



NEWSLETTER - September 2005



Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club - Getting There is ALL the Fun!

Sept 24-25 at Thumb Butte (Prescott AZ)

Come join us for a weekend of camping and Orienteering in the cool pines near Prescott. Temperatures will be mild, with a typical day being clear with highs in the mid-70's and lows in the mid-40's. Primitive campsites are available in the general area of the start of the orienteering courses.

The terrain is mostly open Ponderosa pine forest, with occasional regions of thick brush. There has been logging activity and also controlled burns in the area since our last meet there in 2003. As a result, the map area for the courses has been shifted somewhat and necessitated a steeper terrain than is usually the case for orienteering courses. During the day, there will be a *challenging* Score-O course with an extended time limit of three hours. There will also be a White course for beginners. In the evening, there will be a shorter Night-O course with a mass start.

After the day's events, gather around the campfire for tall tales and camaraderie. There are primitive campsites (no water, power, or rest rooms) along FR 373 and FR 51. There is a logging camp along FR 51 which may limit camping somewhat there. There are no fees for the campsites; camping must be in designated sites.

Glenn Haselfeld has done much hard work requiring countless hours extending the map area plus designing and setting all the courses.

The meet director for this event is Pat Abbott. Please call her at 480-785-9637 or email to PAAPsyD@aol.com if you would like to volunteer for either the daytime or Night courses. Volunteers are needed for registration, timing, and control retrieval Saturday afternoon and Sunday). Volunteers would also be appreciated for hanging controls prior to the events. **We cannot hold events without your help!**

Details and Setter's Notes Inside

Check out the campout photos on our website!

NOTE: Picketpost Mtn Overnight has been cancelled

Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club
<http://www.phoenixorienteering.org>

c/o Rockledge Services / P.O. Box 51114
Phoenix, AZ 85076-1114

Details For Thumb Butte Meet

Directions:

From Phoenix, take Interstate 17 and State Highway 69 to Prescott. Stay in the left lane as you approach the intersection with Highway 89. The road runs into Gurley Street and goes by Courthouse Square and Whiskey Row (Mile 0). Follow straight on the road (which turns into Thumb Butte Road). At 3.5 miles, you will pass through Thumb Butte Park and the road will turn to dirt. At mile 5.0, take a left onto Forest Road 373. Follow this road for 1.8 miles; it will cross a small creek (usually flowing) and climb up a hill. After the terrain levels, look for the orienteering sign near the intersection of FR 51. Parking will be along the side of FR 373 or FR 51. Please keep the roads clear so that cars can pass. Allow 2¼ hours driving time from downtown Phoenix.

Fees:

(member/nonmember)

Individual – single event	\$4/\$6
Individual – both events	\$6/\$8
Family/team – single event	\$6/\$8
Family/team – both events	\$8/\$10

Schedule:

9:30 AM Registration opens
10:00 AM Beginners' clinic starts
10:00 AM Course opens
3:00 PM Course closes; remove controls not needed for Night-O
6:30 PM Instructions for Night-O
6:40 PM Night-O course opens
8:40 PM Night-O course closes

What to bring:

water bottle(s)
whistle (required – some available for sale for \$1)
compass (some available to rent for \$1)
light for the Night-O

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Semi-Annual Land Navigation Class October 27 & 29

Master the use of topographic map and compass to travel through the wilderness with skill and confidence. This class is an evening in-town session then a full day in the field at a site near the town of Superior. It is designed for adults and is a very intensive, hands-on program. Read all about it in our brochure which can be found online at our website.

We provide dinner at the classroom session, plus breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner at the field session. Students must provide their own transportation to and from the site. Students provide their own Silva Ranger 15 CL 360-degree compass. (Another model may be used if it has a baseplate, a mirrored lid with a site and a mechanical declination scale adjustment). A Silva compass may be rented for \$5. Cost is \$100. Members who have joined prior to July 1, 2005 get a \$20 discount. **Class alumni, if it's been awhile since you've been practicing, you may take the class again for half price (\$50.00).** Ask any of our previous students and they'll tell you what a great class it is.

