



Notes from the Briar Patch

Delaware Valley
Orienteering Association

March 2007

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President's Column

Where we've been, where we're going

This year DVOA celebrates 40 years of orienteering in the Delaware Valley. Think about the changes that have taken place in the course of those 40 years.

The first orienteering event in the area was held Nov. 5, 1967, at Valley Forge State Park (that's right, it was a *state* park back way back when). The first map used (reproduced inside on page 10) was a black-and-white photocopy of a USGS topographic map. There were two courses: a short version (2.5 k, or 1.5 miles) and a long version (5 k, or 3 miles). The event attracted 32 people. There were no symbols for the clues, just a word or two: valley, top, field corner, house, pine trees.

We now have 54 five-color maps of county, state and national parks in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Delaware; in addition, we have eight maps derived from existing maps. We typically offer seven levels of courses, and on average our local events attract 140 people. And one of our own members, Fred Kruesi, designed a software program to lay out clue sheets using the descriptive International Orienteering Federation symbols that help orienteers know in advance what they're looking for as they approach a control.

DVOA held its first national-level, or A-event, in 1982. Since then we've held 50 days of A-events. Our most recent is coming up at Fair Hill on the weekend of March 31 and April.

Our club's newsletter, originally called *Compass Points*, was started by Hugh MacMullan III in 1977. Now called *Notes from the Briar Patch*, the

newsletter is still published quarterly. Last year we started posting past issues on the club's web site.

Our web site, created by Rick Slater, was launched in April 1994. As far as Rick knows, it was the world's first web site devoted to orienteering. Rick's stats page shows an average 13 daily hits that first week, up to 283 by the end of the year. Now administered by Kent Shaw, our current web site on average day gets



In the early days, people wrote on their scorecards the letters they saw on the controls they visited. Then we moved to the box-kite-like nylon controls with manual pin punches used to prove a visit. And in 2001 we started using electronic punching. Initially we just used e-punching at national-level events. In recent years, improvements to the software and hardware make it easy enough to use at local events.

I've been orienteering for more than 15 years. In those years, one thing I've noticed that hasn't changed is the passion many of our members feel for the sport—not just enjoying it themselves but spreading their fervor beyond the club and exposing more people to this wonderful sport.

How many years have you been orienteering? What highlights are most memorable to you?

See you in the woods.

Ralph Tolbert

Recollections of DVOA's formative years

Caroline Ringo, DVOA archivist

The first orienteering event staged in the Delaware Valley was held by Harald Wibye at Valley Forge in the fall of 1967; that same year he held two more events at Valley Forge.

In 1968 Harald held spring events at Earle's Lake (near our Willows/Skunk Hollow map) and on the campus of Swarthmore College. He encouraged us to attend an April 20th event at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in New York state, promising the first three-color map in the US. (Bjorn Kjellstrom, inventor of the Silva compass, whose home was adjacent to the park, funded the map.)

Harald returned to Norway and passed along responsibility to work associate George Chang, who held two events at Valley Forge in the fall of 1968. George held two more events on the same map in 1969 before bowing out to spend more time in competitive swimming.

Kent and Caroline Ringo and Dave and Linda Chamberlain, all New Jersey residents who had become hooked on the sport, held the first New Jersey event in the Deep Hollow section of Lebanon State Forest (north of Rt 70) on December 7, 1969.

In 1970 there were four spring events. New areas included the Pakim Pond area of Lebanon Forest and our first map of French Creek. In the fall of 1970 there were three events, including, a new location in the Wissahickon section of Fairmount Park with Bob and Edie McNair as event directors.

In 1971 we held a total of seven events, with Rancocas State Park in New Jersey and Hickory Run State Park in Pennsylvania as new locations.

In 1972 we again had seven events. Dave and Kathy Jackson held an event at a new location in Port Clinton, PA and

(Continued on page 6)

2006 Top Ten Lists and Club Rankings

Compiled by Kent Shaw, DVOA club statistician

The most improved Junior last year was Dayne Thatcher, whose score improved from 38.8 points to 50.1. Congratulations, Dayne. Congratulations, too, to Chase and Corey Thatcher, two brothers who are only separated by one point. Alison Campbell, first in Women 14-18 (and fifth among Women Overall) continues her streak at that position started in 2002. Among Women Overall, Angelica Riley is a tre-peat: she has lead the club for the last three years straight. Among Men Overall: Wyatt Riley is in fourth, but he's coming off a bad injury: look out next year. In third place: Flavius Craciunas, a recent new member who looks very promising; Vadim Masalkov gave a great year of solid performances; and Clem McGrath, second year in a row in first place, 8th winning year (2006, 2005, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1995, 1994). Clem's overall pace for the year was 7.17 per kilometer.

Looking at the top 10 lists, Brian Supplee once again was the top club member in most distance orienteered (207.6k), greatest climb (5120 m) and most controls visited (456).

This year was had 5313 total orienteers for a total distance of 23,225 km, 547,170 m climb and 63,438 controls punched. The total number of ranked runners was 182; average age was 41.67.

Most Distance Orienteered

Men

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Distance
1	Brian Supplee	M50	DVOA	207.62
2	Udaya Bollineni	M21	DVOA	188.21
3	Rick Whiffen	M55	DVOA	144.61
4	Vadim Masalkov	M35	DVOA	129.40
5	Karl Ahlswede	M45	DVOA	127.56
6	Mark Frank	M50	DVOA	127.49
7	Petr Hartman	M40	DVOA	126.96
8	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	124.57
9	Bob Burg	M60	DVOA	121.95
10	Patrick Shannon	M21	DVOA	116.11

Women

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Distance
1	Dasha Babushok	F21	DVOA	98.44
2	Sharon Siegler	F55	DVOA	88.22
3	Maryann Cassidy	F50	DVOA	83.89
4	Kathy Urban	F60	DVOA	79.31
5	Mary Frank	F45	DVOA	78.46
6	Sandy Ahlswede	F35	DVOA	75.74
7	Kathleen Geist	F50	DVOA	75.61
8	Sandy Fillebrown	F50	DVOA	68.84
9	Julie Keim	F21	SVO	59.94
10	Mary Plunkett	F55	DVOA	59.27

Greatest Climb

Men

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Climb
1	Brian Supplee	M50	DVOA	5120.0
2	Udaya Bollineni	M21	DVOA	4767.0
3	Rick Whiffen	M55	DVOA	3897.0
4	Mark Frank	M50	DVOA	3684.0
5	Karl Ahlswede	M45	DVOA	3645.0
6	Vadim Masalkov	M35	DVOA	3635.0
7	Petr Hartman	M40	DVOA	3356.0
8	Bob Burg	M60	DVOA	3277.0
9	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	3200.0
10	Ury Backiev	M45	DVOA	2872.0

Women

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Climb
1	Dasha Babushok	F21	DVOA	2444.0
2	Sharon Siegler	F55	DVOA	2316.0
3	Maryann Cassidy	F50	DVOA	2105.0
4	Kathy Urban	F60	DVOA	2008.0
5	Mary Frank	F45	DVOA	1978.0

6	Sandy Fillebrown	F50	DVOA	1974.0
7	Sandy Ahlswede	F35	DVOA	1973.0
8	Kathleen Geist	F50	DVOA	1965.0
9	Julie Keim	F21	SVO	1671.0
10	Mary Plunkett	F55	DVOA	1363.0

