As we enter a new year, may joy bless our lives, may compassion fill our hearts, and may peace and understanding spread through all the world.

39th Annual ORW Rankings

In 1970, the Ohio Racewalker ranked the world’s racewalkers based on performances during that year and we have continued to do so since. So, here we go again. In that first year, there were rankings only for men at 20 and 50 Km. In 1972 we added U.S. rankings at the same two distances, and in 1979, as a significant long-needed program for women was finally emerging in the U.S. and other countries, we added women’s rankings. Those original women’s rankings were at 5 and 10 Km. We dropped the 5 Km rankings in 1985 since by that time women’s international competition was almost exclusively at 10 Km. In 1999, the women’s rankings shifted to 20 Km as that became the distance for international competitions. We will gladly add women’s 50 Km rankings when any significant competition emerges at that distance.

These rankings are based strictly on the opinion of your editor, but with close attention to the year’s entire set of performances for each athlete. Performance in major events carries greater weight in molding my opinions. All comments and disagreements are welcomed and may be published, but the likelihood of the ranking being altered is very slight.

2008 World 20 Km Rankings—Men

1. Valeriy Borchin, Russia
   1:17:55 (1) Adler 2/24
   1:18:21 (2) World Cup 5/10
   1:19:01 (1) Olympic Games 8/16
   1:20:11 (1) Beijing 4/20

2. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador
   1:23:42 (5) Chihuahua 3/8
   1:21:21 (5) Rio Major 4/5
   1:20:31 (1) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:20:55 (1) CAC 7/5
   1:19:15 (2) Olympic Games 8/16
   1:24:35 (3) IAAF Challenge 9/21

3. Jared Tallent, Australia
   1:24:20 (1) Canberra 1/7
   1:25:40 (9) Chihuahua 3/8

4. Francisco Fernandez, Spain
   DNF Chihuahua 3/8
   1:18:15 (1) World Cup 5/10
   1:19:48 (2) Krakow 5/24
   1:20:32 (7) Olympic Games 8/16
   1:23:14 (1) IAAF Challenge 9/21

5. Hao Wang, China
   1:20:34 (4) Chinese Champ. 3/14
   1:20:25 (2) Beijing 4/20
   1:19:47 (4) Olympic Games 8/16
The Ohio Racewalker is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rate is $12.00 per year ($15.00 outside the U.S.). Editor and Publisher: John E. (Jack) Mortland. Address all correspondence regarding both editorial and subscription matters to: Ohio Racewalker, 3184 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43202. E-mail address is jmortal@columbus.rr.com. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 24th of each month.

### 2008 Top 5 Performers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Luke Adams</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1:20:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ivano Brugnetti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1:20:51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Robert Heffernan</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1:20:56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sergey Bakulin</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1:20:57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Eder Sanchez</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1:21:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Borchin had a decisive win in the Olympic games and with a close second in the World Cup had the best pair of performances in the year's two big competitions, so he is clearly number one. Perez started slowly as he worked into shape, but came through brilliantly in the Olympics. Had Tallent had a better race in the World Cup he would have challenged Perez for the number two slot, but he didn't, and he must settle for third. Fernandez went into the Olympics with a good shot at a number one ranking, but faltered there and can be ranked no higher than fourth. Wang's fourth place finish at the Olympics earns him the fifth spot. Adams was consistent with seventh and sixth place finishes in the major races. Sanchez appeared to be on his way to a much higher ranking with a great World Cup race and a win over Fernandez in a fast Krakow race, but fell apart in the Olympics and did not finish the Challenge race. Still, he ranks ahead of Heffernan who he beat decisively three times before his collapse. Molina narrowly gets the tenth spot over Norway’s Erik Tysse and Russia's Ilya Markov with the best performance of the three in the Olympics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>IAAF Challenge 9/21</td>
<td>DNF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Cup 5/10</td>
<td>1:22:45</td>
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<td>Olympic Games 8/16</td>
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<td>Olympic Games 8/16</td>
<td>1:25:06</td>
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<td>Olympic Games 8/16</td>
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### 2008 World 20 Km Rankings—Women

