

RRTC 2010 Annual Meeting Reports
To be Presented at RRTC Meeting - USATF Convention
Virginia Beach, VA
December 4, 2010

Reports contained in this document:

[RRTC Chairman](#) - Gene Newman

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

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

[Validations Chair](#) - Neville Wood

[Course Registrar](#) - Gene Newman

[Data Accuracy Officer](#) - Jane Parks

[Measurement Workshops](#) - Duane Russell

[RRTC Bulletin Board](#) - Pete Riegel

[RRTC Webmaster](#) - Bob Baumel

Gene Newman, RRTC Chairman's Report

1. A new Regional Certifier was appointed (Mark Neal) for the State of Washington.
2. Don Shepan retired with regrets as New Mexico Regional Certifier. Gene Newman is now handling this position.
3. We had a very successful Measurement workshop done at the Associations' Annual Summer meeting in NY. The RRTC was represented by Duane Russell (measurement workshop co-chair), Jim Gilmer (NY Regional Certifier) and Jane Parks (CT Regional Certifier).
4. The RRTC has approved over 2080 courses for Certification so far for 2010. This number is an increase of 20% over the record set last year.
5. We have established an Electronic Counter Policy effective Jan. 1st, 2010 (see below).

The Electronic Counter is approved for measuring courses for certification only by those that have used the device in the past, with the following exceptions:

- a. It is not be used for measurement of AIMS/IAAF courses.
 - b. It is not be used for measurement for any big-city marathons, Olympic Trials, Olympic Marathons or National Championship Races.
 - c. It may not be used for Validation measurements.
6. The link <http://www.usatf.org/events/courses/search/key.asp> which gives information about the explanation of the fields was changed. This explanation also occurs when you do a search using the Certified Course Search Engine, the results page includes a link near the top labeled "Explanation of fields" -- and when you click that link you get a pop-up window whose contents are provided by the indicated page -- it also was changed.
 7. On the USATF web site when you go to "About" at the top of the page go to "Bylaws". Next go to "Section V Appendices page 193" The example of our Measurement certificate was updated to our present Certificate
 8. Electronic Submission will not be accepted by the Registrar as it has been found to be a problem for our check and balance system. The time saved and map clarity is not really an issue at this point in time.
 9. The Registrar back up all data with Carbonite (an internet provider for back-up).
 10. Jay Wight (IL Regional Certifier) has given us a power point presentation for future workshop use.
 11. A Sequential numbering for each State by a Certifier was put in place. This allows the Registrar to find missing Certifications.
 12. Our Data Officer has checked all Calibration Courses for the correct listing of their Distances.
 13. Also, I checked each state to see how many cal courses were in use. Some states had only a couple, hence I notified the State Certifier to see if their measurers were using a valid Calibration Course.

14. Changes were done to the course procedure manual for our map requirements. These were completed by Gene Newman, Mark Neal and Bob Baumel. Here is where Bob made the changes:
<http://www.usatf.org/events/courses/certification/manual/course-maps.asp>
<http://www.usatf.org/events/courses/certification/manual/manual.pdf>
Note: Bob also realized that he needed to update page 2 of the PDF manual which includes revision dates at the bottom, and similarly, he needed to update the web page at <http://www.usatf.org/events/courses/certification/manual/> which has those same dates at the bottom.
15. The process for renewing courses will stop at end of next year. The RRTC decided to let them expire and redo the courses with our present standards.
16. The Registrar now sends a welcome letter to all new measurers.
17. Certified splits will be displayed on one Certificate. The drop/separation will be displayed on the Certificate as well as on the map. The Registrar would indicate there are certified splits in the Course Name (i.e. Joe's Half Marathon & Certified Splits, hence the Records people could find the Certified splits information by printing out the map.
18. Certification Information for the Associations. I have asked Karen Kzsak and Andy Martin to have each Association to use the following link → →
<http://www.usatf.org/events/courses/>. Hence, each Association would then have the same link and it would provide all the information one requires on Course Certification.
19. **Insurance and USATF Certified Official status for Course Measurers:** David Katz has been in touch with the Officials Committee chair, who is very open to creating a special category of USATF Officials for Course Measurers. This category would be administered entirely at the national level, with RRTC in charge; thus, it would not require working through the local Associations who normally administer the certification of other kinds of USATF Officials. The title for this new Officials category will be "LDR SURVEYOR". RRTC has set the criteria for attaining each level as follows:

Association level: Measures at least 5 courses successfully for certification and is recommended by State Certifier and answers a "20 questions" test (must be done).

