

TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB

January 1991

OKAY ALL YOU CHOLLA DODGERS

by Mike Pfeiffer

Get ready for another winter meet down here at a "warm" desert elevation. Sunday, January 20, 1991, the Tucson Orienteering Club will hold a meet at scenic Catalina State Park, on the north side of Pusch ridge. Veteran course setters Dale Cole and Kelly Cook will provide the usual Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Courses for our orienteering pleasure. Following tradition, we will open the courses from 9:30 A.M. until Noon. At 2:00 P.M. we will form a posse to round up controls and any stray orienteers.

Volunteers are needed for registration and timing tables (no experience necessary), for conducting a beginner's clinic, and for picking up controls after the meet. This month's courses will feature separate start and finish areas, so we will need a little extra help for the tables. If you can donate a spare hour or so, please contact Mike Pfeiffer, at 721-7701.

Costs: Parking: \$3.00 per carload for entrance to Catalina State Park (Please Carpool if Possible). Orienteering: \$4.00 for individuals, \$6.00 for any size Team. If you are a TOC member, subtract \$1.00. TOC Memberships: Can be purchased or renewed at the Registration Table, \$8.00/year for individuals and \$11.00/year for families/households. Yes, we rent compasses, \$1.00/day. Yes, we sell safety whistles, \$1.00. Yes, we sell chic T-shirts with a nifty original logo for only \$8.00. No, we don't give out bogus control clues to non-club members.

Directions: Take Oracle Road (AZ 89) north, to milepost 81. Turn right at the signed entrance to Catalina State Park, and follow the red and white "O-signs" down the main road to the farthest parking area.

IMPORTANT: Meets are held regardless of the weather, rain or shine.

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 7 7:00 P.M. Business Meeting (call 529-2140 for info)
January 13 Training Session (see article for more information)
January 20 Meet--Catalina State Park

IT WAS A COLD AND RAINY DAY

by Steve Personett,
Meet Director

Cold, wet and windy was the order of the day at the December orienteering meet. Low clouds added a new dimension to the three courses set by Julian Spittlehouse and vetted by Dale Bruder. The low clouds obscured the peaks and hills making it difficult to locate your position on the map. Thirty-four orienteers in 22 entries challenged the elements and the basic, intermediate and advanced courses with all entrants but two successfully conquering the obstacles.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped at the meet and made my first attempt as meet director so easy. Ann Habor, April Bahl and Terri Welsh again, as in many times in the past, staffed the registration and timing tables. Mary English, a first time volunteer also staffed the timing table timing table and d.d a great job. Pat Penn, Dan Cobble Dick, Mike Garcia and Sherry Mann ventured back to the rain soaked courses a second time to retrieve controls. As mentioned above, the courses were set and vetted by Julian Spittlehouse and Dale Bruder, respectively.

RESULTS FROM BAJADA LOOP

ADVANCED

1st Men	John Maier	1:07:05
2nd Men	Dan Cobbledick	1:12:33
3rd Men	John Little	1:32:09
4th Men	Jim Walsh	1:44:31
1st Women	Pat Penn	1:53:03
2nd Women	Marilyn Cleavinger	2:37:04
1st Team	Lost Boys	3:22:38
2nd Team	Lost Bambinos	4:05:43
	Mark Parsons	DHB

INTERMEDIATE

1st Team	The Hurriers	1:28:50
1st Women	Peg Davis	1:34:44
2nd Team	Cochran Team	1:43:43
1st Men	Flynn Picardal	1:47:16
3rd Team	Waltons	2:01:15
4th Team	Shop Vac	2:19:17
5th Team	Broncos	2:28:41
	Terrri Welsh	DHB

BASIC

1st Team	Bears	29:59
2nd Team	Colts	42:07
1st Women	Christine Hannum	44:34
3rd Team	Spotters	1:04:10
	Garcia/Mann	Recreational

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

by John Maier

How many times have you known you were close to the control yet have been unable to find it without searching? You knew your approximate location (within 100 meters of the control) but not your exact location. You couldn't say for sure whether the control was a little ways ahead or behind, a little above or below.

