

Buffalo Orienteering Club Board Meeting Minutes

05/7/2026, 7:00 -9:15 pm @ Phil's house

Attendees: Phil Wolfling, Rob Reeves, Rod Cameron, Henry Davis, Lynne DePasquale, Adam Cady, Simon Wolfling, Dave Cady (non-voting)

Action Items in Bold

- Approve the 3/10/2026 board meeting minutes and review action items
 - Member NRE interest
 - Rob noted no current plans to gauge interest.
 - Cazenovia Park meet report
 - Lynne completed and sent the report to the Board.
 - Chestnut Park download counter
 - Counter was activated, see discussion below.
 - Annual meeting
 - Map-hike drawing gift cards and 2025 finisher stickers were procured.
 - Cherry Blossom festival
 - See discussion below.
 - Chestnut Ridge learn and practice
 - Date set for May 19th.
 - Emery Park meet
 - See discussion below.
 - Map Hikes
 - See discussion below.
 - Mail Chimp
 - Rob noted Jennifer sent the password to Lynne.
 - Marketing
 - See discussion below.
 - Rob noted Google Workforce is not necessarily needed to manage the Clubs accounts and would be a fair amount of effort to switch from what is currently being used.
 - Equipment batteries
 - Phil sent invoice to Henry for more control batteries and map bags.
 - Cash boxes
 - Phil noted he divided up the available cash into the two cash boxes, with \$145 in each box.
 - County Parks meeting
 - See discussion below.
 - Tablet purchase
 - Dave noted the purchase is complete and it should be delivered around Monday. He will send the total invoice to Henry for reimbursement when it arrives.
Approximately \$350 for tablet and equipment.
 - NRE attendance funding proposal
 - Rob noted the proposal is on hold for now.
 - Group map-hikes

- Rob noted the plan to post on the Facebook group to get people interested in meeting to do map hikes is on hold unless someone wants to take on the effort.
- Past Events
 - Chestnut Ridge Solo-O, 4/10 – 4/26
 - Phil noted that there were 53 downloads of the long course map and 43 of the short course map.
 - The general word of mouth during the annual meeting was that participants enjoyed it.
 - Annual Meeting, 4/25
 - Rob noted the meeting went well with good attendance from members and non-members.
 - One person did the guided map-hike instruction with Rob afterwards.
 - A good sale of map-hikes and membership renewals during the meeting.
 - Mirror Lake Map Adventure (Cherry Blossom Festival), 4/26
 - Dave noted 40 maps were printed and we ran out partway through but kept one and encouraged participants to take a photo of it to complete the course.
 - Not everyone that started came back with answers to claim the prize. (40 branded pencils were provided by the Buffalo History Museum.)
 - Dave suggested possibly adding some control flags with punches in areas as an extra credit.
 - Also suggested possibly having a presence on both days of the festival if there is not a conflict with the annual meeting.
 - Simon noted that he spoke to two people that worked at Nichols School. They were interested in maybe bringing a group of students to an event or having an intro presentation to the sport. He told them it is certainly something the club can help with and to get in contact with us.
 - Dave noted he spoke with the History Museum and they expressed interest in the Club helping out with a summer camp they run.
 - **Dave will follow up with the Museum.**
- Upcoming Events
 - ADK Niagara Chapter program, 5/12 & 5/17
 - Rob noted he is working on a presentation with some videos, maps, and showing parts of the website, and some Livelox courses.
 - Simon, Dave, and Rod suggested the Knox Farm Night-O, national championships, and the Minnesota 50th anniversary course as good Livelox courses to show.
 - Rob noted the plan on the Sunday is to do a guided map-hike with the nine map-hike locations on the east side of

Chestnut Ridge that have not been taken down from last year yet and Phil will take them down as they go. Rob noted a max of 20 people will be attending.

