



Notes from the Briar Patch

Delaware Valley
Orienteering Association

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Want to improve your O-skills? Try DVOA's Training Weekend

You'll find training for every skill level, from beginner to advanced, at Delaware Valley Orienteering Association's (DVOA) 15th annual training and camping weekend on September 16 and 17 at Hickory Run State Park. Hickory Run is a beautiful, conveniently located park in the Poconos near the intersection of I-80 and I-476 (Northeast Extension of the PA Turnpike).

Starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, you'll experience a day full of training and orienteering exercises. Beginner training is for people who have never gone out on an orienteering course or have only gone out a few times a white or yellow course. Exercises will include map reading, understanding map symbols and map orientation.

Intermediate training is for people who feel comfortable on a yellow course and want to move up to the orange level. In addition, intermediate training is for people who are now going out on an orange course and want to refine their skills. Exercises include understanding handrails, thumbing to maintain map contact, route simplification and improving off-trail confidence.



Advanced training is for people who are currently going out on a green or red course and want to improve their skills. Exercises include selecting attack points, route simplification and contours.

Training will be followed by a night orienteering event, with three levels of courses: beginner, intermediate and advanced. The beginner course is all on trails and is intended for people who have never done orienteering at

night. The intermediate course is intended for people who have done night orienteering before and are ready to get off-trail for part of the course. The advanced course is intended for people who have completed several night orienteering courses and are very comfortable off-trail at night. For night orienteering, you will need a flashlight. Start times will be pre-assigned. When you register, please note any special start-time needs.

On Sunday you'll have a chance to put into practice the skills you learned on Saturday when DVOA hosts an orienteering event offering five courses: white (introductory difficulty and 2 to 3 km), yellow (advanced introductory difficulty and 2.5 to 3 km), orange (intermediate difficulty and 2.5 to 4 km), green (advanced difficulty and 3.5 to 5.5 km) and red (advanced difficulty and 5 to 7 km). Start times will be pre-assigned. Please note any special start-time needs when you register.

Training and Map Fees

The training fee of \$4 per person for DVOA members and \$5 for non-members includes all training materials you need, except a compass. You must pre-register and pre-pay for training.

Fees for each Night-O map are \$4 for DVOA members and \$5 for non-members. This is a per-map fee (not a per-person fee). Typically it's not practical for more than two or three people to use the same map, and many people want their own map. You must pre-register and pre-pay for Night-O.

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The president's corner

Life—and this column—goes on

Picking up where I left off last issue: I wrote about several “changes” (organizational changes) within our club. One of these involved separating the tasks—currently combined into one position—of secretary and treasurer. As the club—and its schedule—have grown, so have the roles and responsibilities of these positions, and it seems a little much to ask of one person, who is, like the rest of us, a volunteer.



To make these changes official requires changing the club's by-laws.

Originally, I had hoped to share these proposed changes at the summer general meeting, but turn-out was rather light at this meeting. In order to get these changes in front of the majority of the membership, I decided to share them in this issue of *The Briar Patch* as well as on our website.

I'm asking you to take a few minutes to read over the changes and provide your thoughts, comments and feedback. (While you're at it, you might want to take a look at the club's constitution and certificate of incorporation, which are posted at the website.) You can jot me a note and send it via e-mail to rdtolbert@netcape.com, or via land mail to 410 Gypsy Hill Rd, Landenberg, PA 19350.

Any organization's most valuable asset is its members, but it is these documents that provide structure and legitimacy. For many years, these documents have been “off the map,” but it's time to bring them back on.

See you in the woods!

Ralph Tolbert

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DVOA's Training Weekend at Hickory Run State Park

Fees for the event on Sunday are \$4 for pre-registered members of DVOA, \$5 for pre-registered non-members and \$7 if you are not pre-registered (whether you are a member of DVOA or not). This is a per-map fee (not a per-person fee).

In order that we can ensure that we have a sufficient supply of maps for all participants, we ask that you pre-register and pre-pay. For your convenience, you can register on-line at www.dvoa.org

Accommodations

Sleeping facilities at Hickory Run consist of unheated cabins with no electricity and wooden bunks. No mattresses are provided, so bring a mattress if you want one. The group camp area has flush toilets located throughout the camp, a dining hall and a central shower facility with hot showers. The shower facility has electricity for lighting, but the toilet facilities throughout the camp have no electricity. The cost for the cabins is \$3 per person for DVOA members and \$4 per person for non-members for both nights.

If you stay in the cabins, you are asked to sweep out your cabin, close and latch all windows, and pick up any trash you find around your cabin when you leave.



Due to the inquisitive (and hungry) bear population at Hickory Run, food is prohibited in the sleeping cabins.

You can also tent camp, but you must contact the park to reserve space. You will not be permitted to tent camp in the group camp area we are using. The phone number for Hickory Run State Park is: 570 443 0400.

