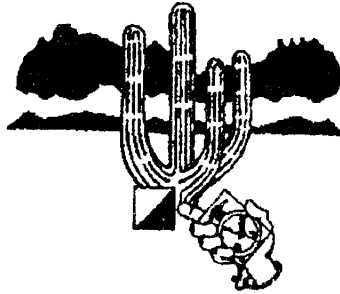

TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB



APRIL 1996

Slavin Gulch in the Dragoons

—Jeff Brucker

On Sunday, April 21, we will have five courses: White (2k, 30m), Yellow (3k, 40m), Orange (4.5k, 90m), Green (5k, 120m), and Red (6.5k, 180m). These distances and elevations are only a preliminary estimate, and fall roughly in the middle of the USOF guidelines. The courses will all be relatively flat, averaging 2-3% grade. Roy Parker will be vetting the courses.

We will have a good supply of both black-white and color maps available for the Orange, Green, and Red courses. The color maps will be *optional* at registration for an additional 50 cents.

Ann Haber will be meet director for this meet. Please call her at 293-0262 if you can help with registration, start, or finish.

It seems a lot of people will be going up early on Saturday and camping. I have heard rumors of a Night-O and potluck on Saturday night. (See Slavin Gulch Night-O, Page 2.)

Directions to Site: Take I-10 east from Tucson to Exit 303 at Benson; take AZ Highway 80 south 24 miles to milepost 315; turn left on Middle March Road and go northeast 9.9 miles. Just before the forest boundary, turn left (north) onto Forest Route 687 and follow the O-signs.

Camping: The west side of the Dragoons is very pretty, and there is good camping at the site. However, it is a primitive site, no facilities. *You must bring your own water if you are camping.*

Fees: \$5/individual, \$7/team; \$2 discount for TSN, PHX, USOF, or SAHC members. (Additional 50¢ for each color map is *optional*.) Compasses rent for \$1. Safety whistles sell for \$1. *Every person, all courses, all meets* is required to carry some type of safety whistle.

FORT HUACHUCA RESULTS	Page 3
GIVING GOOD VALUE, by John Maier	Page 7

- Schedule:**
- 9:00 a.m. Registration opens.
 - 9:30 a.m. Courses open. Beginners' clinic starts.
 - 12:00 noon Last time to start a course.
 - 2:00 p.m. Courses close. Participants aim to check in by this time.
 - 2:00 p.m. Control retrieval—good orienteering practice, lots of help always needed. Volunteer before 2 p.m. with the meet director.

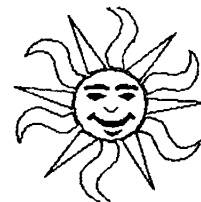
To insure that all are safe, *everyone, whether finished with the course or not*, must check in formally at Start/Finish before leaving the meet site.

Newcomers: Check in at the Registration Table and tell them you are entering for the first time. They will give you additional information. To allow time to register before attending the beginners' clinic, you should arrive between 9 and 9:15 a.m.

Route-Choice Reviews: Between noon and 2 p.m., the course setter or an advanced orienteer will discuss route choices with returning participants, probably near Registration or Results area.

It Ain't Over Till

A few notes on our recent Sun*Fest A meet. Editor would like to apologize for the omission of **Max Suter** in the appreciation notes last month. Max ran the training clinic at the training site on Friday afternoon. Thank you, Max, it was great.



Also, John Maier has received word that the Arizona Sun*Fest will be featured in the next issue of ONA. A picture John sent to ONA will be on the cover.

Mapping Clinic

John Maier will lead a mapping clinic at Cave Creek (east side of the Santa Ritas) on the weekend following our April event. RSVP by the April meet (April 21) if you intend to take part in the clinic on April 27-28. We will concentrate on map revisions.

Write or call John at P. O. Box 1418, Benson, AZ 85602; telephone (520) 586-7300. Remember, the pen is more dependable than the phone in reaching John.