National level: Certified at Association level for at least 2 years, has measured at least 10 courses during that period, Recommended by State Certifier.

Master level: All Regional Certifiers and IAAF "A" or "B" measurers.

To start the ball rolling, we will immediately grandfather in all of the Certifiers and "A" or "B" measurers at the Master level, and we can probably designate many other known, prolific measurers at the National level.. The measurers to be designated as Certified Officials will need to provide a photograph and other information to include on a USATF-issued ID card.

20. Mark Neal was name to the RRTC Board as he will take over the Bulletin Board as the monitor.
21. Certificates will now be online as well as the map for each Certified Course.

Future goals for the RRTC are to:

Continue to have measurement Workshops and look for ways to encourage people to become measurers.

We would like to create a common web page link for all the Associations to use to find information about Course Certification (see above #18).

Respectfully submitted by Gene Newman, RRTC Chairman

2010 ANNUAL REPORT – EASTERN VICE CHAIR

Submitted by Paul Hronjak

2010 has been a big year in the Eastern area. As of 10/3/10, we have 1469 certificates received. In all of 2009, we had 1344. This represents an increase on over 9% over 2009 with two months to go. At this point in 2009, we had 1111 certificates. This represents a YTD increase of over 32%!

Of these 1469 courses, 1343 are new race courses, 66 are calibration courses, 29 are renewals, and 31 are replacements.

The increase seems to be across the board with many states approaching (or surpassing) 100 for the year.

The biggest continuing problem is map quality with a lot of correspondence going back & forth on maps that are not suitable for scanning. I wish someone more computer literate than I could come up with a simple software to solve this problem.

In North Carolina, we are slightly ahead of the total for last year ... 102 – 99 ... but there are more to come (I alone have at least 4 more courses to measure this year and I am one of 22 measurers in the state this year - down from 25 last year).

I can just barely imagine what will happen in 2012 when all the renewed courses expire!

Course certification is thriving, in large part (at least in NC) due to the strong recommendation – if not demand, by race timing organizations that courses be certified.

Vice Chairman West 2010 Report

The certification process continued relatively uneventfully for 2010. The major items of note were some personnel changes; Mark Neal assumed certifier duties for the state of Washington, taking over for Mike Wickiser, and was granted final signatory status after little more than a month on the job. Mark is a long-time measurer whose maps display the high quality all measurers should aspire to. He is also a frequent contributor to the Measurement Bulletin Board. We welcome someone with his credentials as a certifier.

As usual, the West remained busy in course certification, with Texas and California once again leading the way. With Oklahoma and Minnesota they are four of the 10 busiest states on the yearly list. There was an increase in measurement activity in several states, notably the Dakotas, thanks to the efforts of Carol McLatchie, who assumed certifier duties for those states last year. Kansas and Missouri, under the supervision of Bill Glaus, also saw increased activity. It remains for the year-end tally to see if overall number of certified courses is up or down.

In late June I traveled to Texas on a writing assignment, and took time to visit with Tom McBrayer, the Texas state certifier, and his wife Mary Anne. As part of the typical Texas hospitality they showed me, I also got a tour of the potential course for the 2012 marathon Olympic Trials, which will be held in Houston for both the men and women in January of that year. The layout is a multi-loop criterium design, as was the case for the past two Trials races. It won't be completely flat, but the hills are rolling, and coupled with the favorable weather Houston often experiences in early winter, should produce fast times and compelling races. (It should be noted that the aforementioned favorable weather was noticeably absent during my visit; even the locals were complaining about the heat and humidity). Part of the Trials course is scheduled to be run next January when Houston hosts the USATF Half Marathon championships. A group validation ride, by both men and women, will probably be conducted later in the year (hopefully not at the height of summer). Carol McLatchie, as a former long-term resident of the city and a member of several past validation rides, will be counted on to provide local guidance in both riding and refreshments to the rest of us out of towners.

The biggest goal for this year and beyond continues to be to get measurers to adhere to the new, higher standards for course maps, using the new certificate templates, and to increase the speed with which certified courses are posted to the USATF online database. We are making good progress in both areas.

