



# NEWSLETTER - February 2006



Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club - Getting There is ALL the Fun!

## Feb 11th at Bomboy Mine

Join us Saturday, **February 11th**, at a site in the Superstitions east of Apache Junction near the town of Superior. This event is a "classic" event in which competitors must visit the controls in the order specified. We will offer white (novice), orange (intermediate) and red (advanced) courses. There is a recreational category for those who do not wish to run competitively.

People of all skill levels can participate and, of course, there will be a beginner's clinic. You may start anytime after the course opens. Everyone, including non-competitors, must be off the course by 1:00 when the course closes.

### Schedule:

Registration Starts.....	9:00
Beginner's Clinic .....	9:30
Course opens.....	9:30
Course closes .....	1:00

### Cost(member/non-member):

Individual .....	\$4/\$6
Family / team rate .....	\$6/\$8

### Directions to Bomboy Mine From Phoenix:

Take the Superstition Freeway east through Apache Junction, towards Globe. About .4 miles past milepost 222 and immediately after crossing the Queen Creek bridge, turn left onto Hewitt Station Rd (Forest Road 357). If you reach the Boyce Thompson Arboretum you have gone a half mile too far! Cross the cattle guard and continue straight ahead. After about 1.5 miles on FR357, you will cross a wash with two 15 foot high drainage pipes under the railroad tracks on the right. Turn right on to FR 252, which is .2 mile after the wash. Our site is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile down the road, at a road junction. Look for an orange and white orienteering bag or sandwich board at the last turnoff and at our site.

### What to bring:

water bottle(s)  
whistle (required; available for \$1)  
compass (some available to rent for \$1)  
your lunch

**Water may be available only at the parking area. Bring water bottles to have with you on the course.**

Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club  
<http://www.phoenixorienteering.org>

c/o Rockledge Services / P.O. Box 51114  
Phoenix, AZ 85076-1114

## A Perfect Day for Orienteering—Saguaro Lake

By **Jaqueline Ciccolo**

“ It was a perfect day for orienteering.”, was the phrase of the day at the Saguaro Lake Classic. Indeed it was! Clear skies, clean air, cool breezes and magnificent views enhanced the joys of the sport. Seventy six participants turned out for the event, representing fifty starts. Included among the participants was AmeriCorps \*NCCC Red Team VI, in Phoenix from the east for service projects related to free tax filing for low income families.

Meet directing was made easy by the volunteer coordination and recruitment efforts of Forest Brown. We wish to thank the following list of volunteers who made this meet possible. Volunteerism is the backbone of GPHXO. Keep the Club alive, volunteer often.

Meet Director: **Jaqueline Ciccolo** with help from AmeriCorps \*NCCC Red Team VI; Course Designer/Setter: **Peter Neubauer**; Site setup: **Sheryl Berling-Wolff**, Peter Neubauer, **Pat Abbott**, **Rodney Phelps**, and **Jason Wiss**;

Bag Hanging: Peter Neubauer and Pat Abbott; Water station setup: **Forest Brown**; Beginner's Clinic: Sheryl Berling-Wolff; Registration Table: Jason Wiss, **Rodney Phelps**, Peter Neubauer, and **Kris Krulikowski**;

Timing Table: **Erik Ringnes**, **Austin Ringnes**, Forest Brown, and **Luther Belk**; Bag Recovery: **Ron Birks**, Forest Brown, **Ludwig Hill**, **Dave Joder**, **Lief Lundquist**, and **Max Suter**.

