



Notes from the Briar Patch

Delaware Valley
Orienteering Association

December 2005

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The president's corner

Looking back, looking forward, always keeping one eye on the map

2005 is history and goes into the books as another great year for DVOA. Looking back at some of the events and activities, what stands out in your mind?

For me it started while I was on the other side of the world. The Norristown Farm Park map was introduced with three Sprint events. A few weeks later the Illick's Mills map made its debut. The 2005 schedule saw a variety of events offered, including events for beginners, training, fund-raising, and scouts.

Speaking of scout events, MASOC 17 (hard to believe it's number 17!) was another huge success with over 1000 scouts and scouters registered. 2005 also saw the debut of the Delaware Scout Orienteering Championships at White Clay Creek. I think we can expect attendance to grow for this event as the word spreads in the scouting community.

Fall saw us return to Hickory Run and from the comments I read on the club's e-board, it was another well attended and successful weekend of training, Night-O and Sunday courses. In November, DVOA again rose to the challenge and hosted the US Long Course Championships on the much-anticipated Fair Hill maps.

This event was especially significant for me as it saw this map become a reality. Memories of this event began almost three years ago. I remember the first "walk-about" with Eric Weyman and Tom Overbaugh to consider the area for mapping. Next thing I know, Alexy and Vladimir were staying at my place and going out at first light each day to do field work. I'll never forget Alexy coming in one evening after walking back to the house in the snow. He simply said, "Car no go." (The battery had died.) Not long after that, we bid on the Long Course event, and the rest is in the books. I think Eric Weyman said it best; everyone involved should come away with a great sense of satisfaction after the Fair Hill event. Someone asked me how many hours I put into the Fair Hill event. I tried to come up with a number and decided it did not matter because I was doing something I really enjoyed – being outdoors!

All of these great events and activities would not have become reality without the efforts of many people taking on the role of: event director, course setter, course vetter, control pick-up person, start worker, finish worker, registration worker, trainer, trustee, secretary, vice president, editor, junior coordinator, web site manager, volunteer, article writer for the Briar Patch, results calculator, control hanger, water carrier, kid watcher so Mom or Dad could run a course, mapper, field checker... the list goes on. To all of you, THANK YOU!

Year after year, the Delaware Valley Orienteering Club has set the standard in all our activities and events that other clubs aspire to. We are fortunate to have an organization that is made up of dedicated individuals who make all this possible. I'm confident that 2006 will prove to be another excellent year for orienteering in DVOA-land.

Speaking of 2006, you can look forward to more Sprints, Trail-O, great local events, and another great fall A-meet on New Jersey soil.

See you in the woods,

Ralph Tolbert



From the Editor's Desk

Surprise! A new look for the Briar Patch for the new year. (Okay, technically, this is the December 2005 issue, but I know you're reading this in 2006.)

We've seen many changes in our club's public image over the past year: a new logo, new uniforms and continuous upgrades to our web site. The time seemed right for a change to the Briar Patch.

You've no doubt noticed the change to the format: 8-1/2x11 inch pages vs. 7x8-1/2 inch pages. Additional changes include the decision to no longer include event results in these pages, since these can be found on our web site. (That should save the club some money, both in printing and mailing costs.)

You will probably see a few more changes in the next few issues as I refine the new look. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me at njsharp@aol.com.

As always, I welcome your submissions of event write-ups, essays, photos, puzzles (thanks, Jean O'Connor, for another great O-puzzle!)—whatever you would like to share with your fellow DVOAers in these pages.

Nancy Sharp

Photo Corner



"Lost" is not just a television show: it's an actual place—although not one most orienteers experience. (Remember, orienteers may be disoriented or mislocated—but never lost!) *Photo courtesy of Rob Wilkison.*

News for and about DVOA Juniors – Fall 2005

By Janet Porter, DVOA's Junior Coordinator

The fall season didn't really see any great events for the DVOA Juniors or for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Juniors. We held the first Annual Mid-Atlantic Junior Championship in conjunction with the regular Mid-Atlantic Champs at Nolde Forest near Reading, but the attendance by Juniors was very low, so we were only able to award three DVOA Juniors for their participation. They were Alison Campbell for First in F-14, Stephanie Zimmer for second in F-14 and Addison Cole for first in M-18. Also, DVOA has the first possession of the club trophy as there was only DVOA Juniors at the event. Hopefully, the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Champs will see better participation by Juniors from all area clubs.

I would like to announce that Kim Pelle of DVOA has agreed to take the position of Mid-Atlantic Region Coach. Kim asked to do the job as he wanted to get involved in the Junior program (now that's the kind of volunteer I like!). The first thing on Kim's list of things to do is to organize a Mid-Atlantic Junior Training camp. We are looking for a camp that can handle about twenty juniors plus trainers to work with them that is on or near one of the DVOA or QOC maps. We have also contacted the USA Senior team to see if they want to share the cost of a camp with us for a training weekend for them also so that we can keep the cost per person under \$100 for the weekend; they have indicated they are interested. Now all we need is a camp. We are looking at French Creek and the Boy Scout Camp Rodney (by Elk Neck) for the end of March for the camp. Keep watching for further information about the training camp on the DVOA website and the Yahoo group line.

The Venture Crew is making plans to travel to the 2006 Interscholastic Championship in North Carolina in April. They are hoping for a better chance at winning this year. With the possibility of a training camp at the end of March, they will have a good chance at seeing an improvement over last year for sure.

Please let all of the young people in the Venture Crew and all of the other Juniors know that you are supporting them whenever you see them at our local events.



Junior orienteers with advisor Janet Porter

Boosting Juniors

DVOA has money available for tuition, travel assistance and training fees for DVOA teenagers who are serious about improving their competitive skills and training for the US Junior Team. Those interested should write a letter to the DVOA president, specifying the amount requested (limit \$150 per request), the proposed event or training opportunity, and the reasons for wanting to attend.

(Hint: The upcoming Interscholastic Competition might be just such an event!)

DVOA on the web

Have you checked out the club's web site lately? Webmaster Kent Shaw has given it another make-over, so it's definitely worth another look.



What will you find there?

- Up-to-date schedule with new color-coded legend, making it easier to see at a glance what's being offered at the event (for instance, e-punching, level of courses offered)
- E-board, where you can post a question or comment about orienteering in general or a meet in particular
- Results—lots of results, any way you want them: by event, by class, a summary of your results for the year.
- Club info: a list of the parks where you can find permanent orienteering courses, the club's environmental policy, and tons more info, including links to USOF and orienteering equipment vendors

The web address: www.dvoa.org; check it out!

O-Puzzle

By Jean O'Conor
CRYPTIC-O #3

The solutions to the following clues are word pairs called homonyms or homophones: words that are pronounced the same but differ in meaning or spelling or both. The first one is completed as an example.

1. Preferred fog = missed mist
2. A rough series of controls
3. Way through fallen trees
4. Dazzling canyons
5. A more distinct rock
6. Considered how to cross a stream
7. Walked around sticky stuff
8. Law enforcement for wooded areas
9. Hair gel for a large deer

New idea, old fun!

More of what we love about orienteering (besides the map part)

By Janet Porter

Do you enjoy cooking over an open fire, sleeping outdoors, relaxing, socializing with family and friends, and doing all of this with some orienteering added in? Then perhaps my idea is for you.