I look forward to working with the western measurers in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gerweck
Vice Chairman, West

VALIDATIONS 2010
Neville Wood
11/28/10

Course	Type	Race Date	Cert #	Measurer (IAAF grade)	Validator	Validation Date	Distance, km (mi)			% Diff	Notes
							Advert	Circuit	Google Earth		
PREVIOUSLY VALIDATED											
Lilac Bloomsday 12k	LDR	/10	WA06009BL	Dausman (B)			12.000				
PREVALIDATED											
Credit Union Cherry Blossom	LDR	4/11/10	DC10001JS	Sissala (B)	2	4/4/10	(10.000)				2
PASSED											
Umstead 100-Mile Endurance	LDR	4/4/09	NC09019PH	Walsh	Wood	4/23/10	(100.000)	(12.5000)	(100.570)	0.57	3
USATF Nat Racewalk Champ	RW	2/7/10	AZ10014TLB	LaBlonde (B)	Galope	8/27/10	50.000	2.0000	2.0063	0.32	4
APPROVED ON REPUTATION OF MEASURER											
Michigan Father's Day Run	LDR	6/30/10	M193015SH	Hubbard (A)			5.000			0.20	5
Mardis Gras Half-Marathon	LDR	/10	LA10004JF	Thurston (B)							
Beach to Beacon	LDR	/10	ME06001RN	Nelson (B)							
SV Turkey Trot	LDR	/09	CA08020TK	Knight (A)							
Bellaire Trolley 5k	LDR	/09	TX08029ETM	McBrayer (A)							
NYRR Healthy Kidney 10k	LDR	/10	NY08002DK	Katz (A)							
NYRR Mini 10k	LDR	/09 &/10	NY03024AM	Hess (B)							
San Jose 20k	LDR	/10	CA06022TK	Knight (A)							
San Jose Half-Marathon	LDR	/10	CA06017TK	Knight (A)							
NYRR MORE Half-Marathon	LDR	/10	NY09101JRG	Gerweck (A)							
NYRR NIKE NY Half-Marathon	LDR	/10	NY07001DK	Katz (A)							
CBRC 24 -Hour	LDR	/10	IA96017PR	Ungurean (B)				0.40647			
2010 USA Masters	RW	/10	CA10015TK	Knight (A)				2.0000			6
PENDING											
Tallahassee Ultra-distance	LDR	12/13/08 & /09	FL08072EBM	McGuire			50.000	3.3334			1
Ultracentric 24-Hour	LDR	/06	TX06101ETM	Ashby				(2.4000)			
Ultracentric 24-Hour	LDR	/07	TX06102ETM	Ashby				(2.4000)			
Carlsbad Half-Marathon	LDR	/09	CA07045RS	Rahill							
FANS 12-Hour	LDR	/10	MN02010RR	Chase				0.3897			
San Francisco 24Hour	LDR	/09	CA09008RS	Doman				(1.061)			

1. Not possible to accurately measure by Google Earth because turnaround cannot be defined from the satellite view. No other measurers nearby. M80-84 record in 2008.
2. Both John Sissala and Bob Thurston worked on the certification, and since both are IAAF measurers, the course is regarded as prevalidated.
3. I found circuits 2-8 were 12.5591 miles and circuit 1 was 512 feet longer. Note that this extra length is not given on the course certificate.
Description of the first and last third of a mile on a circuit was not adequate on the certificate. I suggest the following:
Near the finish of circuit on the trail to Headquarters, turn at the sign "Hills and Oaks" and head along a largely undefined path directly for a short cut to Headquarters. Negotiate wide stairs down and up. Start a circuit in reverse direction except follow the main trail out of Headquarters in circuit 1.
I recommend taking a good photograph of the position of the U-turn -- on the two separate days I visited it, the defining logs and rocks had been moved out of position. My last GPS reading for the U-turn was 35.85511, -78.77217 and was very close to that taken a few weeks earlier. Also, it was very consistent with the Google satellite view of the trail on Google Earth.
4. The certificate map specifies that the turnaround on Paradise Ln is 24.25 ft west of the reference light pole. (Although it is not clear from the certificate map, LaBlonde states this measurement was along the curb.) Galope however could find nothing in this region, but east of the pole he did find a white mark with a PK nail 14 ft from the side of the road and at what I estimate (from Google Earth and a photograph that he took) to be 15 ft from the pole measured along the curb. Cliff Elkins, the race director, confirmed from the photograph that indeed that this was the mark used in the championships.
Galope measured the circuit twice with a 165-ft tape and found it to be 1982.42 m or 17.6 m short of the advertised 2000 m. However, a race participant, Jonathan Matthews, remembers that the turn was placed well past another mark on the road. LaBlonde later confirmed that his colored mark was still in place west of the pole. Finally, Cliff Elkins recanted his earlier testimony, and said a turn was made west of the pole. It is understandable the Galope seized on the white mark as the location of the turn, since it was so well made and exactly the same as that at the other end of the course. Probably, though, the LaBlonde mark was used in the race. When Galope's result is adjusted as follows, the course passes validation:

LaBlonde mark is $24.25 + 15 = 39.25$ ft west of white mark.
Adjusted Galope measurement = $1982.42 + 0.3048(2 \times 39.5) = 2006.34$ m.