Food

Once again, Chef Steve and his crew of able volunteers will provide meals, which you can enjoy if you purchase the meal plan. The cost for five meals (three

meals on Saturday and two on Sunday) is \$14 for members of DVOA and \$15 for non-members. You must pre-register for the meal plan. There is no charge for children under seven. Meals are nutritious and plentiful.

You can bring your own food if you desire, but kitchen facilities will not be provided. And remember: food is not permitted in the sleeping cabins due to (hungry) bears in the park.

Registration

Registration closes on Sept. 2. In previous years the event has filled to capacity, so we encourage you to register early.

You can register in one of two ways: you can complete a registration form, available at the DVOA web site (www.dvoa.org), or you can use web registration, which allows you to fill out the form online. Either way, you must still mail a check to reserve space for your group. Make checks payable to DVOA.

Send your completed registration form and payment or payment (for web-registration) to:

Fred Kruesi
703 Brooke Road
Exton, PA 19341

If you provide an e-mail address, you will receive confirmation of your registration.

If you need more information, e-mail training event coordinator Fred Kruesi at cmksquare@aol.com or call him at 610 363 7459.

Directions

Take the I-476 (Northeast extension of the PA Turnpike) to the I-80 exit. Turn right at light onto PA Rt. 940 and follow west for 3 miles. Go south on PA Rt. 534 and follow the orienteering signs just after you pass the park office. The orienteering signs are about 6 inches by 18 inches, painted white and orange in the shape of an arrow. Follow the arrows to the dining hall in the camp (Camp Daddy Allen) to obtain your cabin assignment and meal tickets.

If you decide to arrive Saturday morning, be sure to do so before 10 a.m. so you can be properly placed with your training group. It's very difficult to find a particular group once they go into the woods.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bring my pet to the event?

No. Pets are not allowed in a group camp area.

Can I tent camp?

Yes, but you must use the tent camp area. Contact the camp office at: 570 443 0400.

I am not a member of DVOA. What is the advantage of joining?

The primary advantages are reduced event fees and notification of upcoming events. Four times a year you will receive the club newsletter. An organization (such as a scout troop or church group) can join as a family and all members of the organization are considered members. You can contact the club office for more information at 610-792-0502 or via e-mail at frankdvoa@aol.com.

Can I tent camp and take the meal plan?

Yes.

Do you keep groups together?

To the extent possible, groups are kept together. There are two-, four- and a few eight-to-ten-person cabins. Large groups are often given multiple cabins. Small groups and families (people that submit one registration or indicate who they want to be in a cabin with) are given a single cabin and do not share space with anyone else.

What can I do to help at the event?

Helpers are often needed in the kitchen. Helpers are always needed for cleanup after the event. Cleanup starts about 2 p.m. Sunday and mostly consists of dining hall cleaning. Even if you can only offer 15 minutes, it helps.

What is the difference between per-person fees and map fees?

Each person pays the per-person fee, but map fees are charged for each map even if several people go out at the same time and use the same map. Assume you have 8 people in your group and all 8 attend training and go out for Night-O in groups of 2. You would pay for 8 training fees and 4 Night-O map fees.

When does registration close?

Registration will close on September 2, 2006, but the event may be full before that time. Avoid disappointment and register early.

You mentioned bears a couple of times: is there cause for alarm?

If you keep food out of your sleeping cabin, you should not have a problem. Food in a sleeping cabin is prohibited by the park for good reason. There have been cases of bears entering cabins because there was food in the cabin. The people, who were eating at the time, were surprised when the bear came through the window. *Avoid the problem: don't eat or keep food in your cabin!*

Illick's Mill Rain-In'

Event Directors: Steve Aronson and Sharon Siegler **Course Designer: Petr Hartman**

As the week wore on, it was only too apparent that Saturday's weather was deteriorating. First it was going to be "scattered showers and warm," then "scattered showers and cool," then "showers and cool," then "periods of rain." Since we planned to hang controls the evening before, the announcement that there would be thunder showers on Friday around 6 pm was just the icing on the half-baked cake. So, when Friday evening turned out warm and sunny, Steve Aronson (co-event director), Petr Hartman (course designer), and I had false hopes. Saturday morning was cloudy but dry at 7 a.m., but that quickly changed. Oh, well, we've run orienteering events in the rain before; what's a little wetness?

Ah, but wait: there was yet another challenge awaiting us. As we rolled into the Illick's Mill parking lot at 8 a.m., we discovered that it was already half-full and a "foreign" pop-up tent was already in place. Two events scheduled for the same place on the same day? Why didn't the city mention this when we registered? Grumble. It turned out, however, that this was a "non-crisis." The other "event" was an Eagle Scout project, staking left-over Christmas trees to the banks of the Monocacy to curb erosion. One of the Scout leaders was an old buddy from Hickory Run Training weekends (and faculty at Lehigh University, where I work), so we quickly worked out a "parking lot share" system. As it turned out, most of our runners for the day were Scouts, and a lot of them knew the people involved in the Eagle Scout project, so everyone exchanged pleasantries and wet-weather jokes.