One of the things that keeps me coming back to the September training weekend at Hickory Run is the chance to socialize with all of my orienteering friends and to make new ones, too. But that doesn't have to be the only time and place we have such experiences. Last Labor Day weekend, Steve Aronson hosted the DVOA Long Course Champs at Hickory Run. He asked me if I wanted to do a food concession stand as a fundraiser for our Juniors at the event, and I decided to do so. Steve also invited Denny and me to share the weekend camping with him and Sharon, which we also did, and we had a great weekend.

So then I thought, Why not try doing this type of weekend once a year? What made the weekend so nice and relaxing was that Steve was up at Hickory Run early hanging controls, so that when Denny and I arrived for the weekend, there were only a few controls left to be hung, which Steve and Sharon did first thing Saturday morning.

Denny and I cooked dinner for the four of us and then we provided an orienteering program for the park naturalist that evening. We spent the rest of the evening around the campfire chatting and making s'mores. Sunday we helped Steve and Sharon with the last-minute control hanging and I worked registration while Denny did most of the work for the concession stand. After the event, volunteers picked up many of the controls so that there were only a few left for us to pick up on Monday. Again we cooked dinner over the fire on Sunday night and spent the evening relaxing around the campfire once again. Monday was spent picking up the last few controls, and road signs, cleaning up our camp site and heading for home late afternoon. It was a great weekend! Other DVOAers were also camping but not close to us, and a family that had hoped to join us had car problems and never made it for the weekend. I felt



that we could have had an even better weekend if we had all been camping together.

That's when I got this idea.

I would like to organize a DVOA camping weekend on the 4th Of July weekend at French Creek. Mark Cornish is setting the courses for the local event on Sunday, July 2, on our French Creek North map.

The more of us that go, the less work that will need to be done on Saturday, with more time for relaxing and socializing with our family and friends. Denny and I will provide the hamburger and hot dogs for Saturday night's dinner; we're asking the rest of the campers to supply the rest of the meal that we will all share together. The shared meal will be followed by fellowship and campfire stories around the campfire together with plenty of s'mores to go around.

On Sunday all of us can chip in to run the local event and again spend the evening relaxing together around the campfire. Then Monday and Tuesday can be spent having summer fun swimming, fishing or boating—whatever you like to do—and picking up those last few controls that need to be gotten before packing up and heading for home. If this sounds like something you and your family (you don't have to have a family to join in) would like to do this 4th of July weekend, let me know by March 1 so that I can make arrangements with the park to get a



number of campsites together. I will need your name, address, telephone number, the number people camping and your arrival and departure dates.

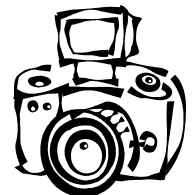
The fee for camping is \$15 per night (no electric; if someone signs up with a trailer that needs electric, I can make plans for that accordingly). Once I have your payment, I will make the reservation for all of us together at the very beginning of March.

The Walls of Brandywine Photo Contest

If you like the outdoors, enjoy photography and want to have fun, think about entering the "Walls of Brandywine Creek" photo contest. The competition was just launched and will run through June 30, 2006. The subject is the historic stone walls in and around Brandywine Creek State Park. One of those walls, inside the park, must be a key element in any photo entered.

It's open to everyone, will be judged by an expert panel,

and winners will have the honor of having their work published in a wall calendar or postcard book produced as a fund raiser for the Friends of Brandywine Creek State Park. Go to or call the park office for complete rules, or look for information at www.destateparks.com. Catch your favorite shot in different seasons while you enjoy one of the most magnificent parks in Delaware.



4th Annual DVOA Long O Championship - Hickory Run

Event Designers and Directors; Steve Aronson and Sharon Siegler

Since this was the fourth year of the Long-O championships, I decided that it was my turn to design again. I wanted to show myself that by having other people design the last few years, not only did we have different “flavors,” but also that I could learn something along the way.

The first change was the definition of Long O. When I started, I tried to make the courses endurance contests, with long legs, lots of climb and brutal heat. Now, we have moved the event to fall, and we are more interested in route choices with varying degrees of details along the way. I also wanted to give our club a leg up for the USOF Long-O competition at Fair Hill in November, so I scheduled my event two months ahead for training purposes.

When I chose Hickory Run, I wanted to stay away from the green, so that meant we were going to the south and west parts of the map. The south has been used quite a lot over the years, but the contours are tricky enough that I was not concerned. The west end doesn't get used much due to the distance from the parking areas.

Sharon and I chose a nice sunny Saturday to drive up and look at the west end. That is, it was sunny in Bethlehem. We are just far enough away that by the time we drove up to Hickory Run, it was drizzling off and on. The ponchos came out and off we went. Across a wide stream, through some mountain laurel and up some hillsides we hiked. The rain got harder, and we got wetter. The dog loved it. By the time we had streamered two spots, we had had enough.

We have been talking about seeing Hickory Run all abloom with laurel and rhododendron for several years. What we found out this year is that the laurel all comes out in late June, but the rhododendron blooms quite quickly and only when the light is just right. We found bushes all over that had bloomed between our trips, and others that bloomed three or four weeks later. Plants on the north side of the slope or under a denser canopy seemed to be later.

The next trip was when Rob Wilkison asked us to pick up some of his flags from the Score-O. While we were out there, we hung streamers on attack points to his flags and on features where his flags could be used as attack points. I was hoping that two things would occur to the repeat customers. One, they would feel over-confident because they had just been there six weeks prior to the Long-O event, and two, they would use new route choices because they had to go in order. I received no feedback there, so I hope it worked.

By mid August, we were measuring course length and ask-

ing advice from anyone that we did not expect to run. Green was too long in its original form (9K), and too short when modified (5K). One more change, and we had it right.

As it turned out, the last change was a patch of stony ground. Most of the after-run talk was about the accuracy of the map in that area. Knowing how I attacked that feature both before and after the event, I am reasonably sure that it is mapped right, however. The larger stony ground to the southeast appears to be too far northwest, making it hard to relocate from there. I am not sure how much responsibility the course designer has to avoid these situations. I know that I won't be using that immediate area again until we update this map.

I was able to take some time off from work the week beforehand, and with the event being held on Labor Day weekend, I could pick up flags the day after. What a nice way to put on an event. Most of the flags were up by the end of Friday, so Saturday was no pressure and a chance to do some last-minute vet-

ting. Sunday would have a well-rested Event Director whose sole occupation was trouble shooting.

With such a fine crew, there were few problems. A missing punch on the yellow course and a program error at e-punching were both fixed soon after being discovered. Janet and Dennis Porter had a great kitchen going, and Sharon had delved into her sewing basket to create a special banner that some people thought we bought.

Overall this was the best event that I have ever had my name on. For that I must thank a long list of helpers, and I hope that I didn't miss any.

Course design and advice: Sharon, Eric Weyman, Alexy Zuhnev, and Sandy Fillebrown

Map printing: Sandy Fillebrown

Flag hanging: Sharon, Janet Porter and Demon (who went on strike after the second day and about 20 K)

Start: Sharon

Finish: Rob Wilkison, Audra Supplee and myself

E Punch: Alice Bortz and Sandy Fillebrown (If Sandy does anything else, I will have to promote her to Asst. ED)

Sign hanging: Mark Frank and Rick Reynolds

Mobile kitchen: Janet and Dennis Porter (who also cooked a few meals back at our campsite)

Flag pick-up: Rick Reynolds, Janet and Dennis Porter, Sharon and Demon (who just needed a day off)



copse (kops) noun

A thicket of small trees, bushes, shrubs, etc. especially one grown for periodical cutting.

