



Long Distance Running Division

Men's Long Distance Running Executive Committee

December 1, 2005

Attendees: Executive Committee Members: Glenn Latimer (Chair), Keith Dowling (Vice Chair), Mark Winitz (Secretary), Philip Greenwald (Treasurer), Dan Browne, David Coyne, Ian Dobson, Peter Julian, David Martin, George Regan, Allan Steinfeld

Guests: John Bysiewicz, Tony Cosey, Scott Christensen, Greg Cunningham, Jim Estes, Fred Finke, Alonzo Fuller, Patricia Goodwin, Will Graustein, Jack Hazen, Wendy Johnson, Brian Jones, Bob Larsen, Bob Latham, Duffy Mahoney, Robert Moore, Gary Morgan, Al Morris, John Purnell, Scott Simmons, Tomy Sitton, John Tolbert, John Tope, Jack Wickens

ACTIVITIES

Men's LDR Chair Glenn Latimer convened the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

- 1. Introductions:** The Chair introduced new committee members Ian Dobson and Peter Julian, representing athletes on the committee. He then reviewed several highlights of men's LDR competition in 2005.
- 2. Housekeeping:** Several matters related to convention expense reimbursements to Executive Committee members were discussed.
- 3. Professional Athletics Association:** The Chair described the formation of the Professional Athletics Association that would represent the interests of professional athletes as a USATF member organization. He encouraged elite long distance runners to speak up and participate in this association.
- 4. Team USA Distance Project:** Jim Estes reported that LDR has been seeking funding and sponsors for the Team USA Distance Running Centers, seeking support from corporations and events. The national office has not been conducting efforts in this respect. The Twin Cities Marathon has stepped up to support the centers and the Houston, Chicago, and New York City Marathons are coming on board.

In addition to direct support for the centers, funds will be used for "summit" meetings and clinics for coaches and athletes, and team incentives to support men's teams in targeted international competitions such as the Chiba Ekiden. In addition, plans are in the works to field our best U.S. men's team possible at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships by offering stipends to team members for both making the team and actually competing in the event. These objectives for athlete performance are consistent with the objectives in the LDR Division's Strategic Plan.

- 5. International Competition Review (2005):** Men's team reports were presented for the following competitions: 2005 IAAF World Half Marathon (Edmonton) reported by Allan Steinfeld, 2005 IAAF World Cross Country Champs (France) reported by Ian Dobson, 2005 North American 5K Team Challenge (Chula Vista) reported by Peter Julian, 2005 Chiba Ekiden (Japan) reported by Tomy Sitton, 2005 World Cup Marathon at IAAF World Track & Field Championships (Helsinki) reported by Jack Hazen.

David Martin reported on the summit for the World Cup Marathon team and coaches, hosted by the Hansons-Brooks Distance Project. It is difficult to attract our top marathoners for this team because it does not provide a big pay day unless you win the team title. Bob Larsen commented that other countries do not send their "A" teams for the same reason. Much discussion followed with Dan Browne and others contributing. Allan Steinfeld suggested that funding for a top U.S. men's team might be obtained through USA Distance Project efforts.

- 6. 5,000/10,000 Meters:** Fred Finke prefaced this report by commending the spirit of cooperation between LDR committees during the past year. In addition, our athletes have been very responsive. A proposal has been submitted to move the 5,000m and 10,000m men's events on the track from the oversight of Men's Track & Field to Men's LDR, although the prospects of either are unlikely.
- 7. 2008 Men's Olympic Marathon Trials:** Requests for proposals are out. Expressions of interest are due back December 9. Official bids are due January 9 with selection of the host targeted for mid-April, 2006. The preference

is for a criterium, loop course. An advisory committee composed of elite athletes, media representatives, event directors, and coaches will review the bids and make a recommendation to a site selection committee.

8. **Alternate Qualifying Standards for Olympic Marathon Trials:** A motion and second were made to add the following qualifying standards to the current sub-2:20 (A standard)/ /sub-2:22 (B standard) marathon distance standards for the Trials: Track marks of sub-13:40 (5 km)/ sub-28:45 (10 km). *Carried unanimously.*

Ideas for Trials prize structure, and possible training stipends for athletes who make the 2008 Olympic marathon team, were discussed. Consensus: Any athlete who qualifies for the 2008 U.S. Olympic marathon team and runs a Spring 2008 marathon after the USA Olympic Trials Marathon race will not be eligible for a training stipend.

9. **Cross Country:** Allan Steinfeld provided a preview of the 2006 USA Cross Country Championships/World Team Trials (New York City, Feb. 18-19, 2006). Peter Julian provided a preview of the 2007 USA Cross Country Championships/World Team Trials (Boulder, CO, Feb. 10, 2007).
10. **2005 Men's LDR Awards:** Mark Winitz announced the winners of the three annual awards bestowed by Men's LDR (see MLDR, Session 2, below for details).
11. **Men's LDR Election:** A motion was made and seconded to conduct an election for the position of Men's LDR Committee Chair at MLDR Committee, Session 1 (Friday, December 1) for a three-year term 2006-2008. Nominations to be accepted from the committee floor. Unanimously passed. Glen Latimer has been serving as Interim Chair.
12. **Men's LDR Championships Subcommittee:** Bob Latham and Scott Simmons are the new members of the subcommittee, appointed by the Chair. 2005 MLDR Championship awards were discussed. Regarding club championships at MLDR National Championships, the committee agreed that hosts should have an option, not an obligation, to host USATF club competition (in addition to individual competition).

13. **LDR Strategic Plan:** The status of the draft LDR Strategic Plan will be addressed by the LDR Division Executive Committee.

14. **Law & Legislation, Rules:** David Coyne reported on proposed L&L items of interest to LDR.

15. **Finance/Budget:** Item deferred to general MLDR committee meeting.

16. **Associations:** Same.

17. **Coaching Education:** Same.

18. **Development:** Same.

19. **Additional Business:** An LDR initiative to require athletes competing in the U.S. to possess a license as proof of an out-of-competition drug test was introduced. The license, which is at the conceptual stage, is a key strategic objective in LDR's Strategic Plan.

U.S. Men's 20 km Championships (New Haven 20 km): John Bysiewicz briefed the group regarding upgrades and improvements to the event.

Closed Session: The Chair called a closed session at 11:25 a.m. and guests were asked to exit the room. Topic of session was MLDR Championships.

The open meeting reconvened at 11:43 a.m. Topics related to MLDR Championship awards were briefly discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Men's LDR – General Sessions

Attendees:

The following individuals attended one or more of the MLDR sessions: Glenn Latimer (Chair), Keith Dowling (Vice Chair), Philip Greenwald (Treasurer), Mark Winitz (Secretary), Andrew Allden, Ryan Borque, Norman Brand, Trent Briney, Don Chapin, David Coyne, Scott Christensen, Alex Cuzzo, Jeff Darman, Ian Dobson, Kenneth Ellis, Alonzo Fuller, Robert Geiger, Pat Goodwin, William Graustein, Kevin Hanson, Jack Hazen, Kent Hoffmeyer, Barrett

Hopper, Thom Hunt, Brian Johnson, Brian Jones, Peter Julian, Bob Larsen, Bob Latham, David Martin, Frank Miklaucic, Teddy Mitchell, Robert Moore, Gary Morgan, Al Morris, Jim Peterson, George Regan, Ian Seecof, Donald Shepan, Scott Simmons, Allan Steinfeld, Phil Stewart, Elinor Tootle, John Tope, Clint Verran, Jack Wing.

Guests: John Blackburn, Keith Brantly, Greg Cunningham, Rob DeFilippis, Charles DesJardins, Mark Driscoll, John Erickson, Jim Estes, Patrick Glover, Paul Greer, Carl Grossaro, Bob Hersh, Greg Hipp, Nancy Hobbs, Linda Honikman, David Katz, Kevin Moorhead, Gene Newman, Howard Nippert, Roy Pirrung, Peter Rea, Ken Robichaud, Bill Roe, Mark Schwartz, Mike Scott, Tomy Sitton, Lloyd Stephenson, Joe Vigil, Jack Wickens.

Session 1 - December 2

The meeting was called to order by Chair Glenn Latimer at 10:10 a.m.

Attendance

Secretary Mark Winitz briefly reviewed the criteria for committee membership and voting. A motion was made and seconded to appoint George Regan as an At-Large member of the committee through the 2006 calendar year. ***Motion passed.***

The Chair introduced the members of the Executive Committee, Championships Subcommittee and Men's Team Selection Subcommittee.

MINUTES FROM 2004 AND 2005 AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the Men's Long Distance Running (MLDR) Committee from the 2004 USATF Annual Meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

The MLDR agenda for the 2005 USATF Annual Meeting was accepted with two amendments which added the following items for discussion: athlete drug licensing and Road Running Information Center record keeping.

MEN'S LDR CHAIR ELECTION

The Secretary asked for nominations for the position of MLDR Chair to serve for a three-year term 2006-2008. Glenn Latimer has been serving as Interim Chair. Glenn Latimer was nominated by Allan Steinfeld; seconded by Bob Latham. There were no additional nominations. Latimer

was elected by acclamation. Two members from Organizational Services sat in to monitor the election.

2005 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS REPORTS:

Team Leaders

2005 Chiba Ekiden reported by Tomy Sitton (Team Leader). The U.S. men's Bronze Medal performance was its highest placing ever at the event. (Additional reports deferred to later in agenda.)

Law and Legislation Report

David Coyne discussed proposals being considered in the Law and Legislation Committee which could have a direct impact on MLDR. He reported that athletes had formed a Professional Athletics Association to advocate their interests and they were seeking status for the association as a USATF member organization.

Kevin Lucas (Secretary, Niagara Association) discussed L&L item 28, which he had authored, regarding new responsibilities and makeup of the Road Running Technical Council. Pete Riegel (former Chair of the RRTC) spoke in favor of keeping the current Council's responsibilities and makeup. Various discussions for and against. MLDR voted **not** to support this item.

Item 49 (residency rules for championships) was also discussed. The group was generally in favor of geographically cohesive club makeup in championships. No specific recommendation for or against was proposed.

Following discussion of L&L item 65 (regulation/authorization of athlete agents), MLDR voted not to support it.

David then briefed the committee regarding the USOC's business practice recommendations to USATF and restructuring of the organization to take place over the next several years.

Men's LDR Awards: Mark Winitz

The recipients of the awards traditionally given out by the MLDR Committee were announced (nominations were taken, and voting conducted, by e-mail prior to the convention). The award winners are:

Scott Hamilton Award:

Bob Latham (Oregon Association)

Robert E. Decelle Award:

Mebrahtom Keflezighi

H. Browning Ross Merit Award:

Bob Larsen

Bob Latham and Bob Larsen made short speeches of appreciation. Joe Vigil spoke about Bob Larsen's accomplishments, commenting that he has contributed at every level of the sport.

OLYMPIC MARATHON TRIALS PROCESS AND UPDATE

Jim Estes, Glenn Latimer discussed the process and schedule for the selection of the 2008 Olympic Marathon Trials site/host (see MLDR Executive Committee minutes above). USOC requirements for the event were stated. The qualifying times/standards for the Olympic Games have not yet been set by the IAAF.

To date, three U.S. men have met the sub-2:20/sub-2:22 men's standards for the Trials, during the one-day window at the 2005 U.S. Men's Marathon Championship (Twin Cities). The qualifying window opens again on January 1, 2006 and remains open until 30 days prior to the Trials.

