

USATF Mountain Ultra Trail Running Council
Annual Meeting Minutes - Reno, NV – December 5-6, 2008

Friday December 5, 8AM-9:30AM

Announcements:

1. Elections are being held today for USATF President, from 7AM – Noon. There may be a subsequent runoff.
2. Elections are being held tomorrow for MUT Council Chair and Vice-Chair.

Introductions: Everyone in attendance (approximately 30) introduced themselves and included their affiliation and how many conventions they had attended.

Minutes 2007: The meeting minutes from the Honolulu, Hawaii 2007 meeting were presented and approved.

Finances: Nancy Hobbs indicated that last year, USATF allocated \$5000 to MUT. MUT will receive the same (\$5,000) for 2009. Tania Pacev asked if there was a financial statement for how MUT money was spent this year. Nancy indicated that USATF National Office keeps track of all of our budget expenditures and provides a report each quarter.

Records (Andy Carr): Andy indicated that no LDR records for youth are kept. Thus, Catherine Cuda's records will all be denied (she is age 15 and ran at Across the Years 24 Hour event). Andy indicated that the following people have records which will be submitted for ratification this year, and are likely to be ratified: Dan Verrington, Roy Pirrung, Dieter Walz, William Allen, Ed Rousseau, and Kathryn Martin. He indicated that records set by Glenn Turner, Tim O'Rourke, Lloyd Young, Roy Pirrung, Zeke Zucker, Faye Lowery, Betty Hortsman, Louise Miklovic, Carolyn Smith, Connie Gardner, Sandy Powell, Kami Semick, and Megan Arbogast will be deferred. This is because Andy does not yet have enough information regarding these performances to make a decision. The information that he needs is as follows: 1. Race Results, 2. Course Measurement Certificate and Course Map submitted by race director, 3. A USATF application filed by race director.

Headphones Issue (David Katz): The Executive Committee (all the chairs of LDR – men's, women's, masters, MUT, XC, Records) will make the decision but David asked MUT to come up with a collective opinion to submit to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then give their recommendation to the Rules Committee.

Discussion:

1. Roy Pirrung indicated he feels there is no such thing as a closed course and feels strongly that headsets should never be allowed.
2. Mike Polansky indicated that he was concerned that we'd be unable to enforce a headphone ban. He also believes that it will cut down on entries in our events.
3. Joyce Hodges-Hite said that they lost a few runners at the race in North Dakota and feels headphones might make this a bigger problem.
4. David Cotter, the director of the USA 100 Mile Trail Championships, said that headphones were banned in their race after runners were educated about why it is important to not wear headphones (mountain lion and bear sightings, needing to pass each other on narrow trails, etc.).
5. Richard Bolt brought up the question of why the insurance companies who insure the USATF National Championships have not banned headphone use during events. He was told that this is because the incidence of adverse events involving headphones has been, so far, statistically insignificant.
6. Steven Peckaonis asked for clarification on if we were advising based on use in the MUT championships or in general (as in road races, etc.). Nancy Hobbs said that she felt we should look at the question keeping in mind MUT interests. Others agreed.

7. The Minnesota Rep. said that he works for a high tech company. He feels that within five years, remote ear bugs will be so small that we won't be able to tell earphones from hearing aids.
8. Lorraine Gersitz said that she preferred option 32, the compromise where race directors can either allow or disallow headphones at their own discretion. She was concerned that it might affect sanctioning of races by USATF – not national championships but just sanctioned races, as her association has many sanctioned races.
9. Ken Robichaud, NE president, says he believes we'd lose runners at our sanctioned events. He stated he prefers the "more relaxed" #32 rather than #33.

Nancy conducted a straw poll: 12 voted for the compromise #32; 11 voted for #33, which bans headphones at USATF National Championship events and puts the rule in the medical/safety section of the rule book rather than in "aiding", where it currently sits. Nancy will report the results of our straw poll to the Executive Committee, but would indicate that the vote was very nearly a tie.

Nancy noted that John Tenbrooke was one of the individuals who passed away in 2008. He was a big supporter of MUT efforts and will be missed. Ron McCray, who will replace John as Florida's liaison to MUT, was present and introduced himself.

Don Lein, the Master's LDR chair visited and was introduced.