Much trouble would have been saved if LaBlonde had given coordinate information and if photographs had been taken of the turns during the race.
5. This course has been approved because of the reputation of the measurer Scott Hubbard and a very careful measurement on Google Earth that gave 5009.8 m. Accuracy was possible because Scott gave details of the start and finish that enable these to be located on Earth with great accuracy.
Monica Joyce set a national 5-km record of 17:02 this year on this course when the finish line was set 5.8 m short of the specified position. The above Earth measurement, though, shows she actually ran 5004.0 m. (This distance does not take into account extra distance that was run before the specified start on the particular day.)
6. The fact that the measurement was done in partnership with two other measurers adds an extra degree of confidence to the validation.

This report was prepared by Gene Newman

Total number of Active Courses as Nov 1, 2010	14906		
Total number of Courses measured as of Nov 1, 2010	35379		
Top 10 Measurers for 2010			
Jane Parks	54		
Duane Russell	42		
Winston Rasmussen	42		
Vince Adams	37		
Patrick Cheshier	35		
Robert Thurston	32		
Kevin Lucas	30		
Bill Belleville	29		
Guido Brothers	27		
Jay Wight	24		
Number of Courses Measured by Year			
1979	1	1996	1114
1982	20	1997	1218
1983	518	1998	1170
1984	829	1999	1196
1985	1245	2000	1111
1986	1236	2001	1251
1987	1162	2003	1294
1988	1109	2003	1294
1989	1084	2004	1392
1990	1148	2005	1359
1991	1221	2006	1444
1992	1203	2007	1606
1993	1168	2008	1771
1994	1054	2009	2001
1995	1150	2010	2088

Top 10 Certifiers for 2010	
ET McBrayer	134
Jay Wight	126
Matt Studholme	108
Paul Hronjak	95
Jane Parks	95
Everett McDowell	94
Woody Cornwell	84
Brian Smith	79
Bill Grass	79
Ron Scardera	78

Top 10 States for 2010	
TX	160
IL	126
NC	120
CA	107
NY	97
FL	92
NJ	87
VA	86
GA	84
MI	80

Distance	All of 2009		Distance	From 1/1/2010 till 11/01/2010	Percent of change from 2009	Percent of each distance for 2010
5 km	1022		5 km	1120	109.59%	53.64%
10 km	237		10 km	251	105.91%	12.02%
Half Marathon	211		Half Marathon	237	112.32%	11.35%
Marathon	132		Marathon	124	93.94%	5.94%
Calibration Courses	124		Calibration Courses	114	91.94%	5.46%
1 mi	32		1 mi	37	115.63%	1.77%
8 km	38		8 km	32	84.21%	1.53%
5 mi	34		5 mi	31	91.18%	1.48%
15 km	21		15 km	15	71.43%	0.72%
10 mi	26		10 mi	27	103.85%	1.29%
1 km	6		1 km	3	50.00%	0.14%
4 mi	27		4 mi	29	107.41%	1.39%
2 mi	9		2 mi	7	77.78%	0.34%
20 km	4		20 km	5	125.00%	0.24%
25 km	4		25 km	1	25.00%	0.05%
12 km	7		12 km	3	42.86%	0.14%
30 km	6		30 km	1	16.67%	0.05%
2 km	0		2 km	3		0.14%
Ultra's	14		Ultra's	4	28.57%	0.19%
Others	47		Others	44	93.62%	2.11%
Total number of Courses -->	2001		Total number of Courses -->	2088	104.35%	

Data Accuracy Officer Report – October 2010

This year with the help of Gene Newman, I finished going through the list of measurers to determine their status. I verified the status of 330 measurers. Gene removed the names of those without valid contact information or requesting to be removed from the website. I reviewed those with last names N – Z. This is probably a good exercise every few years to clean up the database and correct contact information. There are 756 total measurers in the database: 160 are inactive and 596 active measurers.

