



Notes from the Briar Patch

Delaware Valley Orienteering Association

March 2005

vol. 28

issue 1



Max Byar as O'Hare greets orienteers in 1993

Find more photos related to O'Hare on page 16

DVOA Notes from the Briar Patch - March 2005

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 19350-1253
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 Yr:

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2009	Ron Bortz	610-489-0875	
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"	Wyatt Riley		
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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™ 8 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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USOF 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

President's corner



Welcome to another year of orienteering, one which promises to be as fun and exciting as any of the previous. Check out the line-up of major events on the schedule for this year.

First, I hope you attended the special event at Norristown State Hospital in the beginning of March. While I couldn't be there, I did hear that good mapping, good course design and good weather added up to a great day of orienteering. We may need to change the name from Sprint-O to Park-O, though, because I heard that some of our members may have thought this was just for the "runners" in the club. No way! It's just a different kind of orienteering: shorter courses usually set in a more urban setting than we're used to. I understand that the event was so popular, there's already talk of doing it again next year.

Next, up is the Garden State Scout O, which is followed by MASOC 17! (MASOC stands for the Mid-Atlantic Scout Orienteering Championships.) Seventeen years and counting, and the crowds keep on coming - awesome!

If you didn't try it last year, check out Canoe O in July at French Creek. (And if you did try it last year, I'm sure you'll be back.)

The summer picnic in June is provides a great opportunity to do some fun orienteering, socialize and fill up on great food.

Another new tradition showing up in the fall line-up is the DVOA Long O champs at Hickory Run this year. This will be a great opportunity to prepare for DVOA's A-event this year.

Speaking of which, be sure and mark you calendars for November 11 and 12, when DVOA will host the US Long Course Championships at Fair Hill Natural Resources Area in northeast Maryland. In addition to classic distance and Long-O, we are planning a sprint and trail orienteering.

To close out the year, we're planning an event for Delaware Scouts and a club championship event - venue to be determined.

As always, in between these major events will be our usual offering of local events at venues from Brandywine to White Clay and all the parks in between (alphabetically, if not geographically).

It goes without saying, having a schedule full of events requires a lot of help from a lot of volunteers. There are still events in the schedule that need event directors. Please consider owning one of these events to make it happen so it stays on the schedule.

On a different topic, the club officers and trustees got together recently and met at John DeWolf's house. We discussed a full agenda of topics. Some of the highlights included...

- Changing to our new members fee structure (lowering the year-and-a-half rate)
- USOF insurance rates and how the club needs to count participants
- The need to review and possibly update the club bylaws
- Establishing a volunteer database
- Volunteer recognitions and incentives
- Holding a Club Championship event
- Updates on e-punching purchases, educational programs and the Fall training Weekend
- A-events the club will be putting bids in on for 2006, 2007 and 2008.

That's all for now, see you in the woods!

O-regards,

Ralph Tolbert

O-Puzzle

More Cryptic-O: Double Definitions

By Jean O'Connor

Cryptic clues have two parts: first, a definition placed at the beginning or the end of the clue and second, a form of wordplay. In the first o-puzzle I described anagram cryptic clues. A second type of cryptic clue is the "double definition." A double definition is just what it sounds like: the word-play part is a second definition. As with the anagram clues, there may be a connecting word such as "and" or "with."

In a future issue, I'm hoping to put some cryptic clues together into a whole crossword puzzle. It may take me a while since I've never constructed a complete cryptic crossword before. So be patient!

The solutions to all of the following clues are words related to orienteering. The number in parentheses indicates the number of letters in the solution.

- A group of students - 13 and 14 year-old females, for example (5)
- Reduce to bankruptcy with a dilapidated old building (4)
- Big nose? Put a bag on it (7)
- Hit the juice (5)
- Steer may be remote (7)
- Jump well (6)
- Run with part of dinner (6)
- Connecting theme played with East and West as partners (6)
- Be surprised before the first control (5)
- Carrying part of a rotating mechanism (7)

Thank you to Caroline Ringo, Robert Buraczynski, Maryann Cassidy, and Dave Darrah for your solutions and comments. Answers from previous puzzle: oleo, opal, ozone, oration, olive, open, omen. Robert has published the complete crossword solution at

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rburaczynski/o-puzzle.htm>

Send solutions, questions, and comments to opuzzle@ksclick.com



chaparral (shap-uh-RAL, chap-) noun

A dense, often impenetrable, growth of shrubs and thorny bushes.

[From Spanish chaparral, from chaparro (dwarf evergreen oak), from Basque txapar (thicket).

"Satwiwa Loop Trail: an easy 1.5- mile stroll through grasslands and chaparral."

Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa; Ventura County Star (Ventura, California); Dec 31, 2004.

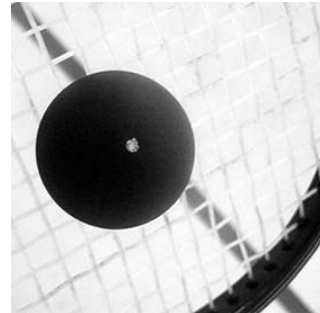
Source: A.Word.A.Day

Keeping in Shape Out of the Woods

Some of you who know me probably know I also play squash. There's good evidence that each of these sports is good cross-training for the other. Orienteering is a great way to spend an hour (OK, for me, usually more) a week in the woods, but squash gives me a chance for a good workout several times a week without having to worry about the weather. I play at a cozy (yeah, I think that word applies) squash club located in North Wales, Penna., only minutes from the Mid County and Lansdale exits of the Penna Turnpike, and from the Rt. 309 expressway.

Why am I telling you all this?

Well, it's because we've got several openings for new members, and I'm thinking some of you might be interested. Here's a blurb one of our members authored up when I told him I might be able to promote some interest in the *Briar Patch*: "How can you have an entertaining way to stay in shape for orienteering where you need endurance, bursts of speed, quick stops and turns, all crammed into an hour or so of fun with other competitive people?"



Playing squash (similar to racquet ball but much faster) meets all the above requirements.

Gwynedd Racquet Club in North Wales, Penna., has two singles courts and one doubles court. Gwynedd is run by the club members and participates with ten other clubs in the Philadelphia Squash League. There are also intracub leagues. As a member you have 24-hour access to the club and can make court reservations on the Internet.

For more information, please contact me, Dave Darrah, telephone 215-361-0642 or visit the club's web site www.grcsquash.org. If you've played racquetball sometime in your past, or even tennis, you've got a good foundation for squash. And even if you haven't, it's still a pretty easy game to pick up. And we have several "entry level" players, so it's never tough to find a match.

Give me a call if you have any questions. Looking forward to hearing from you. Now, back to the woods.

Dave Darrah

Letter to the Editor

I'm all for any of Bob Gross's proposed rabbit logos that our serious competitors think will help them run faster. His designs are all great and would look good on the new O' suits. But let's not completely scrap our old O'Hare. To me, that twinkle in his eye and engaging grin represent the welcoming image we try to present and may be why we've been more successful as a club than the ones that concentrate most on competition. I hope our smiling O'Hare continues to put in an occasional appearance in the Briar Patch. He'll continue to be on the service award plaques since they represent that "I'd be glad to do it" spirit and have nothing to do with speed on the course.