A list of designated USATF National Championships follows:

March 1, 2009 – USA 50km Road – Caumsett, Long Island, NY

June 28, 2009 – USA Mountain Running Championships/NACAC Mountain Championships/Mountain Team Selection Race – North Conway, NH

July 18, 2009 - USA 100 Mile Trail – Tahoe Rim, Lake Tahoe, NV

Aug. 22, 2009 – USA 100 km Trail – Where's Waldo, Willamette, Oregon

Oct. 3, 2009 – USA 50 Mile Road – Tussey Mtn., Boalsburg, PA

*Roy Pirrung indicated that there is a bid being considered and negotiated by AUA to hold an AUA National Championship 24 hour race September 12, 2009.

There are multiple bids to be discussed later in the meeting. There are still several distances where there is not a championship bid for 2009. These include 50km Trail, and 100km Road.

There was discussion regarding the Mad City 100km, which had been designated the 2009 championship, and was taken off the calendar as a national championship. This was because the race is between the November 7, 2008 World Cup and the June 18, 2009 World Cup but actually falls after the qualifying window for the 2009 world cup team selection has closed. Also, it was felt that athletes would be at risk for poor performances if they performed a 100km race April 12 and then another June 18. Dave Dunham asked if there had been any competition in bidding. He was told there had not, but certainly another race – preferably one in the fall – could bid. Howard Nippert stated that if the National Championship 100km fell after the World Cup 100km we would not be getting the highest quality athletes. While we want to encourage 100km race opportunities for athletes to run in the U.S., we do not want to compromise the high standard of having the highest quality athletes competing in our U.S. National Championships. Jim Garcia was interested in having MUT reach out to race directors to get another bid. Nancy recommended that Jim contact Paul Kirsch and work on this project.

International Calendar:

May 2, 2009 – World 24 hour race – Bergamo, Italy

June 19, 2009 – World 100km – Torhout, Belgium

July 12, 2009 – IAU Trail Challenge – France

September 6, 2009 – World Mtn Championships – Campodolcino, Italy

September 12, 2009 – World Masters Mtn – Zagreb, Croatia

October 10, 2009 – WMRA – Kaiser Marathon, Austria

Fred Finke joined the meeting. Fred indicated he planned to attend the USA Mountain Championships/NACAC Championships on June 28, 2009 at Mt. Cranmore. He said that USATF Uniforms will be provided for the team running at NACAC and these will be the new Olympiad/Beijing uniforms. He stated that the reason he was visiting the various councils is to answer questions about appointing a candidate to our new, smaller Board of Directors. Essentially, the process is that MUT can bring forth the name of a candidate to, for instance, LDR and RRCA, and then the three groups under one umbrella would present a candidate for the board. However, he indicated that it is not yet decided under which umbrella MUT would fall. He indicated that this would be decided before the end of the convention, and that the target date for naming the Board is 1/31/09.

Final Announcements:

1. Meeting will reconvene tomorrow at 9AM.
2. The Awards Breakfast will be held tomorrow morning at which our M/U/Master's ROY awards and our contributor of the year award will be presented.

Meeting was recessed to reconvene Saturday, December 6, 2008.

Saturday, December 6, 2008 – 9 AM

Introductions of those present in the room were made.

Finances: A question had been asked by Tania Pacev about how the \$5000 the council received last year was spent. Nancy Hobbs summarized this as follows:

- \$1000 went toward purchasing medals for our national championships
- \$300-500 went toward purchasing awards for our UROY, MROY, and Contributor of the Year
- \$800-1000 went toward annual convention expenses
- \$1200 went to the team leaders of the USATF 100km team so that they could rent a vehicle for the time they are abroad with the team to assist in showing athletes the course, buying last minute supplies, or even transporting athletes from train stations or airports.
- \$400 went to fund Nancy Hobbs's trip to the WMRA (USATF pitches in half the funding while WMRA covers the other half of the funding. Roy indicated that his trip to IAU at the same time would be paid for entirely by IUA with USATF paying nothing.)
- \$150-200 went toward conference calls, printing.
- \$2800 went toward funding travel for our liaisons to attend and assist with national championship events.

Tania Pacev asked how much money went to actual runners. Nancy replied, "None" although the money benefits them indirectly.

The question of funding for the USATF 100km team came up again. Nancy replied that she'd done what she could to try to help by asking for \$20,000 from USATF for MUT's budget this year, but again received only \$5000.

