

Notes from the Briar Patch

Delaware Valley
Orienteering Association

December 2007

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DVOA Plants 40 Trees to Mark 40th Anniversary

By Kathy Urban

On Saturday, November 10, 2007, DVOA marked its 40th anniversary by donating and planting 40 trees at French Creek State Park.

Ali Bortz coordinated the project, and Ed Scott and Mary Frank worked with Ali and the park management, especially Mitch Stickle, assistant park manager.

Ali and Ed conducted the tree roundup, selecting native species that had been approved by the park. We planted river birch, hemlocks, dogwoods, serviceberry, and redbuds along the creek by the old disc golf course, which has seen a lot of wear and tear. All trees chosen are native species. Hemlocks were chosen for year-round beauty, and serviceberries by the stream will feed fish. Dogwoods and redbuds are understory trees that will add spring blossoms.

A DVOA Family Affair

The volunteers included many DVOA families: Dave and Kathy Urban; Ron and Ali Bortz; Dawn and Nikki Singley; Scott, Dayne, Corey and Chase Thatcher; Mary, Mark, Michelle and Robert Frank; Mike and Dylan Scaringi; and Ed and Judy Scott. Also carrying, digging and planting were Sarah Hartman, Eric Weyman, Bob Gross, Dave Darrah, Roger Martin, Brenda Harder, Nancy Sharp, Ralph Tolbert, Fred Reed, and Scout Troop 220 from Lionville, PA. There would have been more, but Saturday was a busy day for DVOA: Steve Aronson, Sharon Siegler and Clem McGrath and their team were hanging controls at Ridley for the Long-O Champs to be run the next day.

The Scouts from Troop 220 were planning trail work in the park when they heard about the 40-trees project from Mitch Stickle and asked to help. They were enthusiastic and helpful, carrying trees, digging holes and unfastening the burlap bags. The Scouts were Ryan McCartney, Evan Kroboth, Joseph Michaels, Alex Merker, Tyler Motel, Barry Merker, Scoutmaster Frank Kroboth and Karen Motel, Assistant Scoutmaster.

Mitch Stickle, the assistant park manager, was a great help in the project, identifying a place for the trees, helping to choose the correct species, and recruiting Troop 220 to help. "Before I came to the park", he said, "volunteerism wasn't encouraged. Now we really look for it. We like having the Scouts come and build sweat equity. In fact, an Eagle Scout candidate is going to build a replacement bridge in the area where you planted the trees." Mitch inspected the trees after the planting and reported that the trees were bigger than he expected, and the hemlocks, which can be prone to problems, looked especially healthy.

Foiling the French Creek Wildlife

The weather was perfect for tree planting: cool, damp and seasonable. The location was beautiful. Hikers can see a view



DVOA group planting a tree along Scott's Run

down the stream opening up onto the lake, with a picturesque bridge. Many of the trees were planted in the curve of the stream. They have plastic pipes around their trunks to protect them from hungry rabbits and mice in winter. The pipes will also help disc golfers still using the area to avoid the new trees.

Ed Scott provided lots of interesting information about the specific trees that had been chosen and also about wildlife in the area. Beavers who like to build along the streams of French Creek are a special concern. Some trees in the area have been whittled down and almost toppled. Woodpeckers have drilled very distinct holes in standing dead wood. Deer will nibble the tops of the new trees above their plastic pipe protectors.

Many Hands Make Light Work

The trees were planted by noon, and everyone ate donuts and posed for pictures and a few headed out for a quick Sprint-O and trail trot to benefit the juniors. Our juniors are from the Coatesville Area School District. They have a very active program, with Dawn Singley acting as their mentor. They were the team that provided the outstanding burgers at the US Champs in early November.

The purpose of the 40 trees project was to celebrate a major milestone for the club. We also intended "give back" to a park which hosted so many events, and where so many of us became hooked on the sport. However, the planting day also helped build new relationships among club members, the CASD juniors, the park administration and the Scouts.

French Creek State Park and DVOA

The club's founding members, Kent and Caroline Ringo, although unable to be there for the actual planting, were early proponents of the project. Caroline, our club historian, recalled

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DVOA celebrates 40th anniversary



DVOA friends and family gather for group photo after planting 40+ trees along Scotts Run

our first event at French Creek in the late 1960s, using a hiking club map. Mark Frank, then a bachelor, put up a mapper from overseas to produce a color map of the western part of French Creek for the first DVOA A-Event in 1982. More than 700 orienteers showed up, a record that stood for many years. Since then, DVOA has mapped nearly the entire park in a series of four overlapping maps.

French Creek State Park is located in the scenic Pennsylvania countryside west of Philadelphia on Route 345. The trees were planted along Scott's Run, which connects Scott's Run Lake and Hopewell Lake. Orienteers know French Creek for its distinctive charcoal platforms, which are often the location of controls. When cast iron was forged in the area at Hopewell Furnace, charcoal burners built level areas in the woods and burned wood for charcoal. The somewhat flattened areas with distinctive vegetation persist in the woods and are mapped on DVOA maps. Many runners have been frustrated because charcoal "terraces" can be quite subtle, to say the least. Beginners may report they can find neither charcoal nor platforms. The colliers also lived near their charcoal fires in little huts surrounded by shallow circular ditches for drainage. The ditches are still faintly visible and are mapped. The park can also be a challenge because of long stretches of white woods with few distinguishing features. Caroline Ringo also remembers Mr. Clewell, who was the park superintendent in the early days. He was quite proud that French Creek came to be considered the Orienteering Capital of the United States.

DVOA has established a permanent orienteering course in French Creek, and Mitch Stickle reported that hikers frequently stop in the park office and request a map. While we were celebrating the tree planting with donuts and coffee, hikers passed us with DVOA maps sticking out of their pockets.

It was an altogether satisfying day for everyone. We'll have an opportunity for a repeat performance in the spring in the Brandywine Valley as we have committed to plant 40 more trees at the Myrick Center. The Brandywine Valley tree-planting was delayed by our dry, hot autumn, which did not give us optimum conditions for tree planting around Halloween.

Trail Orienteering

By Frank Kuhn, Chairperson, USOF Trail O Committee

The 2007 World Trail Orienteering Championship in Kiev, Ukraine, is history now. All of the participants were pleased and challenged by the courses, which were different than those in the earlier WTOCs in Sweden, Japan and Finland.

