



## **Farewell to Glen Lafarlette**

### **Bob Baumel, Secretary**

**Glen Lafarlette's** battle with cancer ended on Sunday, November 5th. Before that happened, *Glen* had been honored with **RRTC's** first ever "**Recognition of Excellence in Road Course Measurement Award**" as described in the Summer 2006 issue of *Measurement News*. He had also been inducted into the **Oklahoma Distance Running "Wall of Fame"** and he'd been "roasted" by friends at a dinner in November 2005.

I attended the Memorial Service for *Glen* on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006, where the programs printed on race numbers from *Glen's Road Race Service* made it clear that this wasn't any ordinary funeral service. As part of this service, four of *Glen's* friends, all of whom are active in road race administration in the Tulsa area, spoke in celebration of his life. They highlighted his accomplishments as a course measurer (among other things) and described him as always striving for excellence and having a passion to do things right.

Since I was the Oklahoma certifier during nearly all of *Glen's* 23 years measuring road courses, I was very aware of that passion to do things right.

In filling out his certification applications, *Glen* occasionally had some trouble explaining exactly what he'd done. But once I figured out what he did, it was always the right thing.

As another less-mentioned fact, *Glen* played a major part in increasing the use of the metric system in Oklahoma road running. Several of us, including **Joe McDaniel** and myself, were behind that movement. But through his prolific course measuring, *Glen* did more than anyone else in making sure that the majority of metric races in Oklahoma are marked entirely in kilometers.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of measuring with *Glen* twice, and on a few occasions, I was called on to validate courses he had measured (they always passed with flying colors). The most recent occasion was in validating the **1999 Tulsa Run 15 km** course. *Glen* rode with me during that validation, and our measurements agreed within 0.5 meter for the 15,000 meter course (his was the slightly tighter measurement).

Services: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 8, 2006  
 Freeman Harris Funeral Home • Tulsa, Oklahoma  
 Final Resting Place: Park Grove Cemetery • Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

PHOTO ARRANGEMENT	Donna Spencer
RECORDED SONGS	Brad Zimmerman
GLEN'S LIFE	Reverend William Webb
SOLO SONG	Kimberly Hairston
FRIENDS SPEAK	David Spencer, Jack Wing, Lewis Chandler, & Jay Rector
PALLBEARERS	Sheila Gheen, Sandy Himebaugh, Terrie Isaac, Cherrie Lewallen, Sue Maurer, Sandy Mortimer, Pat Shofner, & Don Williams

# 224

**Glen D. Lafarlette • July 9, 1936 – November 5, 2006**

GLEN'S ROAD RACE SERVICE, INC. TULSA, OK PHONE 918-744-0339 FAX 918-742-5344

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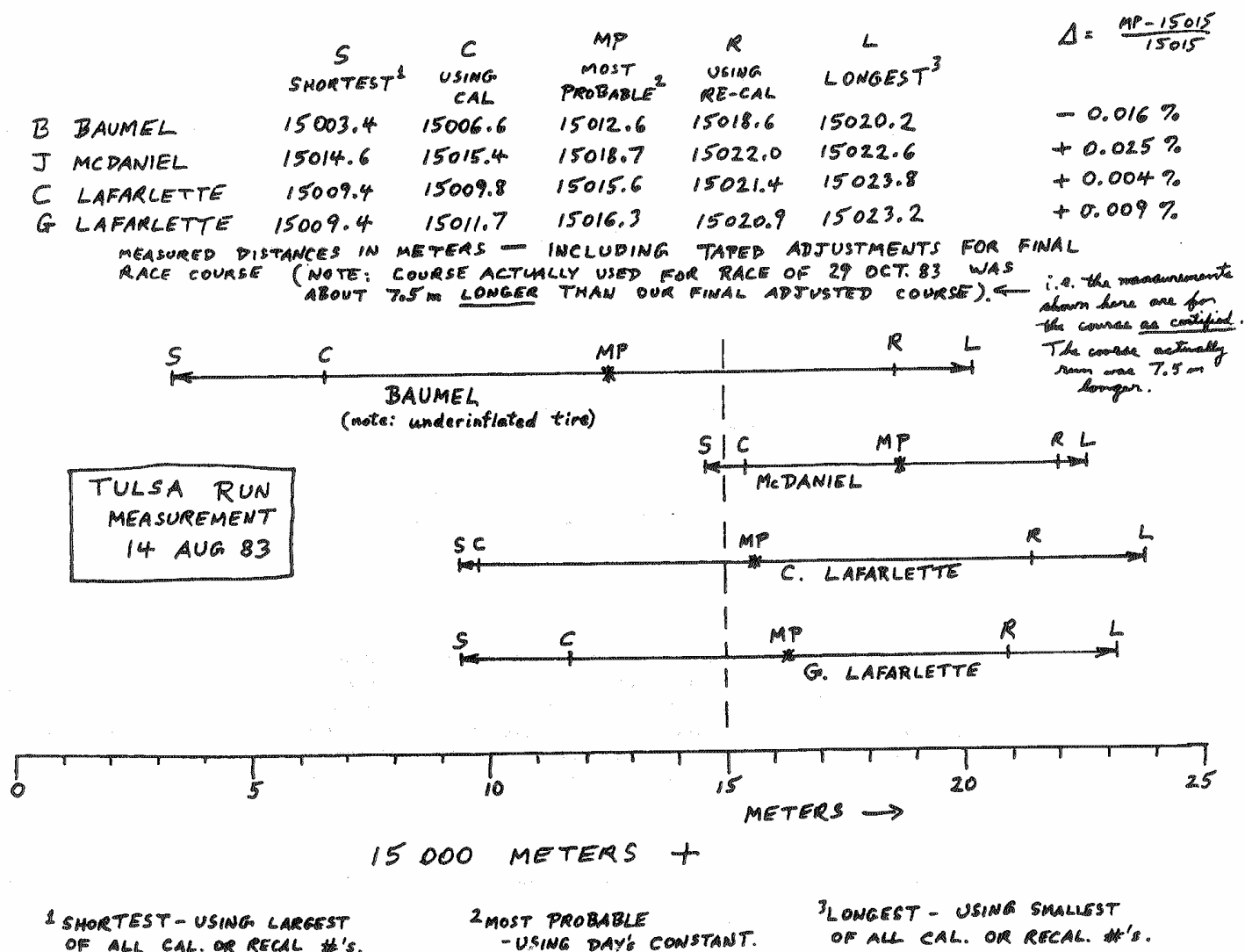
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Male ☐ Female

