Ted Cunningham   by John Woods

One of the big reasons why we are all proud to be part of the Maine Track Club is its thorough professionalism in race organization and management. It is by means of this competence that we are able to render a public service to the community as a whole.

Meet "Mister Finish Line" Ted Cunningham. Woking with several others, notably Charlie Scribner and Bob Jolicoeur, Ted has developed our present system.

Ted was an electronics technician with the Federal Aviation Administration for 30 years, working primarily with the Automated Radar Approach Control system at Portland, retiring in 1983. Since then he has kept himself sharp with courses in algebra, chemistry, biology, and other subjects.

He has been a member of MTC for about 9 years, but the big breakthru to our present system came as we hosted the Annual Convention of the Road Runners Club of America during the Jane Dolley Presidency. Sophisticated, and very expensive, equipment, some already on hand, was melded into a computerized system, centered around the finish line clock, the computer, computer software and the method of identifying finishing runners. As a result computerized race results are available almost instantly - which is a miracle when you realize that the 3rd place finisher in the 60+ age group might be in about 500th place overall. Despite all of this sophistication, officials need the flexibility and experience to play each race by ear. Theylearn by practice to make adjustments as each race develops its own peculiarities.

Ted works about 6 to 8 races a year, not only MTC, but also for other organizations (mostly charities) and clubs that MTC helps. Additionally, Ted served as Membership Chair during the Jolicoeur Presidency.

Ted competes in 3 or 4 races a year and used to run 4 or 5 miles a day. However, recentlyhe has not run much. While he was taking courses he ran with a group at the USM gym and Back 'Bay, but now, living in Wells, he lacks running companions

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