Team USA (David Irving, SDO, Paralympic Class, Bob Turbyfill, QOC, Scott Drumm, CROC, Mike Poulsen, CROC, Open Class) did not bring home any medals. Much to their credit, however, all Team USA members did place in the upper half of their respective classes. Kudos to Mike Poulsen for his 9th-place achievement in the 2-Day Open Class: 30 points and 161 minutes for the timed controls. Just seconds at the timed controls made a difference between 9th and 5th place.

The real challenge for Trail O is at the club and individual levels. There is a great need to increase more individual and USOF club participation in order to move Trail O forward in the United States. Individual and club interest is deterred because Trail O course setting and mapping is more labor intensive than Foot O course setting; hence there are a limited number of course setters and mappers available to put on Trail O events since most of these folks are still in the early stages of the learning process.

The USOF Trail O Committee hopes that Trail O will get a real boost at the local level in terms of more events being offered in all areas of the US with the offering of Trail O seminars at the USOF Convention in Colorado in August and the enthusiastic turn out for the Trail O Demo Course at the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs. This in turn should result in a larger and stronger base for future WTOC Teams. The more events available for potential US WTOC Team Members gives more opportunities for them to hone their Trail O skills.

In the next five years, the USOF Trail O Committee has a goal of 50+ various types of Trail O events being offered each year in the US, a level Sweden recently achieved.

It is now time to make plans for the 2008 WTOC, July 12 - 16 in Olomouc, CZE. Information about the event is now available on www.wtoc2008.cz

For USOF, the first step is designating the time, date and location of the US National Trail O Championships, which will serve as part of the USOF 2008 WTOC Team selection process. The event has been scheduled in conjunction with the Western States and Intercollegiate Championships in Arizona on February 23 and 24. Unfortunately the regular sites for the A Events are not suitable for Trail O; therefore, the **Trail O Championships will be held in a park in Tucson on Friday afternoon, February 22.**

In the meantime, some National Federations in Europe and Asia are field testing a new form of Trail O, called TempO, as a possible event down the road for the Paralympics should we be fortunate enough to be accepted into their games. Results and information about TempO as it was used in a July 2007 event in France are available as the last item on Anne Braggins' Web Site www.trailo.org.



President's Column

Another year of orienteering is drawing to a close. The first thing that I am wondering is where did the time go? Here it is December, and the holidays are upon us! Wherever it went, 2007 was another great year for DVOA, and it marked our 40th anniversary.

Wow, 40 years! Lets' think about that for a few minutes. We have a few members who have been members from the early days: the Ringos, the Edwards, the MacMullans, to name a few. I still consider myself a newcomer both to the sport and our organization, but already I have many memories. One that stands out is the 1999 Freedom-O-Fest. I just pulled out the T-shirt from that week of orienteering. DVOA hosted three US championships plus an A-meet at French Creek and Trail-O at Nottingham.

What memory stands out for you?

Reflecting back on the past 40 years is fun, but it also makes me start to look forward let's say 10 years in the future. Let me check the math. What will DVOA look like in 2017, when it will celebrate its 50th anniversary?

Membership

What will our membership look like in ten years? Membership levels appear to have their ups and downs, but I wonder what the trend looks like over time? Without looking, I would hope the data reflects an upward trend. It goes without saying we need to continue to focus on adding new members to our organization. Members are the lifeblood of any organization, and a steady infusion of new members is vital.

Maps

Just like members, our maps are critical to our organization. In some ways, they are what generate interest and attract new members. I think of our maps as intellectual property. It is extremely important to continue to add new maps as well as update existing maps. We are extremely fortunate to have some very talented individuals who have taken ownership of this important aspect of our club's life. With this talent in place, we

can identify and map new venues every year. There are always new areas being mapped or being added to a growing list of places to map.



Technology

Another area that has seen a lot of changes in the past ten years is the technological advances added to the sport. Perhaps most significant to me was electronic punching.

E-punching has made two facets of the event director's job—calculating finish times and getting results posted—a lot easier. Even now, e-punching technology is changing. The boxes themselves are more compact, almost the size of a cell phone. And the e-card you use is also changing. The next generation cards are being tested. They look like a credit card and all you have to do is wave it over the box to record your presence at a control.

Manually printing courses on the maps by hand or with the stamp-pad-like course printer has become a thing of the past thanks to OCAD software. The possibility of printing courses on demand at local events is the next step. No more leftovers that seldom get used.

I wonder what the mapping process will look like ten years from now. We may be able to get access to high-resolution satellite photos of the area to be mapped and combine these with GPS data to produce a map with much less field checking required.

Change is inevitable and is always happening. We are fortunate to be part of an organization that embraces change and often leads the way when it comes to trying new things. One thing for sure: the next ten years will be exciting, so stick around!

See you in the woods.

Ralph Tolbert

Relocation – How to find yourself again

Taken from Orienteering: The Skills of the Game by Carol McNeill, 1990, The Crowood Press, Bath.

Getting lost is a common occurrence with orienteers. It is part of the challenge of the sport: the balance of your speed with the certainty of knowing where you are. How fast can you go yet still read the map and find control points? It's easy to get this wrong, get lost and run around in circles. A strategy for relocation is essential.

As soon as you are not certain where you are, slow down and try to pick up features you see on the map. If you are still lost, don't panic! Don't keep wandering about. Stop where there are at least two distinctive features which you would expect to find on the map. With the features you see, you can really only be in one place.



If you still cannot place yourself, think carefully and recall the features you followed from the last control or your last known position. Could you have left the control 180 degrees in the wrong direction? If you are still lost, make your way to a major line feature—a road, path or river that crosses nearly the entire map. This is known as taking a safety bearing. Once you hit it, walk along until you can place yourself on the map again and then make your way to the control.

If by this point you are worried or not enjoying the experience anymore, you can head back to the finish. Don't forget to check in regardless of whether you finished the course. If you don't check in, people may go looking for you.

Don't feel bad about getting lost. Every orienteer who has pushed himself has a story about getting lost. Some of them are quite amusing, actually.

Editor's note; If any orienteers would like to relate their stories about getting lost, please send them the editor at the address listed on page 11.

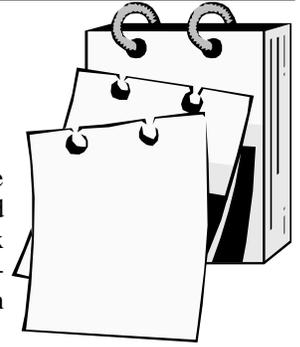
If my decomposing carcass helps nourish the roots of a juniper tree or the wings of a vulture - that is immortality enough for me.

Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (1927-1989)



From the DVOA Archives

Compiled by Caroline Ringo, DVOA archivist



1967 --- FORTY YEARS AGO

The first orienteering event in the Delaware Valley was held on November 5 at Valley Forge State Park. Harald Wibye, a Norwegian engineer here on job assignment, made a black-and-white map based on a USGS topo map and introduced the sport to work associates and friends. There were 18 men and six women on individual courses and 8 groups of "Wayfarers." At his second event on November 26, a reporter and photographer from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* took pictures, which resulted in a center spread in the weekend magazine. On December 10, Harald's third event at Valley Forge drew 38 participants.

1972 --- THIRTY- FIVE YEARS AGO

On October 14 and 15, some members of our club attended the third US Orienteering Championships, hosted by the New England Orienteering Club at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in New York State. (The first two had been held at Little Grassy Lake in southern Illinois.) This was our first introduction to starting boxes, streamers to the finish, and result frames for posting results. At the awards ceremony, 13-year-old Neil Lischner received a first place plaque as national champion in the "junior boys" (12-14) and Caroline Ringo placed third (behind two Canadians) in what was then called "veteran women" (age 35 and over).

1977 --- THIRTY YEARS AGO



Hugh MacMullan

Hugh MacMullan became our second club president, succeeding Dave Jackson. Paul Kusko was elected vice president, and Caroline Ringo continued as secretary/treasurer. In June the first issue of our newsletter (then called *Compass Points*) appeared with Hugh as editor. On September 25 at our Tyler event a photographer from Rodale Press took photos to accompany a chapter in their book *Ways to Play: Recreation Alternatives*, to be published the following spring. (See #18 in the DVOA library.)

Our second club championships, held on October 2 at Hamburg Reservoir, attracted participants from a wide area. They included the Mountain Club of Maryland, Virginia Military Institute, California State College of Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh), Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Drexel University O Club, and the Ramapo O Club (now HVO).

Maps were premarked for this special event, although our usual procedure was for participants to copy their course from a master map. Trophy winners included Amy and Huey MacMullan for age 18 and under, Eric Weyman for adult male, and Trine-Liv Weyman and Kent Ringo for age 43 and over.

Seven from DVOA competed at the North American Orienteering Championships in LaChute, Quebec, on October 8 and 9. They were Steve Tarry, Bruce and Scott Case, Peter and Pat Naylor, and Hugh and Julie MacMullan.

1982 --- TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Our January planning meetings, once held in private homes, found a central location in a classroom at Villanova University. Bob Putnam was club president and Doug Whitney was vice president. Paul Kusko was newsletter editor. We were investigating ordering club orienteering suits from Norway. Sue Edwards and Ginger Burd shared honors for winning the "Name the Rabbit" contest. Both submitted the name O-Hare for our club mascot. DVOA celebrated our fifteenth anniversary by hosting our first Class A event on a new color map of French Creek State Park. Mark Frank and John Overton were co-directors of this very successful event, which attracted 705 participants from across the US and overseas. Our club now had a third color map for use along with Tyler and Ridley Creek. Most of our maps were still black-and-white revisions of USGS maps.

Bob Putnam introduced an elaborate scoring system for club rankings, which, with variations, is still in use today.

1987 --- TWENTY YEARS AGO

Pete Edwards took over as president when John Overton moved to California. Ed Scott became vice president. Roger Hartley continued as the very dedicated supervisor of the Little Trolls program, setting String-O courses at most of our events. Anne Putnam, age two, and Steven Pater, age five, were the first DVOA children and among the first in the country to qualify for the Little Troll patch.

Eleven DVOA members traveled to San Diego for the USOF convention at Point Loma and afterward attended a Class A event at Mt. Laguna and a memorable Mexican dinner over the border in Tecate, Mexico. Sam Burd, a DVOA member until he moved to Connecticut, was elected to the USOF board of directors. The first installment of "The News from Lake Wobegon" appeared in the September issue of the Briar Patch. It was written by Rhea Jacobs of the Saint Louis O Club, with apologies to Garrison Keillor. In the story, rumors about spies arose when local residents noticed a plane flying parallel passes over the local state park and weeks later encountered two young Swedes in the woods with compasses and hand-drawn maps. (See DVOA library #163)

1992 --- FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Tim Walsh was elected president, taking over from Rob Wilkison. Jim Bullitt was vice president, and Jeff Hanlon was newsletter editor. DVOA was the largest club in the country, with over 400 members. Larry Pedersen of our club was serving as president of the United States Orienteering Federation. Our first "Mid-Winter Madness" was held at French Creek on January 19, with a light

dusting of snow and temperatures in the 20s. Hopewell Lake was drained for dam reconstruction, allowing for some route choices not normally available. After a cold, windy, muddy day in March at Daniel Boone Homestead, Paul Kusko was inspired to write an entertaining speculation on "Why Daniel Boone Moved to Kentucky."

The Gray Foxes, mostly retirees and the brainchild of Ann Merriam, made their first appearance in May, hosting a Saturday event at French Creek that attracted 322 participants. The first DVOA Vampire-O was held at Hibernia. Our satellite club, Pocono Orienteering, held its first meet at Hickory Run State Park on July 26. To celebrate their 25th anniversary, DVOA and the Quantico O Club combined talents in the fall to host the US Championships at French Creek and the North American Championships in Prince William Forest south of Washington, DC the following weekend, with two weekday events in between.

1997 --- TEN YEARS AGO

Anne Fitch was club president, with Fred Kruesi as vice president. Sheryl and Bob Meyer handled publicity, and Nancy Sharp was Briar Patch editor. The Service Award recipients included current members Ann Merriam and Frank and Betty Caputo, plus Dave and Kathy Jackson, who were honored for their longtime service to DVOA, starting in 1970 and ending with Dave's losing battle with cancer. Statistician Kent Shaw recognized Karen Williams and Matt Scott at the winter meeting as point champs for the previous year. Kent boggled our minds with fun statistics, such as the total elevation climbed as equal to climbing Mt. Everest 37.5 times, and the total time spent orienteering equal to 130.9 work weeks.



