



NEWSLETTER - Feb. 2018



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

Feb 10 South Mountain - Feb 11 Needle Rock Feb 24 Needle Vista - Feb 25 First Water OUSA

Welcome to another full month of GPHXO events, including our first-ever Orienteering USA National Ranking event. Details inside - something for all!

Please note that pre-registration is encouraged, but not required for the first three events - it helps us know how many maps to prepare. For the OUSA event, space is limited and you MUST pre-register.

Sat Feb 10 - South Mountain - Beginners Clinic and Sprints

Join us for a FREE clinic and then practice your skills on two short Sprint courses, at a new event site near downtown at Piedras Grandes Picnic Area.

Sun Feb 11 - Needle Rock - Classic Courses and Motala

Needle Rock (which is *not* the same as our Needle Vista area!) is another new event site we are opening with an event with three Classic O events (find all the controls *in order*). The **Motala** is an endurance event using all three courses. **Please be aware that you must purchase an \$8 Tonto National Forest Pass to get to the event!**

Sat Feb 24 - Needle Vista - Sprints and Night-O

Join us in the morning for Sprint events, and then return in the evening for a Night-O event. This event is part of the 2018 Southwest Spring Week - Tucson Orienteering will be offering other events this week

Sun Feb 25 - First Water Score-O, OUSA Ranking Event

This is a big deal for GPHXO - our first ever OUSA National Ranking event. We will offer *seven* different Classic-O courses for this event. This will be the final event of 2018 Southwest Spring Week, as well. The event is limited to 100 participants (due to limited parking), so be sure to pre-register if you want to attend!

Preregistration for 2/10 and 2/11 events closes on February 9th. Preregistration for the OUSA event and 2/14 Needle Vista closes on 2/15.

See inside for schedules, costs, and directions - or visit GPHXO.org

What to Bring:

- Whistle (Mandatory for all. Available for purchase at Phoenix events for \$1)
- Compass (Mandatory for all. Available for rent at Phoenix events for \$1)
- Water. Available at some events, but always good to bring your own.
- Sun screen. It's already warming up!
- Comb and pliers to remove cholla branches!

Sturdy hiking shoes and long pants are recommended. You may encounter cactus, cat claw, and loose terrain.

PreRegistration

Pre-registering helps us plan events and know how many maps to prepare - and it saves you some on the registration fees for events. For the events in this month's newsletter, pre-registration is encouraged (but not required) - but to make sure we have a map for you, please sign up in advance. Links to pre-register for each event appear on the event pages at:

<http://www.gphxo.org/>

For the Needle Rock event, you **MUST** have a **Tonto National Forest Pass** to get to the site! See the event page for information on where to get a pass in town!

Note that the 2/10-11 preregistration site is different from the 2/24-25 site.

Parental Consent (under 18)

All participants under age 18 are now required to have a signed parental consent form on file with the club. You can complete the form before the event and either scan it and send it to us by e-mail or bring it with you to the event.

Costs - 2/11 & 24 events:**Costs: Pre-Registration**

Member - Individual/Team \$5 / \$8
 Non Member \$10 / \$15

Onsite Registration

Member - Individual / Team \$10 / \$15
 Non Member \$15 / \$20

Fees are collected onsite. If you pre-register but then can't make it, you don't have to pay.

Needle Vista is \$13 per person **OUSA event cost** is \$20 for adults and \$6 for juniors.

Recent Event Results**Robbins Butte Sprints, Jan 13**

Top Sprint 1 finishers were Erik Ringnes, Steve Willman, and Gary Hickey. Team Save Pluto topped the team finishers. Top Sprint 2 finishers were Steve Willman, Tom Boucher and top team Snole Bros. Thank you to Lee Magnusson and Ron Birks for planning the event.

Robbins Butte Score-O, Jan 14

Top Score-O finishers were Erik Ringnes, Tim Stefek and Brian Durrell. Highpointers were the top team and Debra Allen was the top Female finisher. Thanks to Dan Yamashiro and Ron Birks for planning the event.