IAAF does give some money to assist the 100km runners with travel expenses. Scott McCoubrey suggested that runners ask their associations and clubs for grants. He noted that his association paid \$500 toward travel expenses of each of their three athletes who qualified for the 100km team, and the club paid two of their athletes who qualified for the team \$1500 each for travel expenses. Howard stated that when he lived in VA, the VA association helped with travel expenses. The NC association refused to help him with travel expenses when he resided there, and though he's written the Colorado association, they have not replied to his letter. Scott McCoubrey recommended attending the local association meetings and becoming involved so that when your request is made, they are aware of you as a 100km team member.

Elections: An outside panel from L and L was brought in to hold MUT Council election for Chair and Vice Chair.

Nancy Hobbs was nominated, her nomination was seconded. No other nominations were made. All voted in favor and thus Nancy Hobbs was elected Chair of the MUT Council. A motion was made that terms for both the Chair and Vice Chair be four years rather than the alternative of two years. Discussion followed. Both Tania Pacev and Jim Garcia expressed concern that with all the changes within USATF and the many new faces coming on the scene in MUT running, we should elect for a two year period only. Dave Dunham noted that having the Chair and Vice Chair serve four years rather than two would provide an appearance of stability within the committee, which might provide us more leverage when working with other committees and paid USATF employees. All voted in favor of a four year term.

Next, nominations for vice chair were taken. Roy Pirrung nominated as vice chair and seconded. Ann Heaslett was nominated, but declined the nomination. There were no further nominations. All voted in favor of electing Roy Pirrung as Vice Chair of the Council.

Rules clarification was presented for events which require lap counters:

1. If event is held in a stadium, one lap counter should be assigned to three competitors.
 2. If the event is held outside a stadium, one lap counter should be assigned to every six competitors.
- *The old rule was that regardless of where an event was held one lap counter could be assigned to six competitors.

Additional Rulings:

1. Though this cannot happen until next year, we've requested that MUT Council oversee the MUT records. Currently these records go through men's and women's and master's LDR. Next year is the year that requests such as this can be handled.
2. A new rule is that records still pending after five years will have a U put next to them for "Unratifiable" rather than P which stands for "Pending."

Glenn Latimer, Chair of Men's LDR, visited. Glen suggested MUT put the name of a nominee for the board of director's post to LDR Division Chair. The Board of Directors will meet approximately five times per year. Richard Bolt and Howard Nippert will present a "MUT report" at the men's LDR meeting later in the day.

"No Pacing Rule:" In the USATF rules, no pacing is allowed in order to avoid giving any individual a competitive advantage over others. Because of unusual circumstances not encountered in shorter road, track, or cross country races, the MUT Council has decided to allow "Safety Runners" in the USATF National Championship races 100km or longer as designated by the race director. Lack of a "safety runner" is very dangerous in longer races, frequently contested on trails and in the dark, sometimes with dangerous situations (animals, injurious terrain). Due to the fact that some runners may be out after dark, be traversing rough terrain under conditions of exhaustion, or may become disoriented, and in the spirit of safety and reduced liability, we have adopted the following rules regarding the use of "safety runners." Permitting safety runners would be at the discretion of the National Championship race directors. Where the safety runner can join the competitor is also at the discretion of the National Championship race directors.

Guidelines for Use of Safety Runners:

1. No "muleing" (carrying the competitors clothing, fluid, fuel items, etc.)
2. No exchange of aid between competitor and safety runner except at designated aid stations.
3. Safety runners must remain a minimum (estimated) 5 seconds or 10 meters behind their competitor runner. (The reason for this guideline is that if you are able to talk to your runner, you could push the athlete, creating an unfair advantage to the athlete who may not have the resources to obtain the services of a Safety Runner.)
4. Safety runners may have no physical contact with their runner at any time. This means that even if your runner falls, you may not help him or her up, or they risk disqualification. Other runners may help that runner up. ** This point was NOT discussed during MUT meeting but discussed in the subgroup which came up with the guidelines.*

5. Scott McCoubrey said that he felt that safety runners also should not be able to tell a runner when he or she is veering off course, as that provides a competitor with an unfair advantage over a competitor without a pacer to provide a second set of eyes to watch for course markings.
6. Race Directors should keep track of the safety runners out on the course as well as the runners/racers. A recommended way to do this would be to issue numbers to the safety guides that put S- before the runner/racer's number, and to have the safety guide check in at each aid station, just as the runner/racers do. **This point also was NOT discussed at the MUT Council Meeting but was discussed at the meeting where a small group put together some guidelines.*

Lloyd recommends that we check the blind runner recommendations in the rule book before putting together our final recommendation.