Caroline Ringo

2004 Club Statistics

Who are the Champs?

Place	Name	Class	Score	Place	Name	Class	Score
2004 Overall Champions							
<i>Men</i>				<i>Women</i>			
1	Sergei Zhyk	M21	918.77	1	Angelica Riley	F21	1251.14
2	Mihai Veres	M40	953.59	2	Sandy Fillebrown	F50	1370.61
3	Clem McGrath	M21	955.77	3	Albina Zakrevski	F35	1482.48
4	Wyatt Riley	M21	997.44	4	Alison Campbell	F14	1587.50
5	Randy Hall	M35	1000.30	5	Mary Frank	F45	1610.99

Age 14-17 Champions							
<i>Men</i>				<i>Women</i>			
1	Hunter Cornish	M16	1284.34	1	Alison Campbell	F14	1587.50
2	Patrick Pomian	M16	1292.49	2	Jamie Hill	F14	2074.30
3	Greg Ahlswede	M14	1444.05	3	Susan Cornish	F14	2208.59
4	Paul Ort	M18	1609.19				
5	Erik Eddy	M18	1722.13				

Under 14 Champions							
<i>Men</i>				<i>Women</i>			
1	Dayne Thatcher	M12	1735.97	none qualified			
2	Daniel Miller	M12	1959.15				
3	Michael DeWolf	M12	1979.26				
4	Robert Frank	M12	2128.08				
5	Corey Thatcher	M10	2945.21				

Club Totals

Category	Total
Total Events	41
Total Orienteers	5821
Total Time (hh:mm:ss)	7978:37:44
Total Distance (km)	24869.55
Total Climb (m)	698218.50m
Total Controls	62522
Number of Ranked Runners	156
Average Age of Ranked Runners	41.42

Most Distance Orienteered

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Distance
1	Brian Supplee	M45	DVOA	206.21
2	Vadim Masalkov	M35	DVOA	205.91
3	Wyatt Riley	M21	DVOA	179.02
4	Karl Ahlswede	M40	DVOA	166.57
5	Udaya Bollineni	M21	DVOA	161.85
6	Angelica Riley	F21	DVOA	157.74
7	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	155.85
8	Mark Cornish	M45	DVOA	150.89
9	Randy Hall	M35	DVOA	147.67
10	Mihai Veres	M40	DVOA	129.21

Course Totals

Course	No. of Runners
White	437
Yellow	699
Orange	751
Brown	368
Green	848
Red	660
Blue	141

Greatest Climb

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Climb
1	Vadim Masalkov	M35	DVOA	6252.0
2	Brian Supplee	M45	DVOA	5992.0
3	Wyatt Riley	M21	DVOA	5357.0
4	Karl Ahlswede	M40	DVOA	4745.0
5	Mark Cornish	M45	DVOA	4735.0
6	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	4657.0

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7	Udaya Bollineni	M21	DVOA 4642.0
8	Randy Hall	M35	DVOA 4622.0
9	Angelica Riley	F21	DVOA 4447.0
10	Mark Frank	M45	DVOA 3930.0

Fastest Pace

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Pace	#*
1	Mihai Veres	M40	DVOA	7:33	16
2	Sergei Zhyk	M21	DVOA	7:36	5
3	Boris Granovskiy	M21	HVO	7:49	5
4	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	8:13	18
5	Wyatt Riley	M21	DVOA	8:15	21
6	Sergei Paziewski	M35	HVO	8:27	5
7	Randy Hall	M35	DVOA	8:34	17
8	Tom Overbaugh	M40	DVOA	8:44	7
9	Jon Torrence	M21	QOC	8:44	4
10	Serega Fedorov	M21	DVOA	8:56	7

Most Controls Punched

Pl	Name	Class	Club	Controls
1	Brian Supplee	M45	DVOA	438
2	Vadim Masalkov	M35	DVOA	408
3	Wyatt Riley	M21	DVOA	338
4	Karl Ahlswede	M40	DVOA	334
5	Angelica Riley	F21	DVOA	309
6	Udaya Bollineni	M21	DVOA	309
7	Mark Cornish	M45	DVOA	306
8	Clem McGrath	M21	DVOA	298
9	Randy Hall	M35	DVOA	266
10	Maryann Cassidy	F50	DVOA	265

(*# of Events; based on minimum of four events)

2004 Overall Rankings

Rank	Name	Class	Score
1	Sergei Zhyk	M21	918.77
2	Mihai Veres	M40	953.59
3	Clem McGrath	M21	955.77
4	Wyatt Riley	M21	997.44
5	Randy Hall	M35	1000.30
6	Florin Tencariu	M21	1091.35
7	Vadim Masalkov	M35	1097.98
8	Tom Overbaugh	M40	1100.30
9	Alex Berilo	M20	1112.51
10	Serega Fedorov	M21	1146.99
11	Istvan Nagy	M40	1147.70
12	Brad Whitmore	M45	1157.06
13	Chuck Crabb	M45	1170.43
14	Andras Revesz	M40	1181.90
15	Karl Ahlswede	M40	1184.30
16	Patrick Shannon	M21	1232.17
17	Mark Cornish	M45	1239.08
18	John Campbell	M45	1249.89
19	Angelica Riley	F21	1251.14
20	Hunter Cornish	M16	1284.34
21	Mark Frank	M45	1292.49
22	Patrick Pomian	M16	1292.49
23	Ron Bortz	M50	1302.42
24	Neil Martin	M21	1317.77
25	Johny WrongWay	M45	1337.67
26	Brian Supplee	M45	1349.26
27	Hugh MacMullan III	M65	1360.41
28	Sandy Fillebrown	F50	1370.61
29	Jim Rayburn	M40	1381.93
30	Petr Hartman	M40	1388.19
31	Rob Favorite	M50	1389.50
32	Scott Thatcher	M45	1418.44
33	Greg Ahlswede	M14	1444.05
34	Bob Meyer	M50	1444.83
35	Bob Burg	M55	1453.98
36	Albina Zakrevski	F35	1482.48
37	Ron Mavus	M45	1497.05
38	Jim Eagleton	M50	1497.51
39	Blake Stoffers	M40	1497.58
40	Dave Darrah	M55	1506.87
41	Andy Green	M35	1530.69
42	Rob Wilkison	M50	1544.28
43	Bill Shannon	M65	1556.60
44	Ralph Tolbert	M50	1565.81
45	Alison Campbell	F14	1587.50
46	Matthew Sargent	M21	1600.98
47	Paul Ort	M18	1609.19
48	Mary Frank	F45	1610.99
49	John T. Ort	M55	1611.35
50	Daria Babushok	F21	1617.13
51	Ron Wood	M60	1625.88
52	Robert Buraczynski	M45	1625.99
53	Mike Ball	M50	1629.57
54	Ben Summers	M45	1637.96
55	Dale Parson	M50	1649.59
56	Shelley Pennington	F45	1653.29
57	Ron Cook	M45	1683.79
58	Bob Fink	M50	1687.07
59	Kim Pelle	M45	1689.71
60	Michael Forbes	M55	1702.42
61	Gary Dettinger	M40	1709.94
62	Joseph Maglaty	M45	1716.85