The Chair explained the Executive Committee's recommendation to add the following additional qualifying standards for the Men's Olympic Marathon Trials: sub-13:40 5,000m and sub-28:45 10,000 meters. Peter Julian commented that these marks should be considered "B" standards because they don't necessarily translate to a sub-2:20 marathon. Chair Latimer pointed out that this may be a moot point because some hosts roll out the red carpet (entry AND travel) for "B's." Clint Verran mentioned we should be encouraging young track athletes to run a marathon; we want to encourage inclusion. The Chair said if someone meets these standards at 5,000m/10,000m, then the Trials event will certainly pay their way. Alan Steinfeld agreed. A discussion regarding the relative merits of having "A" and "B" standards versus a single standard ensued. Bob Larsen and several others pointed out the value, sense of accomplishment, and prestige in obtaining an "A" standard.

Peter Julian made a motion, seconded by Teddy Mitchell, to adopt a men's Marathon Trials standard which specifies a sub-2:22 (marathon), sub-13:40 (5,000m), or sub 28:45 (10,000m) as qualifying standards which will earn an athlete a spot at the Marathon Trials. No "A" or "B" marks will be specified. Motion was unanimously passed. Note: Upon further consideration, this decision

was overturned by the MLDR Executive Committee (see Executive Committee Minutes, December 3 - Special Session above).

The committee recessed at 12:05 p.m.

Session 2 - December 2

The meeting was called to order by Chair Glenn Latimer at 2:05 p.m.

Rules Report: Norm Brand

The report covered suggested changes to competition rules as submitted to the Rules Committee which are of interest to, or pertain to, LDR. The committee took action on the following rules items:

Masters (Item 91, Classifications, IAAF 69) — Motion and second to recommend against. ***Passed.***

Transponder timing, road records (Item 88, IAAF 278. 279) — Recommendation to support with the following further revision: "...unless it was timed solely in accordance with Rule 165." (Note: Further action was taken on the item; see below.)

IAAF Report: Bob Hersh

The qualifying window for the 2007 IAAF World Championships Marathon in Osaka, Japan has been expanded (began September 1, 2005). In addition, he is hoping that the qualifying period for the 2008 Olympic Games marathon will open on September 6, 2006.

The first 20 (men and women) at the Berlin, Boston, Chicago, London, and New York City Marathons will be considered by the IAAF as having achieved the "A" standard for Osaka.

The IAAF World Half Marathon Championships have been changed to the IAAF World Road Running Championships to allow for other distances hosted by interested cities. Event is still on the edge with the IAAF losing money on it. Sponsors would not care if this event was off the IAAF program. 2006 event will be a 20K in Hungary in October.

2007 IAAF World Road Running Championships have been awarded to Udine, Italy. The distance will be half-marathon.

Records Report: Linda Honikman

MLDR provisionally approved the following road records for ratification pending course validation completion scheduled for December, 2005:

(1) M open 20 km 58:42 Abdi Abdirahman 28 AZ
NewAlliance New Haven New Haven, CT
09/05/05

(2) M open 20 km 58:57 Meb Keflezighi 28 AZ
New Haven Savings Bank New Haven New
Haven, CT 09/01/03

Additionally, approved the following record:

(3) M a/comers 25 km 1:13:27 Simon Wangai
(KEN) Fifth Third River Bank Grand Rapids, MI
05/14/05

All other items were deferred pending application or more information.

Mountain, Ultra, and Trail (MUT) Council

Report: Nancy Hobbs (Chair, MUT Council) provided a brief review of 2005 mountain and trail championships and world events. She deferred reporting on ultrarunning to the MUT representative from MLDR (see MLDR Session 3). Reported that she hoped more Associations would start MUT programs.

Substance Abuse: Jim Peterson presented the substance abuse report. He discussed Law and Legislation items related to doping and WADA requirements. He also discussed reasons for both optimism and pessimism in relation to the fight against illegal performance enhancing drugs.

Association Athlete Development Program:

Brian Jones provided an overview of USATF AADP in 2005. Six of nine MLDR Championships provided AADP support to athletes. The goal is to have all MLDR Championships participating in the program. He emphasized that the Associations must submit their pool of athletes that they have selected for AADP status in a timely manner, providing sufficient notice so the athletes can be accommodated at each participating Championship. A discussion regarding the qualification and selection procedures of athletes for AADP events transpired.

The Chair expressed the desire to include only athletes who have true developmental potential in the program. Discussion ensued whether or not to tighten qualifying standards.

IAAF/Transponder Timing: David Katz (USATF Representative to IAAF Technical Council) discussed technical aspects related to transponder timing and technology advances related to accuracy and suitability for use in road races where potential records are at stake. A motion was made and seconded to reconsider the committee's earlier vote supporting Rules Item 88 (Transponder timing, road records, IAAF 278, 279) and the IAAF's lead not to accept transponder systems for any record set in road racing. The motion was tabled.

International Team Selection Criteria: Glen Latimer -- Motion and second to accept the MLDR 2006 national team selection process and criteria (as provided in the committee members' packet, see exhibit) for the following 2006/2007 events:

2006 IAAF World 20 km Road Championships
2006 North America 5 km Team Challenge
2006 Chiba International Ekiden
2007 IAAF World Championships Marathon
2007 Pan American Games Marathon

...with the following amendment:

IAAF World 20 km Road Championships (5 positions): Automatic selection: One (1) slot offered (based on rank order of finish) among the top 3 finishers at the USA Half-Marathon Championships, and one (1) slot among the top 3 finishers at the USA 25 km Championships, and two (2) slots among the top 3 finishers at the USA 20 km Championships, final position(s) will be offered based on performance list, 1/1/2006 through 9/10/2006. (At-large selection remains the same.) *The motion passed.*

2005 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS REPORTS (CONTINUED):

TEAM LEADERS

2005 IAAF World Half Marathon (Edmonton) reported by Allan Steinfeld (Team Leader). Despite bad weather and technical/logistical challenges imposed by event organizers, the USA men's team finished in 6th place (highest placing ever at this event).

2005 World Cup Marathon at IAAF World Track & Field Championships (Helsinki) reported by Jack Hazen (Team Leader). The USA men's team finished 4th place (highest placing ever at this event). To help prepare for this event,

both the men's and women's teams attended a Marathon Summit conducted by Dr. David Martin and hosted by Hansons-Brooks Distance Project.

The committee recessed at 4:05 p.m.

Session 3 - December 3

The meeting was called to order by Chair Glenn Latimer at 2:00 p.m.

Committee Appointments: Glenn Latimer recommended the following individuals to represent MLDR on other committees: Philip Greenwald on Rules Committee and Mark Winitz on Club Council (within Associations Committee). Motion made per the above. *Passed.* Glenn expressed many thanks to Norm Brand who has capably served as the MLDR representative on the Rules Committee for many years, and is stepping down from that post. Norm's involvement with MLDR began in 1969.

Road Record Keeping: Glenn Latimer – With the expiration of USATF's contract with the Road Running Information Center for record keeping, a discussion focussed on transitioning the task. The Chair said that issues subsequently emerged regarding who would pay for record keeping in the future, and who would "own" the data. The Chair said he felt that MLDR should not be paying for this service. Phil Stewart said he felt that USATF should be the "holders" and the "custodians" of LDR record data. Mark Winitz expressed that from a public relations and media relations perspective, keeping accurate and current records and performance lists, and having them readily accessible to the public, is fundamental for any professional sport. No further discussion, pending a report from Jim Estes in the upcoming LDR Division meeting.

Sports Science and Medicine/Development Reports: David Martin – Dr. David Martin informed the committee that Development has earmarked \$6,700 in 2006 for an LDR-related clinic/summit. He suggested that LDR might conduct an altitude training clinic/camp in the summer, possibly at Flagstaff, AZ. Bob Larsen indicated that Mammoth Lakes could also be considered as a potential site. The Chair proposed a task force composed of Keith Dowling, Peter Julian, and Peter Rea to examine clinic/summit

themes and locations, and to come back with a recommendation. A motion carried to this effect.

Cross Country Report: Mike Scott (Chair, Cross Country Council) summarized very successful cross country championships in 2005. He also previewed upcoming championships in 2006-2007. Increasing prize money purses at the U.S Cross Country Team Trials/Winter Championships, and heavily making prize money awards contingent upon competing at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships, should help draw our strongest athletes to compete at Worlds. The IAAF would like to see the U.S. host the World Cross Country Championships in 2008 or thereabouts.

Team USA Distance Project: Glenn Latimer Over the past year, a concerted effort has been made to increase funding for the five developmental teams/training centers, and to secure grants for elite development projects. Major events are now providing funding per a five-year commitment.

Rules Report (continued): Norm Brand Tabled Rules Item 91 removed from the Table for further discussion. Continued discussion regarding Rules Items 89, 90, 91 pertaining to lowering the classification of Masters to age 35, including amendments acceptable to the Rules Committee regarding date of effect. Norm Brand said that these changes were adopted into the IAAF rules because of recommendations from World Masters Athletics.

Bob Larsen commented that it made little sense to drop the Masters age for long distance runners, who in the longer distances, often don't reach their peak until their 30s. David Coyne commented that the IAAF rules changes reflected another example of the IAAF adopting rules designed for track and field that affect LDR. John Blackburn (Chair, Rules Committee) explained that USATF typically adopts IAAF rules changes unless there is a very strong agreement within USATF not to do so. Again, MLDR expressed strong displeasure with the referenced Rules Items as amended by the Rules Committee.

Mountain, Ultra, and Trail (MUT) Council Report (Continued): Roy Pirrung, and Howard Nippert provided a report of 2005 Ultrarunning National Championships and the 2005 IAU 100K World Cup.

Associations Report: George Regan reported that the Associations Committee is planning a study in 2006 on the effect of pre-run stretching on injury rates. He also detailed the USATF membership fee increase recommendations in relation to membership restructuring and reported that a final decision will be made by the USATF Board in June following further input.

Running Routes, an Associations Committee project, is up and running. The USATF Club Marathon Relay Championship will be at the Colfax (Colorado) Marathon in 2006. The Club Council (within Associations Committee) has been operating and Skip Stolley was elected as Chair.

Coaching Education: Scott Christensen reported on the Coaching Education Committee's projects related to the area of endurance events. Scott Christensen has developed a 2-hour Coaching Education program about the sports science of the marathon distance.

MLDR Championships/USA Road Circuit Events (2006): Glenn Latimer, Bob Latham, Scott Simmons -- Glenn Latimer acknowledged the hard work that Hank Brown (MLDR Championships Subcommittee Chair) has contributed over the years, and in 2005, to coordinate and oversee MLDR road national championships. Hank is stepping down from the position at the end of the year. Bob Latham and Scott Simmons will Co-Chair the Championships Subcommittee moving forward.

Committee members were referred to details regarding the USATF MLDR 2006 Championships in their packet (see exhibit).