Team Championships: Men: For distances 30km and under: in open division, 5 runners score, in age 40-49 division, 5 runners score, and in age 50-59, 5 score. In the Ultras: 3 men score. Women: For all distances and Ultras, 3 score. There is no limit on how many you can enter as a team (our goal is to increase participation). The same athlete can score in multiple groups: for example, if Roy at age 60 performs in the top 3 of his team, and his team has entered teams in the open, 40-49, 50-59, he can score as a team member in each division.

MUT Championships:

Course Markings and guidelines for stocking aid stations will be discussed later.

2009 MUT Championships that had been decided upon at last years' meeting were announced. New bids for 2009/10 were discussed.

1. Scott McCoubrey presented the **White River 50 Mile bid** to be the USATF National Championship 50 Mile Trail Race for 2009, 2010 (dates are July 25, 2009 and July 31, 2010). 25% of the runners at White River were USATF members in 2008. The council voted and White River 50 Mile was accepted as the 2009 and 2010 USATF National 50 Mile Trail Championship.
2. Lena Hollman from the North Carolina Association presented a bid for the 2009 **10km Trail Championships**. The race is to be held August 29, 2009. It is a first year event to be held off the Blue Ridge Parkway. The director, Jason Bryant, is a recent addition to the MUT council and also went and watched one of the national championships put on last year by Dave Dunham and attended three others. The race is 2 loops of mostly single track trail. The race is 2 hours from any airport but the race director will help get athletes to the race site. The race is guaranteeing at least \$3000 in prize money, and hopes to get the purse up to \$5000. Sponsors currently are LaSportiva, Subaru (through local dealer), and \$2500 from the North Carolina USATF Association. This is being bid as both an open and a masters championship, but it isn't clear from the bid how the prize money will be distributed between open and masters competitors. Lena said that the USATF template is available to the race director so that he can fairly divide the prize money. Ann Heaslett asked if the narrowness of the course would present a problem in such a short race. Nancy Hobbs, Dave Dunham, and Richard Bolt all felt that it would not and that the start would certainly insure stringing out of athletes before reaching the single track. The bid was then voted upon and accepted as National Championship 2009 10km trail race.
3. **Lithia Loop Trail Marathon** was presented as a bid for **2009 and 2010** open and masters trail marathon national championship. Richard Bolt presented the bid. The event was held for the first time this year. There were about 90 runners and 43 volunteers. The finishing rate was high. The race is in Ashland, OR. One could fly into either Medford or Portland, OR, but there is still about a 3-5 hour drive to reach Ashland. There is \$7000 in prize money to be distributed among open and masters' runners. The race was limited to 100 runners this year. Next year, the race will be limited to 300. The race director has said that he will set aside entries for USATF runners. Hal Koerner and Ian Torrence are the race directors, and both are experienced runners and race directors. The council voted and bids for 2009 and 2010 National Trail Championships were granted to Lithia Loop Trail Marathon.

Two-year vs. one-year bids and **championship recruitment:** Jim Garcia stated a preference that one year bids be entertained rather two year bids because he'd like to see us say to the race directors that they

should try to increase their prize money for the second year in order to be considered. However, others indicated that we are most often not getting multiple bids for the same distance championship, and in fact, there are two championships that we are still looking for someone to host next year (50km trail, 100km road). Jim Garcia suggested sending out emails to race directors asking them to bid for national championships. Nancy Hobbs said that a few years ago, she sent emails to 800 race directors, but received little to no response. Roy Pirrung and Carl Grossbard suggested e-mailing association chairs. However, the North Carolina Association representative stated he did not think that e-mails would work. He felt that a more *personal connection* is needed, and suggested that those on the MUT Council try to connect with their state associations to solicit funds to help a race director with prize money, so he/she could host a championship.

Tania Pacev asked whether we have a 24, 12, or 6 hour National Championship. USATF does not. AUA hosts a 24 hour championship and will soon accept a bid (per Roy Pirrung) to do this again.

