

LEGENDS

Yukon Orienteering Association Newsletter

March 2011

President's Note from Bruce McLean

It was a busy year for the Yukon Orienteering Association (YOA). Thanks to our active board and volunteers as well as the membership, the YOA enjoyed a full and enjoyable schedule in 2010. On behalf of the executive, I would like to acknowledge all the hard work that made it a successful year.

Highlights:

Meets:

- 10 Wednesday evening local meets, including an adventure race and one night-O event.
- The meet schedule started in early May and ran into September.
- Yukon Orienteering Championships, which included a sprint, middle and long distance were held in June

Training/ Development:

- A Learn to Orienteer clinic was held in May.
- A student coordinator (Lee Hawkings) was hired to assist with the Junior Program and other activities. Lee did a great job organizing the Junior Program, as well as helping to promote orienteering with the Kwanlin Coyotes.
- The Junior Program, focused on introducing and engaging younger kids to orienteering, ran successfully for most of the summer.

Yukon Orienteering Team/Competition:

- The Yukon Orienteering Team had regular training sessions throughout most of the year, with up to 4 sessions a week during the summer season.
- Several team members travelled to the North American Orienteering Championships in early July (Cranbrook) as well as the Canadian Orienteering Championships in August (Ottawa).
- The team had great success this year, with numerous medals (see training report)

Mapping:

- Two professional mappers were hired to complete work on three different maps which will be used in the 2011 championships.
- A Community Development Funding grant provided funding for the mappers.

Funding / Grants:

- The YOA acknowledges the funding received from the Yukon Government to promote the sport of orienteering in the Yukon
- YOA received *Yukon Recreation Advisory Committee* grant as well as a *Yukon Sports 4 Life* grant. These grants were used to promote athletic development, coaching and leadership training.
- Two individual athletes applied for and received High Performance Development grants from Sports Yukon.

Bruce McLean
President, YOA

Sport Yukon Awards

Congratulations to all Yukon Orienteering Association members who received, or were nominated for, the 2010 Sport Yukon Awards. Our outstanding athletes and coaches continue to shine in the spotlight of these awards. The awards ceremony took place on November 26 in Whitehorse.

Government of Yukon Awards - Awards of Excellence went to:
Kendra Murray, Jennifer MacKeigan, Lee Hawkings, Colin Abbott, Dahria Beatty, Leif Blake, Pia Blake, Trevor Bray, Brent Langbakk, Kerstin Burnett, Ross Burnett, Caelan McLean, Afan Jones and Philippa McNeil

Major Awards

Brent Langbakk for Coach of the Year
Finalists for the National/Territorial Female and Male Athlete of the Year awards were Kendra Murray and Trevor Bray

Yukon Orienteering Association Active Member Awards went to:

Pia Blake for Athlete of the Year
Trevor Bray for Most Improved Athlete of the Year
Caelan McLean for Sportsperson of the Year
Barbara Scheck for Volunteer of the Year

Report on the Junior Program

Yukon Orienteering Team

The Yukon Orienteering Team (YOT) is made up of developing younger orienteers, elites and masters athletes. The YOT is divided into squads based on age, experience and ability. It is open to those who aim to compete on the appropriate course for their age category at the Canadian Championships. The Yellow Group is designed for 10-13 year olds with limited or no experience, the Orange Group is for 13-15 year olds who can run an intermediate course and the Red Group is for advanced level orienteers aged 15-20. The older squad of the team will also travel to competitions and have training camps.

The YOT currently has 7 members of Canada's High Performance Program: Colin Abbott, Dahria Beatty, Trevor Bray, Kerstin Burnett, Lee Hawkings, Jennifer MacKeigan and Kendra Murray. In addition there is likely to be 4-7 Canadian High Performance Program members coming here to train this summer. The main coaches are Ross Burnett, Afan Jones and Brent Langbakk. Throughout the season (May to September) there will be training sessions three to four times per week focusing on both physical and technical improvement. Until the snow is gone there is indoor training once a week. For more information contact Brent Langbakk at 335-9070.

