



A Brief Club History

1970's

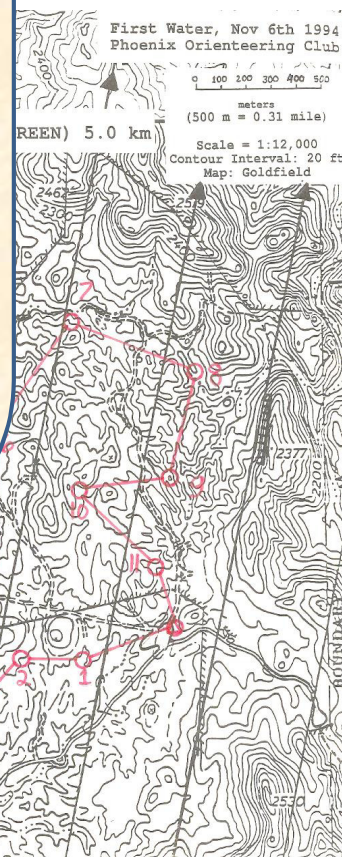
The first orienteering race near Phoenix took place sometime in the 1970's at Mormon Lake, Arizona. Ulf Ljungberg, of Sweden, Peter (Bigfoot) Busnack, Noel Hebets and John F. Goodson created a race among themselves. As John later wrote, "Ulf won and we realized we needed more training in this sport." So they started The Arizona Orienteering Club. The Club worked with Peter teaching high school students Outward Bound techniques. They created and taught wilderness survival and land navigation classes. Peter created the Reevis Mountain School of Self-Reliance, and our club members continued to work closely with him. A man named Fred Padgett attended the land navigation class. He liked it so much he attended it again, and pretty soon he was an instructor at the school.

1980's

Fred was passionate about Orienteering, he really wanted to advance the sport in Arizona. Fred, David Hensley and Bruce & Judy Donaldson formed the Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club (GPHXO) which exists today. The first maps used were east of Phoenix (Bomboy Mine and First Water). GPHXO and Reevis jointly held orienteering events for a time. GPHXO began teaching classes and holding orienteering events on its own, as well as jointly with local JROTC organizations. Ties were formed with the Tucson O-Club and local Boy Scout troops.

1990's

The club grew to about 50 members. With new maps, we held about 6 events per year, and there were also social activities such as campouts and hikes. Semi-annual land navigation classes and support for JROTC orienteering continued. Club members continued to compete in neighboring states and at national events.



2000's

The club improved maps and maintained a schedule of 7-9 events. Land navigation classes were held annually, and JROTC outreach increased. Several new course setters and meet directors were trained. A web page was created and the newsletter went digital. We formed alliances with local Adventure racing companies. New members joined the club, even as some members from earlier decades became less active.

2010's

The present decade has been an exciting period of expansion for GPHXO. Controls, stands and other equipment got a major upgrade. We added more course setters and meet directors. We began using social media to popularize the club, organize meets and promote Orienteering in Arizona. We maintained our outreach to JROTC and Scouting organizations. We hold a Beginner's Clinic at every event, and have begun teaching introductory classes in the community. Regular membership remains below 100, but we have hundreds of unofficial members on our social media sites.

We expanded our schedule to its current size of 20 events by adding 5-hour Adventure Races, Bike-O's and Sprints. And by creating new maps. Lots of maps. We made over 30 new maps in the Phoenix area, many of which are teaching maps. Jointly with The City of Phoenix, we held events at seven new sites. We also created new maps and events in Prescott, Flagstaff and the Petrified Forest National Park, where GPHXO and Tucson OC proudly held the 1st Annual two-day mini-Rogaines event in October 2015.

VISIT US

We would love to see you at one of our events!

Find us here:

www.gphxo.org

Search for "Phoenix Orienteering" on Facebook and Meetup.com