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63	Udaya Bollineni	M21	1720.57	113	Steve Aronson	M45	2292.69
64	Erik Eddy	M18	1722.13	114	Chris Berry	M50	2305.42
65	Ed Scott	M55	1725.88	115	John Furlong	M21	2318.28
66	Jean O'Connor	F55	1728.24	116	Yuri Zakrevski	M14	2322.27
67	Bob Gross	M45	1732.70	117	Joseph Ward	M40	2337.48
68	Fritz Barnes	M40	1734.29	118	Rick Whiffen	M55	2344.71
69	Dayne Thatcher	M12	1735.97	119	Jim Browne	M70	2364.37
70	Bruce Zeidman	M60	1740.75	120	Brian Hill	M45	2380.71
71	Kent Shaw	M55	1761.16	121	Barry Landis	M55	2399.90
72	John DeWolf	M45	1770.38	122	Jane Nocera	F55	2404.72
73	Billie Jo Miraski	F40	1772.89	123	Kathleen Geist	F50	2415.63
74	Jon Prine	M20	1786.52	124	Bob Burton	M35	2417.50
75	Francis Hogle	M45	1817.56	125	Tory Lingg	F60	2420.81
76	Ken Miraski	M50	1831.04	126	K. I. McCane	M50	2432.84
77	Theo Zaharia	M60	1835.40	127	Sue Harford	F45	2443.71
78	Guy Olsen	M45	1882.77	128	Roger Hartley	M55	2464.40
79	Tim Walsh	M55	1914.85	129	Andrea Hartley	F50	2474.00
80	Jonathan DeWolf	M14	1923.18	130	John Williams	M65	2525.03
81	Sandy Ahlswede	F21	1928.36	131	Ron Barron	M50	2526.60
82	Steven Getz	M40	1931.05	132	Mike Borovicka	M55	2538.88
83	Bob Rycharski	M45	1939.80	133	Donna Terefenko	F50	2596.95
84	Chris Young	M35	1943.11	134	Brenda Harder	F60	2609.74
85	Daniel Miller	M12	1959.15	135	Dave Urban	M55	2627.90
86	Gregg Davis	M20	1959.37	136	Tim Gilpatrick	M40	2649.95
87	Mike Scaringi	M50	1973.89	137	Larry Geist	M50	2655.05
88	Charles Robinson	M50	1978.61	138	Bob Fischer	M55	2660.89
89	Michael DeWolf	M12	1979.26	139	Charley Parker	M50	2670.13
90	Valerie Meyer	F45	1999.82	140	Richard Eddy	M45	2683.67
91	Julie Keim	F21	2016.79	141	Gary Brown	M60	2692.58
92	Roger Broome	M40	2017.38	142	Pat Burton	F45	2809.35
93	Dawn Britton	F35	2045.73	143	Sharon Siegler	F55	2869.94
94	Fred Kruesi	M50	2052.13	144	Corey Thatcher	M10	2945.21
95	Robert Smith	M40	2054.70	145	Roger Martin	M60	2960.89
96	Jamie Hill	F14	2074.30	146	Peter Zakrevski	G2	2965.49
97	Nancy Sharp	F45	2096.83	147	Simcha Rudolph	F50	2970.62
98	John Edwards	M65	2102.25	148	Maryann Cassidy	F50	3050.86
99	Joe Hamer	M50	2109.99	149	Marilee Ball	F50	3126.70
100	Phil Bird	M45	2112.00	150	Peg Edwards	F65	3216.33
101	Robert Frank	M12	2128.08	151	Merle Kohn	M65	3317.78
102	Arthur Bond	M40	2163.28	152	Pat Keim	F50	3351.66
103	Mark Kern	M55	2173.71	153	Deb Samans	F50	3374.30
104	Michael Metzger	M40	2187.02	154	Deb Katz	F21	3379.50
105	Francis Miller	M14	2202.88	155	Larry Mogil	M45	3585.60
106	Susan Cornish	F14	2208.59	156	Kathy Urban	F55	3671.49
107	Craig Kennerly	M60	2227.35				
108	Tom Perry	M45	2235.76				
109	Jim Puzo	M40	2240.37				
110	Jeff Hanlon	M40	2253.40				
111	David Cramer	M40	2264.57				
112	Karen Ort	F50	2267.89				

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Event Summary - 2004

<u>Map Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Director(s)</u>	<u>Designer(s)</u>	<u>Orienteers</u>
Brandywine	Apr 04	Mark Cornish	Mark Cornish	36
Brandywine	Dec 05	Maryann Cassidy/Bob Burg	Bob Burg (OBnGRBL)/ Ralph Tolbert (WY)	155
Camp Horseshoe	Sep 26	Jim Rayburn Billie Jo Miraski & Tim Mari	Mary Frank	71
Colliers Mills	Mar 28	Bob Burg/Jerry Smith	Bob Burg	64
Daniel Boone	May 09	Erik Eddy	Erik Eddy	89
Daniel Boone	Oct 09	Clem & Dasha McGrath	Clem & Dasha McGrath	39
Elk Neck	Apr 24	Tom Overbaugh	Tom Overbaugh	79
Evansburg State	Apr 17	Roger Martin & Dave Darrah	Roger Martin(W,Y) & Dave Darrah(O)	62
Fairmount Park	May 08	Jim Browne	Jim Browne	12
FC Central	May 02	John De Wolf	Ed Scott	103
FC East	Apr 10	Charles Robinson	Charles Robinson	133
FC East	Aug 29	Ron Bortz	Ron Bortz	114
FC North	Aug 01	Mary & Mark Frank	Mark Frank	68
FC North	Sep 19	Janet & Dennis Porter	Mark Frank	102
FC North	Sep 19	Janet & Dennis Porter	Mark Frank	170
FC North	Oct 24	Steve Aronson	John De Wolf, Eric Weyman, Steve Aronson	116
FC West	Jul 11	Bob and Chris Gross	Bob and Chris Gross	152
Hammond Rocks	Nov 14	Eddie Bergeron	Mike Ball, Eddie Bergeron	114
Harriman	Oct 02	Mark Cornish	Karl Ahlswede	292
Harriman	Oct 03	Mark Cornish	Karl Ahlswede	293
Hawk Mtn	Mar 14	Dave Prine/Mark Cornish	Mark Cornish/Dave Prine	56
Hay Creek	Apr 24	Ed Scott	Ed Scott	7
Hibernia	May 30	Clem & Dasha McGrath	Clem & Dasha McGrath	74
Hibernia	Oct 17	Mary Frank & Barry Landis	Barry Landis (W,Y,O)/ Mary Frank (Br,G,R)	91
Hickory Run	Aug 22	Rob Wilkison	Rob Wilkison	90
Iron Hill	Aug 08	Ralph Tolbert & Nancy Sharp	Ralph Tolbert & Nancy Sharp	76
Iron Hill	Dec 12	Sandy Fillebrown	Sandy Fillebrown	127
Mt Penn	Nov 28	Ed Scott	Ed Scott	42
Norristown Farm	May 22	Mark Frank	Mark Frank	7
Quail Hill	Oct 16	Bob Rycharski & Jerry Smith	B. Rycharski& Troop 116, Millstone Scouts	80
Ridley Creek	May 23	Bob Meyer	Bob Meyer	96
Ridley Creek Sta	Sep 12	Tim Walsh and Ron Wood	Ron Wood	138
Susquehanna	Mar 07	Ralph Tolbert/Nancy Sharp	Mihai Veres	80
Tatum	May 15	Bob Rycharski/Jerry Smith	Bob Rycharski/Scout Jeff Kurtz	52
The Willows	Apr 24	Tim Walsh	Tim Walsh	25
Tourne Park	Nov 21	Guy Olsen	Guy Olsen	132
VF Fatlands	Apr 18	Mike Bertram	Mike Bertram & Kathy King	152
VF Fatlands	Jun 05	Mary Frank	Mark Frank	58
VF Mt Joy	Jun 13	Frank Family & Ed Scott	Ed Scott	140
Washington Cross	Oct 31	Jerry Smith	Jerry Smith	110
White Clay	Nov 07	Tom Overbaugh	Tom Overbaugh	144

