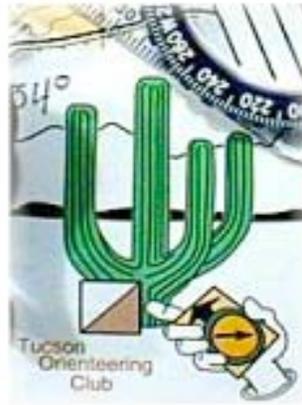


# TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB



Issue #2010-1

March 31, 2010

## Tucson Orienteering History

For the first quarterly edition of the Tucson Orienteering Club newsletter, I thought it would be nice to try to put together a history of our club. Many, if not most of us, are newcomers, compared to the original founders. And some of them are still around! Other early members have moved on, to new interests, to new commitments, or to new cities. And some of them, sadly, have passed away.

The earliest newsletter I have available is dated February 1986. This was probably not the first newsletter, but there is a short article in it that says the club was formed about 1-1/2 years earlier by Keith McLeod and Dennis Orrico. Prior to that, John Maier had organized several events, trying to get a club started. By the time of the February 1986 newsletter, they had 225 regular and occasional participants and held events the third Sunday of every month, drawing 65-100 entries at each. They had six maps available for use in Saguaro National Monument and Coronado National Forest. Club membership was \$5/year, and entitled you to a \$1 discount off the regular meet fee of \$3.

The next available newsletter, September 1986, announces a meet to be held that month at Bear Wallow in the Catalinas. Apparently there were no meets in the summer months, as it also had the results from the May meet at the Old Prison Camp off Catalina Highway. Along with the meet results, they also had a copy of the map used. Man, have we come a long way! Our maps are so much better and clearer, much more detailed. The only names familiar to me in this issue were John Little, John Maier, and Keith McLeod. (It's too bad we no longer can use some of the places early meets were held. I remember one of my first meets was at Sabino Canyon.)

October, November, and December had meets at Rosemont Canyon, Catalina State Park (AZ State Champs), and Saguaro National Monument East (end of Speedway). John Maier took first place in Advanced Men's category (big surprise!).

1987 started out with a meet in the Tucson Mountains. The newsletter announces membership dues are now \$7/year, but meet entry fees remained at \$3, as decided at a business meeting after the December meet. Also decided was that the club needed officers and committee chairs. The first president (who also acted as secretary and mapping chair) was John Maier. A mapping fund was established, and it was decided to have a club T-shirt, but the design wasn't yet determined. Pretty productive meeting!

A "Special Note" in this issue says that Steve Krieski (age 11) has volunteered to be newsletter editor (with assistance from Bob Kelley)! Wow! Brave young man. He requested help with typing and driving to and from the printer and to the post office.

In March, the permanent orienteering course at Greasewood Park was dedicated, with help from Keith McLeod for this project. The first Motala event was held at Lincoln Park in September.

1987 events were held at Tucson Mountains, Old Federal Prison, Helvetia Ruins, Catalina State Park (state champs in Nov.), Rosemont Canyon, Bear Wallow, Greasewood Park, Showers Point, Whitetail Recreation Area, plus practice events almost every Friday of Relay-Os, and Night-Os.

Familiar names (to me) showing up in 1987 include Dan Cobbledick, Dale Bruder, Marilyn Cleavinger, Pete Cowgill, Scott MacLennan, Rachel Gelbin, Jesse and Peggy LaPlante, Peter Lasher, and Dave Kreider.

1988: The 1988 newsletters I find are a little confusing. There seem to be two different ones for most months, one of them called "Terrain Games Newsletter," and another that just says

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### Newsletter Submittals

The deadline for newsletter items is the first day of the third month of each quarter. 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.  
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“Orienteering.” Both say Tucson Orienteering Club. Well, anyway, it appears the state championships were held in April at Cave Creek. The names of Peg Davis and Mark Parsons begin to show up.

An analysis by John Maier says the Club hosted 23 events and had 1,130 attendees in 1987, compared to 15 events and 499 attendees in 1988. Membership slid from 96 in 1987 to 81 in 1988. The map fund had not increased as projected and new maps and new meet sites were needed. Does this sound familiar??