[Alteration of coppice. Via Middle English and French from Latin colpare (to cut).]

Source: A Word A Day



Back to Hickory Run: DVOA Training Weekend—Sept. 2005

By Fred Kruesi

Program Director: Fred Kruesi

Night O Event Director: Mark Cornish

Event Director (Sunday): Janet Porter

Training Director: Janet Porter

Night O Course Design: Janet Porter

Courses (Sunday): Mark Cornish

After a year away from Hickory Run for the training weekend, we returned for our 14th training event. Initially there was concern that people might have lost interest in the event after being away for a year, but it turned out that this concern was unfounded as we had 127 beginner, 53 intermediate and 22 advanced participants for training.

While training is the primary focus of the weekend, it is not the only focus. As much as anything else, the training weekend is also about an opportunity to gather with friends in an environment where we don't have the normal distractions and responsibilities.

The training weekend gets underway on Friday with the trainers and the kitchen crew arriving early to help set up things for the weekend. Steve Aronson arrived early in the afternoon with the food, so I knew things were off to a good start. This year was the first year that Steve was completely in charge of the kitchen, including determining what to buy, buying the food and food preparation. As might be expected, everything in the kitchen went well.

The event would not be possible without the help of the kitchen crew. The primary members of the kitchen crew include: Steve Aronson, Sharon Siegler, Steve Reeps and Jack Williams. In addition to the primary kitchen crew, many other people attending the event assist in the kitchen. Over the weekend we dined on pancakes, oatmeal, corn, baked potatoes, soup, rice pudding, cakes and chicken.

This year was also the first year that there was no flyer announcing the event. Instead, we relied on the web site for advertisement and registration material. This approach worked well and is expected to be expanded next year to include web-based registration.

As always, we had an excellent group of trainers. The trainers included the following: **Beginner:** Dennis Porter, Julie Keim, Anne Fitch, Bob Gross, Bob Meyer, Maryann Cassidy; **Intermediate:** Mark Cornish, Tom Overbaugh and Mark Frank, Bob Burg, Michael Frei and Ed Scott; **Advanced:** John Campbell and Clem McGrath.

Many of these trainers are very loyal to the training program; we couldn't conduct the training program without them.

For Night O we had a new map of the camp area, a 1:5,000 scale map so it is perfect for training as well as training exercises. The primary workers for Night O included Janet Porter, Julie Keim, Allison Campbell, Mary Frank and Susan Cornish.

On Sunday an orienteering event is held. Janet Porter managed the start and Anne Fitch, Lou Thomer and Tom Overbaugh managed finish.

After the event it is time to clean up the camp. This year there were many helpers, and it was cleaned up in record time. Helpers for clean-up included: the McNicholas family, Carol Kluchinski, Michael Frei, Tom Overbaugh, David Desch, Wyatt Riley, the McGhee family and Bob Littleton.

My thanks to those people who were named as well as those not mentioned who helped with the event.



Checking in at finish: (from left) Maryann Cassidy, Sandy Ahlswede, Wyatt Riley, Mark Cornish, Jeremy Colgan (HVO), and Roger Hartley



Above: Mary Frank (right) sorts through maps as her assistant (and daughter) Michelle keeps an eye on the orienteers outside the main hall at the Hickory Run training weekend.

Below: John Campbell gives instructions to orienteers who signed up for advanced training at Hickory Run.



From the Hickory Run kitchen

Fred mentioned some of food we prepared this year at the Hickory Run training weekend. Jack Williams, my predecessor in the kitchen, had some great recipes; included here is his recipe for rice pudding.

However, I'm looking to expand on his recipe file. If you have a recipe that is fairly easy to cook, that you think hungry runners would enjoy, and that could be reheated/recycled over the weekend, please send it my way. If I use your recipe and you attend our annual training weekend, you could eat free that year.

There's one catch: I'm looking for recipes that can feed 50 or so people.

You can send them to me at orienteer6@fast.net



Thanks.
Steve Aronson

Rice Pudding for 75

2 gallons milk	Zest of 2 lemons (finely chopped)
3 1/4 cups sugar	3 1/4 cups rice (long grain uncooked)
1/2 tspn salt	15 ounces raisins
2 heaping tspns cinnamon	
1/2 nut grated nutmeg	

Mix milk, sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and lemon zest in 3 gallon pot.

Heat to low simmer while stirring continuously. DO NOT ALLOW MILK TO BOIL

Spread rice and raisins in 12x24 double-thick foil roasting pan and place on oven rack

Pour 3/4 of warm mixture over rice, then push pan into oven and ladle the rest of mixture into pan.

Bake at 300' until top is firm. HR ovens are low on temp, so try 350'. Approximately 3 hours.

What is USOF?

The US Orienteering Federation (USOF) is recognized by the International Orienteering Federation and the US Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for orienteering in the United States. USOF is a non-profit organization with 71 member clubs (DVOA is a member club) and approximately 1400 family and individual memberships. The Federation's programs are supported by membership dues and tax-deductible contributions.

USOF is a volunteer organization. The officers, Board of Directors, committee members and working groups are made up of USOF members offering their time, energy and expertise to promote the sport of orienteering and make USOF function as effectively as possible.

USOF's mission is to:

1. Provide orienteering as a viable and attractive recreation choice for US outdoors enthusiasts.
2. Promote orienteering for education, personal development, and environmental awareness.
3. Improve the competitive performance of US orienteering athletes to world-class levels.

To become a member, use the membership application form below. Or sign on to USOF's web site at: www.us.orienteering.org. Membership includes subscription to the magazine, *Orienteering North America*.

Join the Club!

To join the US Orienteering Federation, print the form below, fill it out, and send it with appropriate payment to:

US Orienteering Federation
P.O. Box 1444
Forest Park GA 30298-1444

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE
United States Orienteering Federation
P.O. Box 1444 • Forest Park GA 30298

New Member Renewal Address Change

I hereby apply for USOF membership. I understand that I am entitled to a one-year subscription to *Orienteering North America*, voting rights, and membership in the International Orienteering Federation (IOF). (This form may be photocopied.)

PLEASE PRINT. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO USOF.

Name _____ F M Home phone _____
Address _____ Year born _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

If this is a family membership, please list other family members below:

Name _____	Year born _____
_____ <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	
_____ <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	
_____ <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	

Member of a USOF chartered club? Club name: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> \$30, individual (member of chartered club)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5, junior (18 & under, no vote, no magazine) school _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35, family (members of chartered club)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600, individual life
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15, student (21 and under) school	<input type="checkbox"/> \$700, family life (incl. children under 18)

FOR MAILING OVERSEAS (except APO & FPO)
 surface, \$5 extra airmail, \$25 extra

8th Garden State Scout-Orienteering Event

By Bob Rycharski, DVOA

The co-sponsors of this orienteering event were the Delaware Valley Orienteering Club and the Scouts of Troop 116, Manalapan, NJ - Monmouth Council BSA. Quail Hill Camp is a Cub Scout camp, about 230 acres, mostly undeveloped ex-farm operation (1960s) now mixed forest of oak and maple trees with the occasional pine tree group; the camp also has a nice mix of open fields and a small pond (with the occasional feeder stream). Medium fight is rare in the center of the developed camp, but fight is the norm near the camp property boundaries, especially the east side, which includes a JCP&L power line right-of-way.

