



LEGENDS



Yukon Orienteering Association Newsletter

December 2015

President's Note *from Afan Jones*

This past summer highlights included hosting the Western Canadian Orienteering Championships and hiring a mapper from overseas to maintain a high quality of local maps.

Through the extraordinary efforts of past YOA president, Barbara Scheck YOA again hired a mapper from overseas to complete one map and start re-mapping the Mt McIntyre ski trails. YOA coordinated their efforts with Orienteering Canada to hire mappers from overseas. Rob Plowright, originally from UK and Australia, now from Japan visited Whitehorse for four weeks between mid-August and mid-September to field check and draft two orienteering maps. These two mapping projects are just some of the areas the association is working on to keep local maps up to date and provide high quality events. YOA hopes to continue to hire a mapper(s) in the future to work on local maps.

Local, Whitehorse mapping has been greatly enhanced by the acquisition of very high quality, LIDAR topographic mapping. The large scale mapping with 1m contours greatly improves our ability to offer high quality base maps and, in turn final map products. Youth programs were not offered this past summer. We hope to rectify that next season with a full range of programs including the return of Kids Running Wild, yellow and orange squads.

My thanks to the executive for their ongoing contributions to the association: Bob Sagar, vice president; Ross Burnett; treasurer; Lorna Hutchinson, secretary; Wendy Nixon, communications director; and Sabine Schweiger, programs director

Afan Jones
President, YOA

Western Canadian Orienteering Championships

The WCOCs were a highlight of the summer of 2015. The YOA hosted competitors from across Canada and from as far away as Sweden. Between 90 and 100 competitors completed the sprint, middle and long distance courses. YOA competitors place 1st in 17 different age brackets in all distances combined. For complete results go to <http://www.yukonorienteering.ca/wcoc2015>
A miniknat (a non-competitive orienteering related activity for children 10 years old and under) was also well attended by local children, in spite of the cool rain.

Canadian Orienteering Championships (COCs)

By Leif Blake

The COCs are one of the few opportunities that orienteers from around Canada get to compete against each other in high level competition. They represent a great occasion to meet up, and explore the diversity of terrain that this vast country reveals. From coast to coast, no two COC maps are very alike. After a summer of orienteering in Europe, I could not have found a better way to finish off my season than with the Maritime O-fest and COCs in New Brunswick, PEI and Nova Scotia. Let's jump right in.

In the back-country gravel roads near Hillsborough, NB, the 2015 COCs began with a middle distance among the overwhelmingly detailed, and aptly named, "pits of doom." The day was very hot and humid, the kind of day where your warm-up is gruelling and the race is a killer. Fortunately, the climb was not bordering on excessive. The terrain itself was incredibly detailed. I was told that the mappers had to scale down the complexity of the map for the sake of legibility, but I still chose - with my young and correction-lense free eyes - to run with a magnifying glass with which to interpret the maze of pits, contours, knolls and ponds. For the most part, I found the runability of the forest to be moderate, though some areas had an abundance of deadfall, and longer routes around were often faster. Naturally, it was important to simplify the map considerably, and pick safe route choices, not least when navigating the indistinguishable ponds near the end of my course. The heat played a large factor in my ability to concentrate as well. After having left the shade of the woods during a spectator loop, I began to have difficulties keeping up with the map, and subsequently made a few prolonged errors.

The COC Sprint on the U-PEI campus in Charlottetown was in the formidable style of a classic University Sprint course. Large buildings, route choices around said large buildings, and a few traps interspersed between them. Again, it was pretty hot, though for a Sprint course this didn't have altogether that much of an effect on my mental performance. The course, as one would expect, involved many sharp changes in direction and route choices of the quick-decision type, where seconds spent in the decision-making process might have cost you the advantage of one over the other. Some of the route choices were based in momentum as well, meaning that one way might be slower simply for time lost in stopping.

Finally, the COC long brought us to Nova Scotia, on the slopes of the Wentworth Valley of Snow. Luckily, the course had us starting about 30 contours up from the finish, so we were spared much of the initial climb. In definite contrast to the middle's aforementioned "pits of doom," Wentworth was considerably vague, with rolling hills and sharp re-entrants. Parallel errors could have you wildly off course, with little to help you find your way back. I sometimes had to relocate from afar. Sometimes further away than I would like to admit. The weather took quite a drastic turn as well, and the gray clouds peppered the forest with a light and cool rain. It began to pour about five minutes after I finished my course.

It was not since 2008 that I had taken to the forests of the Maritimes, and I was pleased to find some very interesting and unique terrain. In tandem with the Fishbones races, this year's COCs were a week of superb orienteering, and excellent company. I look forward to future events held in Canada's far east.



Leif at NAOCs, October 2014

Sport Yukon Awards will be held on February 4, 2016

The 40th Annual **Sport Yukon Awards** Night will be held on Thursday, February 4th, **2016** at the High Country Inn, Convention Centre. Come out and cheer for YOA athletes and volunteers.

YOA Events of 2016

A BIG THANKS to organizers of the Wednesday evening meets: Ross Burnett, Brent Langbakk, Bruce McLean, Sabine Schweiger, Eric Blake, Barbara Scheck, Colin Abbott, Darren Holcombe, Craig Brooks, Jim, Beth & Lee Hawkings, and Bob Sagar.

For results of the 2015 Yukon Orienteering Championships and other events go to the YOA website at <http://www.yukonorienteering.ca/>

A BIG THANKS TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS

The YOA would not be able to run meets and other events without the numerous volunteers who plan courses, set and collect controls, register participants, run the start and finish lines, operate the timing devices, and keep track of equipment. A BIG THANKS to everyone who has helped out over the past year. The YOA is always looking for volunteers to assist with events and activities. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know at [info@yukonorienteering](mailto:info@yukonorienteering.ca)

The Annual General Meeting will be held on January 20, 2016 at 7:00pm in Boardroom #2 at Sport Yukon. The AGM is open to all members.

Current Executive:

President: Afan Jones

Vice-President: Bob Sager

Treasurer: Ross Burnett

Secretary: Lorna Hutchinson

Director of Communications: Wendy Nixon

Director of Programs: Sabine Schweiger

Contributors to this Newsletter:

Leif Blake

Afan Jones

Wendy Nixon