

This was the last Yukon Orienteering Event of the 2014 season. Each year we have a night-orienteering event as the last event -- there is just too much light to have one during the spring and summer. "Night-o" differs from normal orienteering in that competitors use a powerful headlamp to navigate around the map and the control markers have special reflective tape that is highly visible when a light is shone on it. Most Yukon Orienteers find it quite challenging, since few of them have the kind of powerful headlamps that are used elsewhere for night O. Consequently they have a bit of trouble seeing the features around them and have to focus on what lies immediately ahead in the dim glow. Also, one of the main attractions of orienteering is enjoying the view of your surroundings -- which is admittedly rather curtailed at night.

The event took place at the Wolf Creek Campground on a new sprint map prepared just for the event. (Sprint maps are more detailed and printed at a scale of 1:5,000 rather than the normal 1:10,000, allowing more detailed mapping of features). Twenty-five people participated. Nine of them took on the challenging 2.6 km advanced/expert course, which required gruelling climbs up the bluffs on both sides of the campground. Two teenagers topped the field on this course. Caelen McLean finished in 25:48, 3 minutes ahead of Leif Blake. These two were pretty much neck-and-neck through all 16 controls except for one 3-minute booboo by Leif on the rather difficult thrash between controls 1 and 2. Former national team sprint specialist Pippa McNeil was third on this course at 34:45.

On the 1.9 km intermediate course the team of Valerie Theoret and Sabrina Bouayd came out on top of the 7-team field in 24:33, followed by Darryl Bray at 28:17 and Helen Slama at 34:31.

A group of mixed-generation adventurers composed of Afan Jones, Barb Hinton, and Jocelyn and Doon McDowell were fastest on the 1.4 km beginner course in 25:52, followed by Maura Glenn and Elvira Knaack in 26:25

Most participants took the opportunity to relax and socialize (and compare harrowing tales of survival in the wild darkness) around the campfire afterwards with some hot drinks and snacks.

Full results can be viewed at <http://obasen.orienteering.se/winsplits/online/en/default.asp?page=classes&databaseId=33332>

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