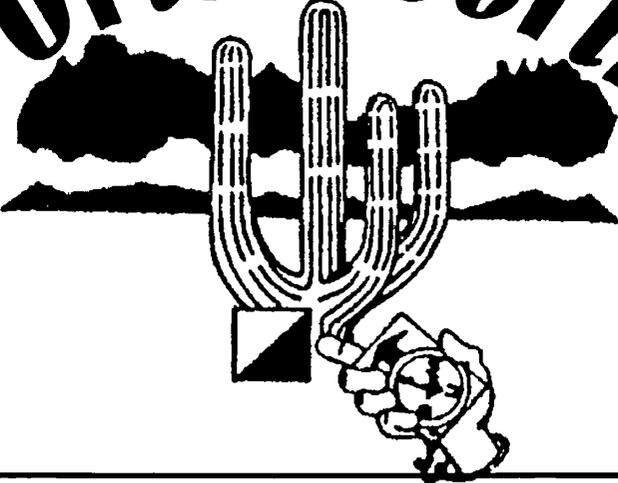

Tucson Orienteering Club



November 2001

November Meet in the Silverbell Mountains

—Kevin Gross

The November 17-18 meet will be held in the beautiful Silverbell Mountains. Saturday afternoon, I will have some controls set out for you to find. This will be informal orienteering, where you will be given a map but not be timed. Saturday will be sort of a pre-event to get the lay of the land before Sunday's event. Save yourself from driving out there and back both days by bringing a tent and camping out in the desert under the stars.

On Sunday expect the usual suspects: White, Yellow, Orange, Green, and Red courses will all be set. If you haven't been out in the Silverbells before, be advised: this is cactus heaven. Every time I have been out there I manage to get lots of scrapes on my legs, and I've had a few cholla run-ins as well. But don't let this deter you from coming out: it is a wonderful area with a healthy saguaro forest. The soil colors alone are reason to come out.

Directions: Take I-10 north to Avra Valley Road (exit 241). Follow Avra Valley Road west approximately 18 miles, until you see the sign "Red Rock via Silverbell Road." Turn left on the dirt road past the sign. Follow this road, which is OK for passenger vehicles, for 5.5 miles. You will then turn left into a wash and follow the orienteering signs. After the graveyard, the road gets a little rough for low clearance cars, so you may want to park it near the graveyard and walk the rest of the way to Start (not far). Start is in the same place as last year. One last thing: the Bureau of Land Management has imposed a new fee on us for using the land. So in addition to the usual fees for the events, there will be an additional \$4 surcharge to go to Uncle Sam.

Fees: \$8/individual, \$10/team, plus \$1 per map for color maps, when used. (Plus \$4 BLM surcharge.) \$5 discount for TSN, PHXO 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. Courses open.

9:15 a.m. Beginners' clinic starts.

11:00 a.m. Last time to start a course.

12 noon-1 p.m. Route choice reviews

12:30 p.m. Courses close. Begin control retrieval—good orienteering practice, lots of help always needed. Volunteer before 12 noon 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 between 8:45 and 9 a.m.

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

[Editor's Note: NO ONE HAS VOLUNTEERED TO BE MEET DIRECTOR FOR THIS MEET. Kevin, with the help of his wife Anne, will be taking on these added duties, besides setting two days of courses. Everyone who attends, please keep this in mind and volunteer to help as much as you can.]

What is Orienteering?

Orienteering is a fun and challenging outdoor activity in which participants navigate their way on foot through the "great outdoors," using only a map and a compass. (There are other versions of orienteering, such as on bicycles, skis, horseback, or in canoes, at night, relay teams, etc., but the idea is basically the same.)

Each participant is given a specially prepared topographic map marked with a series of checkpoints to be visited. At each of these checkpoints, the organizer places an orange and white "control." The object of the sport is to use the map with the compass to locate the control features and navigate back to the starting point. Using your imagination and your navigational skills, you try to select the best route to each control.

Once at the control marker, you punch a score card which verifies that you have found the control feature.

At each event, there are several courses offered, rated in length and difficulty. You can choose the course that suits your ability and inclination, and you can make it a stroll, a hike, or a race, as you prefer. It is a family sport where each member of the family may choose his/her course, or the entire family may go as a team. Beginner courses are typically along trails or other easy-to-follow routes. Intermediate courses are partially on trails and partially cross-country. Expert courses are on difficult-to-follow cross-country routes.