Thumb Butte Course Setter's Notes

Daytime Score-O Event

This event is closer to a mini-ROGAINE than it is to one of our normal orienteering courses. Due to a lot of logging activity in the area, we have had to spread the course over a larger area to avoid areas with logging debris—and when you do that in mountainous terrain you get lots of elevation gain! Expect a really good workout... The terrain is forested with some areas of thick brush, and several areas have regions of large dispersed granite boulders. Elevations vary between 6000 and 7000 feet. Only a few rock clusters (groupings of rocks/boulders) and some distinct boulders have been mapped, usually near a current or previously used control point. Distinct boulders are usually 2-m high or larger in size.

The consensus of some of the veters is that this course will be difficult to complete in 3 hours—so we are extending the time limit to **4 hours** (route planning time will be included in the 4 hours). There are about 45 controls spread across a 7 square kilometer area, so it should keep most busy for the full 4 hours. Easier controls (yellow or orange equivalent) are located near the start area for less experienced or less ambitious competitors. Start time is at 10 AM (although we may start folks earlier if we're ready). Last start time is 12 noon, and the course will close at 4 PM.

A few controls are located where a prescribed burn took place last fall. The good news is that it makes the terrain more open, and in some cases it offers a magnificent view of Granite Mountain to the north. Caution should be taken when traversing the steeper slopes. Some areas have thick pine needles, or in areas that have been burned, the ground is loose. In other places, the terrain is just plain rocky! Also, depending on route choice, you may cross over some active logging areas. Take caution in working across the debris.

Night-O

Given the long Score-O on Saturday morning, we decided to stick to two classic courses for the Night-O: a Yellow course and a Green course. The Yellow course is 2.7-km with 200-ft/ 60-m elevation gain. The Green course is 4.5 km with 500-ft/ 150-m elevation gain. We'll start at twilight (somewhere around 6:45 PM), and the course will close at 9:00 PM.

Most of the controls are unique to the Night course. Controls on the Yellow course will have the HIGHLY reflective markers hanging under each control. On the green course, we may use reflective tape that is not quite "lighthouse beacon grade", but will still be visible from 20-30 m away. Sunset on September 24: 6:23 PM and Moon on Sept. 24: Last quarter, moonrise at 10:54 PM.

Camping and control retrieval

Control retrieval is being deferred to Sunday morning. This will allow everyone to relax between the events on Saturday, and enjoy each other's company. Numerous campsites are available near the event start, and Prescott is only about 20 minutes away—so we hope you will make a weekend of it and stay Saturday night. We can really use some volunteers on Sunday to help retrieve the controls, since there are a LOT of them (60+) to pick up. We appreciate your help...

Annual General Meeting and Party

Door Prizes! Volunteer Awards! Pizza!

Be sure to get October 8th on your calendar for the club's annual meeting and dinner. The dinner will take place at Nello's Pizza in Tempe, 6:30-9 PM, and will cost \$5 per person. The general membership meeting is an annual event where members get together to elect club officers, review the past year's events and hear a great guest speaker. This is also a great opportunity for you to ask questions and find out about volunteer opportunities that fit your interests. This year's speaker will be Dave Wilson, author of the book *Ruins Seldom Seen*, a guide for hiking and finding off-the-beaten-path ruins and rock art in the Southwest. For more information about the book, including photos of sites that were never published, visit www.RuinsSeldomSeen.com. Dave lives in Phoenix with his dog, an infamous retriever wanted in three states for leash law violations.

Officer Elections at Annual Dinner October 8!

A central part of our Annual Meeting and Dinner is the election of club officers for the coming year. Any club member is eligible to run for an office. This is a great way to become more active in your club – NO EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED. At the October 8 meeting, elections will be held for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. A brief description of the duties of these offices follows:

President – Provides leadership for the club; sets the agenda for monthly meetings; chairs monthly meetings.