The intrepid Scouts made our day. They came to have a good time, and they made sure that everyone else did, too. They all finished their courses, managed to get as muddy as possible, and enjoyed a little intra-troop rivalry.

Meanwhile, back to the rain. As the day progressed, the rain became steadily harder. The breaks in the weather that were promised on Friday never materialized. It started sleeting around noon, but we were wrapping up by 12:30, figuring that the worst was over. Since the park is close to where we all live, we thought we'd just collect a few of the flags near the entrance, then come back for the rest later, and Petr volunteered to chase those down while we got the road signs and packed the kit. As Sally Reynolds (our registration/start/finish table volunteer) and I sat in the parking lot, waiting for her ride, it started to snow. Poor Petr! As it turned out, he collected all of the flags anyway, reporting that it was actually warmer and drier in the woods!

You guessed it: by 5 p.m., it was sunny and dry.

Moral of the story? A bad day in the woods is better than a good day at the office? Or misery loves company? Actually, it's that perseverance pays off. Those Scouts on the Eagle project put in about 500 trees that morning under really adverse conditions. We expected that no one would come to our rainy event, but we ended up with a bunch of people who'll always brag about their orienteering day in the woods.

Sharon Siegler



Scenes from Illick's Mill: Top: Petr Hartman, course designer, takes refuge from the rain in the registration tent. Middle: Intrepid finishers trek down off the hill towards the finish line. Bottom: After the rain: setting out the equipment to dry.

Valley Goat 2, or How I learnt to love e-punching

Event director: Mike Bertram

My first involvement with electronic punching was putting out controls and using the system at A-meets (not doing both activities at one single meet, though!). I felt that e-punching was nice for the runners but a bit of a hassle for event directors.

Last summer I was setting up the courses for the event on the new Mount Misery map. John De Wolf offered to run the e-punch computer. I accepted the offer, and as I was designing the courses, I started to realize the beauty of e-punching when you had a restricted area to work in. It is possible to place controls on a course close together without having to worry about competitors punching out of order.

There were different considerations for the Valley Goat 2 race in March. I wanted to run a race over both Mount Misery and Mount Joy. Goat races are known to have some quirks, so I decided to use controls all of the same description. The controls I used were all on the deer exclosures (set up to monitor the effect of the deer in the park on the vegetation).



Mike Bertram

Since the weather was likely to be cold in March, I wanted to minimize the number of people helping out and having to stand around for hours on end. To this end, the first design decision was easy: have a mass start; no need for a start crew then.

Variety was added by making it a score event rather than having a fixed order that the controls were to be visited in. (Never in my wildest dreams did I expect anybody not to punch the nearest control to the start first!) Also I realized with e-punching on a score event, there was no need for a specific finish control. The "finish" was the last control you punched before the time limit.

One of the problems we did have was that people forgot to clear their cards before starting. I plan to cure that problem in Valley Goat 3 by having a time penalty for those who cannot remember to clear.

Pre-registration made it easier for those running the event, so I will also institute a time penalty next year for those who do not pre-register. The more we can automate and streamline the registration process, the better for everyone involved.

Thanks go to Sandy Fillebrown for teaching me the foibles of the e-punching software. Thanks too to the Ahlswedes for helping to pick up controls.

Mike Bertram

Thundering into Tyler

Event Director: Sandy Fillebrown

The spring 2006 O season started with a roar—literally! As in thunder. Yup, my long streak of good luck with the weather came to a halt with the March 12 event at Tyler State Park, Penna. I had hung the controls the day before in beautiful, sunny, 70-degree weather only to awaken Sunday morning to a downpour with intermittent rumblings from thunderstorms.



Sandy Fillebrown

The event was originally supposed to be directed by Clem McGrath and Dasha Babushok, but when something came up taking them out of town, I agreed to handle the event director duties if they designed the courses, a 90-minute score-O and a sprint course. After a few inquiries from a large group of scouts, a yellow course was also added.

Despite the terrible conditions, many folks made it to the event. Vadim Masalkov and Jim Eagleton met me early and helped hang the last few controls, including the sprint controls around the Bucks County Community College. We got permission from the friendly college security folks to set up under the overhang of the library building. With tents from Ron Cook and the Franks, we were in business: registration over by the building, start and finish for yellow under one tent, and the computer set up for the score-O and sprint in the back of Vadim's car under the other tent. I think most workers stayed dry – but I know the competitors did not!

The score-O presented the orienteers with some very tough decisions about which controls to go for, and several folks found themselves scurrying to get back in the time limit. (I apologize for the confusion about the safe crossing points of the creek.)

The weather did cooperate a little, and the rain pretty much stopped just in time for control pick-up. As usual we had more than enough volunteers. Thanks, everybody (and apologies to those I missed)!