Most Controls Punched

Men

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Controls
1	Brian Supplee	M50	DVOA	456
2	Udaya Bollineni	M21	DVOA	414
3	Rick Whiffen	M55	DVOA	328
4	Petr Hartman	M40	DVOA	295
5	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	284
6	Patrick Shannon	M21	DVOA	283
7	Bob Burg	M60	DVOA	281
8	Mark Frank	M50	DVOA	278
9	Karl Ahlswede	M45	DVOA	271
10	Vadim Masalkov	M35	DVOA	267

Women

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Controls
1	Dasha Babushok	F21	DVOA	234
2	Sharon Siegler	F55	DVOA	221
3	Maryann Cassidy	F50	DVOA	209
4	Kathy Urban	F60	DVOA	197
5	Kathleen Geist	F50	DVOA	194
6	Mary Plunkett	F55	DVOA	194
7	Mary Frank	F45	DVOA	192
8	Sandy Ahlswede	F35	DVOA	191
9	Sandy Fillebrown	F50	DVOA	153
10	Julie Keim	F21	SVO	141

Fastest Pace

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Pace	# Events
1	Eddie Bergeron	M21	SVO	7:08	5
2	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	7:17	14
3	Jon Torrence	M21	QOC	7:20	4
4	Sergei Gnatiouk	M35	HVO	7:48	8
5	Florin Tencariu	M21	DVOA	8:09	4
6	Sergei Fedorov	M21	DVOA	8:10	10
7	Wyatt Riley	M21	DVOA	8:12	9
8	Randy Hall	M21	DVOA	8:12	13
9	Vadim Masalkov	M35	DVOA	8:20	15
10	Brad Whitmore	M50	SVO	8:57	4

2006 Overall Leaders

Men

Pl	Name	Class	Score
1	Clem McGrath	M21	100.26
2	Adam Masalkov	M35	94.91
3	Flavius Craciunas	M21	93.69
4	Wyatt Riley	M21	91.81
5	Florin Tencariu	M21	90.17

Women

Pl	Name	Class	Score
1	Angelica Riley	F21	66.53
2	Dasha Babushok	F21	59.88
3	Sandy Fillebrown	F50	58.79
4	Marie Arnesson	F21	56.31
5	Alison Campbell	F16	52.69

Age 14-17 Champions

Men

Pl	Name	Class	Score
1	Greg Ahlswede	M18	63.96
2	Dayne Thatcher	M14	50.11
3	Daniel Miraski	M18	41.80
4	Dylan Singley	M14	40.32
5	Brian Chang	M16	26.03

Women

Pl	Name	Class	Score
1	Alison Campbell	F16	52.69
2	Susan Cornish	F18	34.18

Under 14 Champions

Men

Pl	Name	Class	Score
1	Chase Thatcher	M10	30.35
2	Corey Thatcher	M12	29.34
3	Pavel Temkin	M12	25.85
4	Zachary Barker	M12	24.17
5	Knute Weber	M12	23.15

Women

Pl	Name	Class	Score
1	Nikki Singley	F12	21.88
2	Valerie Weber	F10	16.58

*Based on DVOA members participating in a minimum of four events in 2006

2006 Class Ranking for All Classes

Name	Class	Score	Name	Class	Score	Name	Class	Score
Valerie Weber	F10	16.58	Dayne Thatcher	M14	50.11	Bob Rycharski	M45	39.29
Nikki Singley	F12	21.88	Dylan Singley	M14	40.32	Blake Stoffers	M45	38.84
Alison Campbell	F16	52.69	Robert Frank	M14	21.42	Tim Gilpatrick	M45	38.65
Susan Cornish	F18	34.18	Brian Chang	M16	26.03	Phil Bird	M45	33.90
Christine Alaniz	F20	40.19	Greg Ahlswede	M18	63.96	Jim Puzo	M45	33.01
Angelica Riley	F21	66.53	Daniel Miraski	M18	41.80	Robert Smith	M45	32.23
Dasha Babushok	F21	59.88	Hunter Cornish	M20	67.82	David Hanks	M45	30.98
Marie Arnesson	F21	56.31	Eddie Bergeron	M21	104.83	Roger Broome	M45	30.82
Kerry Shannon	F21	47.68	Clem McGrath	M21	100.26	Paul Schumann	M45	27.96
Julie Keim	F21	45.02	Flavius Craciunas	M21	93.69	Brad Whitmore	M50	79.98
Kathy Allen	F21	39.68	Wyatt Riley	M21	91.81	Chuck Crabb	M50	76.90
Carol Kluchinski	F21	29.30	Florin Tencariu	M21	90.17	Mark Frank	M50	70.03
Megan Ross	F21	28.02	Randy Hall	M21	86.76	Mark Cornish	M50	69.17
Deb Brady	F21	16.73	Chris Gross	M21	84.38	Jim Eagleton	M50	66.35
Sandy Ahlswede	F35	52.32	Sergei Fedorov	M21	84.17	Robert Meyer	M50	60.12
Galina Rokhinson	F35	43.37	Michael Frei	M21	75.85	Brian Supplee	M50	57.13
Anne Fitch	F40	46.46	Patrick Shannon	M21	71.54	Bob Gross	M50	50.11
Billie Jo Miraski	F40	39.98	Matt Ross	M21	60.54	Ralph Tolbert	M50	49.53
Tracy Acuff	F40	33.33	Udaya Bollineni	M21	57.30	Ron Mavus	M50	48.32
Cindi Pizziketh	F40	32.04	Shane Campbell	M21	52.74	Dale Parson	M50	46.04
Colleen Bracken	F40	30.10	Mike Adams	M21	49.40	Fred Kruesi	M50	41.96
Lisa Seifrit	F40	24.20	Joel Allen	M21	49.30	Howard Frysinger	M50	41.51
Mary Frank	F45	52.48	Joby Hilliker	M21	46.35	Mike Ahern	M50	41.34
Valerie Meyer	F45	49.61	Ben Canales	M21	42.48	Ron Barron	M50	37.69
Carol Connelly	F45	27.89	Juergen Lunkwitz	M21	40.18	Ken Miraski	M50	36.52
Pat Burton	F45	25.43	Derek Ziegler	M21	36.16	Tim Marino	M50	36.00
Sandy Fillebrown	F50	58.79	Rich Whiffen	M21	24.49	Mike Scaringi	M50	33.44
Nancy Sharp	F50	41.09	Vadim Masalkov	M35	94.91	David Walton	M50	32.55
Audra Supplee	F50	37.68	Chris Steere	M35	60.41	George Treisner	M50	31.56
Kathy King	F50	36.07	Matthew Campbell	M35	51.27	K. I. McCane	M50	29.94
Linda Ahern	F50	31.60	Eric Pevoto	M35	49.93	Ed Hause	M50	22.67
Kathleen Geist	F50	30.98	David Seifrit	M35	46.96	Ron Bortz	M55	71.69
Sue Harford	F50	29.15	Bob Burton	M35	38.36	Rob Wilkison	M55	55.21
Karen Ort	F50	27.69	Andras Revesz	M40	74.68	Bob Fink	M55	54.61
Maryann Cassidy	F50	26.97	Petr Hartman	M40	65.44	Rick Whiffen	M55	37.79
Deb Samans	F50	24.46	Johny Wrongway	M40	59.82	Tim Walsh	M55	36.29
Donna Terefenko	F50	23.94	Tim Starn	M40	51.35	Rich Plunkett	M55	36.09
Pat Keim	F50	23.18	Andy Green	M40	50.34	John T. Ort	M55	35.94
Magaret McGoldrick	F50	21.60	Billy Allaband	M40	49.41	Kent Shaw	M55	35.76
Sheryl Meyer	F50	21.09	Chris Young	M40	47.82	Mike Borovicka	M55	32.33
Christine Hertzog	F50	16.13	Tom Olds	M40	47.39	Michael Forbes	M55	32.26
Sharon Siegler	F55	29.56	Steven Getz	M40	40.85	Larry Geist	M55	31.50
Judy Scott	F55	26.75	Michael Metzger	M40	34.09	Barry Landis	M55	29.38
Tory Lingg	F55	26.13	Mark Jacobson	M40	30.57	Tom Chambers	M55	25.19
Mary Plunkett	F55	22.04	Art Bond	M40	27.09	Bob Burg	M60	56.83
Kathy Urban	F60	22.37	Jeff Hanlon	M40	24.47	Dave Darrah	M60	51.30
Diane Shannon	F60	18.75	John Kalicki	M40	18.46	Ed Scott	M60	49.99
Peg Edwards	F65	28.41	Dan Barker	M45	41.35	Ron Wood	M60	47.79
Brenda Harder	F65	26.90	Tom Overbaugh	M45	82.38	Paul Kusko	M60	46.20
Caroline Ringo	F75	15.86	John Campbell	M45	77.08	Bruce Zeidman	M60	43.98
Chase Thatcher	M10	30.35	Jim Rayburn	M45	76.27	Carl Marcus	M60	42.65
Corey Thatcher	M12	29.34	Karl Ahlswede	M45	70.58	Theo Zaharia	M60	32.89
Pavel Temkin	M12	25.85	Istvan Nagy	M45	69.48	Roger Hartley	M60	32.45
Zachary Barker	M12	24.17	Scott Thatcher	M45	61.09	Dave Urban	M60	31.90
Knute Weber	M12	23.15	Mike Bertram	M45	60.20	Mark Kern	M60	26.47
Jacob Hellier	M14	37.70	Ury Backiev	M45	58.36	Roger Martin	M60	23.96
			Guy Olsen	M45	56.02	Hugh MacMullan III	M65	45.78
			Francis Hogle	M45	48.63	Bill Shannon	M65	42.87
			Fred Reed	M45	48.03	John Edwards	M65	34.13
			Ron Cook	M45	46.87	John Williams	M65	27.50
			Steve Aronson	M45	45.81	Merle Kohn	M70	19.59
			James Leh, Sr.	M45	43.61	Jim Browne	M80	28.65
			Jay Wilshire	M45	42.62	Kent Ringo	M85	14.94
			Kim Pelle	M45	41.70			