Vice-president – Chairs meetings in the absence of the president; recruits, trains, and assists meet directors for club events.

Secretary – Takes minutes at each board meeting and distributes copies to board members; prepares agenda for each board meeting.

Treasurer – Keeps the club books; provides a treasurer's report to the board members at each meeting; makes bank deposits of monies received from events and writes checks for expenses.

If you would like to run for an office or have someone you would like to nominate, contact Pat Abbott at PAAPsyD@aol.com prior to the meeting. There will also be nomination forms at the meeting.

In addition to the elected positions, there are several other board positions that are appointed. We currently have a critical need for a volunteer coordinator. The volunteer coordinator recruits volunteers to staff meets and other club events. This is a crucial position in our club and we really need someone to step-up and take on this role.

GPHXO Upcoming Event Schedule

Sept 17-18	Picketpost CANCELLED
Sept 24	Thumb Butte mini-ROGAINE
Oct 1	JROTC-only meet
Oct 8	Annual Meeting and Awards— Nello's Pizza in Tempe
Oct 16	Join with Tucson at Silverbell
Oct 27 & 29	Land Nav Class
Nov 12	Coon Bluff
Dec 10	First Water/Needle Vista JROTC joint meet
Jan 21, 2006	Saguaro Lake 'B' meet
Feb 11	Bomboy Mine - Joint JROTC
Mar 4	Lake Pleasant? - Joint JROTC
April 6 & 8	Land Nav Class

We encourage our members to participate in the Tucson club events as well as our own. Not only is it an opportunity for more orienteering experience fairly close to home but they have some really great folks that we can learn a lot from while we enjoy their company.

Tucson Club Event Schedule

Aug 21	Lincoln Park Early-O
Sep 18	Greasewood
Oct 16	Silverbell
Nov 20	Kentucky Camp
Dec 18	Catalina State Park

Did you know that GPHXO O.C. members get the "member" rate for Tucson O.C. events? For details about the Tucson Club events, check their web page at www.tucsonorienteering.org

GPHXO Board Meetings:

Board meetings are held monthly to discuss the business operations of the club and to plan for upcoming events. They are open to all members. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at 7:00 PM in the Scottsdale Community College library. Call Richard for specifics or to confirm meeting: 480-831-0331 (Home) and 480-236-5706 (Cell).

September 13—SCC Library
 October 8—Annual Meeting at Nello's
 November 8—SCC Library
 December 13—TBA

2005 CLUB OFFICERS:

President	Mike Franklin	mfranklin@bandag.com
Vice President	Richard Dewey	richard.dewey@cox.net
Secretary	Patricia Abbott	PAAPsyD@aol.com
Treasurer	Kristina Krulikowski	vroomeuphoryay@hotmail.com
Newsletter	Sheryl Berling-Wolff	sherylb@cox.net
Equipment	Bob Kuhn	ulazyk@cox.net
Membership	Sheryl Berling-Wolff	sherylb@cox.net
Permits	Rita Locke	arizonarita@yahoo.com
Publicity	Tim Tablada	ttracker20@hotmail.com
Volunteer Coordinator	OPEN	
Mapping	Patricia Abbott	PAAPsyD@aol.com
Webmaster	Ron Birks	birksr@aztecfreenet.org

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... Join Phoenix Orienteering Today ...

Send form to:
Greater Phoenix Orienteering Club
c/o Rockledge Services
P.O. Box 51114 Phoenix, AZ 85076-1114

Contact us at (602) 212-6741
gphxoc@yahoo.com

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

CHOOSE: *mail me the monthly newsletter:*

FAMILY (\$17) INDIVIDUAL (\$15)

OR: *download/view newsletter on website:*

FAMILY (\$12) INDIVIDUAL (\$10)

Yes, I can help staff a club meet. Call me.

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

(AREA CODE) DAY TELEPHONE

(AREA CODE) EVENING TELEPHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS (*required for web membership discount; we will email you when the new newsletter is on the website*)