Teams of two to five Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and their leaders hiked or ran on standard White, Yellow, and Orange-level orienteering courses, which were available on a 1:7,500 scale topographic map. Course lengths were approximately 2.0 km to 4.75 km. The course setter and event director was Bob Rycharski (Pack 27, NNJ Council). Jerry Smith (DVOA, T70) was the registrar and welcome greeter, signing in the many Scout units. A crew of 10 Scout and DVOA member volunteers staffed the Start and Finish lines. Notable Scout helpers were Troop 116 leader Jill Lancaster and seven local Scouts from her unit, including her sons Ryan and Rob, and T73 leader Alex Ireland; all volunteer helpers were appreciated.

The results are in and double checked, and a lot of rushing about and fun was observed while Scouts hiked across or around the Quail Hill fields, streams and forest in the shortest times possible. It is estimated that more than 150 Scouts participated, along with 15 members of DVOA or map-hiking club members and 15 Cadets from USMAPS who also ran our OJ/Green courses. The top Scouts (Cub and Troop Divisions) award winners/names are listed here. Some large Scout units from Millstone, N Brunswick, Edison, Holmdel, and Westfield, to name a few, were in attendance, with a few units traveling in from as far as the Philadelphia, PA and Glassboro, NJ areas.

First Scouts on the 2.0 Km White Beginners course were Troop 759, - Scouts John Dowling / G Louis- Jacques in a fast time of 32:17.

First on the 3.0 Km Yellow "Short" Beginners course were BSA Scouts of Troop 76 , Mt. Laurel, NJ - G Hege / D Konhummel / K Carpenter Team, which finished in a time of 74:52. DVOA top honors went to S Rudolph, in 42.42 minutes.

First on the 3.5 Km Yellow "Long" Beginners course were Girl Scouts Katy S / Katie R Team from Troop 6867, Mt. Laurel, who finished in a time of 50:30. In the Cub Scouter division, the Pack 32, Red Bank team of J Rimmele/C Santiago/P Vescio/ M Wine (4) Team with escorts won the Cub Yellow Long course honors in 96 minutes.

First on the competitive 3.75 Km Orange medium/advanced course by with over 63 minutes on course were Troop 246

Scouts B Bosch/R Roberts/ M Palframan Team (Colts Neck, NJ), who bested the 2nd place T71 (Ocean, NJ) local Scout hikers by just over 6 minutes. Out of Towner (Sweden? OLG Wald club) Mike Frei finished in 33 min. on the Orange course (ringer).

First on Green 4.5 km course was USMAPS coach Mike Waller (67 minutes).

Armchair Orienteering: The Yellow short 3 km Scout O course

The Scout Team (we use a buddy system in this event) gets a 30-second or less warning from the Start official that they are about to begin, after their names and unit number are recorded for the course they are on. The team is handed a pre-marked, 8x11 inch color topographic map of Quail Hill with red circles (check points) and guide lines in a looping course around the whole camp that returns to a finish area (the camp pool area). Written descriptive clues describe the check point (control); it is each team's task to find all controls on their list in the order given (typically 8, 10 or 13 O flags). Each control location is marked by a distinctive orange and white orienteering flag, with a three-digit random code on the top of each.

The Yellow course's first clue is a six-ft tall earth wall near a large trail to the north of the Laurence building past the road crossing. Next the team hikes to a nearby trail junction, up the trail to the East. The third point is tricky: they can either hike on camp trails (an indirect route) or save time by going due north-east to find the marker #3 on a distinct trail bend.

Then they further hiked to two different small stream crossings further down the same trail. Our valiant group proceeded to the northern part of Kiely Pond, and then to the south tip of the pond, then back to group of trees (also known as a copse) near the northeastern-most field in camp. They then hiked to a distinct tree control, found the ruined wall feature control, and lastly navigated to the Go control at the corner of a fence surrounding the pool. After running to the finish area, they were ready to get some refreshments (Oreo cookies and water) or check out the trading post.

All this is done while trying to ignore other Scouts and adults hiking on the four different orienteering courses; however, not everyone was successful at keeping on their toes and tracking their progress on the map.

Official result times are posted at the DVOA website: <http://www.dvoa.us.orienteering.org/results/index.php> Click on the Quail Hill/ Oct 2nd Button.

The next NJ Scout Orienteering Meet in the Monmouth Council, NJ area is tentatively set for mid October 2006 at Quail Hill camp. Scout Info and registration instructions will be posted later; a specific event date may be available in March 2006.

Emancipation from the bondage of the soil is no freedom for the tree.

-Rabindranath Tagore, philosopher, author, songwriter, painter, educator, composer, Nobel laureate (1861-1941)



Iron Hill – Oct. 9, 2005

Event directors: Maryann Cassidy and Bob Burg ■ Consultant: Eric Weyman

With remnants of Tropical Storm Tammy sweeping through the area, the weather didn't look promising approaching our October 9 event at Iron Hill. And since the park is so well-used and features such a dense trail network, the possibility of controls walking away was high. So we hung them as late Saturday afternoon as possible. Actually, too late.

It was a dark and stormy night by the time we ventured into the woods to hang them. Nah, not really. Just always wanted to write "It was a dark and stormy night..." ☺ The rain wasn't too much of a problem, though wet streamers plastered to trees were difficult to spot. Since we started later than planned and with the sky dark with rain clouds, by the time we finished, the woods and map were barely visible. And for Maryann with glasses fogging up, it was downright scary! Out in the woods at nightfall without a flashlight!

But then next morning, there was only a bit of drizzle at 8 a.m. and no rain at all for the rest of the day. Must be living right. And since the park is one large hill (hence the "Hill" in Iron Hill), all the rain drained off, leaving the trails in amazingly good shape. A number of participants actually mentioned that it was a perfect day for orienteering. Unfortunately, the threat of bad weather kept our numbers down.

Everyone on the advanced courses seemed especially delighted with all the pit features throughout their courses. In fact, several of them specifically commented that they were indeed the pits. (You see, in days of yore, they'd dig for iron ore. And when they didn't find any, they'd leave the pit behind, just for us to find and use decades later. Hence the "Iron" in Iron Hill. We try our best to make our write-ups educational.☺)

The high drama of the day was supplied when Winsor and Jackie, a couple brand new to orienteering, chanced upon our own brave import, Dasha, sitting beside a trail calmly fashioning a makeshift splint for her ankle that she heard pop as she fell (fortunately not into a pit). Rescuers went out and supplied a two-man carry back to the nearest road and waiting car. Then

Clem and Dasha left for the emergency room. Winsor and Jackie, who so helpfully came back to start to report the situation, swore it didn't spook them from further orienteering. And by the next weekend, Dasha was hobbling around a White course on her badly sprained—but not broken—ankle. What a tripper.