Registration: Bob Meyer, Dave Cramer, Mary Frank, Ron Cook

Yellow start/finish: Jim Eagleton

E-punch: Mike Bertram

Control pickup: Bob Burg, Bob Fink, Dave Cramer, Karl and Sandy Ahlswede, Maryann Cassidy, Steve Aronson, Sharon Seigler, Vadim Masalkov.

Sandy Fillebrown

Correction. In the March 2006 issue of the *Briar Patch*, Eddie Bergeron was listed as the overall Male winner for 2005. Although Eddie did end up with the highest score, he is not a member of DVOA. Therefore, he is not eligible for the MacMullan Cup. Clem McGrath is the overall male champion and is the winner of the cup. It's a bit confusing because according to the agreement made between DVOA and SVO way back when SVO split off from DVOA, SVO members do get listed in DVOA's rankings. Congratulations to Clem McGrath for this accomplishment, and our apologies for not properly noting it.

Springing into O at Brandywine State Park, Delaware

Event Director: Maryann Cassidy

Course Designer: Bob Burg



*Course designer
Bob Burg*

After the driest March on record, the drought was broken with an abundance of rain on Saturday, April 21, when we hung the controls. In light of the forecast, Bob rearranged the control assignments to eliminate creek crossings. Johnny Wrongway hung the

blue course controls on the west side of Brandywine Creek, and Bob and I hung the rest of the controls on the east side of the park, staying on separate sides of Rocky Run.

It was an excellent plan, as the creeks were high and rushing as the rain fell. If you were at the Brandywine event run by the Cornish family a couple of years ago, I'm sure you can picture the swirling water suitable for whitewater rafting but not great for orienteering. By the end of the day, we had serious concerns because all the courses crossed the creeks. If the rain didn't let up early enough during the night, would the creeks be crossable on Sunday?

The next morning, it was barely drizzling as I drove to the park. The only other person parked in the lot at that early hour was a runner who returned to his car shortly after I arrived. He hadn't noticed any problem with the stream crossings which greatly relieved my mind. In fact, the thirsty ground had absorbed most of the rain, the creeks had calmed down, and everyone was able to manage their course. Later in the day, the sun appeared and gave us a beautiful afternoon.

Thanks to a stellar cast of volunteers, the day went smoothly and I even felt uncharacteristically relaxed! The first to volunteer, as soon as the event went up on the schedule, was Lisa Seifert, who was invaluable. She showed up early to set up, handled registration all day, and then

picked up controls. As any event director can tell you, while help usually materializes during the day, having someone volunteer ahead of time is a blessing.

John DeWolf and Tom Overbaugh ran the e-punching system. Due to a daylight savings issue with a couple of e-punching units, scores had 12, 24, or 36 hours added to them, much to our amusement. Tim Gilpatrick thought his 13-hour score sounded about right, since he felt as if he'd been out that long! Sandy Fillebrown did her usual programming magic and had the results repaired and online in no time. Valerie Meyer put everything up on Route Gadget.

Eric Weyman again consulted on the courses with Bob. Fred Kruesi printed the maps. Robert Buraczynski came just to help and spent several hours assisting with set up, beginner instruction, start, and packing up. Jed Clear arrived early to set up and work at start. David Seifert also helped at start and then picked up controls. Sandy Ahlswede spent several hours working at finish while sidelined with a leg injury. Mark Frank, despite car trouble, arrived with a pop-up tent and helped out with beginner instruction.

Other helpers with control pick-up were Art Bond, Tim Gilpatrick, Petr Hartman, Marie Arnesson, Clem McGrath, Dasha Babushok, Vadim Masalkov, and Ron Mavus. And, in a class by himself, John "Wrongway" Swaren, who hung all the West Side controls on Saturday, ran a red course, then a green course, and then went out again to pick up controls! Thanks to all who made our third Brandywine event a pleasure.



*Event director
Maryann Cassidy*

More adventures at Brandywine

This summer the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is holding its second annual Adventure Race series. The first event in the series was held the last weekend of June at Brandywine Creek State Park. The first leg of the event consisted of a 5-mile mountain bike ride—the one time of the year bikes are allowed on the trails on the west side of the Brandywine Creek. The second leg was a canoe ride on the Brandywine (first downstream, then back up). The event wrapped up with a short orienteering course. Because the park superintendent has had good experiences with DVOA's events at the park, she asked the club to design the orienteering leg.

DVOA President Ralph Tolbert stepped up to the challenge. Because he couldn't be certain of participants' experience with orienteering—and in keeping with the park's goal of everyone having an enjoyable experience—he decided to design a white course. In order to prevent following, he designed two white courses. As participants finished the canoe leg and came to the orienteering starting line, he alternated the maps he handed out. Before the event started, he provided a brief introduction to orienteering for people who hadn't previously participated in an O event.

Did prior experience with orienteering help? The second team to finish the canoe leg left the O start about five minutes behind the first team. However, that second team—consisting of two people who both have orienteering experience—finished first, winning the event, despite the fact that one of the team members dislocated his shoulder during the bike leg.

