

**Arctic Orienteering Club Board Meeting
February 19, 2009
Minutes**

The meeting was held at the Brown's house. President Trond Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm. The following board members were present: Ellyn Brown, Trond Jensen, Dave Evans, Andrew Lee, Ian Moore, Karl Swanson, Cory Smith, Dan Billman, Leslie Kroloff, Karen Bronga, Kathy Farynairz, and Paul Carson.

Minutes from January 15, 2009

The minutes from the last meeting were approved with the amendments that all four families that hosted Bastian last summer received gifts, and that Dmitry has not yet been reimbursed for his bike (Dan left a message).

2009 Schedule

The schedule has not changed as of the last board meeting. Permits have been obtained, and email and newspaper announcements have been made for Trond Flagstad's Ski-O. Kathy said that the skijor club is having a race at Kincaid at the same time as the Ski-O. Leslie will contact Bruce Talbot of the skijor club and Trond F. to let them know that they need coordinate with each other to avoid conflicts.

Notes: Check with Chris Tomsen on Army permits. Check if Darren Hull is still planning to direct his meet (he may have moved out of state?).

Equipment

Paul has picked up most of the club equipment from Eric Follett. Paul has 70 controls, with 63 in good condition. Eric might have another 20 to 25. Ian suggests that we start the season with 150 controls. The board generally agreed with the suggestion.

Dan suggests that we have a policy requiring whistles for competitors (except for white course), but leave it up to the meet directors to check. Outside meets often require whistles.

The club has almost two full sets of equipment for meets. The club has only one clock, but the board decided that a second clock was not needed. A suggestion was made to permanently attach the charger to the clock (tie or wire it to the clock).

Trond suggested that we get a banner with the club name to put up at meets. Kathy volunteered to check prices.

Paul will make a list of equipment needs for the next meeting.

Mapping

An ad was placed in Orienteering North America magazine for two issues. Ian has already received one response. Ian also wrote to 5 or 6 US mappers recently and is waiting for replies. Obtaining visas for foreign mappers was discussed. Karl has a friend who hires Sherpas and Europeans as guides. He says that they generally take an “aggressive” approach to the visa laws. However, the Sherpas qualify for O-visas because they hold world records in climbing. The question was asked if there were the equivalent in the orienteering mapping field - champions in mapping. Trond will look into O-visas.

A suggestion was made to put all our maps together on a board to display at meets.

Bear Policy

It was noted that we have already set up the schedule to avoid being in bear territory when salmon are running in the creeks. Karen has been in contact with Eliza Manning with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G). Eliza and the ADF&G are making bear safety posters and DVDs/CDs. She would like to have some time (45 minutes to 1 hour) to present bear safety information at our indoor training event. The board agreed that a shorter talk at the class would be appropriate. Eliza could have a separate, longer bear class for those who are interested. Trond will check with the Muni (John McCleary) about bear issues. The (Muni?) Bear Education Committee can provide leaflets that we can include in meet boxes.

Trails and Land Issues

Trond volunteered to go the Russian Jack meeting on behalf of the club. At the meeting, he stated that the club was strongly opposed to the proposed new access road. There will be no more public input – a committee will make a decision in early March.

Dave provided news on Far North Bicentennial Park. A complete draft plan will be available soon, and public comment will be taken. The Municipality hired a consultant to develop a trails plan. Dave volunteered to follow the developments and keep the club informed.

Meet Director Training

The training will be held on April 28 at the BP Energy Center. Cory wants to make the training useful for both new and experienced meet directors. He will suggest that attendees read tips on the website first. Cory wants to focus on what makes a good course, OCAD, and how to vet a course with GPS.

USOF Dues

Dan received a letter from the USOF that informed the club of increases in dues in each of the next two years (adding 25 cents per start next year, \$1 per start in 2 years). The club discussed raising meet fees, but decided it could wait until next year when the rates go up.

Calendar Synchronization with Website

Dave got some volunteers (Karl, Dan, ?) to try his work that enables synchronization of the schedule on the website with personal calendars (Google Calendar, Outlook?) .

Pick, Click, Give

We meet qualifications for this program on the Permanent Fund application that enables applicants to donate to a list of non-profits. It is too late for 2009, but we will apply to be included the following year.

Crust Ski-O

Trond is keeping this on his plate as a possibility. Glen Alps would be the likely venue. A possible format would be to have the controls out for a week, with skiers timing themselves (perhaps GPS-O).

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on March 26 at the Billman's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Prepared by Andrew Lee, Secretary