Preparation, Clothing, and Equipment

A beginning orienteer should be fit enough to walk at a leisurely pace for about one mile, in about an hour, over easy terrain. Expert orienteers are trained endurance athletes, walking or running for many hours over rugged terrain.

Wear comfortable clothing appropriate to the season, long pants, a hat, and walking shoes or hiking boots. Events are timed, so a watch is recommended. Bring plenty of water, and a snack if desired.

The only specialized equipment you will need are a compass and a whistle. If you forget these items, compasses may be rented or a whistle purchased for \$1 each.

Safety

If navigating in the outdoors sounds a little scary, then an orienteering event is the place to be. The beginner courses are in carefully selected areas, safely contained within recognizable boundaries, so it is almost impossible to get truly lost. In addition, each participant's start and finish time is monitored so that anyone who is overdue will be safely rounded up by skilled orienteers.

Newcomers

We highly recommend that you attend the *free* Beginners' Clinic, which is offered at every meet, if you haven't orienteered before. It is usually held 15 or 20 minutes before the courses open. Try to arrive at or before the time that Registration opens in order to attend.

Fees

Fees for Tucson Orienteering Club events are as follows (other clubs' fees may vary): \$8 per individual or \$10 per team, for nonmembers, with a \$5 discount for members of Tucson Orienteering Club, Southern Arizona Hiking Club, Southern Arizona Search and Rescue, Phoenix Orienteering Club, or United States Orienteering Federation; \$1 for color maps when used (no charge for black-and-white maps); \$1 to rent a compass; \$1 to purchase a whistle. Annual membership fees are \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a household.

Tucson Orienteering Club

P. O. Box 13012

Tucson, AZ 85732

Phone: 628-8985

e-mail: loiskim@aol.com

Web site: <http://go.to/tucsonorienteering>

Next month's meet will be at Catalina State Park on December 15 and 16. This will be a two-day meet counting for the Pacific Region Ranking Series and Arizona State Champs (accumulated time of both days)

Empire Ranch Mini-Rogaine

—Matt Chamberlain

Forty or so souls arrived at Empire Ranch on Sunday, October 21, for Tucson Orienteering Club's Mini-Rogaine. The weather was most favorable, a clear, sunny day, but not too hot; good weather for a good day.

Competition was varied and great. First Place Men and First Place Men's Team had the same final point score so the overall placings were decided by the time the entries arrived back at the hash house. So congratulations to Garrett for winning the event (you can see his route in the map below), and well done to Pete Zurcher and Cameron— if only those cramps held off a minute longer!?

All the competitors found plenty of room to run around the course. No one came close to finishing the course on this occasion. The only crowding was at the hash house where the neighbors had the impression that we owned the park for the weekend.

A common comment was "I went really strong for the first two hours, then staggered around for the rest." Funny that two hours coincides approximately with the length of a good orienteering course. Looks like we could do with some more Rogaines.

As well as the competitive types, there were many who just went out for a pleasant stroll. The next time I am selling a Rogaine, I will have to do a better job at selling this point: in a Rogaine the same map is a championship course and a beginners' course all at the same time. It is up to each team to decide how many (or how few) controls they will go for. So it is really only as hard as you want to make it. If you don't like one of the controls (for example, when it hasn't come out after searching for two hours), there is no one stopping you from just leaving it and going to the next.

