

# Buffalo Orienteering Club

# NEWSLETTER

November-December 1981

vol. 2, no. 6

## SHARON AND ERIC REPEAT

Sharon Crawford and Eric Weyman extended their domination of orienteering in the U.S. at the 1981 U.S. Orienteering Championships.

Weyman was able to use his 3:46 advantage after the first day to survive challenges from Steve Tarry and Peter Gagarin on the second day. Both Tarry and Gagarin had faster times than Weyman on the second day but the margins weren't enough to overcome his lead. In the final results, Tarry was second and Gagarin third.

In D 19-A, Sharon Crawford managed to provide more than a little drama. After the first day she was in 4th place for the championship, more than eight minutes behind leader Margo Thornton. Thornton is a student at the University of Vermont and a relative newcomer to the sport. She didn't even compete in last year's championship meet. Her inexperience showed on the second day as two serious errors dropped her out of contention. Crawford came back on day 2 with a very solid run to win the crown. Finishing in second was the much improved Linda Kohn of Rochester.

(continued on page 3...)

## CALENDAR

- Jan ? - B.O.C. Officers Meeting.
- Jan 23 - U.S. Eastern Ski-O Championships.  
Full details on page 2.
- Jan 31 - TOC Ski-O meet at Mansfield.  
Contact Frank Farfan, 416-537-5248.
- Mar 7 - TOC Ski-O meet at Ganaraska.  
Contact same as above.
- Mar ? - B.O.C. Annual General Meeting.
- Apr 10-11 - Troll Cup "A" Meet. Foxboro, MA.
- Apr 24-25 - West Point "A" Meet.
- Apr 25 - HKF "A" Meet. Hamilton, Ontario.
- May 30 - HKF "B" Meet. Hamilton, Ontario.
- June 6 - NOC "B" Meet.

(Other spring meets TBA)

## "O" AND SCHOOL KIDS

I am a teacher of fourth and fifth grade students. I first became interested in teaching orienteering in the classroom because of the obvious tie-in between social studies skills that are to be taught in elementary school and the skills that are needed to be good at orienteering.

These skills are: reading map symbols, understanding the cardinal directions, using a map scale, understanding contour lines, understanding meridian lines, an introduction to the idea of declination, relating the degrees on the compass dial to direction, etc. I thought orienteering would fit very nicely into classroom work I would be doing anyway.

But then...I took the kids out into the field to test my theory. I discovered some very interesting things. First, something I had always known, my husband has an excellent sense of direction and I have none. Interestingly enough, most of the parent helpers I recruited (with some notable exceptions) split along male/female lines also. Since the children do not exhibit the split, I think this must be a cultural difference and that orienteering training in school would help all students to feel more secure about finding their way.

The biggest problem with the kids in the field was the idea of orienting themselves and their map to the surroundings. The classroom constantly reinforces the idea that a map should be "right side up", that is, with North at the top. There is often confusion about where they are and where they need to go if the map has to be held other than "right side up" to be oriented.

Even when the technical hurdles about using the compass to find a bearing are understood, the task remains to look at the map and translate that bearing into a sensible course of action. Their most common error is not observing natural landmarks that would really help in running an accurate course; for example, keeping a stream always on their left, or keeping the sun in the right position. The kids also have a tendency to overrun control points because they have had little experience with being able to judge distance. While schools are expected to teach the use of the distance scale on maps, this does not translate to reality when the kids are in the field. It has no meaning for them personally.

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U.S. EASTERN SKI ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

WHEN & WHERE: January 23, 1982. Highland Forest County Park, Fabius, NY (near Syracuse).

INVITATION: The Syracuse Orienteering Club invites you to a 1-day U.S. Eastern Ski-Orienteering Championship meet. This is a class "A" Ski-O meet sanctioned by the USOF and a class "II" event sanctioned by the USSA. The event is open to everyone regardless of skiing ability, or orienteering experience, or membership in the sanctioning organizations.

MEET SITE: Highland Forest County Park covers nearly 3,000 acres of abandoned farms, over half of which was reforested in spruce, red pine, and larch plantations during the 1930's. The remainder is natural hardwood growth such as beech, birch and maple. Elevation ranges from 1600 ft. to 1940 ft. above sea level

MAP: Black and white redrawing of USGS-based park map, prepared in fall, 1981 by members of Syracuse OC and the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY) at Syracuse. Scale, 1:20,000; 6 m contours.

<u>COURSES &amp; CLASSES:</u> Course and approximate length:	Blue	Red	Red	Orange	Orange	White
M = Male, F = Female. Age as of 12/31/82.	15 km	9 km	9 km	6 km	6 km	2 km
- after age = and older	M					
- before age = and younger	M 21-	F 19-	M 43-	F 15-18	M 50-	F -14
Classes may be combined to insure a minimum of		M19-20	F Open	F 35	F Open	M -14
3 competitors per class. Awards will be made to		M 35	M Open	F 43	M Open	F Open
1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each class.				M 15-18		M Open

FEES: Basic fee (non-member) \$6, USSA Member \$3, USOF/COF/IOF Member \$2, White course \$2, Age 14 and under (any course) \$2. Late fee (postmark after 1/18/82, or at meet site) \$2 per person. Maximum late fee \$5 per family.