Anne Fitch

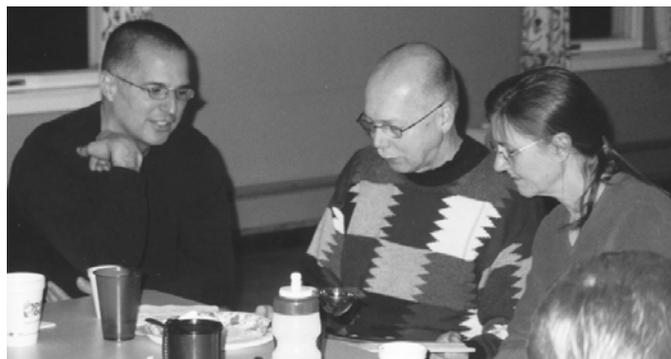


The following day those who braved January cold were treated to a Price is Right format called Checkout O. Each of the 32 controls represented a product with a stated price. Participants had to "buy" no more than 12 items in 20 minutes, including one required item, and the total could not exceed \$22.26. Transplanted DVOAer Marie Reynolds conducted an O event in Tennessee and introduced a lot of folks there to orienteering. The summer picnic at Hibernia featured a Domin-O with a score-O format. Our first club Bike-O was held at Valley Forge Fatlands. The Hickory Run training weekend attracted 250 people (and one bear)!

The Veterans World Cup, largest orienteering event ever to take place in the US, was held from September 27 through October 4 in northern Minnesota. Classes were by five-year increments up through age 90. There were two participants aged 93. Both were from overseas and both finished their courses. More than 2,000 people attended, representing 35 countries. The US had only 200 entries, but there were 350 from Norway and more than 200 from Finland. Camp Snoopy, inside the Mall of America, attracted a lot of visitors and featured an orienteering map with a permanent course involving both levels of the mall. Our club celebrated our 30th anniversary with an A meet on November 1 and 2. Day 1 was at Valley Forge and Day 2 at Green Lane. Harald Wibye, our club founder, returned from Norway to compete and help us celebrate.

2002 --- FIVE YEARS AGO

Service Award recipients were Kent Shaw, the Dennis Porter family and the Bob Putnam family. The Putnams had moved to Florida, where they became mainstays of the Florida Club, but were responsible for much of the early growth of our club. Ed Scott and his capable crew conducted the 14th annual MASOC (Middle Atlantic Scout Orienteering Championships) with an attendance of 862 scouts actually competing. Nancy Sharp was director of "Paths to the Pagoda," our Class A event at Mount Penn in Reading, PA. Karen Williams was selected for the US Women's A team to represent the US at elite overseas events. Corinne Porter was selected for the junior team, which competed in Spain. The 100th issue of the Briar Patch appeared in September 2002. On November 9 at Valley Forge, Tim Walsh re-created the first orienteering event held there 35 years before, using the original courses on a crude black and white map. The contest announced in the Briar Patch to set orienteering lyrics to familiar carols had only one entry. Paul Ort submitted "Running Through the Woods" to be sung to the tune of Jingle Bells.



Karl Ahlswede, Kent Shaw, and Jean O'Connor

Angelica, Clem, Cristina, and Wyatt named to 2008 Standing Team!

Congratulations to Angelica Riley, Clem McGrath, Cristina Luis, and Wyatt Riley for being named to the 2008 Standing Team! Selection was based on A-meet M/F21 performances in 2007 with preference give to championship events, the Team Trials and rankings.

The complete list of team members:

Male: (alphabetically)

- A. Eric Bone, Boris Granovsky
- B. Eddie Bergeron, John Fredrickson, Clem McGrath, Wyatt Riley
- C. Jonathon Campbell, Thomas Carr, Ross Smith, Sergey Velichko, Ken Walker, Jr.

Female: (alphabetically)

- A. Samantha Saeger, Sandra Zurcher
- B. Pavilina Brautigam, Viktoria Brautigam, Erin Nielsen, Hillary Saeger
- C. Suzanne Armstrong, Cristina Luis, Ekaterina Orekhova, Angelica Riley

Iron Hill Park

Iron Hill is a New Castle County park of 334 acres that lies along Interstate 95 south of Newark, Delaware. All four of the original open-pit mines in the park still remain. Mountain bikers enjoy trails laced with roller coaster hills, such as the Mega Drop, a 40-foot drop into an abandoned pit.

Iron ore deposits were discovered about 1660 in the area we know now as Iron Hill. William Penn granted 30,000 acres to several men, who imported iron workers and their families from Wales. The area became known for a time as the Welsh Tract. At first, small quantities of iron were laboriously smelted from the limonite ore in water-powered "bloomery" forges. A larger capacity cold-blast furnace was built nearby on Christiana Creek in about 1723, but lack of an economical source of flux soon bankrupted the operation. Production remained limited until 1837, when the railroad provided economical transportation to the Principio Furnace and also increased the need for wheels, axles, bridges and other iron and steel products. By the 1860s the higher-grade ore in the last of the open-pit mines on Iron Hill began to run out, and operations were moved to nearby geologically similar Chestnut Hill, where mining continued until about 1910.

The Iron Hill Museum, near the entrance to the park, is administered by the Delaware Academy of Sciences. It has interesting displays and provides programs for school children on week days. Unfortunately for us, the museum is closed on weekends. It is housed in a one-room schoolhouse that was built in 1926 by Pierre Samuel du Pont for African-American children. Using his own money, he established a two-million dollar trust fund that provided for remodeling or construction of more than 80 one-room schools at locations convenient for workers' families.

This information was researched by Caroline Ringo. It is from the website of the Iron Hill Museum. For more information: www.ironhillmuseum.org



Iron Hill Fall 2007

By Ralph Tolbert, Event Director and Course Setter

I have always enjoyed holding events at this venue for a number of reasons. Perhaps it's the small size of the park. Or could it be the unique features remaining from mining. Or the nice sections of white woods. One thing is for sure :no matter how many times you orienteer at Iron Hill, the park can still confuse some of the best.

When I set out to design courses, I typically review courses from previous events. I was drawn to courses done back in 1999 for the US Short Course Championships because they utilized some of the best woods that Iron Hill has to offer. It was while I was looking at these courses I decided to do a short format that used some of the same features used in 1999.

After doing the initial paper versions and making adjustments, it was time to visit the park in late August for some field checking. As I was driving into the upper parking lot, I quickly noticed one thing that had to change: my finish circle now had a brand new playground right on top of it. Talk about an unmapped feature!

After noting that change to my courses, I checked out the start triangle and then went into the woods to visit potential control locations. For the most part the map has aged well, as I noted in the course notes on event day. The only other significant addition to the terrain were new trails, which dictated changing a few control locations to avoid confusing folks even more. A few more visits, and the control locations had streamers and detailed control descriptions were documented for the Clue sheets.

