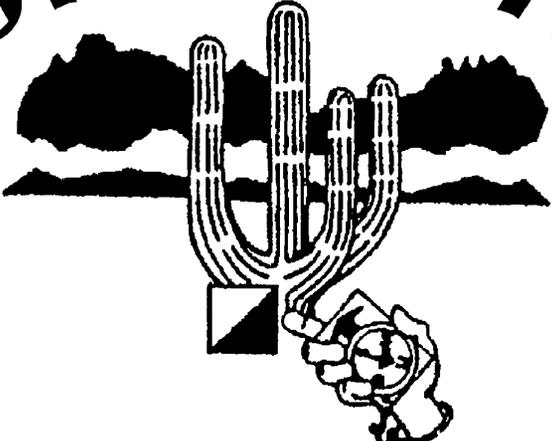

Wilson Orienteering Club



October 1998

Empire Ranch in October

—Dan Coombs

This month's event will be a weekender at Empire Ranch, beginning Saturday, October 17, and continuing on Sunday, October 18. On Saturday, starting at 3 p.m., there will be a "Long-ish" course which will have four or five controls over a distance of about 4 km. The standard will be approximately Orange-course level, with some route choice. I am not sure if people will be timed on this; in any event, it will be entirely informal. You are welcome to do this course any time after 3 p.m., even at night if you wish.

On Sunday we will have four of the usual five courses: White (1-2 km), Yellow (2-3km), Orange (3-4km) and Green (4-5km). There will also be a "Red" course which will be longer than usual, approximately 9km.

You can start your course from 9:30 until noon. Progressive control collection will begin at around 1.30 p.m. Please try to be finishing your course by then.

After your run, there will be a "Punch Practice" course with numerous controls over a very short distance. Coaching on fast punching will be available. Bear in mind that 10 seconds per punch saved translates to 2-3 minutes on a full-length course. Bring a sweatband and some pins if you want to try out the 'wrist' method of attaching your card.

Empire Ranch is typical Southern Arizona high desert. There is less underbrush than at nearby areas (Cave Creek or Rosemont). The map is one of the best that the club currently has. The area is pretty flat. You should be able to run fast for much of the way, if you want to. The views of the Santa Rita and Huachuca mountains are also very good.

Garey Cash will be the Meet Director. Call him at 298-7969 if you can help at the Registration or Timing tables. Remember, many hands make light work.

Camping: Primitive camping will be available Saturday night at the event site (no facilities or water).

Directions: To get there, drive East on I-10 to US-83 (sign says to Sonoita); drive south (and uphill) for approxi-

mately 16 miles, until you see O-signs (orange and white) directing you to turn left onto a dirt road. The turnoff is about 5 miles after the end of the long uphill part of the road. Follow the O-signs about 1 mile past some

ranches to the event site, at the old air strip. If you get to Sonoita then you have gone too far.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Fees: \$8/individual, \$10/team; \$5 discount for TSN, PHX, USOF, or SAHC members. Compasses rent for \$1. Safety whistles sell for \$1. *Every person, all courses, all meets* is required to carry some type of safety whistle.

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.

12-1:30 p.m. Route choice reviews.

1:30 p.m. Courses close. Begin control retrieval—good orienteering practice, lots of help always needed. Volunteer before 1 p.m. with the meet director.

Check-In: 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: Go directly to Registration. Ask for instructions and introductory information. To allow time to register before attending the beginners' clinic, arrive between 9 and 9:15 a.m.

Route-Choice Reviews: Between noon and 1:30 p.m., the course setter or an advanced orienteer will discuss route choices with returning participants, probably near Start/Finish area.



Business/Planning Meeting

There will be a Business/Planning Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, at 8 p.m., at the home of Peg Davis, 2241 East Parkway Terrace. (From Broadway, turn south on Tucson Boulevard, pass church and school; west on Arroyo Chico one long block.) Call Peg at 628-8985 for other information. All members are invited and encouraged to attend Club meetings and are eligible to vote. Your input is appreciated!

