



Over The Hill Track Club

SEPTEMBER 1997

President	Norman Thomas
V.P. Programs	Bob Thomas
V.P. Communications	Jeff Gerson
Secretary	Rex Harvey
Treasurer	Jack Brunner

Coordinators

Women (all)	Debbie Thomas	216-382-5170
Men - Open	Bob Thomas	216-382-5170
30-39	Dion Campbell	330-626-1560
40-49	Norman Thomas	216-425-8219
50-59	Grover Coats	216-464-3865
60+	Jack Greenwald	216-327-3762
Weight events	John Sloan	330-492-5007
Multi events	Rex Harvey	216-446-0559
Racewalk	Tim Bailey	216-327-1641

President's Message

Thanks to one and all who supported the Cleveland Track Classic on August 2. Results should be available in the next newsletter.

Plan to be at the club picnic this Saturday at the Richfield Woods Picnic Area. We will start at 1pm. Anyone needing directions, questions, etc., can call Jack Brunner or myself.

Most of the outdoor track season is over. The national meets have come and gone. The fall season brings throws competitions, cross country races, and decathlons.

On a sad note, we recently learned that Mike Berken, 41, passed away on August 18. He had been fighting leukemia since last year. An excellent pole vaulter, Mike will truly be missed.

Congratulations to Joe Chadbourne (M65). For the second year running, he is national champ in the hammer throw. He recently had a 46.38m effort to win the USATF NATIONALS in San Jose. He is the american record holder in this event.

We expect to see all club members on Sunday, September 28. We are again hosting our annual cross country 5km race. Cross country training and racing help build a base for indoor training and racing. Plan to compete or help out!

Results

Canadian Nationals, August 16-17, York University, Toronto

Debbie Thomas (W30)	400	1st	64.06
	800	1st	2:31.04
Bob Thomas (M40)	400	3rd	56.15
	800	2nd	2:06.5

USATF Nationals, August 7-10, S.J. City College, San Jose, CA

Joe Chadbourne (M65)	Hammer Throw	1st	46.38m
Norman Thomas (M45)	800	DNQ	2:21
	1500	DNQ	4:58

Buffalo Belles & Brawn Classic, August 9, Buffalo, NY

John Sloan (M55)	P. Vault	1st	9'
	Shot put	1st	31'1
	Discus	2nd	102'1
	Javelin	1st	114'8
	400m Hurdles	1st	1:34

USATF Midwest Regionals, July 26, Carmel H.S., Carmel, IN

Rodney Wilson (M35)	100	12.56	2nd
	200	25.63	2nd

Grand Ledge T.C. Meet, July 23, Grand Ledge, MI

Rodney Wilson (M35)	300m Hurdles	52.5	1st
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SCHEDULE