Liaisons for the National Championships for 2009:

March 1 – **Dave Dunham**, Caumsett, Long Island

June 28 – **Richard Bolt**, US Mountain Running Championship

July 18 – **Howard Nippert**, 100 Mile Trail Championship, Lake Tahoe

July 25 – **Howard Nippert**, 50 Mile Road Championship, PA

August 22 – **Richard Bolt** – 100km Trail Championship

August 29 – **Dave Dunham** – Trail 10km Championship, NC

October 3 – **Howard Nippert** – 50 Mile Road Championship

November 7 – **Nancy Hobbs** – Trail Marathon - Mt. Ashland

Nancy Hobbs distributed a championships liaison document to each of the liaisons to assist with their duties.

Dave Cotter, director of the 100 mile national championship race, wondered who handles protests, if they should arise during a national championship event. Nancy replied that generally the three person “Jury of Appeals” includes the race director, the USATF liaison, and someone from the state association (state where event is being held).

ROY Nominations: The Runner of the Year Nominations and Voting were handled again this year by Dave Dunham. Nominations and votes were handled via e-groups. Athletes must be current USATF Member to be eligible to receive votes.

Mountain Team: Paul Kirsch designed a website (USMRT.com – up since August 2007) which also contains a blog. This assisted team members in communicating with each other and coaching staffs as the event approached. Richard Bolt and Dave Dunham reported on the team’s results at the World Mountain Running Trophy, which in 2009 earned the title World Mountain Running Championships. The men “really gelled” and ran an excellent race. The women did not have as good a day as they would have liked. The junior women did very well led by Alex Dunn (who won a bronze individual medal), taking 10th place as a team. The junior boys took 4th place, their best team finish to date. At the World Mountain Running Masters Championships held one week before the World Trophy, Simon Gutierrez won individual gold, and this was his third consecutive Master’s World Title. Sponsorship (Money and Product) for the U.S. Mountain Team was provided by: Teva (title sponsor), Sporthill, Windermere Real Estate, Wicked Fast Sports Nutrition, Fleet Feet Sports of Boulder, OrthoLite Insoles, Fuel Belt (product), Costa del Mar (sunglasses), *Youth Runner* magazine. Approximately \$30,000 was generated for travel expenses for the team. The host country/organization provides lodging and meals. The teams also get financial support from IAAF, and this funding is based on GNP of country, amount it costs a person to travel to the race site, results of a given country from the previous year’s race. In 2009, the following two sponsors have joined the program to include CWX (tights only), KinEsys (foot cream and sunscreen). Tania Pacev asked why, though there is funding for the Mountain Team(as above) and the 24 Hour Team (through AUA), there is no funding for the 100km team. Nancy Hobbs explained that she has made it her passion to raise funds for the Mountain Team. Roy indicated that the 24 hour team has sponsors through

AUA who donate to partially fund travel for 24 hour teams. Nancy stated that Kami Semick had set up a website so that folks can donate to travel of the 100km team (with the address given that they can mail checks to Tim Yanacheck, who set up the 501.3.c fund for the team). Unfortunately, they were able to get very few sponsors (less than \$200 in the account). However, the 100km team did receive USATF uniforms from USATF. Joyce Hodges-Hite reported that the USA Master's Track and Field Team is required to wear the USATF uniforms but must buy their own. Tom Cotner said that he thought it would be a good idea to suggest to Kami that she put on the website a list of those who had contributed. All acknowledged that the sponsor doesn't get much publicity from their donation. Bob Larson, of Running USA and the Southern Cal. Assoc. suggested trying to get USATF's main office to allow us to put one more major sponsor's logo on our uniform. The IAAF does allow one other logo. Scott McCoubrey then offered to try to obtain sponsorships through his contacts if someone on the 100km management team put together a sponsorship proposal.

Management team for the USA Mountain Running Team: The following, all unopposed, were voted in as team management for 2009:

Richard Bolt – nominated by Joseph Gray – Team Leader

Ellen Miller – nominated by Eric Black – Women's Manager

Dave Dunham – nominated by Ann Heaslett – Manager - Juniors

Update on the NACAC Mountain Team: Nancy Hobbs requested that USATF provide uniforms for this squad and was granted uniforms for 4 women and 4 men and one staff member. At last year's NACAC championships in Jalisco, Mexico, the U.S. men earned the Silver Medal and the U.S. women the Gold Medal. Selection for the 2009 NACAC team will be based on 2008 World Trophy performance, then 2008 NACAC performance. Selection criteria are the same for women as for men. There are currently 9 men in the selection pool and 7 women in the selection pool.