The Ringos' Annual Service Awards: Recognizing those who advance the sport of orienteering

In 1993 Kent and Caroline Ringo established an annual award to honor outstanding service to our club. Speed and orienteering prowess are not the criteria; the intent is to honor some of those who, by their dedication, inspiration and hard work, have contributed to the growth of DVOA.



Mike Bertram & Kathy King

Mike Bertram orienteered in England for a couple of years before coming to the United States; he joined our club in 1987. At that time he listed his occupation as a computer manager and his hobbies as squash (he later gave up squash to focus on orienteering) and correspondence chess. He is married to Kathy King; their house is on the Mount Misery map of Valley Forge. That is fortunate for us, as they are responsible for mapping not only the Mount Misery area but also the new Valley Forge West map, which includes the Freedom Foundation that we used for the first time this past year.

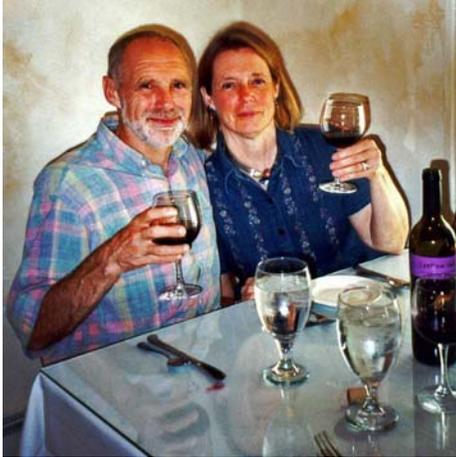


Photo courtesy of Peg Edwards

Kathy was an engineer, though she and Mike are now both retired. Mike introduced Kathy to orienteering soon after they met. They are active in conservation organizations, doing such activities as trail cleanup and removal of invasive plants, which further good relationships with the parks we use. We depend on them to keep us up to date on the planned improvements at Valley Forge. Besides mapping new locations, they have served in many helper jobs and have been meet directors at French Creek, Warwick, Horseshoe Camp, Ridley Creek and all four locations at Valley Forge, among others. Mike also serves as A-event and environmental coordinator for our club.

Mike and Kathy got married in 2006. They had a small wedding comprising a party of four people; the other two people (the witnesses) were long-time club members John and Peggy Edwards.

John Campbell Family

John Campbell started orienteering in 1969 in his native Scotland and traveled to many events throughout Europe prior to coming to this country. He was a member of the Scottish Team in 1984 and a member of the winning team of the inaugural "Scottish Islands Peak Race," an adventure-sailing/hill-running race off the west coast of Scotland.

However, when deciding to come across the Atlantic, he must have investigated clubs in the US before he came. In August 1985, Kent and Caroline were walking from the parking area to the assembly area at the Scottish 6-Day Orienteering event wearing their O suits, (the old style with the smiling bunny), when one of the fellows directing traffic hailed us and came over to introduce himself. It was John Campbell, and he must have been watching for the DVOA logo. He explained that he was planning to come to the States, which he soon did, and joined our club in October of the same year. At first he had an individual membership, but by 1990 he was engaged to Carol, and a family membership followed.



John is an architect and his wife Carol an artist and design resource librarian. They live in Center City Philadelphia. John listed his hobbies as travel, photography, skiing, and hill walking. Carol's were very similar: art, travel and hiking.

John has always been an active volunteer in our club, helping in any capacity needed locally and at national events. He has led the advanced training at our annual Hickory Run Training weekend for several years. Back in the 1990s he served as a club trustee and was recently elected to serve again as a trustee. John helps occasionally, but her biggest contribution is supporting the rest of the family in their enthusiasm for our sport. John and Carol have two daughters: Alison, 15, and Heather, 11, who are ranked nationally and have brought home championship medals in their age categories. Alison in particular has her dad's passion for the sport, enjoys helping at events, contributes regularly to the e-board and does a lot to interest other teens in orienteering.

Robert Rycharski

Although he had orienteered as a Boy Scout, Bob Rycharski discovered orienteering as we know it about 1977 in a hike with a ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park, along with college classmates Bill Jameson and Guy Olsen. He continued to orienteer with his home club, Hudson Valley Orienteering, and feels he really began to develop his skills when he started helping with course design.

