

Arctic Orienteering Club Board Meeting

November 9, 2004

Minutes

Present at the meeting: Eric Follett, Jill Follett, Steve Gruhn, Leslie Kroloff, Andrew Lee, David Evans, Dick Hawkins, Peggy Kugel, Dan Billman, Bill Spencer, Chris Tomsen, Ian Moore, Jen Jolliff, and guest Janice Tower.

Report from US Short and Long Course Championships in California

Dick reported that club members Kimball Forrest, Ellyn Brown (and himself) raked in medals of all colors, with Kimball winning a championship. It was very good representation from a club drawing on such a small population base and says a lot about the quality of our club. He also thanked the volunteers who help to run the Halloween-0 in his absence.

Trail Proliferation

Janice Tower, representing the new organization Single Track Advocates (STA) came to "make friends" and tell us about her organization. She says the group represents recreational mountain bikers who want to preserve access to narrow trails. The impetus to her forming the organization was seeing most of the Hillside trails widened and smoothed into "highways" for skate skiers. Single Track Advocates is not connected to the Arctic Bicycle Club. The Arctic Bicycle Club's mountain bike section is narrowly focused on racing. Chris asked if the group was under the umbrella of International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). He has seen the clinics that they give on trail building and maintenance and noted that they had good standards for trail building. Janice said that Single Track Advocates is not under the umbrella of IMBA, but is affiliated with them.

Rover's Run (south side of Campbell creek from mile 2.2 to mile 1.1 of Campbell Airstrip Road) was discussed as an example trail to show what STA is about. STA doesn't want the entire trail widened as a small faction of racing orientated skijorers would like. Instead, STA agrees that selected sections of the trail should be repaired, such as where root wads have become overly exposed with use, so that the skijorer's gooming drag can be used more easily. Anne asked about the flagging of new trails that we sometime run into in parts of Far North Bicentennial Park.

Janice says that STA does not advocate illegal trail building, but that doesn't stop individual mountain bikers (or others) from flagging trails.

The discussion then shifted to what we can do to make sure that orienteering interests are represented when park planning discussions are going on. The Bicentennial Park Trail Users advisory group is meeting November 15th with two representatives from various trail user groups invited to attend. Dick and Eric will represent us in the first meeting if we are invited. They might not invite us as they might perceive us as mostly non-trail users even though we do use trails for white and yellow courses. The Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Users Group (different from the advisory group) meets the first Monday of every month (6:20 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center) and is an open meeting. This meeting is usually run by John McCleary (343-4296, mccleaji@ci.anchorage.ak.us) of Anchorage Parks & Recreation.

Some board members noted that we are not against all trail building. If new trails are needed for other user groups, we would suggest building them in areas that won't hurt our orienteering, the burn area for example.

Treasurer's report

Peggy provided a financial report that showed the total income for the year to be \$7499.04 and total expenses \$5090.29 for a net of \$2409.11. The total money in all accounts was \$23,476.28. The expenses did not include some bills yet to be paid.

Eric produced some bills totaling about \$600 that he had not been reimbursed for. Eric's bills were for printing new control cards (still in progress), food, and other miscellaneous club expenses. A motion was made and seconded, and a **MOTION** was unanimously passed to pay Eric for those bills.

After some discussion of how much we needed to keep in the checking account for upcoming payments, a motion was made, seconded, and a **MOTION** was unanimously passed to move \$3000 from the checking account to the investment account.

Peggy brought up a problem that she has had with trying determining what fees the money coming in from meets was intended to pay for. She noted that it would be nice to

know the exact breakdown of our income. Meet fees (\$5 and \$6), memberships, and season passes all go to her together in one bundle of mostly cash. Part of the problem is that after the meets, the membership forms with the fee checklist goes to the membership board member and Peggy just takes the money. More volunteer help at meets - someone to tally up the breakdown of fees by hand as it comes in - was suggested, but help is often short when things are busy at a meet and an easy solution was not found.

501c3 status

Peggy says she will work on it and get it done by the end of the year.

Meet Schedule

Much input was given on Dan's proposed meet schedule. No National Orienteering Day was originally planned, with volunteer labor spread out over more meets than last year. Ian asked, "Why don't we call the Big-O National Orienteering Day?" Dick needs to keep the kids separate from the main meet so meet fees can be waived. Yellow controls could be added to the Big-O if it were made NOD. A Saturday would be better for NOD though. It was finally decided that we could move the APU training meet to Saturday May 14th with a four hour start and call it NOD without much additional effort. The REI training would move to Wednesday May 11th.

Bill and Dan will think about a site for the Annual Meeting.

Jen and Ian will hold a Billy Goat meet on August 24th in Section 36 (rather than Stork Park).

Dick volunteered to direct both days of the Orienteering Festival (wow).

Chris asked about holding a meet in the east Anchorage/Chugiak area. Do we have maps? Maps will be discussed in a later meeting.

Dick suggested that we should continue work on improving the quality of our courses. The courses could be better set to the standards of each color. Someone (Bill?) suggested that a higher variance in distances leg to leg would be nice for the Red and Green courses - many of our

red courses have been set so most legs are relatively equal in length, and don't require people to change their thought processes enough. Meet directors should consult with experienced setters like Bill, Ian, Eric, and Kimball and courses should be vetted. Anne suggested that we develop a list of capable vettors.

Dan will have the schedule done by the Runner's Calendar publication deadline and will send a copy to Leslie.

Membership/Media

Jim Green handled many different tasks for the club, so his departure from the board leaves a lot of work to be divided up. Dave will handle membership, entering membership data into the database. Ian and Dan will work together to convert the schedule to web format. Jill volunteered to do the season points. Leslie will continue to send the e-mail updates to members. Greta Yarborough can handle website duties (contact information?).

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 7th at the Follett's place.

Prepared by Andrew Lee, Secretary, 11/22/04