Ralph heard some suggestions (from those participants with orienteering experience) to make the course a little more challenging next year. After all, experienced mountain bikers have an advantage over inexperienced bikers; experienced canoers have an advantage over those less experienced. Why shouldn't those with orienteering experience have an advantage of those who have not yet learned about cunning running?

Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area, Md.

Event Directors: Clem McGrath and Dasha Babushok - Course Design: Sandy Fillebrown

On a gloriously sunny and warm Saturday, April 15, orienteers amassed at the eastern edge of the Fair Hill expanse for some non-taxing O-adventures. They were treated to some great courses from special celebrity guest course setter Sandy Fillebrown, who set courses to take advantage of unused terrain on the east side of the main north-south river, the Elk Creek. Sandy also set two adventure race courses (long—10KM—but with simple navigation) for racers on foot or bike. (See the following article.) Hopefully, some of those who tried those courses will come back for more.

Horses are abundant at Fair Hill, and that day was not an exception. With the start and finish set up in the corner of a large field, runners and meet workers could watch horses go by on their own equine adventure.

On the regular courses, DVOA juniors turned in some noteworthy performances. Of special note: Chase and Dayne Thatcher winning white and yellow, respectively, with time to spare; Hunter Cornish smoking the field on green, and Greg Ahlswede outdueling his dad on the blue

course. Kudos all around!

From the meet directors' perspective, what made this event notable was the outpouring of help. We want to again thank everyone who so graciously helped make the Fair Hill event so successful.

First and foremost, Sandy Fillebrown, who did virtually everything from courses, to printing, to hanging, to e-punching. Truly, there was very little left for us to do.

Valerie Meyer, who came up from QOC-land with her professional e-punching finish operation to manage results. (She even entered all the white and yellow results to boot!)

The Franks, who worked their well-known magic from 10AM to the very end. They also brought tents that were much appreciated on a sunny day.

Then, there were throngs of other helpers as well...

- Ralph Tolbert and Jim Eagleton (along with Sandy), who helped to hang controls and lug water on Friday.
- Tim Walsh, Tom Overbaugh, and

Andrew Wright, who handled start and finish.

- Ron Bortz, who judiciously placed signs.
- Sharon Edwards, who helped out at results.

In fact, we had so many people for control pickup, people had to be turned away (seriously!). But those whose help we accepted include:

- Karl and Greg Ahlswede
- Johnny WrongWay (RightWay)
- Maryann Cassidy
- Ann, Lou, Max, Severine, and Oh
- Robert Frank
- Petr Hartman
- Vadim (Speedy)

And there may have been more. I'm very sorry if we missed anyone. We are grateful for all the help and enthusiasm. We are so lucky in DVOA to have such enthusiastic and eager helpers. It makes putting on a meet a blast.

Thanks!

Clem and Dasha

Adventure Race Courses

Sandy Fillebrown

As the course setter for the Fair Hill event in April and someone who has tried a few adventure races, I decided to add some courses to the usual slate of white through blue that might appeal to adventure racers, mountain-bike enthusiasts and trail runners. With little extra work, I was able to add what I called an AR-Bike course and an AR-Trek course. The simplest way to describe the AR-Bike and Trek courses are as 10km white or yellow courses. The bike course was designed so you stayed on trails for the most part (perhaps dashing off into the woods for 10 meters to punch the control), and the trek course was designed so you could follow trails or linear features like streams and field edges if you wanted but there were also significant advantages to be gained by cutting through the woods in several places.

I didn't decide to add in these courses until the last minute, so there wasn't much advertising done. I had a friend post it in a few mailing lists for adventure racers and posted a brief message on the DVOA e-board, but that was about it. Despite the lack of publicity, we had several people try each course. The results, particularly the DNFs, are a little misleading – there was one flat tire and several who knew when they started that they only wanted to do part of the course and not the whole thing.

Luckily, adding these two courses required very, very little extra work. There were not many additional controls since they used some of the white and yellow controls already set and the additional controls were on linear features nearby the more advanced controls on the blue and red courses. Since I had to be out there hanging those controls anyway, a couple extra in the vicinity was not a big deal.

Fair Hill is ideally suited for these kinds of courses since it has a vast trail network and all trails allow mountain bikes. It would not work in all our parks, but if you're setting courses and it's feasible, consider setting an AR-Bike or AR-Trek course. We don't get a chance to do bike-O that often, and there are many people who want the technical challenge of a yellow course with the distance of a blue course. And if you decide to offer these courses, let me know, and I'll try to get the word out to the adventure racing community and others who might not normally come to an orienteering event.



Iron Hill, New Castle County Park, DE

Event Director / Course Designer: Tom Overbaugh

May 14th was Mother's Day and, appropriately enough, Anne "Big Momma" Fitch led off the festivities with an early 9:00 am start on the Red Course. As the morning wore on, the event was progressing smoothly until one of the Yellow finishers reported in with a nasty puncture wound on her upper arm. She had taken a creative route choice that involved a perimeter road and a close approach to some private property. Seeing that it would be necessary to cross the private property to access a trail, she asked for permission from the owner who was outside. He readily consented, but his dog was less agreeable and promptly bit her on the arm as she ventured into the yard!