He was instrumental in mapping Quail Hill, a scout camp in Monmouth County, NJ and established good relationships so that the camp is available for our club events. He also helped map nearby Holmdel Park, site of our dual meet this past year with HVO.

Bob has helped with both the Mid-Atlantic Scout Championships at French Creek and the NJ Scout Championships at Washington Crossing State Park. This inspired him to start an annual scouting event at Quail Hill. He has also supervised an Eagle Scout project for Alan Smith, an O club member, which involved installation of a permanent course at Holmdel Park. Bob also helped revise/field check a pre-existing Perm O map at Quail Hill in 2006, with the help of DVOA's mapping directors. Bob has also helped at local and A-meets sponsored by DVOA.

On a national level, Bob has been the guiding force for USOF's National Orienteering Day, which takes place every year in September. In the year 2000 only 25 clubs participated; by 2004 participation had grown to 60 clubs. Bob used telephone, internet, news media and O promotion skills to publicize special NOD newcomer events. He collected donations of baseplate compasses, hats and other items to be given away, and stored and then distributed them to O clubs all over the country. He has also assisted as a vetter for a recent West Point (USMAOC) A event.

By profession, Bob is an electrical and systems engineer with Computer Sciences Corp. and works on a military support base. His wife, Annette, is a college adjunct professor at Felician College. They have a thirteen-year-old son, Greg, who also orienteers. Their hometown is Haskell, New Jersey, which is up near the New York state border (nearest O map is HVO's Ramapo State Park, just a one-mile hike to visit). Bob owns a 21-foot sailboat and is also a new member of the Garden State HO Model Railroad Club. He volunteers to assist with various Scout activities, organizing Scout camporees or Cub Scout hikes with orienteering themes, even remapping two local Klondike Derby event maps. He has been advisor on four Eagle or Gold Scout projects, and occasionally writes about them for *Orienteering North America* (ONA) magazine (see ONA March 2006 issue).

Although Bob lives far from most DVOA locations (he stated he would love to work in Pennsylvania so he could orienteer at even more DVOA events: make him an offer), we thank him for his work on a national level, his enthusiasm for introducing scouts to orienteering, and his efforts to provide more orienteering options in New Jersey.



Ringos' Annual Service Award recipients since 1993

1993

Paul Kusko: editor of *Notes from the Briar Patch* 1981-1986; researched and wrote about history of charcoal platforms.

Hugh MacMullan: publicity chair; started club newsletter in 1977 as *Compass Points*; helped get club's first color map (Ridley Creek).

John & Peg Edwards & Family: John and son Pete each served as DVOA president; mapped several parks; Peg sewed banners; daughter Sue named our mascot O'Hare.

1994

Bruce Case: course designer, president

Jim Browne: served in almost every capacity, including guest editor of *Notes from The Briar Patch*; ran the Start for World Orienteering Championships in 1983.

Lee and Larry Pedersen: After joining DVOA in 1979, on subsequent moves

Larry helped establish or revitalize clubs in Ohio, Texas and Michigan; Larry served as president of USOF; Lee and Larry helped found the Pocono Orienteering Club.

1995

Ed Scott family: Ed is a superb field checker, mapper and course designer. Judy coordinated many of the Saturday night dinners for DVOA A events. Matt represented the US at 1994 Junior World Championships. Jeff designed T-shirt for Colliers Challenge in 1994.

Jack, Flo and Karen Williams: Jack was a member of USOF board and made arrangements for USOF convention at West Chester. Flo was in charge of getting quilt blocks for the quilts presented to the winners at WOC. Karen represented the US overseas.

Mark and Mary Frank: Mark was co-chair of our first A-event; he served on the USOF board. Mary took on respon-

sibility for workshops and clinics and became DVOA's secretary in 1994.

1996

Jeff Hanlon: edited *Notes from the Briar Patch* from 1991-1996.

Bob & Sherri Meyer: publicity chair; event directors.

Eric Weyman: for contributions to DVOA and the sport on a national level; finding suitable parks to map; mapping and course design for national events.

1997

Dave & Kathy Jackson: Dave arranged for mapping of Hickory Run State Park; wrote a paper for college course: "Orienteering for Track and X-Country Coaches Who Want to Keep Their Runners in Shape Out of Season."

Ann Merriam: field-checked maps; or-

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Service Awards—cont'd from p 5

ganized Gray Foxes; wrote and illustrated "Travels with Cedric" column for the *Notes from the Briar Patch*.

Frank & Betty Caputo: behind-the-scene workers who can be counted on to help when necessary.

1998

Harald Wibye: a Norwegian engineer who brought orienteering to the Delaware Valley and North America while here on job assignment.

Nancy Sharp: editor of *Notes from the Briar Patch* since 1996.

Jim Eagleton: mapping chair; coordinated services of mappers.

1999

Tim Walsh: charter member of Syracuse Orienteering Club before moving to DVOA-land; club president; chair for starts at World Orienteering Champs in NY in 1993.

Rob Wilkison: DVOA president 1988-1992; helped with formation of Pocono Orienteering Club.

Sandy Fillebrown: got involved with orienteering when she read an article in a math journal that mentioned using orienteering maps to explain gradients and level curves; A-event coordinator; "ball of fire."

2000

Tom Overbaugh: event director, instructor at training weekend; all-around helper.

Linda Eck: helped popularize orienteering among Scouts; founded O-Patrol.

Rick Slater: started New Jersey Scout Orienteering Championships; received USOF's President's Award for devel-

oping USOF web site; past administrator of DVOA web site.

2001

Fred Kruesi: chair of education, clinics and training committees; equipment administrator; coordinated Hickory Run training weekend since 1995; O-CAD guru; creator of Clue software program.

Ron & Phyllis Wood: event director for Delaware events; helped with installation of permanent course at Brandywine; helped with corporate programs.

Jason Tong: instrumental in getting e-punch established at DVOA; reliable and willing helper at many New Jersey events.

2002

Kent Shaw: president; DVOA webmaster; club statistician; registrar for A-event.

Dennis & Janet Porter family: Janet helped with Junior team; Denny cooked for fund raisers; daughter Corinne and son Ryan were members of US Junior team.

Bob Putnam family: Bob devised club's first ranking system; developed Broken Compass award for DVOA/QOC "duel" meets; served as coordinator for foreign mappers.

2003

Dave Prine: promoting orienteering through scouting; assisted with MASOC; coordinated Scout training weekends at Hawk Mountain.

Anne Fitch: president; instructor at Hickory Run training weekend; social activities.

Manny Menendez family: became involved in orienteering through 4-H

project; keepers of the club store; event directors and volunteers.

2004

Bob Gross: "Chris's dad"; DVOA T-shirt designer extraordinaire; event director and all-purpose volunteer.

Valerie Meyer: e-punch guru; helped Kent Shaw improve on-line registration process for A-events.

Gerry Smith: helped with annual New Jersey Scout Orienteering event before taking over as director; did the map and clue sheet vetting for US Short Course Championships at Iron Hill.

2005

Sandy Heath: in the early days, did nearly every job needed, from meet director to field checking and revising maps; arranged special orienteering activity for his students at Moorestown Friends School.