Also this year, again with Gene's assistance, I converted all of the calibration course distances to metric. Some did not have a distance listed so I had to refer to the maps. Most were in feet or miles. All are now in meters. I reviewed and updated, as needed, 1775 calibration courses.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane H. Parks
Data Accuracy Officer – Road Race Technical Council

Workshop Co-chair Report – Duane Russell
October, 2010

There was only one workshop given by me this year. It was in conjunction with the USATF Buffalo Associations Workshop, in Buffalo, NY, in August.

Eight new measurers attended, along with two experienced measurers besides Jim, Jane, and myself.

Jim Gilmer and Jane Parks assisted in the field training.

We did a 2½ classroom presentation, giving an overview of the process and equipment used in measuring. While 2 hours was planned, there was enough information to use 3 hours to properly cover each topic.

We then rode bikes half a mile to a course I had previously measured and mapped. We split into three groups, with Jane and Jim taking their groups in opposite directions on the course, recording clicks, but not riding SPR. They then reversed their rides, and recorded clicks while riding SPR. Comments abounded about how different riding the SPR was than what was expected.

While Jane & Jim rode, I coached a group in calibration course layout. Again, comments regarding how much more detail there was to this than was expected.

After the rides, groups rotated, so everyone had an opportunity to set a calibration course, and ride multiple rides of the course, getting better at SPR, and recording clicks.

After the field work, we went back to the hotel for lunch, then an afternoon mapping session, and a review of the field work. The afternoon session was 2 hours, and could have been three, without anyone getting bored. Details take time to teach.

Post-session comments were all positive. After the weekend was over, I sent an email to the attendees, and asked them to let Gene Newman know what they thought of the workshop. I have not heard if anyone commented to Gene, so I will assume the positive post-session comments were indicative of true feelings regarding the value of the workshop.

To date, none of the new attendees has completed a measurement for USATF posting.

ROAD COURSE MEASUREMENT BULLETIN BOARD

Report of Activity November 1, 2009 to November 1, 2010

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:

Pete Riegel, founder of the Bulletin Board, has retired as moderator. Mark Neal is now the moderator.

Course Certification Discussion Area

- USATF/RRTC Topics

- AIMS/IAAF/International

Course Measurement

- General Course Measurement Topics

- Electronic Measurement

- Tracks

- Tips & Tricks

- New Counter Designs

The New Jones Counter Model JR

- Final Design Details

- Web Page

- Fabrication has Begun

- Experience and Usage

- Recent Developments

Race Administration

- Timing

- Records

- Other Race Administration Topics

Cross-Country Courses

- How Can Cross-Country Courses be Measured?

- How Can Cross-Country Courses be Certified?

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:

Period begin	Begin	10/31/05	10/31/06	10/31/07	10/31/08	10/31/09
Period end	10/31/05	10/31/06	10/31/07	10/31/08	10/31/09	10/31/10
Members at period end	127	161	194	220	241	274
Page Views in period	52315	100264	209570	360336	292710	413694
Posts in period	601	604	997	1087	730	522