The MLDR championships for 2006, in chronological order, that are currently awarded are:

- 1/15/06 Half-Marathon—Houston Aramco Half-Marathon, Houston, TX \$21K
- 3/11/06 15 km—Gate River Run, Jacksonville, FL \$23.5K
- 4/15/06 10 Mile—Papa John's 10 Miler, Louisville, KY \$26.5K
- 5/13/06 25K—Fifth Third River Bank Run, Grand Rapids, MI \$10,600
- 5/21/06 Marathon Road Relay—Colfax Marathon, Denver, CO \$7.5K
- 9/4/06 20K—New Alliance New Haven 20 km, New Haven, CT \$19K

9/10/06 5 km – CVS/Pharmacy Downtown 5 km, Providence, RI \$15K

10/1/06 Marathon—Twin Cities Marathon, Minneapolis, MN \$69K

11/4/06 10 km—Food World Senior Bowl 10K, Mobile, AL \$30K

TBA
8 km

The combined U.S. men's prize purse for 2006 championships is \$222,100.

Budget/Fiscal: Philip Greenwald distributed the MLDR budget summary as of 10/31/05 (see exhibit). He reported that MLDR had requested \$18,000 for its administrative budget, and the Budget Committee granted it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update reports were submitted regarding Law and Legislation Item 28 (Road Running Technical Council), Item 65 (Authorization of Athlete Reps), and Item 49 (Residency Rules for Championships). No further action taken by MLDR.

Chair Glenn Latimer adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Mark Winitz, Secretary

December 3, 2005 - Special Session

ATTENDEES

Executive Committee Members: Glenn Latimer (Chair), Keith Dowling (Vice Chair), Mark Winitz (Secretary), David Coyne, Ian Dobson, Peter Julian, David Martin, George Regan, Allan Steinfeld

Guests: Fred Finke, Teddy Mitchell, John Tope

ACTIVITIES

Men's LDR Chair Glenn Latimer convened the special meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. **2008 U.S. Men's Olympic Marathon Trials Qualifying Standards:** The Chair reopened for reconsideration the agenda item relating to the 2008 Olympic Marathon Trials, specifically, the following action unanimously passed in the MLDR General Session 1, December 2, 2005:

Action: Adopt a men's Marathon Trials standard which specifies a sub-2:22 (marathon), sub-13:40 (5,000m), or sub 28:45 (10,000m) as qualifying standards which will earn an athlete a spot at the Marathon Trials. No "A" or "B" marks will be specified.

The Chair explained that upon further discussion of this action in an LDR Division Executive Committee meeting, it was determined that it was impractical to expect a Marathon Trials Local Organizing Committee to assume the cost of travel/lodging expenses for an estimated (based on previous Trials) 45 men who qualify between 2:20 and 2:22.

Following further discussion, David Coyne moved, Allan Steinfeld seconded, that MLDR adopt the following standards previously recommended for the 2008 U.S. Men's Olympic Marathon Trials:

- Marathon Distance Qualifying Marks: "A" Standard: Sub-2:20; "B" Standard: Sub-2:22
- Additional Qualifying Marks: Track sub-13:40 (5K) or sub-28:45 (10K) - "B" Standard

No further discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Mark Winitz, Secretary

Women's LDR Executive Committee

Executive Committee - Thursday, Dec. 1

Present: Jenny Crain, Kelly Flathers, Nancy Hobbs, Linda Honikman, Kimberly Keenan-Kirkpatrick, Nina Kuscsik, Will Lindgren, LeeAnn Meyer, Kathy Nary, Elizabeth Phillips, Mickey Piscitelli, Janet Robertz

Elizabeth P. welcomed and thanked the members of the executive committee for all of their help and support throughout the year. She praised our athletes for their high level of support by participation in our slate of 2005 National Championships.

Kathy N. confirmed that our athletes have been invited to the Chiba, Beijing, and Yokohama Ekiden races and the North American Championship and added that there was a possibility that more head-to-head competitions may be added to the calendar. She also confirmed a new event, the 1st IAAF World Road Running Championships to be contested on October 8th in Debrecen, Hungary. The distance would be 20 km. There was consensus regarding the good timing as our Sept. 4th 20 km National Championship race would serve as be a good athlete selection race for the new event. Unfortunately, that October weekend this is the same weekend on which the Twin Cities Marathon and Tufts will be contested.

Jenny C. pointed out that athletes usually plan their entire year in advance and when you have 3 events on the same weekend you cannot help but dilute the quality of the team. She described an athlete's annual plan as a juggling of national representation, international visibility, and earning a living.

Jim Estes, our LDR person on staff with USATF, joined us to describe the Distance Project as a support program to fund already existing programs and as a reserve fund for special programs. He reported on a firm monetary commitment at the Silver Level from the Twin Cities Marathon. He also mentioned the possibility of the Distance Project helping to fund developmental track meets including races of 3000 meters and longer. He confirmed that we will be using the term "Olympic Trails" in our selection race and indicated that letters had been sent and bids are due back January 9th, 2006.

Elizabeth discussed the possibility of requiring foreign athletes to get an annual USATF license in order for them to receive prize money from races they run in the US. The consensus of the committee was that foreign athletes should be subjected to random out-of-race drug testing and race day testing as are our US athletes. Nina Kuscsik enlightened the group regarding the definition of a Professional Athlete as one who is listed in the top 25 in the world in their event and/or is earning 50% of their annual income from competing in their sport. This definition was crafted by the P.A.A. (Professional Athletes Association.)

Fred Finke, LDR Division chair, addressed the issue of medical personnel required for

international competitions. He discussed trainer vs. massage therapist vs. team doctor as to what is most needed in which circumstances and from whose point of view. He concluded by saying that he was impressed by the spirit of cooperation which exists among the chairs and members of the three LDR committees.

Meeting adjourned at 10 am.

Friday, Dec. 2

Elizabeth introduced the members of the committee and their areas of responsibility.

Mickey Piscitelli called for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2004 USATF Annual Meeting. The motion was made by Will Lindgren and seconded by Nancy Hobbs. Will Lindgren reminded the group of our slate of 2006 National Championship and that the winner of the Twin Cities Marathon (our National Marathon Championship race) and our USA Running Grand Prix winner was Nicole Aish who is now a member of the WLDR Executive Committee. He also mentioned that Zika Palmer was our 2nd place finisher at the Twin Cities Marathon. He reviewed the list of national Championship races already awarded for 2006 as Gate River Run in Jacksonville on March 11th, the Colfax Marathon Road Relay (Club Relay) in Denver on May 21st, the Hospital Hill Half-Marathon in Kansas City on June 3rd, the New Haven Road Race 20K on September 4th, the Twin Cities Marathon in Minnesota on October 1st, and the Tufts Health Plan 10 km in Boston on October 9th. Will then proposed 2 additional events for approval as 2006 National Championship races. LeeAnn Meyer made a motion to accept the 5/3 River Bank Run 25 km on May 13 as our 25 km National Championship Race and the CVS Pharmacy 5 km on September 17th as our 5 km National Championship. The motion was seconded by Bill McKee. *It was approved.*

Will continued by suggesting 3 additional events for approval as 2007 National Championship races. Nancy Hobbs made a motion to accept the Gate River Run 15 km on March 10, the 5th 3rd River Bank Run on May 12 and the CVS Pharmacy 5 km on September 16th. The motion was seconded by Kathy Nary. It was approved.

Lastly, Will propose 2 races for consideration as 2008 National Championship races. Discussion

ensued regarding dates and possible conflicts within the Olympic Trials qualifying window. Bill McKee made a motion to accept the CVS Pharmacy 5 km bid for 2008. The motion was seconded by Rose Schlewitz. *Motion approved.*

Bill McKee, WLDR Rules Committee liaison, informed the group regarding discussions taking place within the rules committee on the topic of transponder timing and how it could/should effect official winning times and places. Discussions focused on changing the language "winning time" to "times and places."

David Katz informed the group about the need to understand the difference between "transponder times" and "chip" or "net" times and discussions taking place regarding whether or not to accept records based on transponder times. He also informed those assembled that the IAAF had lowered the age-group designated "masters" age from 40 to 35 years of age. This incited much discussion with questions such as "Are we obligated to use that definition for our National Championships?" "Is USATF obligated to align our definition with that of the IAAF?"

The majority of the group assembled was not in favor of changing the definition of "masters" to include athletes 35-39.

Fred F expressed his approval of the three (3) LDR committees' ability to respectfully "agree to disagree."

Nina K, L&L, reported on the discussion as to whether or not the athlete representatives (agents) are required to have professional liability insurance. The language currently states that they must disclose to the athlete they represent whether or not they have insurance. The question as to whether or not they need to be bonded was discussed. Discussion ensued.

Kathy Nary summarized the results from our 5 international competitions. They were the Beijing Ekiden in China on April 10th in which our team took 4th place out of 6 teams, the IAAF World Marathon Championship in Helsinki, Finland on August 14th in which our team finished 6th, the IAAF World Half-Marathon Championship in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on October 1st in which our team finished 9th, the North American Team challenge in Chula Vista California on October 23rd in which our team finished 2nd and the Chiba Ekiden in Japan on November 23rd in

which our team finished 9th. She also mentioned that two of the performances were personal best records for two of the athletes.

Zika Palmer, women's coach for the Chiba Ekiden, and Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick, Team staff for endurance events at the IAAF World Marathon Championships both shared their experiences at their events.

Recessed at 11:59am

Women's LDR General Sessions

Friday, Dec. 2

Kim Keenan - Kirkpatrick reported on discussions taking place within the Athletes Advisory Committee. This included clearing up the notion that it is the P.A.A. which decides the definition of professional athlete, and not USATF. She also relayed the message that athletes want more fiscal opportunities such as stipends and jobs.

Julie McKinney stepped up to fill in for the vacancy created by Juli Henner's resignation and reported on discussions within the High Performance Programs Division.

Julie reminded those assembled that the goal of High Performance is to develop athletes to win Olympic medals. She described the three (3) categories of events into which funds are channeled as "best bet," "target", and "developmental."

She described a testing program which had recently been held at Baylor. Selected athletes, including our own WLDR executive committee member, Jenny Crain, were tested at a variety of race paces and condition. There are thoughts that the Baylor facility may become an official testing site for USATF athletes.

She described the need to have the coaches that have "cracked the code" in terms of Olympic medal success to share their knowledge with other coaches. Julie also informed the group that in 2 weeks a free and open to the public program will be held in Las Vegas. Coach Larsen will be there discussing coaching techniques. The hope is that many of our athletes will benefit from the success of a few.

Guest Alan Roth, General Competitions Division and Associations Chair, spoke about gathering real data to determine whether or not stretching before a run is truly helpful. He envisions USATF as a font of new knowledge about this topic. Survey forms will be sent to individuals. EMMES, a consultant firm will do pro bono work on the statistical analysis. Alan also declared American Running Routes now available on www.usaft.org. It allows one to search for a variety of running routes in a particular city. It is an asset for travelers looking to run in a city new to them as well those staying at home but looking to plot new and exciting courses from a variety of locations.

He explained Dartfish as a means of taping a performance and of providing immediate feedback to both coaches and athletes regarding what went right or wrong during their sporting event.

Nancy Hobbs, MUT Chair, urged more Associations to get involved with the MUT program within their LDR division. She suggested that individuals would have a good start in terms of joining the MUT Council by hosting a MUT Association Championship and then perhaps eventually host a MUT National Championship race. She named the slate of races already set for 2006 and also spoke about some creative fund-raising in terms of attempting to support the 2 national teams.

She applauded TEVA for their continuing national sponsorship which enabled athletes to travel to world championship competitions.

Irene Herman recapped the success of the Aug. 26-28 Associations workshops in which 50% of the discussions focused on Long Distance Running.

