

Arctic Orienteering Club Mapping Committee Meeting
March 7, 2005
Minutes

Present at the meeting: Bill Spencer, Kimball Forrest, Ted Moore, Ian Moore, Andrew Lee, Chris Tomsen, and Dick Hawkins.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss our current mapping needs, and to set priorities for map updates and new maps. We looked at each of our current maps and estimated the amount of work needed to update them. We also discussed new areas and extensions to current maps. Finally, we prioritized where we should put our mapping effort this summer.

Here are the notes for each map:

Far North Bicentennial Park: This map needs about three weeks of field checking work plus GIS/drafting time. Ball fields, a subdivision, swamp, firebreak, new trails, botanical garden changes, fire station, pits and other features need to be added. The map corner shared with Pia's should be extended to the east so that a continuous corridor is mapped in that area. Also discussed was the proposed new connector trail between Prospect Heights and the top of Spencer loop. Bill thought that a new trail there would not hurt orienteering too much. A new map centered on Prospect Heights could be developed to utilize the area.

Pia's: The main concern about doing any mapping work on this map is wasted effort if access is cut off in the future. If we can get assurance from the military that we can have access north to at least 15th Avenue in the future, rather than just north to the creek, it would be worth doing an update. The contour lines east of the tank trail are bad. Dick and Chris suggested having the military mark their off-limit areas onto our map. Amount of work needed?

Fossil Creek: This map is in pretty good shape. Bill suggested that we could expand the map to the other side of the railroad or the other side of the river in the future

Crevasse Moraine: There are many new mountain bike trails here. Also a power line and sewer line will be under construction in the spring. 7-10 days field checking work needed.

Kincaid: Dick: This is a great area for beginners or mountain bike or running O. Bill says that the contours are poorly done. It needs a complete remapping. A base map is needed (contour source?). 2-3 weeks field checking, plus overlay GPSed trails, plus other GIS/drafting work.

APU/Russian Jack: These areas are great for beginners. We should connect the two areas by mapping the little band of forest/swamp next to Russian Jack Elementary and East High. Meets could then be staged out of East High going to both locations. One week field checking work plus one week drafting work needed.

Elmendorf: There are a few good areas here, and many not-so-fun areas (vegetation) here. Ted suggested focusing on the east part of the map. Kimball: needs two weeks of field checking work.

Section 36: Vegetation mapping is not finished. Two weeks of field checking work is needed.

Camp Gorsuch: Bill says that about 3 weeks of work is needed. Chris suggested that the scouts might want to use the map for training and could contribute funds to the update. Kimball pointed out that the scouts have not really been participants in orienteering. (But it doesn't hurt to ask...)

Pt. Woronzof: Bill says that 4 weeks of work is needed - lots of vegetation mapping.

New Areas (mostly)

McHugh Peak: This can be used in conjunction with the Glen Alps/South Fork. 6 weeks field check work plus 3 weeks drafting.

Bird Creek

Beach Lake Park

Girdwood: California Creek and other areas.

Prospect Heights/Glen Alps: Committee members thought that it would be nice to be able to stage an evening meet out of Glen Alps.

Eagle River Nature Center

Eklutna

Arctic Valley

Hatcher Pass (too far?)

Mt. Baldy (Eagle River)

The top mapping priorities were:

1. Far North Bicentennial Park
2. Kincaid Park
- 3*. Pia's (* if we can get assurance of access from the military)
4. APU/Russian Jack
5. Section 36

Plan for this summer:

Kimball said that it is a bit late for a new map this summer, and that we should hurry if we want to get any field checking done. We would have to hire an outside field checker - none of the committee members felt that they could do the job. We were also in favor of hiring Ian at market rates for the GIS/mapping work. Kimball suggested that we "bite the bullet" and spend the money. It could cost \$10,000 to hire someone for field checking this summer. The last time that we did any significant mapping work was 5 years ago. Many committee members thought that we should use all our savings for mapping (what else is the savings for?). Adding a map surcharge/increasing meet fees was mentioned as possibly necessary. We also need to ask the Muni/State/BLM/others to see if they can contribute to the effort. Dick said that a good way to get funding would be to host an "A" meet.

For the new areas, we need to do some ground walking and initial investigation this summer.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 15, 7 pm, tentatively at the Billmans' house.

Prepared by Andrew Lee, Secretary, 3/13/05