2006). New York took second place with 21, followed by Florida with 17.

5 km most popular distance – 53% of courses measured

Breakdown of new courses by distance:
5 km: 694 – 53%
10 km: 145 – 11%
Half-marathon: 121 – 8%
Marathon: 85 – 6%
Calibration: 71 – 5%
1 mi: 39 – 3.2%
8 km: 33 – 2.5%
5 mi: 29 – 2.3%
15 km: 26 – 2%
10 mi: 18 – 1%
Other distances: 64 – 5.5%

Only one course longer than a marathon was certified this year, a 50-miler in Chicago.

Top 10 Certifiers:

E.T. McBrayer: 128 (second last year)	TX
Jim Gilmer: 86 (third last year)	NY
Jay Wight: 84 (first last year)	IL
Bill Glauz: 59	MO/KS
Matthew Studholme: 58	TN
Mike Wickiser: 57	IN/WA
Jane Parks: 55	NY/NJ/CT

Rick Recker: 49 MN
Dave Poppers: 45 CO
Ron Scardera: 45 CA
Pete Riegel: 44 OH

Top 10 states:
Texas: 172 (up from 143)
New York: 105 (up from 102)
Illinois: 85 (up from 74)
Tennessee: 64 (up from 38)
New Jersey: 62 (up from 54)
Florida: 61 (up from 49)
North Carolina: 58 (down from 68)
California: 56 (down from 69)
Minnesota: 48 (not ranked last year)
Colorado: 45 (up from 40)

Top 10 measurers:
1 Duane Russell: 33 (third last year)
2 Jay Wight: 31
3 Jane Parks: 30 (second last year)
4 John Ferguson: 29 (first last year)
5 Danny White: 25
6 (tie) Rick Recker: 23
Ron Fitzpatrick: 23
7 (tie) Neville Wood: 22
Winston Rasmussen: 22
Robert Thurston: 22
Bill Belleville: 22
Ron Scardera: 22
8 (tie) Tony Phillipp: 21
Tom McBrayer: 21
9 Larry Baldasari: 20
10 (tie) Don Garrett: 19
Michael Polansky: 19

All numbers are 10-month figures, reporting through November 26th. They will surely improve by convention time.

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

Stu Riegel
Course Registrar

ROAD COURSE MEASUREMENT BULLETIN BOARD

Report of Activity November 1, 2006 to November 1, 2007

The Road Course Measurement Bulletin Board was founded in October 2004. It may be found at:

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

Designed as an alternative to Measurement News, which is no longer published, it is RRTC's communication vehicle. It has several general categories in which people may post messages and read and respond to the postings of others:

USATF/RRTC Topics
AIMS/IAAF/International
General Course Measurement Topics
Electronic Measurement
Tracks
New Counter Designs
Race Administration
Timing
Records
Tips & Tricks
Bulletin Board Administration
Suggestions & Comments
Miscellaneous Topics

Since its inception we have seen growth in both membership and messages posted, as follows:

Month	Oct 2005	Oct 2006	Oct 2007
Members	127	161	194
Hours Usage	60	43	175
Page Views	11772	15729	47213

Messages posted:

11/1/04 to 11/1/05	601
11/1/05 to 11/1/06	1205
11/1/06 to 11/1/07	2203

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Riegel – Bulletin Board Moderator

RRTC Webmaster 2007 Report

RRTC's Internet presence consists of several components:

- The Course Certification related material on the USATF website (www.usatf.org) including both regular web pages and a pair of search engines (for certified courses and for course measurers).
- The website at www.rrtc.net – which served previously as the RRTC website and has been retained as a handy set of links for everything related to course certification. And although this site is mostly just a set of links now, it still hosts some non-trivial content, such as the unfinished RRTC Finish Line Manual.
- The Road Course Measurement Bulletin Board at http://measure.infopop.cc/eve which provides interactive discussion about all aspects of course certification and serves as an official RRTC communication vehicle.

As RRTC Webmaster, I maintain all of the course certification web pages on usatf.org (although not the two search engines) and I maintain the rrtc.net website. In addition, I prepare the certificate blanks (now distributed as electronically-fillable PDF forms) that certifiers fill out when certifying a course.

During the past year, I participated in the change of our validation standards (adopted around August 1st), as I worked with Gene in wording the new policy, and then posted it on our website, including both a complete statement of the policy, and a summary on our RRTC News page, along with suitable links on other pages. Throughout the year, I updated our Certifier contact info page whenever there were changes in certifier appointments, and I provided certificate blanks to newly appointed certifiers. There was a flurry of activity shortly after the 2006 Convention prompted by the change in USATF logo, requiring me to provide new certificate blanks to certifiers (If any certifiers are still using the previous USATF logo, please contact me!).

