

NEXT DOC EVENTS.

Please note that the Naseby Weekend is no longer on the events calendar. The event planned for Naseby on the weekend of 29 & 30 September has been cancelled. The forest owners have closed the area because of 1080 poisoning.

Ross Creek on 30 Sept is a score event.

Usual start time 11am - 1pm.

There will be white (30 minutes), yellow (30 minutes), and red/orange course (45 minutes).

DUNEDIN O CLUB'S 25TH BIRTHDAY!!!

We plan to celebrate this great occasion on Saturday 1 December in the evening. This is the day before the picnic event at Ross Creek. Keep the date free, and watch this space for further details

OTHER EVENTS CALENDAR 2001.

		Place	Status	Club
Sep	22-23		Schools Champs	PAPO
	29-30	Wairarapa	NZ Mtn Bike O Champs	HVOC
Oct	20-22		AOC Champs	Auckland
Nov	3-4 **	Ruamahanga	WOA	WOA
		Vise Vers Huset	Champs	
	10	Pegasus (Bottle Lake Extn)	SI Champs	PAPO
	11	Acheron	SI Challenge	PAPO

* Jennifer has an entry form.

** Entry form available from jim.barr@xtra.co.nz

AUGUST 2001 DOC COMMITTEE MEETING QUOTES

by Deep Throat

"We don't know where the Mystery Hike's going to be."

"It's actually the women that are the problem, more than the men."

"We want an event when it's wet, cold and miserable."

"I'd like to apologise, I've been completely useless."

"Did you read my email? Naturally I think it's a good idea."

"This night event in Waikouaiti. Is it in the dark?"

Names have been removed to protect the credibility of certain prominent club members.

IN PRAISE OF THE HUMBLE WHISTLE

*A whistle is a wondrous thing, it tweetles when you blow it
And if you tweet it six times, help comes before you know it
If you saw that hole too late and your ankle you did break
Then to have a whistle by your side you'll find is really great!*

The official story:

- The distress signal for injured orienteers is 6 peeps of the whistle
- It is the duty of all competitors to help injured competitors (rule 26.2)
- The controller and/or jury will ensure fair treatment of competitors assisting in response to a distress call (rule 27.4)

The unofficial story:

- Whistles are cheap to buy
- They can usually be found at the caravan
- A yell for help is effective in the open, on a calm day, if you are not too far off course. A whistle is much more effective in the bush, in wind, and over long distances. Choose your weapon according to where and when you are most likely to injure yourself.
- At major event whistles are often compulsory for safety reasons.
- Whistles are normally clipped to the neckline of the shirt or the waistband of the pants. Those who never get tangled in bushes wear them on a string round the neck. You can tell those who used to do this by the scars on their throat.
- An EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) is available from tramping shops for about \$300, will raise an alert with the police in about 4 hours (via satellite) and a search will usually be under way in about 8 hours. An EPIRB may be useful for a mapper out on their own, but a whistle costs \$2 and during an event will normally bring help within a few minutes.

Adapted with thanks from PUNCH magazine (Wellington Orienteering Association)

THE BUTT END OF AN EVENT

*Oh it's lonesome away from your kindred and all,
By the event centre tent, as the long shadows fall,
But there's nothing more lonesome, so morbid or drear,*

Than to be left with a butt, and no card to pair.

*Now the controller's anxious for the last runner to come,
He has a far away look, and his face is all glum,
The co-ordinator's cranky, the finish man acts queer,
What a terrible place is an event with no pair.*

*The collector comes in smothered in dust and flies
Throws down his controls, rubs the sweat from his eyes,
But when he is told he says "What's this I hear?
I've trudged fifty flamin' miles and there's a butt with no pair!"*

(from an original by Gordon Parsons, performed by Slim Dusty)

What is Slim Dusty doing in this magazine? Maybe he has "minor navigational lapses" like us, but it sure sounds like he's seen the end of an event or two.

At most club events we ensure that all competitors have returned safely at the end of the day by matching the clip card the competitor brought back, with the clipcard butt they left at the start when they went out. Any butts that do not pair with a clipcard indicate that a competitor might still be out on the course – possibly injured.

At this stage the controller must decide what to do. Typically they will progressively work through a range of actions like:

- determine if the competitor is really still out there, or whether they have gone home without handing in their card. Did anyone see them? Is their car still here? Can we get them on the phone number written on their butt?
- gather together all able orienteers that might be needed for a search
- do a quick sweep search with shouts/whistles
- call in the police to coordinate search and rescue

This is a stressful time for a controller.