President Bill Roe as well as Elizabeth Phillips, Glenn Latimer, and Rev. Dr. Norman Green, Jr. and Jim Estes were in attendance at the weekend event and able to speak to the attendees regarding LDR issues. Emphasized was the importance of media in promoting a race. All attendees left with helpful hardcopy notes and a CD of USATF logos.

She reported that Skip Stolley was acting as the temporary Chair of Elite Development Clubs following the resignation of David Oja. The Elite Development clubs were described as "stepping stones" to world class status.

Irene wrapped up her report by informing the group of insurance available at the Association level provided via USATF ESSEX brokers/agents.

She cited www.amsportsinsurance.com as a web site for further information. USATF has a subsidiary program that they will help defray costs.

Bob Hersh, IAAF Council member, spoke regarding the 2007 World Championships in Osaka, Japan and there has been an extended qualification period instituted commencing September 1, 2005 instead of Jan 1, 2006.

He also shared that it was likely that the IAAF will begin Sept. 1, 2006 for the 2008 Olympic Marathon qualification timeframe.

He also was pleased to announce that a recent increase in the number and fabric of qualifying opportunities had been made in that now any male or female athlete who finished in the top 20 at the marathons in NYC, Berlin, London, Chicago, or Boston will be consider to have earned the "A" standard for the 2007 World Championships in Osaka, Japan. Boston finishers would not have been able to qualify without this change.

He reported that the event formerly known as the World Half-Marathon Championships will be entitled the World Road Running Championships and in 2006 will be a 20 km race in Hungary and in 2007 a half-marathon race in Italy.

He closed by saying that he anticipated discussion of the IAAF Olympic qualifying standards to be finalized in November of 2006.

Bill McKee reported to the group that the proposed change in the age for "masters" athletes may be brought to the floor during Sunday's closing session

Linda Honikman reviewed the list of records which were ready to be ratified. They were:

F open 8 km. 24:36 Deena Kastor 32 CA LaSalle Shamrock Shuffle Chicago IL 04/03/05

F open a/comers 14:51 5 km. Tirunesh Dibaba (ETH) Carlsbad 5000 Carlsbad CA 04/03/05
F open a/comers 38:22 12 km. Asmae Leghzaoui (MAR) Albertsons Bay to Breakers San Francisco CA 05/15/05

Linda also recommended ratification pending validation completion for the following:

F open 20 km. 1:05:52 Marla Runyan 34 OR New Haven Savings Bank New Haven CT 09/01/03

F open Half-Mar 1:07:53 Deena Kastor 32 CA Philadelphia Distance run Philadelphia PA 09/18/05

A motion to ratify the records was made by Nancy Hobbs and seconded by LeeAnn Meyer. ***It was approved.***

Linda expressed her position that an individual responsible for keeping records be found so that single year age-group records continue to be kept.

Nina Kuscsik informed the group that the authorization of athlete representatives amendments passed and thereby all agents shall disclose to each of the USATF athletes that they represent whether they are bonded or carry error of omissions insurance related to their activities as athlete representatives.

She continued by making all aware that sports committees can establish residency requirements for their own national championships. She also reported that would be encouraged that officials be assisted with transportation, food, and/or lodging expenses.

Meeting recessed at 4 p.m.

Session 2 - December 3

Nina Kuscsik and Irene Herman reviewed the requirement from 2-years ago that medical support staff must accompany our teams when they travel to international competitions. Discussions included whether or not it would be worthwhile to compose a list of those individuals who have been exemplary in their role as medical support staff for us in the past.

Also discussed was that a member may belong to multiple associations, but perform as an athlete only in one association.

Discussion continued regarding representation and residence. Some participating in the discussion maintained that a geographically cohesive club reflects the true spirit of club competition.

Further discussion ensued regarding the institution of a time limit for Associations in terms of replying to requests by member athletes requesting a release from their home Association in order to compete for a different Association. The consensus was that 30 days was an appropriate time period and so, if by 30 days from the date of request, no response to the request for release to compete was received, the request would move to the national office.

Kathy Nary announced and confirmed that an invitation for the Ekiden in Yokohama, Japan on February 28th was received. She was also pleased to announce that she had added Kevin Hanson, Camille Estes, and Zika Palmer to her committee for WLDR International Competition.

Jenny Crain described her experience at Baylor in November in terms of their program of biomechanics testing. She expects to soon receive a CD detailing an analysis of her workouts there.

LeeAnn Meyer described the changes that have taken place with respect to the AADP. There are approximately 24 opportunities for athletes each year. She said that the athletes Associations may want to target are those who have just finished up their college eligibility.

Each Association will now rank order choices 1, 2, and 3 as to which opportunity best fits with an Association's selected athlete. She would like Associations to send in their ranked event choices by February 1, 2006. AADP opportunities for 2006 exist at this time for The Hospital Hill Half marathon (3 spots), the 5th River Gate Run (6 spots), the Twin Cities Marathon (6 spots) and the Tufts 10 km (6 slots). Kevin Hanson suggested that WLDR acknowledge races which are not national championships, but are AADP friendly. The pros and cons of doing so were discussed.

There was a general discussion regarding the thought that the USATF elite development clubs work together to select AADP nominees.

Barbara Palma reported on her observations and participation in Officials discussions. Official's clinics have been held during the last 4 to 5 years. She reported that they have instituted mentoring for key officials, that is, officials are being "buddied up" with more experienced staff. She reported on 6,000 individuals having already been certified or re-certified and that the goal was to have 10,000 certified officials in the United States.

She also reminded the group that if you only want to get your certification for Long Distance Running, you can take the exam for that level only. She also passed along the fact that the number of questions on the Associations level official's exam had been reduced. She reminded all present to visit the web site www.usatfofficials.com for more information.

Guest Anne Timmons of the Cross Country and Road Running Committee reminded all that IAAF Cross Country Championships are now back to a one race format adding that in 2007 the teams are to consist of 9 men on a team with 6 to score and 6 women on a team with 4 to score. Anne addressed the inequality issue of said team sizes and made the statement, "USATF is not in support of the IAAF Councils decision to have 9 men, with 6 to score and only 6 women with 4 to score as team sizes competing at the World Cross Country Championships. We firmly believe that equal numbers should be represented for senior men's and senior women's team." A motion was made by LeeAnn Meyer to accept Anne's statement as the position of the WLDR committee. It was seconded by Irene Herman. *It was approved.*

Doug Alred, race director Gate River Run 15 km, expressed his thanks to the WLDR for the wonderful recognition his race has enjoyed as a result of serving as our National Championship. The committee in turn thanked Doug for continually hosting a first class event for our athletes.

Elizabeth thanked everyone for their work on behalf of Women's Long Distance Running and wished us a happy and productive year.

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Mickey Piscitelli
Secretary

Masters LDR

December 1

Call to order by Norm Green, Chair, at 10:10 AM after all present signed in.

Don Lein, Awards Chair, handed out his summaries of race results to inform our voters on age group Athletes of the Year. Despite all his work, he noted that deficiencies in the process remain, and prevent him from doing a better job. These are the most noteworthy problems in collecting useful data: many races do not report results, the RRIC is gone (USATF says they will start doing some of this work), and people claim efforts that weren't reported or weren't on certified courses. He then took nominations for the Otto Essig award. The nominees were the Twin Cities Marathon, the Tulsa Run, and Pete Glavin/the Genessee Valley Harriers. The last nomination was later withdrawn, before voting.

Chair's Report: The general problem of replacing the RRIC is unresolved. We are working on ways to accomplish the functions it provided to us. So far Jim Estes, in the new staff position of LDR Programs Manager, has been focused mostly on Open LDR, and site selection for the 2008 Marathon Trials. Fred Finke, the new LDR Division Chair, has also paid little attention to us. The IAAF has changed their rules to define all masters as age 35 and older. We are compelled by USATF Bylaws to conform at some point. This major change is something he and the Executive Committee oppose, and we hope to prevent its immediate implementation. This transition will be a challenge on any schedule, especially at the Association level.

Motion: Nominees for the Masters Hall of Fame must be at least 50 years old. *Passed unanimously.*

The Board of Directors has spent most of the last year dealing with the flawed elections during the last convention, which selected our Vice President and Secretary and [our chair] has been embarrassed to be on the Board during some of their acrimonious meetings. The Board spent most of the rest of its time on High Performance issues. Masters and youth, comprising the vast majority of members, are as unimportant as ever to most of the Board. Next year, at the Annual Meeting, delegates will decide on restructuring the Board, which is likely to proceed. The Board

would then be approximately 12 members, with none representing a specific constituency.

Mary Rosado: Review of pertinent L&L proposals, including restructuring, RRTC, and Reg. 7.

Recess at Noon

December 2

Call to order by Chair

Lein conducted voting for Athlete-of-the-Year in each age group, with these results:

	Female	Male
40-44	Colleen DeRueck	Mbarak Hussein
45-49	Carmen Ayala-Troncoso	John Tuttle
50-54	Kathryn Martin	Gary Romesser
55-59	Gloria Jansen	Terry McCluskey
60-64	Marie-Louise Michelsohn	Don Coffman
65-69	Barbara Miller	Bill Borla
70-74	Ginette Bedard	Ray Parrella
75-79	Toshiko D'Elia	Jerry Johncock
80-84	Helen Klein	John Keston
85-89	Hedy Marque	Henry Sypniewski
90-94	Evelyn Cockerham	Dudley Healy
95-99		Abraham Wientraub

Cockerham and Weintraub thus also win the Paul Spangler Award

He then held the vote for the Otto Essig Award, won by the Twin Cities Marathon.

John Boyle, Championships: No new bids. Only the marathon and 10 km championships are currently scheduled for 2006. At this point, we could take bids by mid-January for races after August 2006.

Brief review of our budget. The Budget Committee has approved \$33,000 vs. Chair's request of \$34,000, a result which he considers quite satisfactory. He expects this to be accepted in the closing General Session.

Lein, with the assistance of Linda Honikman, conducted a review of record applications that have been recommended for approval by the Records Committee. We confirmed their recommendations for the General Session to ratify, from the 2005 Annual Meeting Reports beginning on page 152, items 14, 19 (time corrected to 16:18:00), 26, 27, 33, 34, 47, 48, 51, 52, 67, 68, 75, 78, 79, and 89. We recommended to

ratify, pending course validation before 2006, items 13, 43, 46, 49, 50, 55, 58, 77, 84, 85, 86, and 87.

Recess at 1:55 PM

December 3

Call to order by Chair on to receive reports.

Bill Quinlisk, XC Council:

Carmen Ayala-Troncoso and David O'Keeffe are Master Harriers of the Year.

The 2006 Winter National Championships will be in the New York City area in February. The 2006 Fall National Club Championships will be in San Francisco. Masters 5km championships will again be held in Saratoga Springs, NY in October. For 2007, the Winter Nationals will be in Boulder, CO.

Sue Cordero, ADA: The Association of Disabled Athletes recently held their first XC championship. They may contact the XC Council to discuss holding joint events.

Green hears no objection to his proposal to continue the current Executive Committee. This is Norm Green, John Boyle (Vice Chair), and Lloyd Stephenson (Secretary) as Officers, and Charles DesJardins, Lorraine Gersitz, David Katz, Don Lein, Bill Quinlisk, and Mary Rosado.

Discussion of possible action by committee if revised item 49 of the L&L proposals is approved. This relates to championship team scoring and residency.