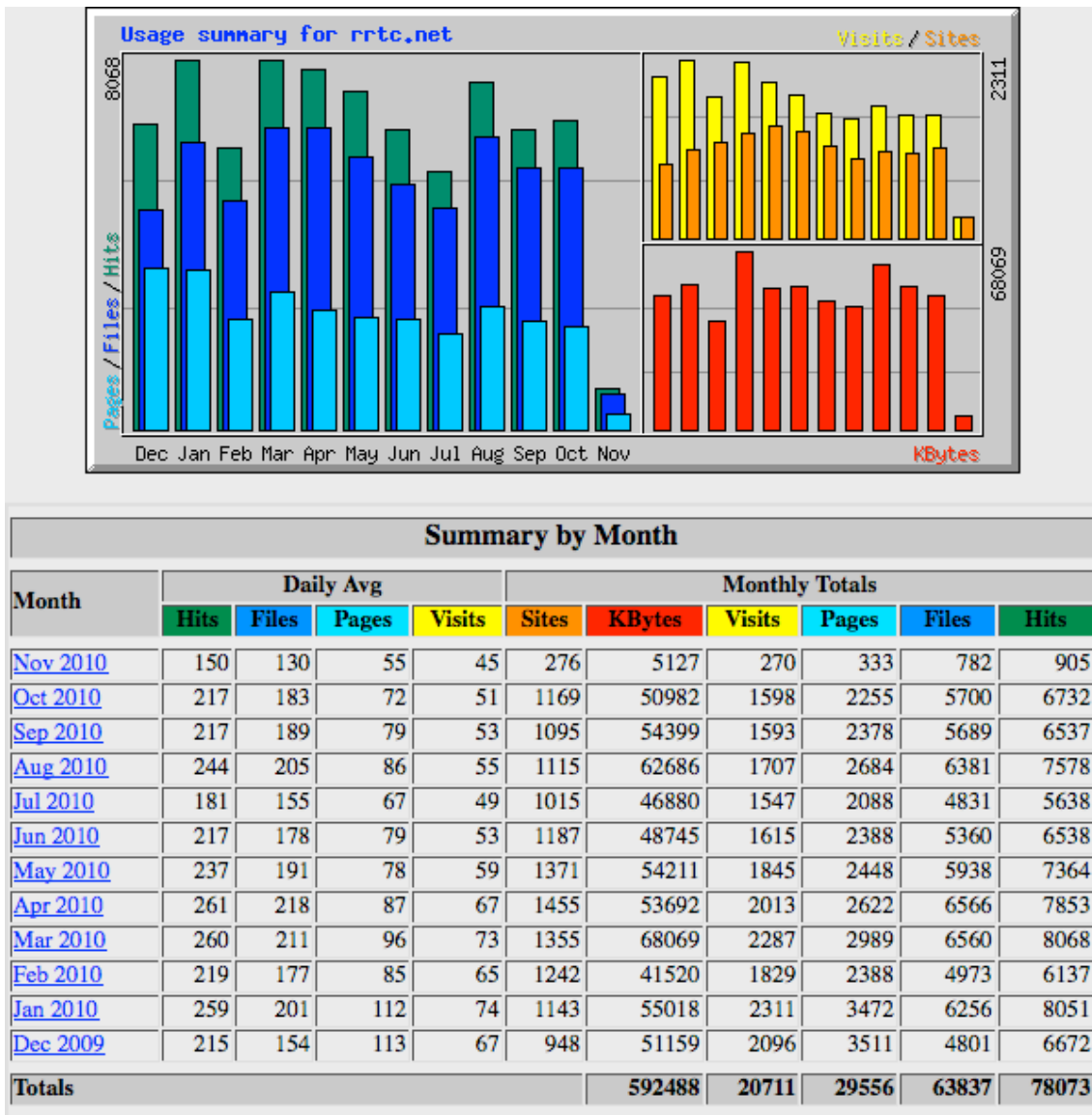
Respectfully submitted,
Pete Riegel

RRTC Webmaster Report

RRTC's Internet presence consists of four major components, including:

1. Web pages in two sections of the USATF website (www.usatf.org): The Course Certification information section (including downloadable course measurement manual) and the committee information section for RRTC – all maintained by the RRTC Webmaster.
2. A pair of Search Engines on the USATF website, one for finding certified courses, the other for finding course measurers – maintained by RRTC Course Registrar.
3. An interactive Bulletin Board system, which has become RRTC's main communications vehicle – maintained by RRTC Bulletin Board Moderator.
4. A small website (www.rrtc.net) that serves mainly as a handy, central collection of links for all things relating to RRTC and course certification – maintained by RRTC Webmaster.

The following graphic illustrates usage of the www.rrtc.net website during the past year:



Some notes on the above graphic:

- For definitions (Hits, Files, etc.), see http://www.mrunix.net/webalizer/webalizer_help.html
- Statistics for Nov 2010 are incomplete, as this graphic was generated in early November.
- By some measures (e.g., number of page views), it may appear that usage was heaviest early in the year and then decreased. A possible explanation may be that usage is heaviest during the first few months after a USATF Annual Meeting, and then levels off.
- The www.rrtc.net home page, which features a handy set of certification-related links (mostly pointing to pages of the USATF site) accounts for about 40% of page views on the rrtc.net website. Interestingly, more than 50% of page views on the rrtc.net site are for the (unfinished) [RRTC Finish Line Manual](#), which was never ported to the USATF site due to its incomplete state, but still contains a lot of good information.

Among web pages maintained by the RRTC Webmaster, changes during the past year included:

Changes to the Course Measurement Procedures Manual to clarify map requirements. These are described more fully in Gene's RRTC Chairman's report, so will not be repeated here.

Posted new page at http://www.usatf.org/events/courses/certification/name_change.asp regarding policy on changing name of a certified course (the actual policy had been adopted during the previous year).

Routine changes to the Certifier listing due to personnel changes or changes in contact info.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Baumel
RRTC Webmaster