DVOA's Annual Service Awards

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.

Sandy Heath

Sandy is one of our really "old timers" so far as length of membership goes, having first joined DVOA in 1979. In our early years on the old black-and-white maps, Sandy did nearly every job needed, from being meet director to field checking and revising maps. In those days, the job of meet director often included going out early to set controls and staying late to retrieve them, plus handling registration, start and finish in between.

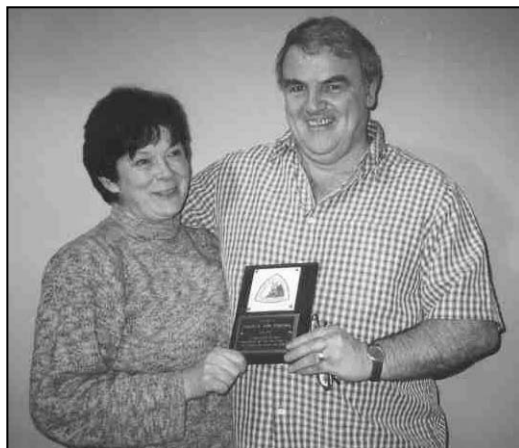


Sandy taught at Moorestown Friends School for 27 years; every spring he arranged a special orienteering experience for his classes. Sandy was instrumental in getting permission for our events from Chief Crazy Horse after Rancocas State Park in New Jersey became headquarters for the Rancocas Indian Nation. Sandy has been on the help crew at some of our A events; he also continues to assist as the New Jersey Scout orienteering events, and at Colliers Mills, Four Mile Circle and Assunpink as well. Though not as active as in the past, he still manages to get to about eight meets a year.

Sandy and his wife, Susan, live in Moorestown, NJ and have three grown daughters: Suellen, Lisa and Jennifer, all of whom orienteer, even in Calgary and Salt Lake City. Since retiring five years ago, Sandy's many interests have led him to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, in a prison, as a guide at a Meeting House in Philadelphia, and in two schools. He is currently on the board of directors at Camp Dark Waters in Medford, NJ and serves as the clerk for Moorestown Monthly Meeting of Friends. Orienteering is still one of his major loves.

Charlie and Julie Robinson

At the winter meeting in January 1993, we recognized our 500th DVOA member. Along with the recognition went a cash award of \$15, which recipient Charlie Robinson promptly donated back to the DVOA treasury. When Charlie was transferred here from England by Unisys, he already had orienteering experience, having been a member of South Midlands Orienteering Club—or SMOC for short—in the United Kingdom. He was transferred back to England, where he and Julie still have a house in the High Wycombe area, which is between London and Oxford in the Chiltern Hills. In 1999 Charlie rejoined DVOA when he came here again on assignment. England's loss has been our gain, since Charlie and Julie have been eager and reliable volunteers at many local events and at the Mid



DVOA Notes from the Briar Patch - March 2005

Atlantic Scout Orienteering Championships. You have probably seen them at the finish; if you are a regular, you may not realize it but Charlie probably knows your map number.

Charlie and Julie have three daughters: Sarah, Melanie and Bryony, who live in England. Melanie and Bryony used to go orienteering when they were here in 1993, and Bryony still competes occasionally. Many of you will know their lovely dog named Scorcher, who is a regular attendee at orienteering events and keeps them company at their home here in Glenmoore, PA. Charlie lists tennis as a hobby. Julie is an excellent cook, and we understand that they enjoy an occasional good bottle of wine; the rest of the time they enjoy lots of not-such-good bottles of wine... but not in the parks, of course!

Mike & Marilee Ball

Mike and Marilee first heard of orienteering when they attended one of Mark Frank's clinics at King's Gap State Park southwest of Harrisburg. They joined DVOA in 1988 and, despite living quite some distance away, became active and enthusiastic members. Luckily for us, they had the drive to establish a club in the Harrisburg area; on December 8, 1990 a charter was granted by USOF to Susquehanna Valley Orienteering, commonly referred to as SVO. We're lucky to have a sister club so nearby, as we can work together on Class A meets and enjoy going to their local events. Mike and Marilee retain their membership in DVOA and help however needed.

Mike is now retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, where he was the Deputy Secretary for Administration, and Marilee is the practice administrator for a private gastroenterology specialty practice and the administrator for an ambulatory endoscopy center. They live in Wellsville, PA, southwest of Harrisburg. Mike's hobbies include cross-country skiing, running and biking. Marilee enjoys cross-country skiing and music. Recently, Mike has been doing some adventure racing, which combines orienteering with other sports requiring physical endurance.



We are very proud and honored to be selected as one of the recipients of this award. When we first attended that orienteering clinic at King's Gap, we could never have imagined how orienteering would change our lives. We frequently talk about the friends we have made, the places we have visited and the experiences we have shared as a result of our involvement in orienteering. The generous support and encouragement we received from DVOA over the years has been invaluable to us and to SVO and we treasure the friendships that have developed. Thank you, Caroline and Kent.

Mike and Marilee

**Congratulations to Mihai Veres (M40+), Sandy Fillebrown (F50+),
Alison Campbell (F-14), and Greg Ahlswede (M-14)
for being named USOF 2004 Ranking Champions!**

The Venture Crew's Road to Texas

By Janet Porter, DVOA's Junior Coordinator

Back in the spring of 2001 at DVOA's Interscholastic A Event, The Backtrackers from Exeter, PA took third place in the Middle School competition.