Overprinting courses on this size map was quickly done, and I then printed the control descriptions on the back of the map. Now all I had to do was wait for the arrival of the event weekend.

The weather continued its run of unseasonably warm days for early October. By event day the forecast was for sunny and warm with temperatures pushing into the 80's! After getting a few of the more visible controls out into the woods and getting

Registration, E-punch and Start set up, I settled into a chair at the finish circle to wait for the first finishers to see how the courses were received. It wasn't long before someone came across the finish line slightly disgusted about running around down in the infamous "pit" area looking for their first control. I won't mention names. This scenario was repeated a few more times with other runners. I'll have to admit I was hoping for this kind of response, which could be interpreted in a couple of ways: the courses were technically challenging and/or some orienteers took the terrain for granted. Whatever the case, Iron Hill continues to live up to its reputation and unique challenges.

E-punching certainly makes the job at Finish easy, although I did have to pay attention and not fall asleep to capture times for White and Yellow participants. I was also thanked by one person for doing short-format courses given the warm temps.

Shortly after the event, I was alerted to an article in the *Wilmington News Journal*. New Castle County Parks and Recreation will be closing Iron Hill for several months commencing November 1 to make several changes and improvements. Time to update the map!

Thanks to the following who made this event possible by helping out:

Alice Bortz – Registration
 Tracy Acuff – Start and Control Pickup
 Mark Frank – Start
 Mary Frank – Registration
 Hugh MacMullan – Finish
 Jim Puzo – Start and Control Pickup
 Dan Barker – Finish and Control Pickup
 Petr Hartman – Control Pickup
 Eric Weyman – Control Pickup
 Ron Wood – Control Pickup
 Sandy Fillebrown – E-punch Consultant
 Nancy Sharp – E-punch registration, management and results

Lehigh University A-Event

By Mike Bertram, DVOA's A-event Coordinator

Get out your 2008 calendars and mark the Memorial Day weekend, May 24 to 26. These are the dates for DVOA's next A-Event, which will be centered at Lehigh University on beautiful South Mountain.

A-Events are major events sanctioned by USOF (United States Orienteering Federation) that are expected to attract runners from around the country. Care is taken to ensure that the events are of high quality. They are open to all orienteers, but pre-registration is required for all courses, except for the non-competitive white and yellow recreational courses.

Accommodation will be available in an air-conditioned dorm of Lehigh University sited two blocks from the bus shuttle to the campus events and minutes from extensive list of eateries. There are also many hotels and campgrounds in Lehigh Valley (see a list at <http://www.musikfest.org/about/hospitality.asp>).

John DeWolfe is the registrar, and registration will open in February. The web site for the meet will be developed in the next few months, and it will be accessible from DVOA.org.

Courses

On Saturday, May 24, there will be a sprint course around the Lehigh University campus set by Randy Hall in the afternoon. There also will be a model event in the morning to allow runners to become familiar with the terrain. On Sunday the focus will shift to Hickory Run. The courses in the park designed by Sandy Fillebrown will be middle distance and will use a remapped area. On Monday the event will switch back to Lehigh University, where Steve Aronson will be setting classic distance courses on South Mountain.

In conjunction with the A event will be the 2008 US Team Trials. The sprint will also be a World Ranking Event. So there are bound to be exciting races.

Special notes

- ❑ The Sprint course will be in a campus setting with mostly mowed grass and pavement, many steep areas.
- ❑ The Lehigh University campus will be off limits until after the Sprint. This should not be a problem since the dorm and eateries are north of campus proper.
- ❑ Lehigh has a famous (or infamous) "Turkey Trot" every year before the Thanksgiving break. It's quite popular; individuals and groups run and bragging rights are the reward. Sound familiar? Obviously, it's a set running course and no orienteering. The course starts at the bottom of the hill, goes to the top, and loops back to the bottom for the finish. It's grueling and many people don't make it very far. Randy Hall's sprint course will be much easier!
- ❑ South Mountain is locally known for its steep sides, with one-way streets for winter weather. Students joke that they don't need exercise equipment because hiking the Hill is enough and that getting to class in winter is fast because they slide down from their dorms. The wooded area is rocky, although there are few boulders, and also includes some marshy ground. There are "special features" in the woods, such as the Challenge course and the Bethlehem Star, a towering light in the form of a Moravian star.

If you would like to help with the organization and running of the A-Event, contact the event director, Sharon Siegler; (brambles6@rcn.com, 610-814-0580)

It is an ironic habit of human beings to run faster when we have lost our way.

Rollo May, psychologist (1909-1994)



First O-Marathon at Valley Forge

Top finishers in the first-ever US O marathon, held Dec. 15, 2007, at Valley Forge National Park:

Half Marathon

21.1 km, 9 controls

31 registrants, 29 starters, 26 finishers

Over-all finish	Name	Time
Male:		
1	Chris Steere	2:26:04
2	Michael Lyons	2:31:52
3	Dmitri Kaganovich	2:38:37
Female:		
4	Daria Babushok	2:46:09
16	Brigitte Sheehan	3:27:57
21	Tracy Acuff	3:55:43

Full Marathon

42.2 km, 20 controls

39 registrants, 35 starters, 30 finishers

Over-all finish	Name	Time
Male:		
1	Clem McGrath	4:10:41
2	Ross Smith	4:23:35
3	Lachezar Iliev	4:23:47
Female:		
4	Iliana Shandurkova	4:39:36
6	Hilary Saeger	4:40:12
12	Cristina Luis	5:41:55

