

MEETING MINUTES

USATF – OREGON ASSOCIATION – RACEWALK COMMITTEE

March 4, 2007

ATTENDEES: Jim Bean, Roger Hall, Harry Simonis, Doug VerMeer, Marie VerMeer.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Jim Bean at 8:07 AM.

OLD BUSINESS

National Championship Bid: We did not secure any national racewalk championship events for 2007. In 2008, the focus will be on the Olympic Trials at Hayward Field, so it's not expected that we'll bid for a 2008 championship.

Jim is working to put together two 20K Olympic Trials qualifiers – one at Banks High School on June 10, and a second one on September 16. Jim has had conversations with Trials committee members about the September event – there's a desire to put together a course that starts and finishes on the Hayward Field track. Jim suggested Autzen Stadium but that location was declined. Jim is looking at certifying both a 1K and a 2K course. It's expected that Hayward will attract many large meets as a result of renovations, so certification of multiple course lengths will be beneficial.

Clinics for Officials: Marie or Jim will talk with Rod Wood, Mike Olsen or Dale Settje regarding Level 1 clinics for officials. Marie and Jim will also set Level II officials' clinics for racewalking. Dates are currently set for April 29, May 13 and July 28. It's expected that these will be in Portland at Marie's home, except for the May 13 clinic which will be held in Eugene in conjunction with the Hayward Classic. Marie will provide time and location data to Harry so that this information can get onto the USATF-Oregon website.

Awards for 2006: It was recommended that the Youth award be given to Nathaniel Roberts, who won the national Bantam championship after 6 weeks of racewalk training. He completed a 1500M in 8:13. It was recommended that John and Darlene Backlund be given Masters awards. John and Darlene are Redmond residents who have competed nationally and internationally and won many age group medals. Darlene was part of the gold-medal winning 20K Racewalkers Northwest women's team in Florida this past November. In addition, John and Darlene are Association-level officials and regularly officiate at high school meets in their area. Marie will provide additional race history to Jim.

NEW BUSINESS

Meet Schedule – Add New 10K, 20K, One Hour Events:

- An Olympic Qualifier 20K including the Association 10K will be held on June 10 at the Banks High School Track.
- The Regional One Hour Postal will be held at the Banks Track on September 2.
- A second 20K (also an Olympic Qualifier) will be held on September 16. Planned location is Eugene, pending Jim's discussions with Eugene officials. He will be talking with Mike Olsen about using Agate Street.

Other possible venues were mentioned, including Nautilus (campus in Vancouver has a track) or Nike. Sandy High School was also mentioned, as was the Oregon State Fairgrounds (which is being promoted as a venue). Harry and Roger Hall have a meeting regarding this venue coming up in Beaverton. Harry indicates also that we can get subsidization for events (contact Harry for details).

Awards Committee – New Members. Jim, Marie VerMeer and Doug VerMeer will continue as the Awards Committee. Marie will follow up with Judy Heller of Wonders of Walking and Karen Karavanic of Western Women Go The Distance to see if either of them are interested in being involved in the Awards Committee or on the Racewalk Committee.

New Racewalk Committee Members. Roger Hall was elected Secretary of the Racewalk Committee. Welcome, Roger!

Next Year's Awards: It was decided to have 3 categories of Awards – Youth, Open and Masters.

Schedule of Meets and How to Get Judges: Meet schedule is below, followed by plan to secure judges.

- May 12: Youth Relay in Canby. This is the same day as the Hayward Classic 5K. Jim and the Swehoskys will cover the Youth Relay; Marie will cover the 5K and secure judges.
- May 13: Hayward Classic One Mile: Jim and Marie will judge; Marie will secure additional officials.
- June 2: Bend Masters Meet: Marie will attempt to secure officials. (Good possibility that Marie and Doug will be able to officiate.)
- June 9: Northwest Youth Classic: Jim will secure officials.
- June 10: 20K/Association Championship 10K at Banks High School. Marie and Jim will work to secure officials. (Note: we need lap counters as well as racewalk judges, a recorder, DQ board official and runners.)
- June 23-24: JO Meet and Portland Masters Classic. Jim/Roger/Swehoskys will cover the JO Meet. Marie will secure officials for the Masters meet (likely Anne Whitaker, Fred and Margaret Seewerker in addition to herself).
- July 12-15 – JO Regionals – Seattle. Seattle officials will be used for this meet.
- September 2 – Regional One Hour Postal, Banks High School. Marie and Jim will work to secure officials for this event.
- September 16 – 20K Olympic Qualifier, Location TBD (planning Eugene). Marie and Jim will work to secure officials.

Other Business: There were several Oregon competitors in the National 50K in Chula Vista on January 28. Finishers included Karen Karavanic and Annmarie Bruning. Margaret Mcguinness finished the 20K.

Wonders of Walking will have a 10K Walk/Run as part of the Willamette Valley Relay weekend events. The event will be at Alton Baker Park. Marie will send Harry details when they are finalized.

Harry indicated that he could copy and distribute a racewalk mailing. When the calendar is finalized, Marie will investigate preparing a document and will send to Harry.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie VerMeer