Once again, we had the help of a great group of volunteers. Eric Weyman consulted on the courses with Bob. Nancy Sharp and Sandy Fillebrown ran the e-punching, and Sandy computer-printed the courses (ah, the wonders of technology). Sherpas Colleen Bracken and Kim Pelle arrived early and hauled water out to two water stops before working Registration. Vadim Masalkov set up Start, put up a protective tarp (which we're convinced was what really kept any further rain from falling) and worked Start for a couple of hours until Ralph Tolbert relieved him. Dave Urban, another early and versatile arrival, helped with set-up, Start, and Finish. Lisa Seifert, a new volunteer, handled Registration like a pro after a brief tutorial from Anne Fitch. In addition to working Registration, Anne also picked up controls with Lou Thomer. Winsor and Bob provided Dasha pickup. ☺

Once we lost Clem and Dasha to her circumstances, others filled in for the control pickup they had planned to help with. Karl and Sandy Ahlswede, in addition to filling different jobs throughout the day, came to the rescue by staying to the very end, making multiple trips out to complete pick up. Other helpers at various times included Tom Overbaugh, Bob Fink, Alice Bortz, Clem McGrath and Dasha Babushok. And apologies to John Swaren and Bob Groves, who offered to help with control set up, though we couldn't work out the logistics. (In retrospect, aren't you happy to have escaped Saturday's deluge?) And of course Bob, for setting the courses and for finishing the controls Sunday morning that Maryann couldn't complete during her inadvertent Night-O.

Dendrochronology is the science of studying tree rings to date past events: climate, the date of construction of a house, etc. This is the idea: some trees add an annual ring. Each ring is unique as it depends on the climatic conditions during the year. By comparative study of these annual growth rings dendrochronologists can go back thousands of years and can often pinpoint the year quite precisely.

Time imprints on our faces the traces of life we've lived: laughs, pouts, frowns... all leave their mark. What would facial dendrochronology say about you?

Anu Garg
wordsmith.org



On Seeing Weather-Beaten Trees
by Adele Crapsey

In our own lives, is it as plainly shown,
By every slant and twist, which way the wind has blown?

A more than fair weekend for the Fair Hill A-Event

Ron Wood, Event Director

Whenever DVOA plans a meet in November, the weather can always be questionable. This was especially a worry for the three day A-meet in the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area in Elkton, Maryland. However, we couldn't have wished for better fall weather. The temperatures were in the high 50s with rain-free events.

Fair Hill is a new venue for DVOA. The resulting map is the largest in the DVOA inventory! A former DuPont estate and horse farm, it is now owned by the state of Maryland and is used extensively for equestrian, mountain biking, hiking, and nature-study related events. Many open fields, rides, and an extensive trail network accommodate these activities. Overpasses and tunnels crossing roadways were originally constructed for the equestrian events. While not as hilly or boulder strewn as many of our other venues, Fair Hill offers some unique terrain for orienteering and was the ideal location for the U.S. Long O' Championships.

The three-day event can only be called a complete success. This can be attributed to the excellent maps, great courses, outstanding cooperation from the park management, fine weather, a tasty meal on Saturday hosted by Janet Porter and the Juniors, and all of those members of DVOA and others who turned out in their usual style to help with the meet.

This was my first experience as director of an A event. I must admit, with the excellent help I received, being the director was somewhat easier and much less stressful than I thought it was going to be. I have listed those who made the event run so smoothly. Many others, unknown to me, also helped. With the kind of assistance I was given, I would recommend the A event director's job to anyone who has ever run only a local meet!

Four separate orienteering events were offered: Sprint O', Trail O', Classic One-Day A Meet, and the U.S. Long O' Championships. In addition to these events, recreation courses were offered on Saturday and Sunday. Descriptions of the various courses as well as all of the results can be found on the DVOA web site: www.dvoa.us.orienteering.org.

The Sprint O' was added late in the planning and turned out to be a very popular and huge success. Wyatt Riley set a very competitive course. A total of 110 participants ran the course on Friday afternoon, November 11. Bob Meyer came up with awards befitting the Fair Hill area – gold, silver, and bronze-colored horseshoes for first, second and third place, respectively. Members of DVOA who finished first in their class were Angelica Riley, Sandy Fillebrown, Greg Balter and Clem McGrath. Finishing second were Mary Frank, Maryann Cassidy and Hunter Cornish. Jim Eagleton finished third in his class.

Two separate events were held on Saturday: the Classic A Meet and the Trail O'. Ralph Tolbert set the A meet courses on the south half of the new map. Nancy Sharp set the Trail O' course on a section of the north map.

A total of 336 runners took part in the Classic A Meet. DVOAers who finished first in their class were Chase Thatcher, Dylan Singley, Eric Frysinger, Bruce Case, Sandy Ahlswede, Mary Frank, Hunter Cornish, and Greg Balter. Those finishing second were Robert Frank, Alison Campbell, Janet Porter, Jonathon De Wolf, Howard Frysinger, and Lauren Terefenko. Third place finishers were Corey Thatcher, Rebecca Meyer, Caroline Ringo, Patricia Miller, Greg Ahlswede, Lynn Aldrich, Jean O'Connor, Sheryl Meyer, Bill Pullman, Chris Steere, Bill Mebane, and Mark Cornish.

The relatively new competition of Trail O' was offered on Saturday afternoon and had fifty-one participants. Jim Eagleton was the overall winner.

On Sunday, the U.S. Long O' Championship was run on the northern half

(Continued on page 15)

Those Who Made the Fair Hill A-Event Happen

Registrar: Frank Pater

Registrar Helper at Meet: Mary Frank

Web Master: Kent Shaw

Course Designers: Sprint O' – Wyatt Riley

Trail O' – Nancy Sharp

Classic A Event – Ralph Tolbert

Long O' – Tom Overbaugh

Course Consultant – Eric Weyman

Course Veters: John Campbell, Hugh MacMullan, III, Eric Weyman, Fred Weyman

Trail O' Helpers: Greg Ahlswede, Sandy Ahlswede, Maryann Cassidy, Karen Dennis, Frank Kuhn, David Irving, Ralph Tolbert, and Ron Wood III

Long O' Course Aid Station Workers: Mike Bertram, Kathy King, Rick Whiffen, and Ron Wood III

Recreation Course Workers: Alice Bortz, Sherrie Meyer, Caroline Ringo, and Phylis Wood

Control Pickup: Lynn Aldrich, Greg Balter, Eric Bone, Bob Burg, John Campbell, John De Wolf, Mark Frank, Bob Gross, Vladimir Gusiatnikov, Hugh MacMullan, Tom Overbaugh, Wyatt Riley, Ralph Tolbert, Eric Weyman, Fred Weyman, Jack Williams, and Vladimir Zherdev

E-Punching: Sandy Fillebrown, Valerie Meyer, Ron Bortz (stands)

Map Printing: Fred Kruesi, John De Wolf

Dinner – Janet Porter

Dinner Workers: Marie Arnesson, Caroline Fleming, Desmond Fleming, Mary Frank, Liz Kotowski, Corrine Porter, and Dennis Porter

Awards: Bob Meyer

Start Crew Chief – Tim Walsh

Start Workers: Ron and Alice Bortz, Jim Browne, John De Wolf, Bob Gross, Francis Hogle, Roger Martin, Clem McGrath, Ed Niemann, Ed Scott, Peggy Walsh

Finish Crew Chief: Mark Cornish

Finish Workers: Hunter Cornish, Dick Eddy, Eric Eddy, Petr Hartman, Dennis Porter

Parking: Bob Fink

T-Shirt Design: Bob Gross

Child Care: Rebecca Meyer, Girl Scouts – Chesapeake Bay Council

For Putting Up With and Assisting the Event Director: my wife Phylis

Trail O: What it is and how it came to be at Fair Hill

By Nancy Sharp, Event Coordinator

First, there was orienteering.

