

# FOX Chaser II

## Event notes, and schedule summary

### Friday:

#### Model event

The model event will be open at Ridley Creek State Park from 2.00pm to approximately 6.00pm. Print your own .PDF file from the event website. Some maps may be available at the parking area until 4.30pm. Directions to the Ridley Creek SP entrance are the same as for Saturday's event. Signs will lead to the parking area at Area 17 at GPS 39.943332, -75.435093

#### Event hotel

Days Hotel West Chester-Brandywine Valley, 943 South High Street, West Chester, PA 19382. GPS 39.939665, -75.589780  
The hotel is south of West Chester, where Rte. 202 merges with Bus. 322.

*If staying at the hotel, it is highly recommended that you pick up a copy of the 'Back Way to Days Hotel' map at the Registration packet pickup on Friday. It is also on the event website. This route bypasses Rte. 202, and leads to the event sites for both days.*

5:30pm – 9:30pm: Registration packet pickup at the hotel.

### Saturday:

Individual Classic courses and Trail O' at Ridley Creek State Park.

See the event website (or the last page below) for the Course Setter's Notes.

8:30am – 10:00am Packet pick-up at the Saturday event center at Ridley Creek State Park.

9:30am – First competitive starts

10:00am – 2.00pm Epunch mini-course near the event center

11:00am – 2:00pm Trail-O starts

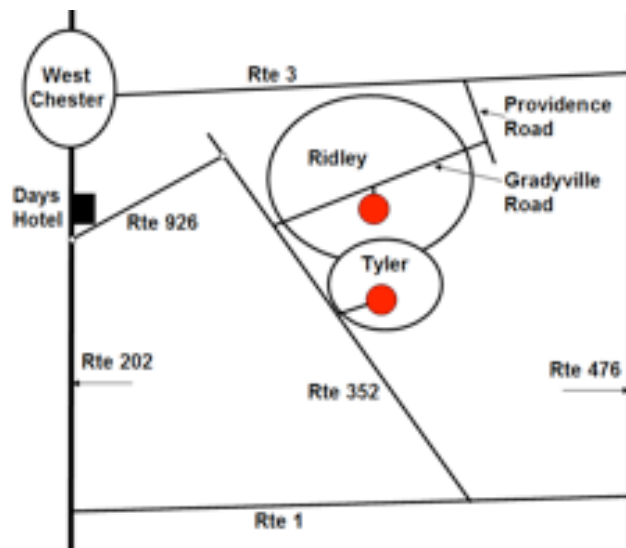
6:00pm - Event dinner at the Days Hotel. Menu: Choice of two Pasta dishes (with a vegetarian option), salad and rolls, cookie tray, coffee, tea, iced tea. No food from outside is allowed.

#### How to get there

Parking for the Saturday Classic courses will be at Ridley Creek State Park. The park entrance on Gradyville Road is at 39.955671, -75.451581.

From the NE, E and SE, follow Rte. 3 west from the Rte. 476 (Blue Route) for 6.1 miles to Edgmont. Turn left (south) onto Providence Road for 1.4 miles, and turn right (west) onto Gradyville Road. The park entrance is 1.1 miles on the lefthand side.

From the NW, W and SW, from Rte. 202 follow Rte. 926 eastwards for 4.2 miles, and turn right (south) onto Rte. 352 for 2.4 miles. Turn left onto Gradyville Road (east) and follow for 1.3 miles to the park entrance on the righthand side.



Course	Length	Climb
Blue	9.1	450
Red	7.4	345
Green X	5.3	225
Green Y	4.8	170
Brown X	3.7	170
Brown Y	3.3	125
Orange X	4.3	155
Orange Y	4.2	135
Yellow X	3.1	90
Yellow Y	3.2	105
White	2.4	75

#### For the Classic courses, there are two starts

##### The north Start:

Runners on Blue, Red, Green X, and Green Y courses will take a bus from the main parking area to the start location. Be ready to get on the bus 35 minutes before your start time. The bus should take approximately 10 minutes to get to the drop-off point. From the bus drop-off on Gradyville Road, the flat walk to the start call-up line is about 250 meters. The warmup area is close to the bus drop-off point, and warmup maps will be available on the trail just after getting off the bus. Warmup clothing may be left at the Start call-up line, and can be picked up near Download.

### The south Start:

Runners on Brown X, Brown Y, Orange X, Orange Y, Yellow X, Yellow Y, and White walk to this start, which is about 1 kilometer from the event center. Allow for this approximately 15 minute walk before your start time. Streamers or flags will mark the way there. Warmup maps will be available at the event parking area. The warmup area is on the way to the start. Warmup clothing may be left at the Start call-up line, and can be picked up near Download.

Trail O'Day One will be around the mansion area of Ridley Creek State Park. This will be a separate location from the Foot Orienteering competition center and can be accessed by car. Follow the signs posted from the main road or event parking to the Trail-O registration tent, which will be located in the mansion parking lot. Please park near the registration tent so that we will have minimal impact on parking for other park visitors using this area. There will be restroom facilities near the model event and the timed control area.

