

RRTC 2008 Annual Meeting Reports
Presented at RRTC Meeting - USATF Convention
Reno, Nevada
December 5, 2008

Reports contained in this document:

[RRTC Chairman](#) - Gene Newman

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

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

[Validations Chair](#) - Neville Wood

[Bulletin Board Manager](#) - Pete Riegel

[RRTC Webmaster](#) - Bob Baumel

Chairs report

New Certifier for Co., ID., and NV → Duane Russell;

Washington Certifier may be Assigned to Bill Roe

Arkansas Certifier will have to be replaced in the near future as Don Potter is about to retire from this position. Possible replacement could be Bill Torrey(501-455-2645).

ID and NV may be given to a new Certifier (Mark Neal(248-650-9815) or Steve Vaitones (781-893-6213))

Pete Riegel did a Measurement Workshop for RRCA. Duane Russell will do this years Workshop in San Francisco during the RRCA meetings. Duane is our new Measurement Chair as Mike will assist when needed.

The Web site managed by Pete Riegel has become the official voice of RRTC and also is a sounding board for ideas.

Tom Riegel and Pete have introduced a new counter similar to the Jones/Oerth counter as their parts have been scarce. However Information can be found at our RRTC.net site.

Budget for 2009 proposal at \$13,440

I will be taking over Course Registrar's position effective ?

Special thanks to Jane Parks for her work as the Validator for the Women's Olympic Trials. Also, Justin Kuo, Ray Nelson and Steve Vaitones for their help.

Submitted by Gene Newman, RRTC Chair

RRTC EAST 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

2008 has been a very active year in the East. To 15-Nov, there have been 905 race courses certified, 44 calibration courses, 43 renewals, and 17 replacements. To put this in perspective, the YTD total of 1010 is greater than the total of 1009 received by 31-Dec-07.

The following is a list by state of the courses submitted as of 15-Nov in 2008 (not counting renewals):

AL – 42
CT – 15
DC – 9
DE – 15
FL – 59
GA – 29
IL – 107
IN – 20
KY – 5
MA – 24
MD – 25
ME – 14
MI – 49
MS – 4
NC – 96
NH – 16
NJ – 66
NY – 71
OH – 69
PA – 27
RI – 6
SC – 32
TN – 79
VA – 52
WI – 25
WV – 0

Respectfully submitted by Paul Hronjak, November 15, 2008.

Vice Chairman West 2008 Report

The certification process continued relatively uneventfully for 2008. The major items of note were some personnel changes; Duane Russell assumed certifier duties for Nevada and his home state of Colorado, and was granted final signatory status after little more than a month on the job. His maps are among the best I've seen, and his comments on the Bulletin Board are equally insightful

As usual, the West remained busy in course certification, with Texas and California leading the way. There was an increase in measurement activity in several states; it remains for the year-end tally to see if overall activity is up or down.

Personally, I was present at the Olympic Team Trials Women's Marathon in Boston in April. Unfortunately, the course was only set up shortly before the start, so no pre-race validation was possible as it was for the Men's Trials in New York.

In August I was invited to Minneapolis to help measure the Twin Cities Marathon course and observe Barb Leininger for recommendation as an IAAF "B" measurer. After several nights riding through the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul the course was done and I sent my report to Bernie Conway, IAAF administrator for North America.

In November I was honored to be a member of the faculty at the annual Road Race Management meeting in Hollywood, FL. I presented a seminar on Course Measurement and Design, a topic I had been suggesting to the organizers for several years. This was not a "how to" instructional clinic, but rather focused on the elements of what make a good course (and some bad ones) and how a race organizer can get the most out of working with a skilled measurer. The PowerPoint presentation is available online for anyone interested in viewing it; I will post a link on the Bulletin Board.