Finally, some news added a couple of weeks after this year's (2007) Convention: A problem in the Certified Course Search Engine was noted during discussion at this Convention, as many people were unaware that search results can include Drop and Separation. This information has always been available by choosing "All fields" instead of "Commonly used fields," but many people (including RRTC officers) weren't aware of this option. While I am not responsible for maintaining this search engine, I reported the problem, along with suggested solutions, to Keith Lively, the USATF Webmaster. As of Dec 18th, 2007, Keith has enhanced the search engine to ameliorate this problem. The search screen now displays the text "(includes drop and separation)" to the right of the "All fields" radio button. And when search results are displayed, the screen now includes a link labeled either "See more fields" or "See fewer fields" to allow toggling between the "Commonly used fields" and "All fields" displays.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Baumel – RRTC Webmaster

USATF Road Running Technical Council
2007 Measurement Workshop Activity Report

In July, I traveled to Spokane, Washington and conducted a day long Course Measurement Workshop with a total of 7 participants.
The day long workshop covered the Calibrated Bike method of course measurement and was divided into a morning session with lecture and discussion and an afternoon session where the group did a “hands on” layout of a calibration course, pre& post measurement calibration, and measurement of a simulated race course.
During the afternoon session the group was able to practice an actual measurement with real world obstacles such as a fence blocking the SPR, offsets due to parked cars, proper turnaround measurement. A copy of the course outline is attached.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Wickiser

USATF Road Running Technical Council Course Measurement / Certification Workshop
Spokane, Washington July 14, 2007

Mike Wickiser

CLASSROOM Outline

Opening Introductions

Determination of Goals - Group Determination

1)_____

2)_____

3)_____

Measurement for Certification Overview

Calibrated Bike Method

Shortest Possible Route – SPR

GPS, EDM acceptability

Jones/Oerth Counters

Electronic Bike Computer counters

Records – Certified Validation for pending Records

Measurement Video

Equipment Needed

Counter

Bike

Steel Tape – NOT Fiberglass

Spring Scale

Thermometer

Small Notebook and pencils

Tape recorders – Palm computers

Calculator

Lumber Crayon, Chalk, for temporary marking

Nails & Hammer

Masking or Duct tape

Safety Equipment – helmet, vest, reflectors, etc

Bike Tolls – FRONT Tire Flat must recalibrate!!

Requirements for Course Certification

- Calibration Course – 300 meter or 1000 foot minimum
- Bike Pre-Calibration
- Course Measurement data – Complete two measurements
- Bike Post-Calibration
- Course Measured length & Adjustments
- Forms and Application
- Start & Finish Elevation

Laying out A Calibration Course

- Steel Tape under tension (10 lbs most often)
- Temperature Adjustment
- Exact map of course – Must be exact and reproducible

Calibrating the bike

- Tires Inflated and warmed up to ambient temperature
- Roll to count and lock wheel Take Counter Reading
- Ride Cal. Course lock wheel at end Take counter Reading
- Turn and ride Cal course back Take data reading
- Four Calibration Rides
- Determine Average Pre-calibration counts
- Divide by course length to determine counts per mile or kilometer
- Multiply by 1.001 for Short Course Prevention Factor. THIS IS A MUST
- Hint; When measuring Miles use a calibration value in counts per Mile and counts/km for metric distances

Measure Race course using the Pre-Calibration Constant

- Compare measurements before leaving race course.

Post-Calibration – Same procedure as Pre-Calibration

Determine Finish Constant for the Day and Determine Measured Course Length

SHORTEST POSSIBLE ROUTE - STRECHED STRING CONCEPT – 30cm about 1 foot out from curbs.

Riding Tangents from turn to turn

- Storm Grates, Gutters, trees and shrubs, rumble strips etc.
- Lane restrictions
- Turn Around Points
- Turning A Corner
- Course Cutting

Course Maps End product of measurement work

- Must indicate EXACTLY the measured path of the course.
  - Start Finish, Turn Around, All course restrictions

Dealing with traffic and obstacles

- Offset Maneuver
- Freezing the front wheel
- Closed Gate procedure
- Flats and solid tires
- Night measurements
- Walking the bike
- Dirt, Grass, and Sand – (use steel tape when possible)
- Parallel measurement (3,4,5 triangle method)
- Minimize temperature effects

Discussion – Comments - Questions

FIELD Outline

Calibration Course layout and Measurement by Teams
Temperature Correction
Adjustment & End Point documentation
Bike Calibration
Course familiarization
Course Measurement
Post-Calibration.
Review and Discussion of Field exercise

Return to Classroom

Open Discussion
Determine Pre-Calibration constant
Determine Counts on Course
Determine Post-Calibration Constant
Final Constant & Course Length.