Fw: Petrified Forest 2026: Event Notes 1: Descriptions, Control Cards, Toilets, Scoring

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Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 08:07 PM MST

From: Ron Birks
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 07:19:29 PM MST
Subject: Petrified Forest 2026: Event Notes 1: Descriptions, Control Cards, Toilets, Scoring

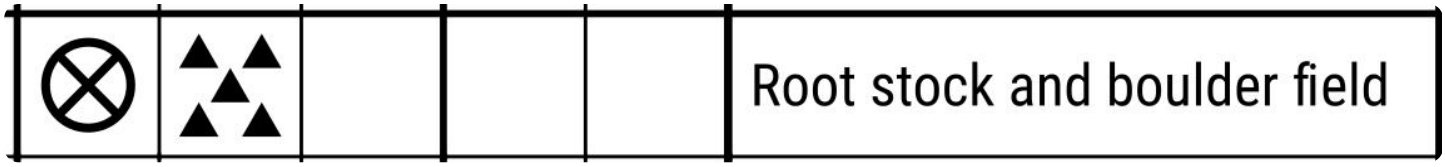
Hey Everyone,

We're excited to see you in a couple days at our orienteering events in Petrified Forest National Park. We're making final arrangements to hang bags, rent buses, reserve a gathering point, etc. If you haven't done so already, head over to our event page here for the most recent updates. Let us know if you have any questions.

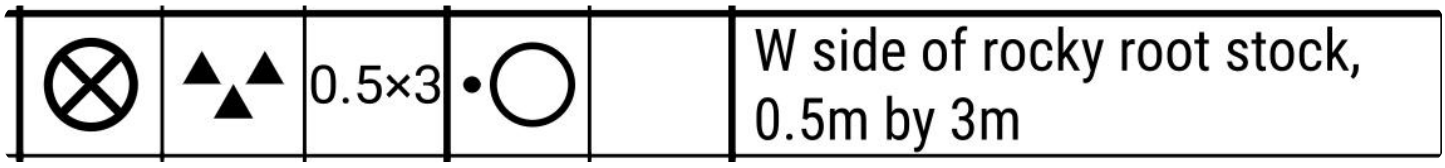
Here are a couple points not covered on the event page.

Control Descriptions
Attached are copies of the control descriptions. We put the descriptions on each map too, along with word descriptions for the controls. You're welcome to print the attached copies and bring them with you to the events. A couple notes:

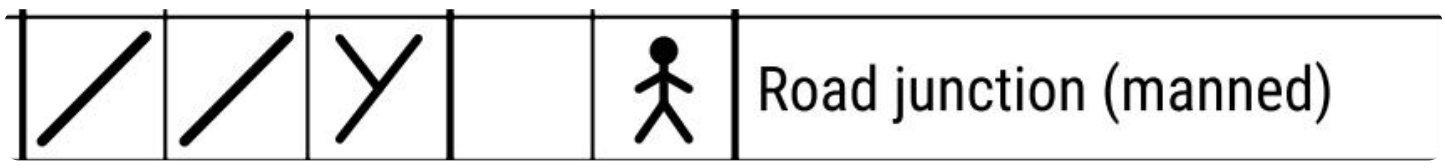
Petrified Log Cluster
The following means a cluster of petrified logs. You'll see. We could have done better with the description. We're pushing for an IOF symbol for a cluster of petrified logs.



Single Petrified Log
The rocky root stock is a single petrified log. You'll see. This one's closer to actually describing the control location. Maybe we should push for an IOF symbol for a petrified log too.



Manned Control
We'll have a club volunteer at the manned control. You're not required to talk to the volunteer, but it would be nice to break up their boredom. We'll have radios, first aid, drinks, and snacks at the manned control.



Control Cards/Manual Punching

We attached copies of the two control cards for the events. Yes, we're using manual punching. No, we have put 60 electronic detectors in the field. We're a small club, and we seem to be lazy. We hope you're able to enjoy the scenery in the park in spite of us.

Toilets

We will have portable camp toilets at the start on both days, in part to keep a small footprint in the park. There are few toilets in the park except at the north and south entrances. We'll try to hide our emergency toilet facilities from view of other park visitors. We strongly suggest you find a way to do your business before arriving at the start locations. On Saturday, there's a 15-20 minute drive to the start. On Sunday, there's a 15-20 minute hike (or more) to the start. Believe us, we want you to use the emergency toilets less than you want to use them. But they are there for emergencies. On Saturday, before you hike to the start, you have access to flush toilets.

We'll have emergency camp toilets at the finish on Saturday. The finish on Sunday is near the park's flush toilets.

Scoring

Each control is worth one point this year. There are 30 total controls, so 30 points are possible. We hope you don't feel a need to report us to the International Rogaining Federation. We're keeping things simple, not for you, but for us. We're lazy and we don't want to do all that adding number stuff in our little heads. Why don't we buy an fancy electronic timing system and call it good? It's one of life's mysteries.

That's all for now. I'm sure we'll think of something else to bother you with later.

Ron Birks
Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club
gphxo.org

Saturday_Descriptions_Symbols&Text.pdf
208

Saturday_Descriptions_SymbolsOnly.pdf
74.2

Sunday_Descriptions_Symbols&Text.pdf
209.3

Sunday_Descriptions_SymbolsOnly.pdf
74.2

Sunday_ControlCard.pdf
36.9

Saturday_ControlCard.pdf
36.7