Fred Finke, LDR Division Chair:

L&L item 28, Lucas/RRTC, has been tabled. RRTC Chair has resigned as of 12/31/2005, new chair to be appointed by President as this is an administrative post. Lucas has agreed to work on finding a course certifier in each Association.

RRIC ended as of 10/31/2005. The USATF office possesses all the accumulated data from it, and will perform most of the functions it did, including validating new age-group records. However, they will not maintain single year age records. Results should go to results@usatf.org. Jim Estes said he will manage paperwork on possible new records after receipt of results. Finke agrees that lack of results from races is a large and chronic problem. Record approval

process will be similar or the same. The USATF race results database is accessible, or will be.

Green: He plans, tentatively, to use some of our committee budget to maintain single age records. He will try to contract with an interested and capable party.

Quinlisk: We should add to our championship guidelines some procedures for chip timing. He showed photos of chip errors from a recent championship involving placement difference between first foot across finish line and torso.

Adjourned at 3:47 pm

Submitted by,

Lloyd Stephenson
Secretary

Mountain, Ultra, Trail Council (MUT)

Friday, December 2

Attending Meetings: (Executive Committee*)
Marlene Atwood, Derrick Berkompus (PNTF), David Bullock, David Coyne (MN), Chuck DesJardins (Pacific), Dave Dunham* (New England), Fred Finke (FL), Alonzo Fuller (WI), Will Graustein (CT), Carl Grossbard (Long Island), Dave Guyn (Gulf), Mitch Harper (IN), Ann Heaslett* (WI), Nancy Hobbs* (CO), Barrett Hopper, Brian Jones (Lake Erie), Sven Jordan (AK), Nina Kuscik, Kim Kutsch (Inland NW), Glenn Latimer (IL), Anne Lundblad (NC), Ellen Miller (CO - AATRA), Robert Moore (Adirondack), Carolyn Muegge-Vaughan, Howard Nippert* (VA), Ed Parrot (FL), Roy Pirrung* (WI), Mike Polansky (Long Island), Ken Robichaud (New England), Bill Roe (Pacific NW), Mike Scott (New England), Ian Seecof (IN), John TenBroeck (FL), Tony Wayne (NC), Tim Yanacheck (WI)

Nancy Hobbs introduced herself as chair of the council, Roy Pirrung as Vice Chair, all in attendance introduced themselves. Hobbs provided an overview of the meetings with race championship bids to be discussed at Saturday's session. Hobbs explained that to be included on the Mountain Ultra Trail Council an association must host a Mountain, Ultra, or Trail Running

championship, or be appointed as a rep by one of the LDR chairs or the chair. Presently there are 23 council members including chair, vice chair, 9 LDR appointments, 4 at-large appointments, and Association members. Several additional Associations have held a MUT championship in 2005 and will have a seat on the council for 2006. There is also an executive committee of seven that meets to discuss business and make decisions between conventions. Executive committee members Janice Anderson and Anita Ortiz were unable to attend the annual meeting. Hobbs presented with the agenda handout figures amassed by Keith Lively at USATF National Office on the activity on the MUT pages on the USATF website. It is encouraging to see the activity.

Roy Pirrung has candidates for assistant team manager for the 100 km team and will present these at Saturday's meeting. The IAU 24 Hours Team selection criteria will be posted later this week Online. The IAU 24 Hours will be held in Taipei, Taiwan in February despite the bird-flu threat.

Dave Dunham will review the MUT awards process tomorrow to include discussion on the weighting criteria of votes. Dunham is willing to tabulate and collect votes for the 2006 awards. The MUT awards presently include mountain runner of the year (open men/women; masters men/women), Ultrarunner-of-the-Year (open men/women; masters men/women), and contributor of the year. Anne Lundblad will be on-hand tomorrow to accept her award as women's ultrarunner of the year.

Hobbs reported that the MUT budget had been as high as \$5000 some years ago and this year's budget was increased on the administrative side from \$2,500 to \$3,000, but the teams' budget of \$2000 from last year was eliminated. This year the team budget went entirely to the 100 km team with \$1200 charged to the budget for mailing of team uniforms. Hobbs has disputed this charge and it is being revisited by the national office. The additional team funds were spent on a van for the team in Japan and miscellaneous supplies for the team. Remainder of the \$2000 resulted in \$50 per team member for the 100 km team. Hobbs, Lundblad, and Howard Nippert will make an appeal to the budget committee at 1:30 p.m. today for the team budget. Hobbs prepared a 12-page report for the budget committee with the help of Nippert, and Lin Gentling, team manager '05, '06

who wrote a passionate plea for support on behalf of the team. The mountain running team has another avenue for fundraising through the All American Trail Running Association (AATRA) who stepped in to insure that the team would retain all of their funding from sponsors such as their title sponsor, Teva, and others in 2005 to include SportHill, 180s and ground™.

Hobbs reported that the MUT programs have not appeared in some of the USATF materials to include an LDR brochure. This became clear on a conference call in early 2005. This needs to change so that potential sponsors learn of our programs, and our programs are marketed to the public.

There was a question regarding fundraising and whether races and individuals could donate to the teams outside of USATF. The Ultrarunners Supporting Ultrarunners (USU) Fund had been established in the 90s to assist with fundraising for the team as a non profit 501(c)3 corporation. This year was the last year for this fund. Those at the meeting were very interested in pursuing fundraising opportunities and either setting up a new account, or piggybacking on another 501(c)3 not for profit corporation. AATRA is set up for fundraising of the mountain team. Some of the race directors in the meeting said they could set something up with their races to raise funds. The Long Island Association and Alaska association reps said they would take back suggestions to their associations for funding. Pirrung suggested that championship races could commit to funding their "showcased" athletes. Hobbs will communicate further with the team management for the 100 km and see what funding ideas they have.

Dunham reported that the 2005 mountain team selection process is evolving through the years. For 2005 Mt Washington is a confirmed host with a minimum of the top male and top female to receive an automatic berth for the team. Additional selection race bids will be reviewed during Saturday's meeting. The junior team which Dunham will manage this year has a selection process completely through resumes. The recruitment is a job in itself as many high school and collegiate coaches are reluctant to release their athletes to compete on this national team due to conflicting schedules with their fall meets. The goal of the program is to develop juniors into open competitors. The Italians have had a very successful program with this in mind.

There will also be the third NACAC Championships in 2006 with Mexico hosting (USA has hosted in 2004 and 2005). This is an unfunded team/event. Dunham asked how the team is named. Hobbs reported that there isn't a selection process in place, but that the team has included members of past Teva US Mountain Running Teams, or athletes that were in the top finish of the race the prior year. In 2005 there was one US team (both men and women), one Canadian team (men only). We need to organize this team for 2006 and work with the Mexico organizers.

A US team (men) travels to the annual Challenge Stellina Mountain Running event in Italy. The organizers of the event always fund a US team (men) up to 2 or 3 athletes with support for airline travel, as well as food and lodging during their stay for the event. In 2004 the US Men upset the Italians to take Gold. In 2005 the team was not in the medals, but raced very well. Paul Low has been organizing the team the past two years (and has been a member of the team).

Ian Seecof brought up the Shop for Zero program that has been very helpful for Associations in raising some additional funds. He says that the GA Association has been very successful. He suggests contacting Andy Martin at the National Office for details.

Before closing the meeting Hobbs suggested that those Associations that do not have a MUT affiliation start at the LDR level and work a MUT program into the Association. There are several models that can be used to help your Association with this effort.

Meeting recessed at approximately 1PM.

Saturday, December 3

Hobbs started the meeting by letting the attendees know that we would be having guests attend throughout our meetings and would give those individuals the floor (for a brief presentation, or to answer questions from the group) when they arrived and resume business quickly thereafter. There was a sign up sheet for the attendees and everyone was invited to sign up for the random prize drawings, a feature of the MUT meetings.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from

the 2004 convention by Ann Heaslett with a second from Roy Pirrung, all in favor.

David Coyne spoke about rule changes to include the masters age going from 40 to 35 for the men (internationally the women have been masters at age 35). The issue has been tabled until next year, but the LDR division has sent a directive to IAAF US reps that they don't support this change. The residency requirement for competitions (club, team, and individuals) was discussed. The 30 day requirement for changing Associations was proposed that sport committees form their own policy. Encouragement of individuals to run within their own club and not switch between clubs. Ed Parrot suggested that MUT might be better served by not being more restrictive. The requests for club changes are sometimes not acted upon. David Coyne will attend more rules meetings and let us know what develops regarding this rule. Hobbs suggested that it is important as we move forward to instead of using the term "Masters" we use the distinction of 40+ and use age groups as opposed to masters age groups, i.e.: 40-44, 45-49, etc.

Nippert presented 100 km National Team Report describing Lundblad's silver medal performance as a spectacular effort. The men's five-member team was led by Nippert's eight-place finish to a fourth place team finish. Nippert stated that even the rookie team members ran very well and were very professional. Lundblad and Heaslett added that the gold-medal finish for the women's team was fantastic. (Addendum: Nippert reported on the ultra program for men's LDR, Hobbs reported on the mountain program for men's LDR. Hobbs and Lundblad attended the women's LDR session and reported on the ultra and mountain program. Pirrung gave a brief overview of new business at the joint LDR session)

Hobbs reported that at the budget appeal the team line item was restored to \$2000 for 2006 and that the team uniform expense would be dealt with by the national office for the future and that the budget line item would not say team, but rather "USA National 100 km Team."

Pirrung presented the candidates for assistant 100 km team manager. Tim Yanacheck was the 2005 assistant team manager and Heaslett, Lundblad, and Nippert spoke on his behalf. Mike Spinnler (council member and director of the JFK 50 Miler) was a candidate with Nippert speaking on his behalf. The group voted with Yanacheck being

named assistant team manager. Lin Gentling was already named as team leader with Lion Caldwell as team doctor. This represents the full team staff. Already named to the 2006 team are Nippert, Lundblad, Nikki Kimball, and Tania Pavec based on their top-ten finish in the World at the 2005 IAU 100 km World Cup. Nippert said that the team staff makes the team's efforts and competition so much smoother and on behalf of the 2005 team presented Yanacheck with an award. Awards will also be presented to Gentling and Caldwell.

Bill Roe was introduced and discussed his support of our MUT programs. He mentioned attending White River 50 Mile champs (every year since it has been a national championship), and the World Mountain Running Trophy in New Zealand this past September which boasted 11,000 spectators. Hobbs mentioned that Roe's trip to NZ and the World Trophy was at his expense, not something that USATF provided which shows Roe's commitment to our group. Roe continued that during a meeting in Chicago this past May it was discussed that the AUA would support the 24-hour team with a partnership with USATF. He mentioned the struggle to get budgeted dollars for our MUT programs. Roe acknowledged Hobbs work on behalf of MUT. Hobbs mentioned that the recent issue (January) of *Trail Runner* magazine featured an article by MUT

Council Member Garrett Graubins on the World Trophy and the Teva US Mountain Running Team (there is also an article in the January issue of *Running Times* by Roger Robinson on the World Trophy). Hobbs also prepared a notebook which she had on display at the MUT meetings from the 2005 Teva US Mountain Running Team included selection races, championships, and World Trophy.

Nina Kuscik from Law & Legislation has worked with Anderson on the Operating Procedures from MUT. Hobbs distributed copies for review and discussion. Kuscik suggested that the council review and comment on the procedures and that the Executive Committee meet (conference call or through e-mail) to finalize the operating procedures. Hobbs will ask Anderson to continue leading the discussion on the operating procedures.