## Saguaro Lake Results—Jan 21st, 2006

<b><u>Red Team</u></b>		<b><u>Orange Team</u></b>		<b><u>Recreational (Cont.)</u></b>
Windy & Dave	1:44:57	If We Only Knew	54:44	MaryEllen Authier
Team ARC	1:57:07	Shadow Mtn #1	1:24:52	Jay Horvath
<b><u>Red Adult-Male</u></b>		Shadow Mtn #2	1:24:55	Team Codaki
Ludwig Hill	1:07:00	Team Harper	1:44:30	Team Old
Max Suter	1:12:01	<b><u>Orange Adult-Female</u></b>		Dan Laushman
Ron Birks	1:17:17	Michelle Kelly	1:15:16	Isotopes
Matt Hanly	1:23:07	<b><u>Orange Veteran-Male</u></b>		Paul Marsters
Glenn Haselfeld	1:46:40	Leif Lundquist	53:35	Red 6 1
Tom Fleck	2:13:23	Richard Fawcett	1:07:00	Red 6 2
Tommy Kelly	2:13:37	Ron Johnson	1:29:00	Red 6 3
Arild Orsleie	DNF	<b><u>White Team</u></b>		Emory Corwin
<b><u>Red Veteran-Male</u></b>		Team Tango	49:28	Dave Joder
Gary Hickey	1:49:42	<b><u>White Female</u></b>		Portrey
Mike Keating	2:16:20	Kathi Douglas	2:26:22	Brigid O'Neil
Tim England	DNF	<b><u>Recreational</u></b>		Team 1 Rat
<b><u>Red Veteran Female</u></b>		Austin Ringnes		Forest Brown
Pat Abbott	2:06:34	Dianne Haselfeld		Tango
Jennifer Kerr	3:24:25	Doug McCulley		Zeppies
<b><u>Red Adult-Female</u></b>		Team King		
Vickie Nelson	2:54:46	Shadow Mtn #3		

## **A-Meets for the "D" Class Orienteer**

**By Glenn Haselfeld**

Like many orienteers, I fall into the category of "advanced intermediate." I can read the map, plan good routes, and generally reach my intended destination—I just can't do it *fast*. As soon as I try to go fast, I tend to overlook simple things—like reading the map carefully—and end up with brute-force route choices and/or bypassing the control.

In an effort to observe how "real" orienteers do it, my wife Dianne and I decided to check out an A-meet. As part of our vacation last summer, we planned to drop in on the "Colorado 5-day" event and try a couple of courses. If you've never been to an A-meet like this, it's an amazing thing to behold. These are some serious athletes, coming from all parts of the country to compete.

My experience on the Red course was humbling from the beginning. The runners start out at 2 minute intervals, with one person from each course type (Blue, Red, Green, etc.) starting out simultaneously. Moments after the start, the other six people on the line had already planned their routes and scampered off like rabbits, leaving me there alone on the line staring at my map. I really had to fight the urge to run off in a random direction and figure out a plan when I was out of sight from the start.

My competitive time on the Red course was.....well, let's just call it a bad day. After a very frustrating experience on the very first control (ever try to sneak back to back-shoot the start marker without being seen?), I really began to appreciate the quality and detail of an A-meet map—and began having fun. Suddenly I was able to navigate off of small features on the map and relate to the terrain much better than with the 40-foot contour maps that I've been used to using. And the terrain was incredible—open forest with fabulous views

of the Rockies. Although I finished dead last on the Red course (by a considerable margin), I really enjoyed the experience. I instantly decided that I had to come back to another A-meet. After all, I had no where to go but up!

The next opportunity for us for an A-meet was at Anza-Borrego, CA. I decided to set a modest goal for myself: on at least one of the two days of competition, to NOT finish in last place in my category. Dianne and I ordered a "preview" map of the area, and were immediately intimidated—several regions on the map had an intricate web of deep reentrants, and the map was very difficult for us to read (hilly terrain, 5-m contours, thick lines to indicate "impassible cliffs", and extra form lines thrown in at many areas of the map). After spending a couple hours with a magnifying glass and a highlighter pen, we started to feel a little better about the map, and off we headed for Anza-Borrego.

Saturday's courses took us right into a lot of the more complicated terrain. My troubles began to develop on the Red course looking for the 2<sup>nd</sup> control, where I misread the map and got into the wrong reentrant. I soon began to develop a camaraderie with a group of similarly confused orienteers, who I refer to as "Anza-Borrego Prairie Dogs." You can recognize a Prairie Dog by his or her behavior—every few minutes we would pop up on a ridge, look around, look at the map, and then pop back down into a reentrant looking for controls, in what seemed like an endless cycle. Maybe I should have started waving.

I never did find control #2, so I had to DNF the first day—although I actually did pretty well on the rest of the course, once I started to get comfortable with the map. Still, it was beginning to look like my goal was beyond my reach.

*Continued on page 4*

## **A-Meets for the "D" Class Orienteer (Continued)**

Between events, things around camp were very relaxed. An A-meet is a great opportunity to mingle with more experienced orienteers and pick up some tips to improve your time. Everyone that I talked to was quite friendly. My only complaint was the weather front that was passing through, with gusty winds that kept me awake through most of the night.

