



2024 USATF Pacific SERVICE AWARDS

DON COLLINS



Don Collins has been a Pacific Association member since 2009, and has served the Pacific Association in multiple capacities over the past decade. This includes serving on the Board of Athletics, serving a term on the USATF Pacific Foundation, serving as the President's liaison to the Youth Committee, serving on the Officials Committee, and serving as the Associations Safe Sport Coordinator.

Don has also worked behind the scenes to review Association bylaws, increase the number of USATF officials working high school track meets, and grow Para track at the high school level. Don has been the head para-shot

official at CIF State championships every year since the introduction of the para program in 2016.

Don was the Commissioner of the CIF San Francisco Section from 2001-2021. He also is an attorney who has drafted sports related legislation, and written over 150 articles on legal and administrative issues affecting sports officials.



2024 SERVICE AWARDS *(continued)*

JEAN POMMIER



After several years in Road Racing, Jean Pommier has been actively involved in the Pacific Association MUT (Mountain, Ultra, Trail) scene since 2006. In addition to racing most of the MUT calendar since then and winning 15 Grand Prix, he has volunteered hours at races. In 2017, he took the helm of the MUT sub-committee as Chair. While preserving the 20-year heritage of this nationally renowned MUT Grand Prix, he led its redesign to encompass the Mountain and Trail formats, navigating a pandemic and major transformations of the MUT ecosystem. His main responsibilities range from building and

implementing the yearly calendar through coordination and collaboration with a dozen of PA clubs and race organizations, to scoring, rule adjustments, web updates, social media presence, LDR awards coordination and selection of the coveted MUT Runners and Volunteer of the Year recognitions. He is also well connected to the USATF National MUT Council and represented PA at two National Conventions. Additionally, for the past 20 years, Jean has played the role of historian by posting hundreds of PA MUT stories on his running blog. Jean has also been a Certified Official (Apprentice) from 2017 to 2020.

2024 SERVICE AWARDS *(continued)*

DON PORTEOUS



Don Porteous has coordinated the very successful Pacific Association Cross Country series and Grand Prix for many years, and has served on the PA's LDR committee. Don has also been involved in youth athletics in the East Bay where he coached the Encinal High School Cross Country team for 18 years, and helped organize cross country and track & field programs for middle schools in Alameda. Don

has enjoyed running and racing for the past 63 years, and continues to run PA Cross Country races with his Tamalpa teammates.

TOM MOORE AWARD

Mo Livermore

No ultrarunning discussion is complete without mentioning the Western States Endurance Run, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious ultramarathons.

The history of this 100-mile foot race on trails began with an equestrian challenge in 1956. Wendell Robie, an Auburn businessman and outdoor enthusiast, shocked his community by declaring that riding a horse on the rugged Western States Trail from Tahoe to Auburn could be done in under 24 hours.

That same year Wendell and four friends made good on his statement, and the equestrian endurance ride was



born. It was later named the Tevis Cup, 100 miles-One Day Ride, and by the early 1970s emerged as the premier endurance ride in the country. Riders then as now are given 24 hours to guide their horses from near Tahoe City to Auburn.

In 1974, a hardy soul named Gordy Ainsleigh joined the horse and rider teams on foot, and he proved that it was possible to complete the 100-mile trek under the 24-hour limit. A few others also accomplished this in '75 & '76, and in 1977, the first organized Western States run began with 14 runners. Mo Livermore and Curt Sproul were the race managers.

In 1978 the Western States Endurance Run (WSER) spun off from the equestrians as a



TOM MOORE AWARD: **Mo Livermore** *(continued)*

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separate event under the inspiration and guidance of **Mo Livermore, Shannon Weil, Curt Sproul, and Phil Gardner**, affectionately called the “Gang of Four”.

At a time when few race directors in the country were women, Mo co-race directed the Western States Endurance Runs from 1978-1981, and was sole race director from 1982-1983.

Mo has continued to serve as a WSER Board of Directors Member for the last 48 years, since the first race in 1977. Mo completed the Western States Endurance run twice herself, in 1981 (28:47) and 1983 (23:53).



The WSER’s Popularity: *Off the Charts!*

The WSER steadily grew in numbers from those 14 in 1977, ranging in the mid-200s to mid-300s, and peaking at 415 in

1981. Understanding that the trail could not support continued growth of entries, a lottery was established in 1981. In 2000, the sale of lottery tickets to help enhance an entry’s chances of being drawn, were introduced, with the proceeds funding trail maintenance projects. The odds of acquiring a WSER entry is now compared to the odds of being accepted at an Ivy League college.!