Then—I'm not sure in what order—along came Classic O, Long O, Sprints, Bike O, Canoe O, Ski-O, Horse-O, Permanent O, Micro-O and Trail O.

Although originally designed for people with disabilities, Trail Orienteering can be challenging for all orienteers. Trail O emphasizes the mental aspects of the sport and minimizes the physical effort required. In Trail O, the organizers put out groups of clustered controls, and the competitor has to decide which one of the group, if any, is in the center of the control circle and fits the control description. (See the example.)

In classic orienteering, the idea is to read and interpret a map and to move quickly over the terrain to find a control located on a specific feature; generally, the fastest time wins. In Trail O, however, how quickly you complete the course is not as important as how well you can interpret the map.

Jack Williams had designed a Trail O event at Nottingham a few years back, when DVOA hosted the USOF convention, but that was our first and only time in DVOA territory. I had tried Trail O a few times when I attended other clubs' A-events, and I was intrigued by this variation. I thought the Fair Hill event would present a good opportunity to bring Trail O to our club.

After downloading information on setting up a Trail O event from the USOF web site, I set out to find a suitable site.

First challenge: the course must be within walking distance of the event center. Lots of trails and roads in that area: Shouldn't be a problem (or so I thought)

Second challenge: the course must be accessible to the least mobile. The terrain must be chosen so that the least mobile competitors—the person confined to and propelling a wheelchair and the person who walks slowly and with difficulty—can negotiate the course within the time limit. Here's where the problem arose: after I had a possible route laid out on paper, I went out to Fair Hill to walk the course. About two-thirds of the way through the course, I found that the trail route I'd chosen presented accessibility issues. After a few trips between the drawing board and Fair Hill, I finally settled on an area on the north side of Rt. 272.

Next challenge: finding a variety of control locations within 50 meters of the trail. What makes a good Trail O control point? One that presents a challenging problem but at the same time can be solved by the person who knows how to read the map, use the control descriptions, use a compass, judge distance, interpret terrain features, and knows where those features are on the map.

I found 11 sites: nine included in the untimed part of the competition and two used for timed controls, which served as tie breakers in case two or more people correctly answered all nine standard controls.

Fifty-one people participated in the event; I was told that this was the highest turn-out yet at a US Trail O event.

As a first-time-ever course setter, I made some basic course-setting errors (for instance, not properly marking the

Trail O control used at Fair Hill

Trail-O participants were given a 1:5,000 scale map and clue sheet.



At left is control #6 (segment rotated 90 degrees). The clue number indicates the position of the viewing station (on the course, a stake is placed on the ground).

The Trail-O clue sheet

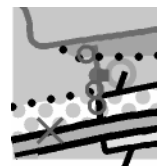


has two differences from the classic orienteering clue sheet. In the second column from the left, instead of the control number, are a series of letters indicating how many flags participants should see from the viewing station. In this case, there should be four. The photo below shows the scene from the viewing station; you'll see four control flags.



The other difference is the item in the column on the far right. This space is used to indicate the viewing direction. For control #6, that view was south-east from the viewing station.

The map segment shown here indicates the placement of the viewing station (X) and the four flags. The solid circle along the center of the earth bank is the correct answer. The open circles indicate the location of the other control flags. The correct answer was B, the second flag from the left.



control flag locations once I'd identified them, making it more difficult to accurately reconstruct my intended set-up on the day of the event.)

Despite that, I had a great time constructing the event, and from the comments I heard, people had a good time solving the problems. (Even those people who walked the course with me afterward to challenge—and rightfully so—my answers seemed to be enjoying themselves!)

I hope that other people will consider setting up a Trail O course at future A events. I know I will.

More information about the Fair Hill Trail O event can be found at the DVOA web site.

Scenes from...



Michelle and Mark Frank, and Petr Hartman at DVOA's first full meet at Nolde Environmental Education



Photos here and throughout the **Briar Patch** courtesy of Julie Keim, Janet Porter, Caroline Ringo, Nancy Sharp, Rich Specht



Scenes from Tyler Creek State Park. Top left: Sandy Heath; center: Petr Hartman; left: Eric Weyman, sporting one of the club's new shirts, talks to Janet Porter.



Gerry Smith (holding map) gives instructions on basic orienteering to a group of Scouts at White Clay Creek in December.



Playing in the Snow: Nockamixon State Park - Dec. 11, 2005

Event Director - Janet Porter

When you put orienteering and Nockamixon together, everyone goes "ugh!" And you know what? So do I!

As the time quickly approached to do the courses for Nockamixon once again, I found myself asking myself WHY I had agreed to do this park one more time.



Taking a few things into consideration (like the thickness of the woods, the lack of technical control sites, the possibility for cold weather and the shortness of daylight at the end of the day), I decided that I would make all of the courses on the short side of requirements for course lengths. Considering that there isn't a control location harder than orange level in most of the park, I decided that I would cluster the controls and use them for as many courses as possible. This would make hanging and picking up controls easier.

Now I had to decide where we were going to start and finish. In the past we had used the marina area because there was a heated bathroom facility open year round but this area was incredibly cold when the wind was blowing off the lake and not very pleasant for workers. Then the park manager informed me that the heated bathroom would not be open this year and they were bringing a pot-a-john, so I decided to skip the marina and go to the other end of the park, where there would be more protection from the lake winds as well as a bathroom available for use. This would also make the courses more interesting because we were using a different part of the park and not going in the same direction as other years.

I was feeling pretty good about the event when all of a sudden winter arrived with a vengeance to the tune of two snowstorms in a week with a total of at least 10 inches of snow, more like a foot. Now, I love winter and I love doing things in the snow BUT orienteering is NOT one of them. So now we have one of the least favorite parks in the club with a foot of snow and a local orienteering event to be done. I'll be very honest with you: I wanted NO parts of it, but I was told that it would not be a waste of our time to hang the controls and to run the event.

Mark Frank met Denny and me at the park Saturday afternoon when it had warmed up a bit to hang controls. Boy was I glad that I had kept the number of controls used down, as it made our job easier. Mark took about half of the controls to hang and Denny and I took the rest. It wasn't an easy job walking around the park in a foot of

snow hanging controls, but we managed to get them done in about three hours.

The next thing to worry about was whether people really would come out to run. Bright and early Sunday morning with the temperature at 11 degrees, Denny and I headed back to the park for the event. We still had a couple of controls to hang and water to put out, and the road signs to put up. We split the jobs and got busy. As I came into the parking lot, I could not believe it, Roger Hartley was already there waiting for me and it wasn't even 9AM yet. Shortly after 9, Barry Landis was there to help along with Dave and Kathy Urban. I started to think this wasn't so bad after all. People kept arriving, and suddenly things were in full swing for our last 2005 local event. There was so much help that I really didn't have to do much. Everyone was really helpful throughout the day, and things went great.

There were a lot of firsts for that day in my book:

- first DVOA local orienteering event done in almost a foot of snow
- the most help I have ever had for a local event;
- heading for home at 3:30PM with all controls picked up and packed away for another day.