<table>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Olga Kaniskina</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kjersti Platzer</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elisa Rigaudo</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vera Santos</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Maria Vasco</td>
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<td>Danielle Jouve</td>
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<td>Tatiana Sibileva</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Camelia Haidar</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ludmila Ochmanova</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ana Cabecinha</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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2008 Top 5 Performers

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ilya Markov</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Erika Tysse</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Luke Adams</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1:21:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ana Cabecinha</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Maria Vasco</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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2008 World 20 Km Rankings—Men

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<th>Country</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Robert Heffernan</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1:21:04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Viktor Burev</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1:21:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jared Tallent</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1:21:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hyunsub Kim</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>1:21:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Zhiping Wang</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1:21:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hao Wang</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1:21:19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ivano Brugnetti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1:21:49</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hatem Ghoula</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Robert Heffernan</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
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2008 World 20 Km Rankings—Women

<table>
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2008 World 20 Km Rankings—Men

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<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1:21:04</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Viktor Burev</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Jared Tallent</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1:21:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hyunsub Kim</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>1:21:17</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Zhiping Wang</td>
<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hao Wang</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1:21:19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ivano Brugnetti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1:21:49</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
With wins in two major competitions and the year’s fastest time, Kamiskina leaves no doubt about who is number one. Likewise, Plazter is clearly second best. With four wins in IAAF Challenge races and second in the Olympics, her lead down in the Challenge final can be excused. A very weak World-Championship race, Elisa Rigaudo was right on Plazter’s heels in the Olympics and that earns her third place over Liu and Vasco, who were fourth and fifth in the Games. How could we rate Vasco, with fifth place finishes in both the World Cup and Olympics, anywhere but fifth? Loughmane was just seventh in the Olympics, but sixth in all other races and we rank her sixth. Sibileva in seventh and Arkhipova in ninth each had a quick early season race and impressive World Cup races, enough to earn those slots, although they disappeared after the World Cup. Santos beat Arkhipova in the World Cup, faded a bit in the Olympics, but still earns the eighth spot. Cabecinha is a close pick for tenth over Spain’s Beatriz Pascual, sixth in the Olympics but only 23rd in the World Cup, and Portugal’s Susana Feitor, who won the Portuguese title early in the year and the IAAF Challenge Final late, but was just tenth in the World Cup and did not finish in the Olympics.

2008 Top 50 Performers

1. Alex Schwazer, Italy
   3:54:10 (1) Italian Champ 3/21
   3:37:04 (2) World Cup 5/11
   3:37:09 (1) Olympic Games 8/22
2. Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia
   3:34:14 (1) World Cup 5/11
   4:04:10 (3) Olympic Games 8/22
3. Jared Tallent, Australia
   3:39:27 (2) Olympic Games 8/22
4. Horacio Nava, Mexico
   3:47:55 (5) World Cup 5/11
   3:45:21 (6) Olympic Games 8/22
5. Jesus Garcia, Spain
   3:52:31 (14) World Cup 5/11
   3:44:08 (4) Olympic Games 8/22
6. Erik Tyvse, Norway
   3:45:08 (5) Olympic Games 8/22
7. Yuki Yamazaki, Japan
   3:45:47 (7) Olympic Games 8/22
8. Trond Nymark, Norway
   3:44:59 (3) World Cup 5/11
   DNF Olympic Games 8/22
9. Rafal Fedaczynski, Poland
   3:46:51 (8) Olympic Games 8/22
10. Mikel Odriozola, Spain
    3:47:30 (4) World Cup 5/11
    3:51:30 (13) Olympic Games 8/22