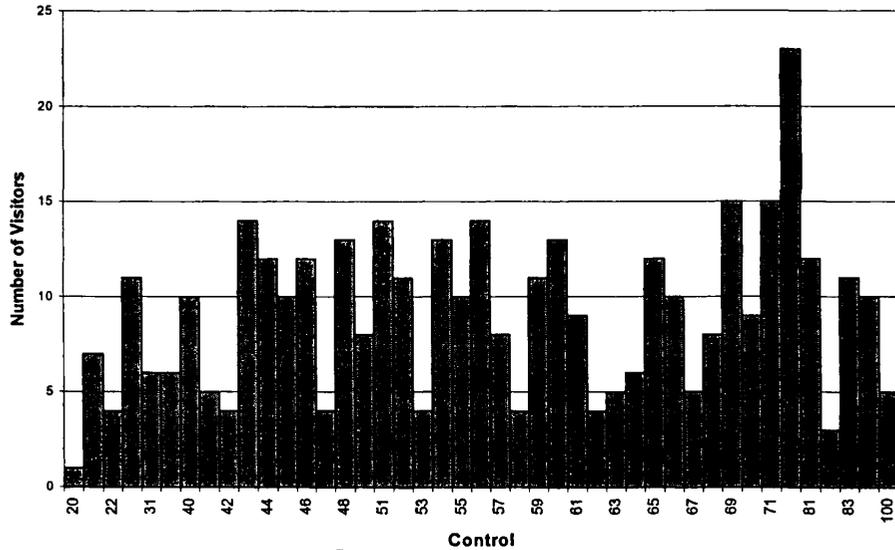
As well as the results table below, there is also a histogram showing how many visited each control on the course. Not surprisingly, #80 was the most popular. As the course setter, I wanted to encourage people to go to all the corners of the course. The Hash House was in one of those corners and I saw no reason not to put a big control in there anyway. I was able to entice five teams to visit the control in the furthest corner by making it worth 100 points. That was perhaps a little mean. Only one of the five who went to the far corner was able to return to the Hash House within the four hours. However he did win the event this way!

Congratulations to everyone who came. I hope you had a good time as well.

Thanks to **Jeff Berringer, Mark Parsons, Ludwig Hill and Robert Miner** for collecting controls; to **Christine Wilke** for helping at registration; the various TOC officers for assistance putting the many necessary pieces together for the event. And a big thanks to **Mike Wilke** for rushing around with me setting the course the day before, and then collecting them after it all.

On the following page is the map showing the route taken by first-place winner Garret Ford, and the histogram mentioned above.

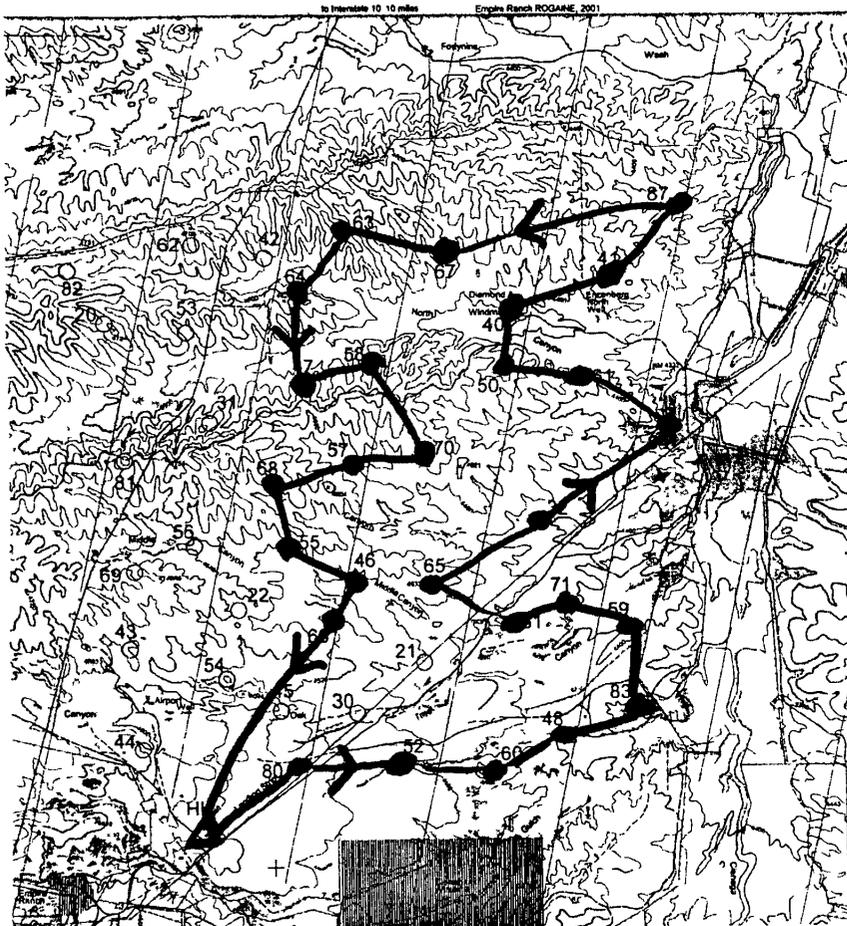
					Score	Time	Overall Place					
Women								Women's Team				
1	Pat Penn	760		16	1	The Gals	320			22		
2	Mills	460		19	2	Wysocki Family	210			23		
3	Bestina Miner	180		24	Men's Team							
DSQ	Elizabeth Wallace	-560	Lost card	26	1	Zurcher & Cameron	1540	4:10		2		
Men												
1	Garret Ford	1540	3:56	1	2	Nu Cros	1100			5		
2	Mark Parsons	1240	3:55	3	3	Loonies	1000	3:53		9		
3	Jeff Brucker	1240	3:57	4	4	Free Rangers	720			17		
4	Jeff Brodsky	1070		6	5	McElroy	-60	4:30+		25		
5	Ludwig Hill	1060		7	Mixed Team							
6	Max Suter	1000	4:06	10	1	Lutherism	1000	3:51		8		
7	Chris Johnson	900	3:51	11	2	Beauty and ???	770			15		
	Alexandre Savine	900	4:23	12	3	Torsten & Hiroko	450			20		
9	Jeff Fisher	830		13	4	Eagles	400			21		
10	Jeff Berringer	800		14								
11	Robert Miner	570		18								