My first measurement with *Glen* was in August **1983** for an earlier *Tulsa Run* course. I had recently returned from the 13-cyclist measurement of the *Los Angeles Olympic Marathon* course and decided to organize a mini version of the *Olympic* measurement, with a 4-cyclist team, to bring the *Tulsa Run* course to modern certification standards, including 0.1% SCPF and stricter SPR as *Ted Corbitt* had decreed in Fall **1982**. Our 4-cyclist team consisted of *Glen* and his wife *Coneil*, *Joe McDaniel* and myself (*Joe*, who is still the *Oklahoma State Record Keeper*, had measured quite a few courses, but retired from measuring after *Glen* arrived on the scene).

The "*Knight Diagram*" below, reprinted from December **1983** *Measurement News* (MN #7) shows the result of that 4-cyclist measurement. The concept of the "*Knight Diagram*," originated by California measurer *Tom Knight* (who is still the certifier for Wyoming) displays a range of values for each measurement by calculating results using 5 different combinations of calibration data. In this case, it may appear that I had the tightest measurement, but my measurement showed the greatest uncertainty due to an underinflated tire.

Also in this diagram, note the extremely close agreement of *Glen's* and *Coneil's* measurements--a phenomenon that would be repeated many times over the years.



*Glen* is gone now, but the company he started, *Glen's Road Race Service*, is still going strong, and the name *Lafarlette* continues to show up on the course list--although it's *Coneil Lafarlette* now. *Coneil* always accompanied *Glen* on his measurements--either riding a second bike or driving a support vehicle, whichever was more appropriate for the course being measured.

PONCA CITY NEWS 2006-11-06

## Longtime Tulsa Running Advocate Lafarlette Dies

TULSA (AP) — Glen Lafarlette, a running enthusiast who helped certify many of the race courses throughout the region, has died after a long battle with cancer. He was 70.

Lafarlette died Sunday in his home. He beat prostate cancer three years ago, but the disease returned and had spread recently.

Lafarlette was recognized before the 2005 Tulsa Run and inducted into the Wall of Fame for runners early in 2006.

A top Masters Division runner in his prime, Lafarlette made an even bigger impact with his behind-the-scenes work on the Tulsa Run, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, the Full Moon 5k Run and many others. He measured his first course in 1983.

"Glen is running in Oklahoma," former Tulsa Run director Jack Wing said. "There are a lot of people who have contributed a lot, but Glen has made it what it is today."

Lafarlette was an obvious choice for the Oklahoma Runners Wall of Fame, posting a 2:43.04 marathon time at age 45 and a 10:54 2-mile clocking the same year.

His 10k time of 35:44 in the 1982 Bartlesville Labor Day Run at age 46 remains one of the 20 fastest times in the state for his age group.

"It sort of overwhelms me. I never expected anything like this," Lafarlette said of the awards. "I am one of the fortunate ones who hung around long enough to find out that people do love and care for you. I must have done something right."

A graveside service will be held 9 a.m. Wednesday at Park Grove Cemetery in Broken Arrow, and a memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday at Freeman Harris Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife, Coneil Lafarlette, five children and 11 grandchildren.

Before he got too sick to measure, *Glen* recruited a new measurer, **Robert Maddy** of Tulsa, who is, to some extent, still being trained by *Coneil Lafarlette*. And while *Coneil* was always the #2 rider when she measured with *Glen*, now she's the #1 rider when she measures with *Bob Maddy*.

*Glen* has left us, but his legacy of excellence in course measuring and provision of quality road race services lives on.



**Glen Lafarlette, the first recipient of the USATF/RRTC Recognition of Excellence in Course Measurement Award in April 2006**