



International Rogaining Federation

News August 2026

Welcome to an email newsletter aimed at keeping you up to date with what the International Rogaining Federation has been doing and big events from our member and observer countries. Please share around your clubs and give your country representative news to share.

European Rogaining Champs 2026



Orsolya Harrach provided a few comments on the 2026 ERC

1:50,000 scale map, 2 countries, 2 different types of terrain, and a river just in the middle. Add in the heat and everything is ready for an exciting race. Unfortunately, neither the

organizers nor the competitors had too much time for making big decisions, so the race had extra challenges, and the participants were fewer than usual. Because of the 31-33 °C, even in the last days there were some cancelling. However, many countries were represented, from Spain to Hungary and Romania. And we, who took part, enjoyed it despite the difficulties. In this case it was really true: No problems, just challenges.

At the registration everybody has got a small whistle, which was a nice touch from the organizers, as it was mandatory for everyone. An even better idea was how we received our maps. Instead of staying in queues to get them at a table, the maps were already prepared, easily accessible from a long row of tubes, signed with the numbers of the groups. Fast admittance, without extra manpower needed. I found it as good an initiative as the cardboards last year in Spain, offered for the planning process.

And how was the race itself? Hot weather, with long distances and challenging maps. Those tricky roads weren't always able to be matched on the map and in reality. And, as we all know, when you don't catch the right way at the right place, you are already lost. It does not help either when you see that other groups are fighting with the same question too.

Regarding the river, which had only three bridges to go over, the planning was really important, which made the whole race even more exiting and rogaining-like. A good preparation for next year's WRC in Australia!

See the results at https://www.o-adventure.cz/2026erc/erc_2026_rogaining_final_results.html

Rogaine Ireland



The first Rogaine was held in Ireland in June 1998 and it was organised by members of Setanta Orienteers in the scenic Wicklow National Park, just south of Dublin. The feedback

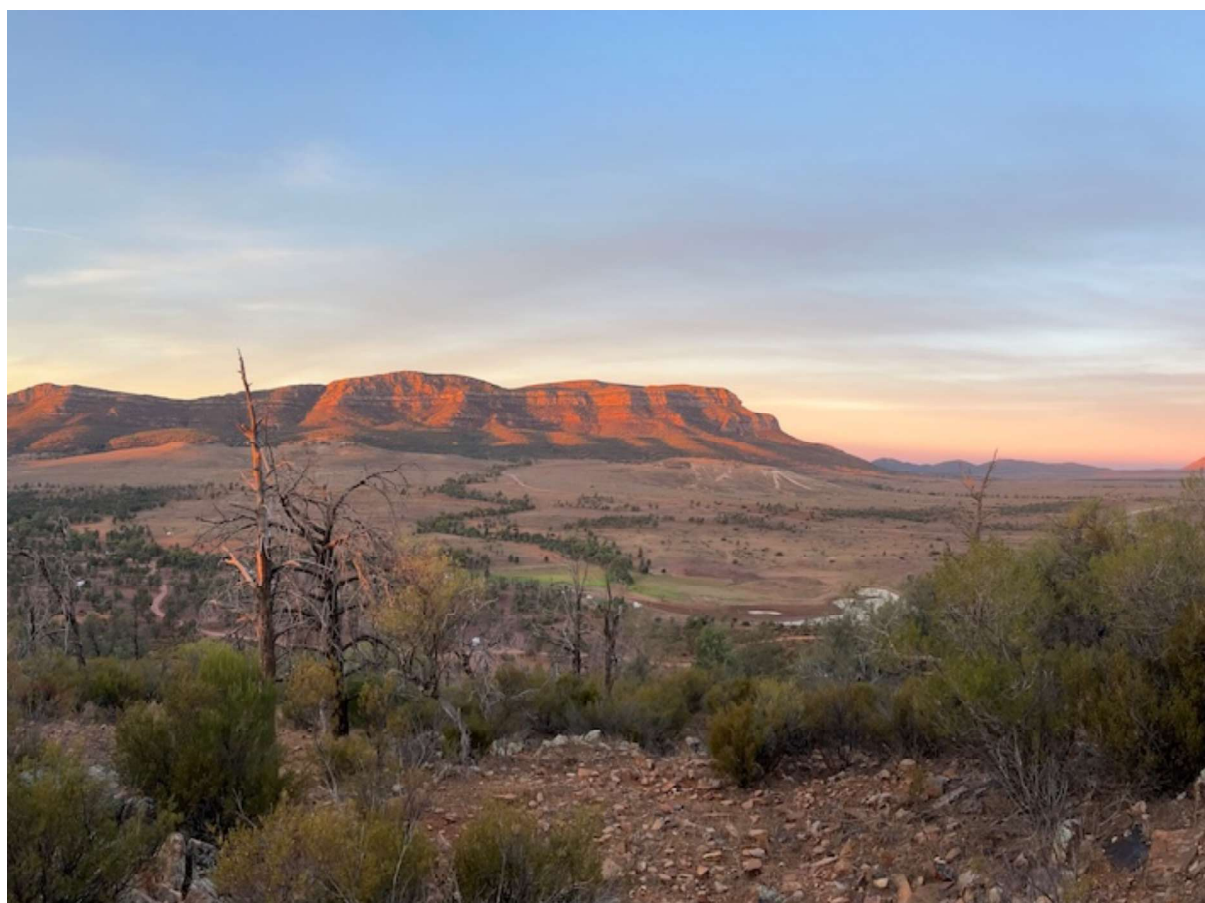
was very positive, so Setanta have continued to organise a Rogaine every June since. That may make it the oldest continuously run Rogaine event in Europe.

