

September 2000

Get Wet in September

—John Maier

No, we aren't forecasting rain for our September 16-17 weekend event. We've got other plans for getting you wet. This month's event will be a merger of club picnic and two-day Long-O on the Mogollon Rim. For best results, drive up Friday and enjoy the cooler temperatures on the rim for two days and two nights. Otherwise, you'll need to get going at a very early hour on Saturday.

We'll be camping at the same highly acclaimed site we used for the '98 Rogaine. For the Long-O and Night-O, we'll be using a newly developed color "O" map (1:15,000, 20-foot contours). The wet event will occur at Willow Springs Lake.

The main event will be the two-day Long-O. This will kick off with a mass start at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday for a two-hour Score-O. Instead of controls being worth points, they will be worth minutes. These will be subtracted from the time you spend on the course to give you a finish time. On Sunday, we'll use a chase start generated from Saturday's finish times. In a chase start, the leaders from Saturday go out first followed by 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc., at intervals determined by their time behind the leaders. For those with rather long Saturday times, we'll use a collapsed chase start, so that everyone finishes within a reasonable time. The beauty of this is that the first ones back in each category on Sunday are the winners of the Long-O. No waiting for results; you know immediately how well you did. Sunday's courses will be in the normal point-to-point format, but they will be 50 percent longer. That's what makes it a Long-O. There will be five courses, beginner through advanced.

But there's more! Following lunch on Saturday, we'll carpool over to Sardine Point on Willow Springs Lake. Bring any inflatables or paddlecraft you have—inner tubes, rafts, kayaks, canoes—for this water event. Don't forget your life vests, pumps, paddles, etc., and remember any water pistols, water bazookas, dip sticks, plastic pails, etc. Try to outclass the other side, which for this event will be the enemy. The object will be to capture objects on the water and along the shore before the enemy does. There may be opportunities for recapture and grenading. Final details are still being considered, so if you have any ideas, let me know.

After getting the water crafts ready, we'll select captains by drawing names from a hat, and they will choose their teammates. Maps will be distributed for a short strategy session before the sides have at it. Plan on this water event happening between 2 and 5 p.m. The event itself will be 60-90 minutes, but we need to get set up and afterwards pack up the gear.

After returning to camp we'll have a potluck dinner at about 6 p.m. Please bring a nice dish to share with others. It doesn't have to be a lot; if each person brings more than one person can eat, there will definitely be lots left over.

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Finishing off Saturday, we'll have a 60-minute Night-O event beginning at dark. Don't forget your flashlights as this will be three days after the full moon. The Night-O should end at about the time the moon rises.

I need to get an idea of how many color maps to make for this event. Whatever amount we don't use will become a wasted resource, as the map will likely be further improved before our next use of it. We'll try doing the course printing on site, but to **guarantee yourself color maps for these events, call me sometime on September 11-13, evenings best, at 520-586-7300.**

Directions: From Payson, take Highway 260 east to the top of the rim (about 30 miles) then 8 miles farther

to Forest Road 99 (near milepost 290). Follow FR 99 north 4 miles to FR 170. Follow FR170 north 7 miles to camp.

Fees: Long-O—\$10/individual, \$12/team, plus \$1 per map for color maps. (\$5 discount for TSN, PHX, USOF, or SAHC members = \$5/individual, \$7 team.) Fees are \$2 more than usual due to higher costs.

Night-O—\$3/map; same for members and nonmembers

Water-O—Free. Part of the picnic, have fun, get wet.

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:**Saturday:**

9:30 a.m. Registration opens.

9:45 a.m. Beginners' clinic.

10:30 a.m. Mass start.

1:30 p.m. Carpool to Sardine Point.

2:00 p.m. Water-O.

5:00 p.m. Carpool back to camp.

6:00 p.m. Potluck dinner

7:45 p.m. Night-O

Sunday:

8:00 a.m. Registration, beginners' clinic.

8:30 a.m. First starts.

10:00 a.m. Last starts.

1:00 p.m. Courses close; begin control retrieval. Volunteers always needed. Volunteer before 2 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 attend the beginners' clinic, arrive at least 15 minutes before scheduled time.

The 2000 United States Orienteering Federation Annual Convention

—Peg Davis

The Bay Area club arranged the convention this year at a ski/bike resort in the Sierras near Lake Tahoe July 29-August 6. Sessions covered every topic imaginable related to orienteering. Since Tucson is a small, physically remote club, it's easy to feel disconnected from other clubs and any national activity of the USOF. This convention really reminded me how big and complex a sport we play at—and how much work some very dedicated people put into it.