**1989:** The year started off with a new board of directors: Dale Bruder, Pres., Dan Cobblestick, VP, and Sec/Treas., Marilyn Cleavinger. Keith McLeod took over as Equipment Chair, John Maier as Map Director, and guess who? Peg Davis as Newsletter Editor. I'm sure Keith and John were happy to have a little less responsibility than in the first years.

Meets were held at Sabino Canyon, Cottonwood Wash, Rosemont, Cave Creek/Gardner Canyon (Champs), Bear Wallow, Night-O at Lincoln Park, Early-O at Greasewood, Sabino Canyon, Palisades, and Catalina State Park.

The October 1989 issue had a little history of Tucson Orienteering written up by Keith McLeod. I am including parts of it.

One of the riches of my life has been Orienteering. Its training has kept me in shape, and its meets have introduced me to some extraordinary people.

Visiting Tucson in March 1983, I attended two meets. The ROTC at UA held a SCORE meet on the 26<sup>th</sup> at Old Prison Campground on Mt. Lemmon. I won the event and talked to the meet organizer. He informed me that the ROTC had just started organizing a few meets. The following day, someone named John Maier ran what he called the First Tucson Orienteering Meet. I selected the long course: five miles and nine controls. The short course was three miles long. After six hours, unable to find control number nine, I came in. It was a come down for the champion from the day before. Quite frankly, I was terrified. It was my first experience with the desert pavement. I imagined rattlesnakes every step along the way. Each control, as I recall, was manned. The cardboard controls we use for directions today were mounted on stakes. I talked to John afterwards, making some suggestions for future meets.

In the fall of 1983, I made a permanent move to Tucson. The next meet I attended was April 21, 1984. I bet Dennis Orrico and the guy we worked for that I could beat them by one half-hour. I gave them a head start of 15 minutes, caught them on control six, was followed for the next two controls, broke away on the remaining ones, and was able to win my \$5 bet. Our boss was unhappy about losing; however, Dennis was hooked. He helped in a major way over the next three years.

On Thursday evening, May 24, 1984, we gathered and formed the Tucson Orienteering Club. In order to get workers, I assigned a lot of titles. Dennis was treasurer, Barb Grandstaff was Vice President, and the President's name escapes me. After making him president, we never saw him again. He wasn't missed. Barb and others carried the load.

..... From 1987 to the present, monthly meets continued but expanded from two to three courses: basic, intermediate, and advanced. There have been many other changes and improvements. There have been some great newsletter editors: Dale Bruder, John Maier, Peg Davis who does it now, and perhaps the most notorious—Steve and his Big Brother Bob.

.....At the risk of overlooking a few, thanks should be given to Dennis Orrico, Kelly Cook, Barb Grandstaff, Rete Simons, Dale Cole, Dale Bruder, Bob Kelly and Steve, John and Bernice Little, Lee North, Terri Welsh, Bill Hamilton, Pat Geranis, Dan and Rachel, Peg and Warren, Tim, Marty and Char, April, Marilyn, and most of all, the one who lives orienteering, John Maier.

I also enjoyed a filler in the May 1989 issue. (Well, Peg was the editor then, so there had to be something cute in it.)

**Orienteering Trivia:** What is the official abbreviation (registered with USOF) for the Tucson Orienteering Club?

It's not TOC. That stands for Toronto Orienteering Club. (They beat us to it.) It's TSN. Although we use TOC locally, we are TSN nationally and worldwide.

**Championship Trivia:** Bernice Little won the Western U.S. Championship in her age category in both 1987 and 1988. John Maier was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally in his age category in 1988. (Pete Gagarin was first.)

**Club Trivia:** How many different individuals have served as president since the formation of the Tucson Orienteering Club? Five: They are Eric, Barb Grandstaff, Dennis Orrico, John Maier, and Dale Bruder. Eric's last name is lost in obscurity as he never showed up for any club meetings or events subsequent to his election.

The 1989 USOF rankings listed John Maier as #1 Nationally in the M40A Class. What a guy!