Slavin Gulch Night-O

—John Maier

Come to the meet site any time Saturday, even morning. Come to enjoy the views, ride your mountain bike, hike, play chess, etc. There will be a barbecue at 6 p.m. (or earlier, if you're hungry). The Club will provide grills; you provide everything else, including water. There's NO water (or other facilities) at this site. Bring a friend or two.

Night-O registration will be at 7:30 p.m. (it should get dark about 7:45). There will be three courses: easy, moderate, and difficult, in point-to-point format, set by Mark Parsons. Cost will be \$2 per person. Bring a good flashlight (with extra batteries). You may want to cover the lens with some sort of screen, so you don't give your location away to other competitors.

St. Pat's Day at Fort Huachuca

—Mike Huckaby

"Go for the Green" must have been the watchword at our March 17 Ft. Huachuca meet. Out of 46 entries (4 repeats) on five courses, 13 signed up for green. It was a big turnout of participants, but a poor showing from base personnel, despite the publicity. But then, the gate guard was surprised to find out that people actually paid for the chance to dodge cactus and catclaw. One runner, a former battalion leader, said the Army O-teams sometimes run the course using halftrack vehicles. That's effective, but not as compact as gaiters.

It was a sunny day, with a constant breeze to keep everybody cool, although some folks got a little punch happy. Two White runners punched controls in addition to those on their course. One entry punched GO twice. There were three identical punches hung from the GO control. One intermediate entry punched a White control seen before the Orange control was found. The correct control was also punched. There are no penalties for extra punches, but more attention to the instructions and the Control Codes might help times.

The White course had a difficult route from control 2 to control 4. A lack of flagging from control 2 to the reentrant where control 3 was located created a level of difficulty that beginners shouldn't have to deal with. The flagging from #3 to #4 may also have been sporadic. A word of praise for the tenacity of the one competitive entry who went back to bag #3, and apologies to all on the White course. We had 11 entries on White, and I hope they will give us another chance at the Slavin Gulch meet.

Red, 5.7k, 200m

1M Mark Parsons	55:36
2M Michael Collins	63:55
3M Sasha Savine	72:38
Jeff Brucker	73:30
1F Karan Keith	75:00

Green, 4.8k, 190m

1M Keith McLeod	58:47
2M Jim DeVeny	62:45
1F Robin Staples	86:51
1T Searchers	87:50
3M Larry Lamb	90:11
2F Peg Davis	102:00
3F Pat Penn	106:03
2T O'Male	203:33
M&M's, *Matt Ault	Rec

Orange, 4.7k, 160m

1T Pokey	142:15
1M Bob Kelley	163:00
Mosnos, Larrington, Susan Curtis	Rec

Yellow, 3.6k, 105m

1T Wally	88:29
2T Beyond Lost Horizons	106:19

White, 2.4k, 70m

1T O'Cardone	277:00
Eve Milnor/Renata, Matt Ault, Blarney Blasters, Sammie Miller, Susan Curtis, Denise Brynes	Rec

*After completing the White course, first-timer Matt Ault moved up, not to Yellow, not to Orange, but to GREEN! Restricted to running recreational, by club rules, his unofficial time was less than 75 minutes!

Notes on Fort Huachuca Map, from John Maier

This was a very difficult map to use. There are three major problems with it: (1) the contours lack detail or are often incorrect in detail, (2) the mapping standard is of inconsistent quality, and (3) there have been numerous changes to the area since the map was made.

This placed an extra burden on the course-setting team. For every point finally chosen, two others were rejected (on the average) due to map problems. You should not have to reject more than 30-40% normally. For this meet it was 200% (5-6 times as many!), and we were still somewhat dissatisfied with a number of our final choices.

It was extremely difficult to design technical points for the advanced courses because the map errors were so rampant; instead, we often had to use simple points and concentrate on route choice problems.

The start area designated for our use is very restrictive, which forced us to use some of the steepest terrain, though we had really envisioned using more of the rolling savanna terrain which composes the majority of this map.

For the future: this map should not be used for a regular event until it undergoes a major revision, and I would question whether our efforts would not be better placed elsewhere. Unless we are allowed to park on the north part of the map or ferry people to a remote start, it should only, in my opinion, be used for a long-O or a 2-3 hour score-O event. No points should be set above the Orange level here.