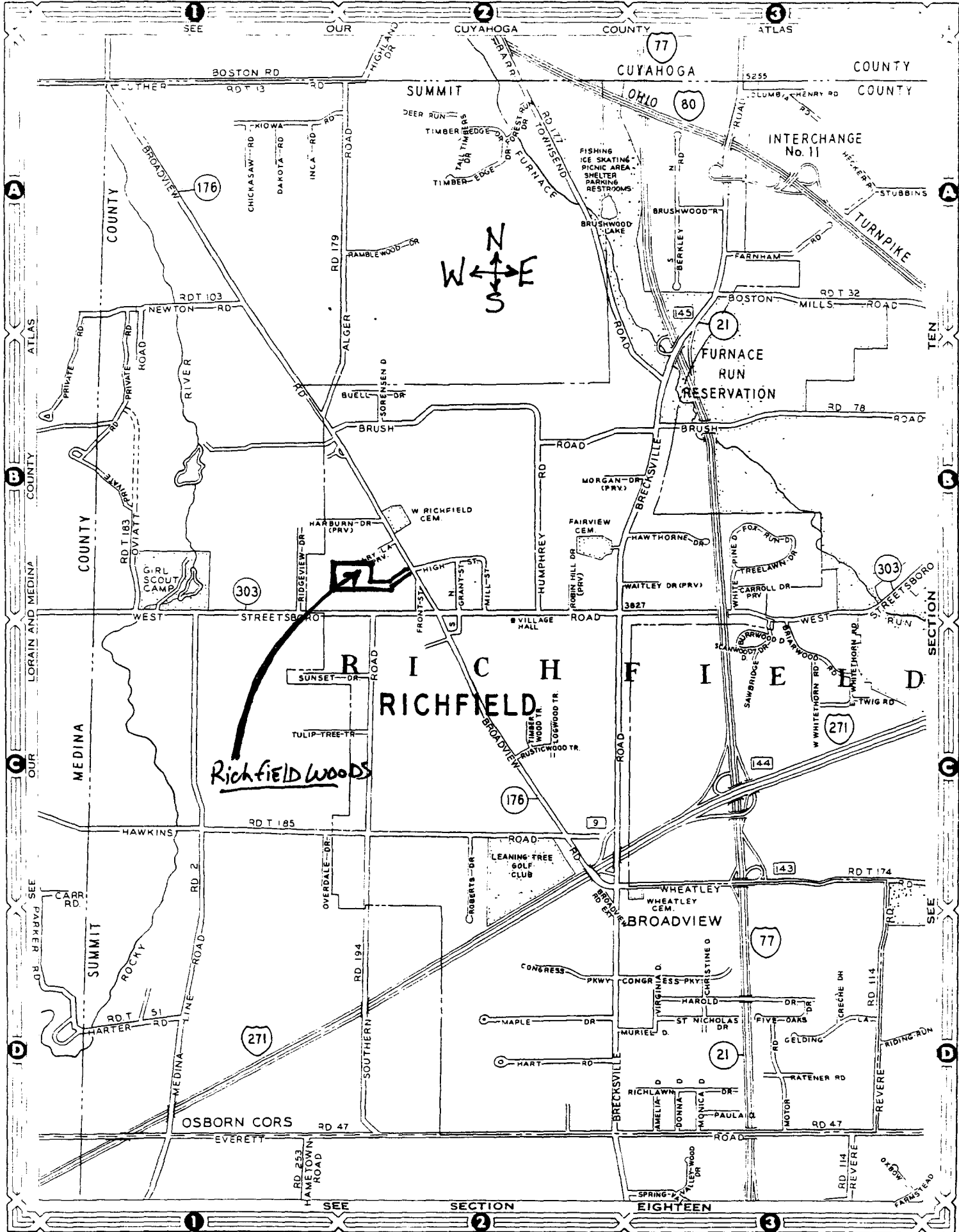
Sept. 6	Club Picnic	Richfield, OH
Sept. 14	Wolfpack Throwing Classic	Columbus, OH
Sept. 28	OTHTC Cross Country	Pepper Pike, OH
Sept. 20-21	USATF National Decathlon	Thomasville, NC

CLUB PICNIC!!!

The OTHTC Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 6, at Richfield Woods in Richfield, Ohio. OTHTC is providing all the food and drinks. This used to be a popular club function and we are bringing the idea back.

Most of us will need to use the Coliseum exit off I271. Proceed west on Route 303 to Route 176 (Broadview Rd). Proceed north on Rt. 176 to the park. We will convene at 1pm.

SECTION No. 9



OBITUARIES

Michael A. Berken, 41, held pole-vault record

By ALANA BARANICK
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

SEVILLE — Michael A. Berken always wanted to fly. He felt closest to touching the sky when he vaulted over a high bar with the aid of a long, flexible pole.

As a pole-vaulter for Brunswick High School in the 1970s, Mr. Berken competed at the state level and at one time held the Medina County record for highest vault. He continued participating

in the pole vault at Columbia University in New York City, where he majored in astrophysics.

He laid down his pole for a while, then took it up again a few years ago. He set up a pole-vault pit in his back yard, joined the Over the Hill Track Club and started going to Masters Track and Field meets to test his skills. Sometimes he was the only entrant in his age group.

Mr. Berken, 41, died Monday at

his home in Seville of complications from a bone marrow transplant.

"It didn't matter to him whether anyone else was competing," said his wife of 21 years, Rhonda. "He really loved it. It was a thrill."

Mr. Berken started the Medina Home School Track Club and coached its members in all track events. He also helped with statistics and officiating at Brunswick High School track meets.

When he became too ill with leukemia to participate, he watched meets on television.

The Brunswick native was a supervisor for the Dynamometer Laboratory at Ford Motor Co.'s Engine Plant No. 2 in Cleveland.

He was a member of the Jesus Emmanuel Community in Seville, one of six worship sites of Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church of Litchfield.

Mr. Berken was a naturalist,

who enjoyed hunting for mushrooms; and a music lover, who was partial to the folk music of the British Isles. He also had a keen interest in political and social issues that contributed to peace and justice.

Besides his wife, survivors include his daughters, Alison Michele, Hannelore, and Heidemarie, all at home; sons, Nicholas Ronald, Andrew Michael and Alec Christian, all at home; mother,

Ruth of Brunswick; two sisters and a brother.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at Jesus Emmanuel Community, 60 High St., Seville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Catholic Commission of Ashland, Medina and Wayne counties, 521 Beall Ave., P.O. Box 15, Wooster 44691-0015.

Waite & Son Funeral Homes Medina Chapel is handling arrangements.