Charlie and Julie Robinson: eager and reliable volunteers at local and national events, including MASOC, while on long-term assignment here from the United Kingdom.

Mike and Marilee Ball: after attending a Mark Frank educational clinic, became active members of DVOA; helped establish SVO.

2006

Frank and Sharon Pater: volunteered for many positions at local and national event; registrar for A event.

Andrea and Roger Hartley: String-O; expertise in pre-computer course printing; helpers at local and national event.

Rick Whiffen: enthusiastic supporter of orienteering; in his first year, set up orienteering event for four-year-old's birthday party.

Recollections - cont'd from p 1

Bob Heil had an event at Woodford Reservation in Princeton, NJ.

No additional locations were added until 1974, when Dan Wendleton directed an event at Fort Washington, PA. Harold Lischner introduced Colliers Mills, NJ and Dave Jackson and Henry Timberman directed an event at Blackbird State Forest in Delaware, bringing our total events in 1974 to nine. Our first color maps were not until 1979 at Ridley Creek State Park and 1980 at Tyler State Park.

The June 2004 issue of *The Briar Patch* has Mark Frank's recollections of our first A meet. Mark Frank and John Overton were co-directors of that event on October 17 and 18, 1982, on a new color map of French Creek West. It was the US Orienteering Championships and set an attendance record of more than 700 people.

Our Fox Chaser 2007 will bring the total of A meet days for our club to 50. This does not count a couple of US Team benefit A events we hosted on the maps from the WOC in New York State.

We did not start out with paid memberships in the club. The first events were publicized through Harald Wibye's work associates and newspapers. Harald encouraged pre-registration for events. Results were mailed to participants after the event, along with notification of the next event. (First-class postage at the time was only five cents!) Meet fees were \$1 for adults, 50 cents for juniors, and a maximum family fee of \$2. Maps were black-and-white copies of USGS topo maps with some additions and revisions. It was not until our annual planning meeting in 1975 that we decided to have paid memberships in the club.



Scenes from DVOA's winter meeting

Far left: 14-17 Women's Champ Alison Campbell

Left: 14-17 Men's Champ Greg Ahlswede, accepting his award from DVOA's vice president John deWolfe.



Above left: Jack Williams at the head of the line for the ot-luck supper at the winter meeting.

Above center: Women's champ Angelica Riley.

Above right: Men's champ Clem McGrath

Left: A collection of A-event T-shirts from recent years



Bottom left: Sandy Fillebrown gives instruction on how to run e-punching to Clem McGrath, Guy Olsen, Tom Overbaugh, and Fred Reed.

Bottom right: Celebrating DVOA's 40th anniversary.



Setting our sights high: Growing DVOA

Editor's note: At the DVOA winter meeting we brainstormed ways to increase DVOA membership. The ideas we came up with covered two areas: increasing membership and increasing attendance at events.

Following the meeting, as I keyed in the ideas we'd generated, I got to thinking: Do we want to do both? We may, but how we go about achieving each of those goals may differ.

Mark Frank has been one of driving forces for getting more people involved in orienteering, so I asked him his opinion:

I think we should be focusing on both membership **and** attendance.

To me, membership means that people take interest and get involved. Non-members rarely become an active part of the network needed to prepare for and hold events. New blood is always good for an organization. There are a few strategies we put in place in past years (mostly unwritten), but I believe it led us to where we are today.

We should revisit those strategies. A few years back, a stalwart of orienteering, Sam Burg, said building a successful club comes down to three things: membership, maps and money.

When we lose focus, we risk a slide. The Ringos have been my conscience on this. I think you need only to look at other clubs to see why this is important. Some clubs were larger than us; some have very talented core membership. But the number of core members—those who do the yeomen's work—in these clubs is small compared to DVOA, and they haven't turned over their leadership the way we have. That could cause burn-out of those core members, and it also discourages other members from stepping up to the plate.

Having the largest membership is about bragging rights, but it is also *esprit de corp*. When you have high goals and succeed, you should be proud. Back in the early days of the club, Hugh MacMullan and his family set the growth direction for the club for many years with the help of the Ringos and a few other families. Back then Mac would say to me, "I want this club to be so big some day that no one will know who I am."

That was laughable at the time—Mac was one of the driving forces of the club for many years—but those individuals laid the groundwork and set the goal, and we made it come true.

I am grateful to those people at IUP who made me aware of such a wonderful lifetime activity. I believe it is my responsibility to seek out others and give them that same chance to experience the fun and camaraderie that I've enjoyed. That's one of the reasons I so strongly promote our educational programs.

On the attendance side, I think that working to keep the events fun and to keep non-competitive participation as

We should focus on both membership and turnout; if we focus on just one or the other, we'll lose out.

important as the competitive part is a tough job, but if you look at our numbers on the various courses and compare that to other clubs' numbers, you will see a major difference. The numbers of participants at all levels give us financial strength without taxing the regular membership.

What do we do with that financial strength? Make new maps and update existing maps to maintain interest of long-term members. It also enables us to do more things like e-punching and keep

our equipment updated.

I believe we should shoot for 1,000 members; no club has that as a goal! You might think that is unreasonable, with our membership currently at XXX, but if you look back to 1983 just after DVOA held the largest attended A event, we set a goal to be the largest club in the U.S. when we were nearly the smallest. With the increased membership came the strength and talent to do many things. This increase in membership allowed us to add to the number of events and maintain that level today.

So I think we should focus on both membership and turnout; if we focus on just one or the other, we'll lose out.

The one thing I know from experience is that there is nothing DVOA can't do when it is given a goal and challenge. That is why I am so proud and enjoy bragging to other clubs about the number of members that support the club, the number of maps we have, the number of events we hold.

So my challenge to DVOA is to strive to have 1,000 members by the end of 2007. One strategy: invite a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker to the next event in your neighborhood. And don't just invite them: walk with them on their first course; give them a personal introduction to the sport that is so important to each one of us.

And I challenge other clubs to better us!

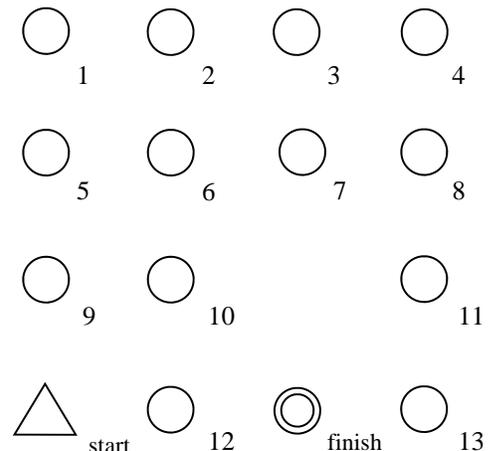
Mark Frank

Puzzle corner

Consider the following score-O course. The controls are placed on a 100-meter grid. Find the shortest path from the start to the finish that visits each control. For extra credit, prove that your solution is optimal; you hard-core orienteers can show that the optimal solution is unique.

Answer on p. 13

Reprinted from *St. Louis Orienteering Club's newsletter 1999*



“Brain Droppings”**The brainstorming session at DVOA's winter meeting**

Brain Droppings is the title of a book by comedian George Carlin; it also seems appropriate to describe the results of the brainstorming session that took place at DVOA's winter meeting: we opened our brains and this is what dropped out. Three topics were discussed: ways to celebrate DVOA's 40th anniversary, ways to increase DVOA membership and attendance at events; and ways to support DVOA's juniors.