LEGACY COACH AWARD

The Legacy Coach Award was created in 2013 by USATF Pacific's Coaches Committee for:

“Influential coaches who have served in our association and have selflessly strengthened our sports through teaching, mentoring, and promoting our profession”.



LEGACY COACH AWARDEE

RICK ANDERSON

American River College

Men's XC Head Coach



TEAM WINS

Under the leadership of Coach Anderson (1995 to present), the Beavers' cross-country teams have won:

- **18 Conference Championships** (1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006-2016, 2018, 2019, 2021)
- **11 Northern California Championships** (1998, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2010-2015, 2018, 2019)
- **5 State Championships** (2005, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015)

(Bio courtesy of American River College; page 1 of 6)



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LEGACY COACH AWARDEE **Rick Anderson**

AWARDS

2004, 2006, 2011, 2013, and 2015 California Community College Cross Country Coach of the Year

- 2011 Community College Track & Field Coach of the Year.

INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONS

- 2011 **Garrett Seawell** – Woodward Park course record holder – transferred to Arizona State
- 2012 **Matt Airola** 2013 1500m state champion and school record holder – 3:45.80, 2nd in the 800m at 1:49.70 – transferred to University of Alabama
- 2013 **Luis Luna** – ran 13:54 5k at Eastern Kentucky.
- 2013 **Will Reyes**, who went on to be Chico State's #1 runner, went

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2024 LEGACY COACH AWARDEE **Rick Anderson**

from a high school cross country state championship's non-qualifier to the school record holder in the 5k (14:27) and 10k (29:52) at American River.

BIO

Coach Rick Anderson was a 1982 graduate of Cordova High School, lettering in cross-country all three seasons. Upon graduation, he competed at American River College in Cross Country and Track & Field for one season in each sport before enlisting in the US Navy for six years. In 1993, he enrolled once again at American River College. While at American River, he also received the "Pepsi Scholar Athlete of the Year" award and was voted captain of both his track and cross country teams. During the process of attaining his Bachelor's and

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2024 LEGACY COACH AWARDEE **Rick Anderson**

Master's degrees at California State University, Sacramento, he joined the coaching staff as an assistant and also assisted in coaching the men's and women's track & field teams. His Bachelor's degree is in Physical Education – Teaching and his Master's Degree is in Kinesiology – Sport Performance (Cum Laude). In 1995, Coach Anderson was hired as the Head Coach for the Men's Cross Country team, and in 2001 was hired full-time as the Head Men's Cross Country Coach, Assistant Track & Field Coach, and Physical Education Instructor. He took over the Head Men's Track & Field position in January of 2002. He has also served as the California Community College Cross Country and Track & Field Coaches Association President from 2005-2009.

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4-YEAR COLLEGE TRANSFERS (partial list):

- Matt Airola (Bret Harte HS) University of Alabama
- Garrett Seawell (Woodcreek HS) Arizona State University
- Will Reyes (Monterey Trail HS) Chico State University
- Sean Gregg (El Dorado HS) Northern Arizona University
- Luis Luna (Piner HS, Santa Rosa) Eastern Kentucky University
- Zach Done (Wodcreek HS) University of Oregon
- Ian Hecox (SMOSH founder, Del Campo HS) CSU Sacramento
- **UC Davis**
 - Anthony Sanchez
 - Brad Needles
 - Steven White
 - Will Melton
 - Cristian Morinico
 - Hamid Naemeh

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- **Chico State**
 - Conor Wells
 - Christian Woolfolk
 - Chris Kigar
 - Anthony Costales
 - Tom Witt
 - Steve Bjork
 - Luis Mora
- **San Jose State University**
 - Sam Wambugu
 - Josh Boedecker
 - Chris Hart
 - Josh Courtney
- **CSU Long Beach**
 - Chris Walden
 - Alex Chorn
- **Cal State Stanislaus**
 - Xavier Weaver
 - Anthony Fagundes
 - Tomas Evangelista
- **Sac State**
 - More thsn 35 transfers from ARC

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5th Annual Recognition Awards Banquet IN CLOSING

Your USATF Pacific Recognition Awards Banquet hosts thank all our attendees, awardees, volunteers, and contributors for making this event possible and for supporting the USATF Pacific Foundation with your beverage donations!

Visit pausatf.org to view this program online and learn even more about this year's

Awardees!

See you next year!