For more information about the YOT and fees for each squad, visit the Yukon Orienteering Association website at www.yukonorienteering.ca

Yukon Orienteering Team Committee

The Yukon Orienteering Team has grown in size and scope over the last couple of years. The next logical step in the development of competitive orienteering in the Yukon is to have a supporting structure. The Yukon Orienteering Team Committee (YOTC) is newly formed for this season and has been approved by the YOA Board. The YOTC makes recommendations to the YOA Board on such things as the operations, policies and funding of the YOT. Committee members are Darryl Bray, Ross Burnett, Beth Hawkings, Pam James, Brent Langbakk, Nesta Leduc and Karen McKenna.

Kids Running Wild (NEW!!!)

Kids Running Wild is for 6-9 year olds. The program encourages kids to be active through games and fun activities on the trails and in the forest. For safety reasons participants are required to have a parent accompany them on the trails during the sessions. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$40 + membership and the program runs in May and June. Contact Aisha Montgomery or Simon Lapointe at 667-4193 for more information.

COCs and Westerns in Yukon 2011

Check the website at www.coc2011.ca

Less than five months remain before participants from around the world arrive in Whitehorse for the Canadian and Western Orienteering Championships! Planning continues and we are anticipating a great event that all our members and local residents will enjoy, as well as the many who are registering from far away. **Mark off July 16th to 24th on your calendars.**

Along with the six races of the two competitions there will be special events including a National Team fundraiser, the Canadian Orienteering Conference and Annual General Meeting, the Sass Peepre National Junior Training Camp, and a wrap up banquet being held at the Mount Lorne Community Centre. For the first time in the Yukon, the elite category on three of the days has been designated as World Ranking Events. This means that the International Federation has approved the technical aspects of the course and elite athletes will be able to vie for international ranking points. We hope this will make for the opportunity to see some of the world's best take on the Yukon terrain.

We hope that all Yukon Orienteering Association members will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to come out on the new maps that have been created for the event. There will be categories for all ages and skill levels. As at our regular summer season meets, this is a fully inclusive series which you can participate in as an individual or as a group with your family or friends.

There are many **opportunities for volunteering**, and volunteering will not prevent stop your participation in any of the races. **If you are interested in helping out please speak to either Afan Jones at 667-6659 or Barbara Scheck at 668-2306.** Assistance is needed with tasks as varied as set up and take down on each day; banquet organization; manning the bib pick up and registration table; working under our START and FINISH crew leaders. There will be training for start and finish crews on Wednesday May 25 (indoor session) and Wednesday June 1 there will be a practical dry run session at the Yukon Orienteering Championships sprint event. If you don't see something here you would like to help with, please let us know, as there are many other tasks that we will need assistance with!

Important Event

Saturday April 30, "Learn to O". Mt. McIntyre Rec Centre with Katherine Scheck. To register call 668-2306.

Important Notice

YOA will be seeking a summer student to help with coaching, community outreach and other related tasks. Contact Brent at 335-9070.

YOA Membership and Event Fees

Membership Fees - includes season Sport Ident (SI) rental

- Adult: \$30
- Junior (20 & under): \$20
- Family: \$70

Membership fees include season SI rental. Deduct \$10 from your membership fees if you own an SI stick (maximum deduction \$30 per family membership).

Day Membership Fees: \$10 / start

Pre-Paid Event Fees:

- Now you can pay for all the Wednesday Night Meets and the Yukon Championships at once - Adult: \$40, Junior (meets only): \$30
- If you choose not to pre-pay event fees, members can “pay as you go” with a fee of \$5 / start for Wednesday Night Events

Current Executive:

President: Bruce McLean

Vice-President: vacant

Treasurer: Pam James

Director of Training: Brent Langbakk

Director of Communications: Wendy Nixon

Past President: Barbara Scheck

Director: Linda MacKeigan

Director: Ryan Kelly

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