Orienteering in the Rockies

—*Peg Davis*

For the first time in history, the week-long Rocky Mountain Orienteering extravaganza known as the 1000 Day was held east of Laramie, Wyoming, on a set of newly made maps. We had the opportunity to orienteer 9 times in 9 days, with 2 events the first day, leaving Thursday as our rest day. I celebrated by hiking Medicine Bow Peak with Carl Moore while the rest of the gang cooked off a couple of layers of skin in some lovely natural hot springs across the Snowy Mountains.

On three nights, dinners were arranged in town at a social center, giving us lots of opportunities to catch up with old friends and make a few new ones. I once again asked for visiting course setters to drop by Tucson and set on their choice of our maps.

Roger Sperline was the big Tucson kahuna at the meet this year. Ranking 48th of 58 on the Red course for the week, he managed to place 35th out of 46 on the Night-O course. (He began running this course approximately 15 minutes after completing the 20-hour drive from Tucson!) Competing in the first Rocky Mountain Goat, he ran 16 k cross-country in 3 hours, 14 minutes to place 53rd of 91 finishers. I placed 74th and was very proud to be able to keep up with John Pascal for the first time.

Roger would like to thank Max, John, Mark, and Dan for finding something else to do this August. Marley, Sue, and Peg would like to ask Max, John, Mark, and Dan to get to Wyoming next year. Being invited to coo "Oh, Roger, you're SO wonderful" every day was turning our stomachs to the extent that only a surfeit of sage-y fresh plains air could restore our appetites.

As stunning as Roger kept telling us his performance was, the true Tucson sensation was Marley Beard. Beginning the week in true TOC fashion—walking the course dressed like a logger with dog in tow—by the end of the week, Marley was spotted running nonstop, spiking control after control. Everyone turned in faster times as the week progressed, but while the leader on the Green course improved by 20%, Marley improved by 54%. If this event had gone on for a few more weeks, she would have been turning in negative times and finishing the courses before she started.

I had a little problem checking a control code on the first day and DSQ'ed, so this was a recreational event for me.

If reams of statistics are your pleasure, the complete results can be found on the Rocky Mountain Orienteering Club home page.

Next year's week of fun will also be in the Laramie area in August. Rumors are that even more maps of this area are being made. This is a wonderful way to spend a week, more than a bit like summer camp for adults, and I highly recommend it to any level orienteer.

Sprinkles at Showers Point

—Mike Huckaby

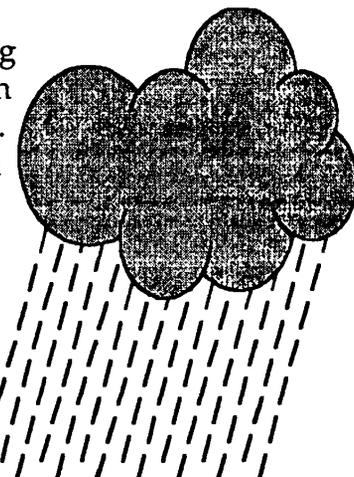
The August 16 meet at Organization Ridge had 28 initial entries scrambling in the sunshine and panting on the pine needles at 7,000 feet of elevation. In spite of impending monsoons, four teams went back out for a second round. Out of these people, six diehards helped with control retrieval! I hope you didn't get burned out, because it will be great to see you all at Bear Wallow.

White and Yellow courses were point-to-point orienteering. Course-setter Jeff Brucker designed a Score-O for Orange, Green, and Red level participants. Your declared level of skill determined your competition. It also increased chances for awards. Contrary to the August newsletter, only a 120-minute Score-O was employed.

Any mix-up about skill levels, Score-O durations, and when to declare said level can be attributed to the meet director's failure to read the *ALL PARTICIPANTS READ THIS* notice on the "WHICH COURSE" board. I wonder if anyone else overlooked the course notes?

Kudos to **Max Suter** who got all controls for 670 points with 9:46 to spare. Next time we'll include one control on Mt. Bigelow!