The event has two courses, a 24 hour and a six hour event, both run concurrently and timed to finish at the same time. With all competitors timed to finish at the same time, it lends a nice atmosphere to the post race barbeque. The terrain is typical Irish mountain moorland and bog, with large tracts of planted forestry. This type of terrain can be challenging in places, and therefore careful route planning and strategy is rewarded.

The event this year had about 100 competitors, mainly Irish, with the odd visitor from mainland Europe. The results can be found at [Results – Orienteering in Ireland](#)

If you are interested in trying it out next year, check out [Rogaine – Setanta Orienteers](#) or contact the club directly.

World Rogaining Championships 2027



Bulletin 2 for the World Rogaining Championships 2027 in Australia will be issued in early September, ahead of entries opening in October.

All rogainers will be able to enter the event from October. There will be no pre-qualified entrants registration ahead of entries for all rogainers opening. Organisers have indicated they can accommodate up to 1000 people. However, if you are an elite rogainer please enter early so there is no risk of missing out on a spot.

You can see the event video and read bulletin 1 on the website

<https://wrc2027.rogaining.au/>

The event is in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia. A true rogaining paradise. The area comprises of complex spur/gully terrain with the highest points above sea level generally being in the 600m range and lowest points being in the 250m range. Spectacular red quartzite cliffs dominate the view in the competition area. The Flinders Ranges is a geologist's playground, with exposed rock strata that document nearly a billion years of the Earth's history. Vegetation is sparse, and the terrain permits easy to fast walking or running in the flatter sections, with care required traversing steeper areas.

Rogaines around the world

Many IRF Members have been holding events. Here are a few. Links to rogaining website in your country are on the IRF website <https://www.rogaining.org/events/national-rogaine-calendars>.



In **Finland** the Lakeus Finland event in May was the national champs for Finland. Held in Isokyrö in the forests of Ostrobothnia, the cultural landscapes of the Kyrönjoki River. The event provided varied terrain perfect for a long-distance adventure, route choice challenges, and team competition. <https://www.xendurance.fi/sm-rogaining-tulokset/>



In **New Zealand**, school students had their own New Zealand Secondary School Championships (Year 7 to 13 students) near Christchurch in July. Organised by elite rogaier Greig Hamilton, it featured, steep hillsides with areas of pine forest, native bush and open

land with an extensive foot and bike track network. <https://rogaine-results.com/event/results/2026/nz-secondary-schools-rogaine-champs/3hr>



In **Australia**, the Australasian championships will be held at the end of August in Queensland.

The event area spans open sheepgrazing country and parts of Sundown National Park near Nundubbermere, approximately 30 minutes from Stanthorpe. Teams can expect a mix of terrain, with hills offering impressive views alongside flatter, gently undulating sheep country for those who prefer it. Route choices may include crossings of the Severn River. The course will provide excellent navigational challenges while remaining enjoyable and accessible for teams of all levels of fitness and experience. <https://qldrogaine.asn.au/arc2026/>

An incredible secretary



Rod Phillips is retiring as IRF Secretary, handing over to Elizabeth St George. Rod was part of the planning for an International Rogaining Federation in 1989, and has been a central part of the IRF since then. He became inaugural Secretary upon the incorporation of the IRF in July 2000 and retires in 2026.

Over this time, in addition to carrying out his duties on the Executive, he has been invaluable for the corporate memory to answer questions like 'why did we decide to do that' and 'what are the longer-term repercussions of this suggested change'. He has witnessed the growth of the sport from just Australia to the situation today of rogaining in over 30 countries and our 20th World Rogaining Championships coming up.

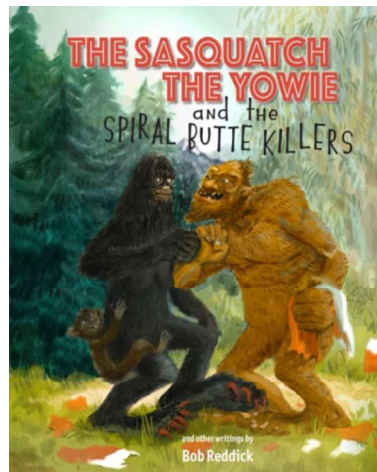
IRF Council

The International Rogaining Federation is run by the IRF Council, comprising 10 Member countries and a number of Observer countries. The aims of the IRF, and hence the focus of the Council is to:

- a) promote and develop the sport of rogaining internationally;
- b) maintain the fundamental principles and culture of rogaining;
- c) maintain international rules and technical standards of rogaining;
- d) promote, award and monitor the World Rogaining Championships;
- e) provide an international focus of communication for participants and organizers of rogaining events.

If you are interested in the business of the Council, summaries of the meetings are provided on the IRF website. <https://www.rogaining.org/about-us/irf-meetings/49-irf-council-meetings>

Vale Bob Reddick



We have received the sad news that **Bob Reddick** has passed away in his sleep. Bob organised the first USA rogaine in Washington State in 1989. For three decades he was a great leader and supporter of rogaining internationally.

Bob instituted the "Order of the Geoduck" for services to the development of rogaining, and it was awarded annually for many years (1994-2020). "Geoduck" (pronounced gooey-duck) is a clam found only on the Pacific coast of North America (Bob Reddick came from Seattle) and is a two-shelled thing with a long feeding tube. No it's not a fictional creature, you can look up "Panopea abrupta" on the web. Recipients of the award get a replica geoduck on a plaque. You can see more on this at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Geoduck

Bob was also an author, including recently producing the book “The Sasquatch, the Yowie and the Spiral Butte Killers” containing rogaining stories, illustrated above.

Got news to share? Please drop an email via <https://www.rogaining.org/about-us/contact-us/contact-exec/50-julie-quinn>