I look forward to working with the western measurers, and our new course registrar, in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gerweck
Vice Chairman, West

VALIDATIONS 2008
Neville Wood
10/29/08

Course	Type	Race	Cert #	Measurer	Valid- ator	Val Date	Distance, km				% Diff	Notes
		Date					Advert	Lap	Google (Streets)	Bicycle		
APPROVED												
Gate River Run	LDR	3/10/07	FL04016DL	Alred			15.000		15.027		0.18	A
San Diego One-Day	LDR	11/12/05	CA04046RS	Letson			160.934	1.609	1.610		0.06	B
Cornbelt RC 24-Hour Run	OT&F	5/6/07	IA96017PR	Ungurean			160.934	0.406				C
Heritage Oaks Bank 10K	LDR	9/23/07	CA01027RS	Scardera			10.000		10.018		0.18	D
Volkslaufe 20K	LDR	7/4/07	MI05006SH	Hubbard			20.000		20.035		0.18	E
ING Georgia Half Marathon	LDR	3/30/08	GA08006WC	Grosko			21.098					F
Bellin 10-km Run	LDR	6/10/06	WI06034JW	Moore			10.000		(10.055)		0.55	G
PREVALIDATED												
Cherry Blossom	LDR	4/4/09	DC07001JS	Sissala	Wood	4/7/08	16.093			16.127	0.21	H
REMEAS WITH PASS												
Caumsett Park 50 Km	LDR	3/5/06	NY06006JG	Westerfield	Wood	4/2/08	50.000	3.783		50.011	0.02	I
REMEAS SCHEDULED												
Caumsett Park 50 Km	LDR	3/2/08	NY06001AM	Westerfield	Wood	11/25/08	50.000	4.240	4.236			J

A. Doug Alred has been measuring different versions of this course for the last 13 years and two of them have validated well through Doug Loeffler.

There were minor errors on the course map, which I resolved by talking to Doug Alred. Also, the course map was inadequate in detail, but he provided me with an online map (USATF ID = 2540227), which was excellent for measuring the course with Google Earth.

Even though an open record was set on this course, it was impractical to do a bicycle measurement – the course will not be used again and requires a police escort to cross bridges involved.

B. Google Earth measurement was exceptionally accurate. Also, since Bob Letson is a former California State Certifier with an awesome reputation going back a long way, it would clearly be a waste to do a bicycle measurement.

C. The construction company for the track involved in this record claimed it was 400 meters. However, I have Karl Ungurean's measurements and these correspond to 398.707 m. Lane 2 was used in the event, but I do not have Karl's measurements for this. Assuming a standard separation of 1.22 m, one circuit would be $398.707 + 2\pi \times 1.22 = 406.37$ m, and Karl claims 406.47 m (plus 0.02%). I have seen Karl recommended for validations a few years ago, and therefore I recommend the latter distance be accepted.

In 2008, records at 100 miles and 200 km were also set.

D. Google measurement was very accurate on this very simple course. No trees obscured the view and the u-turn was accurately defined with a Google street-level view. Ron Scardera is the California State Certifier and has an awesome reputation.

E. The course map does not define the path around 19 km, but I was able to get the necessary clarification through Scott Hubbard to do an accurate measurement on Google Earth. Scott is the State Certifier for Michigan and very experienced.

F. The course, originally measured by John Grosko as GA08002WC, was changed because of storm damage to a temporary one, GA08006WC, before the first race. Even the latter was modified near the finish for the actual race, although no new certificate was issued. I did not attempt a map measurement because I did not think it worthwhile. However, John Grosko is highly recommended by Woody Cornwell, the State Certifier.

Also, only the record of 2:49:14 by Helen Klein (85-89) is involved. This is quite in line with her performances, because in 2004 she ran a marathon in 4:49:50, which is equivalent to a half marathon of 2:20:00.

G. I could not do an accurate measurement on Google Earth because there is no satellite coverage for the region involved. Streets, although usually not quite as accurate, indicated it was 0.55% long. This long result, the fact that the measurer, David Moore, has many recent measurements to his credit, and only a record for female age group of 75-79 is involved, makes me recommend that the course be accepted.

H. The u-turn at F street is not adequately defined on the course map; consultation with John Sissala revealed it is at the N end of a road divider. Where there was no traffic and course mostly straight, I found precise agreement with John's measurements for the three miles in Potomac Park. Elsewhere, miles measured long probably because of difficult navigation and rush-hour traffic.

I. Nail marking finish on N end of drive rather than the S end as depicted on map. Susan Polansky has asked Westerfield to move start 38.9 m S, so that the course will be prevalidated for future events. Recently, I found this had not been done, probably because the course will not be used again.

J. Google Earth indicates that like NY06006JG this course may not have a full SCPP, although accuracy of Google is reduced because much of the course is obscured by trees. Since there appears to be international interest in this course, I have scheduled a bicycle measurement.