A Brief History of Orienteering

- 1897** - 31st October - the first orienteering event in the world: NOR - Oslo (Nordmarken); 8 competitors; map scale 1:30 000; course length 10,5 km; 3 control points; winning time 1,41,07
- 1899** - 6th February - the first ski-orienteering event in the world: NOR - Trondheim; 12 competitors; course length 20 km; winning time 2,30,20
- 1900** - the first ski-orienteering relay: SWE
- 1906** - the first ski-orienteering relay: FIN
- 1928** - the first independent orienteering club: SWE - SK Gothia
- 1931** - the first national championships: SWE
 - the first international competition: NOR - Oslo; NOR & SWE
- 1936** - the establishment of SOFT (Svenska Orienteringsförbundet)
- 1945** - the establishment of NOF (Norges Orienteringsförbund)
 - the establishment of SSL (Suomen Suunnistusliitto)
 - the first orienteering magazine: FIN - Suunnistaja
- 1946** - the establishment of NORD (Nordisk Orienteringsrat - the Nordic Orienteering Council) = NOR, SWE, FIN, DEN
- 1948** - the first maps drawn especially for orienteering: NOR
- 1950** - the first special color map for orienteering: NOR; Knut Valstad; used for the competition on 30th April
- 1961** - the establishment of IOF (International Orienteering Federation)
- 1962** - the first European Orienteering Championships (EOC): NOR; winners: D = U. Lindkvist (SWE), H = A. Hadler (NOR)
- 1966** - the first World Orienteering Championships (WOC): FIN; winners: D = U. Lindkvist (SWE), H = M. Lystad (NOR)
- 1972** - the first official international ski-orienteering contest: BUL - IPSOL (International Pokal der Ski-OL)
- 1975** - the first WOC Ski: FIN; winners: D = O. Svanberg (SWE), H = A. Kukkonen (FIN)
- 1978** - IOF-Symbols for the control descriptions used for the first time: NOR - WOC
- 1983** - 1. Unofficial' World Cup (WC): HUN, BEL, FIN, AUT, SWE, NOR
- 1984** - 2. Unofficial' WC
- 1987** - the first European Cup (EC) Ski: TCH, AUT, ITA, FIN, FIN, SWE
- 1988** - the introduction of 'the short distance race' to the WOC Ski: FIN
- 1989** - the first WC Ski: AUT, TCH, SWE, NOR
- 1990** - the first Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC): SWE
 - the introduction of 'the short distance race' to the WC
- 1991** - the introduction of 'the short distance race' to the WOC: TCH
- 1994** - the first JWOC Ski: FIN
 - IOF electronic events calendar
 - electronic punching used at the WC for the first time: NOR; the Regnly system
- 1995** - the first Park World Tour (PWT): SWE, NOR, FIN, CZE
- 1998** - Ski-orienteering presented at the Olympics in Nagano
 - the first official World Masters Orienteering Championships (WMOC): CZE - Novy Bor
 - MTBO European Cup
- 1999** - the first WMOC Ski: RUS
 - the first WC MTBO
- 2000** - European Orienteering Championships (EOC) renewed

Source: www.orienteering-history.info/ahist_01.php March 16, 2007

2008 O-Dates of interest

Saturday, Feb 23 – **Training program** at Nolde Environmental Education Center. Want to introduce a friend to orienteering? Here's a great opportunity, with classroom training followed by practical application of what you've just learned on a White course

Saturday, May 3 – **MASOC**—Mid-Atlantic Scout Orienteering Championship at French Creek

Saturday, May 24 – **Sprint-O** at Lehigh University

Sunday, May 25 – **A Event** at Hickory Run State Park

Monday, May 26 – **A Event** at South Mountain, Bethlehem

Saturday, June 21 – **Picnic and VP Relay** at Myrick Center

Aug. 31 – Fair Hill **Rogaine**: see more of the park than you knew existed!

Sept 20-21 – Hickory Run **Training Weekend**

Sept. 27 – **North American Championships**, CNYO

Oct 19 – **DVOA's Long O Championships**, Valley Forge Mt. Joy

Check the DVOA website for a complete and up-to-date schedule of local orienteering events.



O-Puzzle by Jean O’Conor

The Reverend Spooner Goes Orienteering

A spoonerism is a play on words in which corresponding consonants or vowels are switched. It is named after the Reverend William Archibald Spooner 1844–1930, Warden of New College, Oxford, who was notoriously prone to this tendency. (from Wikipedia)

In the following orienteering story, fill in each of the blanks with a phrase that matches the clues numbered 1-10. Each correct phrase can be “spoonerized” to give the corresponding answers in the crossword. For example, if Spooner wanted to “find the boulder,” he would say “bind the folder”. There are several “route choices” to this puzzle. You can start with the crossword or with the story, or work back and forth from one to the other. The crossword breaks several rules in the interest of preserving the theme: it has unchecked letters, two-letter words, and no symmetry. Have fun!

The Reverend Spooner woke up on a 1. _____ and decided to go orienteering. He drove to the event location, 2. _____. When he arrived, he paid the fee, filled out the registration form, and signed his 3. _____. He proceeded to the start area and was given a 4. _____. When it was time for him to start, he used his map and compass to make sure he 5. _____. Then he was careful to 6. _____ in order to find the first control. When he got there he realized, to his dismay, that he had lost his pink card, so he 7. _____ instead. He looked at his map again and determined that he had to 8. _____ on the way to the next control. After finding several other controls, he was able to 9. _____ over the creek and make the 10. _____ at the GO control.

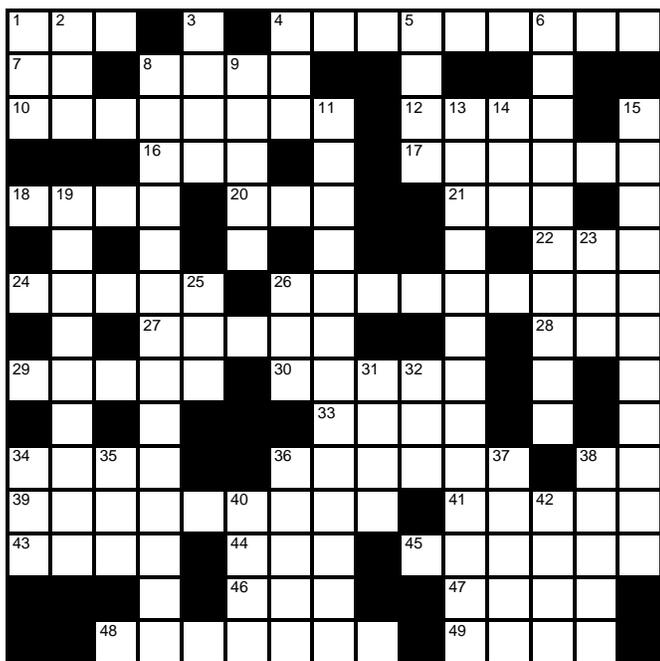
1. morning in the sixth month (39A)
2. an equestrian center in Maryland (10A)
3. Signature in the designated place (11D)
4. chart for the advanced beginner course (19D)
5. knew his position (15D)
6. continue going the right way (26A)
7. made holes in the chart (13D)
8. move quickly on a raised feature (6D)
9. arrive at the span (8D)
10. final mark (4A)