Bomboy Mine Score-O, Jan 28

Top Score-O finishers were Scott Whiting, Andy Wentzel, and Ieva Baltrikaile (top female finisher, as well). Denali was the top team finisher. Thank you to Ron Birks for planning, and to all the volunteers who helped with registration, timing, and control retrieval at all the January events.

Saturday Feb 10 - South Mountain Clinic & Springs

We're once again offering a free set of events at our South Mountain event site in Phoenix. In coordination with City of Phoenix park rangers, we'd like to welcome you to our FREE events at the Piedras Grandes picnic area in South Mountain Park. This new area (new map created last March) contains navigation challenges through a large variety of desert terrains including mountain peaks, dry washes, rocky outcrops, etc. We hope you'll take the time to join us to practice your navigation skills on our new map and event site.

Schedule

Check-In / Registration Starts	8:30am
Clinic.....	9 am
Sprint Courses Open	10 am
Beginner Training ends.....	10:30 am
Last Sprint Course start time.....	noon
Sprint Courses Close.....	1 pm

Registration / Costs.

All events at our South Mountain event are free!

Directions

From the I-10/I-17 junction (just south of the airport), follow I-17 west along the south side of downtown Phoenix, then:
Exit I-17 at 7th Street.
Continue along the westbound frontage road to Central Avenue.
Turn south on Central Avenue. Drive approximately 5 miles to the entrance to South Mountain Park.

After entering South Mountain Park
Continue traveling southwest past the South Mountain Park ranger station to the first intersection.
Turn left to follow the arrow to Piedras Grandes. Continue 0.3 miles south to the next intersection.
Turn left again to follow the arrow to Piedras Grandes. Continue 0.2 miles east to the next intersection.
Turn left one last time to follow the arrow to Piedras Grandes. Continue 0.2 miles north to the parking area and the event site.

Sunday February 11 - Needle Rock Classic-0

Opening another new site in the Phoenix area. On Sunday, February 11, we are presenting classic orienteering courses at Needle Rock in the Tonto National Forest just north-east of the Phoenix metropolitan area. **NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT THE SAME SITE AS OUR NEEDLE VISTA EVENTS! ALSO NOTE THAT YOU MUST BRING A TONTO NF PASS.**

Schedule

Registration Starts	8:30 am
Courses Open	9 am
Last start time	
Red Course.....	11:30 am
Orange Course.....	11:45 am
Yellow Course.....	noon
Course Closes.....	1 pm

Registration / Costs

Costs: Pre-Registration

Member - Individual/Team	\$5 / \$8
Non Member	\$10 / \$15

Onsite Registration

Member - Individual / Team.....	\$10 / \$15
Non Member	\$15 / \$20

Directions

There are different approaches to the site from the Phoenix area and Scottsdale, so please see directions on the GPHXO website.

From the intersection of Rio Verde Dr. and Forest Road, near the Tonto Verde golf club, continue north on Needle Rock Road for 2.4 miles until the pavement ends. Continue north on the gravel road for 0.1 miles to the parking area at the end of the road on the right. Signs recommend travel on the gravel road is for 4-wheel drive vehicles. We've done all of our work using small passenger cars. If you drive slowly, you should have no problems getting to the event site in your vehicle. **See the GPHXO website for a list of places where you can purchase your Tonto National Forest pass.**

Saturday Feb 24 - Needle Vista Sprints and Night-O

On Saturday, February 24, we'll start the day with two sprint courses. The Sprints include slightly easier navigation than our regular events but require quick decision making and extra care to navigate through the desert vegetation around the site. Later that evening, we'll offer a 2-hour Night-O to further test your navigation skills - navigating in the dark!

