

# Legends

## Yukon Orienteering Association Newsletter § December 2009 §

### President's Note From Barbara Scheck

Another summer has flown by and I struggle to remember all the details yet again! One thing I do know for sure is that the Yukon Orienteering Association is an amazing group with so much to offer the community. This year began in March with a Ski O on the Mt Mac ski trails, hi-lights that followed were 3 "Orienteering Week In Canada" events, a full slate of Wednesday night meets, a thriving Junior Program, a High Performance Training group, training to meet organizers on the new Condes program, another challenging and fun WAR and PEACE event and Yukon Championships in all three disciplines, sprint, middle and long distance. Wow! Pretty impressive with a membership of approximately 130!

Back in the spring YOA was approached by the Canadian Orienteering Federation and asked if we might consider hosting the National Championships again, last here in 2004. After some agonizing about our ability as a small club to do another event of this size, we made the decision to commit to the Western Canadian Championships and the

Canadian Orienteering Championships in July 2011. As a result of this, a concerted effort was put into completing a significant amount of mapping this summer. Three European mappers were contracted in August and September to work on several areas in and around Whitehorse. Much of this was supported by a large grant from Lotteries Yukon. YOA also contributed a substantial amount from our reserves. More mapping will continue next year to make sure that we are ready for the rest of the country in 2011.

This short note would not be complete without recognizing and thanking our wonderful volunteers and Board members. They have once again made our year a successful one. Please consider giving back to YOA as they have done. Our AGM is coming up on January 27th, and as many of us will be focusing on the 2011 events, we will need other volunteers to step onto the Board or assist in other ways. See you on the ski trails,

*Barbara Scheck*

### Thanks to the Volunteers

The YOA Executive sincerely wishes to thank all those who volunteered for the various activities during the past year. Your assistance was greatly appreciated as it enables our events to proceed smoothly. We hope to see you again in the coming year."

*Eleanor O'Donovan*

## **Congratulations to Yukon's Orienteers on their Sport Yukon Awards**

### Government of Yukon Awards

Congratulations to Colin Abbott, Dahria Beatty, Lee Hawkings, Pam James, Nesta Leduc and Kendra Murray on receiving Awards of Excellence and to Jennifer Mackeigan on receiving the Award of Recognition.

### Active Member Awards

Congratulations to Lee Hawkings - Male Athlete of the Year; Nesta Leduc - Female Athlete of the Year; Jennifer Mackeigan - Most Improved Athlete of the Year; Ryan Kelly - Administrator of the Year and the Blake/Schweiger Family - Family of the Year.

And congratulations to Colin Abbott for being named one of three finalists for the International Male Athlete of the Year award.

## **Report on the Junior Program**

The Junior Program was a success again this year. This year, Colin Abbott took over the summer job from Justine Scheck as the main organizer. He did a great job of creating activities, lining up coaches and hanging flags. Almost 40 kids benefited from his good work.

New this past year, all the Junior Program sessions were held at Mt. McIntyre Recreation Centre where we had use of the ski club facilities. This also had the added advantages of a central, consistent meeting place and less preparation for the organizers.

Registration for the 2010 season will be in April. As in past years, the Junior Program is open to kids 8 to 20. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by a parent.

*Brent Langbakk*

## **Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) in Italy 2009**

The races this year at JWOC contained a huge variety of terrain, intricate maps and physically punishing courses. There were 5 races over the course of a week, with a sprint, long, middle qualifier, middle final and relay. The sprint course was held in and between the two small Dolomiti mountain towns of Mezzano and Imer. The fast running conditions combined with amazingly detailed urban areas meant there was a constant danger of out-running your map reading. The race went well for me, as I held my focus where I had to and really opened up my running ability where I could. I finished as the 75th male, and the top North American of the day.

The long course was held in the sub-alpine below an alpine ski area. Just after starting the race a thunder storm rolled in. For an hour and a half I thrashed my way through soaked underbrush with fog all around, thunder booming and lightning crackling above. The race was so hard physically that I wasn't able to keep my concentration together and I wound up making numerous mistakes throughout the course. I finished the race just in time for the rain to let up, and I still managed to

crack the top 100, but I wasn't satisfied with my race. The middle qualifier went almost as well as it could have gone for me. I made the B final in a good position, but in the final I lost contact with my map and relocated twice before getting set straight. I lost a lot of time there and finished the day well down the list.