DIRECTIONS: Highland Forest is located on NY Route 80, 4 mi. E of Fabius, about 20 mi. SE from Syracuse. From I-81, Exit 14 (Tully), take NY 80 East. Follow "O" signs from Park entrance.

COMPETITION CENTER: Parking and competition center is at Arab Hill Camp, 1 mi. into the park. Heated cabin (wood stove) with a few tables and benches. Drinking water, plus hot and cold drinks will be available. Outdoor latrines. No electric service. No running water.

TRAILS: Highland Forest has a fine network of trails and forest access roads. All valid route choices will be set with a track setter just prior to the event. Paths and roads not set or unsuitable for skiing will be marked out on the map with purple slashes or x's. ONE-WAY ski trails set by the park administration for PUBLIC USE will be clearly indicated on the map, and competitors using such trails must travel on them in the direction of the arrows only. All other tracks may be used in either direction. Bushwacking through the woods is permitted, but discouraged.

START AREAS: The start area for White course is different from Blue/Red/Orange start. Each is approximately a 15-minute walk, carrying skis, along a road.

MAP CASES: Pre-marked competition maps will be provided, but competitors must supply their own map cases. Simple map cases and safety pins may be purchased for a token price at the site.

SKIS: Competitors must be accompanied by their skis and poles at all times. Rewaxing will be allowed after start by the competitor only. Only one ski may be substituted for an original during the event.

COMPASSES: Compasses will be available for \$1 rent plus \$5 deposit.

SCHEDULE: Check-in and late registration: 10 a.m. - Noon at Competition Center. First start: Noon.

CANCELLATION: A decision to cancel due to weather conditions will be made by Thursday, 1/21 at 6 p.m. Phone numbers below.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact: Barb Sleight, Meet Director, 6805 Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057 phone 315-437-9480; or Evan Kurtz, SOC President, 213 Edgerton Road, Minoa, NY 13116 phone 315-656-8012.

ENTRY FORM: On page 3 of this issue.

BUFFALO ORIENTEERING CLUB OFFICERS

President: Patrick Quinlan, 1084 Bowen Drive, East, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Secretary: Judy Loeschke, 2080 River Road, #135, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Treasurer: David Staszak, 4941 Burlbrook Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075

Member: Harry Stroman, 4870 North Harlem, Amherst, NY 14226

Member: David Cady, 52 Ardmore Place, Buffalo, NY 14213

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor.....David Cady  
Assistant.....Barbara Cady

The Buffalo Orienteering Club NEWSLETTER is published six times a year. Address all inquiries to the Editor at 52 Ardmore Place, Buffalo, NY 14213. Material to be published in the next issue must be received by December 20.

SHARON & ERIC...continued from page 1

Gail Gagarin matched husband Peter's third in the Men's by taking third in the Women's.

In other categories: Tom Hollowell, Jr., who would have been a contender in H 21-A, decided to stay in his age group of H 19-20A. He dominated the class, taking first overall and beating the second place American by 23 minutes. Next year he could be a serious threat to Eric Weyman.

Fred Pilon won H 35-A. Fred has run H 21-A on the Blue for years with mid-pack and a few top ten finishes, but never with any big wins. Now that he's over 35 he can run on Red and win. Getting older ain't so bad.

THEY LOVED IT

Here are a few excerpts from letters that our President, Pat Quinlan, received after the Championship meet.

"Thank you so much for putting on such a beautiful meet. Everything was as good as the weather and that sure was terrific...I'm very appreciative for all the work and effort that you and the others from Buffalo O put in to make the week-end such a great success...." (Andy Gagarin, Litchfield, Connecticut.)

"...let me thank you and your club for putting on such an excellent meet. The terrain was excellent in my opinion...." (Miles Hicklin, Willowdale, Ontario.)

"The 30 member contingent from Delaware Valley Orienteering Association enjoyed their visit to 'Genesee Country'. Congratulations on a well run U.S. '0' Championships...our thanks to Buffalo OC, you are all perfect hosts." (Paul Kusko, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.)

"Congratulations to you and to each of your helpers for giving us such a good orienteering meet. I enjoyed the areas very much and thought your organization was excellent. The Canadians really enjoyed themselves and I know I felt very much at home at the U.S. Championships. You have many excellent areas down there so I'm looking forward to lots of '0' activity in Western N.Y." (Pat de St. Croix, President, Canadian Orienteering Federation.)