Since that event, this group of young men and their coach have been traveling the roads to the yearly Interscholastic A events together. These roads have taken them to:

- Raven Rock State Park, NC in 2002, where the team took first place in the High School Junior Varsity competition.

- Sweetwater Creek State Park, GA in 2003, where the team took second place in the High School Junior Varsity competition

- Brookville Lake, IN in 2004, where the team once again took first place in the High School Junior Varsity competition.

In case you don't know this group of young men, I will introduce them to you. They are Hunter Cornish, Erik Eddy, Pat Pomian, Zack Kratsas and Chris Toporski; their coach is Mark Cornish. For the first three years, the team consisted only of Hunter, Erik and Pat; Zack and Chris joined the team last year.

For Mark and the boys to get to these events they took lo-n-n-n-g road trips in the Cornish van, but to get to the 2005 Interscholastic Competition in Texas, the Cornish van just wasn't going to cut it. That is where I came in. I have been working with Mark and the boys to do fundraising. Late last summer we decided to do some serious fundraising to get as much money as possible for the trip to Texas. We started with a food concession stand at the French Creek local event for the annual DVOA training weekend in September. For a number of reasons, the concession stand didn't do as well as we had hoped, but we didn't give up.

The next opportunity to raise money came from Guy Olsen, a secondary club member who was the HVO Event Director for the HVO/DVOA Dual event in November. Mark and the boys agreed to a trip to northern NJ, both to compete for DVOA and to help with another food concession stand which did much better.

Then, in early December Sandy Fillebrown put out a call that whoever volunteered first to help her run a Sprint O Event at the Iron Hill Local meet on Dec. 12 would get the proceeds from the event. Mark and the boys were the first to volunteer and earned themselves a couple hundred dollars for their help.

Our last effort to raise money came at the 2005 Winter Meeting in January. With help from Mark and me, the boys organized and ran a silent auction. Once again the club came through for the boys, and members brought a number of items for the auction. For their efforts, the boys raised another couple hundred dollars towards their trip.

In addition to giving a number of items to the auction, Charlie and Julie Robinson gave a very nice and sizeable monetary donation to the team; we are very thankful for their generosity and help for the team. When all was said and done, with all of your help this small group of young men was able to raise nearly \$900 for their trip to Texas.

VERY, VERY early on Friday February 18, 2005 the five-man Venture Crew team, Mark and myself plus Susan Cornish and Greg Ahlswede gathered at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport to board a plane for the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Texas. All of us just want to say to everyone at DVOA, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT! Make sure to check the next *Briar Patch* to read about our trip and to see our pictures from Texas.

First O of '05

This was my first President's Cup; after Mary Frank suggested using Hibernia as a venue, I began thinking about what format to use. Some of the ideas included a Trivial Pursuit theme, micro orienteering and using a butterfly design. For some reason that I can't remember now, I settle on Memory O. I do remember going to a Memory O event at Washington's Crossing when I first started orienteering, but I didn't do the memory course. I consulted with Mark Frank about setting up memory orienteering and decided to design two courses that shared some controls. For some, this added an extra element to the memory portion, requiring runners to remember which course they were on.

Despite competing with the NFL playoffs, there was a nice turn-out for a wintry day in January. I also set a white course as some Cub Scouts said they would attend. All together almost 40 orienteers came out to enjoy what turned out to be a nice winter day. As for the results, Chuck Crabb demonstrated he had the best memory by coming in first on the longer of the two memory courses. Despite having a memory lapse at the beginning of the course, Jim Eagleton persevered and finished ahead of the field on the "Some" memory course. And talk about persevering: Susan Cornish did a nice job of relocating to get back on track and finish her course - well done, Susan.

Thanks to Nancy Sharp for working registration, start and finish the day of the event. She also helped hang controls the day before. Special thanks to Mark Frank for helping with control pick-up.

WHITE: 2.3Km,34m climb, 9 controls

Theresa Thatcher	F35	DVOA	26:39
Julie Robinson	F50	DVOA	38:30
DK Team	G2	DVOA	44:42
Bryan Schliesman & Dayne Thatcher	G2	DVOA	46:37
Charles Wildonger	G3	BSA	48:10
Lisa Tull & Michael Harvell	G2	DVOA	56:31

SOME Memory - 3.0 Km, 55 m climb, 8 controls

Jim Eagleton	M50	DVOA	39:49
Scott Thatcher	M45	DVOA	40:20
Ron Barron	M50	DVOA	49:48
Bill Shannon	M65	HVO	59:59
Charley Parker	M50	DVOA	65:56
Charles Robinson	M50	DVOA	78:42
Matt And Diane Kephart	G2	None	88:20
Susan Cornish	F14	DVOA	121:29
Larry Geist	M55	DVOA	122:25
Kathy Urban	F35	DVOA	124:23
Maryann Cassidy	F50	DVOA	125:25

MORE Memory - 4.5 Km, 100 m climb, 10 controls

Chuck Crabb	M45	DVOA	33:24
Wyatt Riley	M21	DVOA	37:48
Mike Bertram	M55	DVOA	43:44
Hunter Cornish	M18	DVOA	45:33
Mark Cornish	M45	DVOA	50:14
Angelica Riley	F21	DVOA	51:42
Neil Martin	M21	DVOA	54:35
Mark Frank	M45	DVOA	54:02
Rob Wilkison	M55	DVOA	59:24
Bob Gross	M45	DVOA	61:47
Sandy Fillebrown	F50	DVOA	64:16
Zach Kratsas	M16	BSA	85:59
Chris Topoiki	M18	BSA	97:05
Tim Walsh	M?	DVOA	99:35
David Desch	M?	?	121:53
Ron Barron	M50	DVOA	DNF

Take care in the woods, for there are good turns and bad turns around every bend.

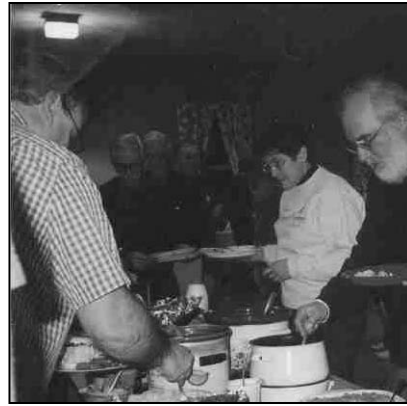
Joel Harrison Thomson

(from Los Angeles Orienteering, Nov.-Dec. 2001)

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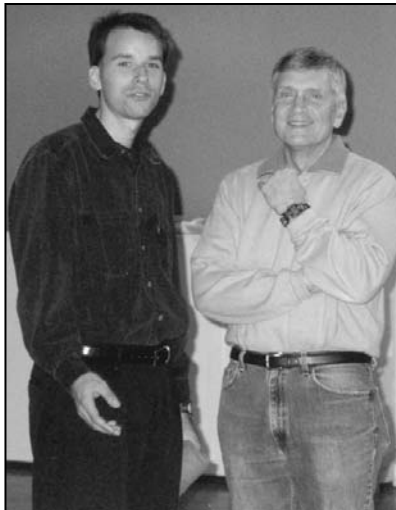


DVOA's 14-17 champs: Hunter Cornish and Allison Campbell



DVOAers line up at the covered-dish that preceded the dinner.