Schwazer won the biggest race, the Olympic Games, and had a second in the other major race to win the top spot. Nizhegorodov’s impressive win in the World Cup gives him the nod over Olympic silver medalist Tallent for second place. Nava had the most consistent record, after Schwazer and Nizhegorodov, in the two big races and deserves a fourth place ranking. The great veteran Garcia recovered nicely from a sub-par showing in the World Cup to take fourth in Beijing. Tyvse’s only race at the distance was solid to earn him sixth place. Yamazaki had two very fast domestic races to support his seventh place Olympic finish. Nymark dropped out of the Olympic race, but his solid third in the World Cup earns him mention ahead of Fedaczynski, the eighth place Olympic finisher. Odriozola earns tenth ahead of Olympic ninth and tenth place finishers Grzegorz Sudol, Poland and Luke Adams, Australia, off his good World Cup performance, although he faltered in Beijing.

2008 Top Performers

3:34:14 Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia
3:37:04 Alex Schwazer, Italy
3:38:08 Egor Irokhin, Russia
3:39:27 Jared Tallent, Australia
3:41:09 Yuki Yamazaki, Japan
3:44:08 Jesus Garcia, Spain
3:45:08 Erik Tyvse, Norway
3:45:13 Tianfeng Si, China
3:45:21 Horacio Nava, Mexico
3:45:47 Grzegorz Sudol, Poland
3:46:51 Rafal Fedaczynski, Poland
3:46:55 Chengliang Zhao, China
3:47:30 Mikel Odriozola, Spain
3:47:45 Luke Adams, Australia
3:48:17 Antonio Pereira, Portugal
3:48:29 Sergey Kirdyakpin, Russia
3:49:03 Andre Holhe, Germany
3:49:17 Yuryi Chesnokov, Russia
3:49:21 Marco De Luca, Italy
3:49:30 Donatas Skarnulis, Lithuania
3:49:33 Takayuki Tanli, Japan
3:49:50 lngus Janiecics, Latvia
2008 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Men

1. Kevin Eastler
   1:27:07 (1) U.S. Trials 7/5
   1:28:44 (43) Olympic Games 8/16

2. Matt Boyles
   1:28:19 (2) U.S. Trials 7/5

3. Patrick Stroope
   1:30:30 (1) Eugene 3/30
   1:41:34 (98) World Cup 5/11
   1:29:17 (3) U.S. Trials 7/5

4. John Nunn
   1:30:51 (2) Eugene 3/30
   1:37:38 (2) Huntington Beach 3/16
   1:31:47 (78) World Cup 5/11
   1:26:22 (7) La Coruna 6/8
   1:30:25 (4) U.S. Trials 7/5

5. Tim Seaman
   1:32:49 (3) Eugene 3/30
   1:38:11 (92) World Cup 5/11
   1:34:08 (16) La Coruna 6/8
   1:30:25 (5) U.S. Trials 7/5
   1:53:58 (2) Welland, Ont. 9/14

Well, the way things turn out my rankings match the finish order of the U.S. National Championships and Olympic Trials, with the exception of Mike Tarantino, only eleventh there, occupying the sixth spot off his good performances at the World Cup Trials and the World Cup.

2008 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Joanne Dow
   1:38:37 (2) Eugene 3/30
   1:35:10 (1) U.S. Trials 7/5
   1:34:15 (31) Olympic Games 8/21

