

# Buffalo Orienteering Club

# NEWSLETTER

January-February 1982

vol. 3, no. 1

## CALENDAR

- Jan 23 U.S. Eastern Ski-O Championships. Syracuse, NY. Full info in last month's NEWSLETTER. Meet Director: Barb Sleight, 315-437-9480.
- Jan 31 Ski-O Meet at Mansfield, Ontario. Info: Robert Wagner 415-633-2027.
- Feb 21 Ski-O Meet at Ganaraska Forest, N.E. of Toronto. Wendy Edge, 416-623-7786.
- Mar 10 BOC Annual Meeting at Dave Staszak's. See article in this issue.
- Apr 10-11 Troll Cup "A" Meet, Foxboro, MA. Info: Linda Taylor, 737 Main St., Acton, MA. 01720.
- Apr 18 BOC Local Score-O Meet and clinic at Sardinia Forest. Full info in next issue of NEWSLETTER.
- Apr 24-25 West Point "A" Meet. Info: MAJ Laurence Kimmel, O/G & CS, USMA, West Point, NY 10996.
- Apr 25 HKF "A" Meet, Hamilton, Ontario. Info: Bill Stott 416-828-7141.
- May 2 BOC Local Meet and clinic at Camp Schoellkopf. Full info in next NEWSLETTER.
- May 8-9 Alamuchy State Forest "A" Meet. N.W. New Jersey. Info: Larry Crane, 172 Carlisle Terr., Ridgewood, NJ 07450.
- May 16 BOC Local Meet and clinic at Sardinia Forest. Full info in next NEWSLETTER.
- May 30 HKF "B" Meet. Hamilton, Ontario. Contact: Bill Stott 416-828-7141.
- Jun 6 Niagara "B" Meet, St. Catharines Ontario. Contact: Dick de St. Croix 416-562-5040.

## SYRACUSE SKI-O TRIP INFO

If you'd like to share a ride to the ski-O meet in Syracuse on January 23, plan on meeting at the Ramada Inn on Transit Road (near the Thruway) at 7:30 a.m. on that day. Car pools will be formed on the spot for the trip.

It would be a good idea to call Pat Quinlan ahead of time at 692-7592 so he has a rough idea of how many plan to go.

Don't forget, the postmark deadline for entries to avoid the late fee is January 18.

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The B.O.C. Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10 at David Staszak's home at 4941 Burlbrook Drive in Hamburg. The format is pot-luck dinner followed by business meeting. The eating starts at 7 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting includes election of officers for 1982, discussion of possible future "A" meets, and discussion of future mapping plans. In connection with the last item, members are asked to think about which areas they'd like to see mapped.

As a highlight of the evening, if the necessary arrangements can be made, Harry Belote will show his film of the Championship meet last fall.

Everyone is invited to the dinner and meeting but only paid-up members will be able to vote.

If you are planning to bring a dish, call Dave and let him know what you'd like to bring. If you don't know what to bring, call him and he'll be able to suggest something. His number is 648-7819.

## GETTING 'EM AND KEEPING 'EM

In an article in "Orienteering Ontario", Barb Pearson of HKF reports on her club's efforts to attract new members. Here's her conclusion:

"After looking after membership for four years, it is apparent that the best formula for attracting and keeping members is personal contact by word of mouth. Like attracts like, so if you know any special brands who like thinking, like the outdoors, like a challenge and don't mind the marsh mud, then ask them to come to the next meet with you. That is the best way."

DON'T DELAY...RENEW TODAY

Another year has come and gone. That makes us all just a little bit older and wiser. And since we are all wiser, we will recognize the importance of renewing our membership in the Buffalo Orienteering Club. This year promises to be one of the most enjoyable ever for the members of B.O.C. With the Championships behind us we can concentrate on holding lots of local meets for each other. We can look forward to many happy hours in the woods of Western New York.

You'll want to keep abreast of the club's activities by renewing your membership and continuing to receive this NEWSLETTER every two months. In addition to full coverage of local activities, the NEWSLETTER will carry informative and readable articles on all aspects of our fascinating sport. The next issue, which will have complete information on all spring meets, will only be sent to members whose dues for 1982 have been paid.

You won't want to miss out on any of the club's activities. Send in your renewal right away.