U.S. 100km team report presented by Howard Nippert: The 100km World Cup was held November 8, 2008, in Italy. Kami Semick took home a silver medal with a time of approximately 7:33. Her time is the second fastest time recorded by a U.S. woman, the only faster time having been run by Ann Trason. Megan Arbogast took sixth place, having run the fastest time ever for a U.S. woman age 47 (45-49 age group). Devon Crosby-Helms placed 10th to round out the scoring members of the team. On the men's side, Michael Wardian placed ninth. Because of their performances at the World Cup, Kami, Megan, Devon, and Michael earned automatic selection for next year's USA World 100km team.

There was a vote whether or not to extend the qualifying period for the next World 100km – to be held in Torhout, Belgium, in June 2009 — **from 18 months to 24 months.** There are not many athletes who qualified in the 18 month period, but there would be many more if we expanded the period to 24 months. This would allow us to field full men's and women's teams. Tania Pacev stated that she felt that those who qualified between 18 and 24 months before the event should have to show their fitness in some way. Dave Dunham pointed out that the USATF Code of Conduct states that athletes, if they take a slot, must be ready and able to compete. Howard Nippert said that this proposal was discussed in the e-group, and there was approval there for it. Roy Pirrung said that in the AAC, fitness for competition was discussed, and that it is part of our Code of Conduct to be truthful about our fitness to compete when taking a slot on a national team, just as it is when taking a slot on an Olympic team. After discussion was completed, the proposal was voted upon. Tania Pacev abstained. Howard Nippert recused himself as, "I have a dog in the fight" (he could qualify for next year's team only if the qualifying period were expanded). The group unanimously voted to accept the proposal to expand the selection, at least for the 2009 team, to 24 months.

Team staff was selected for the 100km team. All went unopposed and were selected:

Lin Gentling – nominated by Howard Nippert – Team Leader

Mike Spinnler – nominated by Howard Nippert – Team Leader

Lion Caldwell – nominated by Lin Gentling and Howard Nippert – Team Physician

Saturday, December 6, 3:30 PM

There was a question regarding USATF membership for participation on the USA 24 Hour Team. Roy Pirrung answered that yes, athletes must be current USATF members to run on the AUA-funded U.S. 24 Hour Run team.

The IAU Trail World Challenge will be held in France July 12, 2009. In the previous two World Trail Challenges, held at Sunmart in Texas, there was no formal team selection process but rather runners volunteered to be on the team. In informal meetings, some potential criteria (with the caveats that this is an unfunded team and may not have uniforms or may have singlets only funded by MUT) were discussed to include the following:

1. An American who finishes in the top 10 men or women at the 2008 IAU World Trail Challenge will receive automatic team selection (if applicable – this year, it appears there will be no 2008 IAU World Trail Challenge).
2. The winner of the 2008 USA 50 mile trail championship, 50km trail championship, and 100km trail championship (if contested) will receive automatic selection if fewer than 6 are selected under criteria #1.
3. The top American male and female finishers at the 2008 IAU World Trail Challenge (if applicable) will be selected into the pool of potential team members if they place in the top 15 overall for their gender.
4. If further team members can be added, they could be chosen by committee with specific focus on performance at key U.S. races such as JFK, American River, Sunmart, and Ice Age.

The selection period would be from 1/12/08-4/12/09 for the IAU World Trail Challenge in France in July 2009.

The group who came up with these criteria suggests that we look for places to publish this opportunity to potential contenders. Race directors of USATF National Championship races might publish this opportunity, as well as publicize the other USATF National Championship races. Additionally, announcements could be included in *Ultrarunning* magazine, *Trail Runner* magazine, and *Marathon and Beyond*. Also, notice could be put out regarding the opportunity on the ULTRALISTSERV.

