

**July 7th, 2011**

**To: Executive Committee, United States Orienteering Federation**

**Subject: Nomination for the 2011 Silva Award**

It is our distinct pleasure to nominate Eric Weyman for the 2011 Silva Award. Eric Weyman is well into his third decade of involvement in US orienteering. He is well known by many for being at the very top of the competitive side of the sport during much of the 1980's earning several US championships and representing the US on six WOC teams but what is not as well publicized has been his unflagging contributions to making orienteering what it is today, starting in the late 1970s.

Along with Pat Dunlavey, Eric formed the core of the Blue Mountain Mapping Service that made the first international-standard orienteering maps in the US. Much ahead of their time, maps such as Silvermine and Ward Pound Ridge gave America its first taste of the international standard. These maps, after many years, have stayed the test of time. They provided a nucleus, which Pat and Eric later expanded, for the blossoming of orienteering in the Hudson Valley. This foundation would be of great importance for one of Eric's greatest contributions--in the technical team for the 1993 World Championships.

Eric's role in this watershed event in American orienteering cannot be overstated. His work started years before, on the team that identified the terrain and selected and managed the mapping crew. During 1993, Eric practically lived in Harriman, revising the maps, sharing his insights with the rest of the course setting crew, and setting the courses for the middle distance event. His yeoman's work, sound advice, and discernment ensured the technical success of an event that garnered earnest plaudits from the worldwide orienteering community and fond memories for years to come. Eric may not have anticipated when mapping Silvermine that those lonely days would have afforded him the knowledge and skill to make the 1993 effort worthy of a world championship, but they surely did.

Over the past decade, Eric has spearheaded and motivated a DVOA mapping program that is inspiring in its scope, rigor, and organization. Each year during this time, DVOA has brought online multiple high-quality maps and Eric is a part of the process from beginning to end. He scouts potential areas for suitability, makes contact with park personnel, arranges for mappers and then reviews the fieldwork. Large and small, they are all done to the most exacting standards possible; the schoolyard maps that are produced on Eric's watch receive no less care than those designated to host a championship.

This earnestness and dedication have undoubtedly raised the standards for American orienteering mapping.

Eric has volunteered countless hours teaching mapping to local club members, imparting his wisdom to empower them to make their own top-flight maps. DVOA and several other clubs have numerous maps that now bear the names of his "students." But, his involvement doesn't end with the first round of instruction. Eric has expended countless more hours, either visiting difficult areas in the field, or offering a hand by phone and email during many long evenings.

And this is only one aspect of Eric's technical contributions. As a course setter, a teacher of course setting and as a consultant for course setting, Eric Weyman is simply in a class by himself. No one else comes close to the influence he has exerted and continues to exert on the production of high-quality championship level courses in the United States. To mention but a few examples, Eric was course setter for the 1992 United States Championships, for the 1993 World Orienteering Championships Short Course and for the 1995 US Short Course Championships. He was consultant (a very hands-on consultant) for the 1994 US Long Course Championships, for the 1995 US Team Trials, for the 1990 US Championships, the 1992 US Short Course Championships, the 2000 US Championships, the 2002 US Short Course Championships, and the most recent 2011 US Team Trials.

After serving as course setter and one of the prime movers of the 2003 US Team Trials in Harriman State park, Eric has played a very significant role in course consulting for Team Trials over the past several years, with an especially prominent and involved role in DVOA's efforts in 2008. He worked with BAOC in 2009 and undoubtedly will be involved next time. The impact of this involvement is profound. His international experience, in-depth study of relevant World Championship terrain, and patience and teaching skills ensure that the events used to select the US Team are fair and relevant.

Often working with less experienced course setters, he has mastered the skill of guiding the process while always protecting the course setter's ownership of the final product. Much like his mapping contributions, investing this time with other volunteers from across the country has greatly strengthened and distributed technical expertise in the US.

Perhaps more remarkable is the amount of time he has spent for other clubs in unheralded ways. For instance, over the past several years, he has invested a tremendous amount of time investigating the promise and limitations of LIDAR technology for orienteering mapping. He has spent hours

advising individuals involved in mapping for for CNYO, QOC, CSU and others about the impact of the technology. This typically involved many hours in the field and many more on the phone.

And then there are the little things he has done. Whether it is manning the start at DVOA local meets, or showing up and spontaneously offering to do whatever needs doing, e.g., hauling water and placing controls at other clubs' A-events, Eric has gone far above and beyond.

Eric has recently lent his skills and knowledge in another way. Along with Steve Shannonhouse, Eric has been working for several months to revise and refine the USOF Rules for Orienteering, to both rationalize them and encourage greater consistency between US Orienteering and prevailing international standards. His life's study of orienteering has been of tremendous help in this endeavor.

Eric is a former DVOA trustee and a deserving recipient of the 1996 DVOA Service Award that is awarded for "outstanding service to our club" and to "to honor some of those who, by their dedication, inspiration, and hard work have contributed to the growth and success of DVOA."

Beyond all of the above, Eric Weyman has made American orienteering the focus of his life's efforts for over 30 years and has always been willing to lend both his technical expertise and good judgment in support of organized orienteering at the local, national, and international levels. He has arguably contributed more than any other individual to the technical advances in United States orienteering over the last three decades.

DVOA owes its ongoing vitality in no small part to Eric's investment of time and love. We unequivocally believe that it is both fitting and timely that American orienteering acknowledges his long-term and ongoing efforts by naming him the recipient of the 2011 Silva award.