ORIENTEERING ETYMOLOGY..."VETTING"

The recommended procedure in course setting is for the course setter to design the courses, then to out a week ahead of the meet and "flag" the control locations with plastic surveyor's tape. Then someone else goes out, master map in hand, and checks out the locations to see if the "flags" are accurately set. After the control markers are put out, another person goes out with a printed competition map to check that the marker with the right code is in the right place. This checking process is called "vetting". Have you ever wondered why?

Comes now a column by the writer William Safire, who takes delight in pouncing on words used, or misused, by public figures and writers. He noticed a reference to a Ronald Reagan speech which was "...routinely retyped without further vetting." And he recalled an instance where something was sent to "the CIA for official vetting". Safire consulted Webster's New World dictionary and learned that vetting is to "examine, investigate or evaluate in a thorough or expert way", and is a colloquialism.

The word comes from "veterinarian", which originated in the Latin from one who took care of old beasts of burden -- the "vet" means "old", as any veteran wordsmith can tell you. In 19th century England, the verb was used in scholarly circles in this way: "Have you had this manuscript vetted?". The meaning was "Has this been examined thoroughly, as a veterinarian carefully goes over an animal?".

So now you know.

(From William Safire's column 11/4/80, the New York Times News Service. Article reprinted from THE POSSUM'S TALE, the newsletter of the Possum Trot Orienteering Club, Kansas.)

MORE ORIENTEERING ETYMOLOGY..."ORIENTATION"

An interesting explanation of the word "orientation" is contained in The Mapmakers by John Noble Wilford, published by Alfred A. Knopf (page 8).

"Ancient maps were oriented east (hence the expression "orientation"), presumably because that was the direction of sunrise. Medieval christian maps resumed the practice because east was supposed to be the direction to Paradise."

(Reprinted from "Orienteering Ontario")

(Editor's note: Next issue, the etymology of "re-entrant!")

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope this past year was as significant in your personal lives as it was to our club as a whole. The big question now is what do we do to expand our program? How many meets? What kind? Where? Any new maps?

These questions and many more will be explored at our Annual Meeting on March 10. It is very important that each and every member be present to contribute his or her ideas. Let's keep the ball rolling and build our program to a level which will offer a complete orienteering program.

-Pat Quinlan

BUFFALO ORIENTEERING CLUB OFFICERS

President: Patrick Quinlan, 1084 Bowen Drive,  
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Secretary: Judy Loeschke, 2080 River Road,  
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Member: David Cady, 52 Ardmore Place,  
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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 February 20.

SWEDISH MAPPERS MAY VISIT W.N.Y.

Pat Quinlan has received an inquiry from a couple of Swedish orienteers who have expressed an interest in coming to the Buffalo area to help do some mapping. Their thought is to spend about two weeks in the area and do the mapping in exchange for room and board. Apparently they are financing a trip across the U.S. in this fashion.

Many details of their proposed arrangement are still uncertain. Only a preliminary letter has been received so far. Quinlan has written back expressing interest.

Some of the things which are not known at this time are whether or not they need to work from a high-quality base map, whether or not they will do all of the work necessary to producing a map (or just do the field-work), and how much they can get done, and how skilled they are.

It's likely that there will be more information in the next NEWSLETTER and at the annual meeting.

EXCERPT FROM ORIENTEERING HISTORY

"Interestingly enough it appears ski-orienteering started earlier than foot orienteering as a civilian sport -- but not by much. On March 4, 1900, there was a relay (3-man?) ski-orienteering meet held between the Swedish towns of Bollnäs and Härnösand -- a distance of 175 km (109 miles). Fighting their way through a bad blizzard, the winning team came in in a time of 28 hours and 27 minutes, or almost four miles an hour."

(From Orienteering For Sport And Pleasure by Bengtsson and Atkinson, The Stephen Greene Press)

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM USOF HEADQUARTERS

USOF Bumper Sticker	\$ .50
USOF Embroidered Patch	1.00
USOF T-shirts: short sleeve, Brown(S,M,L,XL)	4.50
long sleeve, Blue (S,M,L,XL)	6.50
IOF Map Drawing Specifications	2.30
Meet Organization Techniques	1.00
IOF Control Point & Symbolic Clues Booklet	2.00
IOF Principles of Course Planning	.70
Organizing Informal O Meets	.25
Trim Orienteering Pamphlet	1.25
Basic Orienteering Lesson Plans	.15
Send to USOF, Box 1039, Ballwin, MO 63011	
Please include 50¢ for postage and handling.	