Across

1. Honest one
- 4. Too late for the noon meal**
7. Thus
8. Not just one
- 10. Transplant to the scalp**
12. Subject of *The Last King of Scotland*
16. Corn unit
17. Domed structure
18. Austen title character
20. A shade tree
21. Dordogne denial
22. “___ du lieber...”
24. Island greeting
- 26 Shivering steed**
- 27 Choo-choo
28. Paddle
29. Some lepidopterans
30. Ending with home or bed
33. Chopped meat dish
34. Cloth colorer
36. Actress Joan who starred in *Sergeant York*
38. One twelfth of a ft.
- 39. Bird in a hill of sand**
41. Lingo
43. Hotfooted
44. Paranormalist Geller
45. A black suit
46. A secret no.
47. Not underneath
48. Moves back
49. A younger sibling, perhaps

Down

1. Fire residue
2. Tropical snake
3. Couch
4. PA airport
5. ___ II (razor)
- 6. Sister experiencing success**
- 8. Break through the mountain range**
9. Exhausted
- 11. Limping on the golf course**
- 13. Ate his baby food**
14. First public sale of stock by a corp.
- 15. Rotten fishes**
- 19. Relaxed mouth**
23. Davis’s republic (abbr.)
25. They come after cues?
26. Assn. of former Soviet republics
31. Alleviate
32. A non-spoken lang.
34. Record players?
35. Storm center
36. Shocking
37. Make joyful
38. Clumsy
40. Fool
42. Commotions



A recent conversation from DVOA's e-board

How to improve your orienteering skills

Kathy Urban: Since this is a quiet week on the e-board, I wonder if some of the club members who do better than me (i.e. all of them) might want to toss out some tips based on the mistakes they see less-experienced people making. I'd like to hear what other people have to say, perhaps remembering their early excursions in the woods

Kathleen Geist: RouteGadget is really helpful; I always have lots of "doh!" moments when I see routes that craftier minds have chosen. And I wonder, can I chalk up my low place in the standings to aging mind and body (and unwillingness up to now to do more physical activity to build up my endurance), or can I learn how to make fewer parallel errors, improve accuracy, improve route choice....

Trazy Acuff: Those are some good points. I can recall some errors I've made in the past and not repeat, that is if I can keep my head screwed on straight. Such errors I've made:

- Always start from the triangle to #1 control, NOT from control #1 to #2 (egad)
- Make sure you are following the right line on the map, NOT the line next to it or crossing it (yikes)
- Try to avoid going thru marshes/swamps, if possible, as well as the darker green thickets shown on the map (waste of time)
- Pay attention to the map coloring to realize if you need to go thru a meadow, forest or whatever (I have gotten lost in a meadow, not realizing I was supposed to be going through some forest or vice-versa)
- Try to take advantage of trails close-by, especially on long stretches, etc. I have also noticed that some people make the error of going downhill to use a path then back uphill to find the control, rather than picking a path slightly uphill, walk a ways on path, then go downhill to find control.

I am still working on attack points, which I seem to have made some improvements on lately. I am sure there's more, but that's all I can think of to share...

Randy Hall: I'll throw out a tip: anticipate parallel errors. (A parallel error is when you confuse two similar-looking features en route.)

I actually do this before the race. If the meet notes say it is "ridge and valley," "piedmont," "extensive trail network" or if I know from experience that the terrain has lots of similar, large features, then I set a bit in my mind right at the start: "watch for parallel errors."

A thought to keep with you when you're orienteering and see no one else in the woods:

I am no more lonely than a single mullein or dandelion in a pasture, or a bean leaf, or sorrel, or a horse-fly, or a bumblebee. I am no more lonely than the Mill Brook, or a weathercock, or the north star, or the south wind, or an April shower, or a January thaw, or the first spider in a new house.

Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817-1862)

Anyway, whether or not you think about this before the race or during, all it means is look along your route choice and to areas outside your route choice a bit in case you drift for features that look similar to ones you anticipate seeing. For example, if you expect to crest a small hill then run a spur, look for another hill or spur along the way that you may confuse it with. (And it is possible to confuse these things even if the sizes and shapes vary a bit, even up to two lines in my experience, so it doesn't have to look exactly the same to cause a parallel error.)

Once you've anticipated the error, you're halfway there. If this is in your mind, and you need to relocate, it will be easier when things don't seem to make sense.

Better yet, once you've anticipated the error, you can knuckle down and look for some way to distinguish the two similar features: perhaps one has different vegetation, perhaps one is at a different angle, or has rocky ground, is a slightly different shape, size, etc., that you can key off of. While I stated above that it is easy to confuse two similar features even if they have different shapes and sizes, when you are thinking about this problem, it can be used to distinguish them, and help prevent the related problem of "map bending" (where you convince yourself that a feature that doesn't look quite right is really what you are looking for).

Parallel errors seem most common with contour features. One specific one is the case of multiple reentrants on the other side of a ridge you climb then go down. Anticipate this error and look for something else along the way to make sure you are in the right place on top of the ridge. If you miss, know which way you likely will miss (by checking compass; this is akin to aiming off, but the real principle again is anticipating the error). You can cut relocation time to 15 seconds from four minutes.

Parallel errors aren't just for contour features; clever course setters will set legs into the trail network and at specific angles to where you may end up confusing trails. Again, anticipate this and key off of other things to confirm the correct feature, such as grading of the trail, supporting contour features, vegetation, etc.

Good luck. I guess this skill is different for everyone, but it has helped me.