2. Teresa Vail
   1:35:16 (4) Eugene 7/5
   1:46:54 (10) Eugene 3/30

3. Maria Michta
   1:45:09 (7) Eugene 3/30
   1:45:02 (6) World Cup 5/11
   1:47:44 (8) Olympic Trials 7/5

4. Sam Cohen
   1:40:53 (4) Eugene 3/30
   1:52:34 (10) Huntington Beach 3/16
   1:33:52 (8) U.S. Trials 7/5

5. Jolene Moore
   1:42:04 (6) Eugene 3/30
   1:45:32 (63) World Cup 5/11
   1:42:37 (5) Olympic Trials 7/5

6. Stephanie Casey
   1:45:02 (6) World Cup 5/11
   1:47:44 (8) Olympic Trials 7/5

7. Maria Michta
   1:45:09 (7) Eugene 3/30
   1:45:02 (6) World Cup 5/11
   1:47:44 (8) Olympic Trials 7/5

8. Solomiya Login
   1:44:08 (7) Olympic Trials 7/5

9. Loretta Schullein
   1:42:32 (3) Olympic Trials 7/5
   1:41:48 (5) Eugene 3/30
   1:49:03 (11) Olympic Trials 7/5

10. Carolyn Kealty
    1:48:39 (10) Olympic Trials 7/5

...
Top 18 Performers

1:34:15 Joanne Dew
1:36:34 Teresa Vaill
1:39:02 Susan Armenta
1:40:53 Sam Cohen
1:41:48 Stephanie Casey
1:42:04 Jolene Moore
1:44:48 Solomiya Login
1:45:02 Maria Michta
1:45:20 Loretta Schuellein
1:45:46 Lauren Forgues
1:45:57 Sara Standley-Gonzales
1:47:34 Susan Randall
1:48:39 Carolyn Kealty
1:49:52 Margaret Ditchburn
1:50:33 Kelly Wong
1:52:06 Kristen Mullaney
1:51:52 Christina Peters
1:52:37 Lisa Marie Vellucci

2008 U.S. 50 Km Rankings

1:45:20 Loretta Schuellein
1:39:02 Solomiya Login
5:17:50 Curt Clawen
1:45:02 Maria Michta
1:44:08 Solomiya Login
1:42:04 Jolene Moore
1:41:48 Stephanie Casey
1:36:34 Teresa Vaill
29:21 7. Alexis Davidson (S3)
29:28 8. David Lee
5 Km, New York City, Dec.

Some Results

5:43:51 Juan Yanes
5:33:32 Max Walker
5:33:32 Max Walker
5:43:51 Juan Yanes

Others:
5:17:50 Curt Clausen
5:20:33 Albert Medina
5:33:32 Max Walker
5:43:51 Juan Yanes


DECEMBER 2008


VENUES FOR YOUR RACEWALKING PLEASURE

Fri. Jan. 21 1 Mile, Pharr, Texas (O)
Sat. Jan. 3 5 Km, Pharr, Texas, 8 am (O)
Sun. Jan. 4 Indoor 1 Mile, 3000 meters, Boston (X)
Sat. Jan. 10 Indoor 15000 and 5000 meters, New York City (G)
Sun. Jan. 11 2.8 Miles, Seattle (C)
Sun. Jan. 11 50 Km, Houston, Texas (L)
Marathon and Half Marathon, Mobile, Alabama (P)
Fri. Jan. 16 Indoor 3000 meters, Cedarville, Ohio (M)
Sat. Jan. 17 High School 1 Mile, Cedarville (M)
Sun. Jan. 18 Rose Bowl 10 Mile and 5 Km, Pasadena, Calif., 7:30 am (Y)
Indoor 3000 meters, Boston (X)
Fri. Jan. 30 Indoor 3000 meters, Findlay, Ohio (M)
Millrose Games Indoor 1 Mile, New York City
Bob became one of the true founders of the entire Masters sports movement, first in the USA and then far beyond. I well remember those first Masters Sports Association meets organized by Bob at Randall's Island. Until then, older folks had no other option than to run in Open AAU meets and be totally routed by the young guys. Later on, Bob moved over to racewalking and extended his passion so well here, too. I remember chasing him through Brooklyn in the years when the NYC Marathon had an official Racewalk Division. Bob moved from NYC to Florida and continued doing all the great things he'd done in NYC. He was still winning medals in his division and doing it to the final, fateful strides. Bob, you were a unique and truly incredible guy who we will all miss so much. A final cheer to Mr. Bob Fine, one of our all-time great people.