I started the relay for our team on the last day, it was my first time doing a mass-start orienteering race and it didn't disappoint! With 60 people all around you running full tilt through the woods, it gets hard to focus on your own race. I saw more than one person calling out for help within the first 5 minutes of the race. The course itself went through some of the largest boulders I've ever seen, underneath a castle, across side-hills, through farmers fields and up Val Canali's steep-sided walls. My race was a good one, with only a few mistakes on the last loop. In the end our team finished in the mid-30's a step up from last year and still ahead of the Americans!

In all it was a great week of racing, and I really felt like I was competitive with the best in the world. After the races I was fortunate enough to tour the Dolomites with two other members of the Canadian team, Damian Konotopetz and Graeme Rennie.

*Colin Abbott*

## **COCs and Westerns in Yukon 2011**

Yukon Orienteering Association is pleased to confirm that we will be hosting the 2011 Western Canadian and Canadian Orienteering Championships.

The dates for this major event will be July 16th to 24th with 6 days of competition over the eight days. A Junior Training Camp would also be incorporated into the week. We are actively seeking volunteers to assist with many different areas, including but not limited to: finding sponsors, fund raising, Junior Camp organization, competition organization, social events etc. **We are seeking volunteers to assist with finding sponsors, fund raising and organization of the events.**

## **Important Dates**

**Yukon Orienteering Association - AGM January 27, 2010 at Sport Yukon.**

### **Level 1 Clinic**

YOA will be hosting a level 1 officials clinic in the new year. Stay tuned for more details, which will be posted on the website; or contact Ross Burnett at 633-3154 if you would like more information about what will be covered in the workshop.

### **July 1-4 2010 North American Orienteering Championships**

[http://www.naoc2010.com/2010\\_North\\_American\\_Orienteering\\_Championships/Welcome.html](http://www.naoc2010.com/2010_North_American_Orienteering_Championships/Welcome.html)

## **New mapping in the Yukon**

YOA was fortunate to have three very experienced European mappers working for us in 2009 to assist with mapping needed for us hosting the Westerns and Canadian Championships in 2011.

Ivar Helgesen (from Norway) finished up the mapping of the Lewes Lake area that Afan Jones had started last year. The area will be used for the medium distance event for the 2011 Canadian National Orienteering Championships. Ivar's final, understated comment as he left Whitehorse in mid-September was: "I don't know if this area is suitable for a Canadian Championships; you maybe should consider it for a World Championship event."

Marcello Pradel (from Italy) was here for two months. Marcello recently was one of the mappers for the Junior World Championships held in northern Italy earlier in the year. Marcello worked on revising the Hidden Lakes area along the Chadburn Lake road for one of the Westerns races in 2011. He also worked on revising and expanding our map of the McIntyre ski trails, and also did some work to expand the Hillcrest/Paddy's Pond map.

Finally, Remo Madella (also from Italy) worked on revising the southern portion of the Long Lake map, in anticipation of us using it for the long distance event of the Westerns in 2011.

*Afan Jones*

## **High Performance Program**

The High Performance Program is intended to provide added training opportunities and coaching for orienteers who are interested in competing. There is a focus on performance at major championships. While YOA has certainly had serious athletes and group training sessions in the past, this year training was formalized into the HPP for the first time by having a regular schedule and greater structure.

Its members can certainly boast some impressive results in 2009. Topping the list was the gold medal by Nesta Leduc at the World Masters Orienteering Championships in Australia. Colin Abbott was the best Canadian man at the Junior World Championships in Italy. While fellow Junior National Team member Lee Hawkings was the best in the M20 category at the Canadian Championships. Not to be outdone by the guys, Kendra Murray, Dahria Beatty and Jennifer Mackeigan all won medals at the Canadian Championships as well.

*Brent Langbakk*

***ALSO***

A warm welcome to our newest member Stian McNeil Langbakk who was born on October 8. Brent and Pippa are busy negotiating the early stages of parenting and may look tired when you see them!

## **Current Executive**

**President:** Barbara Scheck

**Vice-President:** Pam James

**Treasurer:** TBD

**Training Director:** Brent Langbakk

**Past President:** Pippa McNeil

**Communications Director:** Wendy Nixon

**Mapping Director:** Ross Burnett

**Director -** Linda MacKeigan

**Director -** Eleanor O'Donovan

**Director -** Ryan Kelly

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***See the YOA website for up to date information***