What's next for these ideas? That's up to you! If you see an idea that resonates with you, **run with it!** For instance, I believe the Rileys are planning a 40-k event at Valley Forge. Share your plans on electronic message board on the DVOA web site (www.dvoa.org).

Ways to celebrate DVOA's 40th anniversary

- 40-control score-O (Summer picnic)
- All GO controls numbered 40
- 40 beginner events
- Plant 40 trees
- Display T-shirts from previous DVOA A-events (happened at the winter meeting 1/07; see picture on p. 7)
- Commemorative T-shirt
- DVOA jukola team
- Quilt of 40 T-shirts
- Grow by 40%
- Event at Lemon Hill/40th parallel/40 maps
- Run on 40 maps
- Club photo
- 40th person at each event gets free map
- Pick up 40 controls/person
- Born in 1967? Run free!
- 40 new controls/kit
- 40 k race/ relay
- Hickory Run weekend birthday celebration

Ways to support DVOA's Juniors

- local course review at each event
- billboard that makes O look cool
- 'finish' award for any junior who finishes W, Y, O
- Junior sub-event
 - Prize for best junior W, Y, O
- NY summer training camp
- A coach with whom we have regular contact
- Catching features (game)
- Training schedule: what to do, when, to help them improve
- Help with prep for JWOC
 - Training
 - Discussion with someone who's been there
- Social activities (monthly, quarterly)
 - Bowling night/camping before French Creek, Fair Hill
- School league
- Ad in High School Sports magazine (Philly area)
- More juniors use Attack Point, Water Stop
- Get program in school
 - Gym
 - JROTC
 - CYO
- Have info stands at youth track events
- Ask Kent to set up Junior page: e-board for junior, news for juniors

Ways to increase DVOA membership and attendance at events:

- half-year schedule/flier posted at sporting goods store
 - PDF on website to download
- Demonstrate value of membership
 - Reduced fee at Hickory Run training (increase fee for non-members)
 - Lower cost for uniform/clothes/etc.
- Promote orienteering to parks' volunteers groups
- Ad in Liberty Sports magazine
- Ads in local high-school event programs (school play, football, basketball, etc.)
- Inexpensive course at local adult evening programs
- Joint events with other kinds of clubs: trail running, ski, bicycling,
- Business-size cards explaining orienteering to handout
- Recognize DVOA members who bring guests to events
- Après O social after events
- First-person accounts for local papers
- Ad on geocaching web site
- Get orienteering into schools
- Sell O maps at park office with DVOA logo/contact info
- Put business cards in park office, running stores
- Amazing Race leg
- Tie in with local adventure races
- Treasure hunts for kids
- Urban-O partnerships (Berks County Conservancy)
- More Saturday/beginner clinics
- String-O: explanation posted with event director info
 - Juniors run?
- Tent with logo; attend road races, outdoor expos
- Trail racing
 - Share schedule at events
- Invite Cicely Tyson to Fox Chaser event



Nancy Sharp leads a brainstorming session at DVOA's winter meeting.

Training Tips

Notes from a new course setter

By Jeff Brodsky

Reprinted from Tucson Orienteering Club, August 2002

Relief.

Exhaustion.

What do these feelings have in common? Both were experienced by a newbie course setter, after the big event. I had the honor of designing and setting April's mini-rogaïne, and I'd like to do a few things more. First, I'd like to thank the members of their club for their support and advice. Second, I accept this award—whoops, wrong show...

Okay, thanks indeed. But what did I learn? A lot, actually. Course setting is a lot of fun, a lot of work, and (looking back) very rewarding. What does it take? Let me tell you....

First, decide on the area you want to hold your course. Hopefully, it's not too far away, the club map is in good shape, and you are somewhat familiar with the terrain. Get your base map from the librarian. Make a bunch of copies for working copies.

Next, decide on the type of event you want to do, be it a normal set of courses, mini-rogaïne, goat, etc. Get the course setter's guide. [Editor's note: From the DVOA home page, click the link for Event Directors.] It will help with determining the length and level of difficulty.

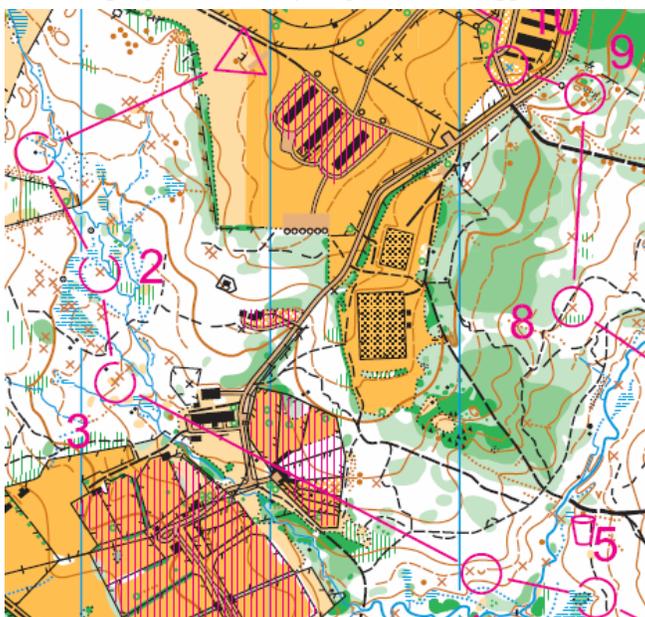
Then, decide on the start area. Make sure it looks like there is plenty of room for parking and that regular cars can get there.

Review the map carefully, and pick likely sites for controls for your course. Identify the potential sites with some numbering system or codes. Now you are ready for the next really big step. Go to Home Depot (oh NO!) and buy some flagging tape.

On your first site visit, you'll want to verify that your start area does indeed have plenty of parking. (I had to move my start area completely.) Then you are ready to actually visit the potential control locations. Do they look as good on the ground as they did on the map? If you like the location, flag it with the tape,

mark the location on one of your several map masters (got the right one?), jot down the clues to the control on another piece of paper. Then drop your stuff just to get some dirt on it for character. Repeat until exhausted.

Actually, visiting the site (in my case, three days' worth) is the most enjoyable part. You get to wander about (somewhat aimlessly), all by yourself with nothing but a clipboard for company. But what you get is a real appre-



ciation for what those squiggly contour lines really, really mean in real life. There is no question that I can now read a map better than I could before (I'm not any faster, alas).

Okay, so you've tagged all of the locations, you're happy with how they look, and you think: hey, this is easy. Not so fast, O-boy. No more than a week before the meet, you have to hang the controls. This part is fun, too, but there is a complication. One of the things the event director needs is a punch master for each course. And you need to produce a valid clue sheet with all of the correct control codes that match the physical controls on it. Your made-up controls won't work.

Now, it's time to contact the equipment boss, get the course setter's stuff, and marvel at the organization.

You're ready for the hard part, hanging controls. When you hang a control, you've got to do two things: punch it onto a course master (once for each time the control is used on a course), and note the control code for the clue sheets. Don't make a mistake, or they'll hang you. (Because the mesquite trees were small and short, I got off lightly for my mistake.)