March Business/Planning Meeting

The March meeting was held on March 8, 1996, at the home of Wilkey Richardson, John Maier, president, presiding. Attendees included Roger Sperline, Mary English, Mike Huckaby, Wilkey Richardson, Mike Collins, Pat Penn, and Helen Deluga.

- Some follow-up Sun*Fest business was covered.
 - Attendees discussed putting together a flyer listing upcoming meets and clinics. These could be put out at Bob's Bargain Barn, Summit Hut, etc. This would mean that we would have to set up the schedule and stick to it.
 - There will be a mapping clinic at Cave Creek on April 28-29.
 - The 1996 ROGAINÉ fees were set at \$25, including food.
 - Pat Penn has volunteered to be Map Chair for the upcoming year. Thank you, Pat.
 - John Maier has volunteered to cover the duties of quality control for course setting. This means that John will make sure that all courses for upcoming events are properly vetted.
- Thanks, John! This should make our already great courses even better.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 12, at the home of Michael and Heather Collins, 3739 E. Monte Vista (1 block north of Glenn, 1 block east of Dodge), phone 318-4905. Potluck at 6:30, meeting at 7. Now we can see if Mike really does have a secret identity! The May meeting will be held Friday, May 10, at the home of Helen Deluga.

TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB APRIL 1996						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICERS START NEW TERM	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 BUSINESS/ PLANNING MEETING	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 PICNIC & NIGHT-O
21 SLAVIN GULCH MEET	22	23	24	25	26	27 MAPPING CLINIC
28 MAPPING CLINIC	29 DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER	30				

TSN Club meets are held regularly on the third Sunday of the month, year-round. NOTE: Meet sites are subject to change. The schedule is updated every month in this newsletter.

Apr. 1 TSN O Club Officers Start the April 1996-March 1997 term.

Apr. 12 Business/Planning Meeting, 7-9 p.m., at home of Michael and Heather Collins. All TSN Club members invited and eligible to vote. See March meeting report, page 4.

Apr. 20 Potluck Picnic, 6(?) p.m., and Night-O courses by Mark Parsons. Registration 7:30 p.m. Slavin Gulch. See page 2.

Apr. 21 Slavin Gulch, Dragoon Mountains Meet
Courses: Jeff Brucker (886-2528), assisted by Robin Staples
Director: Ann Haber (293-0262)
Course Vetter: Roy Parker

Apr. 27-28 Mapping Clinic, Cave Creek, Santa Rita Mountains.
John Maier (Benson 586-7300) in charge. See page 2 for details.

Apr. 29 May newsletter deadline
Mail: 9055 Calle Bogota, 85715
Phone: 296 2108, FAX: 290-3071

- May 10 Business/Planning Meeting, 7-9 p.m., at Helen Deluga's. All TSN Club members invited and eligible to vote.**
- May 19 Cave Creek, Santa Rita Mountains Meet**
Courses: Wilkey Richardson (529-1105)
Directors: Maureen Jamieson and Jim DeVeny (323-0936)
- May 27 June Newsletter Deadline**
- June 16 Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mtns. Meet**
Courses: ??
Directors: ??
- July 20-21 Sixth Annual Arizona ROGAINE Mogollon Rim, near Flagstaff: Meet**
6-hour, 12-hour, and 24-hour events. Entry categories (teams only): Men, Women, and Mixed, plus newly created "Young Punks and Old Fogies" for under 25/over 55 years of age.
Course Designer: John Maier (Benson, 586-7300)
Directors: ??
- Aug. 18 Palisades Ridge, Santa Catalina Mountains, with Showers Point group campsite reserved 1 p.m. Saturday to noon Sunday. Meet**
Courses: Jim Stamm (575-0830)
Directors: ??
- Sept. 15 Rosemont Junction, Santa Rita Mountains Meet**
Courses: ??
Director: Ann Haber (293-0262)
- Oct. 19-20 1996 Arizona State Championships organized by Phoenix O Club. Meet**
Near Florence. (Note change of place.)
- Nov. 17 Chimney Rock, Redington Pass Meet**
Courses: John Maier (Benson 586-7300)
Directors: ??
- Dec. 15 Cat Mountain, Tucson Mountains Meet**
Courses: ??
Directors: ??
- 1997**
- Jan. 19 Catalina State Park Meet**
Courses: ??
Directors: ??
- March 1-2 North American ROGAINE Championships, Empire Ranch, organized by TSN O Club. Meet**
Course Designers: Wilkey Richardson and Roger Sperline
Director: Wilkey Richardson