The **Delaware Valley Orienteering Association** is a non-profit organization founded in 1967 for the purpose of providing education and organized events in the support of recreational and competitive orienteering in New Jersey, Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania. DVOA is a mid-Atlantic regional member club of the United States Orienteering Federation (USOF) and the International Orienteering Federation (IOF). Inquiries about orienteering should be sent to DVOA, 14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475-2721, or use the DVOA telephone hotline (610) 792-0502 (9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST) or e-mail at Frankdvoa@aol.com

Officers:

President	Ralph Tolbert	610-255-4181	410 Gypsy Hill Rd, Landenberg, PA 19350
Vice President	John DeWolf	610-692-3632	1033 S. New St., West Chester, PA 19382
Secretary/Treasurer	Mary Frank	610-792-0502	14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475-2721

Trustees:

Term Expires

2008	Bob Gross	610-404-1185	2668 Plow Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508
2009	Ron Bortz	610-987-9766	50 Bull Rd, Oley, PA 19547
2010	Karl Ahlswede	215-887-0377	169 Greenwood, #B-5, Jenkintown, PA 19046
2011	Maryann Cassidy	610-446-6574	5205 Arrowhead Lane, Drexel Hill PA 19026
2012	John Campbell	215-567-0169	109 N Van Pelt St., Philadelphia PA 19103

Other key personnel:

Publicity	Maryann Cassidy	610-446-6574	5205 Arrowhead Lane, Drexel Hill PA 19026
Education & Clinics	Mark Frank	610-792-0502	14 Lake Drive, Spring City, PA 19475-2721
Training	Fred Kruesi	610-363-7459	703 Brooke Rd., Exton, PA 19341-1918
	Wyatt Riley	610-491-9179	540 Stevens Dr, Apt 208, King of Prussia, PA 19906
Scout Activities	Ed Scott	610-582-2128	1608 Cocalico Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508
Mapping	Jim Eagleton	215-283-0137	2507 Navajo Path, Ambler, PA 19002
Technical Director	Tom Overbaugh	302-368-8168	210 Fieldstream Dr, Newark, DE 19702-3115
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Equipment Set #4	Gerry Smith	732-922-8125	27 Oxford Dr, Ocean, NJ 07712
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Archives & Library	Caroline & Kent Ringo	856-429-2677	212 Westover Dr, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Briar Patch Editor	Nancy Sharp	610-921-1133	3439 Fairfield St., Laureldale, PA 19605
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Junior Coordinators	Janet Porter	215-679-7829	438 Main St., Red Hill, PA 18076
	Mark Cornish	610-404-0317	4923 Apple Dr., Reading, PA 19606-3442
Web Master	Kent Shaw	802-888-1640	90 Hayford Rd., Wolcott, VT 05680
Permanent Courses	John DeWolf	610-692-3632	1033 S. New St., West Chester, PA 19382
Social Coordinator	Sharon Siegler		

USOF: The United States Orienteering Federation membership entitles you to reduced rates at national events, national ranking points for "A" class participants, and receipt of Orienteering North America™ eight times a year. Contact DVOA secretary for membership forms and information on nationally sanctioned two-day events.

USOF Exec Dir Robin Shannonhouse 404-363-2110 PO Box 1444, Forest Park, GA 30298
E-mail: rshannonhouse@mindspring.com

Regular Club Rep	Jim Eagleton	215-283-0137	2507 Navajo Path, Ambler, PA 19002
Alternate Club Rep	Ralph Tolbert	610-255-4181	410 Gypsy Hill Rd, Landenberg, PA 19350

"Notes from the Briar Patch" is DVOA's official newsletter. It is published four times a year and is sent to currently enrolled members. Its purpose is to communicate information and serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions. Articles and letters are welcome and should be sent to the Briar Patch editor, who retains the right to print, edit or reject submitted material on the basis of its appropriateness to this publication and space limitations.

DVOA Hotline: 610-792-0502 (9 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST)

Visit DVOA on the world-wide web at www.dvoa.org

What will you find there? Schedule of upcoming events, with event director's phone number and e-mail and directions to the event as well as list of courses offered... results from past events (more than five years' worth)... e-board, an electronic message board on which DVOA members can post questions, comments, suggestions and others can respond... a whole section for event directors to make their job easier: guide, checklist, reports, signs to use... links to other web sites of interest to orienteers, including USOF, other O clubs... a list of the permanent O courses (looking for a way to entertain out-of-town guests?)... AND MORE!



How to make use of unused maps from events

By Ralph Tolbert

I recently received an e-mail from Ed Scott, who manages DVOA's printed map supply, requesting an inventory of the DVOA maps that I keep in my map room. As I stood there looking at the shelves, it occurred to me that for the inventory of maps without courses was going down and inventory of left-over maps was increasing. Needless to say, I'm always looking for ways to use these leftover maps and this year a couple of opportunities presented themselves.

The first opportunity was back in June when I was asked to set a course for an adventure race at Brandywine Creek State Park. Actually, this was the second year I've done the adventure race courses for the event they bill as "Clash with the Creek". Think of it as a beginner's Adventure Race. Participants first ride a five-mile mountain bike course. Next they have to canoe down and back up the Brandywine Creek, a distance of two miles. (Hopefully, they get turned around before going over Adams Dam.)

After paddling down and back, they jump out of their canoes and go under Thompson's Bridge to get a map and orienteer back to the race start area. Along the way, they have to find several controls along a White/Yellow orienteering course. I found it necessary to design just one course with some route choices back up to the parking area. It turns out the paddling portion of the race really strings out the field of competitors. All participants have a great time and return with a sense of accomplishment. The race is limited to the first 40 teams that sign up due to a limited number of canoes, but the park is looking to add more equipment.

I used maps with courses printed on the east side of the park, which left the west portion of the map clear for my adventure course.

The next opportunity to use some of the maps with courses showed up in an e-mail from a Scout leader from the Del-Mar-Va Council's Freedom Trails District. It turns out he lives just down the road from me, and he was planning their District Camporee at Fair Hill. What we came up with was a 40-minute

Score-O covering over a 1 Km diameter circle centered on the event center. I had more than 50 maps left over from the A-Meet earlier this year with White, Yellow and Orange courses. All I had to do was cut off the eastern portion with the pre-printed courses and then overprint the Score-O course. I consulted with the MASOC expert (AKA Ed Scott) about the course and a format for the score cards. After streamering all the control sites, I gave the Scoutmaster the 40 controls and punches, and the Scouts did the rest of the setup, ran the event, and collected all the controls while I was in Japan! Upon my return, I contacted the Scouter and learned that some 380 Scouts participated in the camporee and had a great time!

So that's how I got involved in two other orienteering events that used up some of the growing number of maps with courses on them.

Does anybody have other ideas for how to use our leftover maps?

DVOA Winter Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008

Afternoon sessions. 2 p.m. (approximately) ; topics to be announced; check DVOA's web site for information.

Covered-dish dinner. 5:30 p.m.; bring a dish to share. Also bring your own plates and plasticware. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate provided.



Meeting. Immediately following the dinner; includes election of officers and one trustee. If you're interested in helping to keep DVOA strong by participating in its leadership (translation: if you're willing to serve in one of these roles), please contact one of the current officers before the meeting. See list of officers on inside back cover.



14 Lake Drive
Spring City, PA 19475

First-Class Mail
Forwarding service requested