Iron Man honors go to Joby Hilliker, who ran the White, Yellow, Brown, and Green courses (15.2 km, 385m climb, 46 controls). Efforts to persuade him to complete the sweep by running Orange and Red were met with a blank stare.

A fair number of new trails have appeared at Iron Hill since the last map update. In an attempt to minimize the confusion this can cause, I field-checked the new trails and Fred Kruesi overprinted them on the map using OCAD. This worked well and allowed me to take the Yellow participants into an area of the map that they probably had not visited during previous events.

Thanks to all the helpers: Lisa Seifrit, Tania & Christine Analiz, Andy Green, Jim Puzo, John Swaren, Maryann Cassidy, Steve Haas, and Bob Burg. A big thanks also to Fred Kruesi for printing the courses on the maps and overprinting the trails.

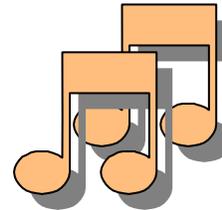
Tom Overbaugh

Exchange seen on DVOA's electronic message board earlier this year:

Quick: Name this O'Tune:

*The trees are drawing me near,
I've got to find out why;
Those gentle voices I hear,
Explain it all with a sigh.
I'm looking at myself, reflections of my mind;
It's just the kind of day to leave myself behind.*

Courtesy of Johny WrongWay



First answer provided by Kathy Urban: Awww, what a nice Moody Blues tune: Tuesday Afternoon. Thanks for the reminder. Very *a propos*, a real o-tune for sure. I'll be hearing it in my head all day.

Found on the DVOA e-board May 8. See: it's not all fun and games. Wait: yes, it is!
Any other suggestions for O'Tunes?

And while you're at Hickory Run...

Boulder Field at Hickory Run

By Caroline Ringo

Orienteers usually don't want to go "off the map," but this fall at Hickory Run, we'll encourage you to do just that. Not during the competition or training, of course, but later on. Perhaps before dinner on Saturday or on your way out of the park on Sunday you should find the sign that says "to the boulder field" and follow it about a mile and a half after you cross under the Northeast Extension of the turnpike. This one-way road is suitable for cars and, after passing the boulder field, will bring you back "on the map" north of Sand Spring Lake.

The Boulder Field, declared a National Natural Landmark, has remained relatively unchanged for more than 20,000 years. It is an almost flat area of about 400 by 1800 feet and is striking because of the absence of vegetation. Although the surface is rough in detail, the overall appearance is one of remarkable smoothness and flatness. There are boulders of all sizes, some measuring as much as 26 feet long. The most likely theory of the origin of the Boulder Field is that when the Wisconsin ice sheet was nearby, the low temperatures froze the subsoil to a great depth and established a permafrost region such as we have in the Arctic and Antarctic regions today. This prevented moisture from seeping into the subsoil, and the surface soil became saturated. When the surface temperature was above freezing, the surface soil flowed down toward the valley. At the same time frost action caused heaving and thrusting of the bedrock. The surface soil mixed with these large blocks of rock and furnished a sled for these rocks to slide down to their present location in the valley. When the ice sheet moved away, normal processes of weathering set in. Geologists call this process periglacial solifluction and refer to the Boulder Field as a physiographic fossil.



Originally published in the September 1990 issue of The Briar Patch

Run the Unique South Jersey Pinelands – November 11th and 12th, 2006**BATONA 500 A-Event****Day 1:** Middle/Classic Distance Event – Batsto, Wharton State Forest, NJ**Day 2:** Classic Distance Event – Pakim Pond, Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, NJ

Maps both days- 1:10 000, with 2.5 meter contours

Event Director – Vadim Masalkov Course Setters – Rick Slater and Bob Burg

Registrar – John DeWolf Map Coordinator – Eric Weyman Course Vetter – Karl Ahlswede

The **Batona Trail** is approximately 50 miles long and passes through both of the parks we will be using, which means that on both days, you will be running along and/or across this favorite local trail. The Batona Trail was planned as a wilderness trail, and yet only low rolling hills and occasional sandy or wet areas are its most severe test. It traverses features typical of the Pinelands – slow meandering, tea-colored, cedar water streams supporting cedar swamps and bogs; sandy high grounds anchoring tall pitch pines; and deserted sand roads that once led to thriving towns and industries, passing through oak-pine forests, along cranberry reservoirs and blueberry farms.

HISTORY

While **Sunday's Pakim Pond** terrain has been used for orienteering for decades, only DVOA's founding parents, South Jersey natives Kent and Caroline Ringo, know exactly how long. The new mapping of Pakim Pond covers only the most usable 65 to 70 percent of the original mapped area. This area will be further divided into two overlapping map sheets to accommodate the new, larger map scale of 1:10,000. (Visit www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/byrne.html for more information.)