I heard about media, websites, outreach to other organizations, personal tax deductions for orienteering volunteerism. There was a lot of brainstorming. Happily, I found out about many resources that could help us out locally. I grabbed the opportunity to meet a lot of people about whom I've been reading and hearing for years. And, of course, I let a lot of people know that yes, there is a club in Tucson and yes, they should come down for a meet. I found we're really quite famous for our rogaines.

At the general meeting of the Board of Directors, the big issue was: should the competitive course women 50-54 and 55-59 change from Green to Brown (same technical level, but shorter)? An initial straw poll was taken to start a more formal motion.

But, come on, who went there just for the meetings? The first weekend had two days of B meets, while Wednesday and the last weekend had full-fledged A meets. The last two days were the Pacific Region Championships and part of the year-long Pacific ranking series. In case that wasn't enough, also available were a bike-O, vampire-O, trail-O, and model courses at the edges of the A meet maps to use for preparation.

How did I do? Well, I learned how important vegetation boundaries are and how hard it is to move through an area with lots of downed trees. I ranked way down there, but had a great time. The big innovation for me was using the Sport Ident electronic punch system. A little plastic doohicky is worn around your finger and pushed into a hole on the special control to register your find. No punch card! At the end of the course, your doohicky is downloaded into an on-site computer and a printout appears with your total and split times. I found the system extremely easy to use. Everyone's results could be compared for every leg.

Costs and training are pretty stiff. The large and rich Bay Area club has purchased the system in this country and can run it very smoothly. I predict we'll be seeing this system more and more at large meets in the U.S.

Rocky Mountain 1000 Days a Winner!

—John Maier

Hadn't been to the 1000-days event since 1997. In the interim, it has moved to Wyoming and August (used to be Colorado in July). Mikell Platt has been producing "O" map after "O" map up there in that area of the Medicine Bow National Forest that lies just east of Laramie (where he lives). It is certainly a premier orienteering attraction and BSK and RMOC once again put on a quality production with only a skeletal crew of core volunteers and many solicited volunteers from among the competitors. My favorite task was collecting controls because it enabled me to see more of this gorgeous terrain than I'd been able to orienteer through.

Unfortunately, only a few TSN orienteers availed themselves of this golden opportunity to orienteer day after day for over a week in some of the most friendly, scenic terrain that an orienteer can find on Planet Earth. I was one of the lucky few from SE Arizona. Others were Mark and Molly Parsons, Mark Everett, and Peg Davis.

Actually, the first weekend was in the Lake George, CO, area, which was used from '93 to '97. The US Night-O and Long-O Championships were held here, as well as the next week and weekend. This is largely rolling grasslands with some forested areas and some interesting, if not downright beautiful, rock outcroppings and boulder groups—a really neat place to orienteer.

But if you weren't conditioned for fast running—and I wasn't—you couldn't excel, because it was very fast orienteering. No way could I overcome my lack of conditioning for this event, which consisted of just one run and two four-hour hikes. Mark and Mark both excelled. Mark Parsons took 1st place in the five-day cumulative event in M55 on Green. Mark Everett took 4th in M21 on Blue, behind Mikell Platt (who did the mapping) and some foreign orienteers. Molly didn't run as it had been five years or so since she had last orienteered. Instead she volunteered at the finish line day after day until boarding a bus to return for her junior year of college in Portland, OR.

One of the most exciting events was the Crystal Relay. Approximately 10 controls were visible from the start/finish chute. While waiting, you could be entertained by watching the progress of other competitors. When Mark Parsons ran into the woods near the end of his leg, out ran a Pronghorn Antelope! "Illegal runner, no bib number," I yelled, but Mikell Platt let it slide. The relay turned out to be my fastest time per kilometer of all nine events; in fact, everyone on our team (2 TSN, 2 SLOC, 1 BAOC) was fast. Others were very fast as well, so we ended up in 10th place, which was good enough to get awards (encased crystals, obviously, for the Crystal Relay), and cause enough for celebration, because everyone excelled.

Word has it that the US Classic Championship event will be held in Wyoming two years from now, and, as I was leaving, I heard rumor of a Memorial Day weekend event for next year. Stay tuned, get in condition, and you too can have a blast in some of this planet's best orienteering terrain.

[While the RMOC 1000 day will not be held in the summer of 2001, six days of events will be held around the state of Washington in late June. During the summer, five-day meets will also be held in Scotland and France, and the World Master's Championships will be held in the Czech Republic. One or more of these could be the basis for a spectacular vacation.....! Peg]

More About September Mogollon Rim Event

We do not have a Meet Director for this event. John Maier is setting the courses and planning the events, with no help offered to date. Isn't there anyone out there who would like to go and would be able to help out with some of the meet director duties? Naturally, everyone in attendance will be expected to pitch in and help where and as needed. If you would like to volunteer, please call Peg at 628-8985.