Toilets: On Saturday, toilets will be available at the event parking and at the Trail O' site. Toilets will not be available at the bus drop-off area or at the Starts. Dogs: Ridley State Park requires all dogs to be kept on a lead at all times

### **Sunday:**

Individual Classic courses and Trail O' at Tyler Arboretum.

See the event website (or the last page below) for the Course Setter's Notes.

8:00am – 9:30am Registration packet pick-up at the Sunday event center at Tyler Arboretum

9:00am - First competitive starts

10:00am - 1:00pm (approximately) Trail-O starts

2:00pm (or as soon as possible): Awards at the event center, and presentation of the 2015 Iain Wilson awards

How to get there: Parking for the Sunday courses will be inside the Tyler Arboretum grounds. The Arboretum entrance on Painter Road is located at GPS coordinates 39.934544, -75.442768

From the NE, E and SE, follow Rte. 1 (west) from Rte. 476 (the Blue Route) for 5.4 miles. Turn right on Rte. 352 (north) for 2.2 miles, and then turn right onto E Forge Road, which leads to Painter Road and the Arboretum.

From the NW, W and SW, from Rte. 202 follow Rte. 926 eastwards for 4.2 miles, and turn right (south) onto Rte. 352. After 3.7 miles, turn left onto E Forge Road, which leads to Painter Road and the Arboretum.

Event center, Start and Finish notes: After parking, there is a 300m walk to the event center, and the Starts are a further 350m from there. *Download will not be at the Finish. There will be an 850m walk from the Finish to the Download at the event center. As you walk to the event center from the Finish, you may be in proximity to people at the Start call-up line, and at the subsequent start lines. Please do not distract the starters!*

*A special note for Green, Red and Blue runners* All green, red, and blue courses go out and back across a major public road with limited sightlines. The time for these road crossings will be deducted from each competitor's total time. Courses are designed to force runners to cross the road at the optimal points. At each crossing point, the near control (from which runners will depart) is very close to the road and may have a refreshment stop. The subsequent control is within 150 meters. In some cases, the subsequent control or control feature may be visible from the road. In each case, there will be a marked route, with intermittent streamers, between the road crossing and the subsequent control. These marked routes are indicated on the map and in the control descriptions. These crossing points may be manned by event staff and/or emergency personnel. These staff will not be authorized to interfere with vehicular traffic in any manner. Nor will they interfere with runners. The staff's function is to potentially offer a supplemental assessment of the crossing conditions at a particular time to runners present. Runners will cross the road solely at their own risk. To reduce any incentive for runners to cross the road with less than the greatest possible care, the total time of the road crossing legs (2 legs on green, red, and blue courses) will be deducted from the total course time prior to results being declared final. Aside from the road crossings, this road is also out of bounds. Running along this road is not permitted and moreover, is not an optimal route on any non-crossing leg.

Course	Length	Climb
Blue	9.2	250
Red	7.6	185
Green X	5.8	165
Green Y	5.4	180
Brown X	3.9	125
Brown Y	3.5	95
Orange X	4.7	120
Orange Y	4.4	150
Yellow X	3.0	95
Yellow Y	2.5	80
White	2.4	60

Trail O': Day Two will be in Tyler Arboretum. Parking is in the same location as for the Foot O competitions. The Trail-O registration tent will be near to the start for the Foot O competitions, about a four-minute walk from the event center.

Toilets: On Sunday, toilets will be available near the event center. There will be no toilets at the Start. Dogs: No dogs, except documented service dogs, are permitted within the main Arboretum area, including the parking area.

### **Saturday, Ridley Creek SP, Course Setter: Sam Reed Map and Course Notes**

The Ridley map was last updated in 2014 by Marian Cotirta, adding a previously unmapped area to the north of Gradyville Road. The map is scaled at 1:10,000 with 5 meter contours. Smaller updates were done by the course setters in 2015. Due to the geometry of the area and the required finishing area, some courses will not be able to visit the new area. There will be two start locations: one on the north side of Gradyville Road and one on the south side. Blue, Red, and both Green courses will start at the northern start location and all others will start closer to the venue at the southern start location. As a result of the large area covered by courses from two start locations, all courses couldn't fit onto the same map layout. Therefore, there will be two printings of the Ridley map: "Ridley North," customized to fit Blue, Red, and Greens and "Ridley South" designed to fit the needs of the Browns, Oranges, Yellows, and White. The overlap region of the two layouts includes the finish area, but not the extremes to the north and south. The northern start is found only on the Ridley North layout and the southern start only on the Ridley South map.