- Phil noted he is helping on the Sunday and Rob opened it up to the Board if anyone else would like to join to help out.
- Emery Park Meet, 5/16
 - Adam noted that registration is open and three people have registered so far. The start is a different location than last year with a smaller parking lot.
 - Courses are set up and Adam will check with Jennifer on the reminder email.
 - Adam will coordinate with Phil and Lynne on the controls.
 - Adam may need volunteers to assist in pick-up.
 - **Adam will send the map files to Rod to set up Livelox.**
 - **Rob noted for Adam to send the Livelox link to Jennifer with the meet results so people can easily see the recorded routes.**
- Chestnut Ridge Learn & Practice, 5/19
 - Lynne has the date set and noted County Parks plans to send at least one ranger to the event to learn about orienteering.
 - Rod noted he can set up Livelox as well with the permanent course.
- Allegany Nature Pilgrimage, 5/29 – 5/31
 - Rob noted Katy is running four programs; one on Friday, two on Saturday, and one on Sunday. Phil and Rebecca are helping out.
 - **Phil is coordinating with Katy on doing some updates to the map and with who is bringing down the equipment.**
 - Rob noted he could bring it down when he goes.
 - Phil noted he can be present partway through the course to check in with people as they run the courses.
- Chestnut Ridge Meet, 6/13
 - Henry noted that he has four courses set up in the section of the park that Dave has updated.
 - Shelter 20 is the start.
 - Henry will finish vetting the courses tomorrow.
 - Henry is going to test the registration tonight, and asked for someone to do a test registration.
 - Steve and Rebecca are helping put out controls and do registration. Volunteers for pick up would be needed.
 - Rob noted he might cook hotdogs.
 - Rob recommended trying some Instagram reels of the post-course portion of the event and show off some of the Livelox routes.

he needs to go in and shift some points to the correct spots.

- Map Hikes
 - **Phil noted he will send an invoice to Henry at the end of the month for the shipping costs for orders.**
 - So far 20 online orders have been shipped.
 - Map-hikes have been delivered to Hyatt's and GFA. **Phil still needs to coordinate with REI on what map-hikes they want.**
 - Phil noted returns of last year's maps from Hyatt's and GFA are complete.
- Mapping
 - Dave noted that Chestnut Ridge park mapping is coming along well and expects to be done this year.
 - Dave noted there was another suggestion during the annual meeting of mapping Franklin Gulf Park.
 - Dave said it would be good for the Mapping Committee to discuss what park should be next on the list once Chestnut Ridge is complete.
 - Rod has no update on Stonehaven Preserve as he has not had a chance to get out there with the wet spring.
 - Rob mentioned McCarty Hill and Rock City State Forests as a potential location for a meet.
 - Dave noted it may not be a big lift to update the current map to be able to use it. Mostly it would involve checking and verifying features.
 - The board discussed potential for Ellicott Creek Park as a potential project to give to the new mappers as a training. The park could be used for a learn and practice event.
- Marketing
 - Lynne posted the Emery and Chestnut Ridge Meets to the website and free advertising spots.
 - Lynne noted that the Club now has an Instagram account and gave some stats as of today:
 - 74 followers and 6 posts.
 - 1504 total views with 83% non-followers reaching 703 accounts.
 - 63 interactions with 91% from followers.
 - 88 profile visits and 4 external link clicks (likely to the website).
 - Most active posts so far were from the annual meeting and the Cherry Blossom festival.
 - Rob noted he linked the Instagram to the Clubs Facebook page.
 - Lynne noted they plan to continue posting once a week on Wednesdays. Lynne asked the meet directors to promote the account at meets and get photos of the meets. If participants are willing to share photos and their Instagram account Lynne can tag them in the posts.