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**1990:** Events were held at Saguaro NM West, Cottonwood Wash, Rosemont Junction (champs), Ft. Huachuca, Palisades North, Bear Wallow, Greasewood Park Early-O, Bear Wallow, Palisades South, and Helvetia.

(Did you know “Bajada” meant sloping hill? That was the description of the terrain at Saguaro West, which was the January meet.)

Pat Penn is now showing up in the results and volunteer work. Also Sue Roberts and Roger Sperline, and Helen Deluga.

The Cranes showed up for the first time in August 1990 at Bear Wallow! Dumb name, I know, but it was a bunch of ‘mature’ ladies who had hiked together for several years and decided to try orienteering. We had a great time. The name came from the fact that we had gone to see the Sand Cranes at Willcox shortly before we decided to try orienteering. The team was made up of Ann Abernathy, Mary Jane Santa-Maria, Carol Matty, Mary English, and me—Lois Kimminau. Mary ended up taking over as Equipment Chair for many years (12, I think) and I became ye-old-editor, since 1994. The others dropped out eventually, for various reasons.

I plan to continue the history of the Club in the next issues, but I’m only up to 1995 (in my notes), and that was seven pages, so I thought that was too much for one issue. I’d really like to put in some pictures, too, but I don’t have any from the early years, and the few that appeared in the newsletters were cut and paste, and not good enough quality to bother scanning. I do have a scanner, so if anyone has some good clear pictures they think would be of interest, please send them to me. I’ll be sure to return them.

**Murphy’s Laws of Orienteering**

**Law of Pre-Entries:** 80% of pre-entries will be received after the closing date and the other 20% will subsequently telephone to change their entries.

**Law of Essential Equipment:** The likelihood of forgetting your compass is directly proportional to the distance from the Start to the parking lot.

**Law of Promotional/Newcomer Events:** If the weather is extremely bad, entries will be extremely low; if the weather is extremely good, entries will be low; if maps are in short supply, entries will exceed all expectations.

**Law of Equifinality:** If you have a very good run, so does everyone else on your course; if you have a very bad run, no one else on your course does.

**The Saints of O: 2009 Edition**

—Peg Davis

**Course Setters:** Mark Parsons (3), Ludwig Hill (3), Leif Lundquist (2), Cristina Luis (2), John Maier, Mark Everett, Peg Davis, Jim Stamm, John Pascal

**Meet Directors:** Mark Parsons (3), Ludwig Hill (3), the Luis Family (2), Margrit McIntosh and Pat Penn (2), Peg Davis (2), Art Cantrell, Jim Stamm, Brad and Yvonne Poe.

As I look back over the past year, Mark Parsons and Ludwig Hill’s names spring out as the heavy lifters. John Maier only set one event—however, it was a 24-hour rogaine. In one event, he did more setting than months of regular orienteering meets.

Another striking feature was that on seven occasions, the course setter was also the meet director. Several times this happened because the meet was “little,” but it may be a dangerous overload. If that one person is having a bad day, there’s no one else to pick up the slack.

Is there anything I could do to persuade you to add your name to the 2010 list of Saints? How about encouraging you to start with a little meet? Four of our events in 2009 were training or street-Os. Often, they were as much fun and featured as much orienteering as a bigger event, but with less strain for setter and director.

And if your name appeared on the lists several times? You are a very, very important person. So important, in fact, that you should use your great powers to spread your knowledge to an apprentice. But don’t forget to have your name still up there next year!

Thanks to all our setters, directors, and volunteers in 2009.

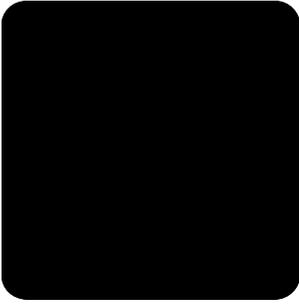
**E-mail Discussion Group**

Tucson Orienteering Club has its own discussion group. It is maintained as Tucson “O” Club by Topica, and is an e-mail based service. You must be subscribed before you can read or send messages.