Pirrung reported on the 2005 24-hour team who competed in Austria. A gutsy women's team performance resulted in a bronze medal, the men

ran strong and finished sixth. The top three American women didn't travel to Austria due to lack of funding. The 2006 event will be in Taipei, Taiwan on February 25-26. The team partnered with the AUA for funding. For 2006 the IAU has provided funding based on performance standards (A-B-C-D) and distance traveled to the event. Currently Stephanie Ehret has achieved the A standard while most of the US athletes are at the B standard. The selection criteria will be posted soon and is based on performance standards of 24-hour mileage.

Discussion followed regarding the IAU delegates. The IAU meets every other year at the 100 km World Cup and in 2006 they will meet again. There was discussion on the IAU delegate and Yanacheck volunteered for the position and will attend the meetings in Korea in October (since he will already be going to Korea as the assistant team manager).

Hobbs provided some background on the development of the US Mountain Running program for the men's and women's teams with the men piggy-backing off the Challenge Stellina event (which provided some athlete funding to compete in their event and athletes would stay on in Europe for the World Trophy), while the women first sent a team in 1995. Juniors were added to the team in 2002. Hobbs oversees management and sponsorship for the team and thanks Teva for their continued support of the team. Additional sponsors have helped to support the team including SportHill, 180s, and Ground™. For the trip to Turkey for the World Trophy it was determined that a larger team staff was required to manage the team (there have been two team staff members in the past). Rich Bolt will serve at Team Leader, Dunham as Junior Manager, and Ellen Miller as Women's Manager. Hobbs and Bolt have developed a media schedule for the team to include press releases throughout the year highlighting selection process, selection races, championships, and other important races throughout the year that the team members participate in.

Hobbs surveyed past team members about their thoughts for the selection race program and the majority wanted at least two selection races regionally distributed. This year we received bids from just two events (although we anticipated several more, the race directors opted not to submit a bid) with Mt Washington already designated as a selection race based on their

hosting the USA Mountain Running Championships on June 17. Since this is an uphill year for the World Trophy (the Trophy alternates between uphill only races in even-numbered years and up/down courses in odd-numbered years), the bids were from uphill events. Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire submitted a bid and Vail Mountain submitted a bid (Vail, CO). Vail has hosted a selection race since 2000. There are 10 open athletes on the US team with 6 men (4 to score) and 4 women (3 to score). Since there is a built-in alternate, additional alternates will not be named to the team.

Dunham presented the Loon Mountain bid. He, Paul Kirsch (a MUT council member and recently named championships chair) and Rich Bolt (MUT council member) will direct the event. The race has been named the USATF New England Mountain Championships for 2006 and is on the USATF NE Mountain Running Circuit. Athletes competing for a slot on the team will receive home stays for up to one week (between Mt Washington and Loon), and the prize money will be a minimum of \$600.

There was discussion about the limited entries for the Mt Washington race. The race director, Bob Teschek, has worked closely with Hobbs, Bolt, and Dunham to insure that those athletes who are hoping for a chance to make the team, as well as top age group competitors would be granted a spot in the race. These athletes must be USATF members in order for consideration of entry. Many of the athletes hoping to make the team are already invited by Teschek to compete.

The Bursa course does not sound too technical based on what we have seen on the website and heard from organizers.

Heaslett attended the selection race in the Midwest last year and stated that it was great to have an event of this caliber in another area of the country.

Dunham and Hobbs met on Thursday to discuss the selection process. Based on athlete's remarks and as a result of their meeting suggested that we have five slots as automatic qualifiers at Mt Washington this June which would be the top three USATF (and US citizens) men and top two USATF women to receive an automatic berth on the Teva US Mountain Running Team. Loon Mountain on June 24 to receive one automatic berth for the top USATF male while a race in Vail

(either the Teva Vail Hill Climb on July 2, or an uphill - single track course in Vail on July 9) to receive one automatic berth for the top USATF male and one automatic berth for the top USATF female. This will leave us with one discretionary pick for both the men's and women's team. This year an athlete hoping to make the team MUST run one of the three selection races.

There was a motion to pass the above selection criteria for the 2006 Teva US Mountain Running Team. *It was unanimous.*

Mike Ortiz directs the Vail events and would like to have a race mirror the Trophy course as closely as possible. This is the reason he had offered a different course on Vail Mountain. Dunham suggested that the Hill Climb would be a suitable selection race. Hobbs spoke at length to Ortiz and a decision on which event would host the selection race will be made soon after the convention.

Jim Estes, USATF LDR Programs Manager (a USATF staff member) was introduced. Estes also attended the 10 km Trail Championships last year...in the snow. He will attend the USA 100-Mile Trail Championships at Rocky Racoon in February.

It is hoped that the NACAC Mountain Running Championships will rotate between USA, Mexico, and Canada. Mexico will host in 2006 near Guadalajara. Ian Seecof has contacts in this area and may be interested in working with the US team.

The Pikes Peak Marathon will host the WMRA Long Distance Mountain Running Challenge in 2006. The date is August 20. This will be the third year of this event. Switzerland hosted in 2004 while France hosted in 2005. The 2007 site will be decided by the WMRA Council in January.

The WMRA World Masters Mountain Running Championships will be held in Saillon, Switzerland on September 23, 2006. This will be the fourth year for the event. In 2002, Austria hosted, in 2003 Germany was the host, in 2004 Italy, in 2005 England. The 2006 event will be the first year that the WMA is involved with the event. Hobbs confirmed that the event entrants would be open to all. This was an arrangement reached per contract by the WMRA and the WMA in 2005.

Championships bids were presented for the Trail 10Km. Dunham presented the bid for the Northfield Mountain Race, Northfield, MA to be held on June 10. Hobbs presented the bid for the Teva Mountain Games 10 km to be held in Vail, CO on June 3.

The Northfield race would be held on a new course (different from the 2005 course). Home stays for athletes would be arranged and a minimum of \$700 in prize money. The event site is within two hours of Boston, Manchester, NH, and Portland, ME. Between 100 and 200 athletes typically compete in this event. It is also part of the USATF New England Mountain Running Circuit.

The Teva Mountain Games race would offer \$5000 in prize money and additional \$100 for each of the USA champions (open man and open woman) at a minimum. There would be home stays for athletes. This event has hosted the 2004 and 2005 10 km Trail Championships. There is a huge advertising and publicity campaign surrounding the Mountain Games. There was a question as to whether the USATF Championship designation was promoted in all of the literature. It is included on the website and Hobbs would work closely with the organizers to insure that the designation would be reflected in all of the press and advertising materials. In 2005 all of the competitors had to be USATF members and this will again be the case for 2006. This requirement is dictated by the permits of the event. In 2005 the additional memberships resulted in \$800 going to the Teva US Mountain Running Team through the USATF Colorado Association.

Pirrung spoke to the value of the publicity, TV value, and exposure inherent in the Teva Mountain Games. A decision on the 10Km bid will be part of the afternoon session.

Hobbs listed the other **championship bids for 2006** to include:

- Long Island 50 km Road – March 5 – Long Island, New York
- Headlands 50 km Trail – August 26 – Sausalito, CA
- Tussey Mountain 50-Mile Trail – October 7 – Boalsburg, PA
- Dupont Forest Trail Marathon – October 15 – Asheville, NC

For 2007:

- Long Island 50 km Road – March 4 – New York
- Headlands 50 km Trail – August 25 – Sausalito, CA

Tussey Mountain 50-Mile Trail – October 20 – Boalsburg, PA

Dupont Forest Trail Marathon – October 14 – Asheville, NC

Lean Horse 100-Mile Trail – August 25-26 – Deadwood, SD

Pirrung spoke about Headlands as a great event with good weather, good prize money and good prizes. Lundblad echoed Pirrung's comments.

The Tussey Mountain event is on the same weekend as the 100 km World Cup which was a big concern. It is not a fast course although it is deemed a road course and is certified. The surface is mostly hard packed gravel. Lundblad had a suggestion to call these hybrid courses and to state that the event is a "50 km championships" or a 100-Mile Championships rather than making the road/trail determination since some are so closely related. Some concern was expressed that if Tussey was selected and called the "50-Mile Championship" this wouldn't be fair to White River, which has already been designated the "50-Mile Trail Championship" event. Nippert added that he would like to see standards set for championship events to include terrain and surface descriptions, aid station set ups, etc. There should be a check list of standards for race directors. Hobbs said that AATRA had a set of sanctioning criteria that could be used as a template with additional standards included that encompass all MUT events.

The meeting went to recess prior to the afternoon session.

Saturday, December 3

Chuck DesJardins presented a report on the WMA 100 km event to be held December 10-11 in Argentina. Katy Cotton will serve as the team manager. Pirrung is one of the team members to compete in the Masters championship that was originally slated to be held concurrently with the IAU 100 km World Cup in Japan and then changed to another venue in Europe. Neither event happened in 2005 and this event came up to host. Brian Keaveney (Canada) is the newly elected chairman of the WMA Nonstadia Committee. The WMA masters are aged 35 and up for both men and women. The WMA Mountain Running Championships will be held every year and the WMA 100Km will be held in odd-numbered years.

Dunham brought up an issue with the selection process for the mountain team. He would like to have it advertised that the automatic qualifying slot does not move down in place if the automatic selectee declines the spot. If an automatic selectee declines his or her spot or if the automatic selectee is duplicated at an event (for example if an athlete won Mt. Washington and the Vail event the second finisher at Vail would not be an automatic selectee). The result is that we would have an additional discretionary pick.

Nippert made a motion to decline the bid from Tussey Mountain 50-Mile Road event because of the conflict with the IAU 100 km World Cup race date. We would consider the 2007 bid when we know what the calendar date would be for the 2007 IAU 100 km World Cup. ***Motion seconded - unanimous approval.***

The bid was reviewed from Dupont Forest for the Trail Marathon Championships. Lundblad spoke about the event. She is a past winner and course record holder. The event has some prize money, will offer some home stays for athletes (and will cover lodging for past US winners). Lundblad pointed out that the course was mostly on fire trails and only about 6 miles on single track. She says the course is beautiful and the organization is great. There was some concern about the accuracy of the distance of the course. Pirrung made a motion to accept the bid for 2006 and 2007 pending the course being accurately measured to be at least 26.2 miles. Dunham seconded— ***unanimous.***

The 50 km Road bid was presented by Carl Grossbard. This event has been an Association championship for several years and attracts between 40-60 runners. The course is on a park paved trail and is a 2.3 mile measured flat loop. The volunteers count laps for the runners. There will be prize money \$150/\$75/\$25 for open men and women and same for top three masters. Pirrung made a motion that the event be granted championships for '06 and '07 pending course certification. Nippert seconded – ***unanimous.*** Grossbard says that the certification will be completed very soon by their association certifier.

The 100-Mile Trail bid was considered. There is prize money and support for athletes. The organization is very top-notch. The event course is somewhat of a hybrid and in fact Jerry Dunn, the race director, considered bidding for the 100-Mile Road championships, but decided to go with

the trail designation since the course is not currently certified and it is on a trail-type surface. Lundblad stated that we don't know what the 2007 calendar internationally will look like so we should wait on accepting this bid and revisit in 2006, or when we know the calendar dates for 2007. Heaslett motioned to table the bid, Pirrung seconded -- ***unanimous.*** The reason that some bids will be considered now for 2007 is that they may not conflict as closely with the 100 km World Cup. For instance the 50 km distance may not attract the 100 km runners in the same way a 50-Mile event might. The 50-Miler is a distance we look at in the selection process for our 100 km athletes. We should work to avoid schedule conflict between the World 100 km and our National 50-Mile Championships.