Saturday's Batsto terrain is a brand-new area for orienteering, but its potential has been known almost as long as we have been using Pakim Pond. Eric Weyman and Mikell Platt independently co-discovered the area. Eric probably spotted it first on a USGS map in the late 70's while at Rutgers University. But Mikell probably set foot on it first, around 1988, coincidentally while mapping Four Mile Circle, the original color version of Pakim Pond. Batsto is located within Wharton State Forest, which covers more than 110,000 acres, making it the largest single tract of land within the New Jersey State Park System.

The Batsto terrain was used for charcoal making to support the early glass industry at Batsto Historic Village. (Visit www.bastovillage.org for more information.) The area was reportedly covered by a network of charcoal burning grounds, but there is no surface evidence of this today. Perhaps the charcoal terraces eroded away in the sandy soil, or perhaps the land was so flat no terraces were needed to stabilize the burning. While field checking, we did notice features resembling collier's hut ditch mounds, but only a couple were deemed strong enough to make the map.

TERRAIN

Both Batsto and Pakim Pond are part of the New Jersey Pinelands, formerly known as the Pine Barrens, home to the mythical Jersey Devil, namesake of the NHL hockey team. Despite the name, the forest is not entirely pines. While much of the Pinelands is flat, thick and wet pine and cedar lowlands, the upland forest where most of the orienteering will take place changes to a mix of pine and oak. Though not hilly by normal standards, these uplands are high enough to possess small pockets of detailed contour features. Blueberry and similar bushes dominate the ground vegetation, but become shorter and sparser with elevation gain. Unique to the area is an extensive network of fire ditches, some as distinct as trails, some only subtle depressions in the woods.

The Pinelands has a uniquely simple beauty: sandy soil, generally excellent visibility, forest floor with low to medium ground cover, pine needles and moss, full of orienteering challenges that test navigating skills without the boulders and steep hillsides to wear you out.

Come join us in November for two days of special orienteering on these two never-before-used maps!*Full event details and online registration will be available on the DVOA website at www.dvoa.org*

The Batsto Story

“Batsto” stems from the word “baatstoo” or “steam bath” used by the Scandinavians and the Dutch, and was borrowed by the Indians and used as “bathing place.” Old deeds often mentioned “an Indian Batstow.”

While the Lenni-Lenape Indians hunted and fished in the area, the first permanent settlers were primarily wood cutters and sawmill operators. With the discovery of bog ore, iron furnaces were built, bringing more people of varied skills and related occupations into the Pine Barrens. During the late 1700s and early 1800s, towns and villages developed along rivers and streams, which were easily impounded and utilized as a source of power for the mills, furnaces and forges. These industries, and the later ones of glass and paper production, are now significant in the interpretation of the industrial heritage and development of South Jersey.

Much of the historical interest centers on the iron industry that flourished in the Pine Barrens at the time of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The iron to make munitions and supplies for these conflicts was obtained from bog ore found along the streams and in the swamps of the area and supplied to the local furnaces and forges. By the mid-19th century, however, the iron furnaces were silent. The decline of this industry, and later those of glass and paper, marked the decline and eventual disappearance of the towns and villages which had strung up around them.

Batsto survived, in part, because Joseph Wharton, a Philadelphia industrialist and financier, purchased it in 1876 and developed it as a gentleman's farm. He also continued to amass his South Jersey properties with the intent of damming the streams and selling the water to Camden and Philadelphia. This plan was never realized, and when Wharton died in 1909, his South Jersey lands comprised approximately 96,000 acres. The estate remained intact, and when the State of New Jersey purchased it in 1954 and 1955 as a watershed and recreation area, it ensured the survival of this unique natural and cultural environment.

Batsto Village is the site of a former bog iron and glassmaking industrial center (1766-1867) that now reflects the agricultural and commercial enterprises of Joseph Wharton during the years 1876-1909. Visitors to the 19th century Pine Barrens village can learn about the industry, commerce and agriculture that once thrived here. The village consists of 33 historic buildings and structures, including a gristmill, sawmill, general store and mansion. A visitor center contains exhibits and a museum shop. Historic trades are demonstrated during the summer months.

Batsto Furnace was rebuilt twice, in 1786 and 1829. It furnished munitions for the War of 1812 as well as the American Revolution. Water pipers for eastern cities were made there and transported by schooner via the Mullica River. Some of the vessels were built and owned by Batsto. Other products included many firebacks now in museums, the former fence around Independence Square in Philadelphia, and the cylinder for John Fitch's fourth steamboat.

Its glasshouses produced flat glass used for window panes and gas lamps of the period. Like the furnace products, much of it was shipped by schooner to cities up and down the coast.

With the mansion on the hill, the workers' homes across the river, and the industries in between—furnace, gristmill, sawmill, glassworks, brickyard—Batsto once was a community of nearly a thousand people. It played an important part in the industrial development of the United States. Below is a short timeline of the history of Batsto.