Experienced course setters are usually happy (with advance notice of about a month) to work with apprentices who want to learn to set courses. If there is enough interest, separate training for course setting can be organized.

Directing a meet consists essentially of setting up and supervising the Registration and Timing areas, with help from other volunteers. Teams of two are encouraged.

If you're interested, call Mike Huckaby, 324-0209.

Giving Good Value

—John Maier

If we want orienteering to prosper and grow in our community, if we want newcomers to be attracted to our sport and return event after event, if we want our veterans to continue to enjoy fresh challenges and not be lost through boredom, then we must be conscious of the *quality of experience* they receive when they come to one of our events. We must be vigilant to ensure that they receive *good value* for their commitment of time and money. Remember, most active people have numerous activities competing for their attention. Only by outperforming the competition can we hope to win them over to our sport. It hurts us as a club when something goes awry at an event. If a course is poorly designed, if a control is misplaced or a master map mismarked, if the map is poor, then quality is compromised, you do not have good value, and we lose potential orienteers.

To maintain a *consistent level of quality*, we need to follow a process that gets carried out for every event according to a *uniform set of standards* that everyone can depend on. Up to now, we've pretty much just left it up to the course setter to get everything done. That's a lot to ask of a volunteer, and as you can see by looking over the past year's events, there were some problems. We did not always give good value.

Although we have a set of guidelines to follow, not all courses have met these guidelines. Sometimes a course has been too difficult or too long, resulting in a discouraging experience for many. If you see a lot of DNFs on a course, we missed the mark. Depending on the ability of a course setter to line up a vetter, the courses may or may not get checked for accuracy and appropriateness. It is not fair to place full blame on our course setters for these problems. They have volunteered to do a big job for zero dollars. How would you feel if you put in 40-60 hours at a difficult task but overlooked one or two things and then were criticized for it? Would you volunteer the next time you were asked? Not likely.

What we need is a structure which offers our course setters more support. We need to do better in this regard. If we want orienteering to prosper and grow, we *must* do better. To work towards this end, I have volunteered to be a catalyst in the process.

Over the next year I will be responsible for developing a process that allows us to provide courses that adhere to a uniform set of standards that can be counted on and that will provide the quality of experience that participants have the right to expect. This position has no official designation as yet, but might become known as the Competition Chair or Technical Advisor. I prefer the latter because the focus is broader than just competition. Quality control benefits our recreational as well as our competitive orienteers.

We will undoubtedly learn what works best through trial and error. Let us begin by trying the following:

- 1) Complete course designs on a timetable which allows sufficient time for vetting and making changes. Sooner is better. Complete vetting two weeks prior to the event to allow time for making any changes and vetting those changes.

- 2) Relieve course setter of the burden of finding a vetter. Technical Advisor will appoint a vetter 3-4 weeks prior to the event. Vettors will be chosen from advanced level orienteers who have demonstrated proficiency as course setters.
- 3) Final revised course designs ready and checked by vetter one full week prior to the event.
- 4) To guarantee consistency and not disrupt the advancement of our developing orienteers, five courses (White, Yellow, Orange, Green, and Red) will be offered at each event unless otherwise announced in the semiannual calendar of events which is distributed to the public. Once announced in the circular, no changes, only additions, will be allowed. If the course designer feels overburdened by this, he/she shall contact the Technical Advisor, who will assist.
- 5) Pre-printed course descriptions for all courses distributed to participants at registration. This streamlines the process of getting people started, makes it easier for them, and adds quality. It cannot fail to be a hit with the crowd. The course descriptions shall be checked for correctness by the vetter prior to printing. Printing will be done using a computer program which is available to us.
- 6) If the course setter or vetter is experiencing difficulty at any stage of the game, he/she will contact the Technical Advisor ASAP for assistance. No waiting till the last minute.
- 7) Technical Advisor shall keep records for each event as to what worked well and what did not. These will be presented at the club business meeting for review and suggestions.