Got that done? Still more work to do. Got to create map masters, one for each course. Got to create a clue sheet, one for each course. (The "Clue" software program was a real time saver—if you don't include the time it took to learn it.) Got to make copies of the maps. How many? Meet director helps here.

Think you're ready? Well, no. It's meet day, and it's a big turnout. But you've still got to get water out on the course (was 20 gallons enough?), get the maps and courses to the Event Director (before the start time, thank you very much). But it all comes together, and almost every one is happy, and you get to bask in all that glory. Until they ask you when your next meet will be....

There is a lot to setting a course, and I've left out a bunch of things, such as permits, map corrections, and coordination with the vetter. They get squeezed in there somehow. But I had fun and a lot of help. Being very new at this, I asked quite a few folks for advice, and I want to commend everyone whom I pestered with how helpful they were. Quality help is there, if you ask. One thing that I wish I had asked for more help on was the control code mapping—from my original survey to the actual bag hanging. The process that I used had lots of room for improvement.

I hope this article doesn't scare anyone away from setting a course. Course setting is not for everyone, but the next time you are out on a course, think of all the work (and fun) the setter had to do. Thank the course setter, and help out where you can.

Training Tips**Getting to There from Here**

By Peter Amram

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 markers.

An experienced orienteer plans a route backwards. (Please note the sequencing in 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.

Of interest to outdoor folks...

The Chester County Parks & Recreation Department publishes an interesting 16-page illustrated newsletter three times a year. It is called "The Nature of Things" and is FREE to Chester County residents and only \$3.75 to nonresidents. Regular features include "Creature Feature," Heritage Preservation," updates on park projects, and details for signing up for the numerous education hikes and programs offered by the parks. (DVOA participates annually with an introductory orienteering program.) For sample copies, see #164 in our club library. To get your name on the mailing list, call 610-344-6415.

**Was Emily Brontë an orienteer?****Spellbound**

The night is darkening around me,
The wild winds coldly blow;
But a tyrant spell has bound me
And I cannot, cannot go.

The giant trees are bending
Their bare boughs weighed with snow.
And the storm is fast descending,
And yet I cannot go.

Clouds beyond clouds above me,
Wastes beyond wastes below;
But nothing drear can move me;
I will not, cannot go.

- Emily Brontë

She had yet to find the GO control...

We do not know if other counties in the local area have similar publications. If you are familiar with any, we would appreciate having sample copies for the club library and subscription details to share with our members.

Caroline Ringo

From DVOA's e-board:**O Haiku**

Daydreaming at work
 Orienteering haiku
 Can't find my compass.

Have I gone too far?
 Orange flash lights a shadow
 Control, punch, triumph!

Ran through spider web
 Vandalized artwork, sorry.
 Spider plans lawsuit

Compass, glasses, map
 Uh-oh, left brain at the start
 Let's run without it.

How did I get here?
 Up to my knees in black mud
 Give up, put down roots.

Ran thru the dark green
 Pay in scratches and thorn pricks
 Must be a toll road

Thump thump in the woods
 Is someone following me?
 It's only my heart.

Blinkety blink blink
 Shadows ladder-cross the trail
 I'm hypnotized
 - Kathy Urban

Wyatt behind me
 Thorn vines trip me in shortcut
 The crowd cheers my fall
 - Greg Ahlswede

Sandy Fillebrown's comment:
 Greg's haiku is based on his come-
 from-behind victory (in the first leg)
 at the Mid-Atlantic Champs last fall.

Puzzle Answer

From start, visit controls 12, 10, 9, 5, 1, 2, 6, 7, 3, 4, 8, 11, 13 and then Finish. Each leg is 100 meters long, which is the shortest possible distance between any two controls. Therefore, this must be the shortest path.

There are several proofs of the uniqueness, most borrowing from the graph theory. The technique is to find nodes (controls) that have only two 100m legs to choose from. For example, control 11 must connect 8 and 13 or use a leg of more than 100 meters. Now those three are treated like a single node, and we can see that control 4 must connect 3 to the 8/11/13 node. Continuing to connect them in this way results in a forced solution. Since there was no other way to select the two-leg connections, the optimal solution must be unique.

The start of 40 ways to celebrate orienteering**2007 President's Event
 at Hibernia County Park**

More than 40 orienteers turned out at Hibernia County Park for the first O of 2007. The day turned out to be very nice for a winter day in late January.

The event billing leading up to this event may have had some folks wondering what they were in for. With 2007 being DVOA's 40th anniversary, I felt obligated to work that number into the event as much as possible. To whet everyone's appetite and not give away everything, I just said that the event would be Score-O with 40 used in the theme.

Having said that, I brainstormed (just like we did at the winter meeting) ways to use the number 40. Some of the obvious ones that came to mind included 40 kilometers (WOW!), 40 controls, 40 for all the control codes, 40 meters of climb (only in Florida, I think), 40-minute time limit and 40 in the course design. Once I decided on the venue (Hibernia), ideas like 40 kilometers and 40 meters of climb quickly fell off the list. Even using 40 controls was lower on the list mainly because of the possibility of really cold weather, which we did experience on the Friday before the event. So what settled out was a 40-minute score orienteering event with some 40-point controls and a negative 40-point penalty. Oh, and for those observant orienteers who participated: the course was laid out in the shape of a "4" and a "0".

As I mentioned earlier, the weather cooperated and gave us a nice day for late January. Everyone seemed to enjoy getting out and working off a little mid-winter cabin fever. Clem McGrath, Wyatt Riley, Vadim Masakov, Karl Ahlswede and Tom Overbaugh visited all 23 controls with the fastest time going to Clem McGrath. Way to go, Clem!

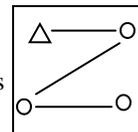
Thanks to Sandy Fillebrown for giving me a refresher on course printing and setting up the e-punch controls. Thanks to Nancy Sharp for hustling around the "zero" and putting out controls on event morning and running the day of e-punching activities. Thanks to Dawn Singerly for holding down registration. And to my amazement, some of the first finishers took me seriously when I said the first finishers had to do control pickup; they included: Wyatt, Vadim, Sandy and Mark Frank. I also had several other offers to do pickup; I'll remember your names for my next event (the Fair Hill A-meet).

And thanks to everyone who came out!

Ralph Tolbert

You know you're an orienteer when...

- Your five-year-old grandson draws you an O-map for a birthday card.
- While driving, you never actually get lost; you just made "x minutes of mistakes."
- Somebody asks you how to work their GPS, and you launch into a 20-minute tirade about how those things are useless for navigation.
- You think there's nothing wrong with wearing clothes made up of six different colors.
- Your ultimate embarrassment is getting lost on the way to an event.
- You have your head upside down in the mall trying to orient the large neon store directory map.
- You can't drive past open woods without saying "Ooh, nice woods; that would make a great orienteering area."



*Reprinted from San Diego Orienteering newsletter,
 Sept/Oct. 2006*



News From the DVOA Library

We have new copies of the following by Winifred Stott: *Armchair Orienteering I: A Practical Guide to Reading Orienteering Maps* (# 46) and *Armchair Orienteering II: A Practical Guide to Route Planning* (# 81).