Special thanks to all the volunteers on tables and control retrieval: **Christine Jowett, Kevin Edwards, Christy Frahm, Eugene McDougall, Jim & Matt Stamm, Alexandre Savine, Rochelle Gerratt, Jessica Walker, GeeGee Larrington, Carol and Jeff Brucker, Pat Madea, Bev Parks, and Gil & Daniel Segovia.**



White Course

1T	Lost	31:30
2T	CK	32:20
Rec.	Rochelle Gerratt, Jessica Walker, Slugs, Rattus, Applecores	

Yellow Course

1T	Slobbering Wet Dogs	59:32
2T	Larry Lamb	62:25
3T	Duke's Pack	70:19
4T	Tobin's Turtles	70:35
1W	Ellen Price	119:00
Rec.	Slugs, Rochelle & Jessica, Blondes	
DNF	Chris Suter	

Score-O—Orange

1T	Catalina Javelinas	118:53	320
2T	Team Opel	117:44	280
3T	Studs	116:54	250
1M	Skip Myler	123:33	230
4T	Jim Donnelly	119:46	110
5T	David D	114:35	60
6T	Rebecca	125:43	50
Rec.	GeeGee Larrington, Rachel Gelbin, Carol Brucker, Lost, and CK		

Score-O—Green

1M	Gary Thomas	114:56	310
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Score-O—Red

1M	Max Suter	110:14	670
2M	Peter Zurcher	120:30	550
3M	Alexandre Savine	124:39	490

Publicity/Education Chair Needed

Tucson Orienteering Club needs a new Publicity/Education Chair. If you can help out by filling this position, please call Peg Davis at 628-8985.

Duties of Publicity Chair include preparing news releases; distributing information to appropriate media outlets; coordinating educational services; and answering requests for information about the Club.

NOTICE

Our Club's website has
a new address! Visit
it at:

<http://www.cloudbow.com/sites/toc/>

When To Use a Compass...And When Not To

—Robin Shannonhouse, GAOC

Over the years, I've taught orienteering to lots of folks—mostly beginners, but also to many orienteers who needed extra help to improve their skills. It seems to me that many people need to develop better compass-use habits. For the most part, Orange course orienteers (intermediate level) tend to over-use their compasses, while everyone else tends to neglect the compass.

Here are some hints on when to use the compass: for most orienteers in most of their orienteering, the ONLY use of the compass is to orient the map. This is easiest if you hold the map and the compass in the same hand with the compass on top of the map so you can line the north arrows of the map up with the compass needle. The most common mistake made by beginners, not keeping their map oriented to north, often causes them to run full-tilt down the wrong trail, or the wrong way down the right trail.

But beginners aren't the only ones at fault here. Your average Green-Red-Blue orienteer (advanced levels) doesn't use the compass to orient the map often enough either. Most of these orienteers read maps proficiently enough (or think they do) that they mostly tend to orient their maps by matching it to the surrounding terrain. This is not a bad technique, but it MAY take too long to do it accurately, so they end up orienting their maps only roughly, which gets them off in the correct general direction, but not precisely the right direction. If you do orient to the terrain, unless you have a broad and obvious route and a very good linear feature with which to align the map, it's always a good idea to quickly check this alignment with the compass—a quick look now saves *mucho* time later! The longer the orienteer goes on a rough direction, the easier it is to make parallel errors, the bane of every orienteer (and the delight of every course setter: gotcha!).

Most Orange course orienteers seem to believe that their compass is an invisible lifeline to the next control. Teach 'em to take a compass bearing, they ignore everything else. Getting them to rely more on reading map features, such as vegetation differences and contours, and less on compass bearings, will make them better orienteers.

So, when DO you use the compass?

(1) Every time you look at the map, make certain that you have the north lines oriented to the north end of the compass needle.

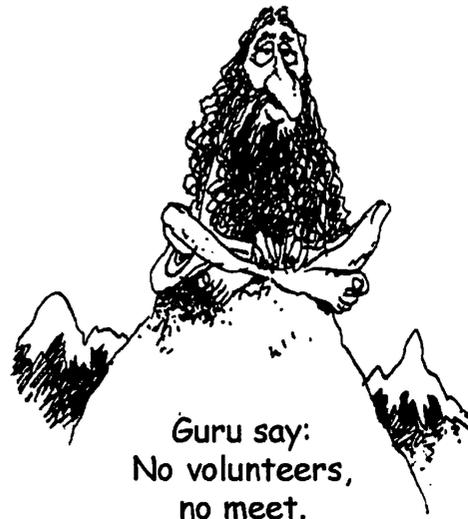
(2) Whenever you leave a control, orient the map to the compass needle.