The Red course on Sunday had a completely different character than Saturday's event. The terrain was much flatter, and the map was easier for me to interpret. Again, the map was very detailed to the point where you could navigate by tracking small reentrants that you crossed, without having to worry about whether or not they would appear on the map's contour lines. I managed to keep (mostly) on track throughout the course, and had a wonderful experience.

Sunday afternoon also featured a "Maze-O", which is a Score-o that takes place in a region of very deep, winding canyons. Unfortunately, by this time Dianne and I were dog tired, and decided to drive back to Phoenix rather than chance another sleepless night in

the wind. We only hit one control, but seeing the terrain and the course makes me want to come back and try it in earnest next year.

I never did see the final results for Sunday's Red course at the event, so after our return I anxiously awaited the results to be posted to the website. After a very long few days, the results finally appeared. And the result? I finished 12<sup>th</sup> out of 14. Woohoo!

So, will the A-meet experience make me a better orienteer? I think so. A week later I ran the Red course at Saguaro Lake, and felt more comfortable all the way through it—even though I managed one or two of my usual *bonehead* maneuvers along the way. When I compare my finish time with my usual metric (winning time x 2 = Glenn's best time), I did my best ever—only 1.6x times the winning time. It may be a fluke, but I prefer to think that I'm closing the gap. And did I have fun at the A-meets? You bet. I would recommend them to anyone. Maybe I'll see you out at Anza-Borrego next year.

## **Spring Land Navigation Class - April 6 & 8, 2006**

Master the use of topographic map and compass to travel through the wilderness with skill and confidence. This class is an evening in-town session then a full day in the field at a site near the town of Superior. This class is designed for adults and is a very intensive, hands-on program.

Students walk four to five miles, with day packs, learning and practicing land navigation methods and techniques. The course covers compass use, interpreting topographical maps, and six methods of getting from point to point (walking a straight line, using checklines, contour lines, and catch features, honing in and funneling). You will also learn aiming off, pace counting, triangulation, and more.

We provide dinner at the classroom session, plus breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner at the field session. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the site. Students provide their own Silva Ranger 15 CL 360-degree compass. (Another model may be used if it has a baseplate, a mirrored lid with a site and a mechanical declination scale adjustment). A Silva compass may be rented for \$5.

**Class alumni, if it's been awhile since you've been practicing, you may take the class again for half price (\$50.00).** You can find an application inside the brochure posted on our website. Cost is \$100 (fully refundable until 3/31/2006). Members who have joined prior to Jan 1, 2006 get a \$20 discount.

## GPHXO Upcoming Event Schedule

Feb 11	Bomboy Mine - Joint JROTC
Mar 4	Lake Pleasant - Joint JROTC
April 6 & 8	Land Navigation Class
Apr 16	Join TOC at Empire Ranch
June 16-18	Join TOC at Mogollon Rim or White Mtns
July 15-16	State Champs at Lake Mary

## GPHXO Board Meetings:

Board meetings are held monthly to discuss the business operations of the club and to plan for upcoming events. They are open to all members. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at 7:00 PM in the Scottsdale Community College library. Call Richard for specifics or to confirm meeting: 480-831-0331 (Home) and 480-236-5706 (Cell).

February 14—SCC Library  
March 14—SCC Library

*We encourage our members to participate in the Tucson club events as well as our own. Not only is it an opportunity for more orienteering experience fairly close to home but they have some really great folks that we can learn a lot from while we enjoy their company.*

## Tucson Club Event Schedule

Feb 19	Greaterville
Mar 18-19	Kentucky Camp
Apr 16	Empire Ranch
June 16-18	Mogollon Rim or White Mtns
Jul 15-16	Lake Mary—State Champs
Sep 17	Palisades Ridge
Oct 15	Slavin Gulch
Nov 19	Catalina State Park
Dec 17	Kentucky Camp West

Did you know that GPHXO O.C. members get the “member” rate for Tucson O.C. events? For details about the Tucson Club events, check their web page at [www.tucsonorienteering.org](http://www.tucsonorienteering.org)

## **2005-2006 CLUB OFFICERS:**

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Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club  
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## ... Join Phoenix Orienteering Today ...

Send form to:  
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c/o Rockledge Services  
P.O. Box 51114 Phoenix, AZ 85076-1114

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