Empire Ranch

An Orienteering/ROGAINE Map, Pima County, Arizona
by Permission of the US BLM and the State of Arizona

Scale 1:25,000
Contour Interval 40 ft x 20 ft form lines



Above, histogram shows the most popular controls at the October Mini-Rogaine (#80 most popular by far).

At left, map showing the route used by #1 finisher, Garret Ford.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — paved road - - - dirt road - - - vehicle track - - - indistinct track - - - powerline, small - - - powerline, large (surveyed) - - - fence, crossable - - - fence, ruined | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - - fence, probable (not checked) - - - stone wall - - - contours - - - erosion gullies - - - form lines - - - earth bank - - - cliff, dangerous, earthy - - - rock outcrop - - - pit - - - boulder group - - - knoll/mound - - - out-of-bounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - - seasonal stream - - - flowing stream - - - sandy wash - - - pond - - - alkali "tank" (unchecked) - - - dry pond - - - marl/mud tank, well - - - marsh, crossable, uncrossable - - - "dense" brush trees - - - dense undergrowth - - - single tree, copse - - - big single tree - - - snag - - - buildings - - - manmade object - - - windmill (some ruined) |
|--|--|--|

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

Travel to Southern California for Some December Orienteering

—Jeff Berringer

In addition to our Catalina State Park meet in November, two other Pacific Ranking Series meets will take place in December.

San Diego Orienteering (SDO) will host a 2-day B Meet and the USOF Night-Orienteering Championships at Palm Desert on December 1 & 2. Palm Desert is only a 375-mile drive from Tucson; car pools are already being arranged. In addition to three orienteering events, the nearby hot springs provide a great way to relax. Visit the SDO website at <http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/9636/> (or <http://go.to/sdoc>) to register or for meet details.

The next weekend, December 8 & 9, is the Los Angeles Orienteering Club (LAOC) Vasquez Rocks A Meet and US Relay Championships. Vasquez Rocks is a quick (?) 50-mile drive from Los Angeles International Airport; the Burbank airport is even closer. LAOC will set classic orienteering courses on Saturday. Four-person teams can compete in the US Relay Championships on Sunday. Visit the LAOC website at <http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/6320/> (or <http://go.to/laoc>) to register or for meet details.

These meets are readily accessible from Tucson. Traveling to an away meet is a great way to meet other orienteers and keep in touch with ones that have visited Tucson meets. The trips can be a blast for any level orienteer, from recreational to the top competitors. For information on car pooling or traveling to these meets, contact Jeff Berringer at jaberringer@earthlink.net or (520) 794-0972.

Board Meeting

There will be a meeting of the board on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at 7 p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. This meeting will be held at the home of Roger Sperline and Sue Roberts, 4600 N. Avenida del Cazador. Call Sue or Roger at 577-8519 for directions or questions. Subjects to be discussed include the 2002 schedule, encouraging volunteerism, sending the newsletter by first class instead of bulk mail, and any other orienteering-related subject that may be introduced. Please come.