From Cliff Elkins: I had known Bob for more than 15 years in a relationship that included six World Masters competitions, being in the same age group and working closely within the USA Track and Field structure. I first met Bob, when at a local Phoenix race, I noted some dude who was really racewalking during warm-ups—this was and is a rarity in our area. The first thing he did is come over to me during a warmup and tell me to lean forward from the ankles, then during the race proceeded to kick my butt. In Barbados, during the 10 Km, Bob was DQ’d due to a cow coming on to the course and causing him to break stride and get his third card. But Bob being Bob, did not go after the cow but stayed and pushed me on for a USA victory in the 10 Km. In a WMA regional meet in Leon, Mexico, Bob was a leader in resolving some difficult issues and as always taking care of the U.S.' interests. In Australia, during the 20 Km, Bob was in difficulty and just before falling (which led to eight stitches in an emergency room), he made sure I would finish to safeguard USA team points in the age group. I miss you "old fellow". I have lost a friend a competitor who showed me the way to handle international competition and a role model even though you were only five days older than me.

From Vince Peters: Bob and I had arrived here in Reno at the same time and chatted while waiting for the shuttle to take us from the airport to the hotel. The Huntsman Games bid was foremost on his mind. Bob and I worked together at several Florida events over the years. And I truly appreciated his help with this year's 50 Km Olympic Trials in Miami. Yet, Bob being Bob, was different from me. You were only five days older than me. Your editor: I never met Bob that I recall, so I knew him only through correspondence and the footprints of all he did for our sport and for masters in particular. He was not beyond criticizing me for casual remarks in these pages that, at least to him, denigrated the integrity of the masters movement and the abilities of the masters athletes. But, when he would call for help, perhaps on addresses or some sort of data, which I was able to supply, his thank you notes were so obviously sent in genuine gratitude and appreciation. As others have noted, his loss will leave a void as we seek to advance the status of our sport.
Teaching Racewalking at the Elementary School Level

by A.C. Jaime

Our South Texas Walking Club, with the cooperation of our PSJA Independent School District, friends and local businesses, has purchased twenty-six hundred of the new children's racewalking book "Racewalking! Fun? Alex and Maria Discover Racing" by Dr. Tom Fastier. We have loaned those books to our PSJA ISD Elementary Schools so that they may start teaching racewalking to all their 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. An instructional racewalking video using only our eight to fifteen year old club members was made by our senior club members with the assistance of the PSJA ISDS professional staff. That video has also been made available to the teachers along with the recommend North American Racewalk Institute Teacher's Curriculum developed by Dr. Tom Fastier and staff. The PSJA ISD has been instructed to allow their 3rd grade teachers to use the books and video in class for two days before sharing them with the 4th grade teachers who are also to use them for two days before passing them along to the 5th grade teachers. The teachers have been instructed to allow their students to take the books home one night to share with their parents. The physical education teachers will then be ready to practice and teach the art of racewalking with the students for the remaining of the three to six week trial period. The Edinburg ISD has also agreed to start the same racewalking program at their Elementary Schools for a period of six weeks. Talks are underway with several other school districts that have expressed a desire to start the same program. We have furthermore communicated with Ruben Hinojosa, our Congressman, who has advised us that there is a possibility that the "Reading Is Fundamental" organization may approve our book for free distribution throughout the U.S.A. in public libraries and schools. Our success to date has been possible because of the cooperation of many, to numerous to mention, including those that have made not one, but many trips to our part of Texas to assist us in one way or another. We are forever grateful, and offer our assistance to any one that desires to start a program such as ours in their community. The books may be purchased for $6.95 at http://www.dragonfeatherbooks.com/racewalkbookorder.html. The DVD may be obtained for $3.00 plus $5.00 shipping charge from Treviso Digital at 1101 N. Cage Ste. C-5 Pharr, Texas 78577. Please call me at 956-821-6659 if you have any questions.

