

**Arctic Orienteering Club Board Meeting
December 7, 2004
Minutes**

Present at the meeting: Dave Evans, Anne Billman, Steve Gruhn, Dick Hawkins, Dan Billman, Andrew Lee, Eric Follett, Jill Follett, and Ian Moore.

Schedule

Dick requests that the Big-O date be changed from May 25th to May 18th, swapping dates with another meet. Dan thinks the swap will work and will try to make the change.

Dan will only put meets that have confirmed directors into the Runner's Calendar. Other meets will be announced and publicized later through other means.

Mentoring novice meet directors

Dick volunteered to help first time meet directors to plan and set courses. It was suggested that the club offer help to all novice meet directors, so they won't have to ask for help or try going without help.

Upon motion duly made, and seconded, a **RESOLUTION** was unanimously passed that the Arctic Orienteering Club will provide a mentor for each novice meet director.

Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Users Advisory Group meeting report

Eric and Dick report that McCleary of Municipal Parks wants a copy of the club map to use for planning purposes. Eric said that the last time we provided a map, the small paths became trails, and trails became highways... all the trails became bigger. Dick made it clear to the group that it does make a difference to us when they add a trail. Eric told the group that he would need talk to the orienteering club board before giving them a map. Eric suggested that we give them an edited map with limited information. Ian said that the municipality already has GPSed trail data (maybe McCleary is not aware of this?). We should give them what they already have. It was agreed that if more trails are going to be developed, we should guide them to areas that won't affect us as much. This means that we need to tell them which areas are important for us and which areas are lower priorities. We should also explain what makes areas good and not as good for orienteering.

Eric and Dick are willing to carry on in representing us in the advisory group.

There was discussion on the skijorers' desire for a wider trail - widening Rover's Run or putting a wider trail alongside Rover's Run. It was noted that a new connector trail to the Viewpoint trail from the Bear Run area would not necessarily be a bad thing for us and might even make the area more useable. Anne brought up the possibility of use by the skijorers of the O'Malley golf course pathways. It would be a good area for skijoring and maybe we can suggest or encourage that.

January 3rd 6:20 pm presentation at Far North Bicentennial Park Users Group

Dan volunteered to give the presentation on orienteering at this meeting. He requested that Ian have a map ready for him.

Mapping

For a possible East side (Eagle River/Chugiak) meet that Chris Thomsen suggested last meeting, we have old maps of Chugiak High School and Camp Gorsuch.

Our mapping priorities were discussed. Anne read Bill Spencer's list:

- Upgrade Kincaid topo
- Girdwood - near Crow Creek road or Winner Creek
- Update trails in Bicentennial
- Upper Hillside
- Hatcher Pass
- Beach Lake west of the railroad
- Terrain near Chugiak
- Update Crevasse Moraine
- Update Fossil Creek/Elmendorf
- Update Section 36

Ian's priorities:

- Updates
- Potential area above Hilltop
- Near Glen Alps
- Military land beyond Fossil Creek

Other areas mentioned as possibilities for future mapping:
base of Arctic Valley, Eklutna Inc. land (but access is
questionable)

Dick: It's essential that we map new areas. It keeps the
interest of old timers, and can draw newcomers from Palmer
or Girdwood areas. We should set a plan to develop new
maps. Ian worried about attendance for areas outside of
Anchorage. Meet volunteers are fewer, and it is money
wasted if we don't use the new maps. If we make new maps,
we have to use them. Dick thought that we needed to move
away from military property because of uncertain access.

Russian Jack was brought up as an area that we
underutilize. It has good white and yellow terrain and
would be a good snowshoe-O location.

Anne asked how about how easy it is to make a new O-map
with lidar, photos, etc. available. Ian said the time
consuming part is the vegetation mapping. Dick said that
we should be willing to pay for field checking whether to
Ian or others. Ian said that we have an option to run a
meet in a new area without a top quality 5 color map.

Eric suggested a mapping meeting or a mapping committee
meet to discuss this further. Ian will do this after he
gets back from vacation in January or February.

Parks and Recreation Plan

This is at <http://www.muni.org/Planning/ParkPlanDraft.cfm> .
Anne will find out if there is still opportunity for
meaningful comment. Steve said he will look at it.

Next meeting: January 4th, 7 pm, Billmans' house.

Prepared by Andrew Lee, Secretary, 12/16/04