- **Phil has not gotten back yet** but anticipates a similar setup as with Hyatt's and GFA; purchase up front and the Club will give a credit at the end of the season for unsold map-hikes.
 - **Henry will send Phil a copy of the resale form for tax-exempt to give to REI.**
- Henry noted that REI does have a map and compass training class at the store with an employee who has military experience with the topic. The store manager noted that some participants have expressed disappointment there is not a follow up to the class where they can use the skills that were taught in the field.
 - The manager sees Orienteering as a potential compliment to the course they teach.
 - Dave suggested running a presentation the week before one of the Meets and promote it for participants to try out.
 - Simon asked if the training they do is paid vs. free. The club could charge a fee for participating in the presentation and have that fee include registration at the Meet.
 - **Lynne noted can work on putting together a presentation as an intro to do with REI.**
 - **Rod volunteered to assist.**
- August Learn & Practice event
 - **Lynne will set a date as the month gets closer.**
- Erie County Parks Department meeting
 - Lynne and Phil met with the Park Rangers. Lynne noted the rangers do courses with a focus on search and rescue and would like be able to offer a course for Orienteering through their regular schedule.
 - They will send at least one of the Rangers to the May learn and practice to get more experience with the sport and will follow up with ways to integrate the sport into their courses.
 - Phil noted that they have their own insurance for working in the park so would not need to sign the Clubs waiver.
 - Phil sent them copies of the current map-hikes to assist in potential rescue operations. The rangers noted they had received some distress calls from park patrons who referenced map-hike controls that they did not know the locations of.

- Emery Park Permanent Course
 - Phil discussed plans for the course during the Parks Department meeting.
 - **Phil noted he is getting them more details and has some photos of where he would like the course kiosk to be and will photoshop it in.**
 - Phil noted County Parks had sent some info on design standards for their kiosks.
 - Phil also discussed the NRE event in Chestnut Ridge Park and filled out an event permit for it at the County's request.
- Season contest/Eventzee app
 - Henry, Simon, and Adam met with Mike from Outside Chronicles to discuss using his Eventzee license for the Orienteering Challenge.
 - Mike provided a rundown of how Eventzee is set up and discussed options on how to best set up our challenge.
 - The discussion was very promising and is likely the path forward for the challenge.
 - Mike is checking with the Eventzee support on some of the challenge options that would work best and how to best get the Club access to be admins for that specific challenge.
 - Adam noted there is a lot of options to use, he recommended keeping it basic to start and expand with other features like badges and side challenges.
- Club training program
 - Dave noted he is putting it on hold for the moment but may see about running an intermediate training in concert with the fall learn and practice.
- 2027 ROC National Ranking Event
 - Dave noted he has been discussing with ROC about the Chestnut Ridge event portion. The plan is to run a white and yellow course on the east side of the park and the rest on the west side of the park. It would necessitate some traffic control in a couple of spots.
 - The end of the course would be at the Casino.
 - Rob noted to keep reminding ROC that BFLO is providing volunteers to assist in vetting, control setup, and day-of help rather than running the whole event.
- New Business
 - Buffalo Sports Commission contact
 - Rob noted he got an email from Buffalo Sports Commission asking for a phone meeting.
 - Rob responded to the request to set up a time to discuss and has not heard back.

- Dave noted the request seemed more geared towards hosting conventions as opposed to Meets.
 - 50th Anniversary celebration plans
 - Rob sent out an email to the Board previously showing what Minnesota Orienteering is doing for the anniversary and asked if the Board has any suggestions.
 - Rob noted the club does have some of the old park maps and could do something similar to what Minnesota did.
 - Henry brought up the idea of a commemorative mug with the club's logo and the year it was founded.
 - Rob noted it would be better as an exclusive item for members and not something to openly sell.
 - Simon noted maybe a contour map background on the whole mug as a background similar to the rack card backgrounds.
 - **Henry will check on costs for the mug printing and give an update at the July meeting.**
 - **Rob noted also doing 50th anniversary stickers and will get a quote for that to present at the July meeting.**
 - Club Crawl
 - Rob sent an email to the Board previously about an event hosted at the West Side Bazaar on June 4th. He noted about 20 organizations had tables set up last year.
 - Rob signed up and Phil provided him a display to show about Orienteering. Rob will be there from 5:30-7:30pm.
 - Adam and Dave each noted that they could potentially stop by to help out at the table.
- Set July board meeting date
 - The Board agreed on Monday, July 6, 2026 @ 6:00 pm at Ellicott Creek Park
 - **Henry will rent a shelter and let everyone know the location.**