Discussion about a bid which came in today for the **USATF National 100km Road Championship for 2010 and 2011** from the Mad City 100km, race director Tim Yanacheck. The group felt that it would be unwise to accept Mad City's bid for 2011 because we don't know when the World 100km will be held that year. We would prefer not to rescind the 100km USATF National Championship as we did this year because Mad City fell after the selection period for the 2009 World 100km race will have concluded. Also, some felt we should wait to see if a race came along for 2011 with a bigger prize package. Voting was undertaken and Mad City was granted the 2010 USATF National 100km Championship, but not the 2011 USATF National 100km Championship.

Selection Races for the USA Mountain Team:

- 1) Cheyenne Canon: this is a new race which the American Trail Running Association will organize. Its course approximates the course at the World Mountain Race which will be up/down in 2009. It is on single track trail. It is held at elevations between 6,400 – 7,300 feet, with the ascending and descending close to what athletes will experience in the World Mountain Championships Race in Italy. The genders will be run separately: the women's race is 5 ½ miles, the men's race is 7 ½ miles. There will be a limit of 100-200 runners per event. The race plans to offer \$2000 in prize money. A permit cannot be applied for until 1/5/09, but Nancy doesn't anticipate difficulty getting one to hold this event. Nancy recused herself from the vote on this bid, the vote was held, and the bid for Cheyenne Canon to host a 2009 selection race was accepted. The top 2 men and top 2 women will be selected to the team for Worlds.
- 2) Mt. Cranmore – the top 3 men and top 1 woman will be selected to the team for Worlds. There are then 1 Sr. Male and 1 Sr. Female "At Large" slots to be determined by committee.

Juniors (competitors are at least 16 years of age but not yet 20 in the year of competition): In 2008, one junior was chosen at an actual selection race, the others were chosen by resume. Dave Dunham and Richard Bolt stated that the standards have become tighter for juniors. Currently, to be eligible, a boy would have to run about 16:45 for 5km while a girl would have to run about 19:30 for 5km. These times can be run on road, trail, or other. Alternate distances can also be run, and if they are, McMillen equivalents are used to standardize performances. In 2009, the resume system will be used to select the junior team.

Bantam/Midget Divisions: Currently there is no Bantam or Midget Divisions at the World Mountain event. There was, however, a Youth Challenge for Kids held in Italy last year. This event will be held in Germany in 2009. It is for 14-15 year olds.

The following committees have asked to have a representative from the MUT Council. MUT Council members were asked to volunteer to be the MUT representative on these committees:

Officials – Carl Grossbard

Rules Committee – Jim Garcia

Development Committee – Scott McCoubrey

Scientific Svcs. Subcommittee – Ann Heaslett

Records Committee – Roy Pirrung

Coaching Education – Ellen Miller

Medical Sciences Subcommittee – Ann Heaslett

Psychological Services - Ann Heaslett

Ethics – these can be accessed at the USATF website

There was a question as to how one knows how to access the e-group of a committee or subcommittee and how to know who else is included in that e-group. A suggestion was made that members could be listed on the website for USATF so people know who to contact if they have a concern about a particular issue. A suggestion was made that a list of MUT Council members be posted on Kami Semick's website (where funds are being solicited for the USATF 100km team). A question came up about who is eligible to vote in MUT elections. The reply from Nancy Hobbs was that MUT Council Members and a designee from each state where a national championship is held can vote.

Lloyd Stevenson provided a **summary of the rules committees:**

1. If an athlete sets an American record (overall/open, this does not apply to age group records), it must be confirmed that drug testing can be done at the event. Jim Garcia offered to check on whether this applies to MUT distance races or not. Nancy Hobbs stated that at least one MUT athlete is currently in the USADA testing/tracking program.
2. Regarding wearing headphones in races: the rules committee approved rule #32. In summary, at USATF National Championships, headphones cannot be worn by USATF runners. However, the race director may decide to allow or not allow non-USATF runners to wear headphones.

Recap: Two items were discussed for inclusion in Rules (2010) and L and L (2009). For Rules, it was suggested that MUT council approves records that relate to their disciplines – ie: road and track ultra records (those beyond the marathon distance). Presently men's, women's, or master's LDR approve these records. Nancy will work with Andy Carr and the Rules committee on this issue. For L and L, it was determined that member organizations of USATF that relate to MUT – ie: Running USA, AUA, ATRA, and RRCA, each have one vote in the MUT council. Nancy will work with Walter High and Nina Kuscick on this item.

Meeting was adjourned.

Thanks go to Ann Heaslett for taking the minutes at this year's meeting.