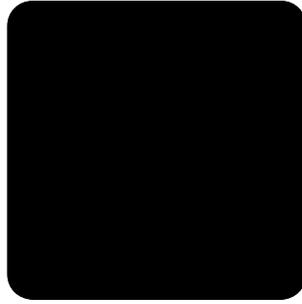
To subscribe, send a blank message to: [TucsonOrienteering-subscribe@topica.com](mailto:TucsonOrienteering-subscribe@topica.com). To send a message, simply address it to: [TucsonOrienteering@topica.com](mailto:TucsonOrienteering@topica.com). It will then go to all the list subscribers. To unsubscribe, see the Unsubscribe link at the bottom of any message.

For more information about this list, visit: <http://www.topica.com/lists/TucsonOrienteering>. Any problems, questions, or concerns can be sent to Jim Stamm, the E-Group Moderator, at [JimStamm@ComCast.net](mailto:JimStamm@ComCast.net).

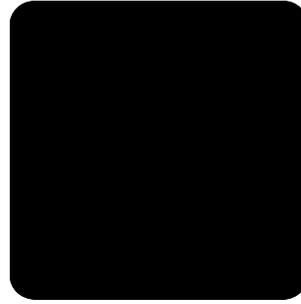
## Night Orienteering Event (*Bill Teahan, New Zealand*)



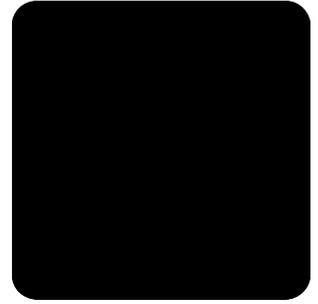
*Early night-- events were very dark.*



*Orienteers could not see hand in front of face.*



*Torches were used, but often went out.*



*Eventually they got used to the dark. Here you see them running without torches.*

## Newsletter News

Because all meet information now appears on our website, and due to spiraling costs of mailing newsletters, it was decided there was no need for monthly newsletters to be mailed to members. Instead, we are going to a quarterly newsletter, which perhaps will be more of an e-zine format, with orienteering-related news or articles, whether educational, humorous, or just newsworthy.

And I hope lots of pictures! Please submit your pictures to me, and tell me about them (people, places, events), and I will include them.

I hope some of you elite orienteers will also submit some articles with training hints for those of us who are course-challenged, condition-challenged, or (in my case) direction-challenged. And feel free to write up your experiences running a course, whether at a local, national, or international event. Some of these experiences are educational to others, some just interesting, and some reassure the rest of us that we are not alone in making mistakes and miscalculations.

If you think you aren't a very good writer, please write it anyway, and I will edit it and return it to you for approval before publishing.

I will need everyone's help to make this new format successful, so, in addition to submitting articles and pictures, I hope you will feel free to make suggestions for improvement.

I plan to publish each quarterly newsletter towards the end of the quarter (late March, June, September, and December), so I would appreciate receiving materials for inclusion by the first of each of those months. Submittal information is on the first page of the newsletter.

*Lake Mary 2003*



*2006--Berringer--passing it on*



*2006--Parsons--Starting Them Young*



## Website News

Have you visited the Tucson Orienteering Club website lately? Check out [www.tucsonorienteeringclub.org](http://www.tucsonorienteeringclub.org). It has been redesigned and all links checked out, so it looks better and works better. You can find all the information you need to know about our events, past and present, and other orienteering articles and news from club members are/will be posted also. Ludwig Hill has done lots of work on this (thanks, Ludwig), and it has really paid off.

All events are now being announced on the website. The quarterly newsletter may have some information on current events, but to get the real "skinny" (date, time, directions), you need to check online. Likewise, results will be posted there as soon as available.

It's a good idea to re-check on a meet just before the actual date, in case there are any changes to it or--horrors!--it has to be canceled for any reason.

The Club has a great schedule coming up: Slavin Gulch 2-Day in March, Greaterville Classic-O in April, Chimney Rock Classic-O in May, Lake Mary 2-Day in June, and several Street Os are also in the works. The Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club (GPHXO) schedule is also included there, and they have been putting on some great meets. For other west coast clubs, use <http://go.to/sconet> or <http://go.to/pacreg>. Or, if you are traveling and want to learn about orienteering meets in another area, go to the USOF website at [www.us.orienteering.org](http://www.us.orienteering.org).