Scenes from DVOA's winter meeting



Wyatt Riley, left, and Hugh MacMullan III discuss proposed changes to the DVOA ranking system.



Karl Ahlswede, left, the club's newly elected trustee, talks with Kent Shaw, the club's web-meister, and Jean O'Connor, puzzle master.

The club's mascot, O'Hare, is joined at the DVOA winter meeting by a new member of the club, the SnO-Man.



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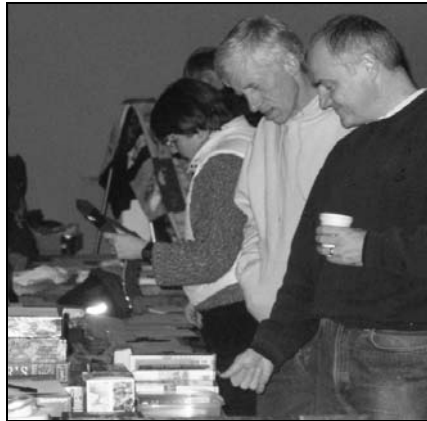
Angelica Riley accepts the award for the club's female champion for 2004 from Kent Shaw, while the club president, Ralph Tolbert, looks on.



(above) Nancy Sharp shows off the SnO-Man, a Christmas gift which came equipped with his own SnO-sized copy of the Briar Patch and control.



Angelica Riley's daughter Orianna seems to be eyeing up her mother's trophy.



(left) Sherry Meyer, Bob Burg and John Campbell check out the silent auction items on display at the winter meeting.

Before the winter meeting, Patrick Shannon and Jim Eagleton talked about their summer adventures: Patrick hiked the Pacific Coast trail and Jim hiked the Appalachian Trail.



Mary Frank, DVOA's secretary and treasurer, discusses the club's financial situation.



O'Hare's life in pictures

In the last issue of the Briar Patch, Caroline Ringo wrote an article chronicling the evolution of O'Hare. Here are some pictures to accompany that story.



Ginger Burd, co-winner of the Name the Rabbit Contest



Sue Edwards, co-winner of the Name the Rabbit Contest



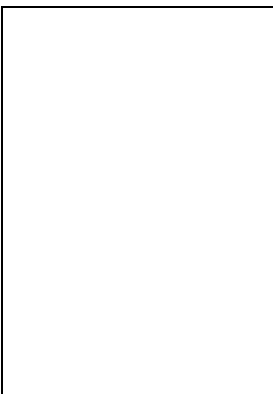
Briar Rabbit looking for a name



The Ramapo O Club tortoise that inspired our hare



Lisa Overton, talented creator of the DVOA bunny in 1982



Bruce Case wearing our first T-shirt at the US Champs at Silvermine in 1979



Marie Reynolds with O'Hare's papier mache head



O'Hare taking dinner tickets at our 1995 A-meet

Deaflympics News

Ballarat Turns on Blue Skies for First Day of Orienteering



(9 January 2005) Sunday's men's and women's Orienteering Sprint events were held under a clear blue sky and mild temperatures in Ballarat. The first orienteering event revealed strong competition amongst the participants, who used a detailed map and compass to determine the most efficient route through the course.

The course details - which were a secret until the event started yesterday - was set by Ballarat local, Tom Norwood from the Ureka Orienteering Club.

Two Ukrainian women took the gold and silver medals Maryna Chekhynova with a time of 30:29 followed by Iana Melnik with a time of 32:14. Hot on Iana's heels was Olga Dula from Russia who won bronze with a time of 32:19

In the men's sprint final Tomas Kuzminkis from Lithuania took the Gold medal with a time of 24:50, Silver was won by Christian Matter from Switzerland in 27:15 and the bronze went to Latvia's Andis Krams with a time of 28:40. Tomas Kuzminkis is a three time champion of Nordic-Baltic Deaf Orienteering, won Gold in the Rome 2001 Deaflympics as well as Gold in the 2000 European Orienteering Championship.

Ballarat is also staging the Deaflympic Games cycling events throughout the week as well as the marathon this Friday January 14, with the course designed by Deaflympic Games Ambassador, Steve Monneghetti.

Manager Major Events in Ballarat, Tracey Hull, said, "Ballarat is proud to be a host of the Deaflympics cycling, orienteering and marathon events. Ballarat has the ideal terrain and courses to be the host of these event and the athletes will appreciate the beauty of the region."

Congratulations to DVOA members chosen for USOF team

Congratulations to Karen Williams, Angelica Riley, Sergie Zhyk, Gregory Balter, Randy Hall, Wyatt Riley, and Mihai Veres for being named to USOF's 2005 Standing Team!

The complete team is as follows:

FEMALE : (in alphabetical order by list)

A -- Pavilina Brautigam, Erin Olafsen, Karen Williams, Sandra Zurcher

B -- Peggy Dickison, Samantha Saeger

C -- Suzanne Armstrong, Viktoria Brautigam, Sharon Crawford, Angelica Riley, Hillary Saeger

MALE:

A -- Eric Bone, Brian May

B -- Eddie Bergeron, John Fredrickson, Boris Granovskiy, Mikell Platt, James Scarborough, Sergey Velichko, Ken Walker, Jr., Sergie Zhyk

C -- Leif Anderson, Gregory Balter, Mark Everett, Randy Hall, Robbie Paddock, Syd Reader, Wyatt Riley, Ross Smith, Dan Stoll-Hadayia, Mihai Veres

Event report: Brandywine, Dec. 5, 2004

It was a dark and stormy night...

Many stories start that way, but in this case it was an exceptionally nice day for December: sunny and warm... at least, it was once you left the windy hill where Registration, Start and Finish were located. Brandywine was my first attempt at directing an event, and the meet drew one of the largest turnouts of the year. We had a good number of people new to orienteering, including a group of Army Reservists who had recently returned from Iraq. With a full slate of challenging courses, everyone had an opportunity to explore the "other" side of the park.

In the planning stages, this event bounced back and forth across Brandywine Creek before landing at the Hawk Watch area of the park. Bob Burg originally wanted to set courses on the west side of the park, but he was told in October that all the fields were under the meadow management program and, even in December, we would not be permitted to run on them. Another possibility, Thompson's Bridge, would only give us parking for 20 cars, so it was back to the familiar east side of the park with courses starting at the Jewish Community Center. By the first week in November, Bob had designed, field checked and streamered all the courses.

It was at this point that I wanted to ask about using the electrical outlets at the pavilion and clear the parking. I had mistakenly thought that the pavilion and the parking lot next to it belonged to the park, when they actually belong to the Jewish Community Center. Unfortunately, December 5th was the one day of the year they couldn't accommodate us, as they were having a large Chanukah celebration and expected over 1,000 people, who would be using all of their parking as well as the parking at an adjacent school and the Holiday Inn.