You probably got into this situation by not using precision orienteering techniques from a good attack point, not having an attack point (sometimes there isn't a suitable one), not mapreading frequently enough, drifting off your intended route, poor estimating of distance covered or execution of pace count, a momentary lapse in concentration, or just plain sloppiness. Passing through non-descript terrain or across may parallel features increases your likelihood of falling into this trap. Recognizing how you got into this fix will aid in guarding against future occurrences but it will not get you out of your predicament this time. You need to have a game plan for this scenario. We probably fall prey to this dilemma more often than we'd like to admit. You can't expect to make up lost time, but you can limit the time lost if you act decisively. What you do in the minute after recognizing your predicament is crucial. Analyze the data: What does the terrain look like at your location? How many places on the map in the vicinity of the control does that fit? Can you see any features by which to relocate. If visibility is poor can you improve it by moving a short distance away (possibly moving to higher ground)? Does the map show any catching features nearby? What do you remember seeing before arriving at your present location? Do you have any gut feelings that you're short or long or have veered slightly left or right of your intended route? (Sometimes this last one works, especially if you've had lots of experience orienteering; but don't let intuition dictate to objective analysis.) If the raw data doesn't pinpoint your location you must decide the wisest course of action by optimizing the chances for quick resolution of the dilemma. For example, if you're in a wash which joins a larger

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE (continued)

wash about 50-150 meters downstream, that may be a better (faster) way of relocating than climbing a 50 foot high ridge which you see 100 meters away but which you're sure has good visibility of the terrain features. On the other hand, if there are numerous wash junctions of similar appearance downstream, the ridge option would probably have a greater chance of success. The "might be" and "probably" qualifying words are used here because every situation is unique and each must be analyzed individually. What works in one case may not in another. The best way to become proficient at handling these sorts of problems is through experience. The more you practice the better you get-- different situations, different terrain types, different techniques. Keep on practicing. (Check out this month's training activity.)

IT'S TRAINING TIME

January Training Session

Time to crank up our training activity for 1991. Our first session will focus primarily on the techniques alluded to in this month's Competitive Edge article. We'll practice homing in on the control and what to do when we find it. The date: Sunday, January 13. The Time: 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. The Location: TBA (undecided at publication deadline but will be picked prior to the club business meeting on January 7th) For further information call John Maier, 586-7300 (Benson) or Peg Davis (628-8985). All are welcome. Training sessions are free.

THE BASICS

Those of you who are new to orienteering may not know some of the specialized vocabulary which orienteers use. You may hear someone talking about using a "handrail" or read about an "attack point" in "The Competitive Edge" and not know what is being talked about. Here are a few of those words and brief definitions:

Attack point--a distinguishable feature near the control that is easy to find-- you can use it to find (attack) the control.

Catching feature--a distinguishable feature along your route which you use to help locate yourself.

Contouring--navigating by following along the same contour line or elevation.

Control card--a card carried by the orienteer and punched at each control.

Control feature--the geographical feature at which the control marker is located.

Handrail--a linear feature such as a trail, fence or ridge used to help you navigate more quickly.

Leg--a section of the course between controls.

Linear feature--a feature such as a trail or ridge that extends in one direction for some distance.

Master map--maps which show a course --individual competitors copy these onto their own maps.

Re-entrant--easier seen than defined, a re-entrant is usually located on the side of a hill, a place where water can run down.

Saddle--a land form which has two high points separated by a lower area (like a cowboy's saddle).

Spur--an extension of a hill.

ARIZONA ROGAINE

by John Maier

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 6. That's when the Arizona Rogaine (actually a mini-Rogaine of 8 hours duration) will be held. To our knowledge this is the first Rogaine to ever be held in the Southwest. Our event center will be on the Redington Pass Road. The terrain area is flanked by the Rincon Mountains to the south and the Catalina mountains to the north. It meets our criteria for size (100 sq. km), minimal hostile vegetation, minimal steepness, adequate access and parking, plus the added bonus of unsurpassed views. It's a gem. Participation is by teams of two or more, and pre-registration is required. Entry fees: \$15.00/2 person team, \$5.00/each additional team member, late fee of \$5.00/team, if entry postmarked after March 25th. There will be three categories of competition (men, women and mixed teams) plus a recreational category. Special awards will be presented to the top three teams in each competitive category. Need a partner? We'll do our best to find you a compatible teammate if you request it. Entry forms will be available in February and may be picked up at our February or March events or by Mail: ARIZONA ROGAINE, Tucson Orienteering Club, P.O. Box 13012, Tucson, AZ 85732. Further information may be obtained by calling Project Coordinator John Maier at 586-7300 (Benson), or Publicity Chair Peg Davis at 628-8985 (Tucson). Details will follow in future issues of the newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW

The Presidential Sports Award can be earned by participating in any of forty-nine sports--and one of them is Orienteering. Forms listing requirements to earn the award and the log for your efforts will be available at upcoming meets and training events. What will the blazer patch for orienteering look like? How many can TOC garner? Ask for details at the next meet or call Peg Davis at 628-8985 (Tucson).

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Check One: _____ New Member
_____ Renewal _____ Date on Mailing Label

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Check One: _____ Individual \$8.00

_____ Family \$11.00

Members receive a monthly newsletter, have voting privileges, and receive a \$1.00 discount per major meet. Make checks payable to : Tucson Orienteering Club, and send to P.O. Box: 13012, Tucson, AZ 85732.



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P.O. BOX 13012
TUCSON, AZ 85732

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