- 1758 The Batsto lands were acquired from the West Jersey Proprietors by John Munrow.
- 1766 Batsto Furnace was erected by Charles Read of Burlington, a distinguished lawyer, Supreme Court Justice, Assemblyman, and an ironmaster. Read and four others built Batsto as one of a chain of four southern New Jersey ironworks.
- 1770 Col. John Cox of Philadelphia acquired control of the ironworks. Ardent patriot and Assistant Quartermaster General, he cast cannon and cannon balls at Batsto for the Revolutionary Army. Batsto was considered so important that men working there were exempt from military service.
- 1778 A British force attacked Chestnut Neck, an important shipping harbor 15 miles to the east, and threatened to destroy a second harbor at nearby Forks as well as the Batsto Ironworks. However, the force retreated before moving inland due to the approach of Pulaski's Legion. That same year Batsto was sold to Thomas Mayberry, Ironmaster.
- 1823 William Richards, who had acquired Batsto in 1778, died, and Batsto was bought at auction by his grandson, Thomas S. Richards. Jesse remained as manager, bought a half interest in 1829 and rebuilt the furnace that year.
- 1841 A new cupola, or re-smelting furnace, was built
- 1846 The first Batsto glass factory was built.
- 1848 The old Batsto furnace fires went out for the last time; a second glassworks was built in February.
- 1858 Batsto Furnace is dismantled.
- 1867 Batsto glass enterprises failed.
- 1874 More than half the village was destroyed by fire.
- 1876 Joseph Wharton, Philadelphia financier, acquired the Batsto property at a Masters Sale for \$14,000.

Sources: *Historic Batsto*, reprinted and revised by the Batsto Citizens Committee in May 1989 and brochure published by New Jersey State Park Service.

NOTE: For more information about this area, see #177 in the DVOA library, [Forgotten Towns of Southern New Jersey](#) by Henry Carlton Beck.

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

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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.

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"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!



Training Tip

Getting to There from Here

Peter Amran

Reprinted from *The NEOC Times*, Feb/March 2006

Few activities of human design punish impulsivity with the dispassionate ruthlessness of orienteering. Accordingly, it pays to have solid methodology while out in the woods searching for those elusive little orange-and-white triangular markers.

An experienced orienteer plans a route backwards. (Please note the sequencing in the title of this essay.) Start by identifying the target. "What am I looking for?" is the first question. (And by the way, if you have just found #5, be sure that you look at the information about #6 and not #7, for even the best of them occasionally skip a control.) Is the terrain feature high or low; is it big or small? And where is the marker at the feature? The writer honed in on one control by climbing a ridge line early so as to be at the top of a 4-meter cliff. But the control marker and punch were at the bottom, as properly advertised on the control description slip. I had retained in my mind the placement from the previous control, which was on top of a knoll. This mistake needlessly cost me some time.

If the marker is on the east side of a 1-meter boulder in intricate terrain, a route coming from the east might be best. If the target is in a reentrant, you will want the reentrant first and the exact location later. If the target is on the north side of a boulder field and you are approaching from the

south, you will probably want to circle around the boulders.

Having identified the terrain feature and noted any potential difficulties, the next task is to find an attack point. The attack point is the most important concept in advanced orienteering. (The most important skill, incidentally, is reading contours accurately.) An attack point is a large point feature, i.e., a definite, relatively easy-to-find location on both the map and on the ground, as close as possible to the control. On an advanced course, the attack point may be 200 or more meters away from the target. On an Orange course, it should be closer, if possible. On the White course, the attack point and the control are the same thing, as the target is always a specific point on the trail itself. On a Yellow course, the attack point is intuitive, as it is the point on the trail at which the control marker is visible.

Splendid attack points are large boulders or cliffs, a sharp bend or intersection in a linear feature (trail, stream, stone wall), the top of a reentrant or the top of a small knoll. Poor attack points include a curving trail bend, the vague corner of a vegetation or water boundary, or the top of a large knoll or hill. You need something specific to start from.

From the attack point, the orienteer will plan to approach the control circle by reading the local terrain, including contour

lines. As a precaution, it is definitely wise to take a bearing to be sure you are heading in the right direction, but an approach that depends entirely on a compass bearing is probably not so secure as one based on landmarks: specific terrain features. Therefore, you should go out of your way to select a strong attack point, even if it means traveling beyond the area of the target to reach something you cannot miss.

After picking an attack point, read BACKWARDS from the attack point to find linear features that lead towards your present position. If several linear features seem equally useful (e.g., there are two trails, one on each side of the pond that lies between you and the attack point), don't agonize about which one to take. Pick one and get going. As long as a route takes you in the right direction, it is the correct choice.

Just as in our automotive society, a car will get you to where you want to go. CAR is the useful acronym:

C = control; what is it and how best to approach it

A = attack point; one you can't miss and which leads to the control

R = route a simple linear approach to the attack point

And thus, you will cheerfully and speedily get to There from Here, which is the whole point of this splendid activity.



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