Rankings Philosophy

(Bay Area Orienteering Club Bulletin, Jan-Feb 2000, author unknown)

It is easy to get hung up in methodology and forget the underlying philosophy that is far more important, I think, in how the rankings turn out. The all-important order of ranking will vary a lot with which events are included, who attends, how they are grouped, and how well they do in relative terms. The mathematical calculations are much less influential. An important decision in the process is how the competitors are grouped. My feeling is that, exactly as in competition, rankings comparison is most meaningful within a range of age, gender, and ability levels. IOF age groupings are obviously better at this than open color-coded structure. The BAOC rankings take both approaches into consideration. For instance, while runners dropping down may provide an interesting comparison, the ranking system should also emphasize competition within a reasonable competitive mix.

Another important variable is which events are considered in the rankings. The list of BAOC areas has been fairly consistent over the last few years, stemming from the original Technical Committee list of 1996. They are those of A and B quality level in terms of terrain and map. Events at those areas where A or B meet rules and standards are intended are used as ranking events. Variations depend on meet directors' objectives and the addition of newly mapped areas. The primary criteria are fairness, challenge, and standards.

The intent is to use those events likely to produce fairest competitive results. Even among the best, it is clear that not all B meets are equal. Persistent map problems with some of our areas, the variations in course quality, and other inconsistencies all have an unavoidable effect on the rankings. It is difficult to quantify these variables in the ranking procedure because they are usually subjective and also, to some extent, because of some lack of interest within the sport to an analytical approach. Awareness of variation in event quality, however, is useful when comparing individual performances and weighing the reliability of the lists. When looking at relative rankings, for instance, a comparison of how those individuals performed in specific races will help assess the value of the list. Good rankings can be thought of as a reflection of the combined competition from the best events.



Happy
Thanks-
giving!

CLUB CALENDAR

November 17 & 18, Silverbell Mountains

Course Setter: Kevin Gross (326-0739)
 Course Vetter: Vacant
 Meet Director: Vacant

November 26, Newsletter Deadline

See page 4 for details.

December 15 & 16, Catalina State Park

Small Group Use Area (overnight camping available)

Two-day meet counting for the Pacific Region Ranking Series and Arizona State Champs (accumulated time of both days)

Saturday, December 15:

Course Setter: Max Suter (797-8850)
SuterMax@aol.com

Course Vetter: Roger Sperline
 Meet Director: Jim Deveny 323-0936

Sunday, December 16:

Course Setters: Roger Sperline and Sue Roberts
 (577-8519) sperline@theriver.com

Course Vetter: Max Suter
 Meet Director: Jeff Berringer (512-4685)
jaberringer@earthlink.net

2002

March 17, Rosemont

Course Setter: John Little (327-8973)
 Course Vetter: Vacant
 Meet Director: Vacant

May 5, Greasewood City Park National Orienteering Day

Course Setter: Ludwig Hill (299-9041)
 Course Vetter: Vacant
 Meet Director: Vacant

June 16, Palisades with camping at Showers Point

Course Setter: Jeff Brucker (886-2528)
 Course Vetter: Vacant
 Meet Directors: Judy & Pete Cowgill (887-1514)

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.

1999-2000 TUCSON ORIENTEERING CLUB OFFICERS

President	VACANT	PLEASE HELP!!	
Secretary/Treasurer	Jeff Berringer	jaberringer@earthlink.net	512-4685
Membership	Jeff Brodsky	jabrodsky@worldnet.att.net	886-6304
Mapping	Jeff Brucker	guidezone@home.com	886-2528
Equipment	Mary English		881-4786
Permits	C. Michael Thompson		743-9687
Publicity/Education	Gary Thomas		480-899-8645
Newsletter Editor	Lois Kimminau	loiskim@aol.com	296-2108

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P. O. Box 13012
Tucson, AZ 85732

Address Service Requested

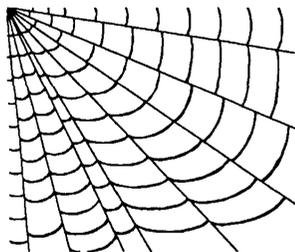
Silverbell Mountains

November 17 & 18



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Check out the Tucson Orienteering Club web site!
Type <http://go.to/tucsonorienteering>
Also, for links to all the West Coast club sites,
just type <http://go.to/sconet>
or for Pacific Region rankings, type
<http://go.to/pacreg>

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.