Terrain Conditions: Ridley can be described as hilly and thick. Thorns have taken over large sections of the map, making some places completely impassible. Undergrowth (indicated by the vertical green slash symbol) can't be mapped over green woods—only on top of white woods—leaving quite a bit of uncertainty as to whether a section of woods has thorns if it's mapped green. My best advice is to check nearby areas that are mapped white to see if undergrowth is present. Even with perfect map knowledge, some thorns are inevitable on Blue, Red, Greens, Browns, and Oranges, so it's recommended to have some protection. Rock features are sparse, so even some very small rocks are mapped, as low as a third of a meter. Rocky ground can often be negotiated without needing to step on rocks.

Out of Bounds: There are a number of private houses in Ridley. No course has any reason to go through their property, but the areas are emphasized by means of vertical pink slashes.

Control numbers will be from 101 to 179. This is a lot of controls for one event; remember to check control numbers.

The North Start: These notes are directed to those on Blue, Red, Green X, and Green Y. These courses will require taking a bus from the main parking area to the start location. To ensure making it to the start on time, be ready to get on the bus 35 minutes before your start time. The bus should take approximately 10 minutes to get to the drop-off point. From the bus drop-off on Gradyville Road, the walk to the start call-up line is about 250 meters, or about a 5 minute flat walk.

Gradyville Road is unsafe and entirely out of bounds. There is one and only one safe crossing point—a tunnel that goes under the road. The courses are set such that the only viable route choice is to go under this bridge. The road will also be marked with pink Xs. Being seen on Gradyville Road will result in disqualification. Because the optimal path is obvious, there are no marked routes or other special considerations at this underpass, or at any other place on any of the Day 1 courses. (Note, this is different than Day 2, where some courses will have road crossings that incorporate a time deduction. This situation is described in detail in the Sunday course notes.)

The South Start: These notes are directed to those on Brown X, Brown Y, Orange X, Orange Y, Yellow X, Yellow Y, and White.

The walk to start is about 1 kilometer. Streamers will mark the path there.

Control 101 is a special feature, a pipeline marker. Only Yellow X uses this control. On Yellow Y there is a deteriorating bridge over a small stream. The bridge could be useable if handled with care and the stream is small enough to cross without the bridge. Some route choices will not require crossing the stream whatsoever. Handle this situation within your athletic ability.

### **Sunday, Tyler Arboretum, Course Setter: Clem McGrath Map and Course Notes**

Terrain notes: Courses will be generally confined to lands belonging to the John J. Tyler Arboretum. The Tyler Arboretum covers 650 acres, or roughly 2.7 square kilometers, which accounts for over a quarter of the total acreage of privately protected land in Delaware County.

This is typical southeastern PA terrain. Model terrain and existing map of Ridley Creek State Park are highly relevant. It features a rather dense trail network, with 30 kilometers of trails crisscrossing a relatively confined area. Roughly .5 square kilometers of the total area is surrounded by a very tall deer fence. This fence encloses the more formal gardens and plantings; the races will not enter this area.

Map notes: Like yesterday's map, today's was field-checked and drafted by Marian Cotirta in 2014. It is a 1:10,000 ISOM map with 5 meter contours. A legend is printed on the map. Small corrections were done by the course setter in early 2015.

There is a lot of vegetation detail on the map, which runners are encouraged to heed. Light and medium green can be traversed, but dark green and dense vertical slash are to be avoided. The ISOM 407 symbol (undergrowth: slow running) is applied within the forest and in rough open. In the forest, it is true to form. However, when seen in the rough open fields, this green can generally be ignored; the fields were mown over the winter and the briars and scrub remain fairly dormant.

Stream crossings Most Day 2 courses feature several stream crossings. Under normal circumstances, these could generally be negotiated by stepping on rocks or stepping into ankle-deep water. However, with recent rain and snowmelt, water levels may be higher than normal and advanced course crossings (on green and above) may feature a brief stretch of calf-deep water. Additionally, many low-lying areas are extremely wet and may have standing water and/or extremely wet ground. Water areas (swamps, ponds, etc.) will be at least as expansive as mapped.

Out-of-bounds. Because this is an arboretum, there are many sensitive areas. The most sensitive, as described above, will not feature in the courses. However, there are other ecologically sensitive areas and private property within and on the edges of the competition area. These will all be indicated with the ISOM 709 symbol. Some of these may have a dashed line border, indicating there may be intermittent markings on the ground. Not every out-of-bounds area will have streamering. There are many cases when the straight line between controls would go through an out-of-bounds area. In these cases, the line between the controls will be bent to go around, using the shortest possible (though not necessarily optimal) side of the obstacle. Needless to say, it is grounds for disqualification to knowingly or unknowingly cross into a designated out-of-bounds area. Some of these areas may be monitored by event staff, Arboretum staff, and/or private property owners.

Road crossings: All green, red, and blue courses go out and back across a major public road with limited sightlines. *Please read the specific notes in italics on the previous page.* General Considerations: As suggested previously, the competition will be conducted within a small footprint. Many courses, particularly the longer courses, will therefore feature many changes in direction; courses may fold over themselves. There will be many controls in the forest. Careful attention to control numbers and descriptions is advised.