- a lightly clad orienteer may not survive the night in an exposed area with cold wet weather
- the police will probably bring in helicopters (at \$2000/hour) and large numbers of people. Lots of cost, liability exposure. Can you really do this on the strength of a butt – perhaps without proper details?
- darkness approaches – sometimes shortly after course closure.

Competitors can help:

- make sure you don't cause a false alarm

- fill in the butt to excess: your full name, car reg number, home phone number. The clipcard does not matter – it mainly just needs your name so it can be matched to the butt.
- ALWAYS report to the finish. Even if you didn't finish. Especially if you lost your card (make sure that fact gets written on the butt)
- be back by course closure time
- be prepared for a possible injury by carrying a whistle and wearing or carrying adequate clothing. You don't need enough to be comfortable – just enough to survive when not active.
- be prepared to help the controller by noting any oddball situations and letting the controller know.
- if it is late in the day and the controller is gathering people “just in case”, volunteer.

Again, thanks to PUNCH magazine (Wellington Orienteering Association)

Albert Einstein said “You can't solve a problem with the same thinking that created it.”

Similarly, if you can't find a control from a particular attack point, you probably won't find it by doing the same thing a second or third time. Try some different thinking – relocate and use a different attack point.

Thanks to Turkey Talk (Magazine of Egmont Orienteering Club) for these words of wisdom.

-----**OTAGO ADVENTURE ORIENTEERING CHAMPS.**

Michael Tagg.

Most people will probably remember Sat 11th August as being a drizzly, rotten old day in Dunedin for the All Black Test; I remember it as a perfect day for an outstanding Test of Orienteering skill at Ross Creek. Dunedin Orienteers could be forgiven for thinking they'd seen it all when it came to zany courses, thanks to YODA novelty events. However the Adventure O Champs reset the nutty scales and taught the odd YODA member a few new tricks!

For those of you that couldn't make it, you missed a brilliant concoction of misdirection and cunning, conjured by the slick team of Bruce and Myles. The event was ominous from the start when the notice said that the top

courses attempted to break as many NZOF rules as possible and that all complaints would be calmly listened to... then ignored!

The course didn't start out too bad, a fairly standard control just in the bush below the road – doesn't look like this will be as bad as it was made out to be. Control 2 however gave people like me (that think control descriptions are a waste of time) a bit of a wake-up call. After relocating to the pit twice, I was adamant that the flag number was wrong. I should really have noticed that there were two pits (both with controls) one of which was so completely covered dead branches, it could have been called a knoll. This prompted me to look at the rest of the control descriptions, leading to confusion on the way to 4 (446: Small building, sort of inside), which turned out to be a rather beautiful cardboard model of a house, with a control stake stuck through the middle of it! This was NOT a normal event. Controls 5 through 8 provided little in the way of cunning, but a lot of frustration as sloshed along the riverbed before crawling up one of the steepest slopes on the map.

The fun really started on the way to number 9. Control 20 would later turn out to be the “doozie” of the course (411: building in the water or something similar) as it wasn't marked on the master map. Those that didn't figure the riddle out to be “water in the building” (meaning the big storage tank) had to go on to the next control, before making a big dogleg back. However at least two people (both YODA members, not surprisingly) took a much smaller detour on the way to 9, clipping #21 and finding the secret of the water control well in advance! Well within the rules of this anything-goes style event. Four more controls, (including a contour/road junction feature!) a river run and many more hills later, the trickster became the trickie. Control 17 was located just uphill from a stream junction with the description to #18 “not on the map but head upstream”. I got a little cocky, guessed “the trick”, changed streams and ran off the map! Oh well it was the thought that counted :o)

An article like this does not really do justice to an event as creative and challenging as the first ever Adventure-O. If you missed this event, I recommend you talk to someone who did take part because it will delight you to see how innovative a course can be. Thanks to all who helped make this event, make sure you come to the next YODA event so we can raise the nutty bar a bit higher and take our revenge.

MAPPER WANTED.

Peninsula and Plains Orienteering Club are requiring the services of an experienced mapper. We have 10- 14 sq.km. of the shores of Lake Pukaki

to map during October to December 2001. There is probably accommodation at a Station shearers quarters. The details can be worked out with John Davies at email robdavies@clear.net.nz The map is to be used for the Classic race at next years NZ Championships to be held at Easter 2002. If you are interested please get in touch asap.