Also, Peg will try to coordinate car pooling to the meet for anyone who is interested. Please give her a call and she will try to match you up with others planning to leave in the same time frame.



August Business Meeting

—Peg Davis

The meeting was held on August 23 at my home; it was attended by Jeff Brodsky, Dan Coombs, Roger Sperline, Wilkey Richardson, Lois Kimminau, Jeff Berringer, Mike Thompson, Jeff Brucker, Mark Parsons, John Maier, and Peg Davis.

The purpose of this meeting was to further our mapping projects. Members and board members present voted on these projects:

- Creating a new orienteering map at the culvert on Route 83 (remember during the '99 Rogaine where you went under the road at the Arizona Trail for the water control?). This may include making a base map from stereo aerial photographs and fieldchecking.

- Improving the existing TOC maps of Silver Bell, Slavin Gulch, and Lake Mary. Areas on these maps have never been fieldchecked or need improvement or additions. Still to be decided is who will provide these fieldchecking services. Hiring professionals would probably produce a higher quality, more consistent map, but would be more expensive. Having club members spend a weekend walking a map would be low cost, but could result in inconsistent standards for features or leave some areas "over" or "under" checked.

- Also proposed was an adopt-a-map program. Work could be done on an as-needed basis on the advice of the person adopting. This would keep the map up-to-date with no duplication of work. So many people have worked on so many of our maps over such a long period of time that no one is an "expert" and much information has been lost. If you have a map you'd like to be the fairy godmother of, please call Map Chair Jeff Brucker and claim it.

My views—we are in a great position: the map fund has money, we have wonderful sites to choose from and improve, and club members are interested in working on projects. I believe that "amateur" mappers (like me!) can contribute to the effort. A central coordinator who provides 1:25000 maps of any area and guidelines for what is (and is not) to be mapped can guide a weekend group project.

Therefore I propose a mapping weekend at our Silver Bell site on October 28 and 29 (we could benefit from this work at the November 19th meet!). Expert mappers are, of course, entreated to attend. Non-expert mappers are also encouraged to attend. By going out with an expert, not only can non-experts learn enough to fieldcheck on their own, but they can actually improve their orienteering skills. I've often heard that mapping is the key to becoming a great orienteer. Learning to look at the landscape in a different and more analytical way while mapping can result in faster and more accurate reading of what that map has to offer during competition. Mark the last weekend in October on your calendar for delving into the Silver Bells!

The next business meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the home of Peg Davis, 2241 East Mitchell Parkway. Call Peg at 628-8985 for directions or other information. All members are invited and encouraged to attend and are eligible to vote.

Due to circumstances beyond
our control.....**Results of the
August meet at Lincoln Park
will be in the October
newsletter.**

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.
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Lois Kimminau, Editor

CLUB CALENDAR

September 16-17, Mogollon Rim Special Event

Course Setter: John Maier (520-586-7300)

Course Vetter: Vacant

Meet Director: Vacant

September 28, Newsletter Deadline

Submittal information on page 4.

October 4, Business Meeting

See meeting report, page 4.

October 14-15, State Champs, Down Route 83

Course Setter: Dan Coombs (322-9758)

Course Vetter: Vacant

Meet Director: Vacant

November 19 (& maybe 18), Silver Bell Mountains

Course Setter: Kevin Gross (326-0739)

Course Vetter: *First Time Setter Needs a Vetter*

Meet Director: Vacant

December 17, Cat Mountain

Course Setter: Jeff Brucker (886-2528)

Course Vetter: Vacant

Meet Director: Vacant

Volunteers!



We need two directors for the October meet, one for each day. This meet is not only the State Champs but the results also count for ranking in the Pacific Region. It is too important a meet to be canceled! Please step up and help out!

Call Peg at 628-8985 to volunteer. (Volunteering will give you megapoints in our popularity contest.)

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.

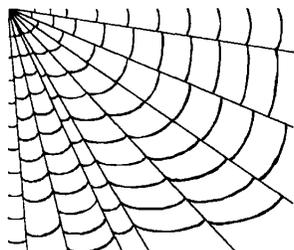
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Address Service Requested

See you on the Rim.... September 16-17!



Check out the Tucson Orienteering Club web site!
<http://www.fortunecity.com/greenfield/bypass/733/>
or type <http://go.to/tucsonorienteering>
Also, for links to all the West Coast club sites,
just type <http://go.to/sconet>

Tucson Orienteering Club 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.