And finally, the following remarks were published in the Northeastern Ohio OC Newsletter. "The Buffalo O Club gets high marks for its first class A meet...despite the added logistical complications, the organizers handled the large num-

ber of orienteers with no delays and few problems. The maps were quite good, the courses were interesting but not difficult, and the terrain was enjoyable - no great climbs, not rocky or shaley, some underbrush but lots of clear running (especially day 2)...."

If we were a Broadway play with reviews like those, we'd be in for a long run.

ENTRY FORM - 1982 U.S. EASTERN SKI-ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
 Mail to Tracy Kurtz, Treasurer, 213 Edgerton Street, Minoa, NY 13116  
 Make checks payable to Syracuse Orienteering Club. U.S. dollars, please.  
 Entry fees are not refundable.

Name(s)	Sex	Age	Course	Class	USOF/COF expir. da.	Fee
		1982				USSA membership no.
Address:						Total:
Club:						(Plus late fee if after 1/18/82):
WAIVER OF LIABILITY (all competitors must sign): In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, intending to be legally bound, I do hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Highland Forest Park, Onondaga County, Syracuse Orienteering Club, United States Orienteering Federation, United States Ski Association, and their representatives, successors, and assigns, for injuries or damages by, during, or resulting from this event.						
Name(s)						Date
If under 18 years of age, signature of parent/legal guardian:						Date

BOC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fees: \$3 Single, \$5 Family. Make check payable to BUFFALO ORIENTEERING CLUB.

For family memberships, list the names of your family members.

Check one:  New Member,  Renewal.

May we list your address and phone in our annual membership directory?  Yes,  No.

Mail to BOC, c/o David Staszak, 4941 Burlbrook Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075.

SCHOOL KIDS...continued from page 1

Even with these difficulties, I think that orienteering should be taught as a matter of course in schools beginning at the elementary school level and continuing up through high school. I think it is necessary to make practical use of the map skills that are being taught in the classrooms. It should be integrated with physical education classes and outdoor education experiences which are now very common in most elementary schools.

In the end, this is where the future orienteering club members are going to come from. Not from the filtering down of information about orienteering to the general community of adults, but up from the kids coming along having learned and enjoyed it in school and wanting to continue it after school.

Orienteering teaches essential life skills and it's an excellent life-long physical fitness and outdoor enjoyment activity. It is something the students can continue to enjoy all their lives. They can be as competitive or non-competitive as they wish. Orienteering doesn't require a lot of specialized equipment, it can be done at any age, and it doesn't involve having to "make the team" or suffer the abuses of physical contact.

My suggestion for orienteering clubs would be to do some mapping around schools with lots of property like country schools, or do some mapping around whatever areas city schools use for their outdoor education experiences, or areas that city and suburban schools can reach with a short field trip. The biggest hindrance to teachers taking their kids out orienteering is a lack of adequate maps. Up-to-date maps that can be easily used for orienteering are hard to find. After trying to use USGS maps, I almost gave up trying to orienteer with my class. Then, I discovered the B.O.C. The club has been extremely helpful and flexible about arrangements for my class. Their maps and meets are excellent. We have enjoyed the meets and I know we've sparked some lifelong interest. Ex-members of my elementary classes have joined the B.O.C. and one ex-student will compete at the Championships on October 24th and 25th.

-Laurel Ruch, Springville Elementary School

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

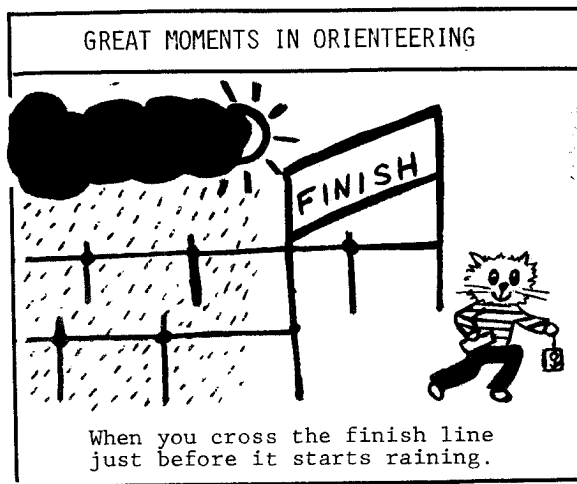
(Editor's note: This message was dictated over the phone from a remote hideaway in North Tonawanda where our President is recuperating from his recent experience as Meet Director of the U.S. Championships.)

Our success hosting the 1981 U.S. Orienteering Championships was due to the efforts of many dedicated club members. I'd like to thank each and every one of you.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank my wife and kids who put up with a year of intense preparation. The final four weeks were especially hectic. I'm relieved it's over.

If anyone out there is considering putting on an "A" meet, I'll be happy to serve as an advisor.

-Pat Quinlan



B.O.C. NEWSLETTER  
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