

Excerpt from 2012 PA Service Award Recipients:

Phil Watkins



Phil started officiating in 1964 when I timed races at the Cal Aggie Picnic Day meet and timed a runner who broke a record for the 880 which I held for ten years. Dan Davidson and I met at Sacramento City College in 1960 where we were both running the 880. I was an old man by then as I had served 5 years in the Air Force prior to that. Dan and I worked many meets over the years mostly hand timing. He started doing Accutrack while at Sac State and by then I was working mostly field events and still hand timing. I soon noticed that Dan got to see all the running races while I seldom saw any of the races while busy with field events. I then asked Dan if I could work with him and the Accutrack and started a long history of the two of use doing FAT timing. We both continued to work other events and Dan did a lot of clerking and I was doing lots of weights and measures.

Besides track we were also doing cross country. We were part of the group doing the score keeping for the San Joaquin Sub Section and Section T&F Champs. for a number of years and along with Dick Iwamiya decided it was really taking too long and too much work. We then went to the Section meeting and offered to do the meets by computer. They took us up on the idea and we then went to Bob Rush and learned how it could be done. That started our group, 'About Timing Assoc.' and started us on our way to the Lynx timing and left Accutrack behind. There were four of us to start, the fourth being Bill Edgers who died several years ago.

We have been doing meet for small schools and leagues meets from Orland to the north and Patterson to the south, along with the Bay Area and Marin and up to Frog Town and many places in between.