CLINICS TO BE FEATURED AT SPRING MEETS

It's been decided to hold informal clinics in conjunction with the three local meets this spring. The clinics should give newcomers an introduction to the techniques of the sport and will enable people who've been at it for awhile a chance to upgrade their skills. There will be no charge for the sessions.

The clinic after the first meet on April 18 will be a "novice" clinic. It will stress the skills needed to compete successfully on Yellow courses. People just starting out who've completed a white course will get the most benefit from this clinic.

After the meeting on May 2 the clinic will feature those skills needed to advance from the Yellow course to the Orange course.

Finally, the clinic after the meet on May 16 will concentrate on advanced skills needed to tackle Red and Blue courses.

The aim of the clinics is not to enable the average participant to advance from White to Red in one season. Experience is such a large factor in orienteering that such rapid advancement is both unlikely and not recommended.

The clinics will be coordinated by David Cady.

GREAT MOMENTS IN ORIENTEERING -D.Morrison

When Eric Weyman stops you to ask,  
"Where are we on the map??"

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.

### COURSE SETTING CRITERIA

Just about everyone knows that the White Course is the shortest and easiest and the Blue Course is the longest and most challenging. Most also know that Yellow, Orange, Green, and Red fall in between. But most people would be hard pressed to explain exactly how one course differs from the next.

Here then is the criteria for each course that a course designer must strive to meet. This information is taken in large part from the booklet "Organizing An Orienteering Meet", prepared by the Technical Committee of the Ontario Orienteering Association in 1973-74 (Chairman: Jas. Gilchrist).

**WHITE COURSE.** Objectives: To introduce newcomers to orienteering, to be a training ground for the more difficult challenges on the other courses, and to provide an opportunity for family and friends to orienteer together. Number of controls: 8 to 12. Control placing: Pathbends and junctions, field corners, buildings, stream bends and junctions. Route choice: Controls should be connected by linear features (e.g. paths, fields, streams) 90-100% of the time. Time: Most people should finish in 25-50 mins.

**YELLOW COURSE.** Objectives: To introduce the participant to some of the fundamental skills of true orienteering, to provide more challenge than the white course, to provide a natural step from the white course. Number of controls: 6 to 10. Control placing: 60% as for the white course (preferably at the beginning), 40% introduction of topographical features such as knolls, depressions, ponds, clearings. These controls should not be more than 100 meters from a good attack point. Route choice: Introduction of the bush route versus the safer but longer path route. Time: Most should finish in 40-60 minutes.

**ORANGE COURSE.** Objectives: To provide a natural step to the elite courses from the yellow. Number of controls: 5 to 8. Control placing: Introduction of such features as spurs, re-entrants, smaller knolls. The control points should be within 200 meters of a large attack point. Route choice: Introduction of longer legs and therefore fewer control points compared to the yellow. Time: Same as for yellow.

**RED AND BLUE COURSES** Objectives: To provide a fair sporting competition which tests both the competitor's physical fitness and his ability to apply the skills of orienteering. To aid in the development of excellence in the sport of orienteering. Number of controls: 6 to 10 on the red, 8 to 12 on the blue. Control placing: As difficult as the map and terrain allow, and in keeping with the spirit of orienteering. Route choice: Should demand the application of all orienteering skills. Time: The majority of competitors should complete the red course in 50 to 90 minutes and the blue in 70-120 mins.

A "GREEN" course has recently been added to the above list. This has been done at the request of veteran orienteers whose navigational skills are still sharp but who find the red course too long. The green course is generally set as long as an orange course and as difficult as a red or blue course.

Note that the course lengths are expressed in terms of finishers' times rather than distance. That's done because when the terrain is more difficult, the course lengths should be shorter.

As far as we know, no standards like these have ever been promulgated in the U.S. As a result, you'll find a variation in the difficulty of any one course from meet to meet. Sometimes they meet the above standards and sometimes not. In Canada, the difficulty of the courses is much more consistent from meet to meet.

At meets hosted by the Buffalo Orienteering Club, the course designers try to adhere to these standards.

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