After a day of discussions and suggestions, Bob volunteered to design new intermediate and advanced courses for the west side of the park. (In the meantime, Mary Frank had called the park, and they now reversed the earlier statement and said that nesting season would be over and we could run on the fields in December.) Ralph Tolbert stepped in to design the White and Yellow courses, and John DeWolf was recruited to vet.

Due to the efforts of my many capable and cheerful helpers, everything went well, and we were out of the park 18 minutes before sunset, when the park was scheduled to close its gates. Mark Frank developed a new express Start system, which relies on a self-service system for intermediate and advanced runners. He agreed to try it at Brandywine, and the results were very promising. We had 269 people run on 160 maps, without long lines, despite the fact that Mark worked alone for a couple of hours until Jim Eagleton relieved him.

In addition to the volunteers scheduled to work, a number of people jumped in and assisted every time they saw something that needed to be done. Help with tasks like moving furniture, giving instructions, calculating elapsed times, and catching the pink cards that blew away from me at Finish made the day move smoothly. Many thanks to all my helpers, and I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. Those who assisted with the preparation and/or the day of the event are: Karl and Sandy Ahlswede, Alice Bortz, John DeWolf, Jim Eagleton, Sandy Fillebrown, Bob Fink, Mark and Mary Frank, Barry Landis, Hugh MacMullan, Tom Overbaugh, Kim Pelle, Charles and Julie Robinson, Ed Scott, Nancy Sharp, Robert Smith, John Swaren, Ralph Tolbert, Eric Weyman, Rick Whiffen, and Ron Wood. Special thanks are due to Nancy Sharp and Bob Burg for their invaluable assistance, advice, and support. They both went above and beyond the call of duty and exhibited great patience with a sometimes flustered novice event director.

I found directing an event to be a fun, satisfying experience, and I strongly encourage others to try it. It does involve a fair amount of work, but there are always people ready and very willing to help you. You have the opportunity to meet a lot of people new to the sport, and to share your love

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of and enthusiasm for orienteering with everyone who contacts you for information about the event. And it's a great learning experience as well. Working with a number of veteran DVOA members gave me a much better idea of what to do and what not to do the next time. And the next time will be March 26th, when we will use the courses Bob originally designed for the east side of the park. So, I hope we'll see you then.

Mary Ann Cassidy

More Adventures in Delaware Parks

I thought I would send you the info just in case any members of the Delaware Valley Orienteering Association might be interested in this adventure race series (the one at Brandywine Creek has an orienteering component):

Kickin' it at Killens
May 14, 8:00 a.m.
Kayak, Run, Bike
Held at Killens Pond State Park, located at 5025 Killens Pond Road in Felton, DE

Clash with the Creek
June 18, 8:00 a.m.
Canoe, Run, Orienteering
Held at Brandywine Creek State Park, located at the junction of Rts 92 & 100 in Greenville, DE

Baldcypress Challenge
July 9, 8:00 a.m.
Canoe, Run, Bike
Held at Trap Pond State Park, located on Rt 24, east of Laurel, DE

Each race is designed with the average athlete in mind. Prizes will be awarded for multiple categories and each participant will receive a race t-shirt. The entry fee is \$20/participant per race, or \$50 for the three-race series. Participation is limited to 80 per race. For more information, call 302-739-4413 or see <http://www.destateparks.com/adventurerace>

Thanks,

Jill Graham

Delaware State Parks AmeriCorps
Volunteer Coordinator
Cultural and Recreational Services
302-739-4413

Fun Running In the Fields of Central Manalapan, NJ

by Bob Rycharski

Hi, DVOA members. We had so much fun at the DVOA and Dual Scout O event on 17 Oct, 2004, I almost forgot to send in the meet report. Good thing Nancy has published this after the fact. See the Quail Hill Meet results on the DVOA results webpage or the previous issue of the *Briar Patch*.

Event Director : Bob Rycharski

Assistant Meet Director & registration: Jerry Smith

Start & Finish: Troop 116, Millstone NJ Scout troop (9 Volunteers - Kevin, Matt Goldberg, Matt Cassera, Trevor, Jeffrey, Rob, Nick S., Ryan Lancaster), and their leader, Jill Lancaster, MAST High School students (five volunteers: Rebecca Swerida, Terri Blosser, Douglas Leder, Joshua Mineroff, & Max Leviton), Don Blosser, Dwight Hakim, John Palframan, and probably a few walk-on volunteers like Pat Basko of #116 Troop. We appreciated your help even if I did not record your name here.

Weather: mostly sunny, about 75 degrees.

Course setting: Bob Rycharski - Green course. Troop 116 Scouts: White, Yellow X and Yellow Y, and Orange courses.

Training: Jill Lancaster, the MD and the same listed above Troop 116 Scouts.

The day was a big success, with about 190 Scouts and 40 to 50 or so DVOA and public walk-ons taking a map hike also. The many scouts in Troop 116 really earned their Orienteering Merit Badge effort by starting the planning in August (O course design and in Sept., control site flagging). At least 25 Scout units, the local Maritime MAST High School, the local USMAPS cadets and many DVOA members also showed up. The Scout courses led O participants through rolling mid New Jersey hills, forest and fields, and the results were that a fine orienteering experience and run was had by all. The Green course took runners onto the power lines, then around the Camp property edge and Kiely Pond. At the end, Green course runners were notified of that and the map was over-printed with that new dirt road construction, which had just begun construction and lead to a new public water tower, on the northwest map edge, and hence was a huge catching feature.

On the Orange course, the Scouts had the runners visit various out-of-the-way camp locations, and more than one runner had trouble finding the hidden OJ gully control due to medium low level branches when one was hunting it off the trail. White and Yellow courses proceeded counterclockwise through the camp trail system, and a majority of the hikers had a beautiful yet challenging map hike through the woods.

The primary reason this map and meet were started was to educate the local Girl and Boy Scouts, and some short periods of head scratching were observed by this meet director at some controls. Many Cub Scouts participated again this year on the map hike, with parental escorts. Kudos to Webelos Cub Scout Niederberger (Pack 97, with a parent escorting), who was the fastest Scout on Orange; he bested the Troop 246 Scout team of Palframan, Bosch, & Flynn by an impressive 18-minute margin, and Hugo Walker of HVO, winning the OJ course overall. And the Girl Scouts showed that they are great orienteers too, with Paige Hakim winning the White course, and the Begley/ Test/ Wyzomierski Team Troop 869-2 team the first-place Scout team on the Yellow Long 2.9 km course, and their fellow GS USA - Scouts the Trejo & Wellington T869 Team finishing in 1st and 2nd place respectively, with only 8 seconds separating them, & Boy and Cub Scouts trailed them in on Yellow. For the rest of the results (including DVOA's Bill Shannon's win on Green), see the previ-

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ous issue of the *Briar Patch*.)