Pirrung motioned that the Headlands 50 km Trail be awarded the 2006 and 2007 championships, Hobbs second -- ***unanimous.***

The 10 km Trail Championships bids were revisited. Dunham requested a closed vote. Yanacheck and Lundblad were named to count the ballots. There were eight individuals in the room eligible to vote including Dunham, Grossbard, Robichaud, Hobbs, Nippert, Heaslett, Pirrung, and Miller. The vote was 6-2 with the Teva Mountain Games 10 km getting the nod. There was a request to destroy the ballots, they were destroyed.

Dunham led the discussion on the awards and voting process for our runners of the year. He stated that the weighting of votes may not be the best process since in some cases this year an athlete may have received more second place votes than another who received more first place votes, but because you are adding votes for first, second, and third place and voters could either vote for top three, and in some cases just wanted to vote for one person and not three, the voting may not have been a true reflection of what the end result was in all of the categories. After thoughtful discussion Pirrung motioned that the voting would be for just one individual per category (by the voting member) and a run-off would be held only in the case of a tie. Miller seconded the motion -- ***unanimous approval.*** Dunham agreed to coordinate the nomination and voting process for 2006. It was agreed that even if an athlete is nominated in a category and that person is eligible to vote as a member of the MUT council he or she does not need to recuse him or herself from the voting.

Fred Finke, LDR Division Chair, was introduced. Finke commended Hobbs for her communication during the year and her work with the council. He reported that a breakthrough has occurred with ultrarunning and that he invested quite a bit of time in ultrarunning issues this year. He is glad to see the council working together.

Dunham asked about team scoring in championships. He suggested looking at the various distances of events and the number of men and women for team scoring and whether it should be cumulative time, or cross country scoring. He suggests clarifying and advertising the team component for all of our championships. Dunham and Robichaud will work on this issue and report back to council.

Hobbs suggested making the designation of prize money awards to ages, not to use the term Masters. For instance prize money for 40 and over, etc. This is in response to the Masters Age ruling.

Mitch Harper had been looking over the operating procedures document and had some suggestions for Section 7 to include: Once a bid is awarded for a championship the race director should be notified within 30 days of the award with a contract from National Office to review and sign. He also asked that a list of athletes for consideration in the championship event be provided to the race director within 60 days and that the race liaison from the USATF would be named within 60 days. Hobbs will provide these suggestions to Anderson who has been working on the operating procedures.

Pirrung thanked Norm Green and the Masters LDR committee for helping secure USATF National team singlets for the 100 km Masters athletes competing in the WMA 100 km next week in Argentina as well as covering the entry fee and banquet expense for the athletes competing in the event.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

MUT Council Secretary Ellen Miller and
MUT Council Chair Nancy Hobbs

Cross Country Council

Chair Mike Scott called the meeting to order.

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the 2004 Cross Country Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Barbara Chambers made a presentation on the first USATF National Disability 5 km Cross Country Championships. The meet was very well received and hopes to grow into more of a true "national" championship. Barbara Chambers may be reached at: E-mail – bchamb8677@aol.com, Phone (702) 799-0104 (office)

Peanut Harms and Bob Rush reported on the 2006 USATF National Club Cross Country Championships and showed a short video showing images from the recent West Regional XC Championships. The event was held at Golden Gate Park which will be the site of the 2006 Club Championships.

Competition Reports:

Bob Latham and Harry Simonis reported on the 2005 USA Cross Country Championships, held in Vancouver, WA.

Bill Quinlisk reported on the 2005 USATF Masters National 5 km Cross Country Championships and the 2005 USATF National Club Cross Country Championships.

Bill Roe gave a report on the 2005 World Cross Country Championships. Overall the meet logistics went very well. One continued discussion focused on how to recruit our best athletes and therefore send our best teams possible to the championships. Bill recommended that the US team should have an athlete hospitality suite, where the athletes can hang out, eat and drink, and it can be used as a communication center. Bill and the staff also recommended that the US team may consider hosting its own post meet function for team, especially to cover the concern of chaperoning of junior athletes. Overall it was agreed that this was a very successful trip, both athletically and logistically. The complete report is available from Mike Scott in .PDF format.

Bill Roe reported on the first NACAC meet, which was held in Clermont, Florida between the Winter Cross Country Championships and the IAAF World Championships. This year's meet

will be held on March 11, 2006. The race will again be held at the National Training Center. This year the event will expand to include Canada and probably Mexico, which should push the entry total to approximately 140 athletes.

Bob Hersh reported on IAAF Council decisions regarding the World Cross Country Championships. The discussion focused on the team numbers for men and women now that the meet is going back to a single race schedule. The current rules call for the men to return to 9 team members with 6 scoring. The women would remain at 6 team members with 4 scoring. This lack of equality for women may be revisited after 2007. Motion was made to support equal numbers for men's and women's international XC teams. Beginning in 2007, the senior team compositions for the IAAF World Cross Country Championships will be the following for men: 9 members with 6 to score and for women: 6 members with 4 to score. This was decided at the November 2005 IAAF Council Meeting. This inequality in men's and women's team size is totally unacceptable to the membership of USATF.

Be it resolved then:

USATF is not in support of the IAAF Council's decision to have 9 men, with 6 to score and only 6 women, with 4 to score as team sizes competing at the IAAF World Cross country Championships. We firmly believe that equal members should be represented for the senior men's and senior women's teams. This was approved unanimously.

FUTURE COMPETITIONS

The New York Road Runners will host the *2006 USA Cross Country Championships* in Van Cortlandt Park on February 18-19. Complete meet information is available at usatf.org on the event pages.

Craig Masback discussed the new sponsorship from Gleukos and the three year agreement to televise the *US Winter Cross Country Championships*. He also mentioned that there is potential interest from the IAAF for the United States to host the *IAAF Cross Country Championships*. Craig reported that it will probably take major support from a US city for us to meet the IAAF standards set forth to host the meet.

Peanut Harms and Bob Rush reported on the *2006 USATF National Club Cross Country Championships*.

The meet will be held in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on December 9. Peanut Harms promised a great post race celebration to compliment the championships being held again at this venue.

Peter Julian reported on the *2007 USA Cross Country Championships* to be held in Boulder CO. Boulder is extremely excited to bring the first-ever national championships to Colorado.

Thom Hunt reported on the *2008 USA Cross Country Championships* to be held in San Diego, CA on Feb 9. This event is tentative pending the awarding of the *IAAF Championship in 2008*. If the US hosts the international the trails would probably be held at that course. San Diego agreed to their willingness to host in 2009 should that happen. There was also some discussion about the 2008 date, pending the awarding of the Marathon Olympic Trials. Should the marathon trials make another date more desirable, San Diego has shown a willingness to move the date to whatever is best for the event.

Bill Quinlisk reported on the *Masters XC Championships*. Motion was made to accept bid from Adirondack to host *2006 & 2007 5k National Masters Cross Country Championships*. The motion was approved *unanimously*.

Mark Winitz presented proposed update of **Law & Legislation** item 49 – Regulation 7, "Representation". There was a discussion of the item with a great deal of concern regarding the ability of "non-adjointing" transfers. It was clear that the consensus was to keep out any loopholes which would enable clubs to form "national" teams, getting away from the concept of local club teams competing at the Fall Championships. No formal vote was taken regarding the item, pending action by LDR to see how the rule will be formally written.

Steve Vaitones reported on amendments to USATF's Rules of Competition stemming from IAAF rule changes. Uniforms must now be the same color on both front and back.

There was discussion regarding the use of visual aids to correctly identify results when using transponder timing.

Leaving a course to shorten a route results in disqualification. Officials may now use information and evidence from others, such as

athletes and video tape, to make decisions on disqualifications.

The international official age for Master's men is now age 35. This is now the same as for women. This won't affect US events directly because international teams for master's are not selected from US events. Most US races will continue to use age 40. The cross country national championships will continue to award prize money based on age grading of results.

NATIONAL TEAM STAFF SELECTION

The staff for the 2007 IAAF World Cross Country Championships will be selected early in 2006. To submit an application, complete the nomination form, the form then goes to the selection committee chair; Fred Finke for the men and Doris Heritage for the women. Mike Scott reminded everyone that the process recently has been to rotate coaches from different regions and different coaching backgrounds. It was also stated the more qualified women's coaches were needed for the pool, and that recruitment of women's coaches to participate in the programs was encouraged.

CROSS COUNTRY AWARDS

There was a motion to accept the following cross country awards. The motion was approved *unanimously*.

Master's Women	Carmen Ayala-Troncoso
Master's Men	David O'Keeffe
Open Men	Jorge Torres
Open Women	Lauren Fleshman
XC Council Award	Oregon Association

Motion to adjourn.

Road Running Technical Council

December 3, 2005

Attending: Bob Baumel, Norm Brand, Gary Corbitt, Mark Driscoll, Jim Estes, Fred Finke, Norm Green, David Katz, Justin Kuo, Glenn Latimer, Don Lein, Barb Leininger, Pat Leone, A.C. Linnerud, Kevin P. Lucas, Gene Newman, Ron Pate, George Regan, Pete Riegel, Tom Riegel, Don Shepan, Phil Stewart, Gary Westerfield, Mike Wickiser.

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 by RRTC Chair Mike Wickiser. All present introduced themselves. We were happy to welcome two second-generation members of our course measuring family: Gary Corbitt, the son of course measurement pioneer, Ted Corbitt, who started the course certification program back in the 1960s, and Tom Riegel, son of Pete Riegel, who served as RRTC Chairman for 15 years and remains very involved in course measurement.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chair, Mike Wickiser: Several new certifiers were appointed during the past year: **Justin Kuo** is now the certifier for Connecticut and Massachusetts. **Matthew Studholme** is the new certifier for Hawaii, Kentucky, North & South Dakota and West Virginia. In addition, **Neville Wood** has been appointed Validations Chair, as the previous holder of this position, Paul Hronjak, had been overwhelmed by work duties and was unable to spend the time needed for overseeing the validations program. Paul remains the RRTC Vice Chair-East.

During this year, Mike also conducted a pre-race validation measurement for the Papa John's 10-mile course, and a post-race validation for the LaSalle Bank Shamrock Shuffle.

Course Registrar – Mike Wickiser: So far this year, 1232 new courses have been certified, as compared with 889 reported at the time of last year's RRTC meeting (which is really just about the same rate, considering that last year's RRTC meeting was held about 3 months before the USATF Convention). Overall, we have 11,307 courses in the "Active" list and 16,067 in the "Archive" list, for a total of 27,376 certified courses. 5 km is by far the most popular race distance comprising 64% of new certifications in 2005. Historically, 5 km courses comprise about 41% of the overall course list.

Validations Chair – Neville Wood (report submitted by Mike Wickiser): Paul Hronjak's lack of time for managing the program resulted in a backlog of courses needing validation. As of this meeting, 7 courses were scheduled to be re-measured in December 2005 in order to get back on schedule. Among other validation activity during the past year, records set on 6 courses were approved without requiring re-measurement, and records set on 9 courses were approved based on previous validations. Mike

Wickiser's re-measurement of the LaSalle Bank Shamrock Shuffle 8 km was, at this time, the only re-measurement performed so far in 2005.