Schedule

Registration Starts	8 am
Sprint Course Opens	9 am
Last Start Time.....	11 am
Courses Close.....	noon
Marked "DNF" after	12:30 pm

Night-O Registration Starts.....	5:30 pm
Pre-Race Briefing.....	6:45 pm
Mass Start.....	7 pm

Night-O Participants, please be sure to check in even if you have pre-registered so we have a complete list of everyone who is out on the course, and be sure to check back in when you finish the course!

Registration / Costs

There is a single price of \$13 per person, which covers ALL of Saturday's events.

Directions

From Phoenix, take US 60 (Superstition Freeway) east to Apache Junction, exit at Idaho Road and turn left (north). When you reach the Apache Trail (Hwy 88), turn right. Drive about 7.2 miles NE along Hwy 88 to the signed Needle Vista turnoff. The turnoff is about 1/2 a mile past milepost 203. Look for the orange and white sign on the east side of the road.

Sunday Feb 25 - First Water OUSA Ranking Event

The First Water trailhead is located about 37 miles east of Phoenix, AZ. The map terrain is lush Sonoran Desert vegetation with topography varying from moderately flat desert to rolling hills. There are some spectacular views of the Superstition Mountains to the east and south. The weather is typically sunny and dry, with a high temperature of about 70 degrees. A full complement of seven Classic-O courses will be offered.

Schedule

Registration Starts.....	8:30 am
Course Opens	9 am
Last Start Time.....	11 am
Courses Close	1 pm
Marked "DNF" after	1:30 pm

Registration / Costs

Fees are \$20 for adults and \$6 for juniors. Visit the event page and follow the link to the pre-registration page. The number of participants will be limited to 100 due to parking issues, and you MUST pre-register for this event, there will be no on-site registration. Last day for online registration is February 15th.

Directions

From Phoenix, take US 60 (Superstition Freeway) east to Apache Junction. Take the Idaho Rd. exit (SR 88) and turn left (north). In a few miles, SR 88 will turn right onto N Apache Trail. Turn right and continue on SR 88. In about 5 miles, and 0.25 miles past the entrance to Lost Dutchman State Park, turn right onto FR 78, First Water Trailhead Road, which is an all-weather dirt road. Proceed about 2.5 miles to the horse staging area (the overflow parking area). If you get to the trailhead, go back about 0.5 miles to the meet site. There is no Forest Service parking fee for this area.

GPHXO Upcoming Event Schedule

Sat Mar 10 - Mesquite Library, Saguaro Lake
Sun Mar 11 - Sophie's Flat (new location!)
Sun Mar 25 - Bartlett Lake Classics
Sat Apr 14 - Reach 11 Beginner's Clinic and Sprints
Sun Apr 15 - Dead Horse Ranch State Park
Sat/Sun May 12-13 - events in Prescott, plans TBA

Events with Other Clubs:

Our event on February 25th will be part of "Southwest Spring Week," which includes events from **February 17-25th**. Details on more events at

tucsonorienteeringclub.org

Did you know that GPHXO O.C. members get the "member" rate for Tucson O.C. events?

Please visit the Tucson club's website:

www.tucsonorienteeringclub.org

And check out the GPHXO online store:

www.cafepress.com/greaterphoenixorienteeringclub

We're also at:

www.meetup.com/Phoenix-Orienteering

and

www.facebook.com/GPHXO

To contact GPHXO by phone, leave a message at **602 753-8535**

Also, please update your email address book to **info@gphxo.org** - our yahoo email will still work, but this is the best one...

2016-2017 CLUB OFFICERS:

President	Ron Birks (acting)	birks@yahoo.com
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Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club

... Join Phoenix Orienteering Today ...

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

Contact us at info@gphxo.org
phone: 602 753 8535 (leave a message)

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

CHOOSE: *mail me the monthly newsletter:*
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OR: *email & view newsletter on website:*
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Yes, I can help staff a club meet. Call me.

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

(AREA CODE) DAY TELEPHONE

(AREA CODE) EVENING TELEPHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS (*required for web membership discount; we will email you when the new newsletter is on the website*)