Scout Patches are still available for anyone who might have missed buying them at the event.

Kudos to the MAST students, who competed and helped organize the Finish line.

We missed Caroline and Kent Ringo, who annually come to assist helping at this Scout O meet; we wish Caroline a special and a speedy recovery. As Meet Director, I found this was a slightly difficult meet to host; many last-minute details were ironed out by the Scouts of Troop 116 and the MAST HS leaders, who have earned my respect and thanks for a job and "O meet" well done.

We hope to continue this mid-NJ map hike activity. See you at the next Scout O in April at Holmdel Park.

PS: We are still looking for a cell phone lost between controls #2 and #3 on the Orange course.



I never saw a discontented tree. They grip the ground as though they liked it, and though fast rooted they travel about as far as we do

John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838-1914)

DVOA's Grapevine



If you have any news of interest to DVOA members—birth of a baby, a new address, a son or daughter off to college, an engagement or wedding, a milestone anniversary—we'll gladly print whatever space permits. Send the information to the Briar Patch editor, Nancy Sharp, 3439 Fairfield St, Laureldale, PA 19605, or by e-mail to njsharp@aol.com

Valley Forge National Historic Park has a new superintendent (the previous superintendent, Arthur Stewart, having retired). His name is Mike Caldwell, and he is interested in participating in orienteering events!

Karen Williams is engaged to Jason Middleton of England. They will be married May 27, 2006, in Scotland. Karen is at Chamers University in Goteborg, Sweden. Not sure what Jason does: Banking and security type work (Interpol???)

Peg and John Edward are moving. Their address, as of March 9, is 273 Aster Ct., New Holland, PA 17557. As Peg noted, they'll be closer to French Creek.

Letter to the masses: Orienteering is for everyone

By Russ Damtoft

Reprinted from Chicago Area Orienteering Club's newsletter, May 1999

Sometimes this column is an easy one to write, sometimes it's not. And sometimes the work gets done for you. A few weeks ago, I got a letter, wrote an answer to it, and then realized the writer was probably speaking for a number of you. So I decided to share the writer's query and my slightly edited reply.

Dear Mr. Damtoft:

I have been a member of our club for the past year. Unfortunately, due to a lot of overtime at work and schedule conflicts, I was unable to attend any events. The day of the annual meeting, which I was planning to attend, I had a well pump go out and had to get that fixed. I had really hoped to meet some of the members and learn about the club.

Anyway, now it is time for renewal, and I still do not know if this club is for me. The reason I joined was to learn more about compass orientation and map reading to use with making hiking and backpacking trips. I am not a runner.

Could you take time to write me and explain more about this club, please? Is there a place for hikers in this club? It seems this is the wrong club for me.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. X

Dear Mr. X:

Thank you for letter. You asked whether there was a place in the club for someone whose interest in orienteering was to help with hiking and backpacking and who is not a runner.

Let me respond with an emphatic "yes." To me, one of the best things about orienteering is that it can be many different things to many different people. While it is true that for some it is a competitive running sport in which success is defined by speed, in truth this group is a minority. For others, it is an opportunity to get out into the woods with family or friends. For still others, it is an opportunity to look at wildlife, trees and flowers within the loose structure of an orienteering course. Others enjoy maps and the experiences of relating the terrain to the map, with or without the aid of a compass. An orienteering event can be all of these things to all of these people.

I can illustrate the diverse potential of orienteering through personal experience. While my wife and I both enjoy combining running with the technical challenge of orienteering, our children are not up to running a course. So we take turns: one of us runs a course, while the other walks it with our children, using the opportunity to teach them how to work with maps and compasses. They enjoy that. We are also using orienteering to practice for a two-week hiking trip we are planning for this summer. Going beyond my own family, the person who introduced me to orienteering primarily seems to enjoy getting out into the woods to look at wildflowers. One of our club's officers has an injury that precludes her from running at all. She walks the courses with her map and compass instead. Each of us has a very different experience, but we all have a pretty good day of it—all in the same woods at the same time.

At any given meet, we have four or five courses, graduated by level of difficulty. The easiest course is the white course. It's about one to two kilometers in length and generally follows trails.

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Moving up, the next easiest is the yellow course. This will run from two to four kilometers in length and will require some limited off-trail navigation, although proficiency with a compass isn't necessary. Next comes orange, which will be a bit longer and require some more complex navigation in which at least limited compass proficiency is desirable. The remaining courses—green, red and blue—are advanced courses that will require good compass skills, route choice decision-making and advanced map reading skills. The structure allows one to progress from one level to the next—or not—as the spirit moves. We offer instruction at each meet.

I suppose it's in the nature of things that the most competitive participants in any organization are the most visible, and this is true of orienteering as well. However, don't let that fact obscure the fact that many different agendas are being met at the same time. We try very hard to be welcoming of everyone. After a meet, you'll see people comparing notes about where they got lost, where they had a triumphant navigation success, and asking each other how they found that elusive boulder near a vegetation boundary. Join right in! Orienteers love to talk about how they found (or didn't find) their way.

Thank you for your letter. Hope to see you in the woods.

Dear all,

I want to thank each of you for the role you played in bringing about the acquisition of the Toll Brothers land by the National Park Service at Valley Forge.

Your active concern made all the difference. This subdivision was literally poised for final approvals by the Lower Providence Township on Dec 6, 2001, when a candlelight vigil by some of you attracted widespread media attention that set the stage for this week's happy announcement. Your subsequent letters and calls to decision makers, calls, letters to the editor, and other actions were key factors in this outcome.

With Valley Forge poised to be the nation's classroom on the American Revolution, this acquisition is all the sweeter.

All the best,

Joy M. Oakes

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What is orienteering?

(reprinted from Quebec Orienteering's May 1999 newsletter)

The sport of orienteering was developed in Sweden early last century by running/exercise enthusiasts who added the element of navigation to their training runs. They upgraded their government-issued maps to include topographical and man-made details which could be used as "control points" for the orienteers to search for while on their walks or run. The participants carried only the O-map and a compass to keep them "on course."

Modern orienteering events are now just a formalization of that original concept. Host O clubs prepare highly detailed color maps of interesting and accessible parkland, both close-by and out-of-town, and invite the public to enjoy a hike or run-around on one of the pre-planned courses.

At each O-meet there are usually at least four courses to try: two simple courses (good for learning O Skills) where the markers are all on or close to trails (White and Yellow) and two or more advanced courses where the control points are placed farther out in the wooded terrain and where very precise navigation is required. Choose the level you consider appropriate to your skill and physical ability. O-courses are intended to be completed in about one to two hours. Orienteering has become an active sport in more than 45 countries around the world.

So, what's so great about the sport? Well, if you like the great outdoors and if you'd enjoy an exercise that includes an element of problem solving and discovery, then we're sure you'll enjoy orienteering, whether as an opportunity for a family romp, or as a sport to test your physical and mental skills. **Pass the word along!** We look forward to seeing you and your friends in the woods soon.