In discussion, David Katz asked if we may need to perform validations for IAAF records in addition to USATF records, as IAAF has established road running records with a validation requirement. Comments were made regarding differences between IAAF and USATF standards involving drop/separation/wind requirements and allowances for error in validation measurements.

Vice Chair West – Gene Newman A workshop was conducted by Gene, along with Mike Wickiser and Dave Poppers, in Salt Lake City in November 2004. In addition to measurement instruction, this workshop presented information on various topics relating to RRTC and course certification. For example, it was explained that a course measurer also needs to prepare all of the paperwork and, most importantly, the course map.

An interesting situation occurred in the State of Washington, where some e-mails were flying back and forth questioning who the State certifier was (in fact, the Washington certifier is Bob Langenbach), and there seemed to be a feeling that RRTC is a "Good Old Boys Club" where nobody else could become a certifier. After Bob Langenbach informed Gene about this situation, Gene addressed the problem with an e-mail explaining how he (Gene) was appointed among other things. Thus, the problem has been solved; however, Gene suggests doing a workshop in Washington this spring or summer.

Webmaster – Bob Bauml: As reported at last year's RRTC meeting in Stamford, current USATF policy requires that the RRTC website, which has resided at www.rrtc.net, be incorporated into the central USATF site at www.usatf.org. USATF webmaster Keith Lively started this process in Spring 2004 by copying some of our material himself from rrtc.net to a Course Certification section in usatf.org. However, it was made clear that RRTC would have control over porting the remaining RRTC content to usatf.org. Consequently, Bob was given privileges to update and maintain two areas on the USATF site: a portion of the Course Certification section (not including the Search Engine) and the RRTC Committee area. During 2005, Bob ported nearly all remaining content from rrtc.net to usatf.org. Once this process was sufficiently complete (late August 2005), Bob

reconfigured rrtc.net so the URL www.rrtc.net "redirected" to the Certification area on usatf.org instead of displaying pages on rrtc.net itself.

Unfortunately, this caused some confusion. While nearly everything previously on rrtc.net (including downloadable text course lists, the "current" list of most recent certifications, a downloadable issue of *Measurement News*, historical information on course measurement, links to MNForum, even a link to the unfinished RRTC Finish Line manual) was now on usatf.org, finding it could be difficult, especially when people didn't even know it still existed! To many users of rrtc.net, it seemed that rrtc.net had simply disappeared and much of its content had vanished with it. People who accessed rrtc.net were, at least, redirected to the Course Certification section on usatf.org. People who started from the USATF home page often had difficulty finding the Course Certification info at all. And even when people found the Course Certification area on usatf.org, few were aware that RRTC maintains that portion of the USATF site. Overall, the net result seemed to have been a reduction in RRTC's online presence.

To remedy these problems, at least in part, two actions were undertaken on December 2nd, the day before our RRTC meeting at this Convention. First, on that afternoon, Mike Wickiser and Bob phoned Keith Lively, the USATF webmaster, asking if he could add more links on the USATF site to make it easier to find the Course Certification area, and if he could modify the left-side menu within the Certification area to make it easier to find the new "Tools" page which contains much of the material ported from rrtc.net (note: Bob's privileges to modify two areas of the USATF site do not include ability to change the left-side menus, so we must ask Keith for such changes). Keith did, in fact, overhaul this left-side menu during the afternoon of Dec 2.

The second action was performed that night: Working from the Internet connection in his hotel room, Bob reconfigured rrtc.net once more, so it no longer redirects to usatf.org. Instead, it now displays a revamped version of the old RRTC home page, where the links now point to the current locations on usatf.org where RRTC content has been ported. Thus, www.rrtc.net is **back**, not as a stand-alone website, but as a handy list of links for finding information on Course Certification, most of which now resides on the USATF site.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of Kevin Lucas' proposed Bylaws amendment (discussion led by **Fred Finke**, chair of USATF's Long Distance Running Division): Prior to this RRTC meeting, it had already been decided to table Kevin's amendment for next year. However, Fred led a discussion on this topic in order to hear comments from attendees at the RRTC meeting.

Some background: The amendment proposed by Kevin, with backing from George Regan and others would massively restructure the USATF Course Certification program. Whereas the program is currently implemented directly by the RRTC through a network of centrally appointed State Certifiers (independent from the USATF Association system), Kevin's proposal would transfer the program to the individual USATF Associations, who would be "empowered to implement all aspects" of the Course Certification program with only "guidance, direction, and support" from the RRTC.

Additional controversial aspects of Kevin's proposal: The Chair and Vice Chairs of RRTC would become elected positions, to be nominated by each Association and selected by the Sports Committees and Associations Committee. (Currently, RRTC consists of a Chair and members named by the USATF President.) The RRTC would, through each USATF Association, "adopt and implement a system to Grade and Certify road course certifiers and measurers." (In our current system—basically, the same system in effect since Ted Corbitt started the US Course Certification program in the early 1960s—measurers do not require special credentials but need only submit successful paperwork to "certifiers," who are people with known technical proficiency. If "measurers" are to be graded and certified, the role of a "certifier" may change significantly; e.g., a "certifier" might be someone who certifies measurers instead of certifying courses!)

In initiating discussion on this proposal, Fred stated that the RRTC is now "under the gun" due to perceptions that knowledge is too concentrated in a select group of individuals and needs to be broadened. Pete Riegel objected by pointing out that the RRTC has published everything it knows about course measurement—on the web and in compilations of historical materials published on CDs (available to everyone via the web). Fred's

answer made it clear that by "knowledge" he didn't mean knowledge about course measurement, but rather the knowledge of which people are good measurers! (See additional discussion below about compiling lists of measurers.)

Several attendees, who were not themselves RRTC members or certifiers, expressed the opinion that Course Certification isn't broken and that any perceived problems (which vary greatly from one region to another) can be addressed without turning the whole system upside down. Phil Stewart described the RRTC as the "most open group" he knows, always welcoming new ideas and discussion and eager to recruit new people. Norm Green opined that the majority of runners are takers, not givers; only rare individuals are willing to contribute—and we mustn't lose track of the word "Technical" in RRTC; we need a small, select group to manage this technical aspect of the sport.

It became clear during this discussion that the RRTC had made a serious mistake by holding its own, separate meetings during the past two years (2003 in Akron and 2004 in Stamford) with only minimal presence at the USATF annual meetings in those years. Quite possibly, this allowed growth of perceptions that the RRTC is a closed group that ignores the rest of the sport, culminating this year in suggestions for major restructuring as embodied in Kevin's proposal.

It's implicit in Kevin's proposal for grading measurers that lists of course measurers would be published. In fact, even before Kevin's proposal, the RRTC has, for some time, felt pressure from certain parties in USATF to produce lists of measurers. The RRTC has, so far, resisted that pressure, claiming that such lists are unnecessary, as anyone who is looking for a measurer in a particular area can simply contact their State Certifier, who is the person best qualified to know who is measuring in the area. Now, the pressure to prepare lists of measurers has gotten stronger.

Pete Riegel pointed out that if lists of measurers are desired, it is very easy, using Excel, to manipulate the current RRTC course lists to extract lists of everyone who has measured in a specified time period (for example, the past 2 years), and such lists can also include the number of courses that each person measured during the specified period. Some attendees suggested the possibility of an algorithm translating the number of courses measured into a grade level (A, B, C,

etc.), but there was no agreement whether such a scheme should be adopted. Also, it was noted that the number of courses measured isn't necessarily an accurate indicator of how good the measurer is; there have been cases when someone measured a lot of courses but then had courses found short on validation!

Some attendees, especially George Regan who was a co-sponsor of Kevin's amendment, expressed an urgent need to develop new measurers in their area, and felt that Kevin's proposal could accomplish that goal by conducting measurement clinics. It was pointed out that any Association that wishes to conduct measurement clinics can do it now in the current system. There was also some debate on whether such clinics are really an effective way to develop new measurers, with people on both sides citing anecdotal evidence. Some pointed to clinics that produced one or more active measurers. Others claimed that, historically, few of the people who attend a clinic go on to measure any courses for certification—and considering the cost of putting on such clinics (securing a venue, obtaining bikes and Jones counters, etc.) they aren't necessarily an efficient use of resources.

As stated at the beginning of this discussion, Kevin's amendment has been tabled for next year. It is now up to Kevin to reformulate his proposal in a way that addresses the perceived problems and achieves a broad consensus instead of pitting groups against one another.

Selection of a new RRTC Chair and Course Registrar: Mike Wickiser, who currently holds both the RRTC Chairmanship and Course Registrar position, had announced prior to this meeting that he intends to step down from both positions.

To decide on the new RRTC Chair, Fred Finke asked people to nominate candidates for presentation to USATF president Bill Roe, who would make the final decision (and Fred made it clear that he wanted more than one candidate!). Kevin Lucas nominated long-time measurer **David Katz**, who is currently the RRTC's Finish Line Chair. Mike Wickiser nominated **Gene Newman**, currently the RRTC Vice Chair-West, who had already been contacted by Mike as a possible replacement before this meeting.

David and Gene both gave short speeches, in which each seemed willing to defer to the other in case the other person wanted the position more. David, in particular, noted that he (David) is well connected politically but not strong at tasks involving paperwork (writing reports, etc.).

David's and Gene's names were both given to Fred to pass on to Bill Roe. There were also indications by the end of our meeting that Fred and Bill might be looking for still more candidates. A decision on the new RRTC Chair is expected by the end of 2005.

Choosing a new Course Registrar was easier. Prior to the meeting, **Stuart Riegel** had already volunteered to take on the position, indicating that he has both the interest and time to do it. (Stu, who is one of Pete Riegel's sons, wasn't at this meeting, although Pete's other son, Tom, did attend.) Everyone at the meeting was happy with this; therefore, Mike's files will be transferred to Stu, who will become the new Course Registrar starting at the beginning of 2006.

Transition to Paperless Course Archives: To reduce the huge number of paper files kept by the Course Registrar, we intend to start converting those records to electronic instead of paper form. We expect all courses certified in 2006 to be kept this way and, at some point, we'll also start converting the older files. This will require scanning both sides of the certificates (currently, only maps are scanned), saving them in a suitable format and backing them up on CDs. This will **not**, however, change the way that Certifiers, or even the RRTC vice chairs, do their work; they will continue preparing and passing on paper certificates as before.

Making this transition will require some choices involving file formats, image processing and data flow. Currently, Mike scans maps at 600 dpi in black & white, producing huge TIFF files, around 4 MB each, but these aren't the files posted on the web. Mike sends those big TIFFs to USATF webmaster Keith Lively who reduces them to a pair of much smaller PNG files: a "viewable" version (about 100 dpi, 16-level grayscale) typically around 75 kb, and a "printable" version (300 dpi, black & white) around 100 kb. Keith then posts both of those PNGs on the USATF website.

The "printable" PNGs that Keith posts on the web are probably adequate to replace our paper copies of the maps. But how is this to be implemented? Will Stu continue sending Keith the big raw TIFF files that Mike produces now (and then have Keith send back the printable PNGs); or will Stu do the reductions to PNG himself (and send Keith only the two little PNGs)? Or would Stu scan each map twice: once to produce the big TIFF to send Keith and again to produce a smaller file in perhaps a 3rd format (e.g., JPEG) for his own archives? Remember also that Stu