



INTERNATIONAL ROGAINING FEDERATION Inc.

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Box 3, Central Park, 3145 Australia
www.rogaining.com
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IRF Team

President: Neil Phillips
World Rogaining Championships Manager: Peter Taylor
Promotions and Development: Brad Hunt
Secretary/Treasurer: Rod Phillips
Technical Manager: Gordon Birch

Czech Republic: Jaroslav Vavra, Miroslav Seidl
Finland: Iiro Kakko
New Zealand: Pete Squires
Canada: Alan Stradeski
United States of America: Eric Smith, Clinton Morse, Bob Reddick
Australia: Rod Phillips, Gordon Birch, John Berwick, Neil Phillips, Peter Taylor
Founders Representative: Bob Reddick

Observer status

Estonia: Andres Käär
Ireland: Sean Hassett
Latvia: Guntars Mankus
New Zealand: Michael Wood
Sweden: Lars-Åke Svenk
Russia: German Shestakov, Sergey Yaschenko
South Africa: Pieter Mulder
Ukraine: Efim Shtempler.
7th WRC: Alan Mansfield

IRF Elections

IRF elections have been held over the last two months under the direction of John Berwick as IRF Returning Officer and in accord with the IRF Constitution. Elected were:

- Peter Taylor, WRC Manager
- Brad Hunt: Promotions - Development
- Gordon Birch: Technical Manager
- Rod Phillips: Secretary/Treasurer

In most years, only one position comes up for re-election, but this year saw the uncommon combination of two positions due for re-election, one other having been held over from 2004, and a vacancy. In subsequent years, the IRF moves back to having one or two positions up for election to ensure an orderly turn-over of executives.

First rogaine in Israel

The first rogaine in Israel was held on Saturday, 29th October 2005 in the Alonim area in the lower Galilee. The event was planned and executed according to IRF rules, and was hugely successful. The map was prepared in a scale of 1:30,000, covering an area of 75 km², based partly on four existing orienteering maps. The terrain included areas of pine and oak woods, olive trees, rough open land, a large number of settlements and tracks and roads, and was moderately hilly. The event itself was an 8-hour rogaine (no night rogaining because of security and safety reasons), and in order to attract more participants a 5-hour event for mountain bikers, with the same rules and controls, was held concurrently (with the same finishing time). Prizes were awarded to the winners in 5 categories. In all, 68 foot and 26 bike teams participated, with all enjoying themselves and returning safely.

The Israel Sport Orienteering Association will soon be deciding on a date and area for next year's event, and they hope to hold an annual rogaine from now on. They have learned a lot from this year's event, especially from the marketing point of view, and next year will be open to foreign visitors.

Their web page with information (in hebrew)

is at: <http://www.nivut.org.il/rogaine>

Pictures from the event itself:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/d-ravid/sets/1258443/>

<http://www.picturetrail.com/nivutphotos>

Congratulations to Dan Chissick and his team on a great success. Dan approached the IRF over a year ago with plans for this event, and with a little IRF assistance and encouragement, and plenty of local hard work setting the course and administering the event, they have pulled off a first in Israel.

Gold at the 2006 Australian Championships

The 27th Australian Rogaining Championships around Avoca in central Victoria are centred on historically one of the world's most important gold mining areas. For those participating in this 24 hour rogaine, there will be numerous subtle signs on the ground and in surrounding towns of the gold mining in the late 19th century.

In 1851, Victoria became a State of Australia in its own right. Within half a year, gold had been found in central Victoria and this discovery was to set the new State on a course of growth and prosperity that lasted half a century.

The first discoveries were reputedly at Clunes and Warrandyte in July 1851, but by the end of 1851, the discoveries of international fame, Bendigo and Ballarat, were made and a major world gold rush was on. Gold had attracted miners to California in 1849 ("a miner 49er and his daughter Clementine ...") but it was not long before these miners and many others heard of the finds in Victoria and headed for this new world. The prospecting methods were simple: panning in the creeks and gullies to look for gold, and where tiny specks were found, then move upstream and test again. A good sign was where the gold in the creek bed suddenly ran out as the immediate hill sides and slopes were often the gold source. The slopes were then combed for quartz veins on the surface, and these were broken open to see if they contained grains of gold. The hills of Victoria were very suitable for this prospecting method and much of the State was effectively prospected over the next decade with considerable success.

The alluvial gold in the creek and river beds was extracted by simply digging holes into the sands and gravels of the creek beds and processing the loose material. This very simple and cheap method was applied to any waterway with signs of gold and for a few years half the world's gold was coming from Victoria. By the late 1850s many of the obvious creeks had yielded their gold by this alluvial method and production began to decline. A century later, those holes dug in the creeks are still visible as small pits that are typically less than a metre deep now. Also today, there are vast areas along the creek flats

that have been turned over in the search for alluvial gold, with creek edges dug away and hummocky piles of mullock left behind. 27 ARC has many of these formerly mined creek beds. Since 1900, alluvial mining has been restricted with the last Victorian activities at the Amphitheatre area near Avoca.

All was not finished when the alluvial gold ran out however, as some of the quartz veins on the hill sides were the tops of huge gold systems plunging to hundreds of metres depth, and these maintained gold production until the early 1950s. Mine workings with deeper shafts and quartz vein debris are common throughout much of central Victoria.

Victoria has produced 2 percent of the World's gold worth \$40 billion in today's terms. Three quarters of a million ounces came from the Avoca area and nearly all of this was alluvial. Apart from the old mine workings all over the State, two of the more remarkable products of the gold era are the fine buildings in country towns such as Bendigo, Ballarat and Avoca and the remarkable population growth of Victoria from 73,000 in 1851 to 540,000 in 1861. The gold mining revival in Victoria in the last few years is minor compared to that of the 19th century.

For those with extra days to spare, there are well marked tourist trails and activities highlighting Victoria's gold history for tens of kilometres in all directions from Avoca and 27ARC.

Elemental gold may have run out in the creeks, but now there is another opportunity to find gold near Avoca. Replace picks and pans with a compass and map for your chance to win the 27th Australian Rogaining Championship Trophy!

Rogaining in the Czech Republic

The Czech Association of Rogaining was founded in October 1996, ran the 5th World Rogaining Championships in 2002, and holds the Czech Rogaining Championships each year. The 2005 Czech Rogaining Championships was held 25-26 June 2005, and included 6, 12 and 24 hour events attracting 152 participants. Results: (in Czech):

<http://car.shocart.cz/cz/zavody/vysledky/rog2005.htm>