So this is how we will begin. Please offer any suggestions you may have that will aid us in producing a consistent level of quality from event to event, quality that people can count on. To offer your input, call or write John Maier (520-586-7300), P. O. Box 1418, Benson, AZ 85602.

Open Season on New Officers (or is that New Officers Season Opens?)

In the recent Tucson O Club elections, there was no contest. Nonetheless, results remain incomplete, inasmuch as two of the eight officer positions remain to be filled. Mike Huckaby, our nominating committee of one, is endeavoring to find people for those spots.

Our new president, Wilkey Richardson, and our new mapping chair, Pat Penn, are both returning as officers now, after a couple of years working for the club in informal capacities—attending business/planning meetings, setting courses, doing special projects. (Wilkey was secretary-treasurer in 1992 and mapping chair in 1994. Pat was president in 1992 and 1993.)

Mike Huckaby, just finishing a term as vice president, is simply changing hats to take on the publicity and education job. He is succeeding Mark Parsons, who will once again become an unofficial mainstay of the club, setting more than his share of the courses, organizing and running whole meets by himself, catering big events, etc., etc., etc.

Continuing—faithfully—in the same slots are Helen Deluga as secretary/treasurer (since December 1994), Mary English as equipment manager (since December 1992), and Lois Kimminau as newsletter editor (since January 1994).

Roger Sperline, who was officially our mapping coordinator in 1992 and 1993, and who has been doing the mapping work throughout the past term, will now devote time to creating maps for new orienteering sites. John Maier, who was president last term, will now serve in the new, but as yet informal, job of technical advisor to the club's course setters.

Still to be filled are the highly critical positions of vice president and of membership secretary. The vice president coordinates preliminary logistics for club meets, obtaining use permits and recruiting course setters and directors. The membership secretary maintains the data base for the member roster and meet registration records, and provides mailing labels for the monthly newsletter.

Marilyn Cleavinger, who has been our membership secretary since August 1994, has resigned from that position, but has agreed to continue for another month or so, until a successor can be found.

If Mike Huckaby calls you about doing either of these jobs, even for a partial term, please consider his request. Ask him about what's involved in being vice president. Call Marilyn Cleavinger to find out what the membership secretary does.

The past term for club officers brought a bonus to all when we decided to postpone elections from December 1995 to this March, thus lengthening the standard year-term by 25 percent. The new (as it were) officers will serve through the end of next March. The next round of nominations and elections will be in February-March of 1997. **THINK ABOUT IT!** Do you like orienteering? Help keep it going in Southern Arizona.

1996-97 TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB OFFICERS

President	Wilkey Richardson	529-1105
Vice President	POSITION OPEN	
Secretary/Treasurer	Helen Deluga	795-6005
Membership (Acting)	Marilyn Cleavinger	795-2081
Mapping	Pat Penn	326-2339
Equipment	Mary English	881-4786
Publicity/Education	Mike Huckaby	324-0209
Newsletter Editor	Lois Kimminau	296-2108

FAX eves: 290-8071

FAX days: 327-4504



It's Spring at
Sloan Gulch
April 20-24
2002

Address Correction Requested

Tucson Orienteering Club
P O Box 13012
Tucson, AZ 85732

TSN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check one: New Member Renewal Date on mailing label _____

Check one: Individual (\$8) Household (\$11)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Can you help staff a club meet? Yes, call me.

Members receive a monthly newsletter, have voting privileges, and receive a \$2 discount per meet. Make checks payable to: Tucson Orienteering Club, and send to P. O. Box 13012, Tucson, AZ 85732