So with 86 runners on 58 maps, I guess the effort we put into the event was worth it, but what really made my day were the following people who helped us to make the event a go for all of us. Mary & Mary Frank, Vadim Masalkov, Udaya Bollinini, Petr Hartman, Jim Eagleton; Kathy and Dave Urban, Steve



Aronson, Sharon Siegler, Daria Babushok, Clem McGrath, Kim Pelle, Barry Landis, Roger Hartley, Jim Puzo, and finally but not least Fred Kruesi, who printed all of the maps for us.

Some of the highlights of the day were Hugh MacMullan IV going out in a foot of snow without socks and garters at Nockamixon; the snowman made by the Rileys in the parking lot; a number of other club members coming to this event (one of them on a motorcycle, no less) and the number of people that got stuck in the parking lot including both Denny and me at the end of the day. Thanks to

everyone who made the last event in 2005 a good one as well as an interesting one.



Charcoal-Burning Platforms

Location: French Creek State Park, Berks County, Pa. You have just punched in at the boulder sitting on the south edge of a rock field on Williams' Hill. So far, so good! You have your course well in hand. As you prepare to move toward your next control, pre-meet anxieties, and justifiably so, for the next control is described vaguely as "a platform." For you and for many others, this is your first search for this illusive, man-made feature. Feeling a bit betrayed, you tighten up on your directional bearing, fix your pace count and trudge off toward a vague rendezvous, hoping that the forest will be sparse and the control marker the brightest of orange.

Williams Hill is unrelentingly stingy. It offers you little in the way of helpful features as you contour around the slopes toward your mark. Just about the time your anxiety begins to elevate to panic, you detect a slight change on the slope of the deciduous hillside. There appears to be a level area ahead. Slightly notched into the hillside, it is inconspicuous but a bit out of character with the immediate environs. As you eagerly enter the shrub-covered circle, questions pop into your head: Who? What? When? Why is this level area here? No time for questions and answers now, for its off to the next control.

Little did you realize that, in the few seconds it took you to cross that circular patch of earth, you cut through a century and acre of history. History which helped build America, win a war, establish an economy, develop a social class, determine the type of forest around you, and even influence the course you were presently competing on. Congratulations! You have just had your first brief encounter with a charcoal-burning ground, or platform, a place where, years ago, men came to this same spot every few hours, day and night, to inspect their smoldering charcoal mound.

When the first settlers from Europe arrived in Pennsylvania in the late 1600s, they found vast stretches of virgin forests. Today, only a few climax forest stands remain, and virgin timber stands are found only in small preserves. Few of the present forest communities are more than 50 to 75 years old. What, then, because of the original Penn's Woods?

Until 1865, Pennsylvania led the nation in the production and export of forest products. By the turn of the century, Pennsylvania's lumber resources were virtually exhausted. The bark industry also took a heavy toll on the state's virgin trees. Hemlock bark was highly valued as a source of tannic acid used in the tanning of hides. Millions of feet of hemlock were cut, the bark peeled, stacked, dried, and the logs were left to rot on the forest floor. About seven percent of each tree felled by the bark peelers found its way to market.

Less known but an equally devastating contributor to Pennsylvania's deforestation was the making of charcoal. All tree species were cut, and most of each tree was used, including the limbs. Forests used for charcoal industry were completely recut every 25 years.

The single greatest user of charcoal in Pennsylvania was the cold-blast iron industry. Glassmaking and gunpowder making also utilized charcoal, but not the enormous quantities required to process iron. As the iron industry spread across the Commonwealth, it was accompanied by the makers of charcoal. A standard design furnace demanded the charcoal produced

from one acre of forest for each day's productions.

Traditional charcoal making was a process of burning wood in the near absence of air. Enough heat is produced to expel the tars and moisture from the wood, leaving only the unburned carbon remains, i.e. charcoal. This distilled form of wood can be burned at a much higher temperature than is possible with raw woods.

The collier first cleared a level hearth 30 to 40 feet in diameter. A level hearth was necessary, otherwise the fire would not burn evenly. Next, an openwork chimney was constructed of wood to provide access to the interior after the mound was completed. The collier then leaned four-foot-long billets of wood around the chimney, taking care to stack the wood as tightly as possible, leaving little room for air. The mound was extended in this manner until it reached the margin of the hearth. The process was then repeated at successive levels until the mounds had the traditional round shape. Finally, the mound was covered with a layer of leaves topped with a layer of soil.

"Firing the pit" meant climbing a notched log ladder and pouring glowing coals into the chimney, which had been filled with kindling. Once fired, the sound took from two to four weeks to burn through completely. The collier had to keep diligent watch over the pit, applying moist soil to any flare-ups as well as keeping the pit properly vented to prevent the fire within from dying out. When the smoldering pit was completely burned through, it was carefully raked open and separated into smaller piles of charcoal. The 25 to 50 cords of wood used to build the mound were new 750 to 1500 bushels of charcoal to be loaded on the wagons for the trip to the furnace.

The collier's work went on day and night, day after day. He caught meals and catnaps whenever he could. Living close to the smoldering pit and handling charcoal every day left his body and clothing completely blackened with soot. Working and living alone in the woods, colliers were considered by most other people to be at the bottom of the social ladder. However, traditional charcoaling-making was a craft, handed down from generation to generation, and ironically, colliers were usually the second highest-paid members of the iron-making community.

Although the iron industry utilized a rotation scheduled, the demand for charcoal and other forest products soon surpassed the available supply. The effects on the forest environment from the total clear-cutting of thousands of acres of virgin timber stands were devastating. With the trees removed, soil eroded away—in some area of the state, as much as two feet in 100 years. The landscape of Pennsylvania was changed forever, and the forests were left to recover as best they could.

Today's orienteering maps chronicle the locations of long-forgotten charcoal hearths, logging roads and old railroad beds—monuments to a bittersweet era, and place the orienteer, if only for a few seconds, face to face with a moment in history.

(The preceding article was condensed by DVOA member Paul Kusko from "The Fiery Mounds: Penn's Woods Charcoal Industry," written by Bill Metzger and Kevin Parkes and published in The Pennsylvania Naturalist, December 1979/January 1980, and printed originally in the Briar Patch in Dec. 1986.)

Training Tip

Everything you wanted to know when you started orienteering (but were afraid to keep asking about)

By Joanne Sankus, reprinted from The NEOC Times, Vol. 33, No. 5, Aug./Sept. 2003

What are the instructors trying to teach to beginners at local events? How to orienteer, for sure. But it can't be taught all at once, and the most important thing at first is to teach enough to get a new person safely and successfully around their first course. Many more questions will come later.

Listed below is a set of basic instructions. Obviously, this can't all be taught before sending someone out on their first course. After about 15 to 20 minutes of all new information, most people go into information overload. It's the instructor's job to assess people by their questions and reactions, and decide when to send them on to the start. This can be more of an art than a science, since many people will nod in understanding rather than ask to have some point explained again.

The list below is good for both beginner and intermediate orienteers. Intermediate orienteers should already know, or be working on, all the skills listed here. Beginners can ask about specific things they are not familiar with.

If you have questions, don't be afraid to ask. Most orienteers are happy to share tips and techniques. If you don't know who to ask, talk to the person at the registration table; if they don't have time to answer your questions, they can usually point out a club member who will.

Just as it helps to have a grocery list in hand, this list below can be a check-off list for the coming season.