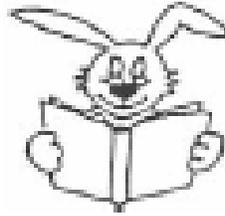
These are workbooks. As you do the exercises, cover the answers with a strip of paper, but please don't mark your answers in the book. These books are spiral bound and should be treated very tenderly, especially the maps inside the back cover, which are necessary for the exercises.

For intermediate orienteers we have copies of *Orienteering Skills and Strategies* (# 61) by Ron Lowry and Ken Sidney. These are also spiral bound and should be treated with care and returned as soon as you have finished.

For teachers interested in introducing orienteering in their classroom, we have a series of books with ideas and lesson plans. Please return these promptly as there is sometimes a waiting list for borrowing them.

- Start Orienteering with 6-8 year olds* (# 118)
- Start Orienteering with 8-9 year olds* (# 109)
- Start Orienteering with 9-10 year olds* (# 97)
- Start Orienteering with 10-12 year olds* (# 167)

Library borrowing privileges are one of the benefits of DVOA membership. Look for the milk crates and sign-out clip board near the registration tables at local orienteering events.



DVOA Library Return Record Set

You've perhaps read of library books being returned years after they were checked out.

Our club has its own record setter, and we are grateful for his persistence. In April 1992, almost 15 years ago, Ted Mann checked out several books; all were duly returned except one, *Murder at the 14th Control* (# 68). He remembers one of his kids wanting to read it when he finished, but the book never turned up. He tried to replace the book but was told it was out of print. Even the orienteering vendors didn't have a copy. Recently he was ordering some books from Amazon and to his amazement found two people selling copies through Amazon partners. Our library now has one of them, thanks to a conscientious member.

Readers: You may not be able to set a record, but if you have books, videos, or games from the DVOA library we'll be happy to have them returned. If you can't find the library at an event, give them to the event director or club secretary Mary Frank.

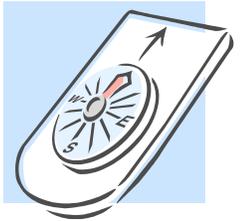
Some Questions Answered

What is orienteering?

In orienteering you use a map and compass to find your way across unfamiliar terrain. In a typical event, the organizer places orange-and-white control markers at various land features found on your map. These markers act as checkpoint along the course. The object of the sport is to use the map and compass to locate the control markers and return to the finish. Using your imagination and navigational skills, you try to select the best route to each control. Beware: the best route may not be the quickest route. Once there, you punch a score card, which verifies that you found the control. There are many versions of orienteering (on foot, bicycle or skis; at night; in relays; etc.), but the idea is still essentially the same: using a map and compass to find your way across unfamiliar terrain.

What equipment do I need?

The only requirement is a compass. The best kind is a protractor type with a clear plastic base so that you can see through it to the map underneath. (The club can rent you one at meets for a nominal fee.) The club will supply the topographic map of the area. There is usually an entry fee of \$4 per map for members, \$7 for nonmembers. Jogging shoes or light-weight hiking boots and old clothes (long pants for going through the woods) complete your equipment. Wear a watch—there is always a time deadline.



Valley Goat 3: Slip sliding away

Nearly 80 people competed at Valley Goat 3, directed by Mike Bertram and Kathy King.

John Fredrickson, shown at left, was the first finisher, at 1:35:06, on the full 13-k loop of Valley Goat 3, held on Sunday, March 11.

First on the short loop (3 k) was Ralph Tolbert (37:55); first on the medium loop (8 k) was Sergei Zhyk (1:11:03).

While the weather was warm and sunny, the ground was still frozen under a layer of mud and leaves, which made for some slippery slopes, especially on the route to the first control (a downhill, uphill and downhill leg, with a few more 'downs' for some competitors).

What is DVOA?

The Delaware Valley Orienteering Association (DVOA) is a nonprofit organization chartered by the United States Orienteering Federation (USOF) and the International Orienteering Federation (IOF). The club holds approximately 45 events a year, which usually includes a national Class 'A' event every year, beginner meets, a training weekend, and even an occasional night meet. Membership in DVOA is open to everyone and includes a subscription to the club's newsletter and a discounted price for maps at local meets.

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 #5	Ed & Judy Scott	610-582-2128	1608 Cocalico Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508
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A-Event Coordinator	Mike Bertram	610-783-7036	1763 Hamilton Dr., Phoenixville, PA 19460
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	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
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Regular Club Rep Jim Eagleton 215-283-0137 2507 Navajo Path, Ambler, PA 19002
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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!



What is an A-Event?

by Sandy Fillebrown

reprinted from Notes From the Briar Patch, March 2000

An A-Event is simply an event that has been sanctioned by the United States Orienteering Federation (USOF). A-Events are open to anyone; you don't need to be an expert to participate at an A-Event. The courses are the same as at any local event; White, Yellow, Orange, Brown, Green, Red and Blue. If you can do, say, an Orange course at a local event, you can do an Orange course at an A-Event.

However, most A-Events attract several hundred competitors from across the country, and there are certain guidelines that must be followed. So an A-Event may seem a little more crowded and structured than what you're used to at a local event.

Most A-Events have two categories: you can register as a competitive entry or a recreational entry. Typically, because of the large numbers, pre-registration is required for competitive entries, and recreational entries are restricted to White, Yellow and, sometimes, Orange courses. The main difference is that competitive entries are eligible for awards and national ranking points while recreational entries are not. And competitive entries generally have a higher registration fee in order to cover some of the costs associated with the guidelines that must be followed.

Most A-Events are two-day events to make it more attractive for people who need to travel a great distance, but you can register for just one of the days if you can't make it to both.

A-Events are usually held on areas that have been newly mapped. It's a way to herald and celebrate the debut of the new or revised map. During the last several years, DVOA has introduced Valley Forge, Mt. Joy, Green Lane, Elk Neck and Camp Rodney as new maps at A-Events and Iron Hill, Brandywine and French Creek North as revised maps. Fees at A-Events are generally higher than at local events, in part to help pay for some of these mapping costs.

If you start to go to A-Events regularly, you will meet and make orienteering friends from around the country. I love going to A-Events hosted by other clubs: it's fun to orienteer in different kinds of terrain, and I know I will always find friendly faces. And I love when people come to DVOA-hosted A-Events, and we get to show off our great maps and great club.

Because A-Events take quite a bit more advance planning than a local event, the club has an A-Event coordinator who makes sure we have a long-range plan for regularly holding A-Events. [Editor's note: Mike Bertram currently fills that role.]

Too often I would hear men boast of the miles covered that day, rarely of what they had seen.

-Louis L'Amour, novelist (1908-1988)

Fox Chaser 2007



Interscholastic Orienteering Championships & 2-day classic-length orienteering A-event

Fair Hill Natural Resource
Management Area,
Rt. 272, Maryland

Saturday, March 31, and
Sunday, April 1

***You may have missed the
deadline for competitive entries,
but you can still participate as a
recreational entry: it's a great
opportunity to introduce a friend
to orienteering.***

White & Yellow courses offered.

***Recreational starts:
Saturday: 12 noon to 2 p.m.***

Sunday: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

***2007 marks DVOA's 40th
anniversary.***

Please join us at this event



14 Lake Drive
Spring City, PA 19475

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