



Ragged Mountain Club
Potter Place, NH 03216
Tel & Fax 603-735-5721

19 April 1994

Peter S. Riegel
3354 Kirkham Road
Columbus, OH 43221

Dear Pete,

This is a report on wind observations at the 1994 Crescent City Classic 10K Road Race in New Orleans, LA on 16 April 1994. The course is a flat, point-to-point configuration with the start and finish about 7 kilometers apart. The elevations at the start and finish are the same. The course flows generally southwest and west until it reaches Audubon Park and makes a counterclockwise loop to the finish.

The National Weather Service report at 7:30 AM reported a temperature of 69 degrees F, cloudy skies, wind from the northeast at 9 MPH, 100% humidity, and a 30% chance of showers. By race time (9AM) the temperature was 69 degrees F, and the skies were cloudy. At the start the winds were gusting and swirling at an estimated 5-10 MPH. There was no rain during the race.

I placed helium-filled balloons on street sign poles along the course. I rode on the press truck and recorded the movement of the balloons and other flags and banners, using a disposable camera with telephoto lens. Some of the balloons became entangled with poles, but enough were blowing free to clearly show the effects of the wind gusting in different directions throughout the race. I have included photos which show the direction of wind and direction of the race has been noted at various points on the course. I will follow up later with a report on lessons learned employing the helium filled balloons.

In my opinion, the winds present provided negligible advantage to the runners in the 1994 Crescent City Classic 10K Road Race. In addition I can verify the race was run on the race course as originally measured and certified by you. The wind and race path observations should support any pending record performances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wayne'.

Wayne B. Nicoll
Vice Chair East,
Road Running Technical Committee

Copy: Mac DeVaughn, Neil MacDonald,
Ryan Lamppa, Mike Wickiser

From START proceed on Decatur St. Continue on N Peters and keep right, continuing on Tenchopolis Rd. Turn right on Julia. Turn right on Decatur St. Turn right to pass under the Mississippi River Bridge on Decatur St. Turn right on Johnson St. Turn right on Pearl St. Make a sharp right on Johnson St., followed by an immediate left back onto Pyrites. Follow to Audubon Park. Turn right on Audubon Park. Turn right on Jackson St. Turn right on paved surface in front of Collins. Follow through grass to the finish. First runner will bear left after 6 miles to FIRST FINISH. Slower runner will keep right after 6 miles. Cross McQuigley St. Turn right on McQuigley St. Turn right on Decatur St. Turn right just one turn between curbs where curbed, and on pavement there not curbed.

AT TURN TO N. PETERS.
(1ST MILE) FLAGS
BLOWING LIGHTLY IN
DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS

RACE DIRECTION:



1ST MILE ON
TCHOUPTOULAS.
BALLOON IS
STRAIGHT UP.

RACE DIRECTION:



NEAR MILE 1
ON JULIA.
FLAGS BLOWING FROM SOUTH
LIGHTLY WITH
RUNNERS

RACE DIRECTION:



AT JULIA + CAMP.
(2d MILE)
BALLOON BLOWING
LIGHTLY FROM NORTH

RACE DIRECTION :



AT TERPSICHORE
(2d MILE).
BALLOON BLOWING
LIGHTLY FROM NORTH

RACE DIRECTION :



AT ST. MARY
(2d MILE).
BALLOON BLOWING
LIGHTLY FROM EAST.

RACE DIRECTION :



AT FOURTH (3d MILE).
BALLOON BLOWING LIGHTLY
FROM NORTH.

RACE DIRECTION:



3d MILE.
FLAG BLOWING
LIGHTLY FROM EAST.

RACE DIRECTION:



AT PLEASANT (3d MILE).
BALLOON BLOWING
FROM NORTH

RACE DIRECTION:



AT NAPOLEON
(4TH MILE).

BALLOON BLOWING
FROM NORTH

RACE
DIRECTION:



AT UPPER LINE
(4TH MILE)

BALLOON HANGING
LIMP

RACE DIRECTION:



AT MILE MARKER 4.

BANNERS BLOWING
TOWARDS RUNNERS.

RACE DIRECTION:



IN 5TH MILE.
FLAG BLOWING
LIGHTLY FROM WEST

RACE DIRECTION:



AT JEFFERSON
(5TH MILE)

BALLOON BLOWING
FROM EAST

RACE DIRECTION:



6TH MILE.
FLAG BLOWING FROM
NORTH

RACE DIRECTION:



USA TRACK & FIELD



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June 8, 1994

Wayne Nicoll - Ragged Mountain Club - PO Box 62 - Potter Place, NH 03216

Dear Wayne,

CRESCENT CITY CLASSIC WIND READINGS

The dust is beginning to settle from the Phoenix seminar, and it crossed my mind that it might have some value if I was to second-guess your wind gauging work at Crescent City Classic. This will be part of my duty as a member of the Records Committee in any case, and I wanted to take the time to do it right.

I went over your pictures and marked up a city map with little arrows, which show the same wind direction indicated by your helium balloons.

Our conclusions concerning the wind are the same. What winds there were, were light. Furthermore, the wind was not a tailwind for more than 5 to 10 percent of the course, far less than the 50 percent needed to disallow a record.

I'm sorry this confirmation is so belated. You have been hanging out there twisting in the media and should have received this sooner. So far nobody has asked me what I think, but if they do I will express the same opinion as you.

I will bring my map to the Convention, in color. A copy is enclosed. A circle indicates a reading of "no wind" - otherwise the direction is indicated by an arrow. Although I saw no readings taken in Audubon Park, its horseshoe configuration argues strongly against any net wind from any direction.

Thank you for providing such complete information. The balloons worked out well, and the pictures are persuasive. Good work!

Best regards,

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

xc: Ryan Lamppa

① { Decatur - N Petus - no wind
Tchouproulas - no wind

2 { Julia - from SE - (TW)
Julia/camp - from SE (TW+CW)
Trypsichore - (CW) from N
St Mary - (CW) from N

3rd mi { Fourth - (CW) from N
anon - (TW) from E
Pleasant (CW) from N

{ Napoleon (CW)
Upper line (None)
4 mile (HW)

5 { anon (TW)
Jefferson (TW)

6 { Anon - from N (CW)

