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## 2008 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA USATF ROAD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### TRAFEH AND BERG HYDRO-PLANE THEIR WAY TO SO CAL 10K TITLES

**DANA POINT, CA**--The inaugural **2008 Southern California Road Championship Series** concluded on November 27 with the 31<sup>st</sup> running of the **Dana Point 10K Turkey Trot**—America's largest Thanksgiving Day road race. With rain threatening during the early morning hours, it was not until just after the 7:00am 10K start that the skies unleashed a torrential downpour that turned the technically challenging course into a series of intertwining rivers. Within minutes, the driving rain had more than 3,200 runners in ankle-deep in water, barely able to see, as they negotiated the twists and turns that make the Dana Point course so unique.

Incredibly, front runners **Mohamed Trafeh, (29:22), Ben Bruce, (29:23)** and **Brandon Bethke (29:27)** came within seconds of setting a new course record despite the conditions. Trafeh had just returned from training in Morocco, but showed no signs of jet lag en route to winning the So Cal USATF 10K Road Crown. Unlike the close finish in the men's division, in the women's division the winning time of 35:49 by **Tove Berg** was well over a minute faster than 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers **Adrienne Schumm (37:06)** and **Emily Mitchell (37:17)**.

In the Masters age-groups, the most competitive men's division was M50-54, lead by local runner **John Loftus** who won in **35:55**. The field in the women's master division was also deep, with **Rosalva Bonilla** winning in **40:21**. 12-days earlier, Bonilla had won the Southern California USATF Masters Women's 6K Cross Country title at Kenneth Hahn Park in West Los Angeles.

Overall, there was an enthusiastic turnout by USATF runners in all age-groups despite the forecast for rain, as more than forty Southern California Association members won USATF Championship Medals in age-groups ranging from 15-19 to 55-59. As predicted, the 10K race sold out this year and, in total, a record-breaking 10,000+ runners participated in the Dana Point 5K, 10K and kiddie run Turkey Trots.

For 2008, participation in the **Southern California USATF Road Championship Series** increased with every race, beginning with the 5K Road Championship at the **Coaster Run** in Buena Park. 2009 promises to be even more popular with the addition of the first **SCA Marathon Championship** at the **Orange County Marathon** on May 3, 2009.

The **2009 Road Championship Series** kicks-off on March 15 with the Southern California 5K Championship at the flat-and-fast **Coaster 5K** in Buena Park, CA.

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