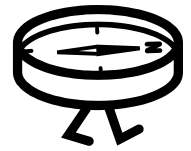
Map Familiarization

- A. Five colors, each representing a different class of features:
 1. Blue: Water, e.g. streams, marshes and ponds.
 2. Green: Vegetation, e.g. individual trees or thick undergrowth.
 3. Yellow: Clearing and fields.
 4. Brown: Contours or other changes in the topography, such as depressions and dot knolls.
 5. Black: Natural rock objects (boulders, cliffs) and man-made features (trails, roads and buildings).
 6. (Absence of color) White: open woods
- B. Map symbols: use the map legend and symbols to locate various features on the map. Can also relate surrounds features to symbols shown on the map.

Map Orientation

- A. Using the terrain: Turn the map until what is in front of you in the terrain matches what is in front of you on the map.

- B. Check using a compass: The north lines on the map should align with the compass needle. Red is usually used to show the north end of the compass needle.



Thumbing

- A. Fold your map into a small, easily held piece.
- B. Place your thumb on the map near where you are standing.
- C. As you move along the terrain, move your thumb to correspond on the map. This helps keep track of where you are.

Map Walk

- A. Read the map as you walk.
- B. Select features in the terrain as you go along and identify them on the map.
- C. Check map orientation as you go along.
- D. Check the position of your thumb on the map.
- E. Look ahead on the map to identify what features you will be seeing next.
- F. Read the contours. Compare the terrain with the map contours. Are you traveling uphill or downhill? Is it steep or level ground? Is there a rise on the left side or the right side?

Orienteering Techniques: CAR

- A. Control: Note the control description and symbol on the map.
- B. Attack point: An easily found feature, such as a trail junction, trail bend or stream crossing, that is near a control.
- C. Route choice: Which way should you go? Should you follow a trail or head straight across the terrain? Which way is better or shorter? Does a longer trail route get to a better attack point? Is a trail faster than through woods and brush? Does it avoid steep climbs?

Pace Counting



- A. Determine your pace. Measure off 100 meters on flat ground and count the number of paces to cross the distance. Try the same going uphill and down.
- B. Use the markings on the edge of your compass to determine the approximate distance to reach your goal. (Be sure to note the scale of the map; most orienteering maps are 1:10,000 or 1:15,000, although there are some exceptions.)

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

-Henry David Thoreau, *naturalist and author (1817-1862)*

The **Delaware Valley Orienteering Association** is a non-profit organization founded in 1967 for the purpose of providing education and organized events in the support of recreational and competitive orienteering in New Jersey, Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania. DVOA is a mid-Atlantic regional member club of the United States Orienteering Federation (USOF) and the International Orienteering Federation (IOF). Inquiries about orienteering should be sent to DVOA, 14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475-2721, or use the DVOA telephone hotline (610) 792-0502 (9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST) or e-mail at Frankdvoa@aol.com

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Vice President	John DeWolf	610-692-3632	1033 S. New St., West Chester, PA 19382
Secretary/Treasurer	Mary Frank	610-792-0502	14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475-2721

Trustees:

Term Expires

2006	Mark Cornish	610-404-0317	4923 Apple Dr., Reading, PA 19606-3442
2007	Bob Meyer	610-489-0875	
2008	Bob Gross	610-404-1185	2668 Plow Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508
2009	Ron Bortz	610-489-0875	
2010	Karl Ahlswede		

Other key personnel:

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Training	Fred Kruesi	610-363-7459	703 Brooke Rd., Exton, PA 19341-1918
	Wyatt Riley		
Scout Activities	Ed Scott	610-582-2128	1608 Cocalico Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508
Mapping	Jim Eagleton	215-283-0137	2507 Navajo Path, Ambler, PA 19002
Technical Director	Tom Overbaugh 3	02-368-8168	210 Fieldstream Dr, Newark, DE 19702-3115
Statistics & Ranking	Kent Shaw	610-917-9944	117 Oakwood Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460
Teaching Kits	Mary Frank	610-792-0502	14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475-2721
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USOF: The United States Orienteering Federation membership entitles you to reduced rates at national events, national ranking points for "A" class participants, and receipt of Orienteering North America™ eight times a year. Contact DVOA secretary for membership forms and information on nationally sanctioned two-day events.

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"Notes from the Briar Patch" is DVOA's official newsletter. It is published four times a year and is sent to currently enrolled members. Its purpose is to communicate information and serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions. Articles and letters are welcome and should be sent to the Briar Patch editor, who retains the right to print, edit or reject submitted material on the basis of its appropriateness to this publication and space limitations.

DVOA Hotline: 610-792-0502 (9 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST)

Visit DVOA on the world-wide web at www.dvoa.org

Fair Hill A- Event (Continued from page 9)

of the map on courses designed by Tom Overbaugh. A total of 335 runners started the various courses. Some of the classes proved to be very competitive, especially the M-21+classification. While running a course that was 22.2 km long, the top four finishers were less than 5 minutes apart.

Finishing first in their class for DVOA were Dylan Singley, Alison Campbell, Greg Ahlswede, Sandy Ahlswede, and Chris Steere. Second place finishers were Chase Thatcher, Corey Thatcher, Caroline Ringo, Francis Miller, Eric Frysinger, Kathy

King, Mary Frank, Daria Babushok, Hunter Cornish, Angelica Riley, and Randy Hall. The third place runners were Robert Frank, Linda Chen, Brian Chang, Lynn Aldrich, Bob Gross, Sandy Fillebrown, and Clem McGrath.

Congratulations to all of the DVOA top three finishers. It should be noted, thanks to John De Wolf, many of the DVOA runners looked extra stylish wearing their new DVOA orienteering suits!

The Map at Pooh Corner

Chapter 11, in which Pooh and Piglet learn to un-lose themselves and receive a present

For a long time after they had somehow missed their way in the Forest, Pooh, Piglet and Rabbit hesitated before going for Long Walks. But one day the sun shone warmer than usual, so Pooh and Piglet decided to un-worry themselves by going to a Place They Knew.

On their way, they came to a fork in the path where Pooh stopped and gave Piglet a stiffening sort of nudge and mouthed, "There's a funny sort of man coming—he's reading a paper *and* he's running!"

The pair hardly had time to jump out of the way before the Reading and Running Man brushed against them and stopped. He burst out laughing at the astonishment on their faces and seemed so nice that they pair forgot they were Timid People. Piglet boldly asked him why he was both Reading and Running. Mr. Planner—or that's what they thought he said he was called—told them all about O-ing.

"More like To-ing and Fro-ing," muttered Pooh to Piglet when Mr. Planner finally paused for breath. "He's obviously an Enfusiast."

Then Pooh confided in Mr. Planner and told him of their plan to un-worry themselves in the Forest. Whereupon Mr. Planner taught Pooh and Piglet the simple bits about reading a map. "What's more," he concluded, "you can have this one so you'll always be able to un-lose yourselves. It's Very Accurate, it's Waterproof and it's Tear-proof, so it will last you a Very Long Time."

"Oh, thank you," cried Pooh and Piglet in unison. And as they turned to go home, Pooh stopped and called out to Mr. Planner, "And thank you for teaching us about Bear-ings!"

Reproduced from an early advertisement by the orienteering map-makers, Smallprint, of Staines in Middlesex; it then appears in 1988 HH Pacemaker. It was also printed in the Dec. 1997 issue of the Briar Patch. Thought you might enjoy a re-run!



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