From Heel To Toe

Russian ace Skurygin dies. Russian racewalkers German Skurygin, age 46, died in late November. The cause of death has not been reported, but his trainer Leonid Vakhrushev said that his heart stopped. Not unusual in the case of death. Skurygin won the 1999 World Championship at 50 Km after a long, but undistinguished career in which he had received four top ten world ranking only one. Any suspicions of his sudden emergence in 1999 (he was also fifth in the World Cup race earlier that year) were validated later when it was announced that elevated hormone levels in his blood suggested doping. He was stripped of his 1999 gold medal and suspended for two years. A positive result from the U.S. standpoint was that his disqualification moved Curt Clausen to the bronze medal spot, our only World Championship racewalking medal. Skurygin returned in 2002, finishing second in the World Cup and in 2003 won the European Cup 50 Km and pushed Robert Korzeniowski to a World Record (3:36:03) in the World Championships, finishing just 39 seconds back. He finished fourth in the World Cup 50 in 2004 in his last appearance in a major race. Key race dates. The U.S.

Looking Back

45 Years Ago (From the September-October 1963 Race Walker edited by Chris McCarthy, from which we have been culling material for the last 3 months since Chris didn't actually publish the issue until the end of the year, and at that it was nearly the last breath of his brilliant publication, which he began in 1961) -At the National AAU Convention, the walking Committee officially changed the name of the sport in this country from just walking to race walking (with racewalking—one word—now preferred by many, including the Ohio Racewalker). Chris had always called his publication the Race Walker, drawing from the British. I presume, where that terminology goes way back. Ron Laird easily won a 50 Km race in California in 4:46:28 with Mike Brodie second in 5:01:08 and Ed Glender third in 5:07:09.

National 50 Km will be held in Santee, California on February 9. It will also be a World Cup qualifier. Pan Am Cup 20 Km Trials, men and women, are scheduled for Pharr, Texas on March 29. The National 20 Km and World Cup Trials for men and women are in Eugene, Oregon on June 27-28. Meynard honored. Racewalking competitor, official, and judge, Lori Meynard, who died just over a year ago (see Nov. 2007 ORW), was induced into the National Officials Hall of Fame at the USATF annual meeting early this month in Reno. She was recognized for her work in racewalking and in track and field in general where she is remembered with great respect and affection. McGovern clinics: Looking to upgrade your racewalking abilities? Dave McGovern has announced a 2009 schedule for his excellent World Class Racewalking Clinics. Dates, sites, and contacts are: Jan. 30: Feb. 1, Mesa, Arizona, Kathy Franzek, 602-909-8069, domor@cox.net; Feb. 13-15, Santa Cruz, Aruba, Juan Gomez, 297-567-0065, juanog@an.com; March 6-8—Williamsburg, Virginia, Cindy Steger, 757-258-9128, fml@usn.com; March 27-29, Memphis, Tennessee, Sherry Rogers, 901-351-6219, Pandas9@hotmail.com; April 3-5, Austin, Texas, Pamela Fron, 512-335-1920. Fron@shcglohal.net; May 1-3, Cambridge, Mass., Kathy Burton. Bertoniones@comcast.net; July 24-26, Indianapolis, Indiana, David Harriman, 317-679-1403, david.harriman@shcglohal.net; September 18-20, Louisville, Kentucky, Linda Laurel, 502-553-8051, cupettecs@mac.com; November 7-9, Alburquerque, N.M., Lenk Krozinzo, 505-250-2282, lennykro@aol.com; and November 17-22, National Training Center, Clermont, Florida, Dave McGovern, http://racewalking.org/clincis.htm, rayzwocker@aol.com. McGovern clinic. An IAAF Level I Judging Clinic will be held in Pharr, Texas, March 27-29, the weekend of the World Cup 20 Km Trials. Level III Judge Ron Daniel will conduct the clinic. You can find criteria for attending and application forms at Dave McGovern's web site www.racewalking.org/levelI criteria.doc. Salonen honored. Finnish racewalker Reima Salonen was among eleven athletes given the Pro Urheilu or Pro Sports Award by Finland's Ministry of Education and Sports for their outstanding contribution to athletics during their careers. He is the first racewalker to have been so honored. Salonen was the first Finnish racewalker to have won a gold medal in elite international competition when he took the European 50 Km Championship in Greece in 1981. He also has a World Championship bronze and Olympic and World Championship fourth place finishes. He won 26 Finnish national championships at varying distances. (Since Salonen's time, two other Finnish walkers have won World Championships—Valentin Kononen in the men's 50 in 1995 and Sari Essava in the women's 10 in 1993.) Salonen has been a professional fisherman most of his working life in coastal southwestern Finland and has served as a city council member in the small town where he has lived.
Marco Evisonik and Andy Kaestner at 50; and Debbi Lawrence, Maryanne Torrellas, and Teresa Vaill at 10. Mexico won the Pan-Am Cup for men and Canada the women's version. The November races were held in Argentina. In the women's race, Canada's Ann Peel won in 46:23 for 10 Km. She was supported by Janice McCarthy (46:45) and Alison Baker (47:17) in fourth and fifth. Mexico's Giacinti Mendoza beat Debbi Lawrence for second. Carlos Mercenario (1:24:00) and Martin Bermudez (4:03:20) were easy winners in the men's races. Mercenario was followed by Ernesto Canto (Mex.), Guillaume Leblanc, Can., and Tim Lewis. The Mexicans swept the 50 with Arturo Bravo and Victor Sanchez in second and third. Paul Wick was the first U.S. finisher in fifth (4:21:36).