VALIDATIONS 2008 (10/29/08) - Neville Wood

Course	Type	Race Date	Cert #	Measurer	Valid-ator	Val Date	Distance, km				% Diff	Notes
							Advert	Lap	Google (Streets)	Bicycle		
APPROVED												
Gate River Run	LDR	3/10/07	FL04016DL	Alred			15.000		15.027		0.18	A
San Diego One-Day	LDR	11/12/05	CA04046RS	Letson			160.934	1.609	1.610		0.06	B
Cornbelt RC 24-Hour Run	OT&F	5/6/07	IA96017PR	Ungurean			160.934	0.406				C
Heritage Oaks Bank 10K	LDR	9/23/07	CA01027RS	Scardera			10.000		10.018		0.18	D
Volkslaufe 20K	LDR	7/4/07	MI05006SH	Hubbard			20.000		20.035		0.18	E
ING Georgia Half Marathon	LDR	3/30/08	GA08006WC	Grosko			21.098					F
Bellin 10-km Run	LDR	6/10/06	WI06034JW	Moore			10.000		(10.055)		0.55	G
PREVALIDATED												
Cherry Blossom	LDR	4/4/09	DC07001JS	Sissala	Wood	4/7/08	16.093			16.127	0.21	H
REMEAS WITH PASS												
Caumsett Park 50 Km	LDR	3/5/06	NY06006JG	Westerfield	Wood	4/2/08	50.000	3.783		50.011	0.02	I
REMEAS SCHEDULED												
Caumsett Park 50 Km	LDR	3/2/08	NY06001AM	Westerfield	Wood	11/25/08	50.000	4.240	4.236			J

ROAD COURSE MEASUREMENT BULLETIN BOARD

Report of Activity November 1, 2007 to November 1, 2008

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
- Course Measurement
- General Course Measurement Topics
 - Electronic Measurement
 - Tracks
 - Tips & Tricks
 - New Counter
- The New Jones Counter Model
 - Final Design Details Jones Counter Web Page Design
 - Fabrication Has Begun
 - Experience and Usage
 - Recent Developments
- Race Administration
 - Timing
 - Records
 - Cross-Country
- Bulletin Board Administration
 - Suggestions & Comments
- Miscellaneous Topics
- Material that doesn't fit other categories

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

End of Month	Oct 2005	Oct 2006	Oct 2007	Oct 2008
Members	127	161	194	220
Page Views	11772	15729	47213	69031

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
11/1/07 to 11/1/08	3286

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Riegel – Bulletin Board Moderator

RRTC Webmaster Report

RRTC's presence on the Internet consists of the following components:

1. Web pages in two sections of the USATF website (www.usatf.org): The Course Certification information section, which includes our downloadable Course Measurement Manual, and the committee information section for RRTC. These pages are maintained by the RRTC Webmaster.
2. A pair of Search Engines on the USATF website, one for finding certified courses, the other to find course measurers. The software for these search engines is maintained by the USATF Webmaster, while the actual searchable data is uploaded by the RRTC Course Registrar.
3. An interactive Bulletin Board (message board) system which has become RRTC's main communications vehicle. This board is maintained by the RRTC Bulletin Board Manager.
4. A small website (www.rrtc.net) that serves as a handy, central collection of links for all things relating to RRTC and course certification. This website is maintained by the RRTC Webmaster.

Historically, the rrtc.net website once contained a lot more information than it does now (for example, the online measurement manual was originally hosted there), but most of its content was ported to the USATF website about four years ago. Then, three years ago, the decision was made to keep rrtc.net as a handy, easily referenced collection of links.

In addition to the above, the RRTC Webmaster is responsible for maintaining the template for the certificates that certifiers issue when certifying courses. Since 2001, this certificate has been provided as an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file, so it doesn't depend on any particular word processor, but can be filled out by certifiers electronically. No changes were made to the certificate template in 2008. [But, added note: It is being enhanced and modified for 2009 based on decisions made at this 2008 annual meeting.]

Among other activity in 2008: The Course Measurement Manual, as available in the Certification section of the USATF website, was updated to account for development of the new Jones-Riegel ("JR") version of the Jones Counter. Also, the rrtc.net website was moved to a different hosting account, which will save some money and make the site more reliable.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Baumel
RRTC Webmaster