(3) Whenever you're at a change-of-direction landmark, orient the map to the compass needle.

(4) Whenever you are crossing a vague, featureless, or dense area, use the compass to orient the map and sight across it from a landmark on this side to a landmark on the other side of the area, or take a bearing from the one on this side to the one on the other side.

I personally prefer a thumb compass, because it makes orienting the map so much easier and discourages taking bearings. This forces me to read the map features more and notice the landmarks more, all the while keeping the map oriented. I haven't taken a compass bearing while orienteering in years.

An old term for taking a bearing is "shooting a bearing." I still remember being told long ago that "you can't shoot a bearing anymore; they've all been shot to extinction by the Boy Scouts."



Guru say:
No volunteers,
no meet.

Club Calendar

October 18, Empire Ranch (near Sonoita)

Course Setter: Dan Coombs (881-3136)

Course Vetter: VACANT

Meet Director: Garey Cash (298-7969)

October 26, Newsletter Deadline

See submittal information below.

October 27, Business/Planning Meeting

8 p.m. at Peg Davis' house. See meeting notice on page 2 for information.

November 15, Brady Wash (northwest of Oracle Junction), *new site & map*

Course Setter: Wilkey Richardson (529-1105)

Course Vetter: VACANT

Meet Directors: Pat Penn (326-2339) and Margrit McIntosh (795-3083)

December 20, Silver Bell (west of Marana)

Course Setters: Marilyn Cleavenger (795-2081) and Marley Beard (297-0180)

Course Vetter: VACANT

Meet Director: VACANT

1999

January 17, Chimney Rock, Redington Pass

Course Setter: Mark Parsons (520-423-3013)

Course Vetter: VACANT

Meet Director: Keith McLeod (529-1808)

February 21, Cat Mountain, Tucson Mountains

Course Setter: Dan Coombs (881-3136)

Course Vetter: VACANT

Meet Directors: Greg & Carol Starr (743-7052)

March 21, Slavin Gulch, Dragoon Mountains

Course Setter: VACANT

Course Vetter: VACANT

Meet Director: VACANT

TSN Club meets are held regularly on the third Sunday of the month, year-round.

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.

Please call Peg Davis at 628-8985 if you can help with any of these meets.

1998-99 TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB OFFICERS

President	Peg Davis	pegdavis@u.arizona.edu	628-8985
Secretary/Treasurer	GeeGee Larrington	larring@azstarnet.com	297-8797
Membership	Jeff Brodsky	jabrodsky@worldnet.att.net	886-6304
Mapping	Wilkey Richardson		529-1105
Equipment	Mary English		881-4786
Permits	John Maier		(520) 586-7300
Publicity/Education	Marilyn Cleavenger	clever@azstarnet.com	795-2081
Newsletter Editor	Lois Kimminau	loiskim@aol.com	296-2108

Newsletter Submittals

The deadline for newsletter items is shown in the monthly calendar. Please try to meet the deadline, or call the editor if there is a problem. All members are invited and encouraged to send informational or opinion articles on any orienteering topic.

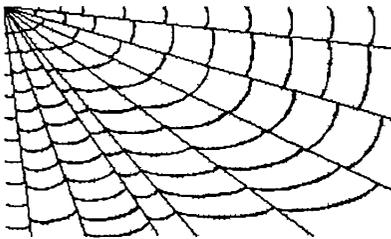
Phone: 296-2108 FAX: 290-8071 E-mail: loiskim@aol.com

US mail: 9055 Calle Bogota, Tucson, Arizona 85715

—Lois Kimminau, Editor

Tucson Orienteering Club
P. O. Box 13012
Tucson, AZ 85732

Address Correction Requested



Check out the Tucson Orienteering Club web site!
NEW: <http://www.cloudbow.com/sites/toc/>
Also, for links to all the West Coast club sites, go to
<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/4040>

TSN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check one: New Member Renewal Date on label _____

Check one: Individual (\$10) Household (\$15)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Members receive a monthly newsletter, have voting privileges and access to Club library, and receive a \$5 discount per meet. Make checks payable to Tucson Orienteering Club and send to P. O. Box 13012, Tucson, AZ 85732.