15 Years Ago (From the December 1993 ORW)-Jonathan Matthews bettered the American record for 1 Hour, covering 104.58 miles on the Foothills College track in California. He bettered Allen James' old record by 42 miles, after passing the 10 Km mark in 42:54. China's Mingcai Li did 50 Km in 3:49:17 in Beijing in September.

10 Years Ago (From the December 1998 ORW)-Italian women were one and three in the ORW Annual World Rankings for the women's 10 Km. Anna Rita Sidoti and Erica Alfridi bracketed second place Nadezhda Ryashkina, Russia. The U.S. rankings saw Joanne Dow, Michelle Rohl, and Debbi Lawrence in the first three spots. The top three in the World 20 Km Rankings were Ilya Markov, Russia; Jefferson Perez, Ecuador; and Aigars Fadjevs, Latvia. Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; Miguel Rodriguez, Mexico; and Valentin Kononen, Finland were atop the 50. Top in the U.S. were Curt Claussen, Andrew Hermann, and Tim Seaman at 20, and, in different order, Claussen, Seaman, and Hermann at 50. Chinese athletes swept the Asian Games racewalks-Hongyu Liu in 43:57:28 for the women's 10; Guohui Yu in 1:20:25 for the men's 20; and Yinhang in 3:59:27 for 50. The Australian 50 Km was won by Dion Russell in 3:47:34.

5 Years Ago (From the December 2003 ORW)-The World Rankings saw Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia; Gillian O'Sullivan, Ireland, and Valentina Symbulakova, Belarus leading the women's 20 Km; Jefferson Perez, Ecuador; Francisco Fernandez, Spain; and Roman Rasskazov, Russia topping the men's 20 Km; and Robert Korzeniowski, Poland, German Skurgyn, Russia, and Andreas Ern, Germany the top three at 50. The U.S. rankings were led by Michelle Rohl, Joanne Dow, and Teresa Vaill at 20; Kevin Eastler, Tim Seaman, and John Nunn at 20 and Curt Claussen, Tim Seaman, and John Nunn at 50. World Military titles went to Elena Nikolayeva, Russia in 22:11.69 for 5 Km and Alessandro Gandelini, Italy in 39:29:45 for 10 Km. Danielle Kirk was seventh in the women's race and John Nunn tenth in the men's race. Nathan Denker won the Australian 50 Km in 3:39:43 leaving New Zealand's Craig Barrett 11 minutes behind.

Wishing All of Our Readers A Most Happy and Prosperous New Year Filled With Rewarding Efforts in Your Racing and Training.